

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

ISP: Deadly force justified

By BAILEY CLINE

DUNKIRK — A state police investigation has determined the March 3 officer-involved shooting was justified.

Jay County prosecutor Wes Schemenaur said in a press release issued Thursday afternoon the Indiana State Police investigation showed Dunkirk police chief Dane Mumbower and officer Erica Post were “justified in using deadly force ... as they had a belief that deadly force was necessary to prevent serious injury or death and other non-lethal methods were employed that were ineffective.”

Report says man who was shot by police attacked two officers with a knife

Kevin P. Zimmerman, 36, Dunkirk, died as a result of the shooting.

“Determining that the officers were justified in using deadly force does not diminish

the tragedy of the loss of human life,” Schemenaur said in the release. “My sincere condolences go out to Kevin Zimmerman’s family and friends for that loss. I appreciate the

public’s patience in awaiting the outcome of this investigation. Additionally, I would like to thank the Indiana State police for their thorough and professional investigation.”

State police interviewed 10 witnesses, according to the press release, and collected “extensive forensic evidence.” No video footage was available because Dunkirk Police Department does not currently use body cameras.

Mumbower and Post responded to 223 Mount Auburn St. on the morning of March 3.

The state police investigation reports the following

details of the incident that ensued:

Someone inside the house had called police to report Zimmerman was “armed with two different knives,” and that Zimmerman “believed someone was trying to harm him.” A relative informed police Zimmerman may have been suffering from a mental health issue.

Zimmerman refused to leave the house. Knowing Zimmerman was armed and not knowing the other house occupants’ safety status, Post and Mumbower decided to enter.

See **Justified** page 2

Three vying in GOP sheriff contest

By BAILEY CLINE

Two Republican candidates running for sheriff currently work for the office.

The other is a former sheriff.

Republicans Patrick Wells, Tony Lennartz and Ray Newton will face off in the May primary for their party’s nomination as Jay County Sheriff.

Patrick Wells, a 1991 Jay County High School graduate, worked for Overhead Door Company of Hartford City and FCC of Portland before he started in 1996 at Portland Police Department. About seven years later, he took on a position at Jay County Sheriff’s Office. Wells also volunteered as at Portland Fire Department for about six years. He has served in a variety of positions at the sheriff’s department over the course of his career, having previously served as chief deputy. (Wells, now captain, said his role switch earlier this year was not a disciplinary action but rather because of differing opinions between him and Sheriff Dwane Ford.)

Tony Lennartz is a 1989 Fort Recovery High School graduate. Throughout his childhood, his family owned a turkey and hog farm along the Indiana-Ohio state line. Lennartz worked in the agriculture field for a few years before switching to J and M Manufacturing, where he was employed for about 17 years. He started working for the Jay County Sheriff’s Office reserve officer program in 2004 and was hired by the sheriff’s department around 2007. Lennartz became patrol sergeant in 2019 and lieutenant of investigations in 2020. His specialization, he said, is in drug interdiction.

Newton, a 1981 graduate of Jay County High School, served for four years in the United States Navy. He worked in plumbing construction for his father for about 20 years. Newton worked for the Portland Police Department reserve program for four years. In 1991, he started at Jay County Sheriff’s Office. He served as sheriff for two terms from 2007 to 2014, and he retired from the department in 2018.

See **Sheriff** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fools’ snow

A light layer of snow lays on the ground around a tree this morning on the south side of Portland. Overnight snow left Jay County residents to awake to a light dusting of snow this morning for April Fools’ Day, and there were more flurries this morning. The forecast calls for a low in the 20s tonight with rain expected Saturday.

Northern Jay to vote in District 79

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Voters in the northern third of Jay County will be voting for someone new to potentially represent them in the Indiana House of Representatives.

Following redistricting in the fall, Wabash, Bearcreek, Jackson and Penn townships in Jay County now fall in District 79, which also includes all of Adams County and most of Wells County. (Those townships previously were in District 33 along with the rest of the county.) In the Repub-

Seven-term incumbent Lehman faces challenge from Mounsey

lican primary for the seat, incumbent Matt Lehman of Berne is facing a challenge from Russ Mounsey of Bluffton.

Lehman, who is seeking his eighth term at the Statehouse, is

an agent and part-owner of Bixler Insurance. A Berne native, he is a graduate of South Adams High School who earned a degree in aviation technology from Vincennes University.

Mounsey, an officer for Ossian Police Department, is a Wells County native who graduated from Southern Wells High School and attended Ivy Tech Community College. He graduated from Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and has been a police officer for 17 years.

Among the major issues Lehman said he’d like to address is rural broadband. He said he wants the state legislature to get involved to make faster progress.

See **District 79** page 2

Husted hustles

Carl Husted and his horse race around the track at Jay County Fairgrounds this morning.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Deaths

Linda Hamilton, 74, rural Ridgeville
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 72 degrees early Thursday before it dropped throughout the day to a low of 34.

Tonight’s low will be in the upper 20s. Expect a high of 51 under partly sunny skies Saturday with rain likely after 5 p.m.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, the parking lot east of Redkey Post Office and the parking lot south of Salamon Fire Station.

Coming up

Saturday — Results from tonight’s FRHS baseball game against Mississinawa Valley.

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday’s Portland City Council meeting.



Justified ...

Continued from page 1
Officers breached the door and announced themselves as police. Mumbower heard Zimmerman respond, "OK, OK, come on in." Post and Mumbower couldn't see Zimmerman initially and asked him to come out and show his hands. Mumbower noticed Zimmerman crouching in the kitchen and made eye contact with him. He asked Zimmerman to come out and talk with them. Zimmerman jumped up and ran toward Mumbower with "both arms raised and a knife in his hand."

He was armed with a butcher knife with an 8-inch blade. Zimmerman leaped on top of Mumbower, and the officer used his taser on him. (It had no effect.) He tackled Mumbower into a corner, wrapped his arms around him and began striking Mumbower in the back with his hands and arms. Mumbower believed he was being stabbed with the knife. Zimmerman then attacked Post by knocking her to the floor and slashing at her back. Both officers fired their weapons at Zimmerman, "as they

were in fear that their lives were in danger." He was shot four times. Post and other responders "attempted to provide aid," but Zimmerman was later pronounced dead at the scene. Mumbower received a knife wound in his hand, and Post had minor puncture wounds and cuts. Schemenaur cited Indiana Code, which says someone is justified in using deadly force if they reasonably believe it is necessary to prevent serious bodily injury to themselves or someone else. Under Indiana law, he added in the press release, officers are

allowed to enter a home without a warrant if there are "exigent circumstances" — such as preventing harm to house occupants whose safety is unknown — justifying entry. "Both Officer Post and Chief Mumbower stated they feared not only for their own lives, but for the life of each other when they fired their weapons at Kevin Zimmerman," said Schemenaur in the release. "In fact, Officer Post believed that Chief Mumbower might have already been dead..." Indiana State Police, the City of Dunkirk and Schemenaur issued

separate press releases on the afternoon of March 3. Thursday's press release from the prosecutor's office is the first piece of information that has been made available since then. The events in Dunkirk came less than two years after Portland Police Department and Jay County Sheriff's Office were involved in an incident that resulted in a Portland officer fatally shooting 21-year-old Spencer Calvert of Muncie. A state police investigation also found the use of deadly force to be justified in that case.

CR almanac

Saturday 4/2	Sunday 4/4	Monday 4/4	Tuesday 4/5	Wednesday 4/6
51/36	52/38	57/40	60/47	62/42
Rain is likely Saturday after 5 pm. with a 60% chance of showers.	Another day of partly sunny skies are expected Sunday with rain possible late.	There's a 40% chance of rain Monday under mostly cloudy skies.	Another 30% chance of rain after 2 p.m. Showers are more likely at night.	More rain is in the forecast Wednesday with a 70% chance of showers.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$222 million	Cash 5: 6-9-19-31-42 Estimated jackpot: \$243,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$70 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 0-0-5 Pick 4: 1-4-8-4 Pick 5: 6-5-5-9-1 Evening Pick 3: 9-7-3 Pick 4: 1-7-5-6 Pick 5: 2-3-5-4-1 Rolling Cash: 23-25-26-35-39 Estimated jackpot: \$303,000
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 9-9-7 Daily Four: 1-4-6-8 Evening Daily Three: 4-7-0 Daily Four: 6-3-0-5 Quick Draw: 11-15-19-24-25-27-28-31-37-40-42-43-51-53-58-61-66-67-74-80	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....7.22 May corn.....7.27 Wheat7.96	Wheat 9.05 May wheat 9.05
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....7.27 April corn7.37 June corn7.42	Central States Montpelier Corn.....7.05 Late April corn.....7.10 Beans15.70 Late April beans.....15.70 March wheat.....9.18
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.87 May corn.....6.87 Beans15.71 May beans15.71	Sunrise St. Anthony Corn.....7.02 May corn.....7.02 Beans16.11 May beans16.11 Wheat9.19

Today in history

On April 1, 1972, the first Major League Baseball players' strike began; it lasted 12 days. Twenty years later, on April 1, 1992, the National Hockey League Players' Association went on its first-ever strike, which lasted 10 days.

In 1865, during the Civil War, Union forces routed Confederate soldiers in the Battle of Five Forks in Virginia.

In 1891, the Wrigley Co. was founded in Chicago by William Wrigley, Jr.

In 1924, Adolf Hitler was sentenced to five years in prison for his role in the Beer Hall Putsch in Munich. (Hitler was released in December 1924; during his time behind bars, he wrote his autobiographical screed, "Mein Kampf.")

In 1945, American forces launched the amphibious invasion of Okinawa during World War II. (U.S. forces succeeded in capturing the Japanese island on June 22.)

In 1970, President Richard M. Nixon signed a measure banning cigarette advertising on radio and television, to take effect after Jan. 1, 1971.

In 1972, Pennville marshals arrested five individuals — ages 15 through 19 — for illegal possession of alcoholic beverages.

In 1975, with Khmer Rouge guerrillas closing in, Cambodian President Lon Nol resigned and fled into exile, spending the rest of his life in the United States.

—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board, Community Room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, School-house Community Center.
Tuesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	

Obituaries

Linda Hamilton

March 22, 1948-March 30, 2022
Linda Hamilton, age 74, a resident of rural Ridgeville, passed away Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Anderson. Linda was born in Jay County on March 22, 1948, the daughter of Francis Leon Sr. and Mary (Cummings) Denney. Linda was a 1967 graduate of Redkey High School. She worked in quarries in Fairview, Ridgeville and Portland. Linda also worked as the township trustee for Greene Township in Randolph County. She attended St. Vincent Catholic



Hamilton

Church in Anderson, Indiana. She married Morris Hamilton on July 27, 1963. Survivors include: Her husband — Morris Hamilton, Ridgeville, Indiana. Two sons — Daniel (wife: Mary Louise), Winchester, Indiana, and David (wife: April), Hagerstown, Indiana. Her mother — Mary Denney, Parker City, Indiana. Two brothers — Francis Denney Jr., Nashville, Indiana, and Loren Denney, Mitchell, Indiana. Three sisters — Tonya Ellis (husband: Michael), Ridgeville, Indiana, Carisa Grice (husband: Patrick), Ridgeville, Indiana, and Lavina Smith (husband: James), Union City, Indiana.

Four grandchildren. Visitation will be held Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Services will follow the visitation at 2 p.m. Burial will be held in Hillcrest Cemetery south of Redkey. Memorials may be directed to the American Diabetes Association.

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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

District 79 ...

Continued from page 1
"Being someone from a rural district, it's a little frustrating for me yet that Indiana has not really hit the gas pedal on that," he said. "I've pushed for years now for expansion ... "With e-learning that got ramped up during COVID, with many small businesses operating out of homes, we've really got to make broadband a top priority." Lehman, who serves as the majority floor leader in the Indiana House, also pointed to the budget — the General Assembly writes a two-year budget during odd-numbered years — noting that education makes up more than 50% of spending. He said he's a believer in public schools, adding that he believes funding for wage increases will be in the next budget as they were in the last, but that he is also supportive of vouchers and charter schools. Referencing tax cuts passed this year, he said he feels they were done in a responsible way, giving some money back to the taxpayers but also making sure there is enough of a cushion remaining for the state to be able to weather any potential economic downturn.

address huge issues and go home. In the area of education, Mounsey focused on cultural issues, saying that some have agendas and are turning schools into places to teach alternative lifestyles. He said he is against teaching Critical Race Theory and "pornography" in schools. "We have to support our teachers in positive ways," he said. "We have a lot of counter-culture things, alternative lifestyle type things, explicit material issues in schools. I think we need to really listen to the citizens ... "Raising kids should be the parents' job, not the school's job. The schools need to stick to educating the children in reading, writing, arithmetic, kind of the basics, and leave morality issues to the parents." He added that he believes in school choice, noting that his older children attended public schools but that he and his wife have mostly home-schooled. When asked about what he feels is the most important issue facing the state legislature, he focused on election integrity. He said many are concerned that the 2020 election was not fair and that if citizens aren't confident in elections "we have basically lost our freedoms completely." He supports requiring a government-issued ID for mail-in voting and expresses criticism that no comprehen-

sive voter fraud investigations were done in Indiana. Both candidates discussed abortion, with Lehman saying he expects the legislature to return to session this summer to address the issue if the Supreme Court alters current federal law through the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health out of Mississippi. He indicated that he is strongly pro-life. Mounsey also said he is pro-life and he thinks the legislature has not done enough on the abortion issue. He said the state should pass a comprehensive bill that "protects children from conception" and bring the issue to the forefront. He also expressed concerns about rules that were put in place during the pandemic, such as closing businesses and churches. "I am not a politician," said Mounsey. "I am just a regular person. The House of Representatives, back in the day, used to be the ... house of the common people. I don't have aspirations of climbing the political ladder. I just

want to bring common-sense conservative values to the Indiana Statehouse and protect the Constitutional rights of the citizens." Lehman said he's proud of the bill passed this session to eliminate the requirement to have a permit in order to carry a gun in public. He also indicated that he would continue to push for ways to improve facilities such as Ouabache State Park in Wells County and address other areas of need with infrastructure and waterways in the district. "I look at myself as a common-sense guy," he said. "I don't believe in pendulum swings. I don't like things that shift really far in one direction or the other. "I believe politics has a level of compromise. I don't compromise my core beliefs, but I think we have to work together to get through some of the issues ... "I listen. I try to take in as much information as I can. And I think if people meet me they will find I'm a pretty logical, even-keel person."

Celebration of Life for
Jessica Kincaid Cruz
July 30, 1984 - March 12, 2022
Monday, April 4, 2022
7pm-9pm
at Sapphires Reception Center
1100 W. Votaw St., Portland, IN
Jess' favorite foods will be served

SERVICES

Saturday
Stump, Mark: 11 a.m., First Church of the Nazarene, 920 S. Shank St., Portland.
Moneysmith, James: noon, Brockman-Boeckman Funeral Home, 308 S. Wayne St., Fort Recovery.
Hamilton, Linda: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
McFarland, Jack: 2 p.m., Elm Ridge Funeral Home, 4600 W. Kilgore Ave., Muncie.

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Call **The Commercial Review** to take advantage of this special!
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Mother is having affair

DEAR ABBY: I am 15 and have a big problem. My mom and my dad have been married a long time. I was looking through pictures on Mom's phone and found some very inappropriate and romantic texts from "Rob," her business partner. Mom forces our whole family to hang out with Rob, and my brother doesn't like him either. But anytime we bring it up, my mom yells at us and makes me cry. She wants me to be friends with Rob.

Dear Abby



friends with her business partner. Your sense of right and wrong is valid, and don't let her tell you otherwise. Do not be surprised if she's upset about the fact that you know what has been going on, so be prepared for it. I am sorry you have to go through this. It's a shame.

.....

One time when we were all at a restaurant, someone asked if he was my dad. I know what she is doing with him, and I can't focus on school because of it. I think my dad knows — kind of — but I'm sure he hasn't seen the texts that I saw. I don't want to ruin my family, but I cry about it every night alone. I know my parents won't go to couples counseling, and I don't want to hurt my brother either. Any help would be very much appreciated. — KID WHO KNOWS THE TRUTH

DEAR KID: Because this is causing emotional problems that are affecting your studies, it can't be ignored. It is time for you to talk about this with a school counselor, a relative or a family friend for emotional support and guidance.

I also think at some point you should talk to your mother about what you found on her phone. Tell her that's the reason you don't want to be

DEAR ABBY: A few years ago, my husband and I bought and moved into a very old, small house in our ideal neighborhood, which has beautifully manicured yards, nice people and a lot of diversity. We had a vision for this place, and it was perfect for us.

A friend of mine, "Maggie," who I knew had a judgmental streak, repeatedly asked to come see the house, which I knew was nowhere near in the condition for visitors. After about her 10th request, I told myself maybe I was overreacting to her potential reaction, and I invited her into my home for a tour. Three years later, my husband and I remodeled our home to fit our vision. We are happy.

Six months after the remodel was complete, my husband and I were at a friend's house and Maggie was there. At one point, Maggie's husband commented to us that he couldn't believe we had moved into that "s— shack." My husband's jaw dropped. Maggie jumped up and said, "I didn't call it that!" Of course it was logical that she did. She had seen it; he had not.

To this day, a year and a half later, I cannot get over why someone I invited into my home would say something so horrible about it behind my back or that her husband would repeat it among a group of mutual friends. My husband refuses to engage with Maggie and her husband. What should I do? — PROUD OF MY HOME NOW

DEAR PROUD: I am sorry you didn't write sooner about this. If you had, I would have advised you to tell Maggie exactly how that incident made you and your husband feel. It is a little late for that now, but you would certainly be within your rights to clear the air if you wish. What they said was uncalled for.

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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.

Robot dog will explore Pompeii

By ANNABELLE TIMSIT
The Washington Post

For years, tomb raiders targeted what remains of the ancient Roman city of Pompeii in Italy, digging tunnels underground to steal and traffic artifacts from its lavish homes, some of which date back more than 2,600 years. The tunnels have also helped excavators find new artifacts. But the authorities of Pompeii say many can't safely be explored today because they could collapse — so they've brought in a robot dog to help.

The robot, which with a slight stretch of the imagination resembles a four-legged dog, is called Spot. It was developed by the technology firm Boston Dynamics, and is equipped with an autonomous, laser-based scanner, and a color camera with a 360-degree field of vision. As of last year, its base cost was \$75,400, with customized add-ons tending to drive up the price.

It's among the first real-world examples of autonomous robots being used in archaeological sites, which are typically more difficult because of their large size and changing surfaces, according to Pompeii Archaeological Park Director General Gabriel Zuchtriegel. It's

part of a broader initiative to preserve the structures of Pompeii, some of which collapsed in 2010, and to modernize the management of the site.

The goal is for Spot to walk around Pompeii autonomously, across bricks and dirt, at night and during the day, to monitor existing buildings for structural weaknesses and to assess the progress of restoration work and search digs, especially in areas that could be dangerous to humans.

It can be accompanied by a flying device to capture 3D scans of the structures.

Spot is being tested as part of an initiative called Smart@POMPEII, which focuses on how technology can improve the management of the Archaeological Park of Pompeii.

"Technological advances in the world of robotics . . . have produced solutions and innovations typically associated with the industrial and manufacturing world, but which until now had not found an application within archaeological sites due to the heterogeneity of environmental conditions, and the size of the site," said Zuchtriegel in a news release dated Monday.

Nominations open for award

Nominations are being accepted through Monday for a state award recognizing environmental efforts.

Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is seeking nominations for the 2022 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence.

The awards recognize those who have "implemented outstanding environmental strategies into their operations and decision-making processes," according to a press release from IDEM.

The awards are open to all Indiana businesses, government agencies, individuals and other groups implementing "exemplary environmental projects or initiatives with measurable results," the press release said.

Awards will be presented in the following categories: energy efficiency/renewable resources, environ-

Taking Note

mental education/outreach, five-year continuous improvement, greening the government, land use/conservation, pollution prevention and recycling/reuse.

Nominations must be received by IDEM no later than 5 p.m. Monday. Awards will be announced via press release and later presented Sept 21 at the Marriott Indianapolis North during the Annual Pollution Prevention Conference.

Instructions, eligibility requirements and other details about the nomination process are available at

in.gov/idem/partnerships/governors-awards-for-environmental-excellence/. Contact 1-800-988-7901 or GovAwards@idem.IN.gov with other questions.

Noodle dinner

Get ready for beef and noodles. Pennville Volunteer Fire Department is offering a dine-in or carry out dinner from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. (or until supplies last) April 9. Freewill donations will be accepted for the meal.

Classes offered

John Jay Center for Learning is offering free classes for adults to receive a High School Equivalency diploma.

Classes are available from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

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Community Calendar

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

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

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.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

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.

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.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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.

Agriculture OUTLOOK

Appears in April 22 edition
deadline April 15

Contact
Lindsey Cochran
L.cochran@thecr.com
or 260-726-8141

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1/2-page color (limit four)	\$300
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		(regular price — \$136.50)	
1/4 page black and white —	\$150	Business card (2x2) —	\$52

The Commercial Review
309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana
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Old age doesn't change personality

By **BUD HERRON**

The Republic (Columbus)

An elderly relative lay dying at Columbus Regional Hospital.

She had never had children of her own and, in her later years, I came forward to help her — running errands, visiting, listening to myriad complaints about her world and the people in it.

I had received a call at the office, telling me her heart condition had deteriorated. Doctors could do no more for her and she had been moved to a holding room until she could be placed in a nursing home.

She was old and frail — just a wisp of the woman who once sat smoking L& M Menthol 100s and sipping on a Canadian Club highball each afternoon at her kitchen table.

Today, she lay in a hospital bed, cranked up slightly to elevate her head — hooked up to hoses — her

Bud Herron



nose clamped to the plastic prongs of an oxygen tube — her eyes closed. As I entered the room, she looked so peaceful I assumed at first I was too late to say goodbye.

I edged my way around the foot of her bed and quietly sat down in the visitor's chair on the far side.

"Damn, you are fat," a weak crackle of a voice cut through the silence. "How the hell much do you weigh?"

Evidently, she had watched me inch my way around the bed and

had just enough air left in her lungs to breathe a final, insensitive evaluation of me. Then her eyes slowly went shut.

She died the way she lived — mean-spirited, self-centered and judgmental. No phony deathbed conversions for her — no attempt to try to cut in line ahead of those on their way to paradise that day. I admired her for that.

I was in my early 50s and my relative was in her mid-70s — about the age I am now.

As a teenager, I once heard my father describe her as "mean as a snake." I thought he was a bit harsh at the time. To me she was just fun — a woman who did as she pleased, had a mind of her own and loved a party.

In reality, my dad's comment had been right on target. Whether by some mysterious genetic inheritance or some childhood emotional trauma, she

had been "mean as a snake" her whole life.

Family members said she was spoiled by her alcoholic father, who had damaged the lives of her older siblings, then sobered up somewhat and tried to make amends by having no rules on her whatsoever.

Other times — in her young adult years — her hurtful comments and vengeful attitudes were passed off as "strengths of character" — a willingness to tell the unfettered truth about people and situations — an honesty that, while hurtful, was admirable.

Finally, she grew old and the world stepped forward to give her the "hall pass to respectability" so often awarded to those of us in our dotage who are "mean as snakes." Overlook her. It's not the way she is. She is just old and has lost her filter.

I am sure I awarded my relative

that excuse during her later years — often out of embarrassment about the way she had always been. She had not been much kinder or considerate of others at 40 than she was at 70. Mean old people likely were mean young people.

I am now 76 with no fear of being labeled an "ageist" when I say getting old doesn't turn loving people hateful or considerate people mean.

Of course, the truth is many old folks lose their filters a bit. Although I have never had much of a filter at any age, I guess this column shows I have lost what little I had.

That woman was indeed mean as a snake.

.....

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

Regime change is not a policy option

The Washington Post

It's not usually a good idea for a president even to imply a foreign policy objective that he or she does not actually have the intention or capability to achieve.

And so it was necessary and appropriate that President Joe Biden's aides quickly told the world that his unscripted remark about Russian President Vladimir Putin in Poland on Saturday — "For God's sake, this man cannot remain in power" — did not mean that regime change in Moscow is on the U.S. policy agenda in Ukraine.

The president himself affirmed he was "expressing moral outrage" not a "policy change" at a Monday press conference.

It can be a good idea, however, for presidents to speak in a clear moral voice about world affairs. On that score, Biden's remark had something going for it: truth. Having previously labeled Putin a "war criminal" and a "butcher," the president's latest ad-lib did not, to be sure, add much to the stark, and all too accurate, portrait he has been painting of Russia's dictator and the regime he leads. The speech to which Biden appended it was an eloquent call to arms, rallying a reinvigorated West to resist the aggression and slaughter of innocents that the Putin regime has wrought in Ukraine and to prevent the conflict from spreading. In that context, the "for God's sake" moment overshadowed the main message. Yet it at least served to connect Biden's broader assessment of the Putin regime with the inescapable conclusion: There can be no peace and security as long as it is in power.

The United States and its allies have no choice but to build a strategy based not on the long-term reality, which is that they cannot live with a Putin regime, but on the short-term reality that they must, barring a revolution in Moscow that cannot be anticipated. In that sense, Biden's words changed little — though they might have heartened Russians who have risked their lives to oppose the regime. Perhaps Biden reinforced Putin's belief that the United States is bent on his overthrow, which will make him less inclined to negotiate a cease-fire in Ukraine. But Putin has long believed he is targeted for regime change anyway; nor was

Guest Editorial

... the best course for the West is to keep doing what it's doing: sanctioning the Russian economy, while arming and supporting the Ukrainians, generously and swiftly, so as to assure Russia's battlefield failure.

there much chance that he would negotiate an acceptable agreement with President Volodymyr Zelensky. Zelensky recently suggested a form of neutrality to address Putin's ostensible concerns about Ukraine's NATO membership aspirations, but Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov has dismissively said, regarding peace talks, "The main thing now is to stop indulging the Ukrainians, who only want to create the pretense of negotiations, the pretense of a solution."

A multiyear defense buildup by NATO's European members is called for and underway. Meanwhile, the best course for the West is to keep doing what it's doing: sanctioning the Russian economy, while arming and supporting the Ukrainians, generously and swiftly, so as to assure Russia's battlefield failure. That policy is working: Russia has already been forced to scale back its publicly declared objectives, a tacit admission that it lacks the capability to seize Kyiv or other major cities. The only scenario that would seem to guarantee Putin's indefinite hold on power is clear military victory — and that is getting less likely with each passing day.



Remember CODA's message

By **MARK TAKANO** and **JOHN RUTHERFORD**

Special To The Washington Post

"This is our moment!"

Troy Kotsur declared in exuberant American Sign Language after winning the award for best supporting actor for his performance as a deaf fisherman in "CODA," which would go on to win best picture. In the best acceptance speech of the night, Kotsur praised the deaf theaters where he got his start as an actor; recalled the beauty of his late father's signing and promised co-star Marlee Matlin he wouldn't teach the audience — just as he hadn't with the Bidens — to cuss in ASL.

The wins for Kotsur and "CODA" put the deaf community at the center of Hollywood's biggest night. Which is to say: right where they should be. Deaf and hard-of-hearing people aren't on the fringes of society. They're everywhere, and our policy and pop culture should reflect that reality.

According to the National Institutes of Health, an estimated 15% of American adults report some trouble with hearing. According to a 2011 report from the Census Bureau, about 3.6% of the U.S. population is deaf or experiencing severe hearing loss. Some people, such as the family in "CODA," are born deaf. Others, such as Riz Ahmed in the 2021 best picture nominee "Sound of Metal," lose their hear-



Mark Takano and John Rutherford



ing over time.

"CODA" is notable not just for its lead performances but for its sensitive exploration of how deafness affects a working-class American family facing the challenges familiar to their hearing fellow citizens. The parents in that film, played by Kotsur and Matlin, rely on their hearing daughter, Ruby (Emilia Jones), to interpret for them. Ruby and her father and brother operate a fishing boat. The head of that big company that buys their catch regularly tries to cheat Ruby's father and brother because he knows they can't hear the prices he offers to other fishermen. Ruby's mother resists her interest in music, believing that her daughter will choose the hearing world over the deaf community.

Movies and television shows like this have helped personalize the experiences of deaf Americans for millions of others. But Hollywood visibility is just a start — and if the moment Kotsur identified is to last beyond the Oscars, we need to do more to make sure all deaf Americans can reach their potential and participate in public life.

As some Oscars watchers pointed out, the Academy

of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences provided an onstage ASL interpreter only during the speeches by people affiliated with "CODA," as if that was the only movie deaf and hard-of-hearing people in the audience might have been interested in. "CODA" itself has scenes that demonstrate how alienating it can be to move through the world without proper interpretation, whether in a doctor's office, concert hall or courtroom. This isn't just an issue of convenience but one of democracy: public policy and democratic processes, congressional proceedings and public addresses should be accessible to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

These issues of access and participation start early. We need to make sure that deaf and hard-of-hearing students and their families have the resources necessary for children to thrive in school, whether they attend mainstream institutions or schools designed for deaf children, such as the Phoenix Day School for the Deaf that Kotsur attended as a child.

Many schools established to focus on deaf edu-

cation are under-resourced and struggle to keep their doors open. We must ensure that they are adequately funded and have the tools they need to serve deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

And deaf students in schools designed with the needs of able-bodied children in mind deserve an excellent education as well. Students with disabilities are significantly undercounted, which means that they might not have access to professionals who can properly assess them and provide the supports they need. As a result, teachers might assess deaf and hard-of-hearing students' abilities incorrectly and set embarrassingly low expectations for them. It's awful to think about what talents the world might miss out on as a result.

The day after the Oscars might have been dominated by the altercation between Will Smith and Chris Rock. But it is our hope that in the long term, the sights of a theater full of stars applauding in ASL for "CODA" and Kotsur are the more enduring image. If that is to happen, those of us here in Washington have work to do.

.....

Takano, a Democrat, represents California's 41st Congressional District and John Rutherford, a Republican, represents Florida's 4th Congressional District in the U.S. House. They are co-chairs of the Congressional Deaf Caucus.

The Commercial Review

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus



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Pence unveils agenda, weighs 2024

By JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former Vice President Mike Pence is offering a “Freedom Agenda” platform for Republicans ahead of this year’s midterm elections, presenting a framework for GOP candidates — and possibly himself for a 2024 presidential run.

Pence’s platform, released Thursday, combines traditional Republican goals such as increasing American energy production, cutting taxes and rolling back regulations, with priorities pursued by former President Donald Trump on issues like trade and immigration.

Pence also offers plenty of culture war red meat for the GOP base, pledging, for instance, to save women’s sports by “ensuring that sports competitions are between those who share their God-given gender” and calling for all high school students to pass a civics test.

“Elections are about the future, and I think it’s absolutely essential that, while we do our part to take the fight to the failed policies of the Biden administration and the radical left, at the same time, we want to offer a compelling vision built on our highest American ideals,” Pence told reporters ahead of the plan’s release. “It really is an effort to put in one place the agenda that I think carried us to the White House in 2016, carried two Bush presidencies to the White House and carried Ronald Reagan to the White House in 1980.”

Much of the 28-page plan reads like the platform of a presidential campaign, underscoring Pence’s ambitions and providing a clear road map of the themes and policies he is likely to pursue if he moves forward with a 2024 run. While Pence in recent weeks has worked to distance himself from his former boss as he begins to reintroduce himself to voters and develop a political identity of his own, he has also been careful to tie himself to the policies of the Trump-Pence administration, which remain extremely popular among Republican voters.

It’s part of what aides see as Pence’s unique opportunity, as a former talk radio host, congressman and Indiana governor, to merge the traditional conservative movement with Trump’s “Make America Great Again” agenda.

“There is a winning coalition for America that believes in the traditionally conservative values that the vice president has championed through his career,” said Marc Short, co-chair of Advancing American Freedom, the advocacy group Pence launched last year.

Still, Pence argues that “elections are about the future,” in contrast to Trump’s continued focus on his own false 2020 election claims.

Pence’s plan comes as the GOP has been at odds over the wisdom of offering voters a concrete policy agenda ahead of the midterm elections this year. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell has been pointedly opposed to such efforts, arguing that Republicans should keep the focus on President Joe Biden, whose popularity has slumped amid the highest inflation in 40 years and the Russian war in Ukraine, and make the election a referendum on him.

The risks of a specific plan came into stark relief last month when Florida Sen. Rick Scott, another potential 2024 contender and the chair of the Senate Republicans’ campaign arm, unveiled his 11-point plan to “rescue America.”



Special to The Commercial Review/Don Gillespie

Clearing out

A crew works to pull a fallen tree out of the Salamonie River on Thursday morning between Meridian and Wayne streets in Portland.

Sheriff ...

Continued from page 1

He currently works as a police officer at IU Health Jay and serves on Jay County Council.

Newton recalled during his time as sheriff when the jail was overcrowded and outdated.

“The old jail was very dangerous,” he said. “It was just getting to the point the jail was out of control.”

He oversaw the jail’s expansion, increasing the number of beds from roughly 48 to about 150 and as well as updating equipment and other necessities. Newton said while serving as sheriff, he achieved a goal to update vehicles with mobile data terminals or computers and updated camera systems. They installed antennas in four areas of the county to increase radio signals.

Lennartz said he’s currently working to increase training and help officers to be better prepared for any and all situations they may encounter, such as recognizing and handling citizens suffering from mental health issues and drug interdiction. He would like to see more training implemented as sheriff.

“I feel like that’s very important

to better equip these guys because the landscape is changing every day out here, and it’s not necessarily for the better,” he said.

It is a liability, Newton said, to not have enough training for officers. He also plans to offer more options, specifically crisis intervention training.

Officer retention, all three candidates noted, is an issue that needs to be addressed at the sheriff’s office.

Increasing pay and morale among officers are some ways Wells hopes to draw and keep more employees. He would like to see more law enforcement in the rural areas of the county, beyond town and city limits.

Lennartz, Wells and Newton are keen on keeping budget spending in check. Wells and Newton expressed disagreements with how some funding has been used in the past.

“It’s not so much how we can spend, it’s how we can save,” Newton said.

The sheriff’s office and Jay County Jail are now undergoing various maintenance projects, Wells noted, and said he thinks it “takes the right person to step in

and make sure it’s done” in a financially responsible manner.

“I’ve got to sit back and watch for the last few years, and there’s some things that I would definitely change,” he said. “The economy’s not the greatest right now, so maybe we need to tighten our belts and close the toy chest.”

Lennartz is focused on bringing rehabilitation programs back to Jay County Jail.

“I know our job is to arrest people that commit crimes, but I also want to see them helped in the end,” he said. “I don’t want them coming back. I want to see them prosper and become ... prosperous citizens.”

Newton chastised the department for halting programs when the coronavirus pandemic started. He plans to implement them back into the jail.

All three candidates advocated for having a school resource officer in Jay Schools. Newton said he would love to see more officers or involvement with the schools but will leave that decision up to Jay School Corporation.

“We’ve got to protect our kids,” Newton said. “You can’t put a price on your kids.”

Each candidate believes they’re the best person for the job.

“I know I have the knowledge and the experience and the work ethic that it takes to be sheriff, and I know that I can lead that department in the right direction,” Lennartz said.

Wells encouraged the public to listen to others in the community, not just him and the other candidates, to make an informed decision on the party’s nomination for sheriff.

“I think my experience and my accomplishments up to now speak for my character,” said Wells. “I’ve spent the majority of my life as a police officer, and I like to think that I’ve gained a lot of respect in the community, and I want the chance to prove that I can do more.”

If elected, Newton said, he believes he’s the only candidate that could transition to the role seamlessly.

“I think the community has lost faith in the department and it needs to be fixed. A lot of people believe I’m the only person who can do it,” said Newton. “I want to bring back leadership and professionalism to the department.”

Strike reported as talks resume

By NEBI QENA and YURAS KARMANAU
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Talks to stop the fighting in Ukraine resumed Friday, as another attempt to rescue civilians from the shattered and encircled city of Mariupol was thrown into jeopardy and Russia accused the Ukrainians of a cross-border helicopter attack on an oil depot.

The governor of Russia’s Belgorod region, Vyacheslav Gladkov, said an airstrike on Russian soil by a pair of helicopter gunships caused fires and wounded two people. Several nearby businesses were also reported hit.

“Certainly, this is not something that can be perceived as creating comfortable conditions for the continuation of the talks,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, five weeks into the war that has left thousands dead and driven more than 4 million refugees from Ukraine.

It was not immediately possible to verify the Russian accusation. Ukrainian

Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said he could “neither confirm nor reject the claim that Ukraine was involved in this, simply because I do not possess all the military information.”

Russia has reported cross-border shelling from Ukraine before, including an incident last week that killed a military chaplain, but not an incursion of its airspace. The depot, run by Russian energy giant Rosneft, is about 35 kilometers (21 miles) from the Ukraine border.

Meanwhile, Russian troops appeared to be in rapid retreat from areas around Kyiv, three days after Moscow said it planned to reduce military activity around the Ukrainian capital and the northern city of Chernihiv to create more trust between the two sides and promote negotiations.

But Ukraine and its allies have warned that the Kremlin is not de-escalating but regrouping, resupplying its troops and reemploying them to the country’s east for an intensified assault.

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SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Daddy discovers the work of an imposter.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Test your play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Spades, and North leads a trump, South following suit. How would you play the hand? WEST: K Q J 10 8 5 4 2, 6 3, A Q 9. EAST: A 9 7, K J 5 2, Q 7, 6 5 2.

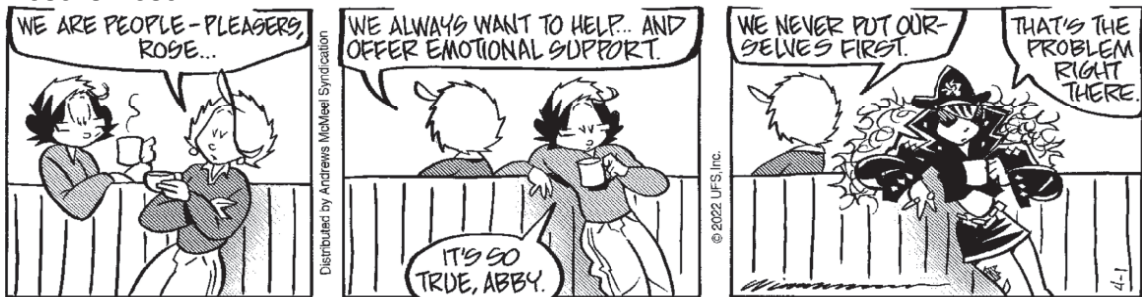
2. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Clubs, and North leads the king of hearts. How would you play the hand? WEST: K 8 4, J 10 6, A Q 7 6 5 4 2. EAST: A Q 9, Q 10 6 3 2, A Q 5, 10 3.

Tomorrow: Card reading. ©2022 King Features Syndicate Inc.

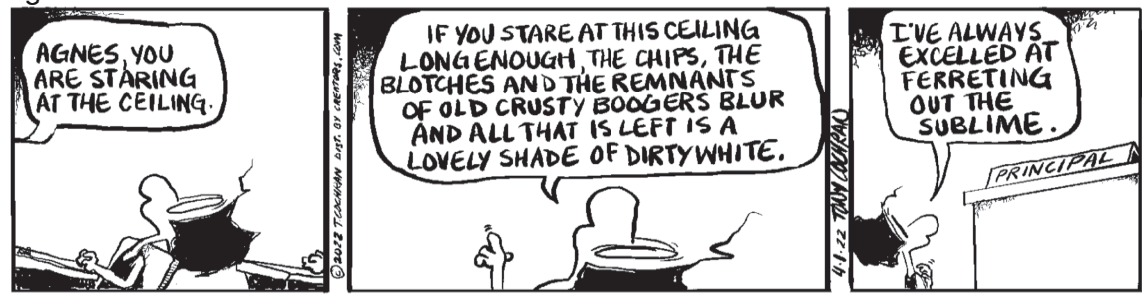
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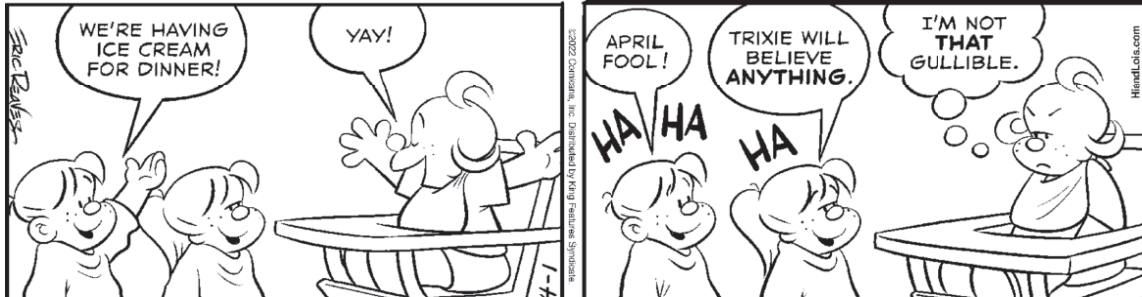
Rose is Rose



Agnes



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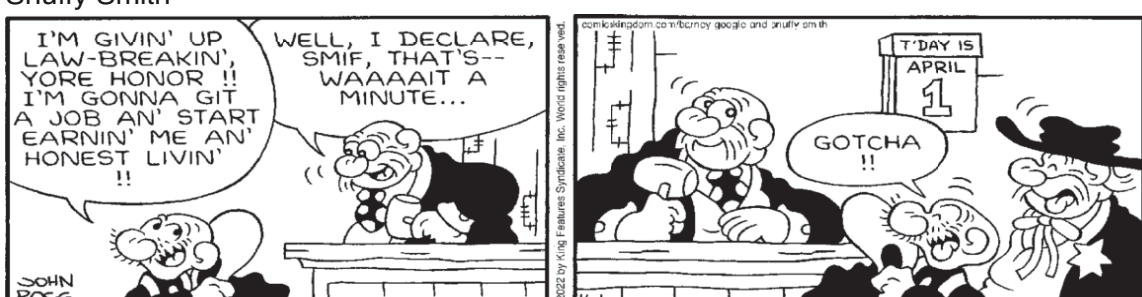
Funky Winkerbean



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4-1 CRYPTOQUIP

SCAAORU SOQGLRR RERQLH QUCQ'R XLOGP QCDPUQ XE EJDZ XJESZOLGA SZJH XCGPMJM: QUCO-XLCD QCL XJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A DUO WANTS TO PLAY A PORTABLE SNARE DRUM TOGETHER, I GUESS THEY MIGHT GET A TABOR FOR TWO. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals H

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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Sports

Masters brings anticipation

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. — The anticipation is greater than ever for the return of the roars to Augusta National. Even greater is the mystery surrounding the Masters, on so many levels.

It's not just about trying to get a sense of who might be best suited for a green jacket on the second Sunday of April, especially with the choices running deeper than ever. Ten of the top 20 players in the world already are major champions.

It's about who might be playing — Tiger Woods.

And to a lesser extent, it's about who will be missing — Phil Mickelson.

Mind you, the Masters never needs a bump. Mainstream sports fans get in the mood at the start of the year upon hearing the opening three chords of "Augusta" by Dave Loggins, the theme song CBS plays in promotional commercials.

The warmth of the Florida swing brings golf's annual rite of spring that much closer.

And then social media accounts came alive Tuesday — nine day before the April 7 start of the 86th Masters — with screenshots of various charts tracking a plane from South Florida to Augusta, a private jet registered to Woods.

He played 18 holes, according to a person on the grounds, presumably to see if his body could handle walking and playing the undulating terrain of Augusta National.

Is the five-time Masters champion really going to play just 14 months after his right leg was so badly damaged in a car crash outside Los Angeles that Woods said doctors contemplated amputation?

"I think for golf and for the Masters tournament and for everyone, to have Tiger there would be phenomenal," Rory McIlroy said. "Anything Tiger Woods does in the game of golf is heightened whenever he's there. It would be awesome for him to be there."

"Obviously, no one knows but him if he can make it around and if he believes he can compete."

His only competition since the 2020 Masters in November was the PNC Championship with his son, Charlie. They played a scramble format. Woods rode in a cart on a flat Florida course. They finished second.

If he decides not to play, it would be the first Masters without Woods or Mickelson since 1994, when Woods was a senior in high school and Mickelson was out with a broken leg from skiing. In the last 25 years, they have combined for eight green jackets.

Mickelson got into so much hot water with a series of comments that managed to offend just about everyone — the Saudis putting up the money, Greg Norman using that money to push for a rival golf circuit, and the PGA Tour that Mickelson accused of "obnoxious greed" — that Lefty is sitting this one out.

See Brings page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fort Recovery High School's Kensey Gaerke tries to escape a rundown during the second inning of the Tribe softball team's 12-6 win Thursday over South Adams. Gaerke got caught in between third base and home plate on an RBI single by Emma Will — pinch runner Audra Bubb scored on the play — and was eventually tagged out to end the inning. At right is SAHS third baseman Cora Baker, and at left is catcher Sophia Schwartz.

Big innings carry Tribe to win

FORT RECOVERY — The Indians christened their upgraded field with a win.

Fort Recovery High School's softball team used a pair of big innings to get past the South Adams Starfires 12-6 Thursday in the season opener for both teams.

It was the first game for the Indians (1-0) on their field that had some work done around the infield and outfield. (They were scheduled to open their season Monday, but that game was canceled because of poor field conditions following rainy weather.)

A five-run fifth inning put Fort Recovery on top of South Adams (0-1) by a 6-0 margin after the Indians plated a run in the home half of the second.

South Adams roared back in the

A six-run sixth inning breaks a 6-6 tie as Fort Recovery tops South Adams 12-6



top of the sixth with six runs of their own to tie the game, but the Indians responded with a six-spot in the same frame for their eventual win.

Cora Baker started the Starfires' sixth inning with a single before SAHS loaded the bases on three consecutive errors. Kristen Wynn cleared the bags with a three-run triple, and then scored on a Peyton Pries two-bagger as well. Pries later reached home on an infield ground-out to tie the score at six-all.

Kylie Post singled to drive in Ella Schoen to begin the Tribe's six-run

sixth. Emma Will smacked a two-run triple before scoring on a passed ball. Chloey Grisez tripled and reached home on a groundout, then Sophie Pearson scored on a dropped third strike after reaching on a single.

Will led the Tribe offense by going 3-for-4 with two triples. Maddie Guggenbiller and Grisez were each 2-for-4 with a triple. Post and Schoen were both 2-for-3, while Pearson and Gaerke went 2-for-4 apiece.

Jackie Homan pitched the Indians to the win. She allowed seven hits and struck out five with no walks.

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