

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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\$1

Jay rate now 1.9%

County sits in middle of state's rankings

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review
Unemployment is back below 2%. According to Indiana Department of Workforce Development estimates released Monday, Jay County's unemployment rate dipped to 1.9% in April.

The local rate is down 0.6 percentage points from March and 0.7 percentage points from the previous year.

As it had been for the previous three months of the year, Jay County was near the middle of the unemployment rankings among the state's 90 counties. It was tied with 11 other counties for the 42nd lowest or 41st highest rate in the state, depending on one's perspective. Also coming in at 1.9% were Carroll, Clark, Dearborn, Jefferson, Morgan, Perry, Putnam, Ripley, Tipton and Wabash counties.

Unemployment continues its run of being historically low. The rate of 2.1% in October was the lowest on record for Jay County dating back to 1990 and continued to fall to 1.2%. It climbed above 2% for the first three months of 2022 before dropping back last month.

See Rate page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Scouts honor

Sophia Kahn, 9, places a flag next to a headstone Tuesday at Center Cemetery. Pennville Girl Scouts gathered at the cemetery in rural Portland to honor fallen soldiers for Memorial Day.

State legislature overrides veto

By ALEXANDRA KUKULKA
Post-Tribune (Merrillville)
Tribune News Service

The Indiana General Assembly voted Tuesday to override a veto of a bill that would ban transgender girls from playing on a girls sport or team in K-12 schools.

The House voted 67-28 to override the veto, with three Republicans voting against the override. The Senate voted 32-15 to override the veto.

Gov. Eric Holcomb vetoed the bill in March, saying it did not provide a

Holcomb had reasoned that the bill did not provide a consistent policy

consistent policy for what he called "fairness in K-12 sports." He also pointed to the IHSAA's policy on transgender athletes.

Republican sponsors of the bill maintained Tuesday it is needed to protect

the integrity of female sports and opportunities for girls to gain college athletic scholarships but could not point out any instances in the state of transgender athletes outperforming other girls.

Ahead of the vote, dozens of young people and supporters gathered outside the statehouse to oppose the override vote.

Nathaniel Clawson, of Bloomington, who has testified against the bill since

it was first proposed in the legislature, said his transgender daughter woke up in a foul mood Tuesday.

"People are trying to take away my rights," Clawson said his daughter told him.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana immediately filed a lawsuit challenging the law in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana. Similar laws have already been blocked or temporarily enjoined in other states.

See Overrides page 5

Gunman kills 21 in Texas

By MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE and JENNY JARVIE
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

UVALDE, Texas — A gunman who killed 19 children and two teachers at a Texas elementary school in one of the deadliest school massacres in U.S. history barricaded himself inside a fourth-grade classroom, where all the fatalities and injuries occurred, a state official said today.

"The shooter was able to make entry into the classroom, barricaded himself inside that classroom and again just began shooting numerous children and teachers that were in that classroom," Lt. Christopher Olivarez, a Texas Department of Public Safety spokesman, said on NBC's "Today" show.

Separately, Olivarez told CNN that all those who were killed and injured were in that room.

Police and border patrol officers shattered the school's windows, Olivarez said on "Today," in an attempt to offer students and teachers an escape route.

The massacre in the predominantly working-class Latino city of about 16,000 people, roughly 50 miles from the Mexico border, involved the most fatalities of any U.S. school shooting since 2012, when 20 children and six adults were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Conn.

Two teachers were among the dead, and several children were

injured in the massacre, including a 10-year-old who remained in critical condition.

The gunman, whom officials identified as Salvador Ramos, an 18-year-old who attended a nearby high school, was fatally shot at the scene.

After shooting and wounding his 66-year-old grandmother at her home in Uvalde, Ramos got into his SUV and then crashed it into a ditch before arriving at the elementary school, according to a law-enforcement source. Clad in black and reportedly wearing body armor, the gunman was captured on a security camera with at least one weapon visible as he approached the school.

The children at Robb Elementary School were two days away from their summer break when the attacker burst into their classroom. Tuesday's theme at the school was "Footloose and Fancy," and students were sup-

posed to wear special outfits with fun or fancy shoes.

Among the victims was Amerie Jo Garza, 10. Just that morning, she had posed at school for a photo, smiling as she clutched a bright certificate celebrating her "A-B" honor roll.

"Thank you everyone for the prayers and help trying to find my baby," her father, Angel Garza, wrote on Facebook shortly after midnight. "She's been found. My little love is now flying high with the angels above. Please don't take a second for granted. Hug your family. Tell them you love them. I love you Amerie Jo. Watch over your baby brother for me."

Henry Becerra, a pastor with City Church, which is based in Los Angeles and San Antonio, traveled to Uvalde after the shooting to pray with families overnight and into this morning.

See Kills page 5



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Young honor

Portland attorney Josh Atkinson speaks Saturday during the Jay County Community Awards at Spoke and Wheel Event Center after being named the 2021 Young Professional of the Year.

Deaths

John and Gretchen Young, Zionsville
Wanda Barcus, 55, rural Redkey
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 75 degrees Tuesday. The low was 56.

Showers are expected tonight with a thunderstorm possible. The low will be 65. Thursday's forecast calls for a chance of showers with a high of 77.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

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

Coming up

Thursday — Jay County High School student is marching with the Cavaliers.

Saturday — Results from the FRHS track team at the district meet.



Obituaries

John and Gretchen Young

A memorial service for John Griffith Young and Gretchen Louise (Schultze) Young will be held on Friday, May 27, at the First Presbyterian Church in Portland at 2 p.m.

A reception will follow in the fellowship hall at the church. Please join us in remembering these amazing people.

Baird-Freeman Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Wanda Barcus

Oct. 23, 1966-May 24, 2022
Wanda Ann Barcus, age 55, rural Redkey, was welcomed home by her Lord and Savior on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. She passed at home following an extended illness.

Born in Muncie on Oct. 23, 1966, she grew up in Jay County and graduated from Jay County High School in 1985. She was a

graduate of Amber's Beauty School and was active at Farm-land Friends Church. A devoted servant of Christ, Wanda was a homemaker that enjoyed gardening, cooking, spending time with her family and cherishing her grandkids.

Survivors include her husband of 35 years, Kevin Barcus; sons Brock Barcus (wife: Joy), Redkey,

and Brody Barcus (wife: Nicole), Crawfordsville; daughters Ciera Smith (husband: Colton), Albany, and Sofia Barcus, Redkey; brother Wiley Mooneyhan (wife: Pam), Portland; and grandchildren including Finley, Everett and Louella, with one more on the way.

She was preceded in death by her parents Myron and Alcenia (Hanna) Pursley; and aunt Mary "Perk" Huffman.

Burial will be at Black Cemetery. Memorials may be sent to Forgotten Children Worldwide,

650 N. Main St., Bluffton, Indiana. Condolences and other expressions of sympathy may be given at MeachamFuneralService.com.

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

Thursday 5/26	Friday 5/27	Saturday 5/28	Sunday 5/29	Monday 5/30
77/60	70/54	73/57	81/65	88/67
Shows and thunderstorms are expected Thursday, with up to a quarter of an inch of rain expected.	More rain is in the forecast for Friday with up to another quarter of an inch possible.	Mostly sunny skies on Saturday, with highs in the low 70s. Mostly clear at night.	Sunny skies are on the horizon for Sunday, with lows in the mid 60s.	Memorial Day should be sunny and hot, with a high in the upper 80s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$135 million	Quick Draw: 2-3-8-10-19-26-27-41-44-48-52-54-55-59-64-65-66-68-72-75 Cash 5: 6-13-23-25-42 Estimated jackpot: \$533,000
Mega Millions 3-5-6-63-68 Mega Ball: 25 Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$157 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 1-7-3 Pick 4: 5-9-5-3 Pick 5: 7-8-2-0-6 Evening Pick 3: 6-3-7 Pick 4: 9-1-8-8 Pick 5: 2-3-6-0-9 Rolling Cash: 1-21-24-28-33 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 5-4-5 Daily Four: 4-6-2-5 Quick Draw: 4-5-8-17-20-22-25-32-36-37-39-40-41-42-43-53-59-60-70-73 Evening Daily Three: 5-1-5 Daily Four: 9-1-5-1	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....7.76 June corn7.76 Wheat9.24	Wheat 10.29 June wheat10.70
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....7.85 June corn7.80 July corn.....7.83	Central States Montpelier Corn.....7.52 June corn7.50 Beans16.86 June beans16.81 Wheat.....10.72
The Andersons Richland Township Corn7.51 June corn7.61 Beans16.82 June beans16.87	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....7.35 June corn7.35 Beans16.78 June beans16.81 Wheat.....10.85

Today in history

In 1787, the Constitutional Convention opened in Philadelphia. Initially charged with amending the Articles of Confederation, the convention instead drafted the U.S. Constitution.

In 1851, Jose Justo de Urquiza of Argentina led a rebellion against Juan Manuel de Rosas.

In 1925, educator John Scopes was indicted for teaching the Darwinian theory of evolution in school.

In 1935, Babe Ruth of the New York Yankees hit his final career home run — No. 714. His record stood for 39 years.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy during a speech before Congress committed that the United States would land a man on the moon by the end of the decade.

In 1963, the Organization of African Unity, which promoted decolo-

nization and the end of white minority governments in Africa, was founded.

In 1977, Star Wars was released.

In 2011, the final episode of The Oprah Winfrey Show aired.

In 2012, Fort Recovery High School's Elle Sutter placed fifth in the 3,200-meter run in the regional at Troy.

In 2020, George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, was killed during an arrest in Minneapolis. His death set off nationwide protests.

In 2021, Elisa Parazzi gave Jay County High School its first girls track regional champion in a decade as she won the high jump at 5 feet, 4 inches, in the meet at Ben Davis. She and Kinsey Shannon, who placed third in the 400-meter dash, both earned berths in the state finals.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Tuesday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St., Portland. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St., Fort Recovery.
June 6 5:30 p.m. — Portland	

Senior send-off

Aidan O'Dell speaks with his sister following the Sunday graduation ceremony at Fort Recovery High School. The graduating senior's future plans are to enter the workforce.



Barcus



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Capsule Reports

Drunk driving

A Portland man was arrested for drunk driving after he crashed his car into a pole.

Edgar J. Serna, 20, was driving east on county road 100 North when his 2007 Pontiac G6's tires went off the south side of the road. He overcorrected, causing

him to lose control of the vehicle to crash into a utility pole.

Serna was booked into Jay County Jail and preliminarily charged with a Class C misdemeanor for being a minor and consuming or possessing alcohol, a Class B misdemeanor for leaving the scene of an

accident and a Class A misdemeanor for operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000. His vehicle was towed.

Deer hit

A Hartford City woman crashed the car she was driving into a deer on Indi-

ana 26 in Jay County about 9:52 p.m. Monday.

Ruth E. Wilson, 63, was driving east on the highway when a deer ran in front of the 2012 Chevrolet Cruise she was driving. She wasn't able to avoid hitting the animal, causing between \$5,000 and \$10,000 in estimated damage.

Rate ...

Continued from page 1
The local rate was below the state average of 2.2%. That mark was down 0.5 percentage points from March.

The state rate has been below 3% for eight months in a row.

LaGrange County made it a fifth straight month with the lowest rate in the state as it tied with Boone County at 1.3%. Dubois, Elkhart, Hamilton, Ohio and

Steuben counties were next at 1.4%.

Lake County also continued its run of five straight months with the highest rate in the state, coming in at 3.9%. Howard County was next at 3.8% and Fayette (3.1%) and LaPorte (3%) were the only other counties at 3% or higher.

Area rates are as follows:
Adams County: 1.5%, down 0.3 percentage points, t-eighth lowest

Blackford County: 2.5%, down 0.5 percentage point, t-10th highest
Delaware County: 2.5%, down 0.5 percentage points, t-10th highest

Jay County: 1.9%, down 0.6 percentage points, t-42nd lowest
Randolph County: 2%, down 0.4 percentage points, t-37th lowest
Wells County: 1.7%, down 0.4 percentage points, t-16th lowest
Wells County: 2.1%, up 0.3 percentage points, t-15th lowest

Jay Superior Court

Judge Gail Dues Cases filed

Indiana v. Douglas H. Hudson, Level 6 felony
Indiana v. Kirsten E. Best, criminal misdemeanor
Indiana v. Skyler L. Petty, Level 6 felony
Indiana v. Jake Boolman, Level 6 felony
Indiana v. Richard E. Sigler, criminal misdemeanor
Indiana v. Brandon S. Weiss, criminal misdemeanor
Indiana v. Jakob W. Gould, criminal misdemeanor
Indiana v. Jake Boolman, criminal misdemeanor
Indiana v. Noah R. Morales, criminal misdemeanor
Heights Finance Corpo-

ration v. Robert Tucker, civil collection

Indiana v. Austin A. Moore, Level 6 felony
Indiana v. Kamran R. Miller, Level 6 felony
Indiana v. Jason L. Newman Jr., Level 6 felony
Indiana v. Yvonnea M. Newman, Level 6 felony
Indiana v. Cassandra R. Myers, Level 6 felony
Indiana v. Patrick Wisener, Level 6 felony
Credit Acceptance Corporation v. Stephen Pack, civil collection
Indiana v. Raider D. Newton, criminal misdemeanor
Indiana v. Eric D. White-nack, criminal misdemeanor
Indiana v. John S. Day, criminal misdemeanor
Indiana v. Abraham T.

Tum, criminal misdemeanor

Indiana v. Joshua L. Harter, criminal misdemeanor
Indiana v. Shane K. Garrett, criminal misdemeanor
Indiana v. Mateo Asig-Rax, criminal misdemeanor
Indiana v. Justin F. Dibble, Level 6 felony
Indiana v. David W. Boyle, criminal misdemeanor
Indiana v. Bradley J. Doner, criminal misdemeanor
Indiana v. Abigail E. Darr, criminal misdemeanor
Indiana v. Christina R. Norris, Level 6 felony
LVNV Funding v. Cora Bennett, civil collection
LVNV Funding v. Jeff Matney, civil collection
Indiana v. Jose I Mar-

tinez Gonzalez, criminal misdemeanor

LVNV Funding v. Dawn Cook, civil collection
Indiana v. Randy L. Betz, criminal misdemeanor
Indiana v. Myra L. Davis, criminal misdemeanor
Indiana v. Bryant L. Harden, Level 6 felony
Indiana v. Jason A. Stewart, criminal misdemeanor
Indiana v. Jason W. Hensley, Level 6 felony
Synchrony Bank v. David Glasgow Sr., civil collection
Discover Bank v. Donna Loden, civil collection
SAC Finance v. Dana Zimmerman, civil collection
Indiana v. Briah D. Burnsworth, Level 6 felony
Indiana v. Gregory L. Westlake, criminal misdemeanor

Felony arrests

Drug possession

A Portland man was arrested Saturday for drug possession.

Daniel P. Donnersbach, 63, 6693 U.S. 27, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for possession of

methamphetamine, a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.

He was released on a \$4,500 bond from Jay County Jail.

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Early memories are complicated

By KWAME DAWES

There is a stretch of childhood that can be filled with such vivid images, yet it is often hard to determine whether what is being recalled is memory of our experience, or a memory of what we have been told.

Jessica Abughattas' poem, "Watching My Mother," ends with such optimism and confidence, even though the details of

American Life in Poetry

what she remembers are a stylized and beautiful version of disquiet. In this elegant poem, she enacts the strange magic of how we often organize memory in a manner that allows us to survive.

Watching My Mother

Beside the Ford Thunderbird, a suitcase splayed open. She collects her clothes from the driveway. The yellow jumper collapses into a million threads of saffron. She keeps dropping them. They wither and dissolve, petal by petal into pavement. Her hands are rivers. Her eyes, mascara bats. Her hair is crying. I am five and perfect.

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Photo provided

Redkey students honored

West Jay Optimist Club recently presented second semester awards to Redkey Elementary honor students. Pictured in the front row are Ethan Wilson, Collin Myron, Gabe Williams and Harper Brinkerhoff, and in second row are Raelynn Crabtree, Paizley Murphy, Harleigh Rhum, Tyler Wasson, London Lloyd, Kellan Kirby, Colby Retter, Colton Timmerman and sponsor Kathy Nelson. Each student received a T-shirt, honor pencil, \$5 McDonald's gift card, note from the teacher about their classroom improvement and a certificate.

FR legion hosting activities

FORT RECOVERY — Veterans clubs and other organizations have plans to celebrate Memorial Day this weekend.

Fort Recovery American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars will begin a service for Memorial Day

at 7 p.m. Friday. The ceremony will begin at the Wabash bridge on Wayne Street in the village.

Following the service, veteran groups, scouts, 4-H clubs, fire fighters, Fort Recovery High School band and others wishing to partici-

pate may join a parade to Monument Park.

Brian Williamson will give a short speech at the park, and the band will perform the Star Spangled Banner. The public is welcome.

Images from party worry fiance

DEAR ABBY: I'm about to get married to a wonderful woman. We have been together for 16 years and have two precious kids. Recently, we were treated to bachelor and bachelorette parties, a week apart. Although we all know that what goes on during them isn't real, it's over once you walk out the door.

Well, my fiancee has pictures and videos of her celebration. I knew what "could" have happened, but only in my imagination. Seeing these images, I now find myself constantly comparing myself to the performers. Even though I had told her that the fantasy shouldn't come home in any way, she says there's nothing to hide, which is why she had the pictures and videos done. Am I overreacting? The wedding is still going to happen, by the way. — FANTASY VS. REALITY

DEAR F.V.R.: While the fact that your fiancee brought home "souvenirs" is regrettable, you are going to have to let go of your anxiety. Regardless of what went on at her bachelorette party, and I know some of them can become pretty wild, you must remember that the men the bride and her attendants interacted with were HIRED for the

Dear Abby



occasion. (Just like the performers at yours were.) If this has truly affected your self-esteem, you may have to add one more item to the cost of your nuptials — some sessions with a therapist to help you straighten out your thinking.

P.S. I sincerely hope your precious children never get their hands on that video.

.....

DEAR ABBY: My husband's sister and her husband, "Tom," recently moved to the same town we live in. I adore her, and she has become a close friend. We weren't able to get to know each other during the beginning of my marriage because we lived so far apart.

Since they moved here, she and Tom fight constantly. Every time they do, Tom wants her to come stay with us. I don't mind an occasional

overnight stay, but he wants her to move in with us! The problem is she has no income of her own and no car, or even a driver's license. She's totally dependent on him.

I don't feel comfortable getting in the middle of their business. We can't afford to take her in and take care of her, but she has nowhere else to go. What should I do? We can't put her out on the street. — WITS' END IN THE EAST

DEAR WITS' END: Your sister-in-law and brother-in-law have not been fighting only since they moved to your community. It appears they have had severe marital problems that weren't dealt with well before they arrived. It's time for your husband to become more involved and talk with both of them.

If there are other relatives in the area, perhaps she could stay temporarily with them. Of course, if Tom has a job, he will have to contribute financially until she becomes independent. In the meantime, encourage her toward self-sufficiency by helping her familiarize herself with public transportation, which she can use to seek employment.

Community Calendar

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

Today AL-ANON FAMILY

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

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

STRESS AND ANXIETY CLASS — Meets each Wednesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-9625 or (260) 703-0534.

THURSDAY 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.

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up

in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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

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Puttering did not come naturally

(Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from May 5, 1999. My impression is that Jack got a little better at puttering as time went on, especially after his retirement, although a good book likely always came first.)

By JACK RONALD
The News and Sun

A confession: I can't putter. I've tried it, and I just can't do it.

Faced with a beautiful spring weekend, I find myself varying between fits of frenzied activity — hauling bikes down from the attic of the garage, mowing

Back in the Saddle



the lawn and putting up screens — and completed, abject laziness, where the most strenuous task I'm willing to take on is lifting my eyes to try to figure out if there's a new bird in the backyard.

But there's no in between. I

don't putter around the house. I do the jobs or I take a nap.

None of this would be any concern, except that as I grow older and watch retirees, I find myself wondering how well I'll adapt when the time comes.

The most successful retirees, it seems, are those most adept at puttering.

You know the guys we mean, the ones who always seem to be moving at a less-than-breakneck pace but always seem to be taking on one little project after another.

You'll see them at the end of the day, walking the perimeter of

their lawn, checking things out, maybe taking inventory or developing a mental list of their next chores to putter over.

And you'll run into them at work on Monday morning after a sunny weekend.

"What did you do over the weekend?"

"Not much," they'll say modestly, "just puttered around the house."

Truth is, they've done about two dozen little tasks that ought to be done. They've puttered successfully, while I've dozed in the sun with a half-read book of poetry in my lap, a puttering failure.

My wife putters. She's a world-class putterer, if that's a word.

And I have to admit that sometimes I feel pangs of guilt when she's weeding the garden and I'm goofing off. They're insistent little twinges of guilt, little voices telling me I ought to get off the patio and give her a hand.

But I've found that if I try real hard, I can wait them out. Eventually the guilt disappears and I'm able to get some sleep.

A good nap beats a good putter every time.

Celebrate the value of school

Kokomo Tribune

Greentown native Allison Salkie graduated from Purdue University in 2020.

While she originally planned to study biochemistry, Salkie soon changed her mind and instead earned a degree in film, video and theater production.

When she graduated, though, Salkie wanted to return to her hometown instead of moving to a big city where she might find a job in film. That's when she decided to go back to school at Ivy Tech Kokomo — a decision she wished she had made sooner.

In a recent interview with the Kokomo Tribune, Salkie said she's noticed a change in the stigma associated with earning a two-year degree or certificate compared to pursuing a bachelor's degree at a four-year college.

And she's not the only one.

The DePauw, the student newspaper at the university of the same name, reported on surveys sent to high schoolers by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education after officials saw college enrollment in the state hit its lowest point in more than 10 years.

Many of the students responding to the survey said they questioned the value of attending a four-year institution, especially when considering the high costs associated with student loans. Similarly, a study by the ECMC group, a collection agency of higher-education debt, reported that the number of high schoolers nationwide considering enrollment in a four-year college or university had dropped to 48%, compared to 71% before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Like most things these days, the cost of tuition is going up, and with increasing tuition costs comes increasing student loan debt.

EducationData.org reported the average debt for college students in Indiana is \$32,874.

The Georgetown University Center on Education and Workforce identifies that as one reason a growing number of high school graduates are choosing jobs that don't require a four-year degree.

Jobs with a median annual salary of \$55,000 or more can be found in manufacturing, construction and heating and air

Hoosier Editorial

Many of the students responding to the survey said they questioned the value of attending a four-year institution, especially when considering the high costs associated with student loans.

conditioning.

Applicants for those kinds of jobs became even more in demand when the pandemic spurred the Great Retirement of 2022, so coined by organizational psychologist Anthony Klotz in an interview with Bloomberg.

Among the many changes brought on by the pandemic, 25 million American workers left their jobs in the final six months of 2021. Many were Baby Boomers worried about contracting the virus.

That left numerous employers looking for workers. The Associated General Contractors of America, reported 61% of contractors were experiencing job delays due to worker shortages.

And so, in the midst of this graduation season, we would do well to remember that not everyone needs to pursue a four-year degree at an institution of higher learning.

While we continue to support and encourage students who follow that path, let's also celebrate those who choose a different course.

The world can always use more plumbers, electricians and carpenters. It can also use nurses, dental assistants and auto mechanics.



Theory is a grand delusion

By RAMESH PONNURU
Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

When a killer expounds on his derangements, it poses a special challenge. We have to take his words seriously without, at the same time, taking them seriously; to understand their import without paying them respect. In the case of the mass murderer of Buffalo, New York — I see no reason to use his name — applying that distinction requires thinking more clearly about the politics of immigration.

Since the massacre on May 14, Americans have been talking, as the shooter probably wanted, about the "great replacement theory." The 200-proof version of the theory, to which he reportedly subscribed, is that Jews are trying to destroy the old white majority of the country via immigration, and they are doing it to create a political order more to their liking. It is a vile and stupid stew of racism and antisemitism, as should be obvious to almost everyone.

Public argument has dwelt less on the actual shooter than on such Republicans as Fox News host Tucker Carlson and U.S. Representative Elise Stefanik of New York, who stand accused of selling a diluted version of the same ideology. Carlson has said that "the Democratic Party is trying to replace the current electorate, the voters now casting ballots, with new people, more obedient voters, from the Third World." Stefanik claims that granting "amnesty to 11 MILLION illegal immigrants will overthrow our current electorate and create a permanent liberal majority in Washington."

Their defenders say they are merely observing a real phenomenon among Democrats, and then condemning it. The kernels of truth in what these Republicans say are that immigration has aided the Democratic Party over the last generation, and that Democrats have noticed and

Ramesh Ponnuru



applauded it. When Democrats boasted (and sympathetic analysts predicted) that they were leading a "coalition of the ascendant," a growing immigrant population that leaned left was one of the things they were talking about.

And as Democrats have grown convinced that immigration is key to the party's future, their positions on immigration policy have moved further and further left. Democrats would have to be unusually immune to the temptation to seek advantage for there to be no connection between those two trends. (How many of the people who doubt this connection can see perfectly well that many Republicans have adopted their immigration views in part based on how they fear immigrants will vote?)

Any theory built on this connection will, however, become less and less plausible as it grows more conspiratorial. In the real world, people have supported liberal immigration policies for a long list of reasons. Some people think these policies strengthen the U.S. economy; some people associate them with tolerance; some people want the same opportunities they have found here for their cousins. Even the purely political motives of Democratic politicians and strategists are mixed. Granting citizenship to illegal immigrants is a way to win their votes, but it is also a way to win the votes of their friends and relatives who already have it.

The major laws governing immigration policy were passed with large bipartisan majorities in 1965, 1986 and 1990, at a time when neither party

saw the issue as a dividing line between them. To the extent that the limits on immigration have not been enforced since these laws were passed, it has had more to do with business opposition than with anyone's desire to change the country's political demography.

To suggest that Democrats support amnesty and high immigration levels simply because they want a new electorate, or that this desire is the reason for the flaws of today's immigration system, is to oversimplify to the point of falsity. No plan has been put in place to replace today's voters, and especially its white working-class conservative voters, and it would be dangerous for the country's civic health to maintain otherwise even if we had no armed lunatics in our midst. What Carlson and Stefanik are saying is irresponsible as well as wrong.

Recent political history should discredit the theory even further, for two reasons. One is that the Democrats' belief that immigration would contribute to a large and lasting majority has instead almost certainly put one further out of reach. If Hillary Clinton had felt the same imperative to win the votes of white voters without college degrees that her husband did in the 1990s, or moderated on immigration, she might well have won the additional states she needed in the 2016 election. The coalition of the ascendant hasn't ascended.

The second is that Republicans have been making significant gains among non-white Americans. "Replacement theory" has come to the fore of the conversation just as its most solid empirical pillar is disintegrating. Let's not underestimate just how delusional, as well as evil, the murderer in Buffalo is.

Ponnuru is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is the editor of National Review and a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

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Kills ...

Continued from page 1
After meeting them at the civic center, Becerra went to some of their homes to pray with relatives in living rooms as mourners spilled into the yards.

"How many more moments of silence do we have to go through?" Becerra said as he stood with a half-dozen members of his church outside the civic center late Tuesday.

"The last few days, the vulnerable people have been taken advantage of: a grocery store, a church and a school," he said, alluding to recent mass shootings in Buffalo, New York, and Laguna Niguel, in Southern California.

"We need to take action," Becerra said, but "I don't have an answer."

Becerra said he saw families in the civic center being notified that their children had died in the attack.

"They screamed, they cried, they pulled their hair, they yelled, 'Why?'" he said.

Uvalde's mayor, Don McLaughlin, asked for prayers for the families of those who lost their lives so "God could surround them with his love and comfort."

"My heart is broken for them all," he said in a Facebook post



Tribune News Service/San Antonio Express-News/Zuma Press/William Luther

A woman cries Tuesday as she leaves the Uvalde Civic Center, in Uvalde, Texas. At least 19 students and two adults were killed when a gunman opened fire at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, according to Texas Gov. Gregg Abbott.

early today. "To our community — I know your hearts are broken."

Rev. Mike Marsh of St. Philips Episcopal Church in

Uvalde, who met at the local hospital Tuesday with relatives of those unaccounted for, said local funeral homes planned to cover funeral costs.

He said the city was paying for the burials, and a community memorial was planned at 7 p.m. today at the nearby fairgrounds.

"There's going to be a lot of emotional trauma for students, teachers and parents that needs to be addressed," he said. "There's no good answers."

Overrides ...

Continued from page 1
The lawsuit was filed on behalf of A.M., a 10-year-old girl who plays on her school's all-girls softball team. The new law, which would go into effect July 1, 2022, would deny A.M. the right to rejoin her team because she is a transgender girl.

"We're all in this fight together, and we're going to stay in this fight together," said Kit Malone, advocacy strategist for ACLU Indiana, during a "let kids play" rally ahead of the vote.

"Today we're here to let those lawmakers know, we don't want them to

override that veto. We don't want laws in this state that discriminate against one particular group of people, in this case transgender girls," Malone said.

Zoe O'Hailan-Berne, director of engagement for Indiana Youth Group, said the bill "isn't about the safety of cis gender youth" but "it is about the comfort of cis gender adults."

"True Hoosier hospitality means everyone is welcomed, especially every child," O'Hailan-Berne said. "Trans is beautiful. Trans rights are human rights. At IYG,

you're welcome to play any day."

During the House session, the Representatives weren't allowed to address the bill under House rules.

After the House vote was announced as passing, the room was silent.

During the Senate session, senators were able to address the bill. Senator Greg Taylor, D-Indianapolis, called the bill blatantly discriminatory.

"Throwing children under the bus to gain support from voters is not what we're here to do," Taylor said. "With this legislation, you're telling women they are weak."

Senator J.D. Ford, D-Indianapolis, listed other Republican governors who vetoed similar bills and reiterated the opposing testimony that was heard when the bill was advancing through the legislature.

"This isn't a Democrat or Republican issue, but with sustaining the veto today, it's a life saving issue," Ford said.

After the vote, Rep. Mike Andrade, D-Munster, said he wasn't surprised by the vote because Democrats have a super minority in the legislature.

"(Republicans) are not even willing to listen to

their own governor after he decided to say 'Hey, let the kids play,'" Andrade said.

The bill will have negative impacts on the mental and emotional health of transgender youth, during a time that young adults are struggling with mental health issues, he said.

Andrade said the legislature could've discussed more important issues facing Hoosiers, like suspending the state gas taxes.

Senator Rick Niemeyer, R-Lowell, said he voted in favor of the override because it ensures "fair and competitive" women's sports.

"I think it's absolutely about integrity in women's sports. I think it will be fair competition," Niemeyer said.

Niemeyer said he doesn't see there being a negative impact on transgender youth with the passage of the bill.

Senator Rodney Pol Jr., D-Ogden Dunes, said he was disappointed with the vote because "it's the antithesis of Hoosier hospitality."

"I do have faith that the courts will restore the status of their ability to play sports. This goes against this idea that we're small government," Pol said.

MEGA MARK DOWNS!

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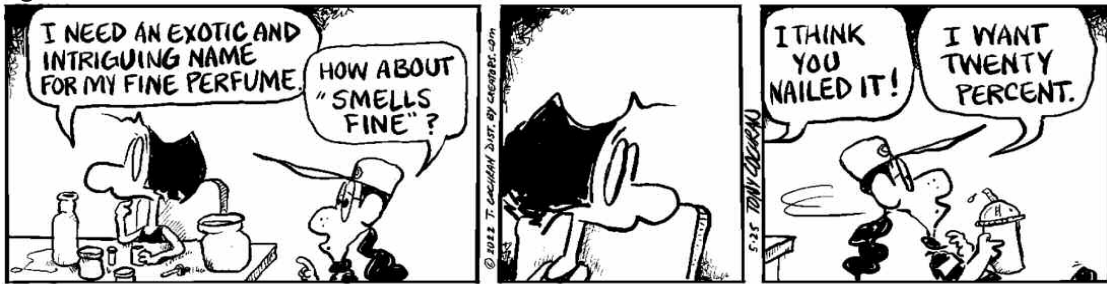
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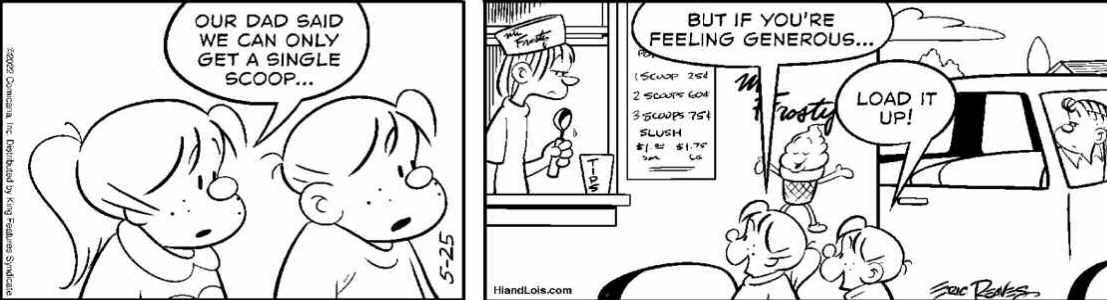
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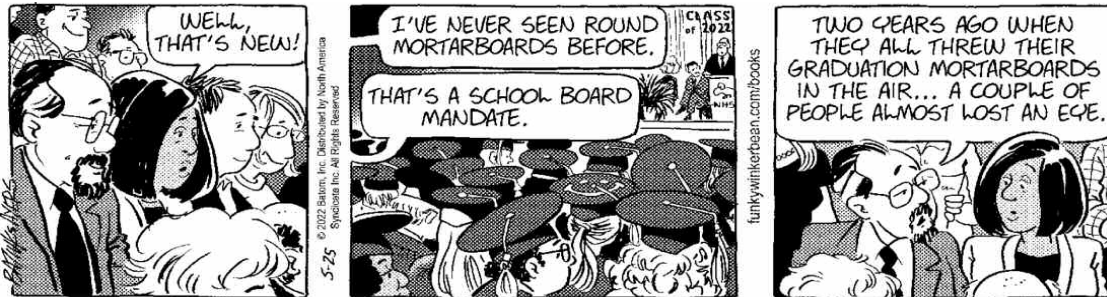
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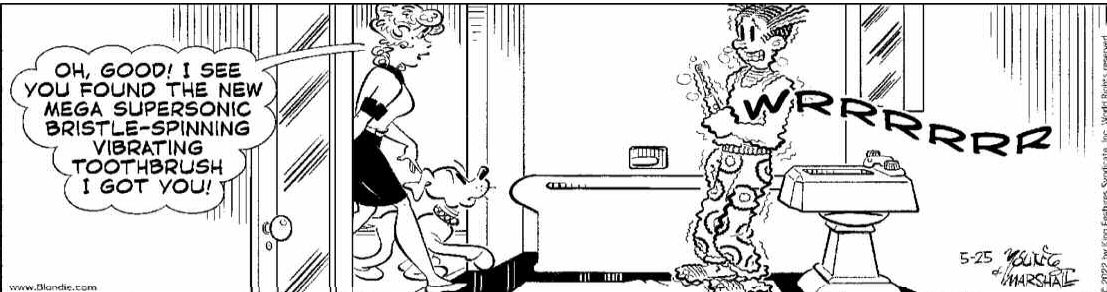
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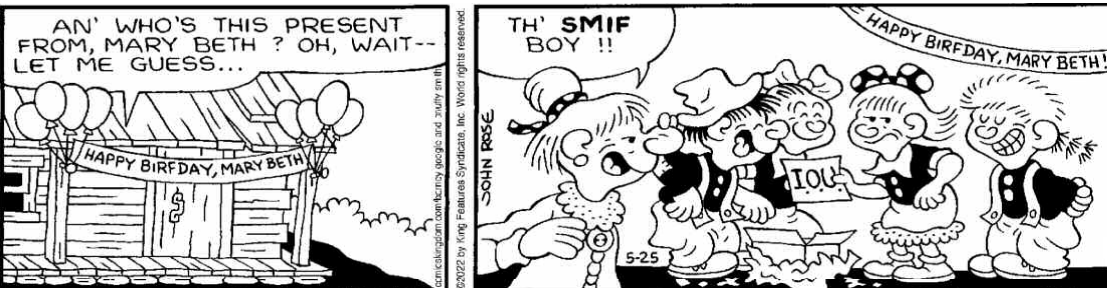
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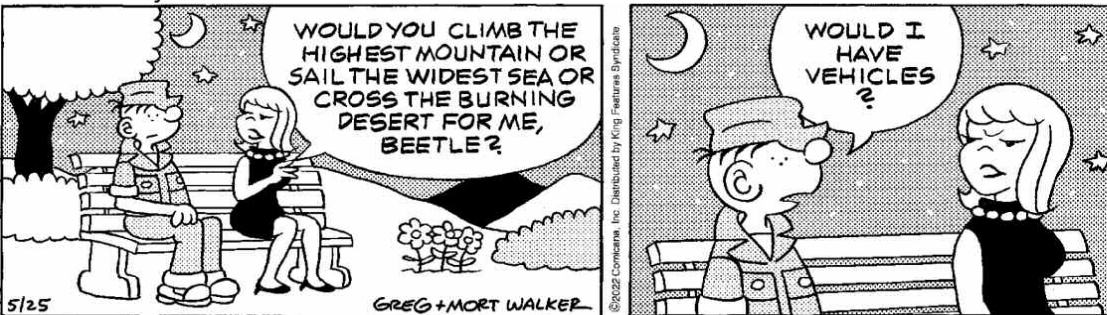
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Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The secret of good defense

South dealer. East-West vulnerable. NORTH ♠ Q J 10 5 3 ♥ 10 ♦ 8 4 ♣ K Q J 8 2 WEST ♠ — ♥ A J 6 5 4 2 ♦ Q 7 2 ♣ 10 7 3 EAST ♠ 6 4 2 ♥ K 9 7 3 ♦ A 10 6 5 3 ♣ A SOUTH ♠ A K 9 8 7 ♥ Q 8 ♦ K J ♣ 9 6 5 4

point, and he passed. It was later discovered that East-West, who never bid, could have made a small slam in hearts or diamonds.

West led a diamond, won by East with the ace. East then cashed the ace of clubs, on which West played the ten, and was faced with the problem of how to put West on lead in order to get a club ruff.

East found the winning solution by leading a low heart. West won with the ace and returned a club, and South went down one.

Had East led a diamond at trick three, hoping West had the king, South would have made the contract. It might seem that East was lucky to hit on the heart return, but actually his play was much more than a shot in the dark.

In a potential ruffing situation, it is often possible to use a suit-preference signal to solve a problem. In the given case, when West played the ten of clubs on East's ace at trick two, he was signaling that his entry card was in hearts rather than diamonds. Had West held the king of diamonds instead of the ace of hearts, he would have played the three of clubs on East's ace instead.

The bidding: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Opening lead — two of diamonds.

A competent defensive pair will often transmit highly valuable information to one another through the judicious use of signals. Such signals, properly interpreted, can sometimes spell the difference between the making and breaking of a contract.

Consider this deal where South's one-spade opening was raised to four by North. East had no safe way to enter the bidding at this

Tomorrow: Good, better, best. ©2022 King Features Syndicate Inc.

5-25 CRYPTOQUIP

UTRD H STRI BKRE GTPKFBT SYKER GK GRD SHDE KI ETKPGRDJDB, THE TR FERZ

GTR UTKYR DJDR YHPZE?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PASTRY SHOP IS USING A BUNCH OF ARTIFICIAL INGREDIENTS, I DECLARE THAT BAKERY FAKERY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals N

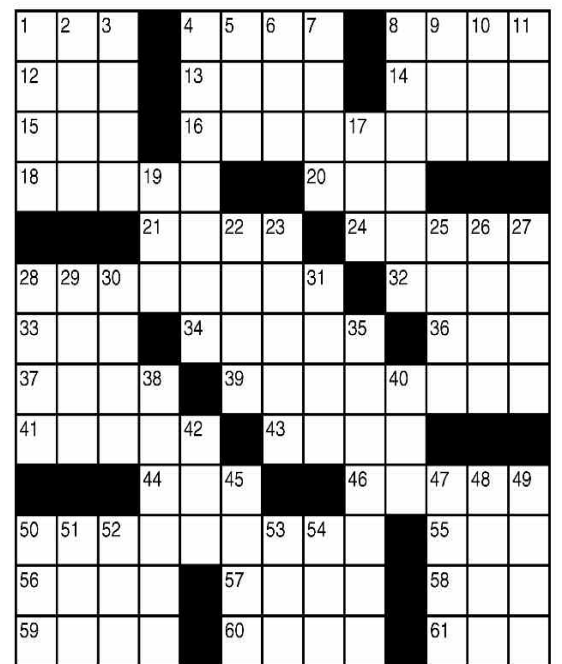
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 41 Dam again 1 Blog do 4 Poet 43 Morales entry 8 Telly "Jericho" trans-mitter 12 Vegetable peeler played at Eton 13 Doing 50 HBO vampire series 14 Mortgage for short 15 Tofu source 16 Type of question 18 Govt. security 20 "What was I thinking?" 21 Penne — vodka 24 Host 28 Authentic 32 Achy 33 Dawn goddess 34 Out on (risking it) 36 NBC weekend show 37 Mr. Guinness 39 1994 Schwarzenegger film

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 5-25



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Molly Muhlenkamp of Jay County clears the high jump bar at 4 feet, 10 inches, during Tuesday's regional competition. The sophomore, who was added to the regional field after tying for seventh at the Delta sectional, was one of only nine athletes to make it over at the opening height.

State ...

Continued from page 8
While nearly half of the 17-athlete field was unable to clear the opening height of 4 feet, 10 inches, Muhlenkamp made it over the bar on her second attempt. She missed all of her tries at 5 feet, but simply clearing that first height was enough to put her in ninth place. (Maryava Lemasters of Perry

Meridian also finished at 4 feet, 10 inches, but did so on her first attempt to give her eighth place.) Kylie Klopfenstein, Natalie Wehrly, Morgan DeHoff and Jenna Dues were 14th in the 4x100-meter relay in 54.66 seconds. Jay County's athletes were 15th in each of their other events. Wehrly, a junior, posted times of

13.33 in the 100 dash and 28.03 in the 200 dash. Sophomore Makinsey Murphy finished the 300 hurdles in 51.41. The Patriot 4x800 relay team of Lindy Wood, Molly Muhlenkamp, Willow Hardy and Lotta Berkert posted a time of 11:14.08. Dues competed in the high jump but did not clear the opening height.

Roundup ...

Continued from page 8
Caleb DeRome led the way as the teams played in the slimmed down format — high school golf typically has five players with the best four counting toward the team score. He earned medalist honors with a 2-over-par 37.

Kyle Sanders followed DeRome with a 43. Brock DeHoff completed the team score for the Patriots, who are 12-2 in dual matches, with a 48.

Williams walks off

Parker Huntsman gave Williams Auto Parts a 5-4 walk-off win Tuesday over Pak-a-Sak in Portland Junior League Rookie baseball. In the other Rookieie baseball game, Barnett's defeated Pioneer Packaging 12-5.

In Minor softball, Craven Nutrition edged Fisher Packing 13-12, and in Sandy Koufax baseball Loy Realty topped Portland Forge 14-5.

Huntsman gave Williams the walk-off win with an RBI double that

ended the game. He finished with three doubles, two runs and the key RBI while Wyatt Fennig had two hits and two RBIs. Oliver Jackson paced Pak-a-Sak with three hits, two RBIs and a run.

Emerson Cavanaugh hit a home run, a triple and a double while driving in three runs for Barnett's, and Drew Lingo and Sawyer Hemmelgarn also finished 3-for-3. Koden Bentz had three hits and two RBIs for Pioneer.

Danica Chowning, Aleah McIntire and Chloe Winget paced Craven with two hits apiece while Chloe Yates, Madilyn Curtis and Gabi Miller each added one. Kyla Sims, Avery Snow, Emery Forthofer, Haley Comer and Kendall Schemenaur each had one hit for Fisher.

Sam Wiggins and Xavien Maxwell each recorded a double and a single for Loy, and Lucas Strait and Austin Curtis each had a triple. Landon Blowers hit a home run for Forge.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Baseball sectional opening round vs. Yorktown at Yorktown - 7:30 p.m.; Boys golf at Wes-Del - 4 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Track at Troy regional - 4:30 p.m.

Thursday
Jay County — Boys track regional at Lawrence Central - 6 p.m.; Boys golf vs. Adams Central - 4:30 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
2 p.m. — College baseball: Big Ten Tournament (BTN)
6 p.m. — College baseball: Big Ten Tournament (BTN)
6:40 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)
8 p.m. — NHL playoffs: St. Louis Blues at Colorado Avalanche (TNT)
8:30 p.m. — NBA playoffs: Eastern

Conference Finals - Boston Celtics at Miami Heat (ESPN)
10 p.m. — College baseball: Big Ten Tournament (BTN)

Thursday
7 a.m. — Tennis: French Open (Bally Indiana)
10 a.m. — College baseball: Big Ten Tournament (BTN)
12:35 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati Reds (Bally

Indiana)
2 p.m. — College baseball: Big Ten Tournament (BTN)
6 p.m. — College baseball: Big Ten Tournament (BTN)

7 p.m. — NHL playoffs: New York Rangers at Carolina Hurricanes (ESPN)
7:45 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Milwaukee Brewers at St. Louis Cardinals (Bally Indiana)
9 p.m. — NBA playoffs: Western Conference Finals - Dallas Mavericks at Gold-

en State Warriors (TNT)
9:30 p.m. — NHL playoffs: Edmonton Oilers at Calgary Flames (ESPN)
10 p.m. — College baseball: Big Ten Tournament (BTN)

Local notes

Tennis camp scheduled
The Jay County High School boys and girls tennis program will hold a camp for third through ninth graders June 20 through 24.

The camp will run from 9 to 11:30 a.m. daily at the JCHS tennis courts. It will include a visit from Indiana northern district United States Tennis Association representative Sarah Stanchin).

The registration fee is \$30 and forms are available at JCHS or Cross-Roads Financial Federal Credit Union's location at 1102 W. Votaw St., Portland.

In order to get a T-shirt, order forms must be turned in by May 27.

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Pre-Payment required for: Rummage sales, business opportunities, jobs wanted, boats and sporting equipment, wanted to rent, motorized vehicles, real estate and mobile homes.

30 LOST, STRAYED OR FOUND

ATTENTION! LOST A PET Or found one? The Jay county humane society can serve as an information center. 260-726-6339

40 NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one days incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mistakes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.

50 RUMMAGE SALES

GARAGE SALE 8809 N Center Street, Bryant/New Corydon, IN. 9am-4pm. 13-14 and 27-28 Antiques: doors, Desks, Furniture, Text tiles, Hand tools, Generator, Unused paint cans.

GENEVA RAINBOW LAKE Annual Garage Sales May 27-28th 8:00am to Dusk. Furniture, Appliances, Antiques, Clothes all sizes, Tools, Toys, Misc

60 SERVICE

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90 SALE CALENDAR

E & M BLACKSMITH SHOP 11th Annual Consignment Auction Saturday, June 4, 2022 8:30 a.m.

2404W 350S, Berne, IN Horses; Ponies; Horse-Drawn Machinery; Produce Equipment; Buggies; Harness Carts; New Tack Saddles; Shop Tools; Lawn/Garden Tools; Sausage Grinder/Stuffers; New/Used Furniture; Washing Machines; Hay, Straw, Firewood.

Accepting consignments every evening that week from 4pm-8pm and all day Thursday, June 2nd/Friday, June 3rd from 7am-8pm.
Call 260-589-2743
Leave message to consign horses.
Auctioneers John P. Troyer AU10900141
Also with J. S. Auctions AU10700049

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110 HELP WANTED

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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION Located in the Bulp Exhibition Hall at Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland, IN Saturday Morning MAY 28, 2022 10:00 A.M.

ANTIQUES - OLD AND COLLECTORS ITEMS - HOUSEHOLD GOODS - TOOLS Golden Lift Chair, like new; (2) glass curio cabinets, lighted; vintage youth bed; Union Workman Chewing Tobacco round thermometer; wood child's peddle cart with horse; McCoy "monkey" cookie jar; several books of Danbury Mint 22K gold baseball cards; LARGE AMOUNT OF JERRY LANDESS MEMORABILIA; American Legion items; Cub Scout uniforms; German Mouser 7.92 caliber with bayonet; Fort Hood jersey; large amount of Portland memorabilia; Poulan Pro self propelled push mower; 40V B & D weed eater; 40V leaf blower; lanterns; fishing poles; and many other items not listed.

AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. day of auction for preview. Please visit auction zip for photos. **JERRY AND MARY LANDESS, Deceased** By Lisa Reyes and Gary Landess Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Ben Lyons AU10700085 Travis Theurer AU11200131

130 MISC. FOR SALE **PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE** Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Jay County, Indiana that the proper legal officers of Jay County Council at the Jay County Court House, at 6:00 o'clock p.m., on the 8th day of June, 2022 will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year.

Amount Approved	
Emergency Planning/LEPC	
1152-001-20-0045 Misc. Supplies	\$4,040.63
HIGHWAY	
1176-002-20-0054 Stone, Gravel, Aggregates	\$250,000.00
Total	\$254,040.63

Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard. The additional appropriation as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance. The DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a certified copy of the action time.
Emily Franks
Jay County Auditor
CR/NS 5-25-2022 -HSPAXLP

110 HELP WANTED

CROWNPOINTE OF PORTLAND IS hiring hard working, dedicated full time C. N. A.s. Pay is negotiable. Please apply in house at 745 Patriot Drive, Portland, IN 47371 or online at www.cpcommunities.com/portland.

THE TOWN OF REDKEY WILL be accepting applications for a Town Marshal position. Applications may be picked up at Redkey Town Hall by calling 765-369-2711 during business hours to make an appointment for pick up. Office Hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 8 am to 4 pm and Wednesday 8 am to 12 noon.

WASTE WATER DEPARTMENT The City of Portland will be accepting applications for the Street Department. Minimum job requirements are high school diploma or its equivalent and a CDL B license or greater or able to obtain such license. Application and job description are available in the Clerk Treasurer's Office at City Hall, 321 N. Meridian Street, Portland, Indiana 47371, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. thru Monday, June 6, 2022. No applications will be accepted after 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 6, 2022. The City of Portland is an Equal Opportunity Employer

130 MISC FOR SALE

side. .35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.

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200 FOR RENT

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NEED MORE STORAGE? PJ's U-Lock and Storage, most sizes available. Call 260-726-4631.

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice The following county operating claims have been filed with the Auditors Office and will be presented to the Board of Commissioners Jay County, IN , at the regular session on May 31, 2022

Alicia Jackson	\$150.00
American Platform Services	\$1,288.00
Brian Hutchison	\$147.84
Cleaver Cabling & Consulting	\$42.00
Jay Co Community Corrections	\$20.00
Joshua Atkinson	\$75.00
Laboratory Corp Of America	\$25.50
Nicholas Riddle	\$45.00
Progressive Office Products	\$547.77
Ricoh Usa	\$10.46
Ronald May	\$90.00
Verizon Wireless	\$30.00
Witness my hand and seal of The Board of Commissioners, Jay County, IN. Monday, May 31, 2022.	

Emily Franks
Jay County Auditor
CR/NS 5-25-2022 HSPAXLP

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Second = state

Bilbrey earns a trip to Bloomington with runner-up regional finish

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

INDIANAPOLIS — Gabi Bilbrey was left shaking her head.

Her first throw didn't feel right. And it didn't fly nearly as far as she would have liked.

Bilbrey never was able to reach her best numbers Tuesday night.

Even so, she was still better than all but one of her competitors.

The Jay County High School junior finished as the regional runner-up in the discus at Ben Davis, becoming the first Patriot in a decade to advance to the state finals in the event.

"She was disappointed because she wasn't feeling as good as she wanted to," said JCHS coach Joe Imel. "But to get second at the regional, no matter what distance you throw, that's a big accomplishment. And being able to represent your high school at the state meet is a really special thing to do."

"It's always really encouraging when you get a kid from Jay County to go to the big meet. I'm excited for her."

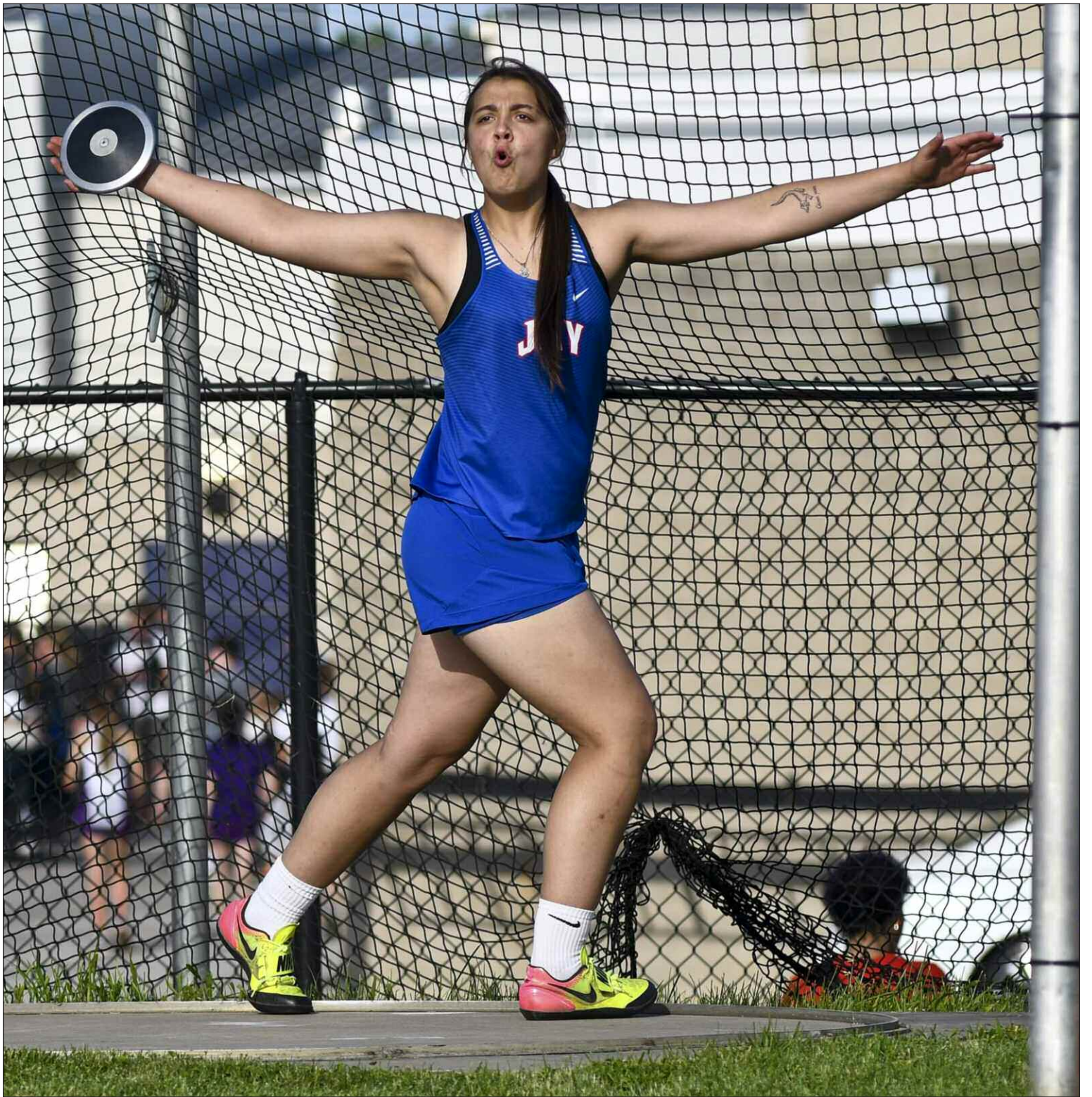
Bilbrey gives the Patriots a state qualifier for the second consecutive year, following Elisa Parazzi, who went on to place seventh in the state in the high jump, and Kinsey Shannon from last season. (The top three finishers in each regional event advance.)

She will compete in the state finals, which return to Indiana University's Robert C. Haugh Track & Field Complex this season after being contested at Ben Davis in 2021, at 3 p.m. June 3.

The last Patriot state finalist in the discus was Maria Murphy, who earned a state medal with an eighth-place state finish in 2012 after placing 15th as a junior and 26th as a sophomore.

"It's exciting," said Bilbrey. "It's going to be an experience and I hope that I can PR (personal record) at state."

The eight points she earned for her effort in the discus Tuesday placed Jay County in a three-way tie for 19th place



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Gabi Bilbrey, a Jay County High School junior, reaches back to start her spin on one of her throws Tuesday during the girls track regional meet at Ben Davis. Bilbrey finished as the runner-up to earn a berth in the state finals.

with Crispus Attucks and Wapahani in the 34-team regional field. North Central dominated its way to the regional championship with 101 points compared to 52.5 for runner-up Cathedral.

Molly Muhlenkamp was the only other Patriot to crack the top 13 as she placed ninth in the high jump.

"It is what I thought it was going to be," said Imel.

"It was an experience for a lot of these young girls who have not been here before. We're talking about a lot of sophomores and freshmen where this is their first time competing at regional. ...

"We're use to our biggest

meet is Delta, is sectional. ... We just don't have anything around us that compares to (the regional at) Ben Davis. I'm proud of the way that they performed and hopefully we continue to get better from here ... and this is something they can draw from."

While Bilbrey entered the meet as the No. 1 seed based on sectional results, North Central's Tracey Gooch established herself as the thrower to beat with a toss of 115 feet, 11 inches in the first round. Bilbrey's 109 feet, 2 inches — her career best is the 123 feet, 10 inches she posted in the sectional — put her in second place.

Gooch would never relinquish the lead — she won the event at 128 feet, 9 inches — and Bilbrey was in the No. 2 spot but still vulnerable at 110 feet, 5 inches, through four throws.

So, she went back to something that was more familiar. "I pulled it up through the center, which isn't ideal technique," said Bilbrey. "But it was something I knew I was familiar with, so I just used that to get there. I've been practicing a different spin ... but it just wasn't feeling good."

That change resulted in a toss of 116 feet on her fifth throw, which all but guaran-

teed her a trip to the state finals.

New Castle sophomore Alaina Bowman launched herself into the third state qualifying spot on her final attempt — 111 feet, 10 inches — but no one else even came close to knocking Bilbrey out of the runner-up spot. (Lawrence North's Ashleigh Gelfius was fourth at 109 feet, 7 inches.)

After finishing seventh in the sectional and later being added to fill out the regional field, Molly Muhlenkamp narrowly missed scoring points for the Patriots in the high jump Tuesday.

See State page 7

JC drops tourney opener

MUNCIE — Just a couple of weeks ago, the Patriots beat their sectional-opening opponent in just five innings.

They could not repeat that performance Tuesday.

Jay County High School's softball team saw its season end in the first round of the Sectional 24 tournament at Delta as it fell 7-2 to the New Castle Trojans.

The Patriots (15-8), who clobbered New Castle 16-5 on May 9, gave up two runs in the bottom of the first inning and two in the third to fall behind 4-0. They got their only two runs in the fourth before the Trojans scored three times in the fifth for what would be the final margin.

Haleigh Clayton suffered the sectional loss as she got tagged for four home runs. She allowed seven runs — six earned — on eight hits and two walks in five innings.

Riah Champ finished 2-for-3 with an RBI to lead Jay County. Jaelynn Lykins and Mady Fraley each had a hit and a run.

The Patriots had closed the regular season with six consecutive victories. They

Local roundup

have not won a sectional game since 2015 when they topped Fort Wayne South Side in the opening round of the Class 4A tournament at Homestead.

New Castle advances to play Guerin Catholic in the semifinal round Thursday.

Tennis toppled

MARION — The Jay County girls tennis team could not keep up with the No. 20 Delta Eagles as it finished its season Tuesday with a 5-0 loss in the regional semifinal at Marion.

The Patriots were able to take more than two games in just one of the five matches. Seniors Madison Dirksen and Holly Hemmelgarn, who had just one loss on the season prior to Tuesday, put up a strong fight in their No. 1 doubles match but still lost 6-3, 6-4.

Brenna Haines, a sophomore who also had just one

loss heading into the regional, took two games in the first set but wasn't able to find any more success against Delta freshman Brylee Beckley. She fell 6-2, 6-0 at No. 3 singles.

The rest of the matches were shutouts, with Grace Brewster falling at No. 1 singles, Lilly Hedges losing at No. 2 singles and the team of twins Kaylee and Melana Zimmerman dropping at No. 2 doubles.

JCHS, which repeated as the sectional champion this year, finished 11-5.

Delta will play Alexandria, which edged Mississinewa in Tuesday's other semifinal match, for the regional championship tonight.

Golf defeats two

Coming off of a fourth-place finish in the Allen County Athletic Conference Championships, Jay County's boys golf team posted a score of 128 to easily cruise past the Randolph Southern Rebels (164) and Union City Indians (168) in a three-player match at Portland Golf Club.

See Roundup page 7

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Advertising deadline is June 7
Section will run June 17

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

Celebrating Our Seniors