

# The Commercial Review

## All consuming

**Marching Patriots seek to draw in audience with the tale of a hero**

By **RAY COONEY**  
The Commercial Review

A village.  
A dragon.  
Destruction.  
A hero.  
An epic battle.  
It all seems a likely scenario for an epic novel destined to become a major motion picture.  
The Marching Patriots are bringing those elements to the track.  
Jay County High School's marching band, which will play host to the annual Jay County Lions Band Contest on Friday at Jay County Fairgrounds, will look to wow its home crowd with its "Consumed."  
JCHS band director Chuck Roesch points out that the story is not conceptual or topical like many previous shows, but is about telling tale to the audience.  
"For what we're doing this year, there's a story line that's in there that we're getting to experience," said Roesch, whose group will perform at 8:14 p.m. Friday following an intermission. "Essentially, you have a village that comes under siege from a dragon. You have, in the ashes of all the debris, a hero has to rise to meet the adversity. Then you have the final conflict of the hero confronting the threat."  
The story — the thematic inspiration is based on Herman Melville's classic novel "Moby Dick" — is told through three musical movements, with the first including an introduction to the village and villagers followed by the sudden attack of the dragon. The second, traditionally the ballad, portrays the rise of the hero. The final movement is the conflict, the battle of good versus evil.  
"Consumed" is meant to have multiple meanings, up to the interpretation of the viewer.  
"A lot of times when we face conflict in our lives, we get consumed with justice, we get consumed with fairness, we get consumed with doing what's right ...," Roesch said.  
To help tell the story, the band is utilizing an alternate uniform



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Audrey Evans spins her flag displaying a dragon's eye during the Jay County High School Marching Patriots' performance Saturday during the Centerville Archway Classic. The band is using alternate uniforms this year to create a medieval look to help tell the story of a village attacked by a dragon and the rise of a hero. The band will take the track again Friday night in the Jay County Lions Band Contest at Jay County Fairgrounds.

### Jay County Lions Band Contest

The annual Jay County Lions Band Contest is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday at Jay County Fairgrounds. The performance order is listed below. There will be an intermission after Blackford.

Yorktown	7 p.m.	Jay County	8:14 p.m.
Randolph Southern	7:09 p.m.	Lincoln	8:23 p.m.
Centerville	7:18 p.m.	Anderson	8:32 p.m.
Hagerstown	7:27 p.m.	Spirit of Muncie	8:41 p.m.
Eastbrook	7:38 p.m.	Winchester	8:50 p.m.
Blackford	7:45 p.m.	Awards	9:15 p.m.

## Sequestration rules land final approval

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

Indiana's Natural Resources Commission unanimously approved new, permanent regulations for carbon dioxide sequestration on Tuesday evening.  
Among the provisions are definitions, agreements between pore space owners and storage operators, transmission pipeline certificates of authority, permitting, insurance requirements, record-keeping and more. The voice vote came after impassioned appeals from Hoosiers living near a prominent pilot project led by Wabash Valley Resources.  
The company plans to pipe and inject 1.67 million tons of carbon

**Provisions include insurance and permitting requirements**

dioxide annually a mile below the earth's surface as part of its plan to produce anhydrous ammonia fertilizer at a former coal gasification plant in West Terre Haute.  
Residents clashed with the commission over its responsibilities.  
"I'm a simple farm girl ... and I don't know anything about this, but I do know that this meeting is

unlawful according to Indiana Code," said Vigo County resident Whitney Boyce.  
She accused the commission of not posting the meeting agenda in the required 48 hours ahead of time, adding that the video from Friday's fiery public hearing hasn't been uploaded and comments that day weren't responded to.  
See **Rules** page 2



Indiana Capital Chronicle

The Indiana Natural Resources Commission meets at Spring Mill State Park's inn on Tuesday.

### Deaths

**Donald Kane**, 90, New Corydon  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 89 degrees Tuesday. The low was 66.  
Tonight's low will be in the mid 60s with a 50% chance of rain and thunderstorms possible. Friday's forecast calls for a high in the upper 70s and a 30% chance of rain.  
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Fort Recovery's National Night Out, which will include free swimming, food and other activities, is set for 5 to 8 p.m. Sunday at Ambassador Pool.  
Fort Recovery Friends of the Arts will host its Community Talent Night at 7 p.m. Sunday at Van Trees Park's Hein Amphitheater.

### Coming up

**Friday** — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.  
**Saturday** — Results from the Jay County Lions Band Contest.  
**Tuesday** — Details from the Portland Rockets' regular-season finale doubleheader.



## Primer offered on tax proposal

*FR looking at increasing its local income tax*

By **BAILEY CLINE**  
The Commercial Review  
**FORT RECOVERY** — Village residents had the opportunity Tuesday to ask questions about the proposed increase to income tax.  
Fort Recovery administration and council members met at the Cooper Brothers Community Pavilion in Community Park to share details with the community about raising the income tax by 0.5 percentage points.

### What would change?

Fort Recovery Village Council will vote on a third reading Monday whether to move forward with proposing an income tax levy and placing it on the ballot in November. If passed, the village's income tax would increase to 1.5% from the current 1%.  
As written into the proposed ordinance, the village will stop collecting on its existing four real estate tax levies if the income tax increase is approved.  
The village's real estate tax levies generate \$294,583 annually. With the proposed income tax increase, the village could expect to gain anywhere from \$500,000 to \$750,000 annually, an estimated \$200,000 to \$450,000 increase from taxes collected currently.  
If the village stops collecting on the real estate tax levies, village administrator Randy Diller estimated, residents would see a 14% decrease on property taxes for their homes. Those with non-owner occupied houses would see a 12% decrease, and commercial businesses and industries would see an 18.4% decrease.  
Fort Recovery residents can calculate how much they would save on their property tax bills by searching their property tax information on auditor.mercercountyohio.gov.  
See **Proposal** page 2



Consuming ...

Continued from page 1

“When we settled on the story-line, when we settled on the theme, the traditional uniform is a big disconnect,” said Roesch, noting that plans are to return to the traditional uniform in 2026. “If you’ve got a medieval setting that you’re trying to take your audience into, then there’s certain things that will help to enhance the story and help to enhance the setting, or detract from it. ...

“We maintained the school colors as best we could because we still want to have a Jay County identity even though we’re going with an alternate uniform this year. (Godfrey has) done a really great job of taking our vision for

the show and helping to bring it to life through the colors, through the uniform look, through tying in color themes across the visual panels.”

The color guard flags feature a dragon’s eye for the opening movement, flames symbolizing the destruction of the village and the hero’s sword.

Pulling the band more into the storytelling aspect of the show and utilizing alternate uniforms follows a recent trend of some of the state’s most successful bands, including Kokomo and Muncie Central.

“If you look at the groups that are competitive in the circuit, alternate uniforms is kind of the new thing,” said Roesch, adding

that he believes the look is unique and will help the Marching Patriots stand out.

“Ordinarily through the years, you let the guard tell the story and the band was just a component that from a vision standpoint you weren’t expecting too much of the telling of the story to come from them,” he continued. “But more recent trends in the marching arts are full, comprehensive storytelling from the group, and you want to see the theme really as the thread through every single thing that you do.”

The band has competed with Consumed once already, finishing third behind the host Bulldogs and Richmond in Saturday’s Centerville Archway Classic.

Roesch’s goal is to have the full show ready to go — many bands perform partial shows early in the season as they build toward the state fair — for Friday’s contest at Jay County Fairgrounds ahead of band camp the following week.

“I think thematically we’ve got a lot of the show’s loose ends tied together,” he said. “I think from start to finish it’s easy to follow.”

“It’s a fun show,” he added. “The music sounds amazing. Alex Yoder’s done an incredible job with the score. The kids really enjoy playing it.

“So, hopefully we do a really good job of helping the audience follow the storyline.”

Obituaries

**Donald Kane**, New Corydon, April 15, 1935-July 15, 2025. No services are scheduled.

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*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.*

Capsule Reports

**Assigned**






State Reps. J.D. Prescott (R-Union City) and Matt Lehman (R-Berne), both of whom represent Jay County, were recently appointed to interim study committees.

Prescott will serve on the Corn Marketing Council.

Lehman will co-chair the Artificial Intelligence Task Force, vice-chair the Legislative Council Audit and Financial Reporting Subcommittee and the Oral History Project Advisory Commission and serve on the Indiana Semiquincentennial Commission, the Interim Study Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, the Legislative Council and the Legislative State of Emergency Advisory Group.

Study committees work during the summer and fall to study policy issues. Committee hearings and agendas are available at iga.in.gov.

CR almanac

Friday 7/18	Saturday 7/19	Sunday 7/20	Monday 7/21	Tuesday 7/22
 <b>81/69</b> Mostly cloudy on Friday with a 30% chance of rain and thunderstorms.	 <b>82/71</b> Saturday's forecast shows a 70% chance of showers throughout the day, with a higher chance late.	 <b>83/67</b> Mostly sunny skies on Sunday when there's a 70% chance of showers.	 <b>83/69</b> More rain is in the forecast for Monday with a 50% chance of showers.	 <b>88/74</b> Tuesday's weather looks to be mostly sunny with heat index values in the upper 90s.

Lotteries

**Powerball**  
Estimated jackpot: \$264 million

**Mega Millions**  
6-10-24-35-43  
Mega Ball: 1  
Estimated jackpot: \$100 million

**Hoosier**  
Tuesday  
Midday  
Daily Three: 6-9-0  
Daily Four: 4-7-3-1  
Quick Draw: 3-7-8-10-11-12-19-24-26-27-37-41-45-52-53-55-56-60-66-67  
Evening

Daily Three: 1-6-4  
Daily Four: 1-9-6-0  
Quick Draw: 3-4-5-8-9-19-22-32-33-45-50-53-59-61-67-68-69-72-74-78

**Ohio**  
Tuesday  
Midday  
Pick 3: 7-2-8  
Pick 4: 4-0-4-8  
Pick 5: 6-0-0-1-5  
Evening  
Pick 3: 2-2-7  
Pick 4: 4-1-7-1  
Pick 5: 7-1-3-7-1  
Rolling Cash: 7-12-16-19-32  
Estimated jackpot: \$190,000

Markets

**Cooper Farms Fort Recovery**  
Corn.....4.60  
Aug. corn .....4.65  
Sept. corn .....4.60

**POET Biorefining Portland**  
Corn.....4.60  
Aug. corn .....4.55  
Sept. corn .....4.45

**The Andersons Richland Township**  
Corn .....4.47  
Aug. corn .....3.04  
Beans .....10.25

Aug. beans.....9.83  
Wheat ..... 5.12

**ADM Montpelier**  
Corn.....4.35  
Aug. corn .....4.33  
Beans .....10.25  
Aug. beans.....10.05  
Wheat .....5.12

**Heartland St. Anthony**  
Corn.....4.50  
Aug. corn .....4.50  
Beans .....10.02  
Oct. beans .....9.62  
Wheat .....4.87

Today in history

**In 1754**, King’s College — it later became known as Columbia University — opened in New York City. The small academy started with a class of 10 students. Some of its first students and trustees included the United States’ first secretary of the treasury, Alexander Hamilton, and the nation’s first chief justice, John Jay.

**In 2012**, longtime Fort Recovery School Board member Dan Kahlig resigned after serving nearly 15 years on the board.

**In 2019**, Jay County Council approved tax abatement for projects totaling \$5.13 million for Minnich Poultry (five years) and \$1.02 million for Reier Pullets (three years). Minnich planned to construct four new laying barns at its facility on county road 300 North near the Ohio line, expecting to add four new jobs and help keep 65 jobs. Reier planned to construct three pullet barns, with an expectation of adding two new jobs and retaining two jobs.

— The CR

Citizen’s calendar

**Friday**  
5:30 p.m. — Redkey Town Council executive session, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.  
6:30 p.m. — Redkey Town Council special session, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.  
**Monday**  
4 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.  
5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Port-

land.  
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.  
6:15 p.m. — Portland City Council public hearing, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.  
6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Local Schools, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St.  
7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Proposal ...

Continued from page 1

(The real estate tax levies are listed on the tax distributions page under Fort Recovery Corporation as 2006 current expense, 2007 current expense, 2007 street improvement and 2009 storm water control.)

Diller explained Tuesday that village residents working in other communities already at a 1.5% income tax rate or folks who are retired will not pay more with the increased income tax rate. Those who live and work in Fort Recovery, work in Fort Recovery but live elsewhere or live in Fort Recovery and work in a community with a 1% income tax rate, however, would see an increase.

**Why change?**

The village has been collecting a 1% income tax since 1982. (Voter approval isn’t required for income tax rates at 1% or lower.) The current real estate tax levies have been on the books for more than 30 years.

A majority of surrounding communities collect at a 1.5% income tax or higher, according to Diller.

On Tuesday, he talked

about the real estate tax burden in Ohio.

“Everybody saw, at least myself and most of the people I talked to, saw at least a 20% increase in their taxes in the last couple years,” he said.

He said it can be a problem for those on a fixed income.

Diller also pointed to efforts at the state level to relieve the tax burden on residents. The income tax increase and elimination of the real estate taxes, he added, would shift the burden away from property owners and instead collect from those who have earned income in the village.

**Upcoming projects**

He noted various projects the village will be working on in the next several years. They include efforts to convert the 41-year-old water plant to a new treatment system and add in mechanical processes to the wastewater lagoons, with both projects estimated at \$3 to \$4 million. Also, Diller added, the village in general will keep up with infrastructure for streets and utilities, as well as opportunities for

industrial and housing growth.

Fort Recovery has been awarded various grants for town improvements in the last few years, including \$1.85 million for the town’s new water tower — it should begin operating by the end of the month — and \$450,000 from the state toward renovations at Ambassador Pool. (An assessment is being done this week on the pool to determine needs moving forward.) However, those grants don’t cover the whole cost — the water tower’s construction total price came in around \$2.44 million.

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Diller explained the additional tax dollars would provide a more reliable income to help pay for future projects and village needs.

He said he has been suggesting the village look into increasing the income tax since 2007. At that time, though, Fort Recovery would have been one of the first communities in the area to increase their rate.

“It came up again this year, and it makes a lot of sense for the village moving forward,” he said.

Rules ...

Continued from page 1

Commission chair Bryan Poynter assured attendees that state law was followed.

“We do take public comment very seriously,” he said. “... And I know that there’s been some questioning of posting of agendas and other things, and I went back to make sure, and I just want everybody to know that ... we have posted those accordingly.”

Impacted Hoosiers have criticized the definitions as overly vague; denounced eminent domain provisions; pushed for stronger insurance requirements; and sought details for emergency response, among numerous public complaints.

“An emergency response plan in the event of a catastrophic rupture is something that needs to be shared with us, the public,” Vigo County resident Janet Cianteo said.

SERVICES

Today

**Ritter-Butz**, Sandra: 7 p.m.,  
Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Service listings provided by  
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Ads must run in July.





# Gaslighting hits new level

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my husband for nearly 20 years and lived with him for three years before marrying him. How do you deal with a narcissistic husband? I am tired of the manipulation — the fights he has caused and then made to look like I was to blame.

The worst part is how he has “punished” me. He often gives me the silent treatment not for a day or two, but for weeks, sometimes months. He comes from an abusive upbringing, and even though I have tried to show him what he’s doing is wrong, I can’t seem to get through to him. I mentioned therapy once, and he responded with a big fat NO.

The last episode was when he sent me a text message claiming I told one of my friends how abusive he is to me and that the police were at our home inquiring about the situation. (My friends know we have fights, but abuse has NEVER been mentioned.) I contacted the police the next day and, of course, there never was a police officer at our home the day before. I am so mad at him that I haven’t spoken to HIM in more than two months. I have no idea what to do. I hope you can help. — SILENT NO MORE IN CANADA

**DEAR SILENT NO MORE: Your husband is more than narcissistic — he is also emotionally abusive and sadistic. That you have tolerated his behavior for 20 years (assuming that it didn’t start until after your marriage) is shocking. The help you need is as close as the office of a licensed**

Dear Abby



**marriage and family therapist, not for him but for YOU. Consult one and you will learn how dysfunctional your husband is and, hopefully, find the courage to leave and live the life you deserve.**

DEAR ABBY: A very dear long-time friend I’ll call Lois lives a few hours from us in her vacation home. We used to visit and sometimes spend the night there, but her house smells awful. The smell has worsened over time. We never spend the night there now, and our visits are shorter.

Lois has always owned one or more indoor dogs that she lets outside to go to the bathroom. They also have access to a special room inside where they can do their business, but they also go everywhere. Her ability to clean up after them has diminished. For years, we have avoided telling her why we have shortened our visits. Her husband died recently, and we should be helping, but we feel unwell being there. If you think we should tell her, how should we do it? We don’t want to hurt or embarrass her. — LOST FOR WORDS IN THE SOUTH

**DEAR LOST: If LOIS ASKS why you no longer visit the**

way you used to, tell her the truth. Explain that you care about her, but the odor (which she’s likely so used to that she doesn’t notice) makes you and your husband feel unwell. Suggest that allowing her dogs to use her house as a bathroom may not be healthy for her, either, and offer to help her find a cleaning crew to get the place back in order.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my husband for eight years. He lost his mom 22 years ago. Ever since her cremation, he has kept her ashes in the living room. It scares me because I believe in ghosts. I know it’s hard to let go of our dear ones. (I lost my own mom a few years ago, so I know the feeling.) How can I convince him to take the ashes out of the house or put them in the ground without hurting him emotionally? — SPOOKED IN PENNSYLVANIA

**DEAR SPOOKED: Honey, if your late mother-in-law is coming back to haunt you, she will do it regardless of where her ashes are located. Yes, your husband is having trouble letting go of the remnants of his mother, but he’s hurting no one. She may “visit” you SOONER if you push her out from under your roof.**

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

## Marksman award

Luke Jellison of Troop 202 recently attended scouting resident camp at Camp Chief Little Turtle in Steuben County. He received his marksmanship through Scouting America and the National Rifle Association’s Marksman Award. To obtain the award, Jellison had to shoot five consecutive shots through the same hole at a distance of 50 feet. He’s the first scout in Troop 202 to receive the NRA marksman honor.



Photo provided

# Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

### Today

**STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB** — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and tell is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

**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.

**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.  
**EN AVANT CLUB** — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

**UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF** — Meets from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month. The support group serves to help individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide. To register, contact Stephanie Patterson at (260) 251-3259.

**ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP** — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

**PORTLAND LIONS CLUB** — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

**FORGET-ME-NOT** — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1.

### Friday

**DUNKIRK HISTORICAL MUSEUM** — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the third Friday and Saturday of each month at Webster Depot, 132 W.

Railroad St.

**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.

**CINCINNATUS LEAGUE** — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, July 18, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

### Saturday

**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.

**DUNKIRK HISTORICAL MUSEUM** — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the third Friday and Saturday of each month at Webster Depot, 132 W. Railroad St.

**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](http://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. 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.

**UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF** — Meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. the third Monday of each month. The support group serves to help individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide. To register, contact Stephanie Patterson at (260) 251-3259.

### Tuesday

**JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS** — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard’s Restaurant.

**BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE** — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome to join for euchre.



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## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

### Wednesday’s Solution

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

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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# Cutting off cash is smart strategy

The Dallas Morning News  
Tribune News Service

National security experts and former diplomats have told us that an effective way to hurt Mexican cartels is to cut off access to their money. The Trump administration is rightly ramping up scrutiny of bank transactions along the U.S.-Mexico border in a move intended to curtail money-laundering activities.

Under a new directive from the U.S. Treasury agency in charge of safeguarding the financial system, banks and money service businesses in certain border ZIP codes now have to report transactions of \$200 or more. Previously, the minimum threshold for reporting was \$10,000.

In Texas, this order affects Cameron, El Paso, Hidalgo, Maverick and Webb counties. While this measure will make banking

## Guest Editorial

more burdensome, it might have real impacts on the financial maneuvering of cartels, which rely on American and Mexican banking systems to exchange money with little consequence. Much of the drug trafficking business relies on small cash deposits to evade detection.

The U.S. Treasury Department is also pointing fingers at three Mexican financial firms, accusing them of laundering millions of dollars in connection with fentanyl trafficking by drug cartels. One of the firms, Vector Casa de

Bolsa, is controlled by a man who served as chief of staff for former Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

The Trump administration alleges that Vector, a brokerage firm, is involved in money laundering in connection with illicit opioid trafficking. According to the Treasury Department, a Sinaloa cartel “mule” laundered \$2 million using this firm. Also, between 2018 and 2023, Vector allegedly made over \$1 million in payments on behalf of Mexican companies to Chinese companies, known for shipping precursor chemicals used to manufacture fentanyl.

Linking a former president’s ally with money laundering is a thorny situation for the U.S. government. Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has demand-

ed “convincing evidence” of the alleged illicit money laundering. However, a Mexican nonprofit watchdog group recently reported that the Mexican government has been aware of Vector’s suspicious transactions at least since 2024.

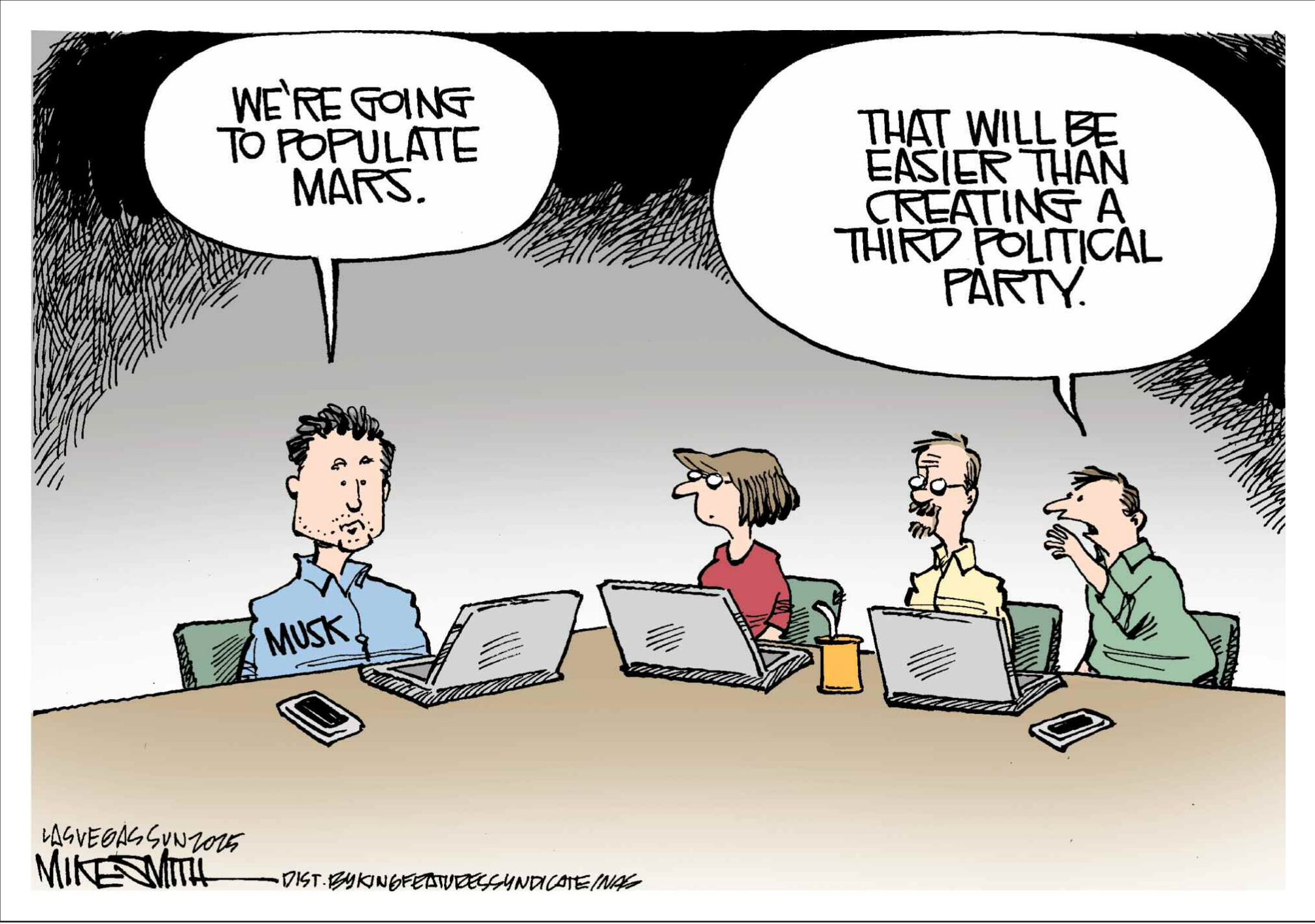
According to Mexicanos Contra la Corrupción y la Impunidad, two figureheads linked to former Mexican government official Genaro García Luna transferred over \$40 million to Vector. A U.S. court convicted García Luna, Mexico’s secretary of public security from 2006 to 2012, of drug trafficking charges two years ago. Despite Sheinbaum’s protests to U.S. officials, Mexico’s attorney general opened its own investigation into Vector a few days ago.

Mexican cartels have other means to move money, including

Chinese money launderers and cryptocurrencies. Our government needs to consider other measures to safeguard our financial systems from money laundering.

For years, tackling money laundering has been a weak spot in U.S.-Mexico relations, dating back to the failed Merida Initiative, a U.S. assistance program to combat drug trafficking that was phased out when the López Obrador government ceased cooperation.

Our government should look for every opportunity to cooperate with Mexico on security strategies, but there will be times when U.S. officials will have to pursue measures unilaterally. We should do what’s in our power to block the flow of cash to and from cartels.



# Poor policy ideas seem to be everywhere

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

I have the very good fortune to be living amid a veritable golden age of economic columnists. There is such an informational cascade of policy debacles, silly ideas and mesmerizingly idiotic claims that the hard part of writing this column lies in picking the ripest fruit from the cornucopia of ridiculous.

The newest of these comes to us from New York’s mayoral primaries. The Democratic winner is 33-year-old democratic socialist Zohran Mamdani, who won by defeating former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

There are many reasons why Mamdani might have won. Cuomo is a serial sexual harasser, who had to resign as governor in the wake of a criminal investigation. That sort of behavior seems more acceptable for a federal cabinet position these days, not the mayoral race of the world’s greatest city.

Mamdani has a compelling personal story. He is young, dynamic and optimistic about the future. This is a significant departure from the vitriolic anger of the GOP, and likely res-

Michael J. Hicks



onated with lots of voters in New York and elsewhere.

Mamdani identifies common problems — housing costs are high in New York, as are food prices. However, he made the frequent error of mistaking the cause of these problems, leading to silly policy prescriptions. Some of his ideas blow right past the threshold of ridiculously bad.

To fix high housing costs and food prices, Mamdani proposes rent controls and government-owned grocery stores. The folly of rent controls is something every economics professor teaches in college introductory economics. The key lesson to this is that price controls lead to long-term shortages.

Ironically, the only place where the U.S. has had any long-term price controls is New York. The shortages that resulted from

rental price controls dating to World War II continued to plague the city at least through the 1990s. Indeed, apartment shortages were a staple gag of nearly every other episode of “Friends” and “Seinfeld.”

Much of the high costs of housing in New York can be explained by the city’s popularity and productivity. For example, worker productivity in New York City is about 40% higher than in Indiana. But, a large part of the problem lies in government restrictions. Zoning, in particular, has restricted new housing expansion for decades. If Mamdani was serious about fixing the housing problems in New York, he’d unleash the free market, not hobble it with more regulation.

As silly, counterproductive and misguided as a rent control policy might be, it is downright sensible and clever compared to the notion of a city-run grocery store providing an antidote to high food prices.

A staple of Cold War reality was a photograph of Boris Yeltsin confronting an American grocery store for the first time — his face showing shock at the selection and price.

New York is the world’s greatest city, abuzz with entrepreneurs who, as Adam Smith noted, are possessed with the natural human “propensity to truck, barter and exchange.” Food in New York is always going to be more expensive than in Peoria, Illinois, but the existence of food deserts and exorbitant prices is not the fault of free markets. It is the fault of government interference in free markets.

If Mamdani was serious about bettering life for New Yorkers, it would be through unleashing the entrepreneurs among his constituents. Dear reader, if you imagine a city-operated grocery to be competitively priced, have a better array of choices or offer more compelling service, you are on par with those who imagine that tariffs are paid by foreign importers or will result in increased factory production here at home.

This abundance of poor policy ideas in today’s economic universe is a great gift to this scribbler.

I know Fox News will soon make much hay of Mamdani’s bizarre policies, as well they should. But I have some advice

for readers on how to deal with the economic folly of others. It is a military dictum from my youth.

We Hoosiers should be glad for a Mamdani candidacy — somewhere far, far away. As Americans, we live in a large and glorious laboratory of ideas. We should watch thoughtfully as someone else sprints out and draws the proverbial fire of bad economic ideas — as is Mamdani. Be certain that the rest of the U.S. is doing the same with us, and getting plenty of lessons as well.

In the meantime, we should be far more focused on policies that hamper our freedom and economic progress. We have plenty of those problems here at home and in our national policy environment. Let other folks, be they New Yorkers or Chicagoans, struggle with their own folly.

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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.

# The Commercial Review

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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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All services are Sunday,  
unless otherwise indicated.

**Asbury United  
Methodist**  
204 E. Arch St., Portland  
Josh Arthur  
(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., Por-  
tland  
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  
Mark Acree  
(260) 251-0987  
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  
thefamilyworshipcen-  
ter.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-port-  
land.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.  
fccftrecovery.org

**First Community  
Baptist**  
341 S. Meridian St., Red-  
key  
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. Wendes-  
day  
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., Port-  
land  
Fr. Peter Logsdon  
Fr. Martin Sandhage  
(260) 726-7055  
Services: 5:30 p.m. Satur-  
day, 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. Satur-  
day, 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., Port-  
land  
Bob Graham  
(260) 726-7777  
Bible class: 9:15 a.m.  
Services: 10:20 a.m.  
Bible School: 6 p.m. Wed-  
nesday  
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, south-  
west 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., Por-  
tland  
Matt Ransom  
(260) 726-7474  
Services: 10 a.m.  
matt@therockjc.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., Port-  
land  
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. Sun-  
day

**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. Wed-  
nesday

**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. (contem-  
porary service, fourth Sun-  
day)  
pastorrobino@gmail.com

**Trinity ArchBridge  
Church**  
323 S. Meridian St., Por-  
tland  
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  
Kruchkow  
(260) 849-0687  
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6  
p.m.

**Union Chapel 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., Port-  
land  
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  
Services: 10:30 a.m.


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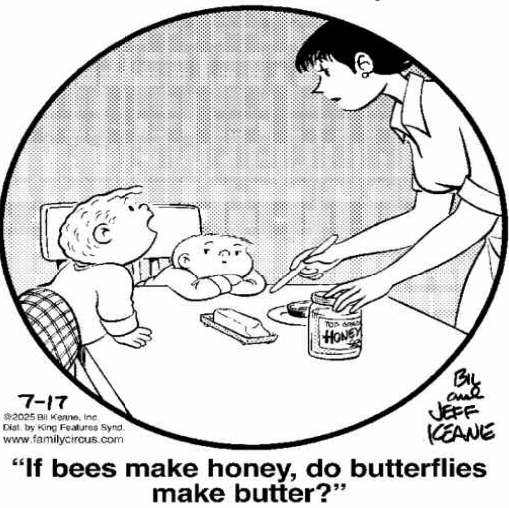
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Peanuts



Rose is Rose



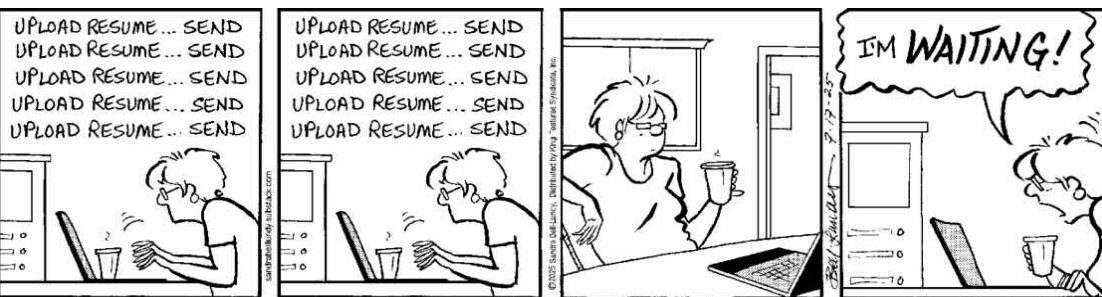
Agnes



Hi and Lois



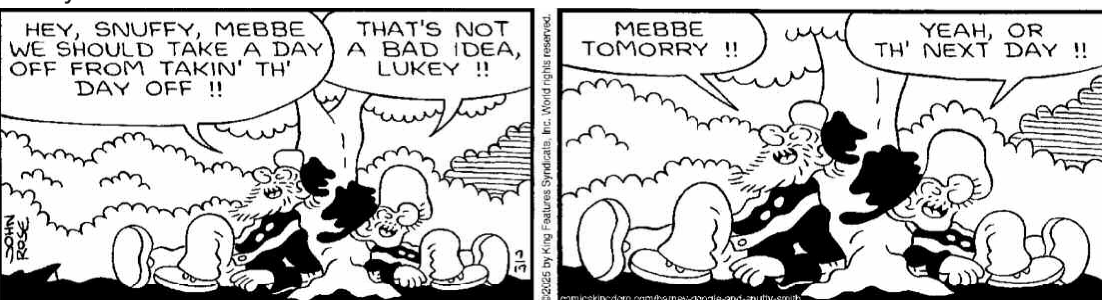
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The rationale of good defense

South dealer. East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ K Q 4  
♥ 8  
♦ K Q J 7 2  
♣ J 10 7 5

**WEST**  
♠ 10 8 2  
♥ Q J 9 7 2  
♦ 10 5 3  
♣ A Q

**EAST**  
♠ 3  
♥ A 10 6 5 3  
♦ 9 8 4  
♣ K 6 4 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A J 9 7 6 5  
♥ K 4  
♦ A 6  
♣ 9 8 3

The bidding: South 1♣, West Pass, North 2♦, East Pass. Opening lead—queen of hearts.

The opportunity to defeat a contract often knocks only once. If the defenders fail to open the door at that precise moment, the chance might be gone forever.

Consider this deal where a normal bidding sequence led North-South to an apparently hopeless four-spade contract. All East-West had to do was collect their four high card tricks at the start, and South would go down one.

But that proved to be easier said than done. East took the heart lead with the ace and shifted to the

deuce of clubs. West won with the queen, continued with the ace and exited with a diamond to South's ace. Declarer then drew trump and scored the rest of the tricks, discarding his remaining club on one of dummy's high diamonds.

It can be seen that if West had won the club return at trick two with the ace and returned the queen, East could have overtaken the queen with the king and given West a club ruff to set the contract.

This sequence of plays is not nearly as difficult as it might seem. West knows that if declarer has both the king of clubs and ace of diamonds, the contract cannot be beaten, so he must assume that East has one of these cards.

East's return of the club deuce at trick two suggests that he has an honor in the suit. Since the J-10 are in dummy, that honor card could only be the king. (If East did not have an honor card, he would have made a "top of nothing" return to denote lack of strength in the suit.)

Had West taken the ace at trick two and then returned the queen, East would have had no difficulty working out what to do. The ace followed by the queen would make no sense unless West had a doubleton, so overtaking the queen with the king and returning a club would have been clearly indicated.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.  
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7-17

CRYPTOQUIP

F U G F C U N J G X C S Y U  
N X F U P - B W P U T X C W Y G X A X N D V Z  
J U W R O B P G L Y W P N D T A J U O

J W R U V G F P O U P M V G L C U S Z U .  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU'RE TASKED WITH JUST AS MUCH WORK AS MUSICIAN JUSTIN, I'D SAY YOU'RE BUSY AS A BIEBER.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals P

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

- 1 "Groovy!"
- 4 Conks on the head
- 8 Jewels
- 12 Docs' org.
- 13 Bas- soon's kin
- 14 Together, in music
- 15 Dis- embark- ing area
- 17 Pre- Easter period
- 18 Family
- 19 Mattress coils
- 21 Closest bud
- 24 Bando of baseball
- 25 Yale grad
- 26 iPhone down- load
- 28 Pilgrim- age site
- 32 Zilch
- 34 Fine, at NASA
- 36 Alsace assents
- 37 Mortimer the dummy
- 39 Aunt, in Mexico

**DOWN**

- 1 Passing craze
- 2 I love (Lat.)
- 3 Posterior
- 4 Sarajevo's land
- 5 Japanese sash
- 6 Seed holders
- 7 Leaks slowly
- 8 Italian astron- omer
- 9 Biblical garden
- 10 Bean of India
- 11 Collector's goals
- 16 Young fox
- 20 Zodiac animal
- 21 Stein and Stiller
- 22 Panache
- 23 Clean air org.
- 27 Soup cooker
- 29 Type of parking
- 30 New York's — Field
- 31 In — (shortly)
- 33 Diamond- patterned socks
- 35 Sportage maker
- 38 The Cowboys, on a score- board
- 40 Tapas corn- cakes
- 43 Up to now
- 45 Ninny
- 46 Watchful one
- 47 Like ganders
- 48 Roman 1054
- 49 Radius neighbor
- 53 Neighbor of Ill.
- 54 River blocker
- 55 Ballpark fig.

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 7-17**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
	18			19		20				
21	22		23		24					
25			26		27		28		29	30
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		

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Rowles ...

Continued from page 8

On the other side of the ball, Heniser was dealing for Portland. He struck out the first two batters and while he gave up a double to the third, a perfect throw from Pratt to White got Justin Cox out at third base to end the first inning. He gave up a single and a walk in the second, but a third strikeout and a 6-4-3 double play kept all the runners at bay.

Heniser struck out the first batter of the third inning and threw three straight balls before being removed mid-at bat due to a blister on his hand.

Cody Rowles had to take his warmup pitches on the mound rather than the bullpen after getting thrust into the game. While he threw the fourth ball to issue Heniser's walk to Brock Zickgraf, he got the next two batters to ground out without much trouble.

"I just focused on making sure I hit my spots," Rowles said. "I didn't have time to get warm, so I just needed to throw fastballs that first inning then go get warm and be ready to come back."

Rowles ran into a bit of trouble in the fourth inning, giving up a pair of doubles to Cox and Carter Stephenson and a single to Luke Gilman that allowed a pair of runs to cross.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Evan Pearce slides to catch a shallow fly ball in center field during the Rockets' 8-3 win over the Chiefs on Tuesday.

He bounced back to strike out the side in the fifth inning.

"I was just really (mad) and wanted to make sure I didn't give up any more runs after that," Rowles said of the dominant fifth frame.

Rowles threw two more scoreless innings to end his

night two two earned runs on three hits, three walks and three strikeouts.

Nathan Musleman and Tyler Reynolds did their jobs in the eighth and ninth innings to put the Chiefs away as they combined for one unearned run on zero hits, one walk and two strike outs.

In general, the Rockets' defense backed up their pitchers throughout the game. The only hiccups prior to a pair of botched ground balls in the ninth inning that led to a run was a failed pickoff that Kenny Bailey didn't hold onto at first base.

"We had a double play, a

nice throw to third to nail a runner in the first inning and we had great outfield catches," Miller said. "If we play like that, we have a chance to be a force come tournament time."

While the pitchers kept Muncie's bats quiet, the Rockets' lineup continued to push runs across.

The Rockets scored a run in the third inning on a blast by Joel Kennedy that landed in the woods beyond left field as Pratt came home on a fielder's choice hit by Trey Pullins.

Two more runs scored in the fourth on a passed ball and a fielder's choice to put Portland up 6-2. It went three-up, three-down in the sixth inning, one of two innings it didn't score, but came back with another pair in the seventh. Those runs came on a wild pitch and an error by Gilman at shortstop.

"Whenever Joel Kennedy's here, it's electrifying," Miller said, referencing the home run.

"Several guys had a lot of at bats tonight and I think it's a great night."

The Rockets will close out the regular season with a trip to Fort Wayne to face the Jackers today and a doubleheader on Saturday against the Royals.

Box score

Muncie Chiefs vs. Portland Rockets					
Muncie					
	ab	r	h	bi	
Luce ss	4	0	0	0	
Diebold c	3	0	0	0	
Cox p	3	1	2	0	
Gilman 1b	4	1	2	1	
Stephenson 2b	4	0	1	2	
Yagey rf	1	0	0	0	
Lewis lf	3	0	0	0	
Estep 3b	3	0	0	0	
Zickgraf cf	2	0	0	0	
Kahle eh	3	0	0	0	
Ladd eh	2	1	0	0	
Totals	31	3	5	3	
Portland (21-7)					
	ab	r	h	bi	
Heniser p	2	3	1	0	
White 3b	3	2	2	0	
Kennedy eh	3	1	1	1	
Heitkamp c	2	0	1	1	
Faulkner ss	4	0	0	0	
Pratt 2b	4	1	2	0	
Pearce cf	4	0	1	0	
Ludike lf	3	0	0	0	
Pullins rf	4	0	1	1	
Bailey 1b	3	0	0	0	
Totals	32	7	9	3	
LOB — Muncie 8, Portland 7. 2B — Muncie 3 (Cox 2, Stephenson), Portland 4 (Pratt 2, Heniser, Heitkamp). HR — Portland 1 (Kennedy). SB — Muncie 2 (Luce, Zickgraf).					
IP H R ER BB SO					
Muncie					
Cox	2	3	2	1	2
Luce	2	4	2	2	0
Yagey	2	2	2	0	1
Diebold	1	0	2	0	3
Ladd	1	0	0	0	0
Portland					
Heniser	2.1	2	0	0	2
Rowles	4.2	3	2	2	3
Musleman	1	0	0	0	0
Reynolds	1	0	1	0	1

Kobe ...

Continued from page 8

"Ain't nothin but love there," Bryant wrote of his relationship with O'Neal.

"It's all good bro," Shaq responded.

Bryant and his daughter Gianna were among the nine people who died in a Jan. 26, 2020, helicopter crash in Calabasas. O'Neal was one of the speakers at the Feb. 24, 2020, memorial service for "my friend, my little brother Kobe Bryant and my beautiful niece Gigi."

"Kobe and I pushed one another to play some of the greatest basketball of all time and I am proud that no other team has accomplished what the three-peat Lakers have done since the Shaq and Kobe Lakers did it," O'Neal said. "And sometimes like immature kids, we argued, we fought, we bantered, we assaulted each other with offhand remarks on the field. Make no mistake, even when folks thought we were on bad terms, when the cameras are turned off, he and I would throw a wink at each other and say let's go whoop some ass."

"We never took it seriously. In truth, Kobe and I always maintained a deep respect and a love for one another."



Photo provided

Sandy Koufax awards

The Portland Junior League Sandy Koufax baseball division gave out awards following the conclusion of the season. Pictured from left are Mr. Baseball Grant Fennig and Rookie of the Year Bryce VanSkyock.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

**Today**  
Portland Rockets at Fort Wayne Jackers — 7:15 p.m.

TV schedule

**Today**  
6 a.m. — The Open golf: The Open Championship (USA)  
3 p.m. — UEFA Women's Euro soccer: Sweden at England (FOX)  
4:30 p.m. — NBA 2K26 summer league: Indiana Pacers at New York Knicks (FDSN Indiana)  
7 p.m. — NBA 2K26 summer league: San Antonio Spurs at Charlotte Hornets (ESPN)  
7 p.m. — Joker's Jackpot at Eldora Speedway (FS1)  
7 p.m. — Athletes Unlimited Softball: Bandits at Volts (ESPN2)

9 p.m. — NBA 2K26 summer league: Boston Celtics at Los Angeles Lakers (ESPN)  
9 p.m. — World Long Drive golf (ESPN2)  
11 p.m. — NBA 2K26 summer league: Denver Nuggets at Los Angeles Clippers (ESPN2)

**Friday**  
10 a.m. — NFL: Flag football Championships (ESPN)  
1 p.m. — NFL: Flag football Championships (ESPN2)  
2 p.m. — The Open golf: The Open Championship (USA)  
3 p.m. — UEFA Women's Euro soccer: Spain vs. Switzerland (FOX)  
5 p.m. — NFL: Flag football Championships (ESPN)  
5 p.m. — ARCA Menards Series: General Tire 150 (FS1)

7 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Detroit City vs. Pittsburgh Riverhounds (ESPN2)  
7 p.m. — The Basketball Tournament: War Ready vs. X-Rayted (FS1)  
7:10 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at New York Mets (FDSN Indiana)  
8 p.m. — WNBA 2025 3-Point and Skills Challenge (ESPN)  
8:05 p.m. — MLB: Detroit Tigers at Texas Rangers (FOX)  
9 p.m. — PLL lacrosse: Utah Archers at Carolina Chaos (ESPN2)  
9 p.m. — The Basketball Tournament: La Familia at Stroah's Squad (FS1)

Local notes

**Partnership announced**  
Ball State University will be partnering with Indy Eleven to provide free training for youth coaches in Indiana on

August 2.  
The in-person training session will be at Michael A. Carroll Stadium in Indianapolis. It will be a one-hour workshop focused on building positive, youth development-focused coaching practices.  
Those who attend will receive a ticket to the Indy Eleven soccer match and Professional Growth Points for those going for a teaching license.

Tickets available

Jay County Junior-Senior High School will begin selling its super and season tickets on Monday, July 21 from 8 a.m. until noon and from 1 p.m. until 7 p.m. After July 21, tickets will be available during the high school's office hours which are between 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.  
Regular season tickets for individual

varsity events will cost \$7, while admission to JV, freshman or junior high events will be \$6 for adults.  
The Patriot Pass, which gets you into all high school and junior high events costs \$115. The Senior Patriot Pass for those 65 and older will be \$70.  
Other deals are as follows:  
• High School Adult Super tickets - \$90  
• Senior Super Tickets - \$55  
• Pre-Paid Sports Pass - \$60  
• Basketball season pass - \$60  
• Football season pass - \$25

Outing scheduled

United Way will be hosting a golf outing at Portland Golf Club on August 2. Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the teams teeing off at 12:30 p.m. Teams can register for \$250 each, with lunch included, at

unitedwayjaycounty.org or by going to Portland Golf Club.  
Prior to the golf outing, there will be a freewill pancake and sausage breakfast from 7:30-10:30 a.m.  
After golf there will be a family fun night. It will cost \$40 for two adults and two kids to play nine holes and eat. There will be live music by Ken Bantz, a bounce house and fireworks.

Next race set

The next race in the Adams County Challenge series is the Swiss Days Race in Berne on Saturday, July 26 at 8:15 a.m.  
There will be a 1-mile kids run and a 5K race. To register, visit adamscounty5kchallenge.com.  
.....  
To have an event listed in "Sports on tap", email details to sports@thecr.com

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# Rowles rescues Rockets

Jay grad throws four solid innings after injury to help Portland beat Chiefs

By **ANDREW BALKO**  
The Commercial Review

Everything was working for the Rockets.

The offense consistently produced runs, all four pitchers put in solid efforts and the defense was sharp for a majority of the game. That combination produced an easy win over the Chiefs.

The Portland Rockets played a complete game Tuesday evening in its 8-3 beating of the Muncie Chiefs.

“That was probably one of our best games this year,” said coach Randy Miller. “We’ve been playing some good baseball now. We’ve got a little swag and won the Fort Wayne League. They’re a younger team so this is an opportunity for us to get our reps in mid-week. But it’s a baseball game and they threw some skilled guys and we looked like we could hit the ball and we threw well too.”

A pair of wins and two forfeits over the weekend officially locked the Rockets (21-7) into the top spot in the conference to earn them a bye into the semifinal on July 25 at Runkle-Miller Field.

They kept the ball rolling right away against the Chiefs. Portland’s first run came in the first inning after Crosby Heniser drew a walk and moved to second on a Corban White single, hit third after a wild pitch and crossed home on Jonny Heitkamp’s sacrifice fly.

Cameron Pratt made a trip around the bases in the second with a double, a throwing error by catcher Luke Diebold and a passed ball.

See **Rowles** page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Cody Rowles throws a changeup during the Portland Rockets’ 8-3 win over the Muncie Chiefs on Tuesday. Rowles came in to relieve Crosby Heniser in the middle of the third inning after Heniser developed a blister on his throwing hand.



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## Shaq takes issue with Kobe not on all-time top 10

By **CHUCK SCHILKEN**  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — Shaquille O’Neal has an issue with a recent ranking of the all-time best NBA players.

On Monday, Bleacher Report released its list of the “top 100 NBA players ever,” based on a compilation of rankings from a “legion of B/R NBA experts, writers and editors.”

O’Neal finished just outside the top five. He didn’t seem to have an issue with that.

Shaq’s beef was with the placement of his former Lakers teammate, the late Kobe Bryant, who landed outside of the top 10.

“Kobe at 11 is criminal,” O’Neal wrote on X in the comments of a Bleacher Report post that revealed the list’s top 20. He left his comment a little more than an hour after the original Bleacher Report post went live.

Here are the 10 players ranked ahead of Bryant, in order from the top: Michael Jordan, LeBron James, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Magic Johnson, Bill Russell, O’Neal, Tim Duncan, Larry Bird, Wilt Chamberlain and Stephen Curry.

Bryant is followed on the list by Hakeem Olajuwon, Kevin Durant, Oscar Robertson and Jerry West.

O’Neal has made no secret of his feelings on where Bryant ranks among the league’s all-time greats. In 2023, the Diesel told The Los Angeles Times that his “first team” on such a list would be himself, Bryant, Jordan, Johnson and James.

(Coming off the bench for O’Neal on that hypothetical team were Curry, Allen Iverson, Duncan,

Karl Malone, Isiah Thomas and Abdul-Jabbar.)

Last month, in connection with the Netflix docuseries “Power Moves with Shaquille O’Neal,” Shaq revealed another personal top 10 list in which he ranked Bryant at No. 2, behind Jordan and just ahead of James.

Bryant ranks fourth in all-time NBA scoring (33,643 points) and his “Mamba Mentality” work ethic is still cited as a major influence on current athletes. He spent the first eight years of his career as Lakers teammates with O’Neal, with L.A. winning three NBA titles during that span.

Those Lakers also lost to the Detroit Pistons in the 2004 NBA Finals. Soon after, O’Neal was traded to the Miami Heat, with tension between the two superstars seen as one of the main reasons for the move. O’Neal won another NBA title with the Heat in 2006. Bryant won two more with the Lakers, in 2009 and 2010.

Over the years, O’Neal and Bryant acknowledged their rocky relationship as teammates but also insisted that they actually were close friends.

“I just want people to know that I don’t hate you, I know you don’t hate me. I call it today a ‘work beef,’ is what we had,” O’Neal told Bryant on “The Big Podcast with Shaq” in 2015.

“We had a lot of disagreements, we had a lot of arguments,” he said later. “But I think it fueled us both.”

Years later, when it appeared their feud might be heating up again, the two NBA greats took to social media to nip that notion in the bud.

See **Kobe** page 7