

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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## Board OKs new policies

*'Lateral transfer' now in place for city departments*

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Portland is making efforts to attract new employees and to help them attain new skills once on staff.

On Thursday, Portland Board of Works approved a lateral transfer policy for all departments that did not already have one in place. It also OK'd reimbursement for employees who need training to earn a commercial driver's license.

Board members Jerry Leonhard, Steve McIntosh and Mayor John Boggs approved the policy for the city's water, wastewater, street and water departments as well as administration. It allows job candidates who are already enrolled in the Public Employees Retirement Fund to retain years of service toward vacation if they are hired by the city.

Portland City Council approved the policy last month.

A more extensive lateral transfer policy for the city's police department was approved last year. Experienced officers who are hired from other departments get bonuses of \$1,000 after the first year, \$1,500 after the second and \$2,500 after the third. (The policy is designed to attract officers from other departments, potentially saving money and time required to send new officers for training at Indiana Law Enforcement Academy.)

The board also approved a policy to pay for the cost of CDL training for city employees who require those skills. They will also be paid their salary while they are being trained. (In-person classes are now required by law before receiving a CDL.)

See **Policies** page 5



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## River rising

Water gushes into Salamonie River just east of Wayne Street this morning. The river's level rose overnight but was still not near flood stage this morning. More rain is in the forecast for today and early Saturday, with minor flooding of low-lying areas, small streams and creeks possible.

# Rescue effort underway

By LAURA KING and DAVID PIERSON  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

KYIV, Ukraine — A furious bid was underway today to rescue hundreds of civilians still trapped in the besieged Azovstal steel plant, where Ukrainian soldiers sheltering in a maze of underground tunnels have prevented Russian forces from fully capturing the strategic port city of Mariupol.

"The next stage of rescuing our people from Azovstal is underway at the moment," Andriy Yermak, head of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office, said early Friday.

The rescue attempt — the third of its kind in the last week by the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross — comes amid renewed ground assaults on the sprawling steelworks by Russian troops, despite earlier pledges that they would only seal it off.

## Attempt to get citizens out of Mariupol is third this week

At the same time, fighting continued in eastern Ukraine, where the Kremlin's forces have redoubled their efforts to capture the Donbas region, which is home to many ethnic Russians. Ukraine has battled against pro-Russia separatists in the area for several years, and there are suggestions that Ukrainian soldiers could try to mount a counteroffensive to push back Russian troops from around the key city of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest.

The attacks on the Mariupol steelworks are believed to be intensifying in order to subdue

the last remnant of armed resistance in the southern city before Monday's Victory Day celebrations in Russia marking the Soviet Union's defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II. The annual patriotic event is highlighted by a military parade in Moscow's Red Square and other cities, and the fall of Mariupol would give Russian President Vladimir Putin a symbolic victory at a time when most Western allies are uniting behind Ukraine.

In the latest show of such support, First Lady Jill Biden left the U.S. for a trip to Romania and Slovakia to visit U.S. troops and

meet with Ukrainian refugees, whose ranks have swelled to more than 5.7 million since Russia invaded their homeland Feb. 24.

"It's so important to the president and to me that the Ukrainian people know that we stand with them," Biden told reporters before departing.

But a crack appeared in the relatively unified Western response to the war when Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said Friday that his country could not support a European Union proposal to ban Russian oil imports. Hungary, an EU member since 2004, relies on Russia for two-thirds of its oil supplies.

Orban said an embargo would be tantamount to dropping an "atomic bomb" on Hungary's economy. Slovakia, which is also heavily dependent on Russian oil, has also expressed reservations.

See **Rescue** page 5



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Waiting for Aaron

Aubri Hatzell (left) and Mattie Ardizzone laugh as they wait for fellow Delta Theta Tau Zeta Alpha Redkey scholarship recipient Aaron Funkhouser to join them Monday during Honors Night at Jay County High School.

# Casino to expand

By ANDY KNIGHT  
The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)  
Tribune News Service

ANDERSON — There will soon be more room to play at Harrah's Hoosier Park Racing and Casino.

Caesar's Entertainment, Inc., Hoosier Park's parent company, has formally announced plans to invest \$39 million to expand the casino's gaming floor, an enhancement executives say underscores the company's commitment to racing and gaming in Madison County and elsewhere in Indiana.

The project, for which a formal groundbreaking is planned on May 12, will add about 30,000 square feet to the northwest end of the casino, according to a press release. The extra

## Caesar's announces plans for \$39 million project at Hoosier Park

space will house 150 new slot machines and an additional 16 table games, officials said.

"The enhancements at Harrah's Hoosier Park further exhibit Caesar's Entertainment's commitment to gaming in the state of Indiana," said Anthony Carano, president and CEO of Caesars Entertainment. "We are thrilled to unveil our

exciting plans for the expansion of Harrah's Hoosier Park. We're confident these changes will benefit our guests and our team members."

Other additions will include a high limit space, a casino bar featuring hand-crafted cocktails and a quick-serve restaurant accessible directly from the casino floor.

See **Expand** page 5

### Deaths

Anita Springer, 97, rural Portland  
Freda Shull, 80, Portland  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County got about 0.6 inches of rain Thursday. The temperature hovered between 51 and 56 degrees.

Tonight's forecast calls for more showers and thunderstorms with a low of 47. Skies will be mostly cloudy Saturday with a high of 58.

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 Salamonie Fire Station.

### Coming up

**Saturday** — Results from tonight's JCHS girls tennis match against Bluffton.

**Tuesday** — Coverage of Monday's Dunkirk City Council meeting.



# CR almanac

Saturday 5/7	Sunday 5/8	Monday 5/9	Tuesday 5/10	Wednesday 5/11
<b>58/44</b>	<b>66/50</b>	<b>76/58</b>	<b>81/59</b>	<b>83/58</b>
There's a 30% chance of showers on Saturday before 7 a.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy and windy.	Sunday's weather looks to be mostly sunny, with highs in the mid to upper 60s.	More sun is in the forecast for Monday, with temperatures in the upper 70s.	Sunny skies and warm temperatures. The high may reach 81.	Another day of sunny skies, with highs in the lower 80s.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$51 million	Cash 5: 8-19-32-36-39 Estimated jackpot: \$194,500
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$70 million	<b>Ohio</b> Midday Pick 3: 0-0-7 Pick 4: 5-0-4-3 Pick 5: 0-8-5-3-5 Evening Pick 3: 8-1-8 Pick 4: 1-7-2-7 Pick 5: 4-5-8-2-1 Rolling Cash: 5-15-19-23-30 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Midday Daily Three: 1-3-9 Daily Four: 7-7-1-9 Quick Draw: 1-2-6-8-10-17-23-24-32-34-35-42-44-46-55-59-63-64-68-78 Evening Daily Three: 8-8-5 Daily Four: 4-2-6-9 Quick Draw: 11-13-16-22-23-26-36-37-38-39-45-47-49-52-59-62-68-69-76-78	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....7.95 June corn .....7.96 Wheat .....9.16	June wheat..... 10.20	<b>Central States Montpelier</b> Corn.....7.78 Late May corn .....7.78 Beans .....16.22 Late May beans.....16.26 Wheat.....10.59
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....7.99 June corn .....8.02 July corn.....8.01		<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....7.51 June corn .....7.58 Beans .....16.13 June beans .....16.18 Wheat.....10.68
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn.....7.77 June corn .....7.87 Beans .....16.32 June beans .....16.37 Wheat ..... 10.20		

# Obituaries

## Anita Springer

May 31, 1924-May 2, 2022  
Anita Lauretta Springer, age 97, of rural Portland passed away Monday, May 2, 2022, at her residence in rural Portland just weeks before her 98th birthday. She was a fighter all the way to the end, and if she were still here with us, she would be building her RV and planning her future traveling adventure.

She was born in Jay County on May 31, 1924, the daughter of Homer I. and Rita D. (Nelson) Sheffer. She was married on Oct. 22, 1942, to D. Wayne Springer and he passed away on March 27, 1976.

She was an amazing woman who survived so much and was a driving force of her generation with a passion for life. During World War II, while her husband was stationed in California, she was one of the first women to drive a truck which transported POWs. She volunteered wherever she saw a need and always had a helping hand for anyone.

She was a woman who did not take no for an answer and was very proud of everything she built as an independent woman. She got her general contractor's license in construction when women were still fighting to be heard. She made a business of rehabbing mobile homes long before it was a trend and later went on to design and build her dream home, hoping her family would share it with her.

Anita was a kind soul with a tough exterior who is survived by a

son, Larry Springer of Grottoes, Virginia; three grandchildren, Therysa, Codie and Chenia; five great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and many loving family and friends.

She was preceded in death by three brothers, Lawrence "Bill" Sheffer, Ivan "Sonny" Sheffer and F.A. "Joey" Sheffer; and two sisters, Pauline Houser and Ursel Stroble.

There will be no funeral services. Burial will be in the Springhill Cemetery in Fort Recovery, Ohio.

Baird-Freeman Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials can be made to the choice of the donor.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

## Freda Shull

Oct. 23, 1941-May 4, 2022  
Freda Shull, age 80, a resident of Portland, passed away on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, at IU Health Jay in Portland.



Shull

Freda was born on Oct. 23, 1941, in Portland, Indiana, the daughter of Wilbur and Bessie (Wright) Manor. She married Charles Hartman on July 29, 1966, and he passed away on January 20, 1990. She later married Roger Shull on Sept. 5, 1990, and he passed away on May 15, 1994.

Freda was a member of South Side Church of Christ in Portland

and served as a Girl Scout leader for many years. She worked at Jay Garment and Arby's in Portland.

Survivors include:  
One daughter — Michelle Harman, Wisconsin

Son-in-law — Bob Smith, Portland, Indiana

Sister-in-law — Carol Manor, Salamonina, Indiana

Several nephews and nieces, including Debbie Huntsman, who was her caregiver

Five grandchildren  
One great-grandchild

She was preceded in death by her parents; a daughter, LaCresa Smith; brother Edwin Manor; and sister LeEtta Bonifield.

Visitation will be held on Monday from 4 to 7 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will be held on Tuesday at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Flint Redwine will officiate the service and burial will follow at Salamonina Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to Jay County Cancer Society or South Side Church of Christ.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.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.*

# Capsule Reports

## Rolled into ditch

A Portland teen and man were hospitalized after her vehicle went off county road 800 South and rolled into a ditch about 5:42 p.m. Wednesday.

Mackinzie M. Miller, 17, was driving west on the road near county road 250 West. She was driving on a curve in the road when her 1999 Chevrolet Blazer went off the north side of the road, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. She overcor-

rected her vehicle, causing it to skid and go onto the south side of the road and flip three times before stopping in a ditch. Witnesses told police the vehicle was going at a high speed on the curve in the road.

Miller was ejected from the vehicle and sustained injuries all over her body, according to the report. Her passenger, 19-year-old Kamran R. Miller, was also ejected and had a neck injury. Mackinzie

Miller was flown by helicopter to Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Her vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

## Intersection collision

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after two vehicles collided at the intersection of county road 200 West and Indiana 26 about 6 a.m. Thursday.

See page 5

## SERVICES

Tuesday

**Shull, Freda:** 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

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# Woman feels disrespected by daughter

Dear Abby



DEAR ABBY: I have a daughter, "Molly," who is in her late 30s. Her father and I divorced when she was an infant, and I raised her, with help from my family, until I remarried. Her father had visitation and paid child support, but that's where it ended. Throughout Molly's life, I have taken care of all medical expenses, extracurricular activities, etc., and I sacrificed so she could have what she needed.

The problem I'm having is that she treats me badly, while her father, his family, her husband's family and members of my family are put on a pedestal. The disrespectful way she talks to me and her superior attitude have sent me into depression. She doesn't answer texts or return

my phone calls unless she feels like it or wants something.

There's the possibility that I'll be coming into some money soon, and I have been thinking about changing my will and not leaving her anything. I am seeing a therapist to figure out why I can't tell her how much her words and actions hurt me. I love Molly very much, but I don't like her. Shouldn't she be the one in

therapy to figure out why she treats me this way? — MIS-TREATED MOM IN GEORGIA

DEAR MOM: People don't usually seek therapy unless they are hurting, as you are. Don't waste your time waiting for her to seek help for something she doesn't think is a problem. Your daughter is fine with the status quo because you haven't drawn the line and demanded to be treated with consideration. I don't know if she's aware that you are about to come into money, but when she finds out, you may discover she has a sudden change of attitude.

If the money comes through, I hope you will spend that windfall on things you

enjoy — travel, cultural events, all the activities you missed out on while sacrificing for Molly. You deserve it; she doesn't. Please tell your therapist I said so. I'm quite sure your therapist will agree.

DEAR ABBY: I renovated and moved into my girlfriend's house a year ago, to the tune of \$80,000. We have been together 12 years and agreed that although neither of us wants to remarry, we should stop paying two mortgages because we are nearing retirement and should save money.

She has an old cat that is peeing all over the house. She says, "What do you want me to do about it?" I'm asking her to help

me figure something out, but after more than a year of dealing with her cat peeing on everything from my children's beds to the carpets, nothing has changed. What can I say to get through to her that this is ruining our home and potentially getting people sick? I can't have guests over because of the smell. — FRUSTRATED OVER THE FELINE

DEAR FRUSTRATED: You and your girlfriend should discuss this with the cat's veterinarian to find out if the animal's behavior is age-related and can't be controlled or a behavioral problem that can be corrected. Please don't wait to do it! You have my sympathy.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

### Thursday's Solution

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

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.

## Community Calendar

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

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.

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 3 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio.

JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at 3:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month at Portland

Fire Department, 1616 N. Franklin St. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday of each

month at Richards Restaurant.

REDISCOVERING JOY — The support group of widows and widowers meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at R & R Fabrications, 601 E. Washington St., St. Henry, Ohio. For more information, email [rediscoveringjoy@yahoo.com](mailto:rediscoveringjoy@yahoo.com).

### Tuesday

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

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

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# The church is in need of revival

To the editor:  
Someone told me recently that the days of Revival were over.  
Well, I wish to differ with the good pastor. They may be over for him and his church, but not to those who still believe.  
Revival by definition means to bring something back to life; a new or increased interest in something.  
Psalm 85:6 says "Will You revive us again so that your people may rejoice in You?"

## Letters to the Editor

In my new book, "The 30 years of Revival Meetings in Portland and Jay County, Indiana" from 1928 through 1958, there were 70 churches experiencing a spiritu-

al awakening. The Fisher-Tabernacle Revivals sometimes would continue for months, with thousands attending, hundreds of conversions and healing.  
The crowds were so great the local police were asked to direct traffic.  
There are 21 churches in Portland within a mile of each other and more than 70 in Jayland. Thousands attend weekly church services, and in those there is a remnant who are sick

and tired of the same, traditional status quo week after week. Several churches are about to close and will if Revival is not experienced. The Lord God hasn't changed and still desires to bring His Presence upon us.  
God is always doing something in the church that he is not found anywhere else, and unless it is producing results that cannot be produced anywhere else, she is failing.  
"But God still brings His peo-

ple back to their knees to repent of their evil ways and brings healing to the land." — 2 Chronicles 7:14  
This present generation needs to see what a real old-fashioned revival is and they will when people quit playing church and give up their social gospel for a new touch of His Divine Presence.  
For Revival,  
Phill Jellison  
Portland

## Freedom must be protected

By **CARL WILMSEN**  
Progressive Perspectives  
Tribune News Service

On April 25, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in a case, Kennedy v. Bremerton School District, about a public school football coach who pressured his players to pray with him at the 50-yard line.

The court's conservative majority seemed to signal support for the coach.

It's an important case for a nation where religious freedom and the separation of church and state are being put into question.

But this case is also of personal significance to my family. You see, something quite similar happened to my daughter years ago.

I share her story so that other people can see for themselves why it's wrong to impose religion on children in public schools — and in the hope that the court does the right thing and protects students' religious freedom.

In 2005, when my daughter Amanda was in high school in California, she was on the junior varsity soccer team at our local public school.

One night, she came home from a game and told my wife and me that her coach had prayed with the team. We learned that the coach had been saying Christian prayers before every game.

My daughter felt uncomfortable with this; I was shocked and upset. The idea of a public school employee leading students in prayer flew in the face of everything I knew and understood about how the Constitution protects religious freedom.

My wife and I are practicing Buddhists, but we decided not to raise our children in a religious environment.

We feel strongly that our children should make decisions about religion and spirituality for themselves. That's why we're grateful that the Constitution leaves these decisions up to individuals.

Religious freedom allows everyone to believe what they choose to believe and not what the government — including public school teachers and coaches — tell them to believe. Public schools are, by definition, intended to be secular spaces separate from religious institutions. They should never steer students into observing someone else's religious traditions.

**Carl Wilmsen**



After learning that my daughter's coach was praying with her team, I called the school and explained that my daughter and our family were uncomfortable with this. The principal was supportive and asked the coach to stop, and she did.

That was all we wanted. Schoolchildren already face tremendous pressure to fit in.

A coach shouldn't add to that pressure by making them feel that following their religious tradition is a prerequisite for being part of the team.

In the case before the Supreme Court, the Bremerton School District found out what was happening and offered the coach time and space for personal prayer.

But the coach insisted on praying publicly with students and sued the district.

Coaches, including the coach in this Supreme Court case, have every right to believe what they want.

But students have rights to their religious freedom too, and it's the duty of public school employees to protect those rights.

Unfortunately, some people contend that what happened in cases like ours — or in Bremerton — is OK.

My daughter didn't think it was OK.

Neither did I. Neither did many parents and students in Bremerton.

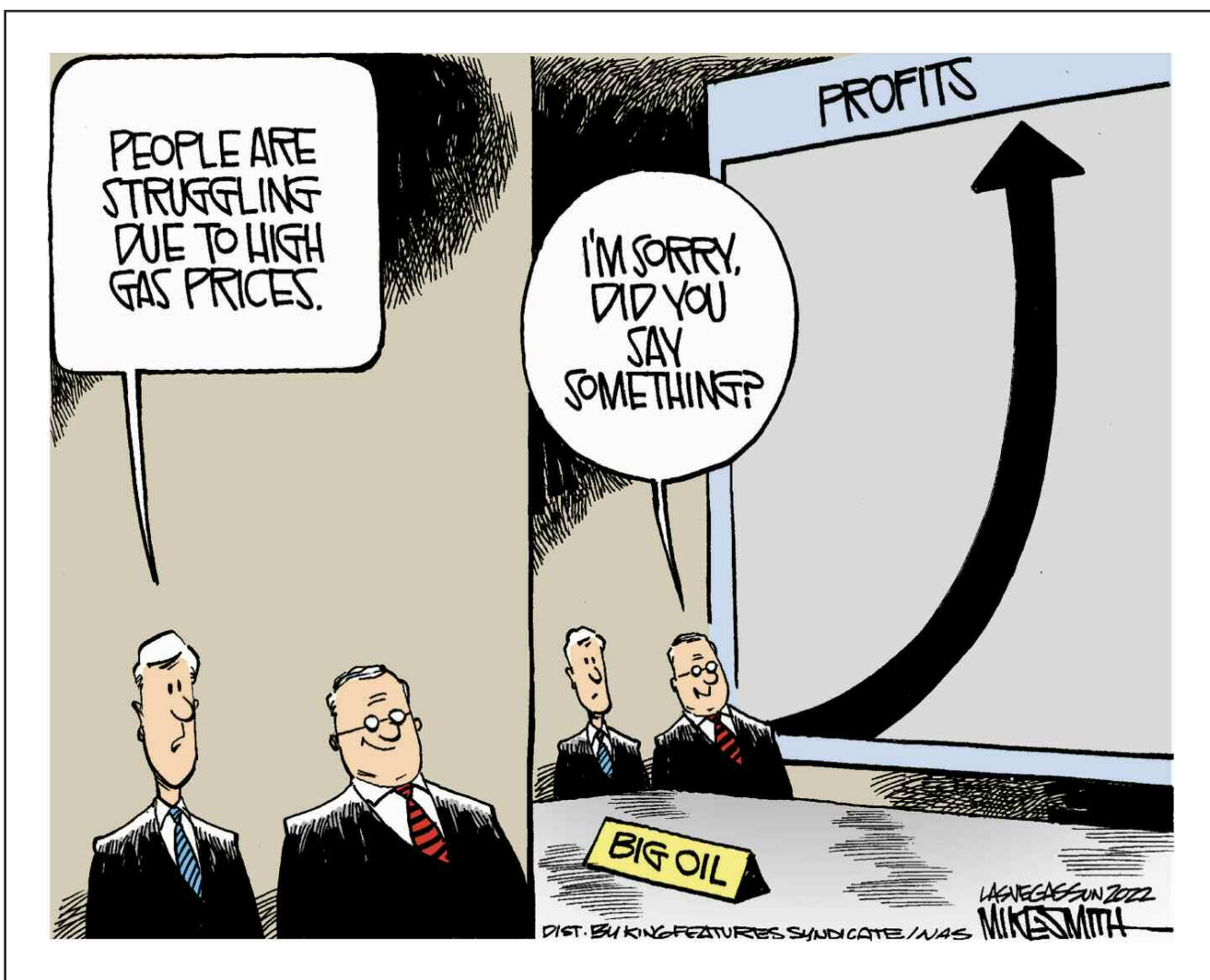
Church-state separation and the equality it guarantees are foundational to our democracy. True religious freedom protects everyone's right to pray.

But it also protects people who might not want to pray, or who pray differently than you or me.

Let's hope that the Supreme Court does not allow the protections for religious freedom that have existed for generations in public schools across this country to be weakened.

I might even say a prayer for it.

.....  
*Wilmsen of Albany, California, is a labor activist specializing in social justice issues in the management of U.S. public lands.*



## Birds would have been a connection

By **BAILEY CLINE**  
The Commercial Review

Jack Ronald loved to take pictures of birds.

He often shared those photos with us in the newsroom. I liked teasing Ray Cooney about it, because for a while, it seemed like a regular occurrence for us to publish close-ups of the newest visitor to Jack's backyard.

It's been just short of two weeks since his death, but it's been a lot longer since I have seen one of Jack's bird pictures. I never thought I'd find myself wishing one more would appear in my inbox.

It's those little idiosyncrasies we don't expect to miss that end up sneaking up on us.

Jack had a habit of visiting the office some afternoons. He would stop by to pick up his mail and chat about the news. As I mentioned in an online post recently, each time I heard the door sweep open last week, I nearly expected — hoped — to see his head pop around the divider separating the front office from the newsroom.

It seemed surreal, featuring Jack on the front page April 26. As we edited pages that morning, we kept referring to the story detailing his life achievements as "Jack's story."

The context almost fooled me into thinking it was a piece he wrote, not a piece written about him.

That afternoon, like whenever the death of a major community member has occurred, I halfway expected him to stop by the office and share a story about his experience with the deceased.

As Ray said in his column last week, the phrase "Jack Ronald died" seems so final. "And yet, nothing is final. While all of our lives eventually come to an end, we live on in the people's lives we touched," he wrote.

I believe those who are no longer with us do have a lingering effect in some shape or form.

Jack retired when I started

### On the Line



working for The Commercial Review. Even then, he stayed involved to some extent, writing his column every week along with the occasional front page byline and filling in as a proofreader.

Oh, and the bird pictures. He sent us a bunch of those.

I spent time Saturday with a friend of mine who also adores birds. It had been about a year since I last met with Whitley — she travels around the United States for her career as a biologist. We chatted over lunch and, on a whim, decided to visit Minnetrista in Muncie.

It didn't dawn on me until we walked inside the Center Building that I had day passes sitting on my desk in the office. Jack — he served on the board of trustees — had given three of them to me a while back. Oh well.

We made our way through the exhibits, then out to The Orchard Shop. Whitley stopped by the field guides and started flipping through one depicting predatory birds. She named birds as their illustrations appeared, page by page, and shared a plethora of additional facts with me on each.

We passed the bereavement section and an array of cardinal-themed items. I pointed to a keychain resembling stained glass that read, "every time you see a cardinal, it's a visitor from heaven."

In a city where the vast majority of the population attend a certain university with the bird as its mascot, I reminded her, you'll see cardinal merchandise about everywhere.

Whitley noted the phrase is ironic, considering cardinals are one

*We passed the bereavement section and an array of cardinal-themed items. I pointed to a keychain resembling stained glass that read, "every time you see a cardinal, it's a visitor from heaven."*

of the most common birds around Indiana. Fair enough, I thought, but the sentiment is still nice.

We continued on our way, passing through the parking lot and into the wooded nature path. Whitley identified nearly each living organism as we walked. Virginia Bluebells. Goldfinch. Bloodroot. Swainson's Thrush.

For each plant, she stooped to examine its leaves. For each bird, she lifted her binoculars to get a closer look. For a few seconds each time, she reminded me of that nature-loving fourth grader I became friends with at Montpelier Elementary School.

I told her I think she would've liked Jack.

As we neared the end of the woods, more bird song echoed. Whitley pointed at a tree across the path. A single cardinal sat in its branches, humming its tune for all to hear.

Something told me Jack would've liked her too.

# The Commercial Review



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# Rescue ...

Continued from page 1  
With Ukraine pleading for more military aid, Germany confirmed that it would send seven of its most advanced self-propelled howitzers — massive artillery guns mounted on tracked armored vehicles. The assistance comes after Germany lifted its policy of not sending heavy weapons to conflict zones last week after growing calls to do more to help Ukraine's defense.

Ukraine desperately needs the West to maintain pressure on Moscow now that fighting is concentrated in the east, where Russian forces and Russia-backed separatists aim to widen their hold after their failure to capture the capital, Kyiv.  
On Thursday, a U.S. official told reporters that Washington has been sharing intelligence with Ukraine, including information that ultimately led

to the sinking of the Moskva, a Russian missile cruiser struck and sunk in the Black Sea last month.  
Russia's defense ministry said today that its forces destroyed a Ukrainian ammunition depot in the city of Kramatorsk and that its air defenses downed two Ukrainian warplanes in the Luhansk region, in the Donbas. The claims could not be independently verified.

Air-raid sirens also sounded in Kyiv overnight and early this afternoon. The capital region, which had braced for an assault by a column of Russian tanks in the opening weeks of the war, has largely been spared attack recently.  
Mariupol has been the focus of close attention because its capture would allow Russia to link its forces in the northeast and southeast.

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# Policies ...

Continued from page 1  
The policy requires that employees reimburse the cost of the training if they leave less than three years after completing it.  
Before the policy was OK'd,

McIntosh expressed concern that it might result in the city being used as a stepping stone for individuals to obtain their CDL and then move on to another job.  
"That's the reason we have three

years in there," said Leonhard of the policy.  
The board also approved sewer and water taps for Berry Construction, which is building the new urgent care facility at 980 N. Meridian St.

# Expand ...

Continued from page 1  
The expansion, noted Trent McIntosh, senior vice president and general manager at Hoosier Park, will further boost the facility's profile among the state's gaming destinations.  
"The growth of Harrah's Hoosier Park will continue to allow us to bring the best in racing and gaming options to our guests," McIntosh said.

"With the addition of a new high limit room and gaming tables, new food and beverage offerings and upgraded design concepts, we're elevating ourselves as one of the best gaming destinations in Indiana."  
Officials also anticipate substantial economic benefits from the expansion. The project is expected to add 100 new jobs and generate millions in local and

state gaming tax revenues.  
"It is certainly a huge investment for our community," Anderson Mayor Thomas Broderick Jr. said. "It certainly means more jobs and increasing the tax base and expanding entertainment activities for folks as well. We certainly appreciate Caesars' commitment to our community."  
Broderick added that

the city currently budgets slightly more than \$2.6 million annually for tax revenues from Hoosier Park, a figure that could increase once the expanded space comes online next year.  
"That's a substantial amount," he said. "We use it in several of our departments, and if we didn't have that money, it really would put us in a tight position."

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# Capsule Reports

Continued from page 2  
Zachary A. Matthews, 30, Eaton, told Jay County Sheriff's Office he was driving a 2022 Freightliner south on county road 200 West when he stopped at the intersection with Indiana 26. He said he didn't see any oncoming traffic and continued south through the intersection. (Traffic on Indiana 26 does not stop.) An eastbound 2010 Honda Accord, driven by 18-year-old Jacob L. Hart of Salamonia, then crashed into the semi Matthews was driving.

Hart and his passenger, 17-year-old Kylee A. Carreno, were both taken to IU Health Jay for treatment. The semi Matthews was driving is registered to Global Rental Company of Indianapolis.

### Turning crash

A Portland man turned into oncoming traffic at the intersection of Middle Street and Blaine Pike in Portland about 12:05 p.m. Thursday.  
Rick D. Gibson, 73, told Portland

Police he was on Middle Street and turning a 2010 Toyota Scion east onto Blaine Pike. He didn't notice the oncoming 2009 Chevrolet Traverse, driven by 21-year-old Hunter E. Harrison of Portland. The car Gibson was driving struck the vehicle Harrison was driving.  
Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000. The car Gibson was driving is registered to Portland Motor Parts, and the vehicle Harrison was driving is registered to Larry D. Nuckols of Portland.

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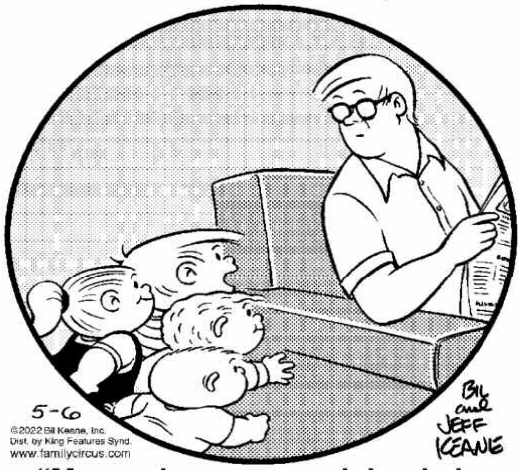
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



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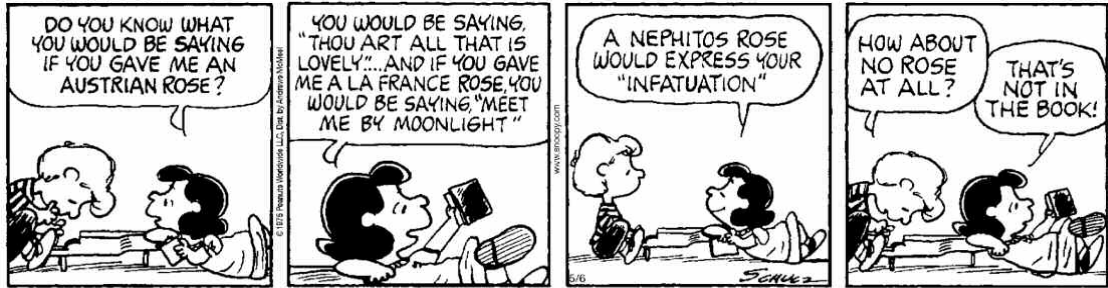
Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been: West 1♦ North 2♣ East Pass South 1♠ Pass 2♣ Pass ?

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Funky Winkerbean



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

QVGNPR QKQKJMPG FOVF CTJPMTRB OVC COVPR FT WTTT WHEP V NPG B ITIKWVG JKIIPF: IHQWEP JP PWJT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT WOULD ONE CALL MESSAGES THAT GET UPLOADED TO FORUMS ABOUT EPEES AND SABERS? FENCE POSTS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals C

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Competitor 6 Chicago winter hrs. 9 Cleric's tunic 12 Actress Blunt 13 Have bills 14 R&B singer Des'— 15 Ice cream utensil 16 Colorful flowers 18 — van Bee-thoven 20 Brewer's kiln 21 Honest politician 23 Nay undoer 24 Battery measures 25 Campus mil. group 27 Goofed 29 Volcanic rock 31 Animal product shunners 35 Western resort lake

Solution time: 25 mins.

Grid for crossword puzzle with letters: EDOM, MOC, AMEN, TERA, ORO, TODO, AMER, NBC, TNUT, LIOTTA, APIECE, IVS, ICY, HYMN, TAMP, ABAY, REO, IDO, ARE, SANTA, CON, SGT, TWA, DOL, MARISA, RHODES, ABES, ILLI, PORT, NEAT, RNA, EMMA, ILLS, SAN, SOAR

Yesterday's answer 5-6

Numbered crossword grid with 55 numbered squares.

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# Sports

## King of the county

### Heitkamp sweeps distance races in Mercer Meet

COLDWATER — Trevor Heitkamp is the best distance runner in Mercer County.

Heitkamp led the Fort Recovery High School track teams at a soggy Mercer County Meet on Thursday at Coldwater, winning a pair of championships.

Abbie Francis added a second individual title for the girls team, which already had a win from Mara Pearson in the long jump on the opening day of the meet Tuesday. Francis was also part of a championship relay.

Fort Recovery's girls scored 92 points to finish third behind dual champions Celina and Coldwater, which each scored 125 in the six-team event. Marion Local was fourth with 76.

Heitkamp tallied nearly two-thirds of the points for the Indian boys, who were last with 31 points. Parkway finished fifth with 46 while Marion Local had 171 to run away with the title.

It was a dominating day for Heitkamp, especially in the longest race of the evening. He finished the 3,200-meter run before anyone else even made the turn to the home stretch, winning by more than 18 seconds over Marion Local junior Troy Stucke in 10 minutes, 14.01 seconds.

The sophomore faced a tougher challenge from Parkway senior Blake Strickler in the 1,600 run, but he was equal to the task. Heitkamp crossed the finish line in 4:39.25 to fight off Strickler (4:41.82) for first place.

Francis showed she had held something back Tuesday when she earned the No. 3 qualifying spot for the 100 dash. She ran 0.79 seconds faster in Thursday's final, posting a time of 12.8 to finish 0.13 ahead of Parkway's Morgan Hunter.

She also teamed with Anna Roessner, Mara Pearson and Allysen Fullenkamp to take the top spot in the 4x100 relay in 52.37, a half-second ahead of Marion Local.

Francis anchored a pair of runner-up relays as well, teaming with Roessner, Fullenkamp and Pearson again for second in the 4x200 relay in 1:50.44 and joining Megan Diller, Natalie Brunswick and Roessner for the No. 2 spot in the 4x400 relay in 4:18.75.

Whitley Rammel followed up her second-place finish Tuesday in the discus with another runner-up result. She turned in a toss of 39 feet, 2.5 inches, in the shot put to trail only Molly Winner (40 feet, 6.25 inches) of Marion Local.

Roessner, a freshman, took second place in the 400 dash in 1:04.15, trailing only Coldwater senior Ava Griere.

Also turning in a third-place finish for the FRHS girls was Ellie Will in the 3,200 run.

#### Middle school

Parker Brunswick and Reed Albers each won a title for the Fort Recovery boys, who scored 40 points to finish in fifth place. Marion Local won with 179.

See County page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fort Recovery High School's Trevor Heitkamp runs the 4x800 relay April 12 during the Indians' meet against Versailles and St. Johns. Heitkamp won both the 1,600-meter run and 3,200 run Thursday at the Mercer County Meet at Coldwater.

## Gann to get Horizon Award

*Honor will be presented at event on June 9*

Holly Gann first returned to Fort Recovery as girls basketball coach.

Then she became the athletics director.

This week, she was recognized for her efforts in leading the Indians.

The Northwest Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association announced Gann as its winner of the Horizon Award.

The award goes to an administrator "who has demonstrated within their first (5) five years, signs of professionalism and involvement, which has made a difference in their school or conference." It will be presented at the Northwest Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Golf and Awards Outing on June 9 at Sycamore Springs Golf Course.

Gann is in her first year as Fort Recovery's athletics director, having officially taken over the role Aug. 1. She served as girls basketball coach, a role she still holds, for two seasons before becoming the AD. She had also been an assistant track coach.

See Award page 7

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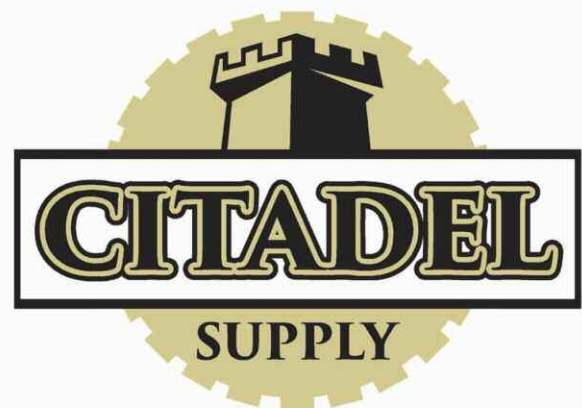


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