

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371      www.thecr.com      \$1

## Redkey to use Leap for IT

**By BAILEY CLINE**  
The Commercial Review

REDKEY — It's time to get a leap on computer protection and support.

Redkey Town Council agreed to utilizing Leap Managed Information Technology Services of Muncie for information technology services at its meeting Tuesday.

Also, at a special meeting Wednesday, council agreed to put office assistant Billie Hammond — she was suspended with pay last week — on a performance improvement plan moving forward.

Council OK'd Leap in May to conduct an assessment on the state of the town's information technology currently. Al Hol-

*Council also put improvement plan in place for employee who was suspended last week*

dren of Leap explained Tuesday that his company discovered several issues, which he said weren't uncommon to municipalities.

"You need a lot," he said. "Right now, we haven't been up, we're starting with training wheels and we're going to go forward ..."

Some general needs he pointed to included securi-

ty backup, firewalls and outdated computers (Microsoft is ending support for operating system Windows 10 in October).

Leap takes care of 150 clients, including Winchester, Eaton, Tipton, New Castle, Riley Children's Foundation, United Way, and Jay County REMC and Randolph County. (Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council also

approved moving forward with the company for the county's information technology services this month.)

Holdren proposed council begin renting nine new computers and a printer from his company, which would come with security software. The offer also includes up to four hours of on-site support as well as remote support from Leap.

In total, the proposal came with a \$2,500 one-time installation fee, along with a \$976.98 monthly maintenance fee and \$669.34 monthly rental fee. (Holdren explained it would cost roughly \$18,000 to purchase new computers outright and suggested council rent instead, pointing to technology's short lifespan.)

Council president Bren-

da Beaty noted the company didn't review Redkey Fire Department's technology, and she suggested firefighter Mark Leavell connect with council or Holdren to share technology needs after the meeting.

Holdren said it would cost an additional \$129 to rent another new computer for the department.

Council members Jim Phillips, Jenny Staver, Byron Daugherty, Floyd Life and Beaty approved an agreement with the company.

Council also heard Tuesday from several residents about its decision last week to suspend Hammond.

See Redkey page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

### Logan leap

Lilly Logan, 14, Farmland, a relative of Jay County residents, clears the hurdle during the Randolph County 4-H Fair's Battle of the Barns in the Horse Arena at Randolph County Fairgrounds. The Randolph County 4-H Fair continues through Friday at Randolph County Fairgrounds.

## Council agrees to review ordinance

**By RAY COONEY**  
The Commercial Review

A right-of-way use ordinance went into effect last month.

After getting some feedback, the city council is willing to give it another look.

Portland City Council agreed to work with Ohio Valley Gas on potentially modifying the ordinance after hearing from a representative of the company at its meeting Monday.

Randy Stephen of Ohio Valley Gas noted the \$500 permit fee that has been put in place for any work to be done within the city's right of way. He said that change would cost the company about \$30,000 per year and that the cost would likely be passed on to customers.

He said the company has been diligent in its efforts to leave streets and properties "as good, if not better" than they were before the work. He added that each repair for a road cut costs about \$600. He expressed concern about the ordinance treating the street and other areas of the right-of-way by the same rules and asked about the origin of the ordinance.

Clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips said that with all the paving that has been done in the city, it made sense to have something on file to protect that work. She advocated for having a permit system to have a record of work being done and suggested that council could look at a waiver or other solution for relieving some of the financial stress on Ohio Valley Gas.

Mayor Jeff Westlake asked about permit fees in other communities, including Connersville, which Stephen said currently does not have a fee.

Council president Kent McClung noted the reasons for the ordinance include making sure that the city knows when streets are being worked on and ensuring that they are properly repaired when work is complete.

"The main purpose is to make sure that our roads aren't torn up, but we also don't want to have an undo burden," he said.

Council member Ron May asked about how Stephen learned about the new ordinance. He said he was first informed by street department superintendent Matt Shauver after the ordinance was approved and then found the information in the newspaper.

Several council members expressed a willingness to work with the company on an equitable solution and Westlake said he will visit the Ohio Valley Gas office to discuss options.

See Ordinance page 2

## Board learns about reinvestment area

**By BAILEY CLINE**  
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — The village is considering establishing a Community Reinvestment Area.

School board members learned more about how they could be involved in the process Monday.

Community Reinvestment Area programs serve as a tax incentive for property owners to renovate existing structures or construct new buildings. Municipal and county governments may establish Community Reinvestment Areas to encourage economic development.

Fort Recovery Village Council is considering establishing the entire incorporated portion of the village as a Community Reinvestment Area.

Fort Recovery assistant village administrator Aaron Rengers explained that, with the incentive in place, the village could offer tax exemptions at 75% or 100%, with the latter option requiring consent from Fort Recovery Local Schools, for projects such as residential home remodels, new home construction, commercial and industrial facility remodels and new commercial and industrial facility construction. (The village may allow the tax abatements to go for up to 15 years. A longer time-

frame would also require approval from school board.)

A research committee created to explore the option has suggested 10-year abatements for new residential construction, 15-year abatements for home remodels and eight-year abatements for commercial and industrial remodels and new construction.

Answering a question from board member Sean Kahlig, Rengers explained qualifications for a remodel would include adding square footage to an existing structure.

Now that the village has completed a housing study, next steps will include drafting an ordinance.

Village administrator Randy Diller pointed to the housing shortage in Mercer County as well as the real estate tax burden.

"Any community will tell you that we've been looking at different situations, options, things that we can do to help spur some growth," Diller said.

In the last five years, he continued, only five new houses have been built within village limits. He noted other communities are looking into creating Community Reinvestment Areas — according to Rengers, Coldwater has had one since before 1994 — as a potential solution.

Diller indicated significant

growth in Bellefontaine, Ohio, and Sidney, Ohio, which he said both have Community Reinvestment Areas.

"You guys mentioned the goal to have spurred new development from a residential setting," said Kahlig. "There's not currently a lot of places for new development in town."

Rengers noted there are opportunities to renovate homes or purchase property and demolish an existing home in order to build new. Diller pointed out the village is always on the look out for expansion possibilities and in the midst of discussions for potential growth.

Rengers and Diller asked the school board to allow up to 100% tax abatements within the Community Reinvestment Area. Diller noted the village didn't need a decision Monday. He and Rengers shared hopes for the Community Reinvestment Area to begin in January.

Diller also noted a couple school-related projects are still in the works.

A multi-use trail for pedestrian and bike traffic along Ohio 49, Sharpsburg Road and Flaler Road is planned to begin construction in summer 2026. The project is 90% funded through Ohio Department of Transportation's Systemic Safety

Funding grant, with the village's estimated match at \$200,000.

An additional 625 feet of sidewalk, which will run along the east side of Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School and connect with Sharpsburg Road, should be completed in summer 2027. The project will be paid for using Safe Routes to School funding.

Also Monday, Diller briefed school board members on plans to increase the village's income tax levy from 1% to 1.5%. Village council approved legislation on a third reading Monday to place the decision on the ballot in November.

In other business, school board members Mitch Fulenkamp, Sean Kahlig, Nick Wehrkamp and Don Wendel, absent Greg LeFevre:

• Heard an update from athletic director Aimee Pottkotter. She explained athletic participation numbers increased more than 4.5% in the middle school and more than 3% in the high school. Among other highlights, she noted 45 students received All-Midwest Athletic Conference honors, five students received all-district honors and one student earned all-state honors.

See Reinvestment page 2

Deaths	Weather	In review	Coming up
Joseph Lepley, 80, Berne Details on page 2.	The high temperature was 82 degrees Tuesday in Jay County. The low was 61. Conditions will be humid tonight with a low in the lower 70s and a 40% chance of rain. Showers, with thunderstorms possible, are expected Friday with a high in the upper 80s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.	The Town of Redkey will be flushing fire hydrants beginning Monday, July 28, and continuing through Aug. 15. Residents may experience discolored water when hydrants are being flushed and should take precautions when washing clothes. For more information, call (765) 369-8282.	<b>Friday</b> — Coverage of dedication of Lance Cpl. Andrew Whitacre Memorial Bridge.  <b>Saturday</b> — Details from Friday's Portland Redevelopment Commission meeting.  <b>Tuesday</b> — Coverage of the Drums at Winchester band contest.





# Ordinance ...

Continued from page 1

The council also approved the city's 2026 payroll ordinance on second reading following a brief discussion.

As approved on first reading at the July 8 meeting, the ordinance called for a 2% raise across the board.

May said he would prefer that salaries be frozen for council members. (He advocated for either no raise or a 400% raise.) Westlake asked about increasing the raises to 3%, with Phillips saying she would not recommend that based on uncertainty in tax funding from the state. May

agreed with Phillips' sentiment.

Council members approved the ordinance, with 2% raises across the board, by a 6-1 vote with Michele Brewster, Matt Goldsworthy, Dave Golden, Mike Aker, Ashley Hilfiker and McClung in favor and May dissenting.

In other business:

- May asked about a police vehicle sitting at Portland Water Park. Westlake said that after some issues at a facility in another community, the car was parked there in an effort to provide a presence. (There was no officer in the vehicle.) "They should be

patrolling that area a little bit more," said Goldsworthy. "To me, that's not a solution, putting a cop car down there." Hilfiker said she has not seen much police presence when she has been in the area for games at the adjacent baseball/softball fields.






- Council OK'd a three-year tax abatement for Pioneer Equipment Leasing on \$3.5 million in new equipment. The abatement would save the company \$91,087 while the new equipment would generate \$91,087 in taxes over a 10-year period.
- Community coordinator Darlesia Lee told council about a

"bridge dinner" event being planned for Sept. 25 at the green bridge over the Salamonie River connecting Hudson Family Park and Weiler-Wilson Park. It is being modeled after a similar event in Muncie and is currently in the planning stages.

- Council approved additional appropriations of \$35,000 in the aviation budget to help cover the cost of crack sealing and \$20,000 in the pool repair and maintenance budget. May said he wishes departments would stay within their budgets, but voted in favor of the appropriations.
- May asked about individuals

other than police officers taking police vehicles home. Westlake asked if he had witnessed that happening. May said he has not, but he has been told about it by others.

- Hilfiker asked about the city's code enforcement officer and said she has heard complaints about properties not being cited.
- Westlake reminded the community that the Tri-State Antique Engine and Tractor Show is coming up next month at Jay County Fairgrounds and encouraged drivers to be aware of increased golf cart traffic.

CR almanac				
Friday 7/25	Saturday 7/26	Sunday 7/27	Monday 7/28	Tuesday 7/29
 <b>86/72</b> <small>Friday looks to be rainy with a 70% chance of showers and thunderstorms.</small>	 <b>86/73</b> <small>Saturday's forecast shows 70% chance of showers with thunderstorms.</small>	 <b>88/69</b> <small>Sunday has a 50% chance of showers with heat index values in the 90s.</small>	 <b>91/72</b> <small>Mostly sunny skies on Monday with heat index values swelling to the upper 90s.</small>	 <b>90/70</b> <small>Tuesday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with highs in the upper 80s.</small>

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$325 million	Daily Three: 5-2-5 Daily Four: 7-3-6-5 Quick Draw: 2-11-24-25-29-30-31-33-34-35-37-39-43-46-48-60-70-72-74-80
<b>Mega Millions</b> 22-41-42-59-69 Mega Ball: 17 Estimated jackpot: \$120 million	<b>Ohio</b> Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 6-1-2 Pick 4: 2-5-4-3 Pick 5: 7-2-9-0-9 Evening Pick 3: 2-0-5 Pick 4: 0-0-1-1 Pick 5: 5-1-5-6-8 Rolling Cash: 8-12-25-30-34 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 0-0-9 Daily Four: 7-7-7-6 Quick Draw: 6-9-13-20-25-27-32-34-35-40-42-43-44-59-61-68-72-74-76-77 Evening	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.53 Aug. corn .....4.58 Sept. corn .....4.53	Aug. beans.....9.94 Wheat ..... 5.12
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.51 Aug. corn .....4.49 Sept. corn .....4.39	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.28 Aug. corn .....4.26 Beans .....10.37 Aug. beans.....10.17 Wheat .....5.12
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.41 Aug. corn .....4.41 Beans .....10.36	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.49 Aug. corn .....4.49 Beans .....10.14 Oct. beans .....9.74 Wheat .....4.87

## Today in history

In 1974, the United States Supreme Court ordered president Richard M. Nixon to give transcripts from Water-gate tapes to prosecutor Leon Jaworski. Less than a month later, Nixon resigned. In 1998, "Saving Private Ryan" was released in theaters, earning \$482.3 million in the box office. The drama, based in World War II and starring Tom Hanks, later secured five Academy Awards, including best director for Steven Spielberg.

In 2012, Jay County's Loblolly wetlands became Indiana's 250th nature preserve. Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels spoke at a dedication ceremony to the newly named Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve. The 440-acre wetland had been drained for farmland in the late 1800s, but it flooded on a regular basis. Ken Brunswick spear-headed efforts to renovate the marsh starting in 1992.

In 2015, Portland Rockets took a 2-0 victory over the Fort Wayne Jackers in the opening game of the World Baseball Congress tournament. Dalton Tinsley singled to open the bottom of the first inning, and after a Brandon Reamon strikeout Collin Affolder came through. Portland took the lead when first baseman Chris Miller crushed a home run. Dan Bollenbacher tossed seven scoreless innings.

— The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Friday</b> 8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission executive session, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St. 8:30 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St. 5:15 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.	<b>Monday</b> 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St. <b>Wednesday</b> 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, Portland.
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# Obituaries

**Joseph Lepley**  
*Aug. 13, 1944-July 21, 2025*

Joseph Steven Lepley, age 80, of Berne, Indiana, passed away on Monday July 21, 2025, at his residence.

He was born in Fort Wayne on Aug. 13, 1944 the son of Guy Lucien and Savannah Belle (Jones) Lepley. He was married to Nila Janice Rinker, who survives. He was a 1962 Fort Wayne South Side High School graduate and a lifetime member of the Olive Club in Fort Wayne, and

served in the U.S. Air Force. He was a retired electronic technician for Raetheon in Fort Wayne. Joe loved lake living, shooting pool, his family, his country and was very patriotic

Surviving are his wife Nila; two stepsons, Shane Mann (wife: Stephanie) of Portland and Cory Mann of San Francisco; one sister, Beverly Ann Henley of Columbia



City; three step-grandchildren, Austin Mann, Gabbie Mann and Griffin Mann; three nieces; and one nephew.

Celebration of Life services will be Sunday, July 27., at 3 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Darrell Borders presiding. Visitation will be Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m.

Memorials can be made to Alzheimer's Association, Stillwater Hospice or choice of the donor.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

# Redkey ...

Continued from page 1

Residents questioned the reason for Hammond's suspension, with council members saying legally they are not allowed to share details regarding a personnel issue. One resident accused council of taking action against Hammond for personal reasons.

Leavell asked council members to hold themselves to the same level of accountability as they hold their employees, pointing to several allegations against two council members.

"Unless you guys as a council are saying that you are held to a different standard than what your employees are, whatever you're going to do to your employees, you ought to do to yourselves," he said.

At a special meeting following an executive session Wednesday, council agreed to create a performance improvement plan for Hammond.

"The council has talked about it, and we are going to do a personnel improvement plan for 90 days with 30-day reviews. Every 30 days she will get a review, and we will discuss it with department heads," said Beaty.

Also Tuesday, council approved a resolution related to paying new office manager Jessica Fugiett.

Council hired Fugiett as a full-time office manager at its meeting July 17. It also approved an emergency resolution the same day appointing her to carry out utilities billing and financial operations for the town. (Attorney Maura Hoff explained the town needs to undergo a water rate study within the next few months and is currently unable to do so because of how finances are recorded.)

According to the resolution approved Tuesday, clerk-treasurer Gloria May instructed Fugiett not to enter town hall.

"As a result of the Clerk's directive, Mrs. Fugiett has been denied the opportunity to perform her duties despite the Town Council's official action hiring her," the resolution says.

It further authorizes paying Fugiett her regular wages "for all hours that she has been and continues to be instructed not to work or denied access to the Town Hall by the Town Clerk ... until such time as the Council provides further direction."

In other business, council:

- Were reminded the Gas Boom Days festival is slated for Aug. 9 and 10 in downtown Redkey.
- Heard Staver has received two estimates for renovating the town's playground, which were priced at \$1.6 million and \$484,000. She shared pictures of what the new equipment — a play set, slides, swings and music-making features — would look like, pointing to a visual representation of the sidewalks coming together to resemble the shape of a key from above. Hopes are to secure a grant through Norfolk and Southern Railroad for the project.
- Approved the following: annual allotments to Redkey Economic Development Corporation and Jay County Development Corporation, at \$15,915.48 and \$3,000, respectively, with Phillips dissenting; paying \$1,772 for regular maintenance on backup generators at the water and wastewater plants; spending up to \$4,000 to replace a lift station pump at the wastewater plant; contributing \$660 toward Redkey's fireworks show earlier this month; and spend-

ing \$380 to replace three stolen signs.

- Heard a request from Leavell to give Redkey Fire Department an estimate on how much it may spend to replace the department's backup pumper (firetruck), which nearly failed its inspection last year. He reminded council that if the pumper doesn't pass its inspection this year, the town's insurance rates will raise.
- Asked Roger Clay — he owns property next to Redkey Morgan Park — to get a quote for how much it would cost to do a land survey on his property. Clay expressed concerns about liability in the event a junior league player gets injured on his property. He requested council to pay for half of the survey.
- Were reminded the water plant determined a 40% loss of water in 2023. "That means for every two gallons pumped, a total of one gallon kind of disappeared," said utility worker Ted Kolodka. He noted part of that problem could have been because of the old meters' inaccuracy. Utility workers are in the midst of installing new meters across town.
- Heard a request from resident Alisha Miller to gather volunteers for clean up efforts around town. Relatedly, resident Bill Hall voiced concerns about dilapidated buildings posing a safety hazard, pointing to fear of mold spores.
- Learned Miller Pipeline paid the town \$3,735 in dumping fees for June.
- Decided not to pay a claim for police officer Chris Jack's fees for attending Indiana Law Enforcement Academy.
- Made \$1,530.86 in water bill adjustments, with Staver abstaining.

# Reinvestment ...

Continued from page 1

- Recognized Anna Roessner for her track and field career, which included medaling in the 100, 200 and 400 dashes at the OHSAA Division III state meet. She set the state record for Division III in the 100 dash at 11.75 seconds and earned the state title. She also finished as the state runner-up in the 200 dash and placed third in the 400 dash.
- Approved the following for the upcoming school year: hiring various substitutes on an as-needed basis; the athletic handbook; hiring volunteer junior high football coach Logan Homan; a contract with fifth grade chair Jocelyn Meyer; and a personal services contract with Stacy Laux for up to 80 hours at \$24 per hour through Dec. 31 (Laux is resigning from her role as office assistant and transportation coordinator effective July 31).
- OK's a 60-month lease with Modern Office Methods for the school's copier services, an approximately \$1,300 increase in cost from the current provider.
- Authorized school officials to enter into food procurement contracts exceeding \$15,000 through the consortium bid process and to enter

into a Memorandum of Understanding with Fort Recovery Education Association for Article XII compensation, with the latter adding Fort Recovery's bowling coaches into the athletics salary schedule. (Fort Recovery School Board recently designated the former club sport as a full-fledged sport.)

- Set elementary and middle school student fees for the upcoming school year. Fees changed slightly from last year, with the largest change being a \$5 increase in fees for sixth through eighth grade students. Fees are as follows: \$20 for preschool, \$57.85

SERVICES

Sunday

Lepley, Joseph: 3 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO

OFFICE PRODUCTS

120 N. Meridian St.

Portland, Indiana 47371

(260) 726-9201

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for kindergarten and first grade, \$59.35 for second grade, \$59.55 for third grade, \$51.60 for fourth grade, \$74.30 for fifth grade and \$66 for sixth, seventh and eighth grade.

- Approved a resolution declaring school board authorizes Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council to advertise and receive bids on the board's behalf for the cooperative purchase of school buses and other

vehicles, materials and supplies offered through the Educational Purchasing Council's consortium.

- Designated LeFevre as school board's delegate to the Capital Conference and Mitch Fullenkamp as the alternate.
- Gave permission to use \$2,078 in credit card rewards for school purchases.
- Accepted a \$50 anonymous donation to the choir program.

BRICKER AUCTION COMPANY

414 N Meridian St. Portland, IN

July 26th - Forest Land Auction & 3 Ring Auction

Live/Webcast

1 @ 9 AM: Outside items for the farm and more! LIVE ONLY!

2 @ 10 AM: Forest Land Auction - 2 Tracts, Forest located at 650 N and 650 W in Bryant, IN in Penn Township 10:30 AM: Multi Estate Simulcast!

3 @ 11 AM: Small Animal Auction. Simulcast!

bidbricker.com

Chad Bricker - Auctioneer AU11600027

Cell: 260-703-0839



# Country group Hubie Ashcraft to play

A country group will perform this weekend in Fort Recovery.

The Hubie Ashcraft Band takes the stage at Hein Amphitheater in Van Trees Park at 7 p.m. Sunday. The musicians are known for their contemporary and traditional country music performances.

The Hubie Ashcraft Band recently released an album of original music written and recorded by the band at Sweetwater

## Taking Note

Sound in Fort Wayne. It features world-class musicians who have worked with Elton John, Kenny Chesney and The Eagles, according to the band's website. The group has

also toured and shared the stage with Eric Church, Brad Paisley, Joe Diffie, Luke Bryan, Jake Owen and The Bellamy.

**Wonderful World**

The wonderful world of Walt Disney is on display at Arts Place.

A collection of Disney artwork is available for free to view now through Aug. 22 in the Hugh N. Ronald Gallery in Portland. The exhibit is open

from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday.

For more information, call (765) 726-4809, email [visualarts@myartsplace.org](mailto:visualarts@myartsplace.org) or visit [myartsplace.org](http://myartsplace.org).

**Summer meals**

Jay School Corporation is providing free meals again for children under 18 this summer.

Drive-thru pickup meals are offered from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays at Jay County Junior-Senior High School. They'll be available at Door 16 behind the auxiliary gym. Pickup meals include five breakfasts and five lunches.

A traditional meal service is also offered at West Jay Community Center in Dunkirk and Jay Community Center in Portland. West Jay

Community Center's breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 9 a.m., and lunch from 11:30 a.m. to noon. Jay Community Center's breakfast will be served from 9 to 9:15 a.m. and lunch from noon to 12:15 p.m. Meals must be eaten on site.

All meals will be provided on a first come, first served basis. For questions, contact the Jay Schools food service director at (260) 726-9306.

# Clingy girlfriend's behavior could be red flag

DEAR ABBY: I am a 47-year-old male who is 20 days from being divorced. For the past three months, I have been dating a woman I've known for 26 years. We love each other and plan to be married. We have great times when we are together but struggle on the phone or with texting. I'm not sure why this is, but she says it's because we need to be together all the time.

We generally see one another on weekends. She says she has a tough time and cries a lot when

## Dear Abby



I'm not around. My question is, is this normal? If I don't see her for two days, she gushes that she "missed me so much," whereas I miss her, but it's not a big deal to

me. We aren't married now so I'm not in that frame of mind until we are. What can we do? — NAVIGATING LOVE IN FLORIDA

DEAR NAVIGATING: What your lady friend is telling you may seem like a protestation of devotion, but it could instead be a red flag. Her discomfort at being apart could eventually become smothering. She's obviously emotionally needy. Although you have discussed marriage, PLEASE

be sure the two of you have premarital counseling before proposing anything more than a warm friendship.

.....

DEAR ABBY: How does one overcome a fear of heights? I have had it from the time I was a little girl. There was a bridge I had to cross walking home from school. I had to look down at my feet to cross it.

I recently purchased a condominium on the 16th floor in a high-rise building. I love the

view, but I'm too afraid to walk out on my balcony. How do I overcome this? — UP HIGH IN GEORGIA

DEAR UP HIGH: You are far from the only person who has a fear of heights. Consider installing some waist-high plants in front of the patio railing. This may allow you to enjoy your view without your knees wobbling. If you try this, DO NOT LOOK DIRECTLY DOWN. (I speak from experience.)

# 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**

**LAWYERS** — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

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

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

**DEMENTIA SUPPORT**

**GROUP** — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park St., Portland.

**Friday**

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

**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.

**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.

**PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB** — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

**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.

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.

**PING PONG** — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

**PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB** — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

**COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING** — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

**AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP** — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.



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# Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

**Wednesday's Solution**

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

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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# No one should get measles in U.S.

**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**  
Tribune News Service

There is no good reason for any American to become infected with the measles virus in 2025. Effective vaccines reduced the incidence of the disease to nearly negligible figures by the 1980s, and since a brief resurgence in the early 1990s, most years have had fewer than 100 cases across this enormous country.

This year, however, is poised to become the worst year for the highly contagious illness since 1992, or even earlier. We're only halfway through the year, and already America has seen more confirmed cases — approaching 1,300 — than during any full year in the last three decades.

Epidemiology can be a complicated science, but in the case of measles, the reason is simple as can be: Lower vaccination rates mean higher infection rates. In fact, the United States' vaccination rate has dropped below the

## Guest Editorial

95% threshold necessary for herd immunity, when enough people are protected from infection that the virus can't circulate in the community.

There have always been insular communities where vaccination rates are low. Outbreaks in these groups, such as Orthodox Jewish communities in New York (2019) and conservative Mennonite communities in Texas (2025), are partially responsible for the biggest measles numbers in recent years. In a large and diverse (and free) country, some communities will inevitably resist vaccination and some will have members get measles.

Much more worrying is the broader upsurge in vaccine rejection, which threatens to introduce community spread of measles into the wider population. This is largely based on unfounded pseudo-scientific claims, an intuitive sense that measles is not a serious disease, and a generalized distrust of established institutions, especially including corporations. Let's briefly consider each of these.

First, as we discussed when warning that measles was on the cusp of a comeback just four months ago, the most widely circulated claim against the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine — that it is associated with the onset of autism — isn't just debunked: It was fraudulent from the beginning. And its author, British physician (now stripped of his license) Andrew Wakefield, made a lot of money based on his lies.

Second, while measles is held

in cultural memory as a minor childhood illness similar to chickenpox, that's a sanitized version of reality. Until the MMR vaccine was widely adopted, several hundred U.S. children died of measles every year due to complications such as pneumonia and brain inflammation.

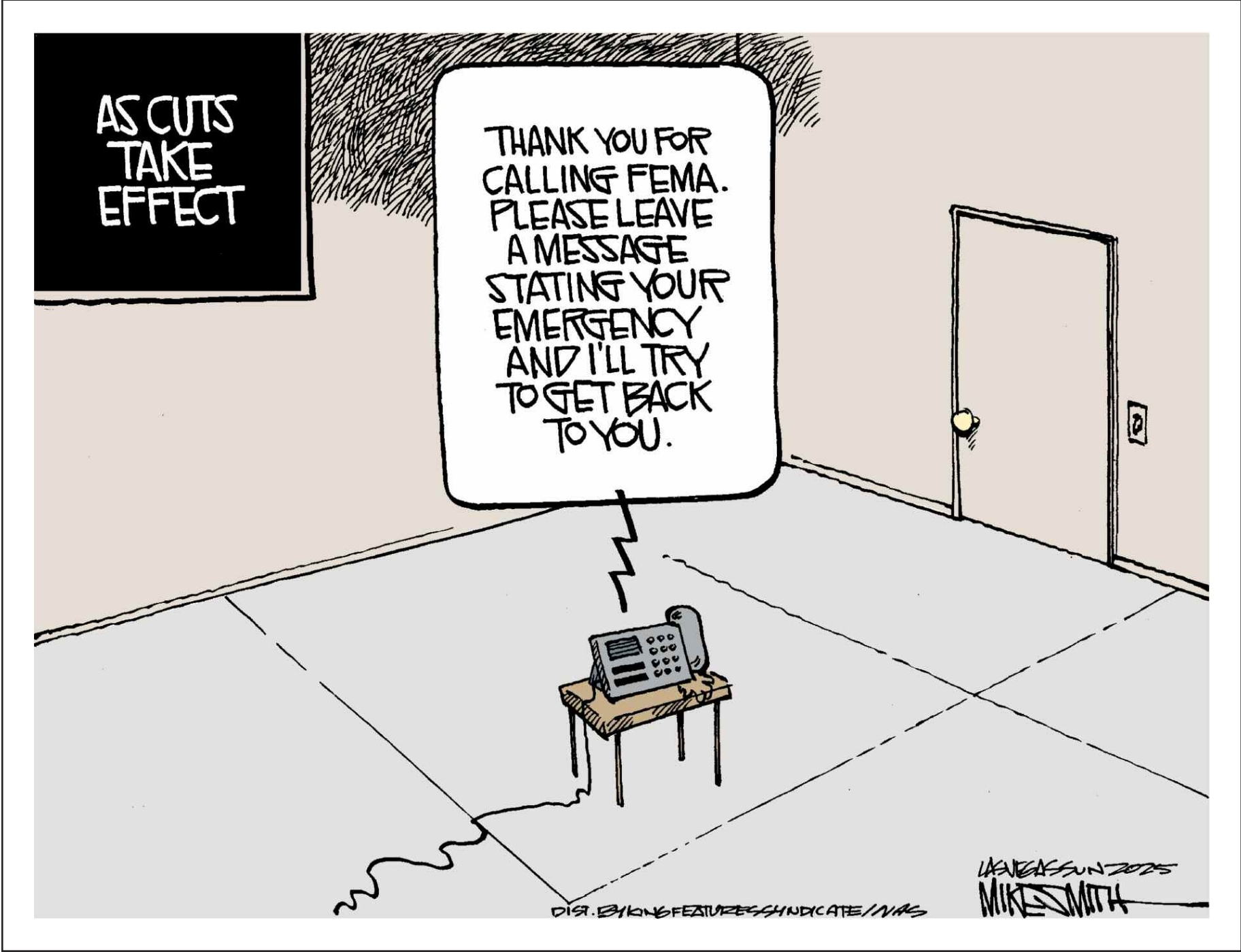
While most children do experience measles as a weeklong annoyance, about a third will experience some kind of complication, and one in 500 will die. Three have died in the U.S. this year.

Third, there are many good reasons to distrust the motives of people and organizations, especially corporations, that benefit from selling their wares to the American public. About this general principle, Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is correct. This is why we have supported some of his initiatives, such as ending the use of some food dyes,

especially in items marketed to children, that have documented risks while providing no nutritional benefit.

Yet these suspicions must be analyzed case-by-case. In the case of the MMR vaccine there is no evidence, nor has there ever been any evidence, that its minor risks — soreness, a touch of fever, very rare allergic reactions — are worse than the diseases it prevents. Any indications to the contrary from Mr. Kennedy, who has sent mixed signals on the vaccine in recent months, are false and dangerous.

Getting vaccinated against measles doesn't just protect oneself: It protects one's entire community, and in a particular way those who can't take the vaccine due to allergies or their own weakened immune systems. There is no good reason for any American to get the measles, and that means every death is a preventable tragedy.



# We have stagflation instead of inflation

**By MICHAEL J. HICKS**

The average American family will pay about \$2,500 more this year because of tariffs. But unlike inflation, your wages won't rise to compensate. That's because tariffs work differently than inflation.

Tariffs cause an increase in the price of goods, both imported and their domestic competitors. But that price increase is not technically inflation — it's worse. Here is what is actually happening.

Inflation is a decline in the value of currency over time. It happens because there is too much currency in circulation. That extra money can enter the economy through a growing deficit, as happened after the 2020 CARES Act, the 2021 American Rescue Plan and — the most inflationary of these — President Trump's Big Beautiful Bill.

Still, tax and spending policy alone cannot cause inflation. The Federal Reserve must also allow too much money growth.

Inflation affects all goods and services, including wages. So,

*Michael J. Hicks*



The good news is that in February, March and April, American imports spiked. In those three months alone, we bought roughly five extra months' worth of goods. Those purchases were clearly intended to beat the tariff deadlines and avoid the extra tax.

That surge of imports meant that many of the goods now on store shelves and being assembled into cars, computers and washing machines were bought before the tariffs. That pre-tariff stockpile has meant that price increases have been relatively low so far.

The bad news is that only \$335 of that \$2,500 family tariff bill has hit so far. The rest is coming as importing firms pass along their costs.

The consumer price index — the main measure of inflation — rose 0.3% in the latest reading. That's modest, but it came as the Federal Reserve was successfully reducing inflation. Prices have stopped falling and are rising again.

These higher prices are solely due to Trump tariffs. They are

poised to worsen substantially as the stockpile of pre-tariff goods are sold by retailers or put onto cars, RVs and other American-made products. The cost of goods sold later this summer, and until tariffs are eliminated, will continue to rise.

This increase in prices and the consumer price index will look, feel and taste just like inflation. Journalists and even economists will call it inflation, but it's not inflation. If it was inflation, we'd eventually see wages rising as well. But higher tariff costs don't lead to higher wages; in fact, the opposite may occur.

The tariffs took the U.S. from 2.4% growth in the fourth quarter of 2024 to -0.5% in the first quarter this year. The economy continues contracting, which will reduce wage growth and maybe even reverse it. So, as prices go up, wages will decline for the average worker.

We import goods to make American workers more productive. Skilled American workers focus on high-value manufacturing while importing cheaper

components from abroad. When tariffs force companies to pay more for imports or make low-value parts themselves, productivity falls. That means lower wages and profits — or more job automation.

In the two months of data since Trump's Liberation Day tariffs were announced, the U.S. has lost 14,000 factory jobs. The slowdown in the economy this year follows a pattern that is nearly a precise example of what economic explanations of tariffs have predicted for a half century.

The price increases due to tariffs are not technically inflation. Economists have a name for rising prices during a weak economy: stagflation. It's what made the 1970s so miserable.

.....

*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



US PS 125820

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus  
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The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to [letters@thecr.com](mailto:letters@thecr.com). They should be 700 words or fewer, signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

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VOLUME 152—NUMBER 59  
THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025

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—Thomas Jefferson

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phone number, services and  
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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  
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**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.  
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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  
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day)  
pastorrobino@gmail.com

**Trinity ArchBridge  
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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  
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(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  
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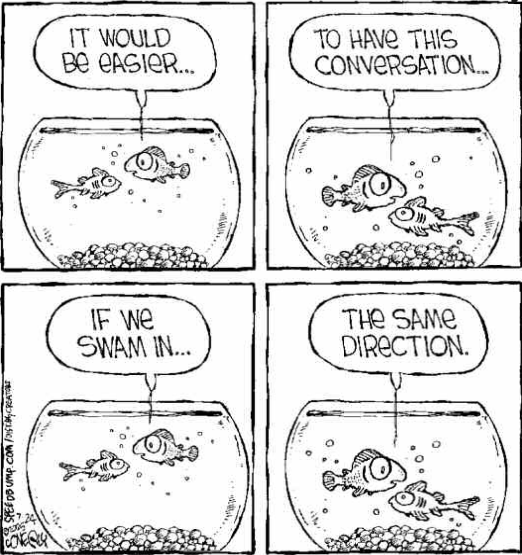
  
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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

**Haste makes waste**

North dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ Q 10 7 2  
♥ 7  
♦ A 8 7 6 3  
♣ K 10 4

**EAST**  
♠ 6 3  
♥ 10 8 5 3 2  
♦ 10  
♣ Q 9 7 6 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ K J 9 8 5  
♥ A K Q J 4  
♦ K 5  
♣ A

The bidding:  
North East South West  
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
3 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass  
5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠

Opening lead — diamond queen.  
When declarer is playing a slam, he should give the assignment a bit more tender, loving care than when he is engaged in, say, trying to make two diamonds. The stakes are, after all, somewhat greater.  
Take this case where South reached six spades as shown and West led the queen of diamonds. Declarer won the trick with the king, and it did not take him long to go down.  
At trick two, he led a spade toward dummy. West alertly rose with the ace and returned a diamond. East ruffled dummy's ace, and that was that.  
South certainly did not give himself the best chance to make the slam. Before playing to the second trick, he should have stopped and asked himself what, if anything, could defeat him. He might then have spotted the potential danger and seen how to guard against it.  
From the outset, it was obvious that the only real threat to the contract was a diamond ruff. This was not a far-fetched possibility, particularly in view of East's play of the ten of diamonds on the opening lead.  
Declarer should therefore have sought a way to avert the potential ruff. This could have been accomplished very easily by adopting a more cautious line of play.  
After taking the opening diamond with the king, South cashes the ace of clubs and ace of hearts. He then ruffs the four of hearts with the spade seven and discards the five of diamonds on the king of clubs.  
Now declarer can safely tackle the trump suit. He drives out the ace of spades and has the rest of the tricks regardless of how the opposing cards are divided.

**Tomorrow:** Test your play.  
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7-24

**CRYPTOQUIP**

TBQPXQO PL OUQUDBP U HLEU  
GXAXGUQGH, PFU CLQO-YXCCUG  
TBGXQO YXDGH XQAUHPUG XQ  
PFU HPLDN EBDNUP.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** WHEN BUYING SHORT SKIRTS AT A CLOTHING OUTLET, MAKE SURE THEY COME WITH A MINI-BACK GUARANTEE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals H

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Skye caps  
5 Select, with "for"  
8 Biblical verb  
12 Writer Wiesel  
13 Swiss canton  
14 Italian money  
15 Verdi heroine  
16 Kayo count  
17 A/C measures  
18 Bee attacks  
20 Sun-glasses  
22 URL suffix  
23 Greek vowel  
24 French cleric  
27 Italian liqueur  
32 Goose egg  
33 King, in Cannes  
34 Time line period

**DOWN**

35 Cooling drink  
38 Aspiring atty.'s exam  
57 Crumb carrier  
58 Begged  
40 Ecol. watch-dog  
42 Rome's — Way  
45 Ladle  
49 Indigent  
50 Ruckus  
52 Ocean motion  
53 Poker type  
54 — Diamond  
55 Gymnast Korburt

**9 Renders obsolete**  
**10 Verifiable**  
**11 "Bonanza" son**  
**19 "Scram!"**  
**21 —**  
**24 Singer**  
**25 Paper**  
**26 Censor**  
**28 Homer's bartender**  
**29 Ventilated**  
**30 La-la**  
**31 Granola morsel**  
**36 Eccentric**  
**37 Alias**  
**38 Portable PC**  
**41 Circle ratio**  
**42 Church section**  
**43 Cookware**  
**44 "The Lion King" lion**  
**46 Tablet**  
**47 Rim**  
**48 Peruse**  
**51 Mafia boss**

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 7-24**

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	31	
32				33				34		
35			36	37				38		
		39				40	41			
42	43			44		45		46	47	48
49				50	51			52		
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# Burglary ...

Continued from page 8

“It was a difficult situation, but we’ve come back here to start over after what happened. It doesn’t feel good. The whole world knows what happened, but these things will get taken care of.”

Marte, 31, said he was in a hotel in Atlanta when he learned there was a break in at his Scottsdale, Ariz., home. The value of the loss was \$400,000.

“You just got to move on,” he said through a translator.

Scottsdale Police confirmed last week it was investigating “a high-dollar residential burglary” the same day as the All-Star Game.

“There are some savages out there that just don’t respect people’s privacy,” Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo said last week during a press conference. “Where he’s at right now, I’ve had limited contact with him. He retreats a little bit when he gets upset.”

Marte’s the latest high-profile athlete to be burglarized, joining Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow and Kansas City Chiefs stars Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce as crime victims.

# Retires ...

Continued from page 8

“Gratitude is the first thing that comes to mind. Just thankful. Thankful for my time there as a Charger.

“Sixteen years ... a lot of my adult life was there in that organization and around all those people and teammates. I’m overwhelmingly thankful more than anything,” he added.

John Spanos, president of football operations for the Chargers, said he and Rivers had discussions in recent years about the former star quarterback retiring as a Charger.

“I think we both knew this day was coming for a few years now, but the key thing that I expressed to Philip was that I wanted the timing to be something he was good with,” Spanos said. “He had to be ready to close that door. He’s such a competitive guy, so I’m sure the possibility

of still playing might have existed for him. From our standpoint, we were going to be good with whatever the timing was. We just wanted the opportunity, whenever that time came, to honor him.”

Rivers, a collegiate star at North Carolina State, was drafted by the New York Giants with the fourth overall pick in the 2004 NFL Draft. However, he was involved in the infamous Eli Manning draft night trade in which Manning was drafted No. 1 by the Chargers, but refused to sign with the organization. The Chargers, then based in San Diego, agreed to trade Manning to New York for Rivers in a draft night trade that changed the course of NFL history.

Rivers holds more than 30 Chargers franchise records, including passing yards (59,271), passing touchdowns (397), passing completions (4,908) and passing attempts

(7,591), according to the release. He also led the Chargers to four consecutive AFC West division titles from 2006-09, a span during which the team posted a 46-18 regular season record.

Rivers ranks sixth in NFL history in passing yards (63,440) and passing touchdowns (421), and eighth in completions (5,277). He also made 224 consecutive starts from 2006-2020, a streak which ranks tied for fourth in NFL history.

“Rivers won’t get mentioned historically in the same breath as peers like Tom Brady or Peyton Manning, but his career will be remembered for his competitiveness, durability and watching the ends of so many late Sunday windows featuring him try to engineer yet another Chargers comeback,” said Dan Labbe, Cleveland Browns reporter for cleveland.com / The Plain Dealer.



Photo provided

# Sweep of Mays

Pictured is the Masonic Lodge baseball team, which swept the regular season and postseason tournament in the Portland Junior League Willie Mays baseball division.

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

**Friday**  
Portland Rockets in NABF Regionals semifinal at Runkle-Miller Field – 7 p.m.

## TV schedule

**Today**  
10 a.m. — Little League softball: Southeast Region (ESPN)  
12 p.m. — Little League softball: New England Region (ESPN)  
1:45 p.m. — Little League softball: Central Region (ESPN)  
3:30 p.m. — Little League softball: Southwest Region (ESPN)  
5:15 p.m. — Little League softball: Northwest Region (ESPN)  
7 p.m. — Little League softball: Mid-Atlantic Region (ESPN)  
7 p.m. — WNBA: Seattle Storm at Chicago Sky (ABC)  
7:45 p.m. — MLB: San Diego Padres at St. Louis Cardinals (FDSN Indiana)

8 p.m. — Copa America Femenina soccer: Ecuador at Argentina (FS1)  
8:45 p.m. — Little League softball: West Region (ESPN)

**Friday**  
6:30 p.m. — Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix (ESPN2)  
8 a.m. — LIV Golf: LIV Golf UK (FS1)  
8:30 a.m. — PGA Tour Champions: The Senior Open (NBC)  
9 a.m. — Tour de France: Albertville - La Plagne (NBC)  
10 a.m. — Little League softball: Southeast Region (ESPN)  
12 p.m. — Little League softball: New England Region (ESPN)  
1 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Brickyard 400 (TRUTV)  
1:45 p.m. — Little League softball: Central Region (ESPN)  
3 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: TSport 200 (FS1)  
3:30 p.m. — Little League softball: Southwest

Region (ESPN)  
5:15 p.m. — Little League softball: Northwest Region (ESPN)  
5:30 p.m. — ARCA Menards Series: Circle City 200 (FS1)  
7 p.m. — Little League softball: Mid-Atlantic Region (ESPN)  
7:10 p.m. — MLB: Tampa Bay Rays at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana); Toronto Blue Jays at Detroit Tigers (FOX)  
8 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: TSport 200 (FS1)  
8:45 p.m. — Little League softball: West Region (ESPN)  
10 p.m. — NHRA: DENSO Sonoma Nationals (FS1)

## Local notes

**Partnership announced**  
Ball State University will be partnering with Indy Eleven to provide free training for youth coaches in Indiana on Aug. 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 is selling super and season tickets.  
To purchase tickets, visit 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 Aug. 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 unitedwayjay-county.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@theocr.com

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## Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY  
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT, SS:  
CAUSE NO. 38C01-2505-MF-000011  
Nationstar Mortgage LLC, Plaintiff,  
vs.

Lydia A. Riojas, et al., Defendants.  
NOTICE OF SUIT SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION  
TO: The Unknown heirs devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Clyde M Barger and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the estate of Clyde M Barger:  
BE IT KNOWN, that Nationstar Mortgage LLC, the above-named Plaintiff, by its attorney, Nicholas M. Smith, has filed in the office of the Clerk of the Jay Circuit Court its Complaint against Defendant The Unknown heirs devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Clyde M Barger and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the estate of Clyde M Barger, and the said Plaintiff having also filed in said Clerk's office the affidavit of a competent person showing that the residence and whereabouts of the Defendant, The Unknown heirs devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Clyde M Barger and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the estate of Clyde M Barger, upon diligent inquiry is unknown, and that said cause of action is for default on the promissory note and to foreclose a mortgage on the following described real estate in Jay County, State of Indiana, to wit:  
Lot Number 73 in Haynes Addition in the City of Portland, Jay County, Indiana.  
commonly known as 727 West Race Street, Portland, IN 47371.  
NOW, THEREFORE, said Defendant is hereby notified of the filing and pendency of said Complaint against them and that unless they appear and answer or otherwise defend thereto within thirty (30) days after the last notice of this action is published, judgment by default may be entered against said Defendant for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated  
Clerk, Jay Circuit Court  
Nicholas M. Smith (31800-15)  
Stephanie A. Reinhart (25071-06)  
J. Dustin Smith (29493-06)  
Chris Wiley (26936-10)  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
MDK LEGAL  
P.O. Box 165028  
Columbus OH 43216-5028  
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# Rich Hill’s historic debut marred by poor defense

**By PETE GRATHOFF**  
The Kansas City Star  
Tribune News Service

CHICAGO — “Seven Nation Army” played in the Royals’ clubhouse before their game Tuesday against the Cubs at Wrigley Field, and the evening’s starting pitcher was enjoying it.

Rich Hill sat at his stall, tapping his toes — which were in socks and shower shoes — in rhythm to the classic White Stripes song. A tune that was released in 2003, one year after Hill was drafted by the Cubs.

It’s little secret the 45-year-old Hill is no spring chicken, but the Royals thought there was still some life left in his left arm and gave him a chance.

And he rewarded their faith

in a game the Royals nonetheless lost, 6-0. The Royals had an uncharacteristically bad night in the field, committing three errors, along with some all-too-familiar struggles at the plate (four singles in eight innings).

Errors by third baseman Nick Loftin and first baseman Salvador Perez in the second inning cost the Royals a chance at a double play, twice. The Cubs got a fortunate bounce on an infield single, too, and scored two unearned runs.

In the fifth inning, the Cubs had a runner on first when Pete Crow-Armstrong hit a laser to right field. Rookie Jac Caglianone got a bad read on the ball and it sailed over his head. Carson Kelly came

around to score to make it 3-0.

Caglianone did show off his strong arm and threw out Crow-Armstrong, who was trying to stretch the hit into a triple.

Hill, who set a record as the oldest player to appear in a game for the Royals, allowed three runs (one earned) on six hits in five innings. He walked two and struck out one, although he did get eight swings and misses in his 90-pitch outing.

Hill’s fastest pitch of the night was a 91.1-mph fastball.

**Missed opportunity**

The Royals trailed 2-0 in the top of the fifth when they loaded the bases with one out.

Unfortunately for the Royals, Kyle Isbel lined out to short-stop Dansby Swanson, who tagged catcher Freddy Fermin for an inning-ending double play.

Chicago scored three in the seventh inning, the last run coming when Kyle Tucker stole home as part of a double steal. The execution on this play also wasn’t great by the Royals’ defense.

The Cubs stole seven bases Tuesday, tying a Royals club record for most steals in a game. They also allowed that many in a 1980 game against the Athletics.

**Royals trade**

The Royals acquired Julio

Rodriguez from the Mariners on Tuesday.

Nah, it wasn’t the Seattle center fielder. This was a minor league deal. This Rodriguez is a catcher, and he will play at Double-A North-west Arkansas. Seattle Sports said the Mariners received cash in return.

This Rodriguez, 28, has a .231 average in 15 minor league games.

**Up next**

The Royals will go for the series win Wednesday afternoon at Wrigley. Right-hander Seth Lugo (6-5) starts for the Royals in the 1:20 p.m. game. The Cubs haven’t announced their starter.



Photos provided

## Sandy Koufax winners

Pictured above is Local 1620, which took first place in both the Portland Junior League Sandy Koufax division during the regular season and the end-of-year tournament. At right are the three players that earned the Most Improved award. From left are Alex Huntsman, David McKee and Antonio Crawford.



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## Ketel Marte lost \$400k in All-Star burglary

**By DAVID MATTHEWS**  
New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

NEW YORK — Arizona Diamondbacks star Ketel Marte said \$400,000 worth of items were stolen during a home break in while he was out of town last week at the All-Star Game in Atlanta.

Marte missed three

games over the week-end while dealing with the burglary before rejoining the team on Sunday and playing in Monday’s loss.

“Happy to be back here to continue doing my job and face what happened,” Marte said in Spanish.

See **Burglary** page 7

## Former Colts QB officially retires

*Philip Rivers played final season in Indianapolis*

**By ZACH MENTZ**  
cleveland.com  
Tribune News Service

Eight-time NFL Pro Bowl quarterback Philip Rivers has officially retired as a member of the Los Angeles Chargers, the franchise he played 16 of his 17 NFL seasons with from 2004-19.

Rivers, who last played one season for the Indianapolis Colts in 2020, announced his retirement in a video posted to social media by the Chargers on Monday.

“I’m Philip Rivers, quarterback, and I’m retiring a Charger,” he said in the video.

“It’s really, in the past handful of years, been my desire [to retire] as a Charger. It was more so the timing,” Rivers, 43, added in a news release from the Chargers.

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