

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Mom arrested

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

A Portland woman has been arrested in connection with the death of her 5-year-old son last week.

Chelsea L. Crossland, 27, was arrested following a Department of Child Services court hearing Monday at Jay County Courthouse. As police officers handcuffed her on the third floor of the courthouse, Crossland looked at another woman who left the courtroom prior to her and said, "They think I molested him."

She was preliminarily charged Monday morning with a Level 1 felony for neglect of a dependent

### Woman faces charges in connection to son's death

resulting in death and a Level 1 felony for child molestation. She's being held on a \$100,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Portland Police Department responded at 10:46 p.m. Thursday to Crossland's home at 689 S. Western Avenue, where they found her son, Christian, deceased.

An autopsy was performed Friday morning. The child had no underlying health issues, according to Jay County Coroner Michael Brewster. He declined to share more information on the autopsy or case until Indiana State Police are finished with the investigation.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Chelsea L. Crossland, 27, is escorted out of Jay County Courthouse by Portland police officer Michael Brewster and investigator Jeff Hopkins on Monday. She was arrested in connection to the death of her 5-year-old son.



Photo provided

## Tenth at state

Jay County High School Winter Guard competed Saturday at the Indiana High School Color Guard Association Station Finals at Center Grove. The group finished 10th in Regional A Class with a score of 79.38. NorthWood was ninth at 79.61 while Franklin Central placed 11th with 76.35. Snider won the state championship with 87.36 points ahead of Monrovia (85.62) and Carroll (85.24). Pictured, front row from left, are Skylynn Powell, Isaiah Weekley, Ralyn Chaffins and Audrey Hummer. Back row are Allie Jellison, Avery Wentz, Sophia Hoevel, Madi Schweigel and Chloe Ruiz.

## Site created to HELP engage public

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

A new website, custom post cards and other plans are in the works to get the community ready to HELP.

The "landing page" website offering information about the county and Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program goes live Wednesday.

Jay County Commissioners heard plans Monday from Travis Richards and Christy Shauer of Jay County Development Corporation for engaging the community in the HELP process.

Jay County has been allotted just under \$4 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds. It's also participating in HELP, a year-long planning process for how to spend its federal dollars that may result in an additional \$1 million from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA).

Part of the planning process includes community engagement. Four committees will be formed for each of the program pathways — advancing e-connectivity, enhancing quality of life, promoting community wellness and strengthening the local economy.

In order to bring more members of the public into the process, Shauer and Richards have been working on a few avenues to engage the community. One of those components, a website for both local citizens and prospective residents and businesses, goes live Wednesday.

The "landing page" offers information about the county and links to other Jay County websites, making it a reliable source for those looking to visit, work or move to the county, explained Richards. It also includes a page answering common questions about the HELP process.

"The interesting side of it, when you engage the public, they have absolutely no idea what you can and can't do with ARP funds," said Richards.

One goal of the website, jayregion.com, is to be a resource for those looking to learn more or get involved.

See Site page 2

## Candidates discuss key issues

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Early voting begins next week.

Republicans are gearing up after a debate Monday.

Jay County Republicans heard from candidates running in the May

primary Monday in the Bulp Exhibition Hall at Jay County Fairgrounds.

Republicans Brittany Kloer of Portland and J.D. Prescott of Union City faced off in a debate regarding issues involving the state legislature.

Prescott, who repre-

sents the southern two-thirds of the county in District 33, defeated Kloer in the 2020 primary.

"I do seek re-election for the simple fact that I want to continue to work on the key principles that I've been focused on inside (as a person elect-

ed to the General Assembly, to continue to build a better future for both our kids and the next generation," said Prescott, who works as a real estate agent and also helps on his family farm.

"I'm ready to be your District 33 state represen-

tative because I want to continue serving our communities and act as a true representation of the people," said Kloer, Kloer, a former Jay County High School teacher who now works in career and technical education.

See Candidates page 5

## February unemployment was 2.4%

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

Jay County is right in the middle.

Indiana Department of Workforce Development estimates released Monday put Jay County in the middle of the state's 92 counties with its unemployment rate of 2.4% in February.

Jay County was one of 10 in the state tied at 2.4%, joining Clark, Fountain, Morgan, Noble, Putnam, Randolph, Spencer, Tipton and Wabash counties.

The local rate was up 0.4 percentage points from a month ago, but it was still down 1.3 percentage points from last year.

Unemployment continues to be historically low as it came in below 2.5% for the sixth consecutive month. (The rate of 2.1% in October it was the lowest on record on the Indiana Department of Workforce Development website, which has statistics back to 1990. It then

dropped to 1.2% by December before increasing each of the last two months.)

The state rate has been

below 3% for six months in a row.

LaGrange County posted the lowest unemployment rate in the state for the third straight month as it came in at 1.6%. Boone, Elkhart and Hamilton counties were next at 1.7%. See Unemployment page 2

### Deaths

Maxine Shawver, 86, Portland  
Beth Smith, 37, Fortville  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a low temperature of 19 degrees early Monday. The high was 34.

Windy conditions are expected tonight through Thursday, with winds gusting to 40 miles per hour. There is a chance of rain beginning late tonight.

See page 2 for an extended forecast.

### 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

Wednesday — A look at candidates for the May primary election.

Friday — Results from the Fort Recovery softball team's game against South Adams.



# Obituaries

## Maxine Shawver

April 20, 1935-March 27, 2022  
Maxine D. Shawver, age 86, of Portland passed away Sunday, March 27, 2022, at her daughter's residence.

She was born on April 20, 1935, in Elkfork, Kentucky, the daughter of Coy and Mary (Cantrell) Dulin. She was married to Russell Shawver and he preceded her in death. She had worked at Jay Garment for 30 years and also at Loblolly Truck Stop. Max-

ine enjoyed cooking, gardening, canning, classic country music and watching TV.

Surviving are one son, Robert L. Shawver of Portland; one daughter, Michelle Cline (husband: Bryan) of Portland; one stepson, Steve Shawver of Portland; one brother, Bill Dulin of Portland; four sisters, Dolly Gambill (husband: Hearl) of



Shawver

Decatur, Jean Hinkledire of Decatur; Peggy Miller (husband: Bob) of Hartford City and Linda Tonnellier (husband: David) of Decatur; two stepsisters, Barb and Loraine; six grandchildren, Kris Cline, Kayla Cline, Jessie Shawver, Shaun Shawver, Angie Ash and Doug Muhlenkamp; and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by five sisters; one brother; and stepdaughter Linda Muhlenkamp.

Funeral services will be

Thursday, March 31, 2022, at 3 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Hugh Kelly presiding. Burial will follow in the Salamonina Cemetery. Visitation will be Thursday from 1 to 3 p.m.

Memorials can be made to Jay County Cancer Society or Stillwater Hospice.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

**Beth Smith**, Fortville, Aug. 5, 1984-March 23, 2022. Services

will be at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

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

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

# CR almanac

Wednesday 3/30	Thursday 3/31	Friday 4/1	Saturday 4/2	Sunday 4/3
<b>73/44</b>	<b>52/32</b>	<b>47/30</b>	<b>52/36</b>	<b>52/35</b>
There is a 30% chance of showers Wednesday, with wind gusts reaching as high as 40 mph.	Rain is likely again Thursday, with wind gusts reaching as high as 35 mph.	Mostly cloudy skies are on the horizon for Thursday, with a low around 32.	Saturday has a 30% chance of showers after 2 p.m. Otherwise, partly sunny.	Partly sunny skies are expected Sunday. The low may dip to 35.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Monday 11-18-39-58-62 Powerball: 3 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$206 million	51-56-62-64-69-80 Cash 5: 4-28-32-38-45 Estimated jackpot: \$202,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$60 million	<b>Ohio</b> Monday Midday Pick 3: 2-4-8 Pick 4: 2-5-4-1 Pick 5: 3-0-5-2-8 Evening Pick 3: 7-0-8 Pick 4: 7-9-7-9 Pick 5: 9-7-5-9-2 Rolling Cash 5: 1-2-4-29-35 Estimated jackpot: \$160,000 Classic Lotto: 9-24-27-32-46-48 Kicker: 2-9-1-5-5-1 Jackpot: \$24.6 million
<b>Hoosier</b> Monday Midday Daily Three: 2-4-2 Daily Four: 9-4-3-2 Evening Daily Three: 5-2-7 Daily Four: 6-2-7-9 Quick Draw: 2-5-8-14-15-16-18-21-22-24-39-40-47-48-	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....6.99 April corn.....7.04 Wheat.....8.10	Wheat.....9.20 April wheat.....9.20
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....7.08 April corn.....7.08 May corn.....7.13	<b>Central States Montpelier</b> Corn.....6.86 April corn.....6.86 Beans.....16.18 April beans.....16.18 Wheat.....9.17
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn.....6.70 April corn.....6.70 Beans.....16.17 April beans.....16.17	<b>Sunrise St. Anthony</b> Corn.....6.84 April corn.....6.84 Beans.....15.82 April beans.....15.82 March wheat.....9.05

## Today in history

**On March 29, 2004,** President George W. Bush welcomed seven former Soviet-bloc nations (Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Latvia and Estonia) into NATO during a White House ceremony.

**In 1861,** President Abraham Lincoln ordered plans for a relief expedition to sail to South Carolina's Fort Sumter, which was still in the hands of Union forces despite repeated demands by the Confederacy that it be turned over.

**In 1867,** Britain's Parliament passed, and Queen Victoria signed, the British North America Act creating the Dominion of Canada, which came into being the following July.

**In 1943,** World War II rationing of meat, fats and cheese began, limiting consumers to store purchases of an average of about two pounds a

week for beef, pork, lamb and mutton using a coupon system.

**In 1951,** Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted in New York of conspiracy to commit espionage for the Soviet Union.

**In 1971,** Army Lt. William L. Calley Jr. was convicted of murdering 22 Vietnamese civilians in the 1968 My Lai massacre. (Calley ended up serving three years under house arrest.) A jury in Los Angeles recommended the death penalty for Charles Manson and three female followers for the 1969 Tate-La Bianca murders. (The sentences were commuted when the California state Supreme Court struck down the death penalty in 1972.)

**In 1972,** James Arthur DeWeerd, A Methodist Evangelist who had spoken all over the country, died at his Pennville home at the age of 55.

—AP and The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Today</b> 5 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.	City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
<b>Monday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Portland	

# Law sets virtual learning rules

By MITCHELL KIRK

Daily Reporter (Greenfield)

**HANCOCK COUNTY** — Schools are studying up on a new state law setting requirements for a practice they've grown more and more familiar with over the past couple years — virtual learning.

The bill, authored by Robert Behning, R-Indianapolis, addresses multiple education matters, including two kinds of virtual instruction: synchronous and asynchronous.

Synchronous instruction consists

of a teacher using a computer or similar device to teach a class with students viewing and participating via devices remotely.

During asynchronous instruction, students take part by themselves in schoolwork their teachers make available to them online.

Gov. Eric Holcomb signed the bill into law earlier this month. The legislation states that during a virtual school day, schools must deliver teacher-directed synchronous instruction for at least half of the

instructional day, and the other half can be asynchronous learning.

Schools may, however, conduct up to three virtual instructional days each school year that don't meet those requirements. Anything over that may not count toward meeting a total 180-day school year.

The law also allows schools to request a waiver from the Indiana Department of Education to include a virtual day outside of the requirements if conducted "because of extraordinary circumstances."

# Site ...

Continued from page 2

Another plan for engaging more residents is to send out post cards designed by a local artist. The cost is paid for using funds from a grant from Indiana Arts Commission. Richards added that there is money remaining from the grant to use in a creative way to engage the public, such as offering live entertainment.

Community members will also be invited to a forum in June to share their input.

Also Monday, commissioners selected a \$206,663 quote from B and H Buildings of West Lebanon to construct a new salt storage structure for Jay County Highway Department. Hopes are to pay for the building using American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

Highway superintendent Donnie Corn explained at a commissioners meeting March 14 the current storage building is collapsing. The proposed new structure would be approximately 65 feet wide and 84 feet long.

Commissioner Chad Aker suggested the project could be paid for using American Rescue Plan Act funds. Commissioners agreed to award the contract to B and H Buildings — the decision is subject to putting together a contract with the company — and

look into possibly using federal dollars for the project.

Commissioner Rex Journay also requested Corn put together a plan in the future to construct a larger building for trucks and other equipment in order to cut down on maintenance costs.

In other business, commissioners Brian McGalliard, Aker and Journay:

- Read a letter from Deb Gillespie about the Cruis'n the HoliJay Lights at the Fairgrounds event. The group averaged about \$5.50 in freewill donations per car, with more than 3,000 cars visiting total. Commissioners expressed concern about the funds raised going into Jay County Fairground's general account instead of a separate account specifically meant for the event. (Commissioners originally designated \$50,000 for the lights last year in hopes its funds raised would be used to better the event each year.) They agreed to invite the committee to a future meeting to discuss the details.
- Heard Jay County Country Living (formerly known as Jay County Retirement Center) is up-to-date on its payments from current residents, according to McGalliard.
- Approved a three-year extension on a service agreement with Stryker

of Michigan. The company provides maintenance to Jay County Emergency Medical Service heart monitors. The county will pay \$18,360 over three years.

- Planned an executive session at 2 p.m. Friday to interview applicants for director of Jay County Emergency Management Agency position.

- OK'd Jay County Community Corrections to apply for a \$268,000 state grant. (The annual grant funds the department.)

- Appointed Sharon Ross to Pennville Library Board. Her term will end Dec. 31.

- OK'd Jay County Treasurer's Office to purchase four new cash registers for \$1,000 per request from the state.

- Approved a water retention plan from CB Development. The company is planning a condominium development at the southwest corner of Indiana 67 and county road 75 South.

- Heard from rural Portland resident Phil Bailey about a damaged tile on his property at 1875 W. 200 South, which has led to flooding issues. Bailey requested the county pay to fix it. (County officials previously offered to cover part of the cost, but not the whole amount because it is not designated as a county drain.)

# Felony arrests

## Confinement

A Portland man was arrested Sunday for confinement and other felony charges.

Eric A. Shultz, 39, 1237 N. U.S. 27 Lot 118, was preliminarily charged with a Level 4 felony for possession of methamphetamine, a Level

6 felony for domestic battery and a Level 6 felony for confinement.

He's being held without bond in Jay County Jail.

# Unemployment ...

Continued from page 1  
Lake County had the highest unemployment rate in Indiana for the third consecutive month at 5%. Howard County was next at 4.2%, and every other county was below 4%.  
Area rates are as follows:

Adams County: 1.8%, up 0.1 percentage points, t-fifth lowest  
Blackford County: 3%, up 0.6 percentage point, t-15th highest  
Delaware County: 3%, up 0.4 percentage points, t-15th highest

Jay County: 2.4%, up 0.4 percentage points, t-40th lowest  
Randolph County: 2.4%, up 0.3 percentage points, t-40th lowest  
Wells County: 2.1%, up 0.3 percentage points, t-15th lowest

# Capsule Reports

## Deer hit

Deer caused two accidents in Jay County during the weekend.

Hunter E. Ballard, 19, Portland, was driving west on Indiana 26 just east of county road 300 East about 8:53 p.m. Friday when a deer entered the road. Ballard wasn't able to avoid hitting the animal with his 2010 GMC Terrain, causing between \$2,500 and \$5,000 in estimated damage.

Shawn M. Vaughn, 37, Bluffton, was driving west on county road 400 South just east of Boundary Pike about 8:43 p.m. Saturday when a deer ran in front of the 2005 Honda Pilot he was driving. He wasn't able to avoid the collision, causing between \$2,500 and \$5,000 in estimated damage. The vehicle he was driving is registered to Amanda H. Lehrman of Bluffton.

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**SERVICES**

**Today**

**Squier**, Teresa: 6 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

**Wednesday**

**Smith**, Beth: 3 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

**Thursday**

**Shawver**, Maxine: 3 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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# Family helped take care of stranger

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

How many times do you make a memory that you are sure your children will remember for the rest of their lives? For me, that memory is of my mom and her husband dancing in the kitchen on St. Patrick's Day. It was early in their marriage and I cherish that time. They were never that happy again.

I am hoping that my daughter and her hubby have created such a memory for their kids. They were in line waiting to go into what they refer to as a rodeo or a carnival. We went with them once. It was like several county

## As I See It



fairs put together with a rodeo thrown in for good measure.

They were about halfway through the long line to get in when they heard someone calling for a medic because their father was having a medical emergency. Beth's husband, Duston, softly said, "Don't do it. Don't do it." He is an Emergency Medical Technician, EMT for short. My

daughter is a registered nurse. She left Duston and the kids to wait in line while she went over to see if she could help. A guy was doing chest compressions on a man lying on the ground. The son frantically said, "He's my dad. He's my dad."

Beth took over from him and assessed the man as best she could. She told the son to give his dad two forceful breaths when she told him to. He was apprehensive but he did it. She unbuttoned his father's shirt. At some point another lady came to help. I am not sure if she was a nurse or not. Beth asked her to stop for a second so she could see

if the patient's heart could function on its own. It couldn't.

Beth asked if there was a defibrillator around. There was a lot of confusion in the crowd but they finally found one. Beth told the lady helping to stand clear of the patient because she was about to shock him and the lady would also get zapped. She never did get clear enough as her leg was touching the patient. Beth finally zapped the man but it didn't do any good. The other lady was lucky that she felt nothing.

Beth yelled for Duston. He and the kids came on over. She said it had been

a long time since the two of them had worked on a patient together.

That is the memory I want those kids to have. I want them to remember their parents doing what they could for a stranger.

It was about a half an hour before the ambulance arrived to take the man and his son to the hospital.

I congratulated her on saving a life. She informed me that she had saved two lives that day. It seems that a little girl in line had fallen and scraped her knee. The child wouldn't stop crying until Beth asked the mom if a bandage would help. She offered bandag-

es with a Spiderman design or a different cartoon character design. As soon as the bandage was applied, the child stopped crying.

The first man wasn't expected to live but I am so proud of my daughter for doing what she could. In any crowd there is the expectation that somebody else will step in when needed. Plus there is the fear that if there is an adverse reaction that the patient or family will sue. Most people don't want to get involved.

I am proud of my family for stepping up to help. I am glad that they did their best to try to save a stranger.

# Good deed for daughter turns into disaster

DEAR ABBY: I have a daughter who married a less-than-capable provider because she was pregnant. She's sloppy, hasn't seen a dentist in five years, barely keeps her room clean and is very overweight. She lives with us now because she decided, finally, to go back to school.

We let her live in an apartment we own, and it became so full of roaches — because they didn't clean their dishes or floors — that we left it "as-is." We are afraid to buy anything for them to live in again, because they have no regard for their things, their child's things or any place they live. What should we do when she finally gets a job, if that happens? Do we move her someplace and let her mess it up? Must we take care of everything? — RAISING A CHILD-ADULT

## Dear Abby



DEAR RAISING: It's a hopeful sign that your daughter has finally decided to return to school. However, from your description, she may be severely depressed and need to be seen by a doctor. That she would raise a baby in a filthy roach-infested dwelling has me concerned about her ability to function as a parent.

Be a little more patient with your daughter and encourage her to follow

through with her schooling. If the apartment still belongs to you, have it professionally cleaned and permit her to stay in it AS LONG AS IT IS KEPT CLEAN ENOUGH THAT THE BABY CAN SAFELY LIVE THERE.

Once she graduates and finds employment, give her enough money for a down payment or a deposit on an apartment. Look after your grandchild while she's working if her husband is incapable of doing it, which likely will be the case. Most important, make sure your grandchild is properly cared for.

DEAR ABBY: When I was in high school, I stopped going by my short nickname and began going by my more formal given

name. Everyone has been respectful, except my significant other.

When he met me 20 years ago, the change had already occurred. Yet he continues to call me by the nickname. He does it whenever he talks about me to others, and it often leads to my being in a social situation and having to correct people.

When I have tried to impress upon him how important this is to me, he says I am being "trivial."

Abby, it is my NAME, and I think I have the right to be called what I want. I consider his refusal to understand how I feel a sign of disrespect. Am I wrong? — CALL ME BY MY NAME

DEAR CALL: No, you are not wrong. Your significant other should have made

more of an effort to call you by your preferred name 20 years ago. Had he done that, by now it would have become habit. Correct him every time he uses the wrong name, whether it's in private or in public.

For many people, this would not be a deal-breaker. However, because it is for you, it may be time to consider replacing him with someone who wants to help you be the person you want to be, rather than put a stumbling block in your way.

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](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

# Community Calendar

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

## Today

THE LANDING — A 12-step program for those in sixth through 12th grade will meet at 5:55 p.m. each Tuesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 703-0777 or (260) 726-5273.

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E.

High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

## 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 at Harmony Cafe, 121 N. Meridian St.

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 - BRANNA'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

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 - BRANNA'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.

## Friday

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk. SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone

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

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will meet at noon Friday, April 1, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

## Saturday

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

# Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

## Saturday's Solution

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

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

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# Braun's remarks are embarrassing

To the editor:  
"Braun walks back marriage remarks: Indiana Senator says he misunderstood the question."

## Letters to the Editor

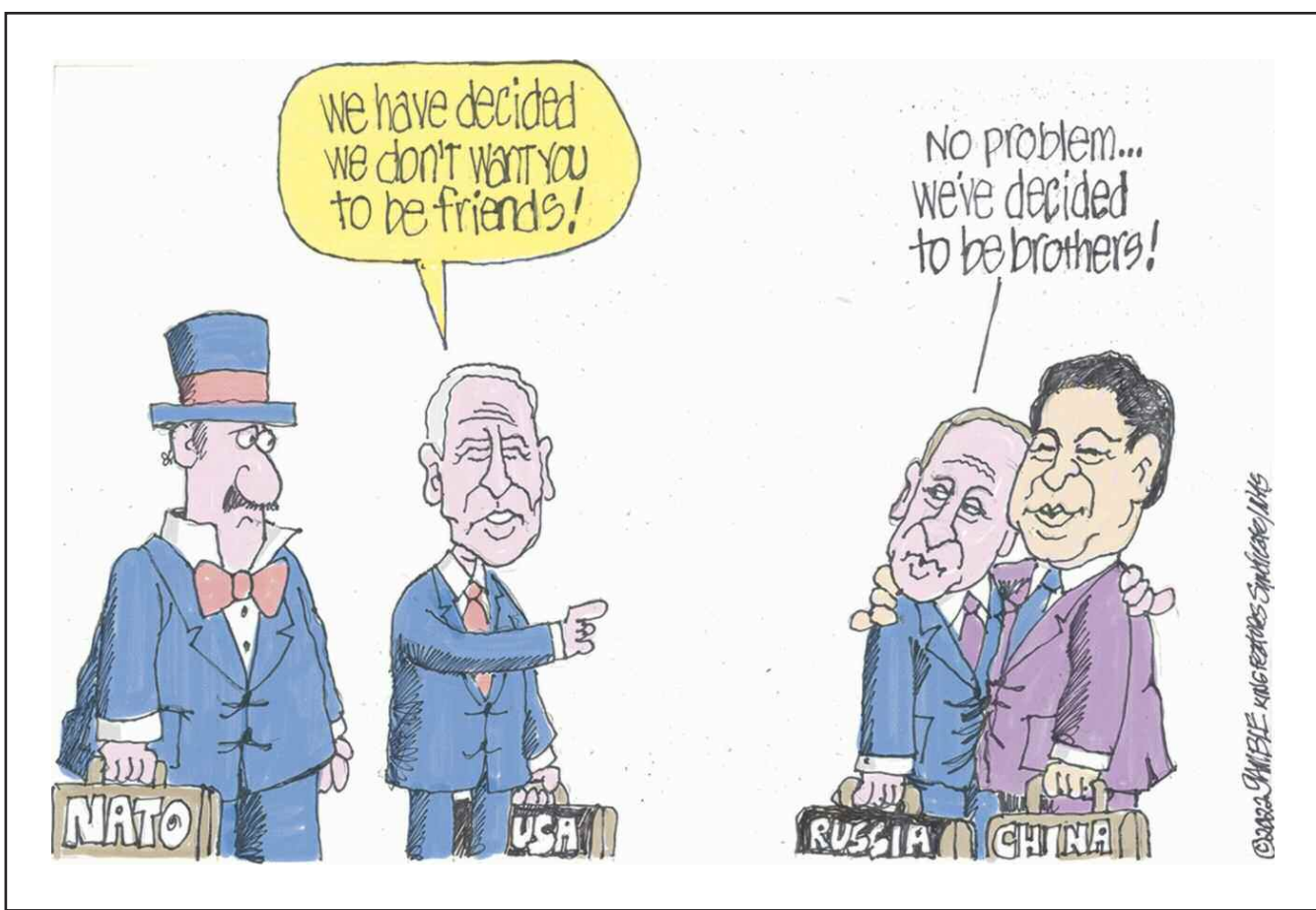
When I quit laughing, a couple of thoughts came to mind: Braun failed to comprehend the English language or he said what he really thought completely unfiltered.

Which left me to ponder the following: When one inserts their foot into their oral orifice, do they first remove their shoe and sock? Which foot, right or left, is inserted? What if the person is ambidextrous? Once the selected appendage is properly placed, do they then do the hokey-pokey and shake it all about?

It seems to me that it would be difficult on just one leg.

I am not going to dignify with comments, some of the, in my opinion, stupid remarks Braun made. I, personally, am embarrassed to have someone like Braun representing the state.

Lastly: Mr. Braun; "It is better to be thought a fool than to open one's mouth and remove all doubt."  
Michael Kinser  
Portland



# Understanding goes a long way

By PAUL WALDMAN

The Washington Post

There is no question that the Republican Party sees benefit in stirring up fear about the existence of transgender Americans.

Targeting transgender children and teenagers in particular with maximal hostility and cruelty has become a way for Republican politicians to signal that they are hardcore, that no one is going to get to their right.

Witness Texas targeting the parents of trans kids for investigation as potential perpetrators of "child abuse," or Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., demanding that Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson define the word "woman," and segueing into a rant about a transgender swimmer.

Which is why it was so extraordinary when Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, a mainstream conservative Republican, on Tuesday vetoed a bill meant to stop transgender kids from participating in school sports.

What truly distinguished Cox's actions wasn't the veto itself, which came after the Republican governor of Indiana vetoed a similar bill. It was the letter Cox released explaining his veto, which did something I don't believe I've seen any Republican do since the party launched its moral panic over transgenderism a few years ago.

What did Cox do? He showed consideration for transgender kids themselves.

It's a simple thing, but it illuminates the void in all the GOP scare rhetoric over this issue. Republicans constantly talk about parents' "rights" not to have their kids taught that transgender people exist, or the supposed threat to the sanctity of the school bathroom, or the idea that a battalion of "biological males" is about to rampage over girls' sports at every level.

Just as their critical race theory panic is all about the supposedly fragile feelings of White kids who might become "uncomfortable" if they read about racism, their focus is anywhere but on trans kids themselves.

Cox's letter goes into detail about the bill's legislative, legal and financial implications, and mentions the case of Lia Thomas, the transgender University of Pennsylvania swimmer who has become a kind of hate totem for the right.

Thomas's success has been held up by innumerable conservatives as evidence of the danger transgender women pose to other women athletes. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, always on

Paul Waldman



the lookout for culture war venom to pour into the political debate, even made an official proclamation declaring the Florida resident who came in second to Thomas the "rightful winner" of the NCAA contest Thomas won. Blackburn asked Jackson to say "what message" Thomas's victory "sends to girls who aspire to compete" in sports.

But Thomas is an extraordinary exception. A small portion of Americans are trans. A small portion of that small portion are interested in school sports when they're young. And a microscopic portion of that small portion will be good enough to compete at an elite level. It isn't hard to come up with rules to deal with that tiny number of elite trans athletes.

The NCAA already has them, including a requirement that a trans woman must have completed one year of testosterone suppression treatment and show a testosterone level below a defined standard. If anyone thinks those are the wrong requirements, they can debate that and perhaps they'll be adjusted. As Cox points out, the state of Utah has similar rules for high school athletes.

But he also observes that there are just four trans kids playing school sports in the entire state of Utah, and only one is a trans girl.

Cox compares that to the 86% of trans youths reporting suicidality and the 56% who say they've attempted suicide according to one study (other studies show similar results). He writes:

"Four kids and only one of them playing girls sports. That's what all of this is about. Four kids who aren't dominating or winning trophies or taking scholarships. Four kids who are just trying to find some friends and feel like they are a part of something. Four kids trying to get through each day. Rarely has so much fear and anger been directed at so few. I don't understand what they are going through or why they feel the way they do. But I want them to live."

How often have you heard a Republican say something like that? Heard them express understanding and sympathy

*'Rarely has so much fear and anger been directed at so few. I don't understand what they are going through or why they feel the way they do. But I want them to live.'*

for trans kids, some of the most vulnerable people in society? Heard them put those kids' struggle and pain and hope at the center of their thinking, not as an afterthought or something that must be ignored, but as a concern that should inform policy? Heard them treat trans people not with contempt and fear but with decency and caring?

The new visibility of trans people and their demand for equal treatment are disorienting for many traditionalists. They don't know how to integrate it into what they believe about the world. They worry that change is happening too fast. Trans people have always been with us, but many people were much more comfortable when they were silent.

But we're never going back to that. We just aren't. Trans people are not going to disappear. Because of that, there will have to be some policy changes.

There will be disagreement about exactly what those changes should look like, which is fine. That's democracy. But imagine if we all came to that debate with the kind of humanity Spencer Cox just showed, not looking for an opportunity for demagoguery but trying to treat people with understanding and care. We might be able to create a very different future, and not tear ourselves apart along the way.

.....  
Waldman is an opinion writer for the Plum Line blog.

# Chubais won't be the last to go

By CLARA FERREIRA MARQUES  
Bloomberg Opinion

Clara Ferreira Marques



It's a defection already being brushed off by the Kremlin as a "personal" issue. Of course. The truth is that as Moscow gets bogged down in a Ukrainian war far more costly than imagined, the abrupt departure of a crucial figure of the post-Soviet years — a man who helped push Vladimir Putin into power by giving him his first Kremlin job — will sting.

Anatoly Chubais's name evokes the mayhem and hope of that first decade of post-communist life. He was an economist, a market reformer, a red-haired pioneer under Boris Yeltsin who launched a thousand asset sales. At breakneck speed, Chubais dismantled a decrepit economic system and, in the process, turned a handful of men into billionaires. He's frequently been blamed (even targeted) for the unequal distribution of wealth that resulted, but he described his choice at the time as "between bandit communism or bandit capitalism."

Now, Chubais has left an increasingly isolated Russia behind, apparently for Turkey, in the highest-profile desertion since Putin's ill-fated invasion of Ukraine began a month ago. But there is no room for doubters. Putin, ratcheting up his threatening rhetoric, has talked of "cleansing" the country and warned of a "fifth column" of "national traitors."

In weighing up what this eye-catching departure means for a regime under pressure, it's important to consider what it isn't.

Chubais is not an oligarch, so this exit is not a sign of mutiny among billionaires — who in any event are no longer propping up the political system as they did under Yeltsin. Nor was he any longer in Putin's tight inner circle. That is increasingly made up of figures from the security services or those tied to the regime through hydrocarbon rents. Chubais's last sinecure was the role of climate envoy for Putin — a president hardly bothered by the world's carbon budget.

His was the highest-level defection so far, but arguably the most expected of the high-level defec-

tions, as Ben Noble, who researches Russian domestic politics at University College London, put it to me.

And yet he was also one of several men of the system who for years had been able to exist just outside it, in what Noble describes as a liminal space, even as Putin's Russia darkened. Now he was forced to choose sides.

Crucially, Chubais is not alone. Bloomberg News reported on Wednesday that the highly regarded central bank governor, Elvira Nabiullina, had sought to resign after the invasion, only to be reappointed last week for a new term and left to manage the fallout from a war that has left Russia economically isolated, and has undone her work of years. Others in the economic elite — if not the political one — have signaled discontent.

Of course, those in the most distant orbit around the Kremlin speak up or leave first. Chubais has less to lose than fellow travelers from St. Petersburg's liberal administration such as Alexei Kudrin, a former finance minister and currently the head of Russia's Audit Chamber, or Herman Gref, who leads the country's biggest lender, Sberbank. Their comments and actions will be worth watching.

None of this should take away from the significance of Chubais's exit. High-profile figures outside the Kremlin are now not only calling for peace, as the billionaire Oleg Deripaska has, but also voting with their feet, with all the costs that implies. There's no return. In an environment where few are under the illusion that the operation in Ukraine is the swift success it was supposed to be, every departure emboldens more.

.....  
Marques is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist and member of the editorial board covering commodities and environmental, social and governance issues.

# The Commercial Review

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# Candidates ...

Continued from page 1  
On the topic of the healthcare, Prescott said he's been working to make sure the COVID-19 vaccine is an "individual, personal responsibility." He authored a House resolution to terminate the state of emergency put in place during the coronavirus pandemic. Likewise, he also supported House Bill 1001, which he said gives more rights to employees versus their employers.

Kloer argued against House Bill 1001, saying it "gives power to an unelected official." She suggested instead a committee of legislators. She added an employer can also put an employee on an administrative leave without pay if they do not get the vaccine.

In regard to high inflation, Prescott advocated for the state's "balanced budgets" during his time in office, adding that each taxpayer will be receiving a roughly \$125 tax refund and the state income tax is decreasing from 3.23% to 2.9%.

Kloer noted Indiana has the third highest gas tax in the United States at 56.35 cents per gallon. The state is the fourth highest in diesel, she added, and the second highest in sales taxes. She pointed out Prescott's voting record on various bills in which he did not advocate for a tax reduction.

In relation to confined feeding



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Pennville resident Branda Manns briefly speaks to the crowd Monday during Jay County Freedom Coalition's candidate night at Jay County Fairgrounds. Manns is running for Pennville Town Council.

operations, wind and solar farms, Kloer said property owners "need to remember to be good neighbors and all come to an agreement." She said legislation for these operations needs to be handled at the local level.

Prescott said property rights come down to the property owner. Tax exemptions, he added, should be decided by local government.

Also Monday, candidates run-

Living (formerly known as Jay County Retirement Center). Aker also highlighted the American Rescue Act Plan dollars and discussion to use the funding for infrastructure for housing, child care and for a new building for Jay County Emergency Medical Service, Jay County Health Department and Jay County Coroner's Office.

"I am a representative of the people, I'm not a leader," he said. "What you guys want is what I'm here for. I need to hear from you."

Bryan Alexander, who is running against Aker in the May primary, moved to Jay County with his family in the '70s and operates Capital Cities Investments in Portland. He advocated for living in Jay County and said he believes it's important for the county to bring in more people and businesses in order to flourish. He also noted he would focus on getting high-speed, wired internet for all residents. Alexander said he loves solving issues in politics and would be an advocate for the public.

"I promise you that I'll put the time in and deliver that with the best of my ability," he said.

Sheriff candidates Tony Lennartz, Ray Newton and Patrick Wells also spoke at the event, sharing their perspectives on how to handle Jay County Sheriff's Office moving forward. Lennartz, who is lieutenant of

investigations at the department, said a main aspect of his administration would be handling drug intervention, as well as maintaining the budget and increasing the amount of training for officers.

Newton advocated for his experience, having served as sheriff from 2007 to 2014. He highlighted his past accomplishments, such as the jail expansion, and said as sheriff he would work for a more balanced budget, incorporate more training and bring back mental health and addiction-recovery programs to the jail.

Wells, who serves as captain at the department, focused on increasing morale in the community, with police offering more of a presence in the county. He also said COVID-19 should not have shut down the jail, in regard to not arresting those charged with crimes during the height of the coronavirus pandemic and halting mental health and addiction-recovery programs.

Russ Mounsey, a police officer who is running for the District 79 seat representing the northern third of the county, also introduced himself. Incumbent Republican Matt Lehman was not invited to attend the event.

Brenda Manns of Pennville also briefly spoke to the crowd. She is running for a seat on Pennville Town Council.

# Report: Many too polluted for recreation

By ENRIQUE SAENZ  
Indiana Environmental Reporter

The fresh water that flows through the state like blood through veins keeps Hoosiers alive, literally and through its importance in agriculture and as an economic driver for other industries.

But for decades now, Indiana's waterways have been the dumping ground for pollutants from multiple sources, resulting in waterways too polluted to swim or play in safely.

A report by the Environmental Integrity Project found that the state of Indiana reported to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that 73% of rivers and streams and 23% of lakes and reservoirs have recreational use impairments, pollution that prevents those waterways from "fully supporting" recreational uses that involve bodily contact with the water, like swimming, fishing and boating.

What that means is that more than 24,000 miles of rivers and streams in Indiana have pollution, like excess E. coli bacteria and phosphorus, that make it potentially unsafe for Hoosiers to be in the water.

The percentage of impairments is so high, the state of Indiana ranks first in the nation for water recreation impairments.

Eric Schaeffer, executive director of the Environmental Integrity Project, said much of the problem in Indiana and the rest of the U.S. is due to the state's large animal feedlot sector and discharges from sewage and streams.

"We have to confront the fact that agricultural runoff is really the leading cause of water pollution in the U.S. today. I don't think that was true, so much, 50 years ago. Some of that is runoff from fertilizer from cropland, but an awful lot of it comes from the factory farms that we use to raise livestock," Schaeffer said.

## Regulation loophole

According to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, anyone who wants to establish or expand a concentrated animal feeding operation or a smaller confined feeding operation must obtain one of two permits, depending on the size of the operation and whether it discharges into state waterways.

CFOs and CAFOs that discharge manure or runoff directly into waterways must obtain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System per-

mit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through IDEM.

Indirect discharges from CFOs and CAFOs, known as nonpoint source pollution, currently do not require an NPDES permit. About 85% of livestock in Indiana is raised in CFOs or what the state terms "CAFO-sized CFOs," creating a pollution loophole that depends on the voluntary efforts of farmers to prevent pollution from making its way into the state's waterways.

## Sewer overflow

IDEM said combined sewer overflows, untreated stormwater and wastewater that discharges to nearby streams, rivers and other water bodies were the largest sources of E. coli bacteria, one of the impairments cited to the EPA.

E. coli can give swimmers or people in impaired waters diarrhea, fever, abdominal cramps, nausea or cause vomiting. In extreme cases, E. coli bacteria can cause kidney failure or death.

In late 2021, hundreds of communities applied for a portion of \$63 million in grants from the first of four rounds of 2022 State Water Infrastructure Fund program funding. Only two dozen will receive the funding.

IDEM said 107 communities around the state have completed or are implementing projects to prevent untreated wastewater from entering state waterways.

Cities like Indianapolis, Fort Wayne and South Bend have experienced overflows that have led to charges they violated the Clean Water Act. All three cities are now undertaking major water infrastructure projects.

Despite its problems with contamination, the EIP said that the state of Indiana was doing a better job than most states in assessing the problems it faced.

The state ranked 11th in the country for miles of waterways assessed, a fact the state's environmental agency said emphasizes its mission to improve waterways to a higher standard than most other states.

Later this year, a report is expected from the Indiana Wetlands Task Force that could encourage the state to adopt legislation to address nonpoint source pollution issues. The task force was created to assess the state's isolated wetland protections as part of Senate Enrolled Act 389, a law that removed state protections of half of the state's remaining wetlands.



## Potential signs of kidney disease

Chronic kidney disease is a significant threat to millions of people across the globe. According to the National Kidney Foundation®, 10 percent of the worldwide population is affected by CKD, which affects people of all ages and races.

Though there is no cure for CKD, the kidney health experts at World Kidney Day note that treatment can slow or halt the progression of the disease. That underscores the importance of learning to recognize potential signs of kidney disease.

**• Energy loss:** The NKF notes that a severe decrease in kidney function can cause toxins and impurities to build up in the blood, resulting in feelings of fatigue and weakness. Such a buildup also can make it hard for individuals to concentrate. Anemia, a blood disorder characterized by a deficiency of red blood cells or hemoglobin in the blood, is a complication of kidney disease and can cause weakness and fatigue.

**• Difficulty sleeping:** Kidneys that are not functioning

properly will not effectively filter toxins in the blood and expel them through urine. The NKF notes that individuals may experience difficulty sleeping when toxins remain in their blood.

**• Blood in urine:** Blood in the urine can be indicative of a host of conditions, including tumors, kidney stones or an infection. But it also can indicate CKD, as healthy kidneys are often effective at keeping blood cells in the body while they filter waste. The Mayo Clinic notes that certain foods, including beets and berries, can affect the color of urine. But urine should generally range from a pale yellow color to a deep amber. Any visible sign of blood in urine or urine that is dark or orange in color should be brought to the attention of a healthcare provider right away.

**• Dry, itchy skin:** Dry, itchy skin may not seem like a potential indicator of kidney problems, but the NKF reports that such a symptom may indicate the presence of a bone disease that often ac-



companies advanced kidney disease. These symptoms appear because the kidneys can no longer help the body maintain an appropriate balance of minerals and nutrients in the blood.

**• Increased urge to urinate:** The NKF notes that this symptom often occurs at night and is a byproduct of damage to the kidney filters.

Some additional signs of kidney disease include foamy urine, persistent puffiness around the eyes, swollen an-

kles and feet, and muscle cramps. World Kidney Day reports that individuals can lose up to 90 percent of their kidney function before they experience any symptoms and most people with CKD experience no symptoms until the condition has reached an advanced stage. However, learning to recognize potential indicators of kidney disease and reporting them to a healthcare professional can lead to early detection and potentially slow the progression of the disease.

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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bridge is a partnership game

East dealer. East-West vulnerable. NORTH ♠72 ♥J105 ♦K54 ♣KJ963 WEST ♠K108 ♥AKQ9 ♦9862 ♣75 EAST ♠Q4 ♥763 ♦QJ103 ♣Q1082 SOUTH ♠AJ9653 ♥842 ♦A7 ♣A4

two spades, and your partner leads the K-A-Q of hearts, declarer following suit. At this point, you'd be expecting that partner was going to shift to a diamond or a club, neither of which would make much difference to you since you have both suits under control. But much to your surprise, West now leads the nine of hearts!

The bidding: East South West North Pass 1♣ Pass 1NT Pass 2♣ Opening lead — king of hearts.

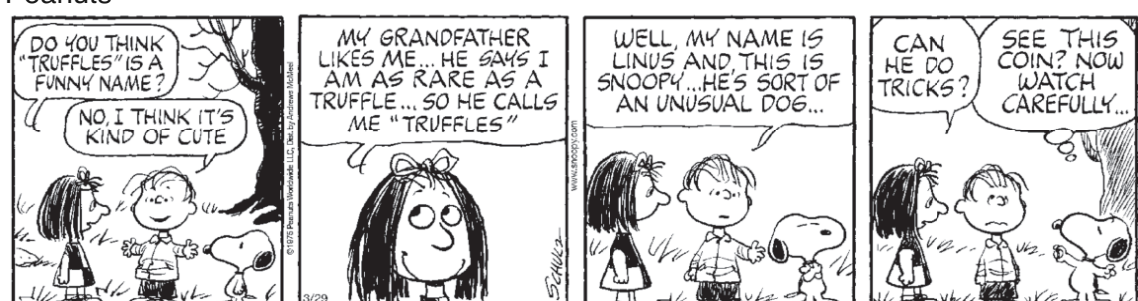
However, you'd do better to take the play as well-reasoned and try to figure out what your partner is up to. It would surely be wrong to discard on the nine of hearts, which you might feel inclined to do if you assumed partner had taken leave of his senses.

Assume you're a defender, and your partner adopts a line of defense you don't understand. Despite your uncertainty, it's usually wise to cooperate with your partner, whatever he's doing, because he might know something about the hand that you don't know. Besides, it's psychologically better to humor him—even if only for morale purposes.

Instead, you should follow partner's defense and ruff the nine of hearts with your queen of spades. That's what he presumably wants you to do in order to promote his trump holding. If you do this, South will eventually lose three trump tricks and go down one; if you don't, he makes the contract.

Tomorrow: Planning provides the answer. ©2022 King Features Syndicate Inc.

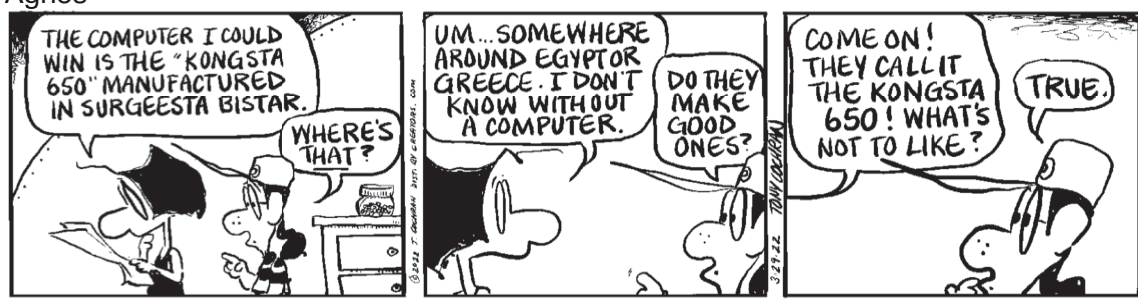
Peanuts



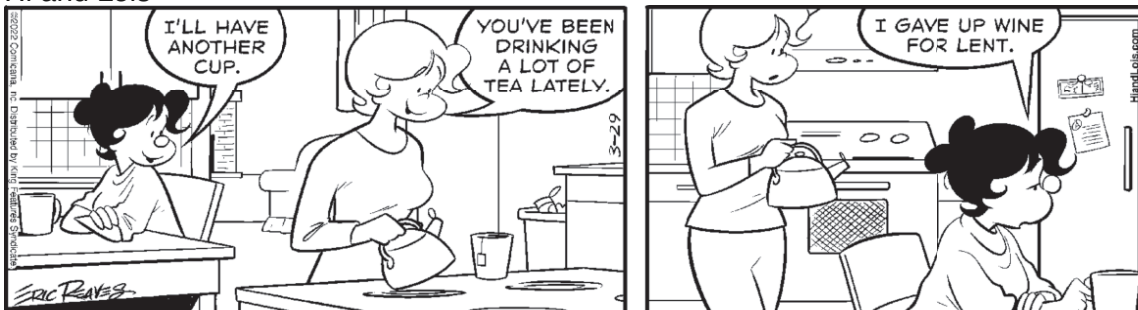
Rose is Rose



Agnes



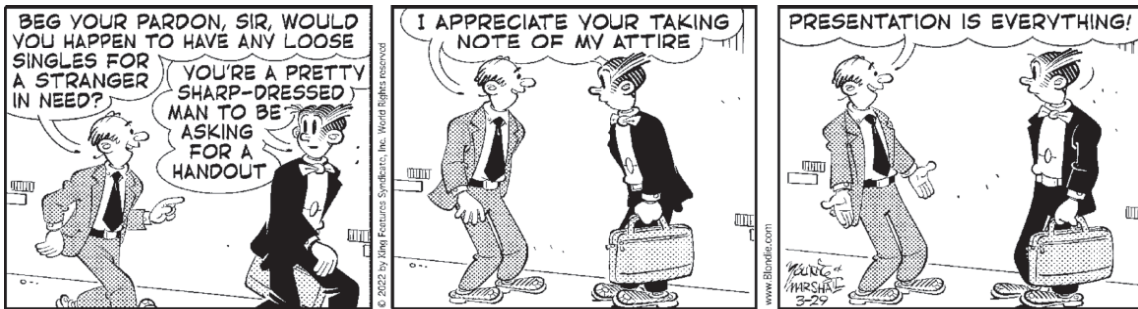
Hi and Lois



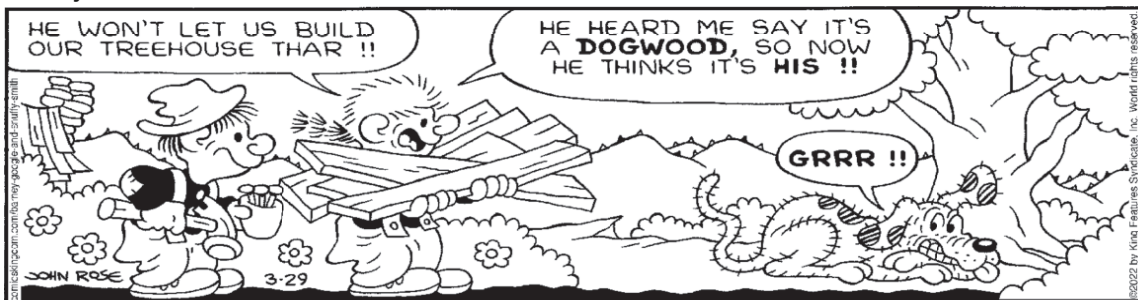
Funky Winkerbean



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

X P X Y - Q V M A Y Z R B O B Q J D X M K V D X R P K W Y Z G W Y X P M E A A D Z A E X I V K C Y X I Z H B J B Y Z Q B Z Q

EBAG: AZHYBO CVHYVOV. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF PEOPLE GOT INTO SOME MAJOR FIGHTS WITH OLD HOLLYWOOD ACTOR JACK, DID THEY STRIKE A PALANCE? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals O

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 22 mins and a list of words like DART, ESC, TABS, etc.

Yesterday's answer 3-29 crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-51.

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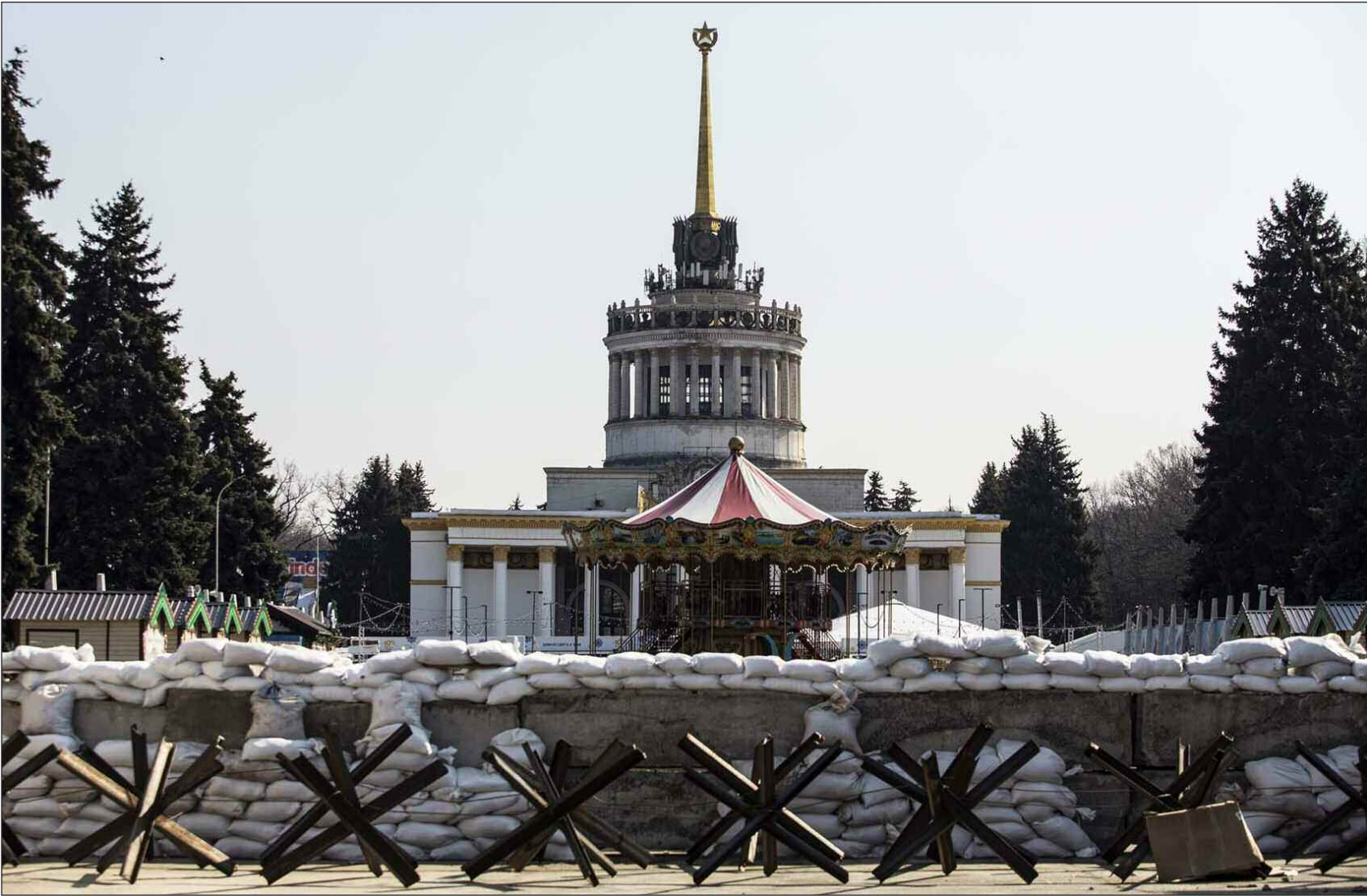
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For The Washington Post/Heidi Levine

The Exponcenter of Ukraine in Kyiv is barricaded by sandbags and tank traps. Russia's military said it would "fundamentally" cut back operations near Ukraine's capital, potentially a significant concession by Moscow amid talks aimed at ending the war that began more than a month ago.

# Russia plans to scale back

By NEBI QENA and YURAS KARMANAU  
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia's military said today it would "fundamentally" cut back operations near Ukraine's capital and a northern city, potentially a significant concession by Moscow amid talks aimed at ending the war that began more than a month ago.

Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Fomin said the move was meant "to increase trust" in talks aimed at ending fighting, as negotiators met face-to-face after several rounds of failed negotiations. But Russia's troops have been bogged down and struggling to make major advances recently.

The talks in Istanbul raised flickering hopes there could be progress toward ending a war that has ground into a bloody campaign of attrition.

Fomin said Moscow had decided to "fundamentally ... cut back military activity in the direction of

## Talks in Istanbul are aimed at bringing an end to fighting

Kyiv and Chernihiv" to "increase mutual trust and create conditions for further negotiations."

Ukraine's military said it had noted withdrawals around Kyiv and Chernihiv, though the Pentagon said it could not corroborate the reports.

An adviser to the Ukrainian president said the meeting in Istanbul was focused on securing a cease-fire and guarantees for Ukraine's security — issues that have been at the heart of previous unsuccessful negotiations.

Ahead of the talks, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his country was pre-

pared to declare its neutrality, as Moscow has demanded, and was open to compromise over the contested eastern region of Donbas — comments that might lend momentum to negotiations. But even as the negotiators assembled, Russian forces hit an oil depot in western Ukraine and demolished a government building in the south, with several deaths.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told the two sides that they had a "historic responsibility" to stop the fighting. "We believe that there will be no losers in a just peace. Prolonging the con-

flict is not in anyone's interest," Erdogan said, as he greeted the two delegations seated on opposite sides of a long table.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's aim of a quick military victory has been thwarted by stiff Ukrainian resistance. But any hope that raised about prospects for an end to the conflict was accompanied by Western skepticism about the Russian leader's commitment to seeking peace. British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said she thought Putin was "not serious about talks."

In fighting that has devolved into a back-and-forth stalemate, Ukrainian forces retook Irpin, a key suburb northwest of the capital, Kyiv, Zelenskyy said late Monday. He warned that Russian troops were regrouping to take the area back.

"We still have to fight, we have to endure," Zelenskyy said in his nighttime video address to the nation. "This is a ruthless

war against our nation, against our people, against our children."

He also lashed out at Western countries, which he has repeatedly accused of not going far enough to punish Moscow with sanctions or support Ukraine. Western hesitancy in providing weapons makes those nations partially responsible for the destruction wrought, he said.

"Fear always makes you an accomplice," he said.

A missile struck an oil depot in western Ukraine late Monday, the second attack on oil facilities in a region that has been spared the worst of the fighting. On Tuesday morning, an explosion blasted a hole in a nine-story administration building in Mykolaiv, a southern port city that Russia has unsuccessfully tried to capture.

Seven people died in the missile attack and 22 were wounded, Zelenskyy said in an address to Danish lawmakers.

# Biden unveils budget proposal

By ALAN FRAM  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden's \$5.8 trillion budget for next year would trim federal deficits and boost taxes on the wealthiest Americans. Both could appeal to Sen. Joe Manchin amid Democratic hopes of reviving talks with him over the party's derailed social and environment plan.

The question is whether this time, the pivotal West Virginia Democrat can be wooed to craft a scaled-down version of his party's roughly \$2 trillion, 10-year package. Before Christmas, Manchin sank that plan, which had already passed the House, saying it would fuel inflation and deepen deficits.

Biden and his aides touted his budget, unveiled Monday, as focusing on fiscal responsibility, security at home and overseas and investments in social programs to help families afford housing, child care, health care and other costs.

Another highlight: \$2.5 trillion in tax increases over 10 years on the highest-income people and corporations. That included \$361 billion from a minimum 20% tax on families worth \$100 million or more — the top one-hundredth of 1% of earners — though it drew some criticism from Manchin.

"An unprecedented commitment to building an economy where everyone has a chance to succeed. A plan to pay for those investments that we need as a nation," Biden described his budget to reporters.

Republicans rejected Biden's priorities.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, said the president's defense proposal would at best "leave our armed forces simply treading water" because of inflation. He said bigger budgets for agencies like the IRS and the Environmental Protection Agency were "bloated liberal nonsense." And he labeled Biden's \$2.5 trillion, 10-year tax boosts, which the president said would only affect the nation's highest earners, a "bomb of tax hikes."

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**NOTICE OF ADOPTION**  
To the taxpayers of the City of Portland, Indiana. You are hereby notified that on March 21st, 2022 the City of Portland, Jay County, Indiana, pursuant to notice heretofore given, and under and by virtue of IC 36-9-15.5, duly adopted a plan whereby a Cumulative Capital Development Fund was reestablished to provide for all uses as set out in IC 36-9-15.5. The fund will be provided for by a property tax rate of: Five cents (\$0.0500) on each one hundred dollars (\$100) of taxable real and personal property within the taxing unit beginning in 2022 with taxes payable in 2023 and thereafter, continuing until reduced or rescinded. Twenty-five (25) or more taxpayers in the taxing unit who will be affected by the tax rate and corresponding levy may file a petition with the Jay County Auditor not later than noon 30 days after the publication of this Notice setting forth their objections to the proposed cumulative fund. Upon the filing of the petition, the County Auditor shall immediately certify the same to the Department of Local Government Finance, at which point the Department will fix a date for and conduct a public hearing on the proposed cumulative fund before issuing its approval, disapproval, or modification thereof. Dated this 29th day of March 2022  
Portland City Council  
CR 3-29-2022-HSPAXLP

**Public Notice**

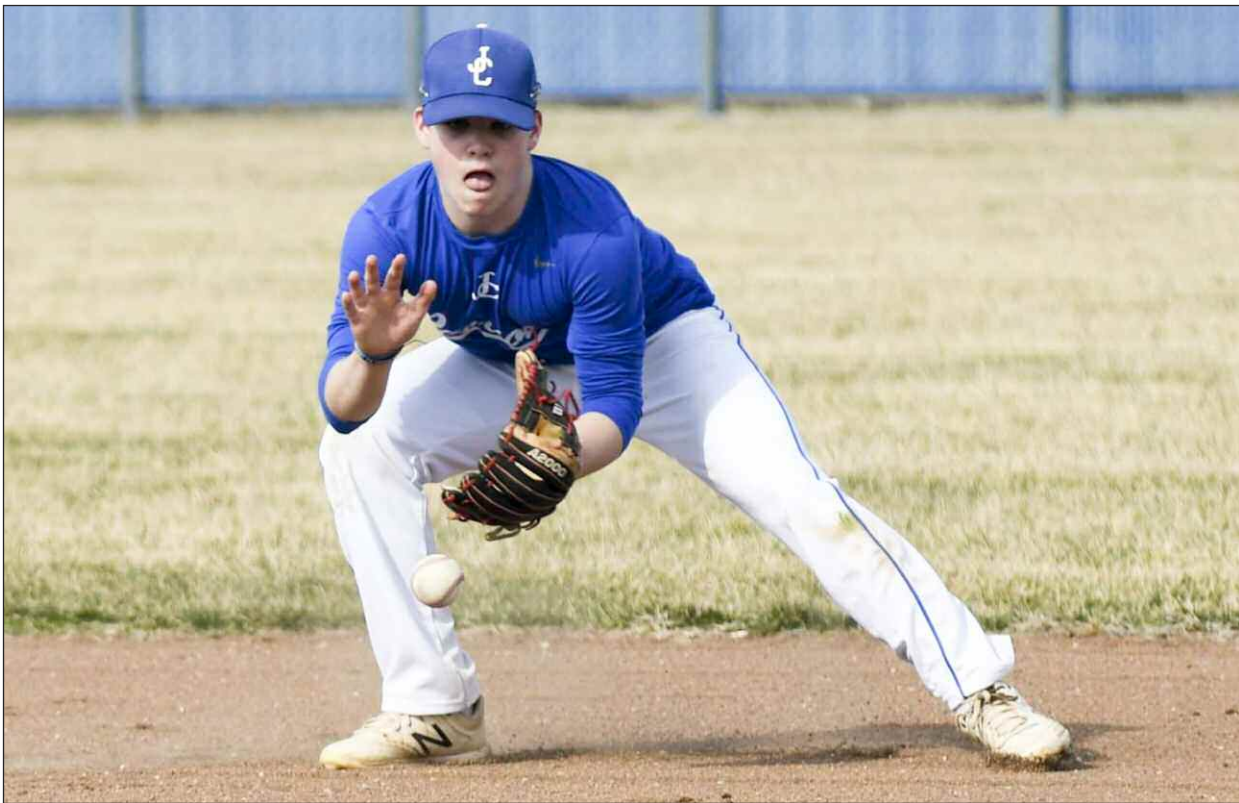
**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
On or about July 1, 2022 the City of Dunkirk intends to apply for a grant from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs' Stormwater Improvement Program (SIP) of the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This program is funded by Title I of the Federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. These funds are to be used for a community development project that will include the following activities: The proposed project consists of two new construction stormwater detention ponds at Broad Street and A Street in the City of Dunkirk and the replacement of a portion of Dunkirk's existing gravity storm sewer system to accommodate storm water released from the new ponds. The total amount of CDBG funds to be requested is \$600,000. The amount of CDBG funds proposed to be used for activities that will benefit low- and moderate-income persons is \$345,840. The Applicant also proposes to expend an estimated \$400,000 in non-CDBG funds on the project. These non-CDBG funds will be derived from the following sources: \$400,000 in local funds from the City of Dunkirk. The City of Dunkirk will hold a public hearing on April 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. (local time) at the Dunkirk City Hall located at 131 S. Main Street, Dunkirk, Indiana 47336 to provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views on the proposed federally funded Stormwater Project. Persons with disabilities or non-English speaking persons who wish to attend the public hearing and need assistance should contact Tina Elliott, Clerk-Treasurer, 131 S. Main Street, Dunkirk, Indiana 47336 or call at 765-768-6565 not later than April 5, 2022 during regular business hours. Every effort will be made to make reasonable accommodations for these persons. Information related to this project will be available for review prior to the public hearing as of April 1, 2022 at the office of the Mayor located at 131 S. Main Street in Dunkirk during regular business hours. Interested citizens are invited to provide comments regarding these issues either at the public hearing or by prior written statement. Written comments should be submitted to Jack Robbins, Mayor, at 131 S. Main Street, Dunkirk, Indiana 47336 no later than April 7, 2022 in order to ensure placement of such comments in the official record of the public hearing proceedings. A plan to minimize displacement and provide assistance to those displaced has been prepared by the City of Dunkirk and is available to the public. This project will result in no displacement of any persons or businesses. For additional information concerning the proposed project, please contact Donna Anderson at 317-439-5008 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. or write to Donna Anderson, President, Kenna Consulting and Grant Services, LLC, 330 W. Main Street, Greenwood, IN 46142.  
Jack Robbins, Mayor  
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# Sports



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Parker prepares

Jay County High School's Parker Nichols prepares to field a ground ball during practice on March 17 at Don E. Selvey Field. The Patriots returned from spring break on Monday, and are set to open their season April 7 at Elwood.

## Bogdanovic, Hawks beat Pacers by 9

By MARK AMBROGI  
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 29 points to lead the Atlanta Hawks past the Indiana Pacers 132-123 on Monday night.

Clint Capela and Kevin Huerter each contributed 22 points and Capela added 15 rebounds for the Hawks, who are 10th in the Eastern Conference. Trae Young had 14 points and a season-high 16 assists.

"They tried to take me out of it," Young said. "I just got to get it to my teammates and let them make plays."

Bogdanovic was a beneficiary.

"I always appreciate Trae," he said. "We need other teams to keep trapping him, so I can get wide-open shots. I know he's going to keep finding me."

Hawks coach Nate McMillan said Young forced the Pacers to stop trapping him.

"Trae did a good job of being patient and getting the ball to his teammates," he said. "Our guys were knocking down. Trae didn't force the issue."

Buddy Hield scored 26 points for the Pacers, who have lost four consecutive games and are out of play-off contention. Tyrese Haliburton scored 25 points with 13 assists. Keifer Sykes added 16 points for Indiana, hitting 4 of 6 3-pointers.

Atlanta shot 54.7% overall while Indiana made 52.3%. The Hawks had 40-28 rebounding edge and committed 13 turnovers, one less than the Pacers. The Pacers narrowed the deficit to 94-88 with 3:11 left in the third quarter, but the Hawks led 102-90 when the quarter ended.

Indiana closed the gap to 121-112, but the Hawks prevented it from getting too close.

The Pacers had only eight players available. Oshae Brissett warmed up but was ruled out before the game with a sore back.

"Yeah, we're down bodies, but this is basketball and it's an opportunity for somebody to step up and make plays and get more minutes," Hield said. "Who doesn't like playing more minutes?"

Atlanta led by as many as 18 points in the first half and was ahead 74-63 at halftime.

Indiana coach Rick Carlisle said a poor first quarter was the story of the game.

"The rest of the game we played much better," Carlisle said. We have to get a better start. We did a trapping and rolled the dice on them. They made some open shots. We have to do better (defensively), but I'm not going to make excuses. We're in a tough spot with personnel, but we have to do our best and we didn't do our best tonight."

## Tribe baseball drops opener

CELINA, Ohio — The Indians only mustered one hit. So too, did the Bulldogs.

But a few too many defensive mishaps doomed the visitors.

Three errors helped Celina score a pair of unearned runs that did in the Fort Recovery High School baseball team in a 3-0 loss to the Celina Bulldogs on Monday at Montgomery Field.

It was the season opener for both teams, and the coaching debut for Fort Recovery's Kevin Eyink.

Celina (1-0) scored the only run it needed in the third inning, then added one more in each of the next

two frames despite only getting one hit — a single.

Fort Recovery (0-1), which continues its season-opening road swing at Mississinawa Valley on Friday, had its only hit in the form of a Cale Rammel single.

Jackson Ervin made his varsity

debut pitching for the Tribe. He allowed two unearned runs on one hit while striking out four and walking one four innings to take the loss.

Troy Homan did not allow a hit in his two innings of relief. He did, however, surrender one earned run. He struck out two and walked one.

### Three errors aid Celina as Fort Recovery falls in Eyink's debut

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## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Fort Recovery — Track at Marion Local — 5 p.m.; JV softball vs. Versailles — 5 p.m.

**Thursday**  
Fort Recovery — Softball vs. South Adams — 5 p.m.

**Friday**  
Fort Recovery — Baseball at Mississinawa Valley — 5 p.m.; Softball at Mississinawa Valley — 5 p.m.; JC baseball vs. Fort Loramie — 5 p.m.

**Saturday**  
Jay County — Baseball scrimmage at Belmont — 11 a.m.; Softball scrimmage at Winchester — 11 a.m.  
Fort Recovery — Softball at Lima Bath — 11 a.m.; Baseball at Crestview — noon; JV softball at Lima Bath — 1 p.m.

**TV schedule**  
**Today**  
1:05 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Houston Astros at St. Louis Cardinals (BALLY)  
7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Atlanta Hawks at Indiana Pacers (BALLY)

**Wednesday**  
4:05 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Seattle Mariners vs. Chicago Cubs (MLBN)  
7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Denver Nuggets at Indiana Pacers (BALLY)

7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Miami Heat at Boston Celtics (ESPN)  
7:30 p.m. — NHL hockey: New York Rangers at Detroit Red Wings (TNT)  
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Phoenix Suns at Golden State Warriors (ESPN)  
10 p.m. — NHL hockey: Vegas Golden Knights at Seattle Kraken (TNT)

**Thursday**  
1:05 p.m. — Major League Baseball: New York Yankees vs. Philadelphia Phillies (MLBN)  
4:05 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Los Angeles Dodgers vs. Texas Rangers (MLBN)  
6:40 p.m. — Major League Baseball: St. Louis Cardinals vs. Miami Marlins (BALLY)

7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: NIT Tournament Championship (ESPN)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Milwaukee Bucks at Brooklyn Nets (TNT)  
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Slam Dunk & 3-point Championship (ESPN)  
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Los Angeles Lakers at Utah Jazz (TNT)

### Local notes

**Race is Saturday**  
Jay Community Center will kick off its Jay County 5K Circuit on Saturday with the Sprint to Spring 5K.  
Registration is \$20. A tech t-shirt is a \$10 add on, while a cotton t-shirt is a \$5 add on.

The race begins and ends at Jay Community Center, and will go through Hudson Family Park.  
For more information, contact Jay Community Center at (260) 726-6477.

**Boomer registration is open**  
Registration is now open for Jay Community Center's Boomer T-Ball and Coach Pitch.

The program is open to boys and girls ages 3 through 6. Games will be played Saturdays at Portland Junior League fields. Cost is \$55 before May 16, and registration includes t-shirt, hat and practice ball. Multiple child discounts are available. For more information, contact Jay Community Center at (260) 726-6477.

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