

2024 Jay County Fair

Grand new view

Upgrades to track, new tower debut tonight

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

When competitors drive in front of the grandstand tonight, their tires will be the first to make tread marks on a near track.

When fans cheer from the infield seats, they'll have a new wall protecting them from the vehicles.

When Jeff Abbott announces the action, he'll be sitting in a new, more spacious, perch.

A new grandstand judge's tower, completed less than two weeks before the start of the Jay County Fair, is the latest addition to Jay County Fairgrounds and will debut at tonight's demolition derby that kicks off eight days of events in front of the grandstand.

The need for a new tower and upgrades to the derby track became clear last year when fair board members were concerned that a car might be headed over the guardrail and into the fans — there were no injuries — or that a light pole might come down after being struck.

"We said we were going to do something and we went all out," said fair board member Rick Neargarder. "It's a beautiful project."

The improvements came together as fair board members began reaching out to businesses and community members following the 2024 fair. The response was immediate, with various entities contributing time, labor and materials.

The result is an expanded derby track with a new 300-foot concrete wall serving as the north barrier. The wall goes 2 feet



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County Fair Board installed a new judge's tower and made upgrades to the demolition derby track, including a new, reinforced wall to protect fans on the infield, ahead of this year's fair. The updated facility will make its debut during tonight's demolition derby at 6 p.m. and there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 5:45 p.m. Saturday, July 5, before the demolition derby that will close this year's fair.

into the ground and is backed by a dirt mound. The fence sits another 6 feet back as an additional safety precaution.

The new judge's tower has a similar footprint, but was redesigned to maximize space and improve sight lines for fans. The stairs are now

on the outside of the structure, and there is an overhang on the front to allow spectators in trucks in the infield to see the entirety of the track.

New LED lighting is in place with new steel poles and additional speakers have been added in the grandstand. (Electrical

lines, some of which used to run overhead, are all now buried underground.) And there is a new infield driveway, formed with asphalt that was milled off of Charles Street in Portland during its recent repaving by Brooks Construction.

"I think it's good for not

only the safety of our directors that are up there ... but also it's not an eyesore like it was before," said Jason McGraw, who continued his family's tradition of driving in derbies for years and is now a member of the fair board.

See View page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Shows underway

The 4-H livestock shows began Friday at the Jay County Fair following opening ceremonies. Pictured above, Rusti Imel shows her rabbit to the judge during the showmanship portion of the competition at the rabbit show at the East Arena. At right, Alexa Jones congratulates her dog Piper after competing in obedience during the dog show in the Show Arena.



Taxes set to go up July 1

Cigarette and gas hikes start Tuesday

By LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana's cigarette tax is set to increase for the first time in nearly two decades, following a late April legislative scramble for additional revenue.

Separately, a gasoline excise tax will continue its annual one-cent climb. The changes take effect July 1, with the beginning of the state fiscal year.

The price of a pack of cigarettes is expected to average \$11 after the tax jumps from \$1 to \$3, per the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. Other tobacco and nicotine products will also get pricier.

"We really are pleased that the Legislature and Gov. (Mike) Braun moved forward and approved an increase in these tobacco taxes," said Mike Seilback, who is the national assistant vice president for state public policy at the American Lung Association.

He called the hike — the first since 2007 — a "win-win-win."

Rising prices can discourage people from using the products and developing nicotine additions, but current users may also seize on the sticker shock as a reason to try quitting. And those who don't stop will fill the state's coffers.

"Most tobacco users want to quit, but nicotine is highly addictive — the average tobacco user tries to quit, you know, seven times before they're successful," Seilback said. "By increasing this tax, we expect many Hoosiers to take the opportunity to make another quit attempt and be successful."

The American Lung Association estimates that 38,000 adult Indiana smokers will successfully quit in response to the tax boost.

The health and other impacts could start hitting within a year.

"It usually starts with less heart attacks," Seilback said, as well as fewer secondhand smoke-induced asthma attacks. Lung cancer takes longer to develop, but he also anticipated seeing sales flag and quit line calls rise.

That's a boon for the chamber, which has been pushing an increase for nearly 15 years.

"This is a workforce issue ... A healthy state and healthy Hoosiers is good for business," President and CEO Vanessa Green Sinderson said.

She cited a 2020 fact sheet from Indiana's Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Commission that found workers who smoke each cost their employers an estimated \$5,800 more in health care and lost productivity annually than non-smoking workers.

See Tax page 2

Deaths

Carl Ashman, 80, Portland
Gordon Lowe, 89, Redkey
John Herzfeld, 45, Muncie
Douglas Mann, 82, Paris, Texas
Details on page 2.

Weather

The high temperature hit 92 degrees Friday in Jay County.

Today's forecast calls for partly cloudy skies with a high in the mid 80s. Sunday's high will be in the mid 80s under mostly sunny skies. Rain is expected Monday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

At the fair

Today
9 and 11 a.m. — Baby contests at the Farmer's Building
6 p.m. — Demolition derby at the grandstand

Sunday
11 a.m. — Beef show in the Show Arena
6 p.m. — Autocross at the grandstand

Monday
8 a.m. — Swine show in the Show Arena
7 p.m. — 3 Bar J Rodeo at the grandstand

Tuesday
9 a.m. — Dairy show in the Show Arena
7 p.m. — Figure 8 and barrel racing at the grandstand



View ...

Continued from page 1

“It did its service for the time we had it. But that (new) judge’s tower is beautiful. ...

“Having a nice, solid track will make it safer for our fans who are sitting on the infield side, safer for our drivers as well.”

Huntsman Concrete was hired for the concrete work, with Berne Ready Mix donating all of the concrete. (The track will carry the Berne Ready Mix name for the next decade as a thank you for the donation.)

Steve Reitz, the husband of

fair board member Vickie Reitz, Brian Robinson and Neargarder handled about 90% of the labor to construct the new building.

Other volunteers and donations were many:

- Equipment and a set of stairs from Barnett’s Wrecker Services
- Welding work from Vore’s Welding
- Labor for the new fence from Tyler Aker of High Fence Solutions
- Four light poles from Shambaugh and Sons
- Dirt spreading work and cut-

ting the driveway by Shaver Field Service

Additional contributions came from Travis Nichols/McAfee Recycling, Fort Recovery Lumber, Davis Drilling, the City of Portland, 5G CNC, Portland True Value, Jay County highway department, 4 West Farms, KBL Transport, Wendel’s Guttering and Wil Taylor.

“It couldn’t have been done without volunteers,” said fair board member Bubba Swoveland.

“The volunteers we had out there were just awesome,”

added fellow fair board member Travis Theurer.

A \$36,000 grant received through Jayland Trotting Association helped cover the cost of the new tower while a \$17,600 grant from The Portland Foundation went toward the electrical portion of the project.

Theurer said the fair board put about \$20,000 into the project.

With donated labor and materials included, the total project is estimated at \$100,000-plus.






It was important, the fair board members said, because of what the derby means to both

the fair and the community. Theurer noted that there are typically 150 to 200 cars for each derby.

“The derby is our largest money-maker,” he said. “It brings the most amount of people in. Obviously the grandstand is always full. ... The Jay County Community supports our demo derby.”

A celebratory ribbon-cutting for the new grandstand is scheduled for 5:45 p.m. Saturday, July 5, before an evening of demolition derby closes out the fair.

CR almanac

Sunday 6/28	Monday 6/29	Tuesday 6/30	Wednesday 7/1	Thursday 7/2
 89/71 Skies will be mostly sunny with a high of 89 degrees and a 20% chance of showers and storms.	 86/68 Showers and thunderstorms are expected. The high temperature will be in the mid 80s.	 83/63 Skies will be mostly sunny with a high of 83.	 85/66 Expect a high in the mid 80s under sunny skies.	 85/66 Skies will be mostly sunny with a high of 85. There is a 20% chance of showers and storms.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 8-8-1 Daily Four: 8-5-2-7 Quick Draw: 2-8-13-14-18-31-32-40-43-47-51-52-54-55-56-59-64-71-76-77	Pick 3: 3-2-5 Pick 4: 2-3-0-9 Pick 5: 5-4-0-2-8
Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$155 million	
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$48 million	
Ohio Midday	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.60 July corn4.72 Aug. corn4.07	July beans10.31 Wheat4.95
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.60 July corn4.60 Oct. corn4.15	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.35 July corn4.35 Beans10.14 July beans10.09 Wheat4.94
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.46 July corn4.46 Beans10.31	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.52 July corn4.52 Beans10.10 July beans9.70 Wheat4.76

Today in history

In 1863, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln appointed Maj. Gen. George G. Meade as the new commander of the Army of the Potomac, following the resignation of Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker.

In 1914, Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria and his wife Sofia were assassinated by Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo. It set off a chain of events that led to World War I.

In 1919, the Treaty of Versailles was signed in France, ending the First World War.

In 1969, riots broke out following a police raid at the Stonewall Inn, an LGBTQ+ bar in New York’s Greenwich Village neighborhood, leading to six days of violent protests that served as a watershed moment in the LGBTQ+ rights movement.

In 1972, retired businessman Omer E. Cromer died at Jay County Hospital at the age of 86. He had owned and operated Cromer Brothers Inc. Wholesale Tobacco Store for more than 40 years and had

served 12 years on Jay County Hospital Board and one term on Portland City Council.

In 1997, boxer Mike Tyson was disqualified from his rematch with heavyweight titleholder Evander Holyfield after Tyson bit Holyfield twice in the third round, including biting off a portion of Holyfield’s right ear.

In 2017, a man armed with a shotgun attacked the offices of The Capital newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland, killing four journalists and a staffer before police stormed the building and arrested him; authorities said Jarrod Ramos had a long-running grudge against the newspaper for its reporting of a harassment case against him. (Ramos would be convicted and sentenced to six life sentences plus 345 years in prison.)

In 2021, Jay County Council approved a \$93,500 contribution in wind farm economic development funds toward the Pennville library expansion and renovation project.

—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Monday Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District Board, 5948 W. Indiana 67, hall, 321 N. Meridian Portland.	Tuesday 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center. Thursday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor’s office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.
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Obituaries

Carl Ashman

May 1, 1945-June 25, 2025

Carl E. Ashman, age 80, of Portland passed away Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at his home surrounded by his family.

He was born in Coldwater, Ohio, on May 1, 1945, the son of David and Mary (Smith) Ashman. He was married on April 30, 1965, to Linda Ingle who survives. He was a 1964 Portland High School graduate, worked at Teledyne Portland Forge and retired as Grand Lodge Representative for Machinist Union. Carl was an avid golfer and bowler and loved to travel.

Surviving are his wife of 60 years Linda; one son, Michael Ashman (wife: Kristi) of New Haven; one daughter, Marsi Ashman Dow (partner: Rick Twigg) of Portland; sister Wanda Violette of Alexandria, Virginia; sisters-in-law Carol Ashman, Kay-Sue Ashman and Patty Baldauf (husband: Dick); brother-in-law Roger Osborne (wife: Hope); grandchildren Kara (Ashman) Wilson (husband: Mike), Sean Ashman, Evan Ashman (wife: Jenna), Kaitlyn (Dow) Haines (husband: Collin), Brea Ashman, Ashlyn Dow, Joseph Dow, Megan Friedt (husband: Jared) and Haley Leonard (husband: Clark); and 12 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, David Ray Ashman; brothers David Ashman and Dale Ashman; sister Lois Osborne; and brother-in-law Tom Violette.

There will be no funeral services. Memorials can be made to the Jay County Cancer Society.

Baird-Freeman Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.



Ashman

Gordon Lowe

Dec. 24, 1935-June 26, 2025

Gordon L. Lowe, age 89, Redkey (and formerly of Dunkirk), died Thursday, June 26, 2025, at home following an illness.

Born in Smokey Junction, Tennessee, on Dec. 24, 1935, he grew up in Tennessee where he graduated from Norma High School with the class of 1953. After graduating he moved to Indiana for work at Kerr Glass, Dunkirk; he was a general foreman in the warehouse and shipping department and worked there for 38 years before retiring in 1991.

After retiring, he moved back to Tennessee for a period of several years and served as deacon at Cedar Hill Baptist Church while living there. Upon returning to Indiana, he lived in Albany before moving to Redkey.

He was a member and deacon of the former Dunkirk Baptist Church and more recently attended Redkey Nazarene Church. He enjoyed motorcycle riding (including trips out west) and traveling with his wife. Gordon farmed as a youngster in Tennessee by horse and plow and was a member of the Glass Bottle Blowers Association through the factory.

Survivors include his wife, Ginger (Hicks) Shrack Lowe; sons Alan Lowe (wife: Charlene), Louisville, Kentucky, and James Lowe (wife: Vicky), Jacksboro, Tennessee; daughters Darlene Clevenger (husband: Randy), Dunkirk, and Carolyn Melton (husband: Larry), Hartford City; brothers Alton Lowe (wife: Reba), Dunkirk, and Warren Lowe (wife: Jan), Portland; sister Jennie Henry



Lowe

(husband: Dick), Redkey; sister-in-law Marty Lowe, Centre, Alabama; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; stepson Monte E. Shrack (wife: Cindy), Portland; and stepdaughters Michelle R. Ross (husband: Scott), Hartford City, and Rose E. Onstott (husband: Don), Milton, Indiana.

He was preceded in death by his first wife of nearly 65 years, Florene “Flo” Lowe, who died in 2018; parents Raymond and Inez (Anderson) Lowe; brother Clarence Lowe; sisters Sharon Price and Debra Whitesell (and her husband, Chris).

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 2, 2025, at Redkey Nazarene Church with burial following at Strong Cemetery.

Visiting hours are Wednesday from 10 until 11 a.m. at the church in Redkey.

Memorials may be sent to Redkey Nazarene Church.

The funeral will be streamed online from MeachamFuneralService.com where condolences and other expressions of sympathy can also be given.

John Herzfeld Jr., Muncie, the brother of a Portland man, Oct. 6, 1979-June 24, 2025. Burial will be in Pennsylvania.

Douglas Dee Mann, Paris, Texas, who previously worked at the Indiana State Police post in Redkey, June 20, 1943-June 24, 2025. Services will be at noon Thursday at Fairmount Friends Church, 124 W. 1st St., Fairmount.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

Tax ...

Continued from page 1

Collectively, smoking costs Indiana upwards of \$6 billion annually in health care and lost productivity.

A lower smoking rate, Sinderson said, improves employee wellness, lowers health care costs and cuts absenteeism.

Change takes effect the sooner people are aware of the tax increases, according to Seilback. Quit line advertising can help.

That’s why the Chamber’s Wellness Council of Indiana on Thursday released an updated version of its Quit Now Tool.

“It’s a much-strengthened playbook designed to help employers act on this unique moment,” Ashley

O’Rourke, the council’s executive director, said in a news release.

The web-based platform offers ready-to-use modules and printable course completion certificates. It’s now easier for managers to invite employees online and see their progress. The tool also added accessibility features.

“We feel like this is an important opportunity for us, the Indiana Chamber, to be out there with resources for employers and Hoosiers who, again, see that ... \$2-a-pack increase, and want to take that next step,” Sinderson said.

Seilback warned that the General Assembly’s job isn’t done yet.



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Monday Martyn , Raymond: noon, Alspach-Gearhart, Funeral Home & Crematory, 722 S. Washington St., Van Wert, Ohio.	Tuesday Hunt , Jessica: 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
Wednesday Lowe , Gordon: 11 a.m., Redkey Nazarene Church, 801 W. High St., Redkey.	Thursday Mann , Douglas: noon, Fairmount Friends Church, 124 W. 1st St., Fairmount.

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Photo provided

Trail upgrades

Joel Wilson of Scouting America Troop 202, Portland, recently finished his Scouting Eagle project by upgrading the Kelly Bagg's Trails and making them easier to maintain and safer for the public. Pictured above are Troop 202 members Hayden Ison, Blaine Finch, Lavaughn Ballard, Wilson, Traylin Lautzenhiser, Nathaniel Locke and Eli Nelson. Wilson widened trails, cut new trails to match the city's map and added trail markers, signage and handrails. Troop 202 members helped to finish the project by trimming and picking up trash.

Dad's generosity upsets girlfriend

Dear Abby



DEAR ABBY: When my ex-wife died recently, she left our two children (in their 20s and 30s) a home that was in her name. My son has a good job; my daughter works periodically as a model. Losing her devastated both of them. The home she left them is not only in bad shape but also needs repairs and zoning and permitting updates.

I earn a good living and recently won a personal injury lawsuit. I have been helping my kids by supporting them over the past few months because their emotional loss has taken them out of commission for a while. I have contributed tens of thousands of dollars toward their home, as well as helped out with rent and living expenses.

My girlfriend, who I have lived with for many years, has now gone ballistic, screaming at me for spending what should be "our future retirement money" on them. She condemns me for supporting them, not making them "make it on their own" and "How dare I think of them and not 'us.'" She and my kids have never gotten along. She has always been resentful and angry about any attention I give them and has accused me of "spoiling" them when I have helped in the past.

I am furious that my girlfriend, who has never had children, can't understand my desire to help. I feel it's my moral obligation as their dad to be there for them, and I'm fortunate that I can do it. Isn't it the right thing to do as a parent to help as much as possible? Is my girlfriend out of line? This has damaged our relationship, and I'm concerned it may be completely off the rails. — GOOD GUY IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR GOOD GUY: I don't know the intimate details of your financial situation, the relationship you have with your companion or to what degree your generosity may impact your future. Of course it's natural for loving parents to want to help their children. But tens of thousands of dollars is a lot of money. Because of the emotions involved, the logical choice for advice on this subject would be your CPA and your attorney.

New board members elected

Jay County Civic Theatre elected two board members during its annual meeting June 21.

Re-elected to the civic theatre board of directors without opposition were Ray Cooney for a third three-year term and Lee Osteen for a third three-year term.

Other board members are Reid Knuth, Greg Rittenhouse, Casi Denney, Sarah Lingo, Katie Loy and Rachel Tebbe.

Jay County Civic Theatre junior ambassadors for 2025-26 will be Alison McGraw, Ella Littler, Leah Wuebker, Jacob Kellogg and Lilly Sonner.

The JCCT membership also unanimously approved updates to

the organization's bylaws and accepted volunteers for its various committees.

Board president Cooney provided a review of the organization's 2024-25 season, which included productions of "The Play That Goes Wrong," "The Sound of Music," "Everyone Gets Abducted by Aliens" and "Freaky Friday."

Also at the meeting, the board announced its scholarship winners for 2025. Gabe Pinkerton received the Tom Casey Memorial Scholarship. Inara Sanderson and Jackson Sonner each received a Heather McLaughlin Memorial Scholarship. Inara Sanderson, Jackson Sonner, Maddy Snow and Aubrey

Millspaugh each received a Jay County Civic Theatre Merit Scholarship. All scholarships are for \$250.

Upcoming Jay County Civic Theatre activities will include:

- Participating in the Jay County 4th of July parade
- Working at the gates during the Jay County Fair
- Auditions for "Annie" on Aug. 4 and 5 at Arts Place

The next Jay County Civic Theatre show will be "Legally Blonde" on Sept. 25, 26, 27 and 28.

The next Jay County Civic Theatre regular board meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 9, in the board room at Arts Place.

Community Calendar

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

Today

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — 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.

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. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday 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.

Tuesday

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for

substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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.

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition Sponsors:

CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE

Workshop

Transform your approach to discipline. Learn to understand the deeper messages behind behavior, implement practical and effective techniques, and strengthen relationships while fostering self-regulation in children. Gain confidence in managing challenges—all while prioritizing your own well-being!



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Funding, military priorities are off

The Herald Bulletin
(Anderson)
Tribune News Service

The Trump administration's reckless actions to reduce the cost of government may reach a new low if he follows through on the goal of phasing out the Federal Emergency Management Agency after hurricane season.

FEMA provides aid to people in areas ravaged by natural disaster, but Trump seems to think that's not important.

He'd rather spend an estimated \$134 million deploying National Guard troops and U.S.

Hoosier Editorial

Marines to Los Angeles to "help" local police contain protests against his administration's deportation of immigrants.

That's \$134 million flushed down the drain; local police didn't need any help. Trump was merely trying to create a

crisis that could be blamed on critics of his immigration policy. In doing so, he's on a dangerous path toward pitting the military against U.S. residents who are exercising the basic American right of public protest.

The contrast between Trump's austerity measures to decimate FEMA and his deployment of troops to California lies at the dark intersection of misplaced priorities — his headlong rush to deport immigrants and his ham-handed cuts to federal agencies. Both have been executed with

a destructive, sweeping carelessness and lack of foresight.

Part of the problem is that his spending priorities are all out of whack, with the funding rug being pulled out from under federal services that provide aid in thousands of important ways to Americans and our country's allies. Meanwhile, he's spending hundreds of millions needlessly flexing the U.S.'s military muscles, seemingly to goad protesters into a fight.

The unneeded and dangerous National Guard and Marines deployment to Los Angeles cost \$134 million and

Trump's chest-puffing U.S. Army parade in Washington, D.C., cost an estimated \$45 million.

But that's small potatoes, compared to the cost of slashing FEMA to ribbons: \$30 billion.

Trump's answer: Let the states deal with their own disasters.

What he misses is that taxpayers will pay for it one way or the other, whether it's a federal service or a state responsibility.

Meanwhile, Americans are paying through the nose for his ill-advised military deployment in California.

Rubio is best hope with Iran

By MARY ANNA MANCUSO
Miami Herald
Tribune News Service

On Saturday night, as news unfolded of the strikes on Iran, I began thinking about my generation's experience with war. I had friends who served in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and although they came home, thousands did not. Like many, I am praying today's leaders have learned the lessons where previous generations fell short.

Three years after America went to war with Iraq, I began graduate school studying Middle Eastern politics and working as research assistant on a faculty book on the Iraq war — a conflict that left an indelible mark on American foreign policy and a generation of Americans, including me.

America is engaging militarily in the Middle East again. But unlike in 2003, this moment is being shaped by Generation X. And Gen X remembers how the Iraq War damaged America's credibility abroad and trust at home.

Americans are wary of being pulled into another war in the Middle East. A YouGov poll this month shows only 16% of Americans support U.S. military involvement in the conflict between Israel and Iran. Yet a Harris-Harvard poll a week or so earlier found 85% of Americans don't want Iran to get or develop a nuclear weapon. Americans want Iran's nuclear capabilities eliminated, but not if it means another costly, drawn-out war like Iraq.

There's only one voice in the president's ear right now with a generational perspective that could steady an impulsive administration: Secretary of State and acting National Security Advisor Marco Rubio, a former U.S. senator from Florida.

Rubio is a traditional foreign policy realist, a classical conservative surrounded by other advisors who range from isolationist to those skeptical of military intervention. His worldview was not shaped by Vietnam, like former Secretary of State Colin Powell's, but by the failures of Iraq. And that matters.

Rubio has seen the cost of open-ended military endeavors in the Middle East and the difference between swift action with clear objectives and a

Mary Anna Mancuso



mission creep that turned Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan into America's longest conflict.

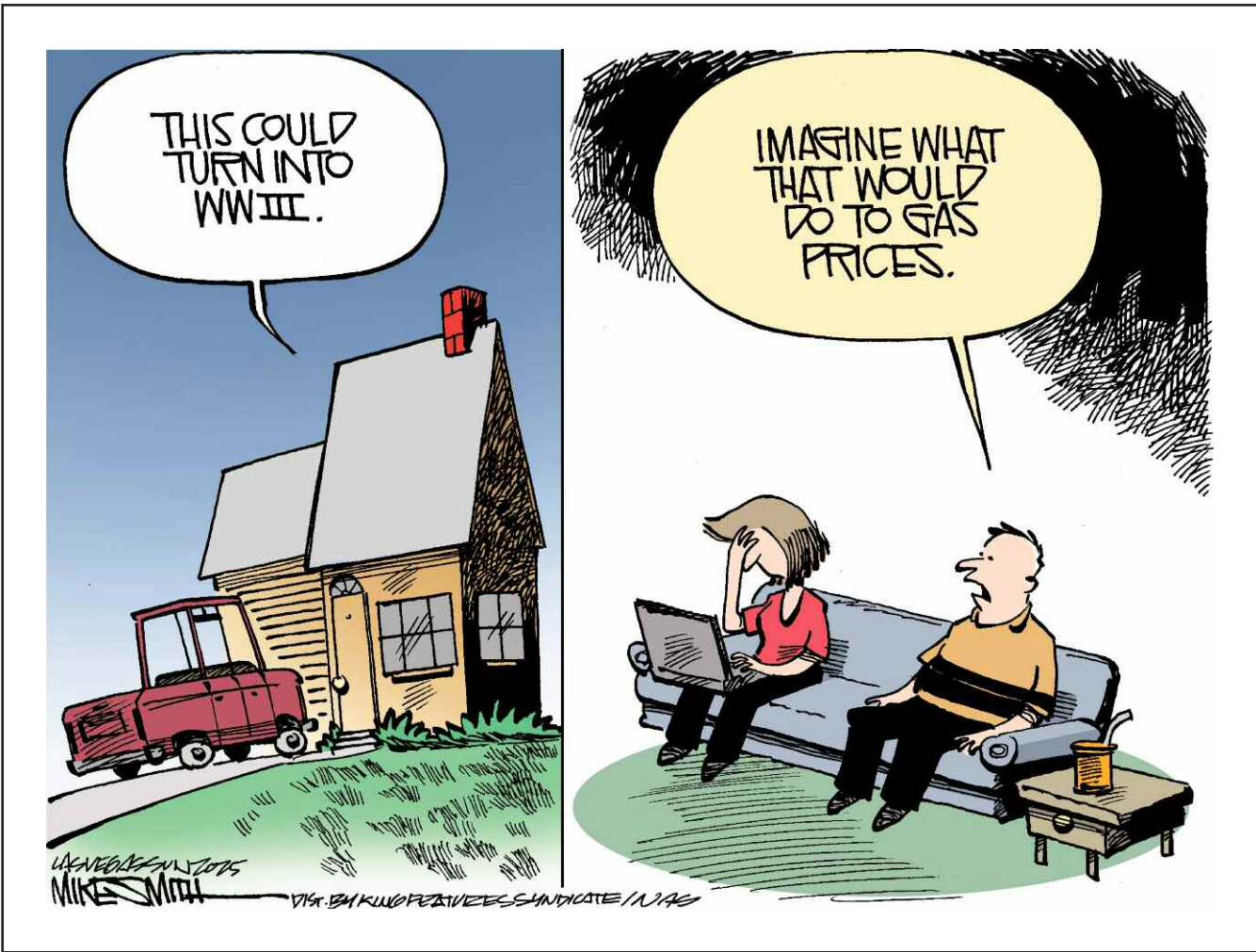
The generational contrast is real. When Powell addressed the United Nations Security Council in February 2003, he made the case for the U.S. invasion of Iraq based on what turned out to be bad intelligence. A month later, we invaded Iraq, without an exit strategy and a lack of cultural understanding — believing we could instill democracy in a country through force. In the end, the result was thousands of American lives lost, trillions of dollars spent and extremist organizations filling the power vacuum throughout the region.

Saturday's actions were different. U.S. troops weren't deployed, and the objective was clear: neutralize Iran's nuclear capabilities, not overthrow the government. On CBS News' Face the Nation on Sunday, Rubio said, "We have achieved our objectives. We're ready to negotiate this in a peaceful, diplomatic way." His comments signal a narrow focus that was largely absent when we invaded Iraq in 2003.

The real test is how America — and Rubio — handles what comes next. Can Rubio limit mission creep? And will he know when the mission is accomplished?

There are two important points that will help give Rubio room to act with restraint: There's no talk of putting troops on the ground so far. And Rubio knows there is an America First isolationism element rising in the GOP.

We can't let the nightmares of Iraq paralyze us when action is necessary. Americans are understandably anxious. But this time, we have a chance to do things differently — and better. If Rubio can guide the administration with moral clarity and principled diplomacy, history will remember him not only as the first Gen X secretary of state, but also as the one who got it right when it mattered.



Stop trying to silence people

By JOHN KRULL
TheStatehouseFile.com

Let people speak.
I'll say that again.
Let.
People.
Speak.

Close to home and across the nation, we're now seeing bad situations made much worse by public officials' attempts to deny people who have legitimate concerns the opportunity to voice those concerns.

In Indianapolis, Mayor Joe Hogsett and the City-County Council have managed to escalate what was an ugly situation into a crisis, one that threatens to undermine the capital city's government and destroy once-promising political careers.

The ugliness springs from accusations of sexual harassment within the Hogsett administration. At least three women have accused the mayor's former chief of staff, Thomas Cook, of sexual harassment.

An outside investigation of Hogsett's handling of the matter found it to be, at best, lethargic and, at worst, tolerant and indulgent.

None of this was or is good, but the situation wasn't out of control until a council meeting in which one of Cook's accusers—former staffer Lauren Roberts—stood up to speak.

Council President Vop Osili repeatedly interrupted her, saying she wasn't confining her remarks to the question at hand—which was whether the council should accept the outside report and authorize payment for it.

Quickly, a brush fire became a raging conflagration. Sheriff's deputies pushed, shoved and otherwise manhandled Roberts and her allies out of the meeting.

All the while, Roberts demanded that the deputies not touch her. One of her female supporters shouted at a deputy trying to shove her back up an aisle, "Get your hands off my breasts!"

Not a great night for democracy.

John Krull



The response to the disaster was immediate and intense.

The isolated calls for Hogsett to resign as mayor became a chorus, even among Democrats. And many voices also called for Osili and other Democratic council leaders to depart, too.

All because they wouldn't let people speak.

Indianapolis, though, wasn't alone in engaging in such foolish and self-destructive repression.

When U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla, D-California, tried to ask U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem some questions about President Donald Trump's decision to send troops to Los Angeles—most likely, illegally—to deal with protests there.

Padilla found himself thrown to the ground and handcuffed.

Padilla's detention, sadly, was part of a pattern. Noem and other members of the Trump administration have reacted to any attempts to question or criticize their often-extralegal attempts to deport undocumented immigrants or suppress dissent by slapping handcuffs on their critics.

The result has been a flood of expensive and avoidable lawsuits. In the Padilla case, for example, the taxpayers likely will pay both the senator's and the Trump administration's attorney fees.

Worse, these ham-handed attempts at repression have further divided America that already was fraying at the seams.

Record numbers of Americans stormed out to demonstrate against the Trump administration during the "No Kings" protests. Streets, even in red states, swelled with

Americans marching in opposition to this president.

Again, because he doesn't want to let people speak.

I've got to admit I do not understand this determination to shut people down, particularly in these circumstances.

The Democrats in Indianapolis had all the votes they needed to do whatever they wanted with the sexual harassment report.

Letting Roberts speak her mind might have created a few uncomfortable moments at the meeting and a day's worth of unflattering news stories, but both would have faded fast in a world that seems constantly to be on the edge of blowing up.

Frog marching her and her supporters out of the meeting, on the other hand, guaranteed that neither she nor the story would go away.

The same goes for Trump.

The Republicans in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives have made desperately and depressingly clear their desire to perform tricks for this president as if they were pet poodles. The courts also have been cautious about confronting him.

If he has all the votes he needs in Congress and a docile judicial branch, he shouldn't worry about anyone asking questions.

In both Indianapolis and across America, trying to shut people up isn't just anti-democratic.

It's dumb.

So why, then, the attempts to squelch speech in Indy and elsewhere?

Well, maybe, just maybe, the folks in power are afraid that the folks asking the questions could have a point.

Again, let people speak.

Let.
People.
Speak.

Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism and publisher of TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
—Thomas Jefferson

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DCS undergoes reorganization

Department eliminating three layers of management

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com
As many as 40 employees of the Indiana Department of Child Services could lose their jobs under a reorganization eliminating three layers of management, which agency leaders said would improve communication and decision-making.

The agency protecting Hoosier children from abuse and neglect announced the changes Friday. They go into effect July 1.

DCS Director Adam Krupp said the layoffs won't put children at risk because "these are not the folks on the front line."

Instead, the employees are part of middle and upper management that Krupp is reducing so that family case managers have a more direct line to authority. Between 16 and 40 employees could be laid off, depending on if some accept new lower-paying positions.

"This is going to reduce the opportunity for communication breakdowns and it's going to reduce the delay in decision-making," he said. "I very much believe this will improve our outcomes in terms of focusing on child safety and working closely with families, whether it be on the prevention side or the intervention side."

The behemoth agency has more than 4,040 employees, with almost 1,800 family case managers who handle daily interactions with children and families.

"All Hoosier children deserve a safe place to lay their head at night, and our most vulnerable kids often need an extra layer of security. Things



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Whitney Downard

The Indiana Department of Child Services is eliminating three layers of management under a reorganization plan. As many as 40 employees could be cut from the department's staff.

are not working as well as they should at DCS, but we are going to change that," said Gov. Mike Braun. "With this entrepreneurial plan, we will remove layers of inefficient middle management and bureaucracy and instead redirect resources to frontline services like foster care and family case workers to keep kids safe."

It is estimated the state could save between \$4 million and \$8 million from restructuring — dubbed Project Awaken — but that money could also be redirected to child safety efforts.

Krupp talked with the ICC and went through the nine layers of employees currently in the agency, from him all the way down to family case man-

agers. The reorganization will eliminate a level of assistant deputy directors and several others.

The state will also move from 18 different regions — each with its own manager — to five. The agency said it looked at caseloads, square mileage and staff to help determine the regions, generally aligning with a central region and four quadrants.

He noted that these regions had slowly developed their own microcultures, or 18 different ways of doing things. The streamlining will result in more consistent policies.

"Executive management, right now, we are too far removed from a family case manager, and that's not

because of geographical distance. That's simply because of all the layers of communication, information flow and decision-making," Krupp said.

He added the state will continue to hire family case managers, noting it's a constant cycle of turnover and training. "It never really stops," Krupp said.

He said currently the agency needs between 175 and 195 more family case managers to meet statutory caseload ratios. DCS has long struggled with retention due to the stress of the job and the three months needed for training.

There was a brief move during the General Assembly session to eliminate those caseload rules, but Krupp said that

is not a priority. He said lawmakers considered giving the agency more flexibility.

As part of the restructuring, the legal division will also be aligned under the new regions and work more as a co-leader with regional directors. Financial and budgeting efforts have been centralized so that there is more visibility into day-to-day spending. DCS has regularly overspent its appropriation in the state budget.

Krupp added that work toward reorganization started during the transition period after the November election. The agency in May announced new mission, vision and purpose statements and this is the second phase of reorganization.

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- Be a self-starter



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6-28 CRYPTOQUIP

QXDV FNADPNOZ LXNFD QXBLX
XNTD ZNJ AJFU XBU C KNNT
PCTT BVUN, B'O FCZ UXDZ
KBLRDO ZNJG KNLRDU.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT WOULD BE A
SUITABLE GENRE NAME FOR SONGS ABOUT THE
EIGHTH PLANET FROM THE SUN? NEP-TUNES.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals H

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to roller coasters. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 1 = E)

A. 18 24 1 1 22
Clue: Velocity

B. 2 1 14 25 2 26
Clue: How tall

C. 26 6 11 3 23 18
Clue: Rails

D. 11 4 9 18 1 4 1 5 26
Clue: Diversion

Answers: A. speed B. height C. tracks D. amusement

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to roller coasters.

LPSOO

GUESS WHO?

I am a singer and actress born in Florida on June 26, 1993. I began my career as a soloist with various symphonies. I made my Broadway debut at the age of 13. After doing some Nickelodeon shows, I released my debut album in 2013. Recently, I appeared as a "good" witch on the big screen.

Answer: Ariana Grande



World FACT:

Burj Khalifa is the tallest skyscraper in the world. It is 2,722 feet tall and can be found in this country.

Answer: United Arab Emirates

How they say that in...

English: Elevator
Spanish: Ascensor
Italian: Ascensore
French: Ascenseur
German: Fahrstuhl

6-30 CRYPTOQUIP

"NCNHPC NSQCCS" NKBO
HEKAS H RCE-LKKSCJ NRMPPCQ
RIK YMWCN SK LMYXI SIMBON:
"QKEECQ JAXWMC."
Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOMEBODY
CHOSE WHICH HOLE YOU MUST HIT A POOL
BALL INTO, I'D SAY THEY PICKED YOUR POCKET.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals S

What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A

B

Answers: 1. Boat in water 2. Extra antenna on building 3. Missing C&C from building sign 4. Left building is taller

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

25

1848: A photograph of the June Days uprising becomes the first known representation of photojournalism.

1947: "The Diary of a Young Girl" is published.

1997: The National Hockey League approves expansion franchises for four cities.

NEW WORD

HIGH-RISE

a building with occupied floors more than 75 feet above street level

DIPS AND FLIPS WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

AIRTIME
ANGLED
ASCEND
BANKING
BARREL ROLL
BOOMERANG
BRAKES
CAMELBACK
COASTER
COBRA ROLL
CORKSCREW
CURVES
DIVE
DROP
ELEVATED
FLOORLESS
GRAB BARS
INVERSION
LAUNCH
LOOPS
STANDUP
TURNAROUND
TWISTER
WOODEN

Did You Know?

Chicago's Home Insurance Building is widely considered the world's first skyscraper. Skyscrapers enable more offices or homes to be built in urban areas.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Skyscraper top

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ninnies room

6 Something not to be missed

11 "Wednesday" actress Jenna

12 Scan again

14 Brand of washers

15 Mexican farm

16 Branch

17 On the up and up

19 Up to

20 Locks

22 "Mazel —"

23 Campus mil. group

24 Enjoyed im- mensely

26 Rhoda's portrayer

28 Calendar abbr.

30 Trail the pack

31 Ouster

35 Formal decrees

39 Bard's river

DOWN

1 Noah's landfall

2 Block

3 Harden

4 Alike (Fr.)

5 Bob of "Full House"

6 The "A" of ETA

7 Vegetarian's no-no

8 Samovar

9 Economic division

10 Where Gauguin painted

11 Nebraska city

13 "La — Vita"

18 Head of st.

21 Talk nonstop

23 Legend- ary TV host

25 Angle (Abbr.)

27 Young bloke

29 Brave

31 Speed reader?

32 Made level

33 Rue in a Poe

34 Vegas short story

36 Reli- gious leader

37 Poisons

38 Home

41 Needing spices

44 "Pale" potables

45 Actor Morales

48 Kimono sash

50 Super Bowl stats

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-28

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Sherlock Holmes

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

WEST

EAST

SOUTH

The bidding:

West North East South

Opening lead — king of hearts.

"Your recent behavior has been quite astonishing, Holmes. For one who prides himself on being painstakingly careful, you have been remarkably careless of late."

"Watson, my dear fellow," the great detective replied, "what on earth are you talking about?"

"Your alarmingly casual manner at bridge last night. In particular, that five-club hand where West led the K-A and another heart, which you ruffed. All that remained was to resolve how to play the trump suit, but instead you fiddled around with the diamonds and spades."

"It was all quite necessary," Holmes countered. "In order to play my trumps properly, I had to obtain a count of the other suits. Of course, I already knew how the spades were distributed."

"Spades? But Holmes, the opponents had bid diamonds and hearts, not spades."

"Come now, Watson, surely you remember the case of the dog that did not bark in the night. Spades were not mentioned by either opponent, so that suit had to be divided 4-4. And while East had to have four hearts for his bid, the diamond distribution was uncertain. In order to learn how many West had, I led a diamond to the ace, ruffed a diamond, led a spade to the king and ruffed another diamond. When East showed out, I knew West had started with precisely five diamonds, four spades, three hearts and hence one club."

"But West's singleton club could have been the queen," Watson protested. "He had, after all, opened the bidding."

"The singleton queen was not very likely. East needed six points for his heart response, and these were known not to include the A-K of hearts or the king of diamonds. And if East had the Q-J of spades, this would mean that West had opened with 12 points, two of which would be a singleton queen — surely unlikely. So, when I led a spade to the ace and took the club finesse, it was almost certain to succeed. Indeed, it was all quite elementary, my dear Watson."

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

WEST

EAST

SOUTH

The bidding:

North East South West

Opening lead — three of diamonds.

This deal occurred in the match between Australia and the United States in the 1968 World Bridge Olympiad. When Dick Cummings and Tim Seres were North-South for Australia, they got to six clubs as shown. In their methods, Cummings' two-club bid was constructive and showed about the same strength as a raise to three clubs would in many other systems.

Despite his three-card trump holding, Seres leaped directly to six, which proved to be an excellent contract even though the 3-1 trump break meant that South had only 11 ready-made winners.

Had the American West led either a spade or a heart, he would have handed declarer his 12th trick. West's diamond lead, though, gave nothing away. Seres won with the ace and cashed the K-A of trump. When West showed out, Seres played a third trump to pave the way for a possible squeeze.

East won and shifted to a heart. Seres rose with the ace, crossed to the king of diamonds and played two more rounds of trump, producing this position:

Seres now led dummy's last trump, discarding a diamond, and West had no answer. He elected to discard a spade, and Seres then scored the last four tricks with the A-K-Q-9 of spades.

Tomorrow: Shades of Robert Burns.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Silent

4 Early bird?

7 Paint layer

11 Help a robber

13 Winter ailment

14 Greek liqueur

15 Antitoxins

16 Fa follower

17 Low-calorie

18 Pollster's find

20 Wizard's prop

22 Tiara sparkler

24 "You Can't — Again"

28 Took out

32 Harmful gas

33 Director Kazan

34 Weir

36 Laugh-a-minute

37 Rural buildings

39 Mortgage providers

41 Battery ends

43 Ad —

44 Penny native

46 Signaled "Hi!"

50 Quite enthusiastic

53 Feedbag bit

55 Lily variety

56 Applications

57 Feathery wrap

58 Get wind of

59 Third son

60 Sound from a hot grill

61 Genetic letters

DOWN

1 Sail support

19 "Lion" actor Patel

2 Taxi alter-native

3 Simple

4 Awful grades

5 Radiate

6 Solzhe-nitsyn subject

7 Imme- diately available

8 French assent

9 HIV-treating drug

10 Water- testing digit

12 1989 Stallone/ Russell film

21 Fish-fowl link

23 Club —

25 Garfield's pal

26 Heath

27 Tolkien crea- tures

28 C&W legend

29 Flair

30 Painter Joan

31 Indian lentil dish

35 "Not im- pressed"

38 Behold

40 Promptly

42 Elitists

45 New Mexico resort

47 Swerve

48 "The Candy House" author Jennifer

49 TV explorer

50 Gloomy guy

51 Enzyme suffix

52 Retrieve

54 Prof's helpers

Solution time: 21 mins.

Saturday's answer 6-30

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61

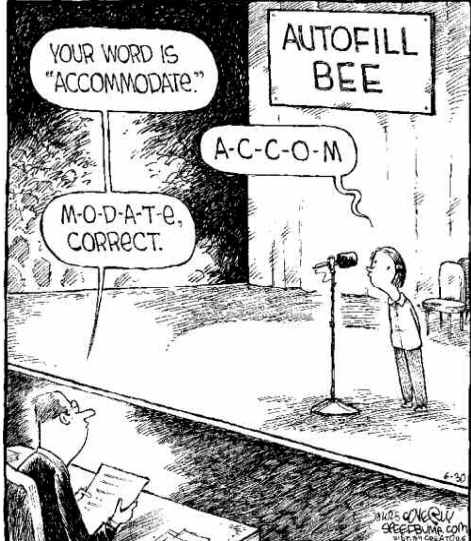
SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



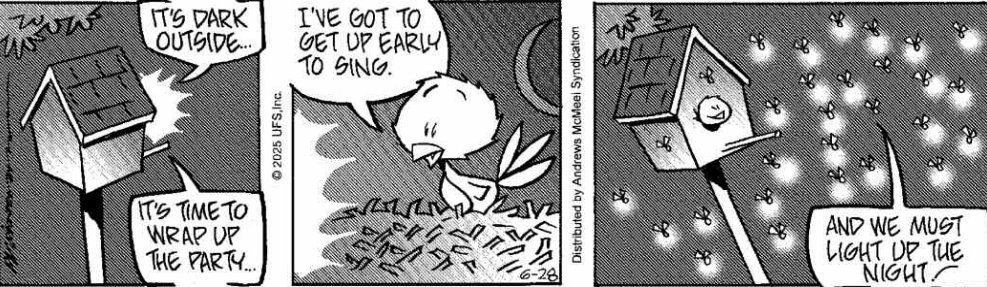
Peanuts



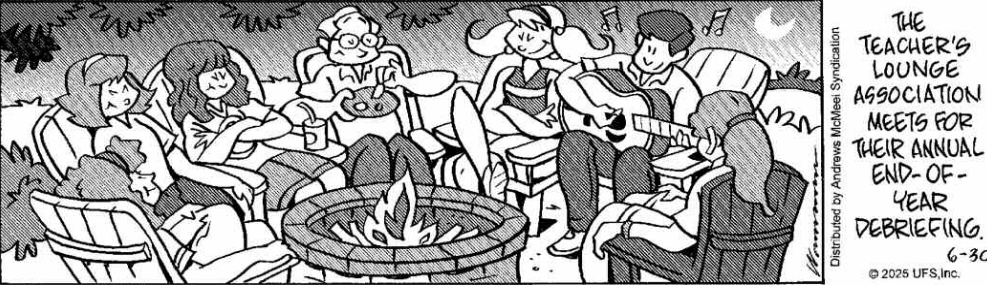
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Between Friends



Blondie



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Beetle Bailey





Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

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THEN RECYCLE

against this estate, whether or not now due, must file those claims in the office of the Clerk of the Adams Circuit Court within three (3) months after the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or those claims will be forever barred. Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 11 day of June, 2025.

Melissa Elliott
Clerk, Jay Circuit Court
Matthew P. Hayes
Attorney for
Personal Representative
Attorney No. 32002-02
Gordon, Adler, Hayes &
Washburn, PC
119 East Oak Forest Drive
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-9337

CR 6-28,75-2025-HSPXPL

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
IN THE JAY
CIRCUIT COURT
2025 TERM

In the Matter of the
Supervised Administration
of the Estate of:
Bret Masters
No. 38C01-2506-ES-000005
NOTICE OF
ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that
Shirley Masters was, on the
20th day of June 2025, ap-
pointed Personal Representa-
tive of the estate of Bret
Masters deceased, who died
on May 5, 2025.

All persons who have claims
against this estate, whether or
not now due, must file the
claim in the office of the Clerk
of this Court within three (3)
months from the date of the
first publication of this notice,
or within nine (9) months after
the decedent's death,
whichever is earlier, or the
claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Portland, Indiana,
this 24th day of June, 2025.

HINKLE, RACSTER,
SCHEMENAU
& LANDERS
121 W. High Street
Portland, IN 47371
Attorney

Melissa Elliott
Clerk of the Circuit Court,
For Jay County, Indiana

CR 6-28,7-5-2025-HSPXCLP

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Tuesday is
12:00 pm on
Friday.**

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boat) will look to help Ohio State get back to winning conference titles.

"Paige and her teammate Lilly both started with no experience at all and they are, I think, the third and fourth fastest people on the team and that's unheard of," Gackowski said. "From my perspective, I'm really excited to work with them again and I'm really excited to keep building on what they learned this year because the youth there is amazing.

"As we move into next year, I'm really excited for those two to be leaders for our freshmen and really set the tone because we want people like that to drive the culture of the team forward and help us win a Big Ten championship in the future."

To have an event listed in "Sports on tap", email details to sports@thecr.com



Throw over

Jo LeMaster, the pitcher of Portland Junior League Minor softball's PFD Local 5356, throws to first base to record an out during the championship game on Thursday. PFD Local 5356 won both the regular-season title and the Minor softball tournament.

Jay beat South Adams by 103

BERNE — The Jay County swimmers haven't had much of a threat of losing a meet throughout the front half of their season. The Starfish were able to push them more than most, but still fell short by more than 100 points.

The Jay County Summer Swim Team beat the South Adams Starfish 599-496 at Berne pool on Thursday.

Jay County claimed 14 out of the 20 relays and won 43 of the 61 individual events to claim the meet. Nine Jay tankers picked up a trio of individual wins, leading to sweeps of the 11-12-year-old girls, 13-14-year-old boys and 15-and-older boys divisions.

Isabell Byrum and Addisyn Champ handled the 11-12-year-old girls division with the former winning the 100-meter freestyle, 50 butterfly and 50 freestyle and the latter claiming the 50 breaststroke, 50 backstroke and 100 individual medley.

Ben Fisher claimed first-place finishes in the 100 freestyle, 50 backstroke and 50 breaststroke, while Grant Glentzer topped the 50 butterfly, 100 individual medley and 50 freestyle to complete the sweep of the 13-14-year-old division.

Cooper Glentzer picked up wins in the 100 freestyle, 100 individual medley and 50 freestyle for the 15-and-older boys while Carson Westgerdes cleaned up with victories in the 50 butterfly, 50 backstroke and 50 breaststroke.

Other triple event winners were Jaley Knapshafer, Sam Benirschke and Brooklynn Byrum. Jay County (4-0) also had seven

Local Roundup

swimmers win a pair of events and two to claim one.

Fort falls

FORT RECOVERY — The Tribe fell to the Flyers by one run during the regular season. When they met in the postseason, the Indians got on top early but couldn't keep up.

The fifth-seeded Fort Recovery ACME baseball team got booted to the loser's bracket on Friday as it fell to the No. 4 seed Marion Local Flyers 7-2.

The host Tribe (5-3) put up an initial run in the top of the first inning on a single by Luke Fortkamp. Marion Local immediately responded with two runs in the bottom of the frame and never relinquished the lead.

The Flyers put up four runs on Dylan Klenke, who suffered the loss in 3 1/2 innings of work. They tacked on three more runs at the expense of Fortkamp in the sixth to secure the victory.

Fort Recovery's only other run came in the fifth on an error after Ian McCain hit a ball to shortstop, allowing Reece LeFevre to score.

The Indians will get another chance to move on with a game Monday against the loser of No. 1 Celina and eighth-seeded Parkway.

From walk-on to first varsity

By ANDREW BALKO The Commercial Review

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Prior to her freshman year in college, Paige Guggenbiller had never rowed competitively.

While she had been paddle boarding once, she had never picked up an oar at all.

She had been in the water for the Fort Recovery High School swim team, making it all the way to the state tournament. She also advanced to state as part of a relay for the Indians' track team and played middle blocker for the volleyball team that went 17-7.

The athleticism she displayed in high school was enough to spur swim coach Mindy Bubp to suggest she join the Ohio State University women's rowing team.

After competing on the novice boats for a majority of the season, the door opened for the former Indian to make her varsity debut as a Buckeye.

Guggenbiller, a walk-on, got promoted to No. 17 Ohio State's first varsity 8 boat for the Big

Paige Guggenbiller got promoted to the Ohio State University first varsity 8 boat for the Big Ten Championship races

Ten Championships at Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis on May 18 to help the Buckeyes to a fifth-place finish, earning her a spot on the Big Ten All-Freshman team.

"The only thing that comes to mind is, it completely shattered any expectation I had coming in," Guggenbiller said. "To be able to do what I did, I feel like it's fate and I was given this opportunity, almost last minute for a reason and I will do everything in my power to take full advantage of every opportunity that comes my way."

Because of Guggenbiller's lack of experience, she started the year on a novice boat, which

is intended for first-year rowers to compete against athletes with similar experience levels while learning the sport.

She got a small taste of varsity during the winter when the Buckeyes went on a training trip.

Throughout the season the novice crews performed well, while the varsity boats weren't quite meeting Ohio State's standards. After a particularly rough competition at No. 6 Princeton — fifth-ranked Tennessee and No. 10 Syracuse were also there — first-year head coach Emily Gackowski decided to make a change.

She turned to Guggenbiller.

"It's pretty extraordinary," Gackowski said. "It is extremely rare for walk on to make the first varsity eight in their first year, and part of that is because the rest of the team shouldn't really allow that."

"Even if someone is as fast as Paige ... her rowing should have kept her out of there from a technical and skills perspective. But Paige was a quick learner and obviously very fast and the rest of the team wasn't in a position to fend her off."

With the switch, Guggenbiller got promoted to the second varsity 8 boat just three weeks ahead of the Big Ten Championships. Two days later, the

Buckeyes had a practice with seat racing — having boats compete against each other multiple times with slight changes to maximize efficiency. Guggenbiller earned herself a spot in the top eight.

"I was kind of reflecting on the (commitment story) from last year and I said something along the words of, 'I have no experience but I'm not scared about it,'" Guggenbiller said. "That's exactly how I had to attack this season to do how I did. I had to just go out there and do my best 24/7 and see where it could get me and it led me here."

For a majority of her time on the varsity boat, Guggenbiller sat in the fourth seat, but was moved to the sixth for the Big Ten Championship. In an eight-man boat, the two seats nearest the stern (back) set the pace, while the third through sixth seats provide the power. The No. 1 and 2 seats are more focused on keeping the boat stable and straight.

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