

The Commercial Review

Council approves road use ordinance, discusses sidewalks

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review
Streets and sidewalks. City officials made moves Monday in an effort to improve and maintain their condition.

Portland City Council approved a road use ordinance on first reading and heard an update on the city's sidewalk replacement/installation program during their regular meeting.

The road use ordinance is similar to new rules the City of Dunkirk put into place recently and calls for any construction that requires a permit for any project removing or altering a street's surface or subsurface material. There is a fee of \$500 for a permit, with fines of up to \$3,000 for those who do such work without a permit. The ordinance also requires that anyone handling such work be insured and bonded.

Those who remove or alter a street will be required to repair and replace all materials. The city's board of works, which will oversee the permits, may require that the entire block be repaved.

Council members expressed support for the idea. City attorney Wes Schemenaur noted that the issue came up in Dunkirk because of gas line work over the last few years that effected streets that had been recently paved through Indiana Department of Transportation Community Crossings grants. (Portland recently completed paving through a Community Crossings grant, which requires a 25% match from the city.)

"We spend a lot of money on roads," said McClung. "And they're looking really good now. ... You get that first cut across a newly paved road and if they don't do a good job ..."

Council members Matt Goldsworthy, Mike Aker, Dave Golden, Ashley Hilfiker and McClung unanimously approved the ordinance on first reading. (It will require approval on second reading before going into effect.) Ron May and Michele Brewster were absent from the meeting.

Street and parks department superintendent Matt Shauver also provided the council with information about the city's sidewalk program. It allows for the replacement of existing sidewalks or installation of new sidewalks, with property owners paying for materials while city workers provide the labor.

He explained the process:

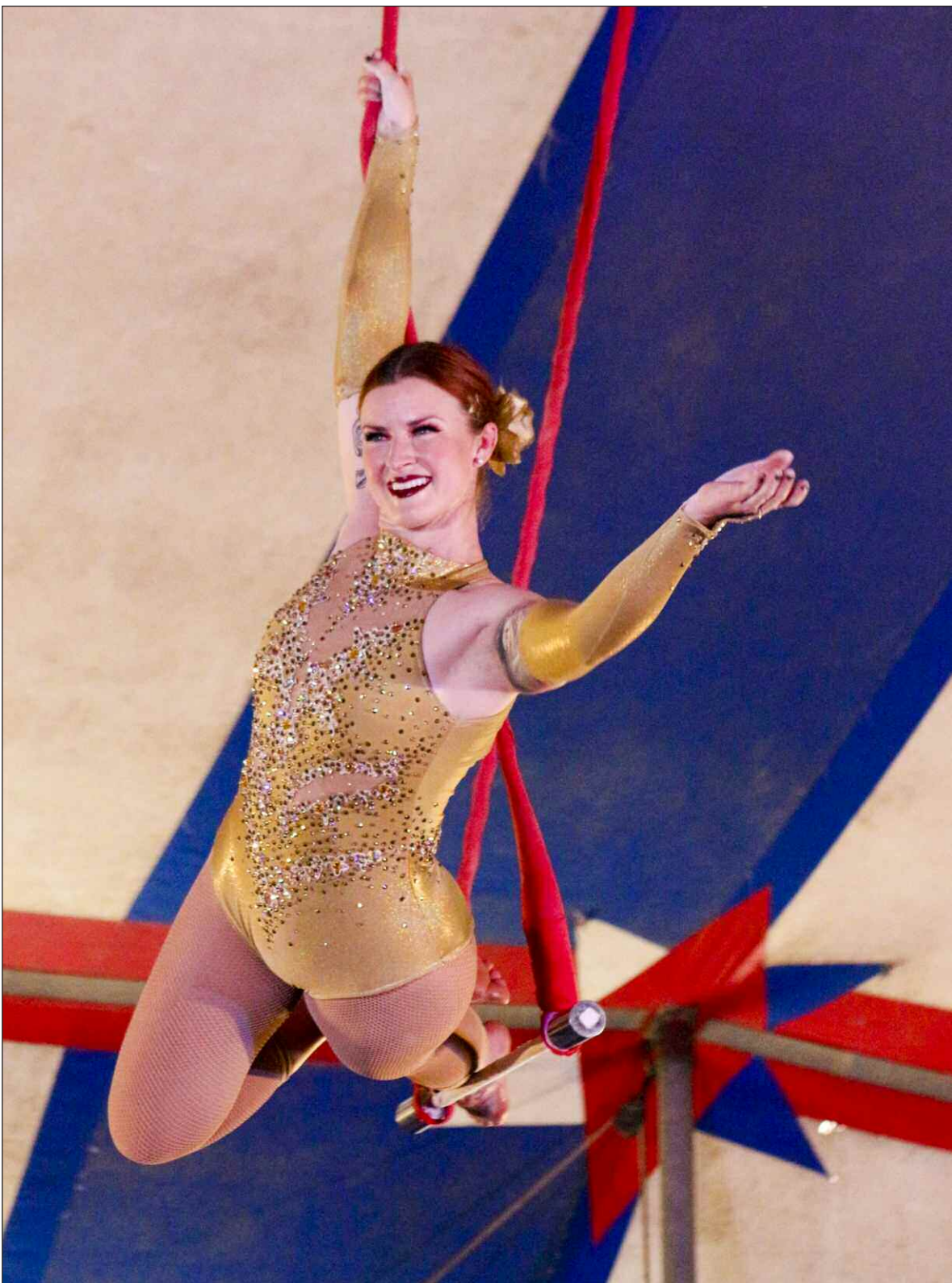
- Homeowners reach out to the city to express interest

- City staff measure the sidewalk and provide a written quote for materials

- If the property owner agrees to move forward, they pay at city hall

- The property is placed on the project list for the street department to complete

See Council page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Circus act

Simone (left) of the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus performs her trapeze act Tuesday in Redkey. Annie Loyd, 5, and Sophie Loyd, 3, (below) watch performers during the show.



Zelenskyy pushes for direct talks

By OLESIA SAFRANOVA
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Russia's maximalist demands mean there's no point in continuing with lower-level talks aimed at brokering an end to the war.

Calling Russia's conditions for peace an "ultimatum," Zelenskyy said that he remains willing to meet directly with President Vladimir Putin. But low-level talks such as those that took place in Istanbul on Monday make no sense unless they lead to a meeting of the two leaders, he said.

"To continue diplomatic meetings in Istanbul at a level that does not resolve anything further is, in my opinion, meaningless," Zelenskyy told reporters in Kyiv on Wednesday.

Zelenskyy is upping the pressure on Putin after a pair of audacious attacks against Russian targets in recent days that represented an embarrassing setback for the Kremlin. U.S. special envoy for Ukraine Keith Kellogg said yesterday that additional sanctions on Russian are "ready to drop," based on his conversation with Republican Senator Lindsey Graham.

Speaking later on Wednesday, the head of Russia's delegation to the Istanbul talks, Vladimir Medinsky, reiterated that Russia wasn't immediately ready for a meeting between Putin and Zelenskyy.

"We conveyed your position that a meeting at the level of heads of state is possible, but it needs to be substantively worked out with results," he told Putin during a

meeting held on video conference.

Speaking at the same meeting, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told Putin the ongoing contacts with Ukraine in Turkey are "important and useful," adding they "produced concrete results."

Another prisoner exchange with Russia involving around 500 people is possible over the coming weekend, according to Zelenskyy, who said that Russia was motivated by a desire to avoid further western sanctions.

Prisoner exchanges "are going on and should go on, but the Russians are not ready for a ceasefire; at least the delegation level is not ready to resolve this and they believe that this is a matter for the leaders, they told us so themselves," he said.

President of Ukraine rejects maximalist demands

Deaths

Constance Mock, 60, Dunkirk
Robert Gordon, 87, Redkey
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 87 degrees Tuesday. The low was 64.

Showers and thunderstorms are expected tonight with a low in the mid 60s. Expect mostly cloudy skies Friday with a 50% chance of rain and a high in the mid 70s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Civic Theatre's production of the Disney musical "Freaky Friday" begins tonight. Shows are scheduled for 7 p.m. tonight, Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday at Arts Place. Tickets are available at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland, by visiting bit.ly/JCCTFreakyFriday or by calling (260) 726-4809.

Coming up

Friday — Results from the FRHS baseball team's regional championship game.

Saturday — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Works meeting.

Tuesday — Details from Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.



Obituaries

Constance Mock

Constance Diane Mock, 60, at their Dunkirk home with her hubby by her side, peacefully made her grand departure from this earthly realm.

Born Aug. 10, 1964 in Portland, Indiana to Arthur (Art) and Georgmoll Robbins, Connie was a lifelong resident of Jay County. She grew up in Salamonia and Portland with her parents and seven siblings.

The best adventure of her life started March 29, 1985, when she married the love of her life, Larry. Her little family quickly became her pride and joy. Together, they spent an amazing life raising three kids, seven grandbabies and a few furbabies in their Dunkirk home.

Connie graduated from Ball State University with a bache-



Mock

lor's degree in nursing. Officially a registered nurse, she quickly found her calling in geriatric care, employed by Magnolia Health Systems for the last 20 years as a corporate nurse consultant. Connie was devoted to her work and genuinely and deeply loved her job, her coworkers and her residents. They were her second family.

While Connie seemed to live a simple, quiet life, she was full of adventure and sass and loved to keep her hubby on his toes. She was an avid lover of reading, nature, bats, her family, her furbabies, campground camping, crystals, rock and traveling.

Connie leaves behind a loving husband of 40 years, Larry Mock; three children, Adam Mock, Keri (Luke) Bailey and Rachel Mock; seven grandkids, Logan (Emmy), Mollie, Nevaeh, Ricky, Ayzlynn, Max and Bryxton; seven siblings, Autumn (Donnie) Anderson, Patricia White, Terry Robbins,

Victoria Deboy, Aneeda (Doug) Brown, Danny (Sharron) Robbins and Wendell (Geraldine) Robbins; bonus siblings Dorothy (Arnold) Bonshire and Lonnie (Twila) Mock; many nieces and nephews; and special friend of the family Kathy Smith.

She was preceded in death by her mom and dad, Georgmoll and Arthur Robbins; friend of the family Ken Smith; and her furbabies Sebastian and Maci.

There will be a private celebration of life for family.

Connie is especially remembered for the calm she brought to every storm, for unending kindness and for the unconditional love she gave to all.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that you keep her legacy alive by living like Connie. Smile at strangers, hug your people tightly, visit with the elderly, save the bats, find magic in everything, be accepting of everyone and, most importantly, love your people

boldly, fiercely and unconditionally.

Robert Gordon

Feb. 6, 1938-June 2, 2025

Robert "Bob" Neal Gordon, age 87, a resident of Redkey, passed away on Monday, June 2, 2025.

Bob was born Feb. 6, 1938, in Jay County, Indiana, the son of Everett and Aunita (Ford) Gordon. He graduated from Redkey High School, where he enjoyed band and was very active in 4-H.

Bob was a substitute bus driver for Jay School Corporation and was a lifelong livestock and grain farmer in Jay and Randolph County.

He married Barbara "Ramona" Smelser on Oct. 18, 1958, and she passed away on Aug. 20, 2022.

Survivors include:

His children — Lou Ann Zimmerman (husband: Ron), Redkey, Indiana, Kay Haffner (husband: Mike), Ridgeville, Indiana, Melissa Lawson (husband: Eddie), New Paris, Ohio. One sister — Sandy Loyd, Portland, Indiana

Six grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a sister, Sharon Oates.

Visitation will be held on Sunday from noon to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. on Sunday at the funeral home.

Pastor Scott Turner will officiate and burial will follow at Hillcrest Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to Jay County Cancer Society.

Condolences may be sent to williamsonspencer.com.



Gordon

CR almanac

Friday 6/6	Saturday 6/7	Sunday 6/8	Monday 6/9	Tuesday 6/10
78/61 Friday's forecast calls for rain with a 60% chance of showers.	77/56 Saturday looks to be mostly sunny with a slight chance of rain.	79/62 Another day of mostly sunny skies. There's also a small chance of showers.	77/56 Monday's forecast shows a 50% chance of thunderstorms under mostly sunny skies.	75/56 Mostly sunny on Tuesday, when the high will be in the mid 70s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$30 million	Daily Three: 5-3-9 Daily Four: 7-5-8-2 Quick Draw: 12-13-18-20-22-24-25-33-40-45-46-47-48-52-57-61-68-69-71-72
Mega Millions 16-24-29-36-45 Mega Ball: 13 Estimated jackpot: \$223 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 1-0-3 Pick 4: 8-0-0-4 Pick 5: 2-1-2-2-0 Evening Pick 3: 8-6-1 Pick 4: 4-4-6-0 Pick 5: 1-3-1-6-5 Rolling Cash: 5-6-10-11-32 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 0-4-6 Daily Four: 8-6-6-1 Quick Draw: 4-5-6-7-11-15-16-19-21-28-32-38-48-50-51-58-60-64-65-76 Evening	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.72 July corn4.74 Aug. corn4.75	July beans10.39 Wheat 4.95
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.74 July corn4.74 Oct. corn4.27	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.54 July corn4.56 Beans10.60 July beans10.54 Wheat4.95
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.59 July corn4.39 Beans10.59	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.66 July corn4.71 Beans10.34 July beans9.65 Wheat4.85

Today in history

In 1883, the first Orient Express left Paris for Istanbul. It has been featured in different works through the years, including Bram Stoker's "Dracula" and Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Orient Express."

In 1956, Elvis Presley performed "Hound Dog" for the first time live on television.

In 1968, Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated by a 24-year-old Palestinian. The brother of former United States president John F. Kennedy, he died the next day.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 6:30 p.m. — Jay County County Living Advisory Board, living facility, 1194 E. 200 North, Portland. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St. Tuesday 6 p.m. — Ridgeville Town Council, fire station, 302 N. Walnut St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.
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Council ...

Continued from page 1
Shauver noted that the city handles all of the work, including removing the old sidewalk and replacing dirt. Property owners are responsible for re-seeding with grass after the work is complete.

"For the citizens to be able to get the labor and have the old sidewalk hauled away, and all they're paying for is the material," said McClung. "That's a deal. That's a bargain."

The sidewalk issue came up after McClung expressed concern about the state of some of the walkways along Meridian Street on the south side of the city.

Shauver noted Monday that street department staff evaluated the area, measured and provided quotes to a dozen property owners. So far, he said, one has agreed to participate in the program.

Clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips noted that \$10,000 is transferred from the city's general fund to the sidewalk fund each year. Money that comes in through the program also stays in the sidewalk fund. She added that 18 properties are currently on the list for sidewalk replacement this year.

Goldsworthy advocated for considering a payment plan to help increase participation.

In other business:

- Approved adding a crosswalk at the intersection of Arch and Middle streets to connect the Youth Service Bureau building to its parking lot across the street. Goldsworthy also asked about Americans with Disabilities Act compliant sidewalk ramps in the area.

- Re-certified the city's council districts with no changes.

- Approved Portland City Court shifting to the Odyssey Case Management System from its current software through Boyce Systems that is being discontinued. Odyssey is provided by the State of Indiana at no cost. Court clerk Missy Puterbaugh noted that there may be some cost if new computers are needed to operate the new software.

- Heard Hilfiker complimented the street and parks department on the opening of Portland Water Park for the year.

- Amended the city's payroll ordinance to reflect a police department change from eight-hour shifts to 12-hour shifts as well as adding positions for an assistant manager and head lifeguard for Portland Water Park.

- Heard Golden congratulate Portland Fire Chief Mike Weitzel, who was honored last week with The

Braun defends changes

Governor says there was a lot of interest in serving on IU's board

By **LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ**
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana Gov. Mike Braun on Tuesday defended his sudden removal of alumni-elected Indiana University trustees and his contentious picks to replace them.

Braun previously cited nearing ends of terms for Vivian Winston, Donna Spears and Jill Maurer Burnett as why he wouldn't oust them early. A month later, he turned that logic on its head.

"It's so close to that being the case anyway," he said of the three, who are all now listed as "former" trustees.

"You can't believe the

number of individuals that came forward wanting to be considered in those slots," Braun continued in mid-morning comments to reporters. "So, with that kind of enthusiasm and the fact that it really didn't make a lot of difference one way or the other, (I) did make the decision to go ahead and do it, so that we don't even delay the few weeks that would be involved."

But only Winston's term was due to end this year, according to an archived "about" webpage. Spears was supposed to serve until 2026, and Maurer Burnett had until 2027.

Lawmakers gave Braun control over IU's three alumni-appointed trustee spots via language slipped last-minute — and without opportunity for public comment — into the two-year budget. The body's six other members were already gubernatorial appointees.

The oversight entity sets tuition rates, controls campus projects and approves budgets. At other public Hoosier institutions, alumni can offer

direct or indirect input into trustee picks.

Braun tapped prominent and polarizing attorney Jim Bopp as trustee. He's best known for waging legal battles to weaken campaign finance laws and restrict abortion access.

"You want somebody that's going to really be respectful of the First Amendment, and it's making it clear that it (IU) ought to be a place where all views are listened to," Braun said. "... He's a guy that's been for it through thick and thin."

Bopp's term extends through June 2028.

Braun's other replacements are Sage Steele, a sports anchor known for controversial comments on race and vaccines whose term also ends June 2028, and Indianapolis estate attorney Brian Eagle, whose term ends June 2026.

IU graduate and House Minority Leader Phil GiaQuinta denounced the flip-flop, predicting Bopp and Steele would harm academic freedom in Indiana.

Portland Foundation's Jack Cole Award for Volunteerism.

- Received an invitation to see a demonstration by Best Equipment for a patch/small paving machine that is used for small road repairs. It is scheduled for June 24.

- Heard the following from Phillips:

- Local officials were scheduled to meet with Indiana Gov. Mike Braun this week to seek more state funding support for the county's proposed commercial and housing development on 68 acres on the west side of Portland. She said they will also seek clarity on when announcements can be expected regarding funding through the Regional Economic and Acceleration Development Initiative (READI) 2.0.

- She is attending a presentation by financial consulting firm Barnes and Thornburg regarding Indiana Senate Enrolled Act 1, which addresses various tax issues.

- A preconstruction meeting for the replacement of the Seventh Street bridge is scheduled for Monday, June 9.

- Budget sheets will be distributed to department heads this week in order to be able to start the process. A public hearing on the 2026 budget is planned for Sept. 15, with budget adoption to follow Oct. 6.

SERVICES

Thursday

Cooke, Donald: 10 a.m., West Walnut Church of Christ, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland.

Will, John: 10:30 a.m., St. Paul Catholic Church, 517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery.

Shively, Joyce: 11 a.m., W.H. Dick & Sons — Hellwarth Funeral Home, 218 W. Market St., Celina, Ohio.

Friday

Schwartz, Peter: 8:30 a.m., Schwartz residence, 677 Covered Bridge Road, Geneva.

Saturday

Masters, Bret: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Sunday

Gordon, Robert: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

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Fort Recovery scholarships awarded

Fort Recovery High School said goodbye to 77 graduates last month. Seniors were awarded various scholarships and awards at the end of the year.

Kennedy Muhlenkamp earned the title of valedictorian, and Anna Roessner received the salutatorian title.

Gavin Evers and Joelle Kaup received the Boys Athletic Key and Girls Athletic Key, respectively, for athletic participation. Activity Keys — they’re awarded based on a point system to determine the most active boy and girl in the senior class — were awarded to Zach Schoenlein and Ava Englehardt.

Scholarships and other awards were presented as follows:

Brooke Hart

- Ohio Progressive Sportsman Club
- Fort Recovery American Legion Post 345
- Fort Recovery VFW

Ethan Hartnagel

- FRHS Vocational

Kayla Heitkamp

- ONU Merit
- Choose Ohio First STEM
- MED Foundation
- Cy LeFevre Memorial
- Fort Recovery American Legion Post 345

Eva Kahlig

- FR Knights of Columbus
- Shane Long Memorial

Joelle Kaup

- Jim & Charlene Bulp Memorial
- Howard Berry Memorial

Cody Klenke

- Damon Klenke Memorial
- Fort Recovery High School Vocational

Gabriel Knapke

- FR Knights of Columbus
- Operation Freedom Support
- Terry Bidlack Memorial
- WoW Super Raffle

Kennedy Kunkler

- David Bulp Memorial
- Tri Star Skills Grant

Caden Marchal

- FRHS Scholastic Bowl

Bailie Muhlenkamp

- Governor’s Merit
- Central Insurance Foundation
- Bob Freemyer Mathematics

Keegan Muhlenkamp

- American Red Cross Blood Drive
- WoW Super Raffle

Kennedy Muhlenkamp

- Carson Scholars Award
- Governor’s Merit
- Wooster College Merit
- Wooster Alumni Award
- FR Alumni Assn.
- Joe S. Meiring

Karlene Niekamp

- Bluffton University Merit
- Ohio Progressive Sportsman Club
- American Red Cross Blood Drive
- FR Community Club/Paul Staugler Memorial
- Armella Kemper/FR Alumni Assn.
- Lamar Shoemaker Memorial
- FR Education Assn.

Aleigha Overman

- Cooper Farms
- WSU Green & Gold
- WEOF MVP Dairy

Brigham Overman

- Sawyer Overman Memorial

Kylie Post

- Leitzell Family Foundation

Benjamin Reinhard

- Governor’s Merit
- WSU Green & Gold
- Choose Ohio First STEM
- WSU Honors
- MED Foundation
- Richard & Norvita Hildbold/FR Alumni Assn.
- FR Academic Boosters
- FRHS Scholastic Bowl
- John & Ruth Houts

Anna Roessner

- Hillsdale Merit
- Hillsdale Athletic
- Richard & Norvita Hildbold/FR Alumni Assn.
- Franklin B Walter
- Midwest Electric
- OEC Youth
- Cooper Farms
- Psi Iota Xi Sorority
- WoW Super Raffle

Ella Schoen

- BGSU Merit
- Wabash Mutual
- MAC Bowling
- FR Knights of Columbus
- Joe & Marianne Remaklus/FR Alumni Assn.
- Herb and Georgiana Meiring
- Fort Recovery Education Association
- WoW Super Raffle

Zach Schoenlein

- WSU Merit
- Cooper Farms
- Leitzell Family Foundation
- FRHS Drama Club
- Josh and Eric Fortkamp Memorial
- Joe Werling Memorial
- Daughters of Isabella

Kruise Sieftring

- Christian Fullenkamp Memorial
- FRHS Vocational

Isabella Taft

- Defiance Merit
- Defiance Athletic
- Cooper Farms
- DARE Boosters
- FRHS Art Club
- Joe S. Meiring

Eowyn Vela

- Berry Merit
- Berry Alumni Grant
- Robert, Alice, and Colleen Grube Memorial
- Les Johnson Memorial
- Ronald Shoemaker Memorial

Emma Will

- WSU Green& Gold
- Wabash Mutual
- MED Foundation
- WEOF R & C Sharp Estate
- FR Alumni Assn.
- Celina Education Assn.
- Psi Iota Xi Sorority
- Dr. Diana Meiring-Zitter/FR Alumni Assn.
- John and Doris Cheeseman Endowed
- Herb and Georgiana Meiring
- Carolyn Vaughn Memorial
- Damon Klenke Memorial

Brooklyn Wycuff

- Cooper Farms
- Tri Star Skills Grant

Gage Zehringer

- Fort Street Car Classics
- FRHS Vocational

Coaching styles leaves something to be desired

DEAR ABBY: My son is a loving husband, father and son. He coaches his 12-year-old son, my grandson, in various sports and sometimes is just a spectator. I’m worried because he often berates his son’s playing ability. He has yelled at him during and after games, whether he is coaching or not. He yelled and screamed at him in front of everyone and later at home.

I have told my son, to no avail, that it’s OK to give constructive criticism but without the yelling. I also have told him how it crushes my grandson each time he does this. My daughter-in-law is also at a loss for how to change his behavior. My husband coached my son in sports when he was young and he was hard on him, too. I love my family dearly,

Dear Abby

but I don’t know what to do in this situation. Abby, what do you think we should do? — ‘HEARTACHING’ GRANDMA IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR GRANDMA: Your son may be a loving husband, but he could use some coaching as a father. Someone should point out to him that when a parent bullies a child about his poor athletic performance, it rarely produces a positive result. It makes him lose

interest in the sport and damages the youth’s self-esteem, and the effects can sometimes last a lifetime.

After your grandson has had enough of the verbal abuse, don’t be shocked if he drops out of the sport. Your son should have learned from the terrible example his own father set that this kind of “coaching” usually doesn’t produce the desired result. He should take out his aggression elsewhere.

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, my mom invited all of my family on an international trip during the month of October. One year ago, my sister called me asking if I could “cover some things” for her. When I agreed and asked

why, she said she and our parents were going on the international trip four months early. I was shocked.

No one had said the departure date was being moved up. When I asked my other sister about it, she was also still under the impression we were going in October. When I brought it up to my mom, she got very defensive and said we were all invited to come. No, we were not! The plans changed, and only one sister and her family were included.

They are on the trip now, and I don’t want any part of it. They are posting pictures to our family group chat, and I have decided not to look at them. I’m not sure how to move forward from here. I’m sad and frustrated over this, while they are pretending every-

thing is fine. — LEFT BEHIND IN COLORADO

DEAR LEFT: When your mother and sister return from that trip there needs to be a frank “family discussion” about what went wrong and why neither felt it was necessary to inform you that you and your other sister were excluded and why. Pretending something that happened never happened never works out, and if it isn’t repaired, the fallout can be long-lasting.

DEAR Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email news@thecr.com.

Today

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior; and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian

recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or ill-

ness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1.

Friday

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. To learn more information, please call (260) 251-3259.

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

CININNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, June 6, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-

MOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA’S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland.

Sudoku

	8	3	6			4		
					2			1
		1						
7		5	2					
1				6		7	5	
				9				4
			3		9			
4								
5		2	8			3		6

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday’s Solution

6	4	7	3	9	5	2	1	8
9	1	3	4	2	8	5	7	6
5	8	2	1	7	6	9	3	4
7	5	8	9	3	1	4	6	2
3	6	4	7	5	2	8	9	1
2	9	1	8	6	4	3	5	7
1	3	9	2	8	7	6	4	5
8	7	6	5	4	3	1	2	9
4	2	5	6	1	9	7	8	3

The objective is to fill a nine-by nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

The Pacers are an inspiring force

The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)
Tribune News Service

In a world torn by political and cultural division, sports can both inspire and unite. That's exactly what the Indiana Pacers are doing.

An underdog seemingly in every way and at every turn, the Pacers keep on winning. In the first round of the NBA playoffs they defeated the Milwaukee Bucks, led by one of the world's best players, Giannis Antetokounmpo. Then they eliminated the Cleveland Cavaliers, who had the best record in the Eastern Conference. And on Saturday night, the Pacers finished off the rough-and-tumble New York Knicks, sending Indiana fans into a

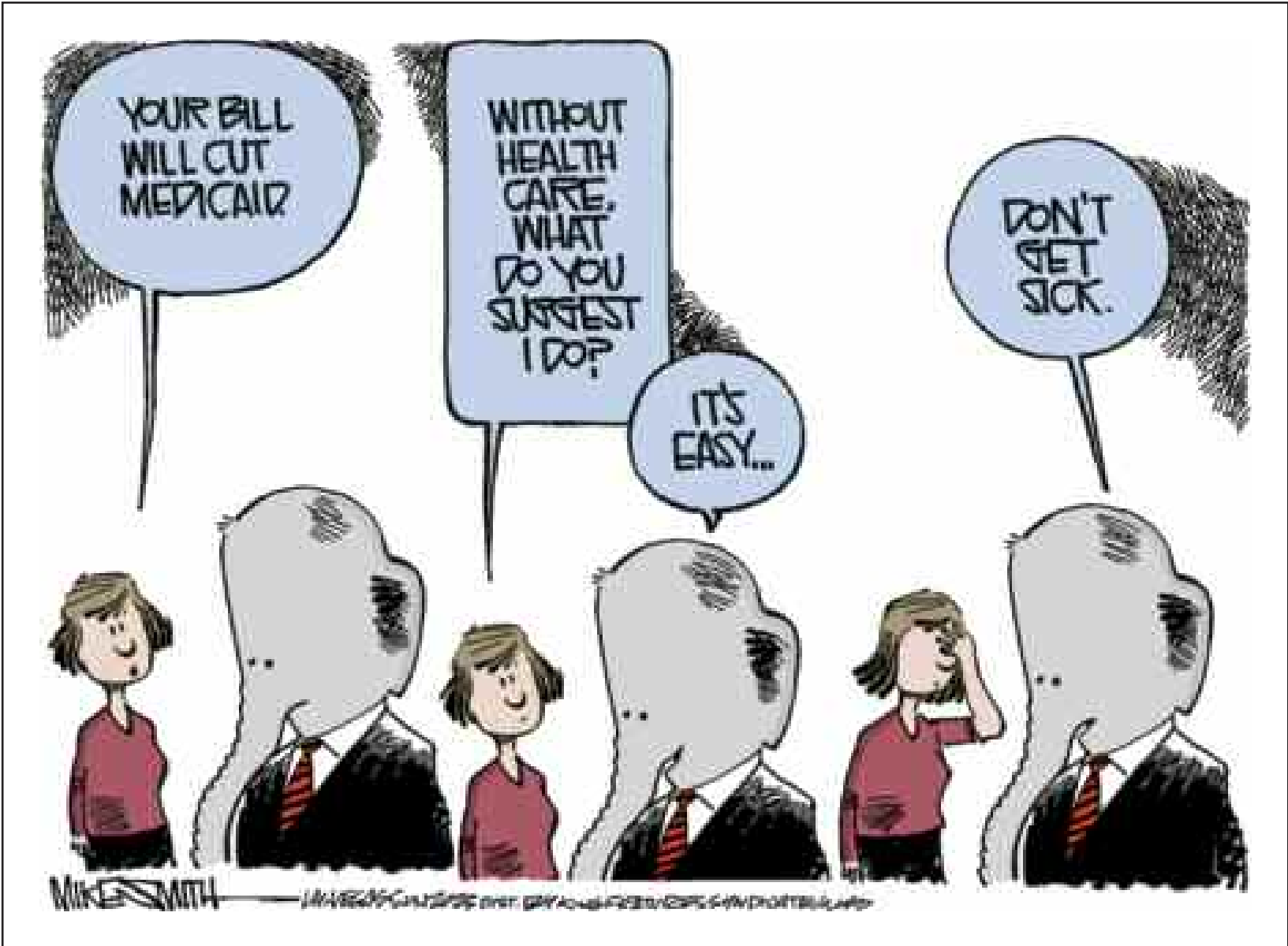
Hoosier Editorial

frenzy and the team into its first NBA Finals since the halcyon days of Reggie Miller a quarter century ago. Remember Reggie's miraculous eight points in nine seconds to beat the Knicks in a 1995 playoff game? This year's Pacers have pulled off three miracle finishes to win playoff games, storming back from late deficits for thrilling triumphs.

We Hoosiers can appreciate every aspect of this team. The Pacers have a smart, experienced coach in Rick Carlisle. They have a talented, charismatic star in Tyrese Haliburton, who, by the way, is built like Reggie Miller. They have a hard-working, veteran leader in Pascal Siakam. And the team is full of energetic, cohesive role players in Andrew Nembhard, Aaron Nesmith, T.J. McConnell, Thomas Bryant, Obi Toppin, Benedict Mathurin, Jarace Walker and Ben Sheppard. But veteran center Myles Turner best embodies the spirit of this Pacers team. He was drafted by the Pacers a

decade ago and suffered, along with Pacers fans, through a slew of subpar seasons when it looked like the team would never again win a playoff series, let alone reach the NBA Finals. But Turner never stopped believing in the Pacers. And the Pacers never stopped believing in Turner. After their Game 6 victory Saturday over the Knicks to win the Eastern Conference championship, he grabbed the microphone during the raucous on-court celebration at Gainbridge Fieldhouse. "IN-DY!" Turner shouted. "ANA!" 17,000 overjoyed Pacer fans shouted back. At that moment, as throughout Indiana's magical playoff

run, nothing — not tariffs, not culture wars or foreign wars — could temper the communal joy, the feeling that we're on top of the world. And the Pacers aren't done yet. Again the odds are stacked against them. Their Finals opponent, the Oklahoma City Thunder, has the best record in the NBA and the league's Most Valuable Player. Las Vegas says the Thunder will bury the Pacers 4-1 or even 4-0 in the seven-game series. But these Pacers, much like the denizens of their home state, are at their very best when it's all on the line — and the rest of the world is telling them they can't do it.



Housing problems are misdiagnosed

By **MICHAEL J. HICKS**

The U.S. faces three types of housing market problems, with three very different types of solutions. Yet, policy efforts at the city level to the state level treat all three the same. Ironically, this makes things worse across many places—particularly here in Indiana, where our biggest problem is misdiagnosed and mistreated, which ultimately worsens it. Nationally, the big economic problem is that markets build too few homes in large, highly productive cities. This is not because of some inherent failure of market capitalism, but instead is due to restrictive zoning and regulation. This is also known as NIMBYism, or “not in my backyard.” Some zoning and land-use regulations are warranted. But, if housing becomes unavailable in highly productive cities, it doesn't just cause people to move elsewhere. It throttles the national economy. The best estimate of this is that restrictive land-use policies cut well over \$1 trillion from the U.S. economy each year. The good news is that this isn't really a problem in Indiana. Indeed, all our population growth occurs in the three largest metropolitan areas that affect our state (Chicago, Indianapolis and Louisville). We need to be cautious about restricting housing, but the national NIMBY problem is not a problem in Indiana. The second problem, which affects parts of Indiana, is that

Michael J. Hicks



some types of housing are not available in places where they might be needed. This stems from the rapid growth of single-family housing units in more affluent cities, which did not initially include other types of housing. This challenges places like Carmel, Crown Point, Fishers, Noblesville and Zionsville. Again, the problem here is not that housing markets don't work, but that zoning and city infrastructure was built to maximize single-family housing. It was zoning rules that caused the problem, not housing markets. The effect is that many families cannot afford to live near jobs because of restrictive housing types. For example, can a young couple employed as a teacher and firefighter buy a single-family home in Carmel, Fishers or Zionsville? Probably not, but they might afford a condominium or townhouse, of which there are few. To their credit, the leadership in all the cities I just named have worked hard to solve this problem. They are adding apartments for young people, condos for empty-nesters and other housing options that appeal to a

broader set of people who want to access the high-quality schools and local amenities these cities offer. The third type of housing problem in Indiana afflicts much of the state. Past population decline has led to a crash in the price of housing, so that it is now beneath the replacement cost of building a new home. My colleagues and I took a well-regarded 2005 study on this topic and adapted it to Indiana in 2019. We found that there were only 14 Indiana counties where the value of new housing was high enough to clearly guarantee a profit for the builder. In another 17 counties, we found that market prices had risen to the point that some, but probably not all, housing development could be done profitably. That means that, when we did our study, 61 Indiana counties had home prices that were well below the replacement price for that home. Now, housing prices rose during and after COVID-19, rearranging this geography a bit. However, the cost of construction also rose. With tariffs on perhaps 10% of housing inputs and restricted immigration, the cost of building a new home this summer is now much higher than last year. But, prices are beginning to drop, so we're back in a position where two-thirds of Indiana counties suffer from an excess supply problem. The economics are straightforward, but bear repeating. An increase in the demand for hous-

ing comes from having an increase in the number of families in your city, typically combined with higher incomes. If there are fewer families, then demand for housing declines. It is just math. A full 35 Hoosier counties have lost population since 2000, and another 35 having had less than 5% population growth. That's the demand-side issue across the state. Housing is a durable capital stock, so most homes built in Indiana before World War II are still standing. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were almost 250,000 habitable, yet vacant, homes across the state as of 2023. This does not include derelict housing that could be repaired. That is the supply-side issue. It is worth noting that these homes do not appear in real estate listings. That causes real estate agents and builders to mistakenly claim there's a housing shortage. That is piffle. These excess homes don't appear in the Realtor listings because real estate agents cannot make money selling them. The fact that agents don't list another quarter-million homes is clear evidence of this problem. If you put the two of these together, you find that in two-thirds of counties, declining demand for housing has suppressed prices below the replacement cost of that home. That effectively ends the market for new housing, unless the govern-

ment subsidizes the demolition of vacant homes (supply-side) or building of new homes. The demolition of vacant homes improves market conditions, while subsidizing new construction worsens market conditions. Subsidizing new homes to sell them below cost further reduces the value of existing homes across the city. Economists see this data in home assessments years after it happens. But, people working to fix housing markets should see it almost immediately in the form of what are called “appraisal gaps.” This means that the appraised value is too low for mortgage bankers to lend to the area. So, if you are a real estate agent or builder who is frustrated by appraisal gaps that make it impossible to build new housing, don't blame the banks; blame the people who are working to fix a demand-side problem with counterproductive supply-side solutions. Just to be clear, the problem is not that there is some mysterious failure of housing markets. Housing markets are saying loud and clear, “Don't build here until you improve demand for housing.”

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Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University. Email him at mhicks@bsu.edu.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Area churches are listed with location, pastor and phone number, services and website or email address. All services are Sunday, unless otherwise indicated.

Asbury United Methodist
204 E. Arch St., Portland
Joe Boggs
(260) 726-8464
Services: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
asburyministries.org

Bellefountain United Methodist
440 S. 600 East
Pamela Freeman
Services: 9 a.m.

Bluff Point Friends
80 E. 650 South
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Boundary St. Paul
Corner of Treaty Line Road and county road 300 East
Ava Gannon
(260) 726-2373
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Bryant Wesleyan
209 S. Hendricks St.
Paul VanCise
(260) 997-6231
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
bryantwesleyanchurch.com

Calvary United Methodist
301 N. Main St., Dunkirk
Susan Durovey-Antrim
(765) 499-0368
Services: 10:30 a.m.
susan.duroveyantrim@in.umc.org

Christ Chapel
2535 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery
(419) 733-1469
christchapelfr.com

Church of the Living God (Miracle Missions)
8472 S. 800 East, Union City
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Church of God of Prophecy
797 N. Creagor Ave., Portland
Nanette Weesner
(260) 766-9334
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nanybell@yahoo.com

Church of the Brethren
Floral and Chicago avenues, Portland
Kevin McClung
(260) 729-7295
Services: 10 a.m.

Church of the Living God
South Broad Street, Dunkirk
Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Friday

Collett Nazarene
450 South, 1 mile west of U.S. 27
Billy Stanton
(260) 251-2403
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Cornerstone Baptist
211 E. Main St., Portland
Wayne Ward
(260) 726-7714
Services: 10 a.m.

Cornerstone Church of Pennville
190 W. Main St., Pennville
David Davidson
(260) 202-9718
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Dunkirk Nazarene
226 E. Center St., Dunkirk
Tom Fett
(765) 768-6199
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Evangelical Methodist
930 W. Main St., Portland
Steve Arnold
(260) 251-0970
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Fairview United Methodist/Jay County
2875 E. 200 South
Pamela Freeman
Lay leader: Beth Stephen
(260) 726-9184
Services: 10:15 a.m.

Faith Community
9560 W. 200 South, Dunkirk
Joe Schmit
(260) 251-5254
Services: 10 a.m.

Family Worship Center
200 E. Elder St., Portland
Ronald Willis
(260) 726-4844
Services: 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
thefamilyworshipcenter.org

Fellowship Baptist
289 S. 200 West
Hugh Kelly
(260) 726-8873
Services: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
pastorkelly@fbc-portland.com

First American Baptist
427 S. Main St., Dunkirk
Dan Coffman
(765) 768-7157
Services: 10:40 a.m., 5 p.m.

First Church of Christ
1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery
David J. Nicholson
(419) 375-2860
Services: 10:30 a.m.
fccftherecovery.org

First Community Baptist
341 S. Meridian St., Redkey
Everett Bilbrey Jr.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. Wednesday

First Free Will Baptist
12369 W. 600 South, Dunkirk
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday

First Presbyterian
402 N. Ship St., Portland
Rev. M. Rex Espiritu
(260) 726-8462
Services: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.
firstpcportland.org

Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene
401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
(419) 375-4680
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Kids vision and teen ministries: 6 p.m. Wednesday
frnaz@frontier.com

Fort Recovery United Methodist
309 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
Rev. Carol McKay
(304) 617-0101
Services: 9 a.m.

Full Gospel Lighthouse Tabernacle
468 E. Washington St., Dunkirk
Robert Thomas
(765) 348-4620
Services: 6:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Thursday

Geneva First United Methodist
100 W. Line St., Geneva
Barry McCune
(260) 368-7655
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Geneva Nazarene
225 Decatur St., Geneva
(260) 525-8609
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Prayer meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Gilead Church
County road 650 North, one-quarter mile east of Balbec
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Hickory Grove Church of the Brethren
Indiana 1 and Indiana 26
Earl Doll
(260) 731-4477
Services: 10:30 a.m.

High Street United Methodist
435 High St., Geneva
Rev. Joseph Hampton
(260) 368-7233
Services: 9 a.m.

Holy Trinity Catholic
7321 E. Indiana 67, Bryant
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
Services: 8 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Saturday

Hopewell of Life Ministries
County road 200 South, 2 miles east of Indiana 1
Rev. Ruth Funk
(260) 251-8581
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Catholic
506 E. Walnut St., Portland
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
(260) 726-7055
Services: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Kingsley Full Gospel
4030 S. 700 East, Dunkirk
Stuart Phillips
Services: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

Mary Help of Christians
403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
(419) 375-4153
Services: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.

Mount Tabor Community Church
216 W. Pleasant St., Dunkirk
Scott McClain
(765) 768-7273
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Mount Zion United Methodist
County roads 600 East and 200 North
Rev. Darrell Borders
(260) 726-4786
Services: 9 a.m.

New Beginnings Holiness Church of Blaine
4017 W. 200 South
Randy Smith
(260) 251-2406
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nbholiness.com

New Covenant Fellowship
1238 W. 450 South
Chuck Myers
(260) 251-0063
Services: 10:30 a.m.

New Life Ministries
415 S. Helen St., Portland
Dr. Kay Fairchild
(260) 223-2961
Services: 4 p.m.
drkayfairchild.com

New Mt. Pleasant United Methodist
5905 S. Como Road
Neil Butcher
(765) 499-7838
Services: 9 a.m.

Noble Congregational Christian
1964 N. 800 East
Aaron Huey
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Oak Grove United Methodist
829 S. Indiana 1
Neil Butcher
(765) 760-9085
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Pleasant Hill
9945 N. 800 East, Union City
Bruce Bryan
(765) 964-3664
Services: 9 a.m., 6 p.m.
mypleasanthillchurch.org

Portland Church of Christ
1217 W. Votaw St., Portland
Bob Graham
(260) 726-7777
Bible class: 9:15 a.m.
Services: 10:20 a.m.
Bible School: 6 p.m. Wednesday
portlandcoc.com

Portland First Church of Nazarene
920 S. Shank St., Portland
Steve Cecil
(260) 726-8040
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Portland Friends
226 E. Main St., Portland
Herb Hummel
(260) 202-9732
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.

Praise Chapel Church of God
4527 E. 1000 North (Jay-Randolph county line)
Rev. Josh Canfield
(765) 584-7045
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran
Malin and Elm streets, Bryant
Father Dan Layden
(260) 997-6787
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey Faith Ministries
9811 W. Indiana 67, southwest of Redkey
Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman
(765) 369-2920
Services: 10 a.m.
RedkeyFaith.org

Redkey First Christian
Union and Malin streets
Jeff Hammers
(765) 468-6172
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey United Methodist
122 W. Main St.
Lori McIntosh
(765) 369-2085
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redkey Church of the Nazarene
801 W. High St.
Fred Stevens
(765) 369-2676
redkeynaz.org
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

River of Life
722 W. Main St., Portland
Susan Hathaway
(260) 729-1095
Services: 10:30 a.m.

The ROCK
1605 N. Meridian St., Portland
Matt Ransom
(260) 726-7474
Services: 10 a.m.
matt@therockjkc.org

Salamonia Church of Christ
3900 S. 600 East
Bruce Phillips
(260) 335-2017
Services: 9 a.m.

Second Chance at Life Ministries
228 S. Meridian St., Portland
Dave Keen (260) 251-8792
Mike Eads (260) 703-0733
Services: 10:30 a.m.

St. Joseph Catholic
1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 7:30 a.m. Sunday

St. Mary's Catholic
346 S. Broad St., Dunkirk
Rev. Kevin Hurley
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Thursday

St. Paul Catholic
517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 11 a.m. Sunday

St. Peter Catholic
1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 9 a.m. Sunday

Sugar Grove Nazarene
3984 N. 550 West, Portland
Pastor Mike Heckman
(615) 517-1017
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Bible study: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Sugar Grove Church
County roads 600 South and 1150 West, Dunkirk
Scott McClain
Services: 9 a.m.

Temple Baptist
17920 Indiana 167, Dunkirk
John Elam
(765) 768-7708
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday
7pillarsdirector@gmail.com
templebaptistin.com

The Church at Westchester
4487 E. 400 North
(260) 726-6311
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:35 a.m.
churchatwestchester.org

Trinity Lutheran
301 N. Wayne St., Fort Recovery
Robin Owen
(419) 375-4498
Services: 9 a.m. (contemporary service, fourth Sunday)
pastorrobino@gmail.com

Trinity ArchBridge Church
323 S. Meridian St., Portland
Dan Vore
(260) 726-8391
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Services: 10:15 a.m.
portlandtrinity.com

Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Interim Pastor Chris Kruckow
(260) 849-0687
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Union Church of the Nazarene
County road 900 North (Jay-Wells county line)
Fred Stevens
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Walnut Corner
County roads 200 North and 500 West
Steve Rogers
(260) 251-1113
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

West Walnut Church of Christ
204 W. Walnut St., Portland
Gil Alicea
(260) 726-4691
Services: 10 a.m.
westwalnutchurchof-christ.org

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Robin Owen
218 E. High St., Portland
(260) 726-8832
zionlutheranportland@gm ail.com
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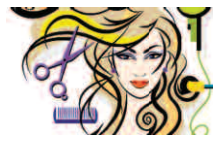
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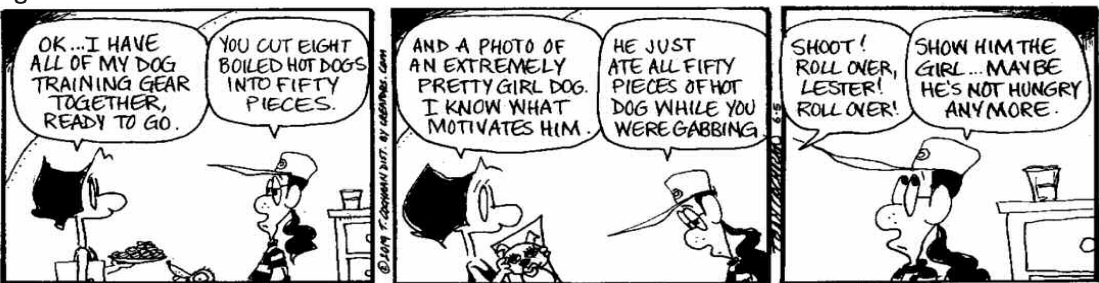
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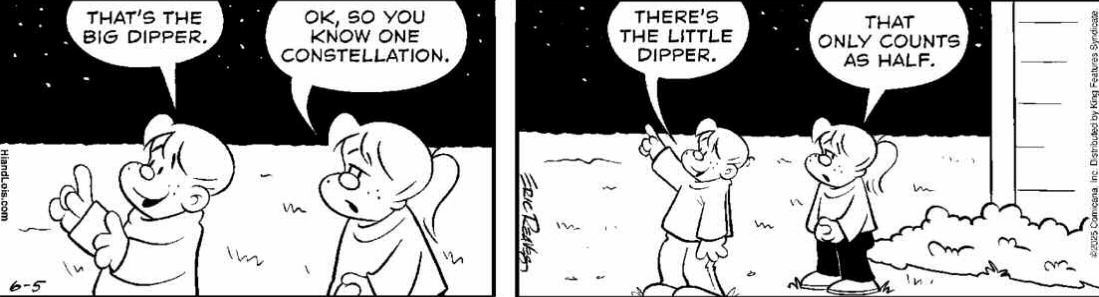
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Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

An open book

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ 7 5 4 2		♠ K Q J 10 8	
♥ Q 8 2		♥ K 7 5	
♦ Q 8 3		♦ K 10	
♣ A Q 5		♣ J 8 4	

WEST	SOUTH
♠ 6	♠ A 9 3
♥ 9 6 4 3	♥ A J 10
♦ J 9 7 4	♦ A 6 5 2
♣ 7 6 3 2	♣ K 10 9

The bidding:
East 1♠ South 1NT West Pass North 3NT
Opening lead — six of spades.
The bidding by the opponents often helps declarer find the winning line of play. Consider this deal where South becomes declarer in three notrump after East opens the bidding with one spade.
West leads the six of spades, and after dummy appears, declarer knows virtually everything he needs to know about East's hand. To start with, he identifies the six as West's only spade, marking East with the K-Q-J-10-8.
South also knows that East has

both missing red kings, because he would not have had enough to open the bidding without them. Declarer furthermore sees that he has only eight sure tricks (including the heart finesse that the bidding indicates is sure to succeed). South's task, therefore, is to turn dummy's queen of diamonds into a trick even though East is known to hold the king.
Superficially, this seems an impossible assignment, but actually it is not terribly difficult. South ducks East's ten of spades at trick one and wins the spade continuation at trick two. He then leads a club to the queen and returns the heart queen.
After East covers with the king, South takes the ace and cashes the J-10 of hearts and the K-A of clubs. At this point, dummy holds two spades and three diamonds, while East holds three spades and two diamonds.
Declarer now puts East on lead with a spade, intentionally allowing him to cash three spade tricks. But then, with only the K-10 of diamonds remaining, East is forced to lead one of them. Whichever he chooses, South scores the last two tricks with the queen and ace of diamonds to make three notrump.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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6-5

CRYPTOQUIP

M T M T S J Z H H M G V Z C W G

Q W W P M E A S N W N F V S H Y S H M E S J Z T

C S N S E Z R Z T M R X . U W F Y M A X J

Q S V V M J Z H M - U F Q P U .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THIS BUILDING'S LOBBY HAS AN INCREDIBLY THOROUGH SECURITY SYSTEM. IT'S A FOUR-ALARM FOYER.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals Y

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37 The "A" of UAE	56 Low-fat sources	22 Oil
1 Sir's counter-part	38 German autos	DOWN	23 Worked the soil
5 Vats	40 "— Deeds" (Adam Sandler film)	1 Oodles	24 Norm, for short
9 Gratuity	41 Postpone	2 Oaxaca water	25 Aunt, in Acapulco
12 Un-sightly	43 Catch	3 Swiss peaks	26 Event cited in an insurance policy
13 Villa d'—	47 Batting stat	4 "Heavens!"	27 "Neato!"
14 Popular card game	48 Product design-er's aim	5 Actress Harper	29 Greek vowel
15 Starter on a diner menu	51 Chairman of China	6 Mil. morale booster	30 Catch red-handed
17 Understood	52 Furnace fuel	7 A/C measure	35 Chest-beating beast
18 Hodge-podges	53 A law — itself	8 Nasal partitions	37 Clever
19 Sylvester and Tweety	54 Con-clusion	9 Rope contest	39 Upright
21 Yours truly	55 Boxing stats	10 Privy to ware	40 L-P link
22 Harbor platform		16 Charge	41 Title for Helen Mirren
24 Remain		20 Assoc.	42 Novelist Hunter
27 Biz bigwig			43 Morays
28 Verdon or Stefani			44 Medieval letter
31 Spasm			45 "The Thin Man" dog
32 World Cup cheer			46 Drudge
33 — standstill			49 Fine, at NASA
34 Info			50 — Paulo
36 Vintage			

Solution time: 24 mins.

B O M B	M O P	S H I N
O B I E	O R L	T I D E
H O T F U D G E	A G E S	
R E T I R E	A L P H A S	
T D S	S E L F	
S H R	U T E	W E I R D
T A U T	O R C	D V I I
U L N A R	S A O	E D S
T I N A	S H E	
T E S L A S	H O L M E S	
W I F E	H U C K F I N N	
I R O N	E N O	I N T O
N E R D	S E W	T S B

Yesterday's answer 6-5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
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51				52				53		
54				55				56		

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Boiling ...

Continued from page 8

The Tribe got slightly deflated early on as a pair of runs came in for the Silver Knights (18-11) in the bottom of the first inning. Grisez hit Jack Phillabaum, the first batter, before a sacrifice bunt moved him over and he scored on an error. Bryce McNair, the player who reached base on an error, eventually came in to score as well on a sacrifice fly to Evers in left field.

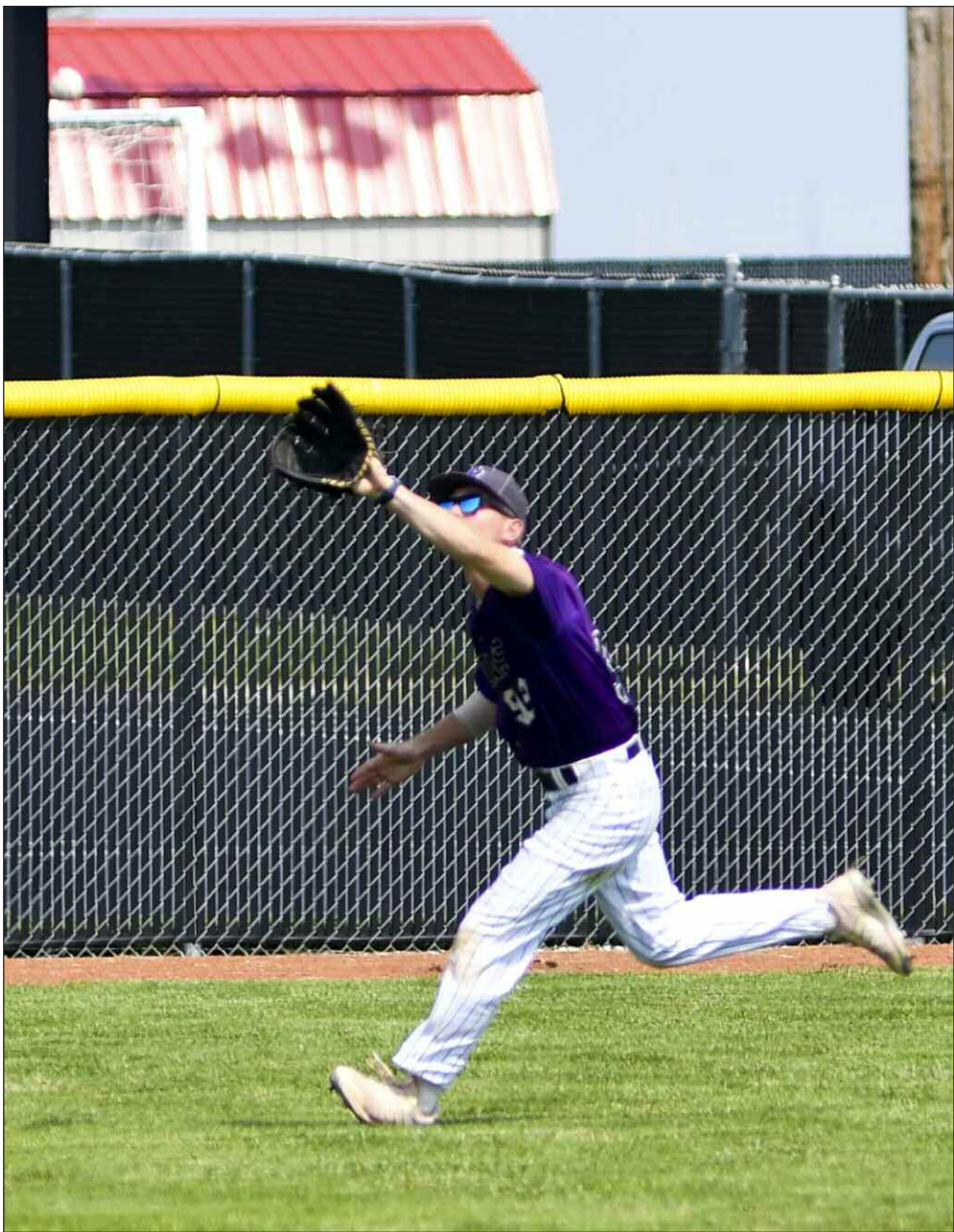
The Indians didn't let the minor setback bother them too much as they immediately got to work in the top of the second by cutting the lead in half on a groundout by Caden Homan.

While the run didn't hurt, it was Grisez's work on the bump that started to truly build some momentum for the Tribe.

Grisez started the second inning with a strikeout, but gave up a single, hit a batter and issued a walk to load the bases with only one out. Despite the threat, Grisez got out of the inning by inducing a shallow fly ball in center field that didn't allow Cole Reinhard to tag up on due to the fear of Reece Wendel's arm and getting Lucas Reder to roll a pitch over to Alex Gaerke at third base, who stepped on the bag for the force.

Similar to the second inning, Grisez started the third with a strikeout before loading the bases with a hit and two walks. This time around, Grisez punched out Reinhard for the second out and then got Phillabaum to tap the fall 30 feet so the FRHS senior could pick it up and toss it to Homan at first.

"It is purely momentum," said Grisez, who earned the win after sur-



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

FRHS center fielder Reece Wendel tracks down a fly ball during the OHSAA Division VI Region 24 semifinal on Tuesday. The 6-2 victory against the Silver Knights advanced the Indians to Wednesday's regional final where they had a shot at punching their second straight trip to state.

rendering two unearned runs on four hits in 6 ½ innings. "The dugout was getting into it and I was getting more confidence. That strikeout and groundout to get out of that jam in the third inning really gives you

momentum as a team and that carries into hitting too." Escaping the two jams brought Fort Recovery dugout to a simmer and all it needed was a little bit of offensive success to boil over.

That offense came from Evers' bat. Prior to Evers' at bat, two Indians got out while Gaerke hit a single and Brodie Hart reached base on a walk. Evers watched the first pitch go by for a strike, but ripped the sec-

ond one down the third base line past the outstretched glove of Reder. As Hayden Siefring – he pinch ran for Gaerke – crossed home plate to tie the game, Evers belted an exclamation and the dugout exploded with cheers.

"We had two guys on and I was waiting for my pitch," Evers said. "He gave it to me, I trusted myself and I put it right down the line and it happened to get through."

Fort Recovery didn't manage to take the lead in the fourth inning, but in the bottom half, Grisez retired the Silver Knights in order for the first time of the game.

Gavin Miller was on pace to do the same to the Indians in the fifth inning, but Mason Diller got all the way to second base on a Charlie Ritch throwing error: The Tribe immediately took advantage as Grisez singled on the second pitch to left field to plate Diller and take a 3-2 lead. The inning was again extended by an error that allowed Gaerke to reach base before Hart gave FRHS a two-run advantage with a single to shallow left field.

"We put together a nice inning there," Eyink said. "We've talked about being in that situation other times this year. Just be confident, keep your approach up there at the plate and good things will happen. We hit some balls hard, they misplayed a couple and good things happened."

Fort Recovery added two more insurance runs in the seventh inning on a Gaerke double and a Homan single. Summit Country Day got runners in scoring position in the fifth and sixth innings, but ran into outs

Box score

No. 2 Fort Recovery Indians
vs. No. 1 Summit Country Day
Silver Knights

OHSAA Division VI
Regional 24 semifinal

Fort Recovery (19-8)

	ab	r	h	bi
Wendel cf	4	0	0	0
Diller rf	4	1	0	0
Grisez p	4	2	2	1
Gaerke 3b	3	1	2	1
Siefring pr	0	1	0	0
Hart c	3	1	1	1
Homan 1b	3	0	1	2
Muhlenkamp pr	0	0	0	0
Evers lf	4	0	1	1
Siegrist 2b	3	0	0	0
Klenke p	0	0	0	0
Post ss	3	0	1	0
Totals	31	6	8	6

Summit Country Day (18-11)

	ab	r	h	bi
Phillabaum lf	2	1	1	0
DMinton rf	1	0	0	0
McNair c	4	1	0	0
Reder 3b	4	0	1	0
Houchin ss	3	0	0	0
Gentry 1b	2	0	0	1
KMinton cf	3	0	1	0
Miller p	2	0	0	0
Johnson 3b	1	0	0	0
Reinhard dh	3	0	1	0
Totals	25	2	4	1

Ft. Rec. 010 120 2 — 6
Sum. Co. Day200 000 0 — 2

LOB — Fort Recovery 7, Summit Country Day 12. 2B — Fort Recovery 1 (Gaerke). SB — Fort Recovery 1 (Hart), Summit Country Day 1 (Phillabaum).

IP H R ER BB SO

Fort Recovery

Grisez	6.2	4	2	0	5	5
Klenke	0.1	0	0	0	1	0

Summit Country Day

Miller	6.1	7	6	3	2	4
Philbm	0.2	1	0	0	0	0

at third base in both innings.

Grisez secured the first out of the seventh inning on a fly ball to Wendel and threw the first nine pitches to Rylan Gentry before he hit the pitch limit and Eyink went to Dylan Klenke. The junior got Gentry to ground out on the 10th pitch of the at bat, but walked Keller Minton on four pitches. Klenke balked to advance Minton to second, but he got Alex Johnson to hit a groundout that he fielded himself.

Roundup ...

Continued from page 8

Madden Barnett and Drew Lingo had the only RBIs for Lions Club, while Barnett, Hunter Hamilton and Kasen Rowles accounted for all three hits.

Optimist sweeps

Portland Optimist swept Loy's 20-1 in the first game and 12-4 in the second in Portland Junior League Sandy Koufax baseball on Tuesday.

Andrew Day powered Portland Optimist's offense in the opener with a pair of home runs – one of which was inside the park. Supporting him was Rayden Sollars with another inside-the-park home run and Conner McMillen with three RBIs.

S.J. Adams drove in the only run for Loy's.

In game No. 2, eight out of 10 of Portland Optimist's hitters came around to score during the third inning that lifted the team to vic-

tory. Varin Ridgeway led the offensive effort with a trio of RBIs, while Rayden Sollars and Dustin Franks had one each.

Loy's got some offense in the third as well as J.T. Davis blasted a two-run home run.

Williams, Cook's win

Williams Auto Parts and Cook's Nursery both had strong offensive performances to earn a pair of victories on Tuesday in

Portland Junior League Rookie baseball play.

Williams Auto Parts slashed 31 hits as it beat Barnett's Auto Parts 21-4.

Brett Huntsman, Thobe Keller, Zander Williams, Matthew Bollinger, Porter Huntsman and Ragnar Jones all were perfect from the plate, the first three with four hits and the others with three. Williams led the team with five RBIs on two triples and a pair of singles.

Alex Miller led the way for Barnett's Auto Parts with two RBIs on two singles.

Cook's Nursery took down POET 17-3 as well.

Steven Robinson and Duke Steed both went 4-for-4 on the day. Robinson scored all four times he reached base and Steed added two runs.

London Minnich, Benson Robinette and Griffin Spoonore all went 2-for-2 for POET.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Friday	(TruTV)
Fort Recovery — Track state prelims at Jesse Owen's Memorial Stadium — 10 a.m.	3 p.m. — UEFA Nations League soccer: Spain at France (FS1) 7:30 p.m. — WNBA: New York Liberty at Washington Mystics (FOX) 7:45 p.m. — MLB: Kansas City Royals at St. Louis Cardinals (FDSN Indiana)
Saturday	
Fort Recovery — Track state finals at Jesse Owen's Memorial Stadium — 9:30 a.m.	8 p.m. — NCAA softball tournament (ESPN) 8:30 p.m. — NBA Finals: Indiana Pacers at Oklahoma City Thunder (ABC)

TV schedule

Today	Friday
6 a.m. — French Open tennis	5 a.m. — French Open tennis

(TruTV)	8:15 p.m. — MLB: Los Angeles Dodgers at St. Louis Cardinals (FDSN Indiana)
9 a.m. — French Open tennis (TNT) 12 p.m. — NCAA baseball tournament: Arizona at North Carolina (ESPN2) 2 p.m. — LIV Golf: LIV Golf Virginia (FOX) 6 p.m. — NCAA baseball tournament: Florida State at Oregon State (ESPN2) 8 p.m. — NHL Stanley Cup: Florida Panthers at Edmonton Oilers (TNT) 8 p.m. — NCAA softball tournament: Texas Tech at Texas (ESPN)	9 p.m. — NCAA baseball tournament: Coastal Carolina at Auburn (ESPN2)

Local notes

Challenge continues

The Adams County Challenge continues with a pair of races in June. The first will be held on June 7, as the Youth for Christ 5K starts at the Ceylon Covered Bridge outside

of Geneva at 8:30 a.m. Registration is \$20.

The Fitness Delivered Charity 5K and Fun Run will be held on June 21 at 8:30 a.m. The race will begin at Fitness Delivered located at 141 N. First St. in Decatur. Registration will cost \$20 and includes a t-shirt if done by June 1. The Fun Run is free for anyone 12 and younger.

Registration forms for both races can be found at adamscounty5kchallenge.com.

Registration open

Registration for the 35th annual Flat 50 Plus bicycle ride in Adams County is now open. To register, visit RunSignUp.com.

There are rides ranging from 20 to 100 miles long.

The event will be held at 7 a.m. Saturday, June 21. It will start at Belmont High School and will have stops in Willshire, Geneva and Monroe with refreshments.

90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	110 HELP WANTED	190 FARMERS COLUMN
PUBLIC AUCTION Saturday JUNE 14th, 2025 TIME 10:00 A.M. LOCATED: 1207 N SR 167 DUNKIRK, IN REAL ESTATE Real Estate sells at 10:00 AM. 2 bedroom home with Central Air, 30'x40' attached garage, 24'x32' Quonset building. Nicely situated on 2 acres. Open House: Sunday June 1st 1-3 PM or for private showing phone auctioneers. RIDING MOWERS - ANTIQUES - HOUSEHOLD Troybilt Riding Mower w/ 42i Deck. Troybilt and Murray Mowers for parts. Iron Bed. Steamer Trunk. Hen on Nest and other collectible Glassware. Roll-top Desk. Bird Cages. Elvis Picture. Fishing Poles and Supplies. Generator. Shop Mate. Large Chicken Feeder. Several Items Not Mentioned. OWNER: Mary L Shory Estate by Crystal R Suman and Michael	Dahlestrom Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos. SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE AC31800004 AUCTIONEERS Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587 PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY JUNE 7TH, 2025 TIME 10:00 A.M. LOCATED: 127 Rayburn Dr, Portland IN. REAL ESTATE Real Estate sells at 10:00 AM. 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath brick ranch style home containing 1,328 sq ft finished living area. Central Air, Sun room, 2 car attached garage. Detached garage/ shop building. Home has been well maintained. Open House: Sunday May 25th from 1-3 PM or for private showing phone Auctioneers.	VEHICLE - FURNITURE - SHOP 2003 Chevrolet Venture Minivan. Cast Iron Bulldog. Grandfather Clock. 8 Track Stereo/ Record Player. Glider Rocker w/ Ottoman. 3 Cushion Sofa. Packer Recliner. Metal Patio Set. Bird Bath. Lawn Cart. Craftsman 10i Table Saw. Craftsman Router w/ Stand. Craftsman Scroll Saw. Craftsman Grinder/Sander. Shop, Hand, and Lawn and Garden Tools. OWNER: Rose Fennig Estate, by Dale W Fennig Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos. SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE AC31800004 AUCTIONEERS Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587	PUBLIC AUCTION Saturday JUNE 21st, 2025 TIME 9:00 A.M. LOCATED: 2011 E 200 S, HARTFORD CITY, IN VEHICLES - CAMPER - TRACTOR - ATVs 1973 Volkswagen Beetle (Non running) with extra parts. 1996 Chevy ZR-2 Pickup 4x4 extended cab. 2002 Sprinter by Keystone 27' Camper with slide-out. Harris Pontoon boat with trailer. Paddleboat. Iseki TS1910 Tractor. Polaris 400 and 300 Xplorer 4x4 ATVs. Hotspring 8 Person Hot tub w/ Chemicals and Filters. ANTIQUES - TOOLS - HUNTING - MISC Large Stamp Collection. Hotwheels Collection. Longaberger Baskets. Childs Sled. Large Childs Makeup Stand. Galvanized 10 hole Chicken Nest. Craftsman Roll away Tool Boxes. Craftsman Transmission Jack. McCulloch Generator. Front-time Tiller. Predator Post Hole Digger. Diamond Plate Toolbox.	Wire Cages. Chicken Feeder. Fishing Supplies. Yeti and other Coolers. Bicycles. Pull-behind Childs Buggy. Vera Bradley Purses. Building Supplies and Materials. Several Rolls of R-19 Insulation. Insulation Blower and Blown Insulation. Refrigerators. Hammock. Several Items Not Mentioned. OWNER: CHARLES EDWARDS ESTATE BY JACKIE EDWARDS Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos. SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE AC31800004 AUCTIONEERS Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587 100 JOBS WANTED AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.	PART-TIME BARTENDER POSITION at Portland Elks. Applications available for pickup at 126 W. High St., 4-9 pm, Monday-Friday, 8-12 hours per week, competitive pay, flexible shifts and some Saturdays. 130 MISC. FOR SALE SCRATCH PADS ARE BACK various bundles sizes and XL pads. \$1.25 plus tax. Pick up at The Commercial Review Tuesday thru Friday 10am to 4pm. PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information. ALUMINUM SHEETS 23"x30", .007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side. .35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141	AG RENTAL Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309 200 FOR RENT LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamorespace.com 230 AUTOS, TRUCKS WE PAY CASH for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocum's Salvage

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The boiling point

Tribe started to simmer before Evers fully flipped momentum

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

PLEASANT HILL, Ohio — After an early mistake, the Indians had to play from behind by two runs.

But after that first inning, the Tribe began to bubble as the momentum slowly crept onto its side.

First it was cutting the lead in half in the top of the second inning. Then Caden Grisez escaped jams in the bottom of the second and third. Finally, things boiled over in favor of the Indians as Gavin Evers delivered an RBI single that tied the game and gave the Tribe control.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Fort Recovery High School's Alex Gaerke gets caught in a rundown with Summit Country Day's Lucas Reder in the OHSAA Division VI Region 24 semifinal at Newton on Tuesday. While Gaerke eventually got tagged out, he was still a key piece in the 6-2 victory with one run, two hits, an RBI and stepping on third base to make three outs to end innings with runners in scoring position.

The second-seeded Fort Recovery High School baseball team slowly built momentum after a tough first inning to beat the top-seeded Summit Country Day Silver Knights 6-2 in the OHSAA Division VI Region 24 semifinal hosted by Newton on Tuesday afternoon.

The victory earned the Indians (19-8) a spot in the regional final for the second consecutive season, where it faced Fairview, the top seed out of the Northwest 5 district on Wednesday.

"The kids just played hard," said FRHS coach Kevin Eyink. "They played for each other. The defense was phenomenal. They made some great plays behind Caden (Grisez) and got us out of some tough jams with guys on base. And Caden is a tough kid who's going to battle through everything, so great job by him."

See **Boiling** page 7

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Griffin leads finale

The Warriors didn't have enough golfers to post a score, but the Indians still saw enough positives from their five varsity golfers to end the regular season on a high note.

The Jay County High School boys golf team posted what would have been a 166 in a match on Tuesday against Wes-Del, which only had three golfers and couldn't post a team score, at Portland Golf Club to finish the regular season.

Tucker Griffin earned match medalist honors with a score of 37. Griffin carded three birdies in the match, finishing one-under par on the 176-yard second hole, the 471-yard sixth hole and the 435-yard ninth hole. He added three pars and a bogey to support his score.

Griffin Byrum followed with a round of 40 strokes that also included a birdie on the par-five sixth. Byrum also had three pars and four bogeys.

Cody DeHoff and Dawson Goldsworthy rounded out the Patriots' score with a 44 and 45, respectively. DeHoff's highlight came on the sixth with a birdie, while Goldsworthy made par on the sixth and ninth.

Isaac Homan's 52 wouldn't have impacted the final score.

Ridenaur leads

Liam Ridenaur led PG14 to a 12-3 victory over Lions Club on Tuesday in Portland Junior League Willie Mayes baseball.

Ridenaur had a perfect day from the plate, going 3-for-3 with a double and a triple while driving in three runs and scoring two himself.

Ashton Conn and Paxton Hudson followed Ridenaur's efforts with a pair of RBIs each on one hit. Corbin Brown also pushed a run across the plate, while touching it twice himself.

See **Roundup** page 7