

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Happening city



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins speaks Tuesday night at West Jay Community Center during his State of the City address. He noted various upcoming projects, including creation of detention basins, road paving, sidewalks and new street lights, and said downtown businesses seem to be thriving.

Mayor says Dunkirk is busy with events, business activity and public works projects

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — Things are happening in the city.

That was Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins' message as he presented his State of the City address Tuesday evening at West Jay Community Center.

"There's quite a bit happening," said Robbins, who also asked each of the city's department heads to provide a brief update.

During his time, water department superintendent Dace Mumbower asked for a moment of silence in honor of former

street and parks superintendent Mike Kreps, who died in October.

Robbins ran through a long list of projects, business activity and events in his comments, including an effort to mitigate flooding issues in the city. Chief on the list of projects addressing flooding is the planned creation of detention basins on the east side of the city. They are slated for just west of 3rd Street near the southern city limits and east of Broad Street near Moore Avenue.

The city hopes to receive grant funding through the Indiana

Office of Community and Rural Affairs for the project.

"I think this is going to be the best thing that happens — besides the new lines we're going to put in down there — to slow this water down ... and it won't be backing up," said Robbins.

He noted a variety of other public works projects, including road paving through Indiana Department of Transportation's Community Crossings grant program. Streets set to be paved this summer include the entirety of Broad, Johnson and 5th streets, Ohio Street between

Main and 5th streets, Shatto Street between High and North streets, and High Street between Indiana and Hoover streets. (In a separate project, a new walking trail on the south side of Dunkirk City Park will be paved this year. Plans call for adding additional trails in the parking as funding allows.)

Also scheduled for this year is a long-planned project to install a sidewalk along Highland Avenue between Johnson Street and Speedcat Alley, providing a safe walkway between West Jay Elementary School and the park. See **Happening** page 2

GOP pushing back on bill veto

Huston says plan is to vote to override

By CASEY SMITH and TOM DAVIES
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's governor is facing criticism from fellow Republicans and calls for an override of his veto on legislation banning transgender females from competing in girls school sports, a decision that put him at odds with a conservative cause that has led to similar state laws across the country.

The bill passed by wide margins in the GOP-dominated Indiana Legislature, and the House speaker announced plans Tuesday for a May 24 meeting during which it could override Gov. Eric Holcomb's veto with simple majorities in the House and Senate.

Holcomb signaled support for the bill last month but said in his veto letter Monday that the legislation "falls short" of providing a consistent statewide policy for what he called "fairness in K-12 sports."

Republican sponsors of the bill said it was needed to protect the integrity of female sports and opportunities for girls to gain college athletic scholarships but pointed out no instances in the state of girls being outperformed by transgender athletes.

Republican U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, who is considering a 2024 run for governor, denounced Holcomb's veto on Twitter.

"Girls' sports should be for girls, and allowing biological males to compete with them robs female athletes of a chance to compete and win," Braun's post said. "I'm disappointed Governor Holcomb vetoed a bill to make this law in Indiana, and I support a veto override to protect women's athletics."

Indiana High School Athletic Association commissioner Paul Neidig released a statement Tuesday supporting the veto. See **Veto** page 5

Jackson defends her judicial record

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson forcefully defended her record as a judge Tuesday, pushing back against Republican assertions that she was soft on crime and declaring she would rule as an "independent jurist" if confirmed as the first Black woman on the high court.

In a marathon day and evening of questioning that lasted more than 13 hours, Republicans aggressively pressed Jackson on the sentences she has handed down to sex offenders in her nine years as a federal judge, her advocacy on behalf of terror suspects

at Guantanamo Bay, her thoughts on critical race theory and even her religious views. At one point, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas read from children's books that he said are taught at her teenage daughter's school.

Several GOP senators grilled her on her child pornography sentences, arguing they were lighter than federal guidelines recommend. She said she based the sentences on many factors, not just the guidelines, and said some of the cases had given her nightmares.

Could her rulings have endangered children? "As a mother and a judge," she said, "nothing could be further from the truth."

See **Jackson** page 5



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

McFallen

McDonald's sign lies on the ground outside the business at 618 N. Meridian St., Portland, on Tuesday. Wind gusts reached more than 45 mph around 11 a.m., ultimately tipping over the popular fast food restaurant's renowned arches.

Weather

Rain fell on and off throughout the day Tuesday, with the temperature ranging between 46 and 52 degrees.

Wet conditions are expected to continue with a chance of rain in the forecast every day

through Saturday. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected tonight, with winds gusting to 25 miles per hour and a low of 41.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Need to fill out a birth announcement, engagement or wedding form to have your special event announced in the newspaper? They're now available electronically. Just go to thecr.com, hover over "Forms" and select the form you'd like to fill out.

Coming up

Thursday — An update on the coronavirus pandemic in Jay County.

Saturday — Jay County High School Winter Guard will compete at state finals.



Happening ...

Continued from page 1
Robbins noted that Norfolk Southern Railway is slated to redo railroad crossings at Washington and Broad streets in the city. Plans also call for removing tracks west of Indiana 67. He said he plans to talk with the company about the possibility of removing the viaduct at Angle Street as well. He added that American Electric Power is scheduled to install new LED street lights in the city this spring and that lights will be installed in Quincy Place. Referencing businesses, he noted that the MJS Mortuaries building has been torn down and there are plans to con-

struct a new facility. He also acknowledged that a Dollar General store is coming to the south side of the city and there are plans for the bowling alley to re-open under new ownership. He praised the overall effort to spur business activity in the city. "Uptown, around noon time, it's pretty tough to get a parking places," he said. "The businesses seem to be doing fantastic. It's great to see. It's great to see that Jay County has been getting a lot of stuff they've deserved for a long time." As for activities, Robbins reminded those in attendance that there will be an expanded

spring festival from noon to 4 p.m. April 9 at Dunkirk City Park. The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for 2 p.m. The Dunkirk Park Festival Committee is also working on an even larger Fourth of July celebration — it is scheduled for July 2 — following last year's inaugural event. Department heads hit on the following topics: •Dane Mumbower, the city's police chief, noted recent ordinance changes that provide a path for the city to clean up "nuisance" properties such as those with excessive trash and junk. The police department is currently one officer short of

being full-staff and is working to fill that position. Having a full roster of officers would help with enforcement, Mumbower and Robbins said. "I'm hoping this summer you'll see a difference," Robbins added. •Brad Barger of the street and parks department noted plans to repair potholes, paint curbs, improve truck route signs and install a new liner at other equipment at Dunkirk City Pool. •Water department superintendent Dace Mumbower explained that a GPS system will be implemented to allow easier location of damaged lines and equipment.

•Robert Fields of the fire department said building maintenance is his top priority with new equipment to follow. He also said he'd like to hold safety events twice a year in order to have more community interaction. •Wastewater department superintendent Larry Wright noted that testing is implemented on a continual basis to ensure Indiana Department of Environmental Management guidelines are being met. •Clerk-treasurer Tina Elliott said new computers have been installed and that the city is working on implementing a new, more efficient billing system.

CR almanac

Thursday 3/24	Friday 3/25	Saturday 3/26	Sunday 3/27	Monday 3/28
51/39	51/33	41/26	43/29	50/35
There's a 30% chance of showers after 5 p.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy with wind gusts up to 25 mph.	Another chance of rain after 2 p.m. Friday. Skies will be mostly cloudy.	Rain and snow is possible before noon, with rain also possible in the early afternoon.	Sunday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a low around 29 degrees.	Another day of mostly sunny skies. There's a slight chance of rain and snow at night.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$167 million	Quick Draw: 2-7-9-13-26-28-35-38-39-46-47-53-54-62-68-71-76-77-78-79 Cash 5: 1-3-11-18-28 Estimated jackpot: \$135,000
Mega Millions 8-15-21-27-61 Mega Ball: 8 Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$50 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 9-0-1 Pick 4: 1-0-6-8 Pick 5: 8-1-4-7-1 Evening Pick 3: 6-3-7 Pick 4: 6-7-0-6 Pick 5: 8-7-1-4-3 Rolling Cash: 2-11-23-34-39 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 8-5-0 Daily Four: 3-7-6-4 Quick Draw: 3-4-7-9-13-19-20-22-28-34-39-42-50-57-59-63-66-67-68-69 Evening Daily Three: 2-4-1 Daily Four: 1-5-4-5	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....7.29 April corn7.29 Wheat9.19	Wheat 10.40 April wheat 10.40
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....7.33 April corn7.43 May corn.....7.53	Central States Montpelier Corn.....7.28 April corn7.28 Beans17.04 April beans17.04 Wheat.....10.23
The Andersons Richland Township Corn7.19 April corn7.19 Beans17.09 April beans17.09	Sunrise St. Anthony Corn.....7.22 April corn7.22 Beans16.69 April beans16.72 Wheat.....10.03

Today in history

On March 23, 1919, Benito Mussolini founded his Fascist political movement in Milan, Italy.
In 1775, Patrick Henry delivered an address to the Virginia Provincial Convention in which he is said to have declared, "Give me liberty, or give me death!"
In 1806, explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, having reached the Pacific coast, began their journey back east.
In 1933, the German Reichstag adopted the Enabling Act, which effectively granted Adolf Hitler dictatorial powers.
In 1942, the first Japanese-Americans evacuated by the U.S. Army during World War II arrived at the internment camp in Manzanar, California.
In 1965, America's first two-person space mission took place as Gemini 3 blasted off with astronauts Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom and John W. Young aboard for a nearly 5-hour flight.
In 1972, Portland Park Board approved a plan designed to raise funds for development of the city's parks and recreation facilities.
In 1981, the U.S. Supreme Court, in H.L. v. Matheson, ruled that states could require, with some exceptions, parental notification when teenage girls seek abortions.
In 1993, scientists announced they'd found the renegade gene that causes Huntington's disease.

Citizen's calendar

Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building 131 S. Main St.	
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Deeds

Cindy S. and Paul L. Weitzel to Paul L. Weitzel Revocable Living Trust and Cindy Weitzel Revocable Living Trust, quit claim deed — Lots 28 and 30 and part of Lot 29, Hanlin Addition
Cindy S. and Paul L. Weitzel to Paul L. Weitzel Revocable Living Trust and Cindy Weitzel Revocable Living Trust, quit claim deed — Part of Section 21, Wayne Township, 0.34 acres
Daniel L. McCowan (deceased) and Phyllis McCowan to Phyllis McCowan, death deed — Lots 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and part of lots 10, 11 and 12, Cadwallader and Edger Addition
Allison Bell Affolder to Brian Bell, quit claim deed — Lots 3 and 4, Block 6, East Addition
Robert Armstrong (also known as Bobby Armstrong) and Sarah Pritchard to WIP 2 and Steve Wendel, deed affidavit — Lot 40, Baker Addition
Nelson V. Lee to WIP 2 and Steve Wendel, deed affidavit — Lot 40, Baker Addition
WIP 2 to Karen R. and Rocky A. Gibson, warranty deed — Lot 40, Baker Addition
Laci B., Ryan M. and Vicki J. Smitley to Peyton Parks, warranty deed — Part of Lots 69 and 70, Haynes Addition
Luke Moles to himself and Mekayla Nichols, quit claim deed — Lot 20, Block 37, original plat of Dunkirk
Kia A. Baughn to herself and

Casey A. Baughn, quit claim deed — Part of Lots 1 and 2, McLaughlin Addition
Clyde F. and Ruth E. Rogers to Clyde F. Rogers, quit claim deed — Part of Lot 4, Block 8, Wilsons Addition
Angela K. Jetmore to herself and Kirk A. Jetmore, quit claim deed — Outlots 12 and 30 in Baker Addition
Aaron D. Inman and Kristy L. Inman to Kristy L. Inman, quit claim deed — Section 13, Jefferson Township
Lester J. and Velma M. Dirksen to Kevin M. and Sharon A. Nieport, warranty deed — Part of Section 13, Pike Township, 9.71 acres
John W. Hiestand and Mary V. Hiestand (deceased) to Ginger Englehardt, deed affidavit — Part of Section 20, Bearcreek Township, 0.73 acres
John and Norma J. Peterson to Judith A. Miller Trust, warranty deed — Part of Lots 172 and 173, Westview Addition of Dunkirk
Sheila Brown to Judith A. Miller Trust, warranty deed — Part of Lots 172 and 173, Westview Addition of Dunkirk
Floyd H. Bergman Trust to John E. Bruggeman Revocable Trust and Madonna J. Bruggeman Revocable Trust, quit claim deed — Part of Section 10, Noble Township 0.52 acres
M. Joan Bergman Trust to John E. Bruggeman Revocable Trust and Madonna J. Bruggeman Revocable

Trust, quit claim deed — Part of Section 10, Noble Township
Kevin Rhodehamel (deceased) and Linda Rhodehamel to Samantha J. Rhodehamel, quit claim deed — Part of Section 4, Jefferson Township, 0.971 acres
Zane Shawver to Joe Goodhew, warranty deed — Section 4, Wabash Township
Richard A. Whitesell (deceased) and Nancy Whitesell (deceased) to Richard D. and Susanne J. McConnell, personal representative deed — Lots 3 and 4, Thomas Addition
Donald D. Johnson II to Bradley A. and Jennifer R. Barnett, warranty deed — Part of Lots 7, 10, 11 and 12, Block 13, original plat of Portland
Richard D. Joy (deceased) and Lola V. Joy to Janet S. and John T. Cain, warranty deed — Lot 9, Hughs Addition
Derek R. Fox to Ethan Bruggeman, warranty deed — Part of Section 8, Noble Township, 3.18 acres
Elizabeth E. and Henry L. Harshman to Brooke L. and Spencer J. Patterson, warranty deed — Part of Section 10, Greene Township, 2.92 acres
Jeffrey D. and Jill A. Knisely to Leeward Renewable Energy, easement — Part of Section 28, Knox Township, about 10 acres
Homan Preservation Trust to Bart J. and Karen Homan, trustee deed — Parts of Section 11, Noble Township, 50 acres; Parts of Section 2, Noble Township, 60 acres

Felony arrests

Mischief, entry
A Portland man was arrested Tuesday for criminal mischief and residential entry.
Jake D. Boolman, 22, 1610 E. Division Road, was preliminarily charged with two Level 6 felonies.
He was released from Jay County Jail on a \$3,000 bond.
Obstruction
A Ridgeville man was arrested this morning for obstruction of justice.
Austin A. Moore, 26, 205 E. 4th St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony, along with a Class A misdemeanor for resisting law enforcement and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.
He's being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

Resisting law
A Portland resident was arrested this morning for resisting law enforcement and other felony charges.
Kamran R. Miller, 19, 4639 E. 700 South, was preliminarily charged with three Level 6 felonies for criminal recklessness, unlawful possession of a syringe and resisting law enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor for resisting law enforcement and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.
Miller is being held in Jay County Jail on a \$4,500 bond.

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Aunt fears for her nieces

DEAR ABBY: I'm concerned for my sister and her three young daughters. She has been married to "Rick" for 10 years. After she recently discovered he has inappropriate feelings toward children, she kicked him out of their home.

Rick has gotten counseling and therapy and tells her it's no longer an issue. CPS got involved, so he isn't allowed to be alone with his daughters. My sister allowed him back in their home with the understanding he wouldn't be alone with the girls. She now realizes he still has a problem, and she's considering divorce to keep them safe.

I'm concerned because she is conflicted. She thinks he'll get better after more intense therapy, but I'm afraid this is his way of not losing access to his girls. I think she should cut all ties to keep her daughters safe. What can I do to help my sister make the better choice for her and her daughters, who are under the age of 10? — WORRIED SISTER IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR WORRIED SISTER: As long as your sister's children are minors, their mother must protect them, and that includes ensuring they are not alone with their father. Their safety must be paramount. She doesn't appear to realize how difficult pedophilia is to

Dear Abby



treat. That's why it's important for her to talk with a mental health professional and CPS. Her first allegiance must be to her vulnerable girls, who may need therapy themselves at this point.

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend, "Amy," who I've known since third grade. We both came from difficult family situations, and because of those tough early years, we formed a close bond. We are more like sisters than friends. Over the past few years, Amy (who always struggled with weight) has put on more than 100 pounds.

We live far apart and, although she mentioned "a weight gain," it wasn't until we video-chatted and she was modeling a new outfit that I realized she has become morbidly obese. When my mother went through menopause, like Amy, she gained significant weight. Like Amy, Mom avoided exercise and healthy food. My mother died of a massive heart attack at 57.

I'm scared I'm going to lose my friend. She's pre-diabetic with a host of weight-related health problems. But weight is something that culturally we aren't allowed to talk about, and it's something she's sensitive about because her parents constantly harped on her about her weight, even when she was only a few pounds overweight in her teens.

Do I say something and hurt/offend my friend? Is it none of my business? I love her and I don't want to lose her. What do I do? — TORN UP

DEAR TORN UP: I assume that because you and Amy have been friends since childhood, she knows what caused your mother's early death. If you talk to her ONCE about your concern, and explain that you are worried about losing her, I can't see how it would "offend" her. Because she is pre-diabetic, I would hope that she is being monitored by her doctor.

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

Our life on earth is a brief 'visit'

By KWAME DAWES

Each line in "Visitors" is a gift for meditation that is accessible.

In the end we arrive at the conclusion that Joan Naviyuk Kane is seeking to articulate in symbolic language an understanding of the fleeting nature of our brief "visit" to the earth as humans.

The comic tragedy is that we are here for a while, and yet we are here forever when we pass on our rituals of survival to the next generation. There is,

American Life in Poetry

though, a warning at the end of the poem. Often, she says, there are forces — small in spirit in the face of the grand generosity of an open door — that seek to bar our entry. We grow weary, and must be wary of such forces.

Visitors

Every door stands an open door: our human settlements all temporary.

We share together the incidental shore and teach the young to tend the lamp's wick,

weary of anyone small enough to bar our entry.

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'Rising Tide' coming to Muncie

A theatrical performance on global sustainability is coming to Muncie.

Robert Davies and the Fry Street Quartet will be performing "Rising Tide: The Crossroads Project" at Emens Auditorium on Ball State University campus at 7:30 p.m. March 31.

Live music, visual art and compelling science are incorporated into

the free performance, according to a press release from Emens Auditorium.

"Merging intellectual with visceral, and understanding with belief, the performance weaves together a chorus of artistic and scientific voices responding to one of society's greatest challenges. Rising Tide: The

Crossroads Project offers a profound meditation on the choices before us, the paths they forge, and the dramatically different landscapes to which they lead," the press release says.

Tickets are available at Emens Auditorium box office, 1800 W. Riverside Ave., or by calling (765) 285-1539.

Community Calendar

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

Wednesday

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.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

STRESS AND ANXIETY CLASS — Meets each Wednesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S.

Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-9625 or (260) 703-0534.

Thursday

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — 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.

PORTLAND ALUMNI — Will meet at 6 p.m. in Jay County Public Library for its 2022 organizational meeting. Honor classes include 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967 and 1972, and honor representatives

should be present. All are welcome to attend.

PTSD SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 6 p.m. every Thursday at the Portland American Legion Post, 211 W. Walnut 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.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Thursday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

MISSISSINEWA CHAPTER, NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 24, at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Marilyn Bye Bulmahn will present a program about her Patriot ancestor George Ensminger. The meeting is open to any woman 18 or older who has an interest in joining. For more information, contact, Kathy Selman at (260) 251-1694 or Sue Sommers at (260) 726-2678.

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.

Monday

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

BRYANT AREA COMMUNITY CENTER — Walking from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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.

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.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 5:30 p.m., with the meeting at 6 p.m., in the fellowship hall at Evangelical Methodist Church, 930 W. Main St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5312.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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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Path comes down to 'wait and see'

By JACK RONALD

The News and Sun

I have cancer. There, I said it. Specifically, I have cancer of the liver, caused — at least in part — by “mild abuse of alcohol” over my adult years.

Not too many years ago, that diagnosis would have given doctors little choice but to tell the patient to go home and get his or her affairs in order.

But today there are options for treatment.

And when there are options for treatment, there is hope going forward.

A couple of my best friends are cancer survivors, and

Back in the Saddle



they're quick to remind me that the notion of a “cancer survivor” didn't exist when we were growing up. They're also quick to remind me that it's important to emphasize the positive as my family and I deal with this new reality.

So I'm getting good counsel. I'm also getting great care.

When this popped up — very suddenly — early this month, Dr. Frank Vormohr took one look at my test results and initial CAT scan and stepped on the accelerator. I was checked into IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie the same afternoon and spent a dizzying six days of tests and procedures.

Back home now, I've met with my oncologist, Dr. Mark Pajeau, and gone over the options. I'll have my first immunotherapy infusion the day after this column runs in The Commercial Review.

So what happens to this column? That's a good question.

Much depends upon how I feel after treatments and how well I can focus.

Writing a weekly column like this for more than 25 years requires time to reflect, to daydream, to stare out the window, to wool-gather a bit and to reminisce.

All of those are hard to do when there's one big challenge watching me from the shadows.

Surviving cancer is work, hard work. And that requires pretty intense dedication at times. I've resolved to be the best patient imaginable, the most positive possible, simply because that's the course of

action likely to lead to the best result.

So I'll try to keep the column going. But I'm going to try hard not to write about the cancer. Better writers have already done that. The “woe is me” stuff won't be found here.

Some weeks, I expect Ray Cooney will have to dig through the archives to fill the space on this page. Other times I hope to resume my regular stride.

Like so much of the path that lies ahead, it's going to have to come down to “let's wait and see.”

If that's good enough for you, reader, it's good enough for me.

Be honest about reason for prices

The Washington Post

U.S. gas prices are up nearly \$1.50 from a year ago. Americans are feeling the pinch and looking for someone to blame. At the top of the list should be Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Since his brutal invasion of Ukraine, gas prices surged almost 80 cents — accounting for more than half of the increase.

The second biggest driver of high gas prices is rebounding demand as the U.S. economy recovers from the deadly pandemic. The increase of roughly 70 cents that occurred before Putin's invasion is largely due to people venturing out again for travel, work and school, and the surge in truckers crisscrossing the nation to move goods. Though President Joe Biden's hefty stimulus package added somewhat to inflation, the reopening effect was far larger. But predictably, especially given that this is an election year with control of both houses in the balance, Republican politicians are blaming Biden for pain at the pump. Stickers are popping up on gas pumps with a photo of Biden and the words “I did that.”

The reality is, presidents have little influence on gas prices. Oil trades in a global market. Drilling in the United States is done by private companies, not the government. Americans also have other priorities right now, including doing what they can to tip the balance in Ukraine against the aggressors. Poll after poll shows the vast majority support cutting off Russian oil imports, even if it means prices go up.

So what can be done to lower gas prices? The biggest help would be more oil supply coming to the world market from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Iran or Venezuela. There are already efforts to make this happen. U.S. oil production also appears to be rising, spurred by higher oil prices. And there are signs the global economy, especially China, is slowing, meaning less demand for oil.

Biden could release more oil from Strategic Petroleum Reserve, but it would have minimal impact. Cutting gas taxes, another idea that politicians turn to when

Guest Editorial

The reality is, presidents have little influence on gas prices. Oil trades in a global market. Drilling in the United States is done by private companies, not the government.

oil prices are rising, would be a mistake. It would likely cause a surge in gas purchases and a loss of revenue for road repairs, as well as bring more profit for oil companies, which would likely raise gas prices a bit. Biden is also berating businesses for price gouging. But it has long been true that gas prices have a tendency to rise much faster than they fall, and presidential tweets are unlikely to change that.

A better step Biden could take is to work with Congress to pass aid for lower-income families if gas prices remain high. This could have a double benefit of offsetting higher costs and encouraging households to use less energy so they can keep any leftover money.

With gasoline prices at historically high levels, Americans are demanding relief. Any solution should begin with some honesty from their leaders about what — and who — is to blame, as well as an acknowledgment of the fact that many of the forces currently driving costs upward are simply beyond anyone's control.



Job becomes our identity

By BUD HERRON

The Republic (Columbus)

I feel Tom Brady's pain.

I don't mean the pain his 44-year-old body must feel after spending 22 years being chased and hammered by huge men trying to knock him down and steal his football.

I mean the pain he obviously must feel being chased and hammered by Father Time, a relentless linebacker intent on knocking him down and stealing his on-field identity.

After all, since the day in 1991 when he was named backup quarterback for Junipero Serra High School in San Mateo, California, Brady has been football and football has been Brady.

With retirement — even though he will remain widely regarded as the greatest quarterback of all time — that regard will be in the record books but no longer on the playing field.

Retirement means coping with changing the verb in one's identity from “is” to “was.” Being Tom Brady in the stands is not the same as being Tom Brady on the field.

For at least the past two years, Brady has publicly struggled with changing that verb. Finally, in February he announced his retirement. Then on March 13 he changed his mind, saying he would return as quarterback for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for yet another season.

“These past two months I've realized my place is still on the field, not in the stands,” he told the world on his various social media accounts.

Why would a middle-aged man make such a decision — play one

Bud Herron



more season in a game that can leave even a player half his age debilitated for life? At this point in his multi-million dollar career, the reason cannot be fear of going on public assistance.

What he likely fears losing is the on-field identity that has defined who he is all his adult life. When a job that has defined him is gone, who is he?

Our parents usually start the process of telling us who we are. Then friends tell us, teachers tell us and, finally, our employers tell us. We generally believe the definition, and — if we are not careful and reflective — eventually become no more than the title listed in our personnel file or the position inscribed on our business cards.

That's why I feel Tom Brady's pain. I too have gone through the adjustment to retirement.

Although my life's identity as a small duck in a tiny pond cannot compare with Brady's time as a Killer Whale on the high seas, we both know the pain.

When I chose to retire from a decade of preparing to be a journalist followed by four decades of doing what I had prepared to do, I came home with no business cards to tell people who I was.

When I met people for the first time, they always began the conversation by asking me, “What do

you do?” That was code for “who are you?” and, for the first time in more than 40 years, I had no card in my pocket with an imprinted title to give them (or me) either answer.

My temptation, at first, was to answer, “nothing and nobody.”

After a few months of discomfort, however, I saw enough humor in my lack of identity to have my own business cards printed. They just gave my phone number and listed me as “Bud Herron, Protagonist” — the main character in my own personal drama.

The cards signified I had been duped by life's process. The titles I had been given in the company files and on my business cards really didn't define me at all. Actually, they locked me inside someone else's box.

Today, I am happier and feel more free to be myself than at any other time in my life. I have found other interests and abilities and places where I can feel fulfilled as a citizen of the world.

I no longer need that business card to tell me who I am and why I exist.

I hope Tom Brady gets to that point.

Brady undoubtedly can find other identities to free him, reward him and give him places to make the world a better place, without having to look in the mirror for the name on the back of his football jersey.

.....

Bud Herron is a retired editor and newspaper publisher who lives in Columbus. He served as publisher of The Republic from 1998 to 2007.

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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) 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.

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VOLUME 149-NUMBER 229
WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 23, 2022

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Jackson ...

Continued from page 1
In what Judiciary Committee Chairman Dick Durbin, D-Ill., described as “a trial by ordeal,” Jackson attempted to answer GOP concerns and also highlight the empathetic style on the bench that she has frequently described. The committee’s Republicans, several of whom have their eyes on the presidency, tried to brand her — and Democrats in general — as soft on crime, an emerging theme in GOP midterm election campaigns.

Jackson told the committee that her brother and two uncles served as police officers, and that “crime and the effect on the community, and the need for law enforcement — those are not abstract concepts or political slogans to me.”

Tuesday’s hearing was the first of two days of questioning after Jackson and the 22 members of the panel gave opening statements on Monday. On Thursday, the committee will hear from legal experts before an eventual vote to move her nomination to the Senate floor.

President Joe Biden chose Jackson in February, fulfilling a campaign pledge to nominate a Black woman to the Supreme Court for the first time in American history. She would take the seat of Justice Stephen Breyer, who announced in January that he would retire after 28 years on the court. Jackson would be the third Black justice, after Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Thomas, and the sixth woman.

Barring unexpected developments, Democrats who control the Senate by the slimmest of margins hope to wrap up Jackson’s confirmation before Easter, though Breyer is not leaving until the current session ends this summer.

She said the potential to be the first Black woman on the court is “extremely meaningful” and that



Washington Post/Jabin Botsford

Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson testifies Tuesday on the second day of her confirmation hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill.

she had received many letters from young girls. Jackson, who grew up in Miami, noted that she had not had to attend racially segregated public schools as her own parents did, “and the fact that we had come that far was to me a testament to the hope and the promise of this country.”

Her nomination also “supports public confidence in the judiciary,” Jackson said.

Democrats have been full of praise for Biden’s Supreme Court nominee, noting that she would not only be the first Black woman but also the first public defender on the court, and first with experience representing indigent criminal defendants since Justice Marshall.

Republicans praised that experience, too, but also questioned it, focusing in particular on work she did roughly 15 years ago representing Guantanamo Bay detainees. Jackson said public defenders don’t pick their clients and are “standing up for the constitutional value of representation.” She said she continued to represent one client in private practice because her firm happened to be assigned his case.

Picking up on a thread started by Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley and amplified by the Republican National Committee in fundraising emails, Cruz questioned Jackson on her sentences for child pornographers, at one point bringing out a large poster

board and circling sentences he said he found egregious.

Jackson defended her decisions by saying she takes into account not only sentencing guidelines but also the stories of the victims, the nature of the offenses and the defendants’ histories.

“A judge is not playing a numbers game,” she said. “A judge is looking at all of these different factors.”

The White House has rejected the criticism as “toxic and weakly presented misinformation.” And sentencing expert Douglas Berman, an Ohio State law professor, wrote on his blog that while Jackson’s record shows she is skeptical of the range of prison

terms recommended for child pornography cases, “so too were prosecutors in the majority of her cases and so too are district judges nationwide.”

Cruz, Hawley and Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton are potential 2024 presidential candidates, and their rounds of questioning were some of the most combative, hitting on issues that are popular with the GOP base. Cruz asked her about critical race theory, a premise that centers on the idea that racism is systemic in the nation’s institutions. Jackson said the idea doesn’t come up in her work as a judge, and it “wouldn’t be something I would rely on” if confirmed.

The Texas senator also questioned her about her daughter’s private school in Washington, where she sits on the board, bringing up a book called “Antiracist Baby” he said was taught to younger children at the school.

“Do you agree with this book that is being taught for kids that babies are racist?” Cruz asked.

Visibly annoyed, Jackson took a long pause. She said no children should be made to feel they are racists, victims or oppressors. “I don’t believe in any of that,” she said.

Cotton asked whether there should be more police or fewer, a question she declined to answer, and questioned her on drug sentencing.

Jackson also bristled at questions from South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, who voted for her confirmation as an appeals court judge last year but has openly expressed his frustration after President Joe Biden picked her over a South Carolina judge. Graham asked her about her religion, and how often she goes to church, angrily noting what he said was unfair criticism of Justice Amy Coney Barrett’s Catholicism ahead of her 2020 confirmation.

Veto ...

Continued from page 1
“Protecting the integrity of girls sports is a worthy cause,” he said. “That said, the specific language included in HB1041 does not adequately address all of the issues at hand. ...

“Throughout the legislative process, I publicly expressed reservations with the proposed legislation only addressing a single gender and the grievance procedure. The Association appreciates the Governor’s perspective in recognizing the IHSAA’s gender policy, which was originally written in 2006 and updated in 2017. ... Through Governor Holcomb’s veto, this policy continues to allow the flexibility to assess competitive advantage in each unique case.”

Eleven other Republican-led states have adopted such laws, which political observers describe as a classic “wedge issue” to motivate conservative supporters, after governors in Iowa and South Dakota signed bans in recent weeks.

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem’s hopes for a 2024 Republican presidential run took a hit last year when she killed a bill banning transgender girls and women from competing in school sports that match their gender identity. Noem pushed a ban through the Legislature this year, promoting her proposal with a barrage of TV ads on Fox News that claimed she “never backed down” on the issue.

Republican Indiana House Speaker Todd Huston said GOP lawmakers will vote to override Holcomb’s veto and put the ban into law.

“This issue continues to be in the national spotlight and for good reason as women have worked hard for equal opportunities on the playing field — and that’s exactly what they deserve,” Huston said.

Holcomb’s office didn’t immediately reply Tuesday to requests for additional comment, leaving it unclear whether he would work to convince legislators to uphold his decision.

Other prominent Indiana Republicans called for an override vote, including state Attorney Gener-

al Todd Rokita, who had a top deputy testify at legislative hearings in support of the bill while Holcomb stayed out of the debate that saw hundreds of opponents attending Statehouse rallies.

“We stand by the law and will vigorously defend it in court if and hopefully when the General Assembly overrides the veto,” Rokita said on Twitter.

The bill’s opponents argued it was a bigoted response to a problem that doesn’t exist, with the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana saying it planned a lawsuit against what it called “hateful legislation.”

Federal judges have halted enforcement of such laws in Idaho and West Virginia, while the U.S. Justice Department has challenged bans in other states as violations of federal law.

Holcomb pointed in his veto letter to the Indiana High School Athletic Association, which has a policy covering transgender students wanting to play sports that match their gender identity and has said it has had no transgender girls finalize a request to play on a girls team.

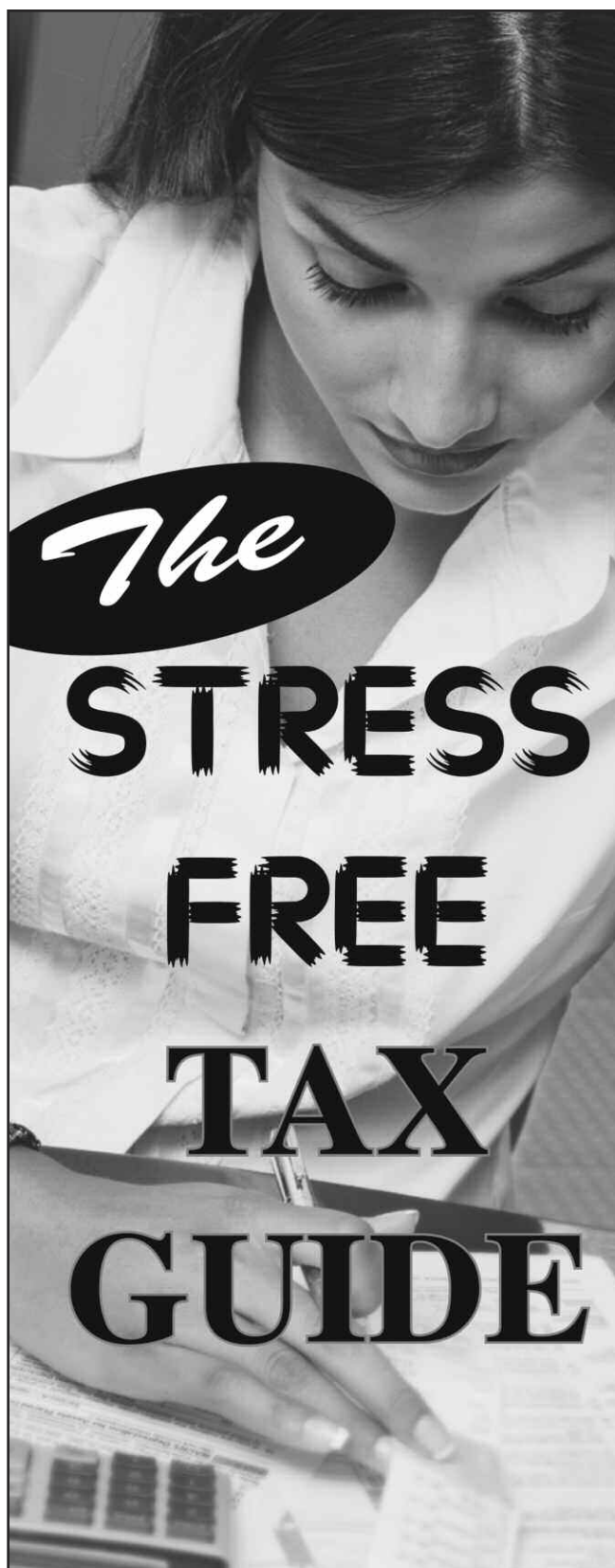
But Holcomb isn’t alone among GOP governors in his veto decision.

North Dakota lawmakers failed last year to override Gov. Doug Burgum’s veto in which he argued that the state had no instances of transgender athletes trying to play on girls teams.

Utah Gov. Spencer Cox Tuesday vetoed a similar ban approved by that state’s Legislature after he had been working to broker a compromise between LGBTQ advocates and social conservatives.

Utah lawmakers said convene on Friday to further consider the bill and discuss overriding the veto, which would require support from two-thirds of legislators.

“I struggle to understand so much of it and the science is conflicting. When in doubt however, I always try to err on the side of kindness, mercy and compassion,” Cox wrote in a letter to Utah legislative leaders.



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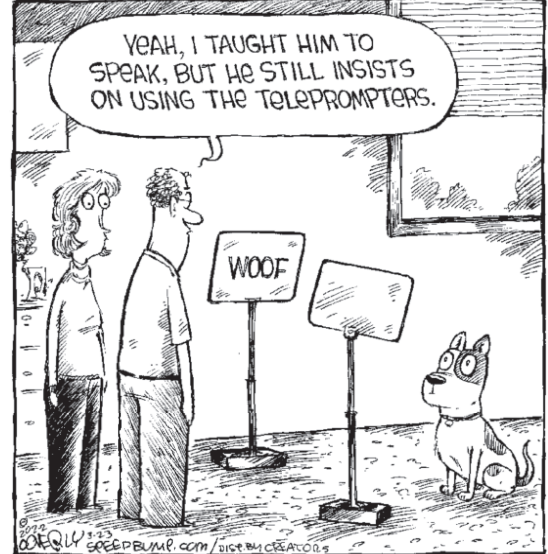
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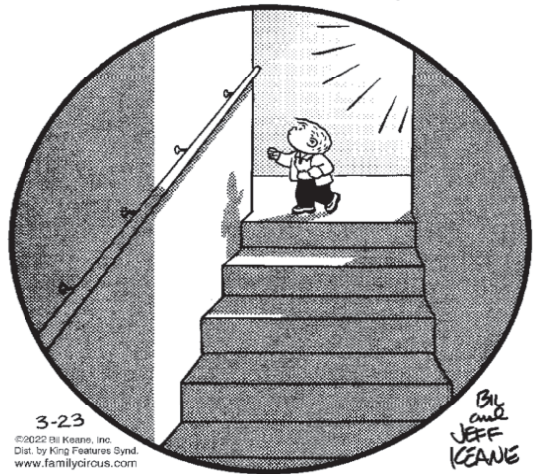
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"Be sure to hold on to the railing, Jeffy!"

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Doing what comes unnaturally

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: J2, J105, AK9853, A4. WEST: K1083, K96, 106, Q1053. EAST: Q96, Q83, J742, J92. SOUTH: A754, A742, Q, K876. The bidding: North 1, East Pass, South 1, West Pass, North 2, East Pass, South 3NT. Opening lead — three of spades. Occasionally, the correct play is missed by declarer because there is a natural aversion to doing it. For this reason, declarer must make every effort to keep an open mind, regardless of how pat a particular situation may seem to be. Take this case where South was in three notrump and West led a spade. Declarer played the jack from dummy and allowed East's queen to hold. The next spade was likewise refused, and a third spade was taken by the ace. South now cashed the queen of diamonds, led a club to the ace and played the A-K of diamonds. But when the suit failed to divide 3-3, declarer was finished. The only tricks he could muster were his seven top winners, so he finished down two. Declarer erred by banking everything on an even split of the missing diamonds, about a 36% proposition. This approach made him a nearly 2-1 underdog. South could have nearly doubled his chances by making the seemingly unnatural play of overtaking the queen of diamonds with the king and cashing the ace. When West's ten appears, the nine is conceded to the jack, assuring declarer of nine tricks. This line of play is far better than the one South actually adopted. It not only makes the contract when the diamonds divide 3-3, but also whenever the suit breaks 4-2 and the player with the doubleton has either 10-x or J-x. Since with six cards missing, the doubleton ten or jack will be dealt to one defender or the other 29 times in 100, declarer can thus elevate his chances of bringing in five diamond tricks to about 65%, making him almost a 2-1 favorite to score at least nine tricks.

Tomorrow: Seeing is believing. ©2022 King Features Syndicate Inc.

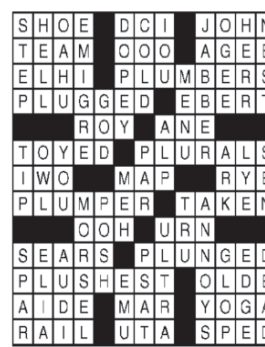
3-23 CRYPTOQUIP

TVXY E CLXUOZGH EKXLOREY
UORX CLXHONXYP OH NEYROYA,
O EHHGKX VX TOJJ XKCJZB
EJ AZLX LVBPVKH.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU PLACED SOME BABY-CALMING ITEMS INTO CATEGORIES, YOU COULD BE A PACIFIER CLASSIFIER.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals S

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

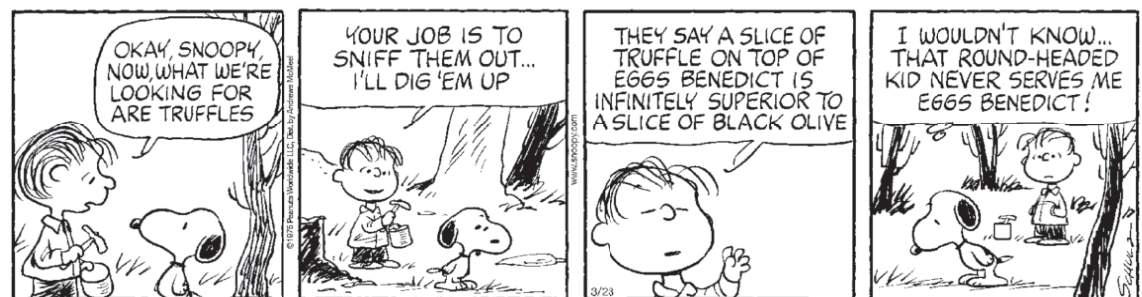
- ACROSS: 26 Battleship color, 27 Lawn material, 28 Little dents, 29 Nations Links, 30 Un-emotional, 31 Poet's muse, 32 Paris art museum, 33 Birthday card from the boss, 34 say penser, 35 Boxer's dream, 36 — de France, 37 Corrals, 38 Unpaid TV ads, 39 Gulf off of Libya, 40 Everglades wader, 41 Sicilian spouter. DOWN: 10 Clean air org., 11 thief's worry, 12 Automating, 13 short, 14 Kid's Rebel, 15 Handheld organizer, 16 Coral reef, 17 Snoop, 18 Pub seating, 19 Add as a member, 20 Thus fuel container, 21 Guin-ness Book, 22 Garden figurine, 23 Abu —, 24 Journalist Gwen, 25 Trattoria offering, 26 Jubilation, 27 Entirely, 28 Casual talk, 29 B'rith.

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 3-23

Peanuts



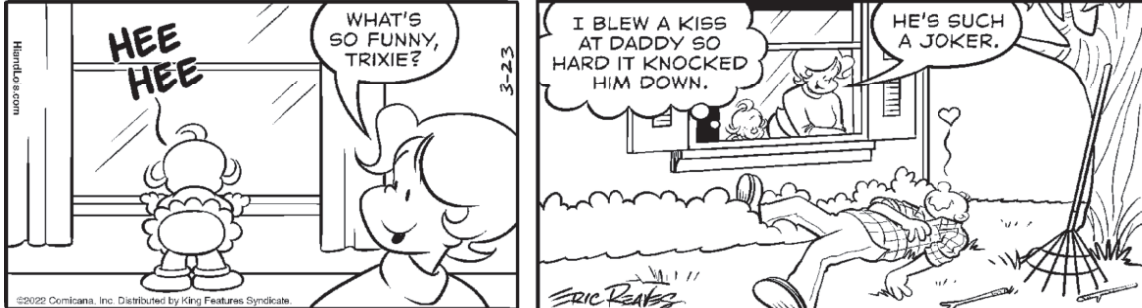
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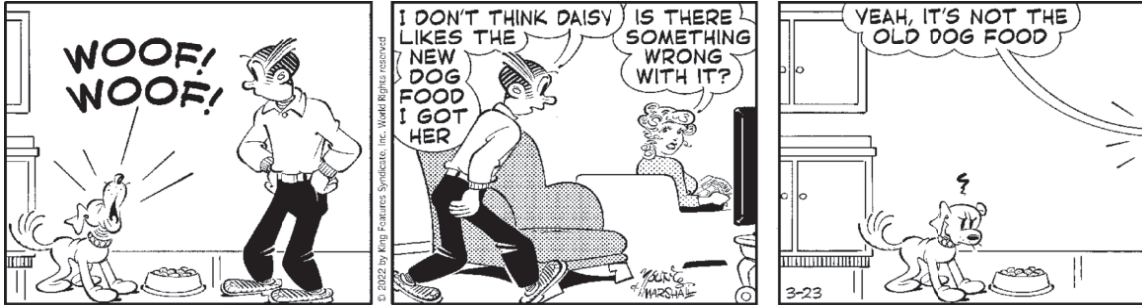
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Sports

World No. 1 Barty retires

By DENNIS PASSA
AP Sports Writer

BRISBANE, Australia — Ash Barty did things on her own terms as she won three Grand Slam singles titles and spent more than two consecutive years at No. 1 in the women's tennis rankings.

She retired on her own terms, too. At the age of 25, just two months after winning the Australian Open title.

The announcement stunned the tennis world on Wednesday.

"I just know at the moment, in my heart, for me as a person, this is right," Barty said, her voice shaky at times, during a six-minute video posted on her Instagram account Wednesday in Australia.

Saying it was time to "chase other dreams," Barty, who announced her engagement to trainee golf professional Garry Kissick in November, said she no longer feels compelled to do what she knows is required to be the best she can be at tennis.

"It's the first time I've actually said it out loud and, yeah, it's hard to say," Barty said during an informal interview with her former doubles partner, Casey Dellacqua. "I don't have the physical drive, the emotional want and everything it takes to challenge yourself at the very top level any more. I am spent."

See **Barty** page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Tagged at third

Sam Myers of Jay County High School puts on a tag during a game of 21 Outs at practice last week. Myers and the Patriots open their season April 7 at Elwood.

Bieber avoids arbitration

GOODYEAR, Ariz. (AP) — Cleveland Guardians ace Shane Bieber avoided salary arbitration when he agreed to a \$6 million, one-year contract on Tuesday.

Bieber's deal completed a day in which Cleveland signed all seven of its arbitration-eligible players: Bieber, shortstop Amed Rosario (\$4.95 million), slugger Franmil Reyes (\$4.55 million), catcher Austin Hedges (\$4 million), starter Cal Quantrill (\$2.51 million), and outfielders

Bradley Zimmer (\$1.3 million) and Josh Naylor (\$1.2 million).

Bieber made \$679,700 last season, when he was sidelined for three months with a strained shoulder muscle. The 2020 AL Cy Young Award winner has said he's open to signing a long-term deal with the Guardians.

Team president Chris Antonetti has indicated the Guardians could have talks with Bieber about a new contract.

Ryan eager for fresh start

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

Matt Ryan was ready for a change and Indianapolis seemed like the perfect place to make a title run.

The 14-year NFL veteran and 2016 league MVP left Atlanta and arrived at his new team complex Tuesday, hoping to become the third straight veteran quarterback to win a Super Bowl in his first season with a new team.

"Yeah, it looks really good what Matthew Stafford did in Los Angeles last year, making that transition work so well, and what Tom (Brady) did, I saw that first-hand in the division the year before," Ryan said. "I hope we can ride that

Former NFL MVP officially arrived in Indianapolis

trend that's been going on and make it work for us."

The Colts certainly believe he can after giving up a third-round pick, No. 82 overall, to acquire Ryan on Monday.

They're also hoping the four-time Pro Bowler who led Atlanta to its second Super Bowl appearance following the 2016 season can stabilize a position that's been in a state of flux.

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