

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

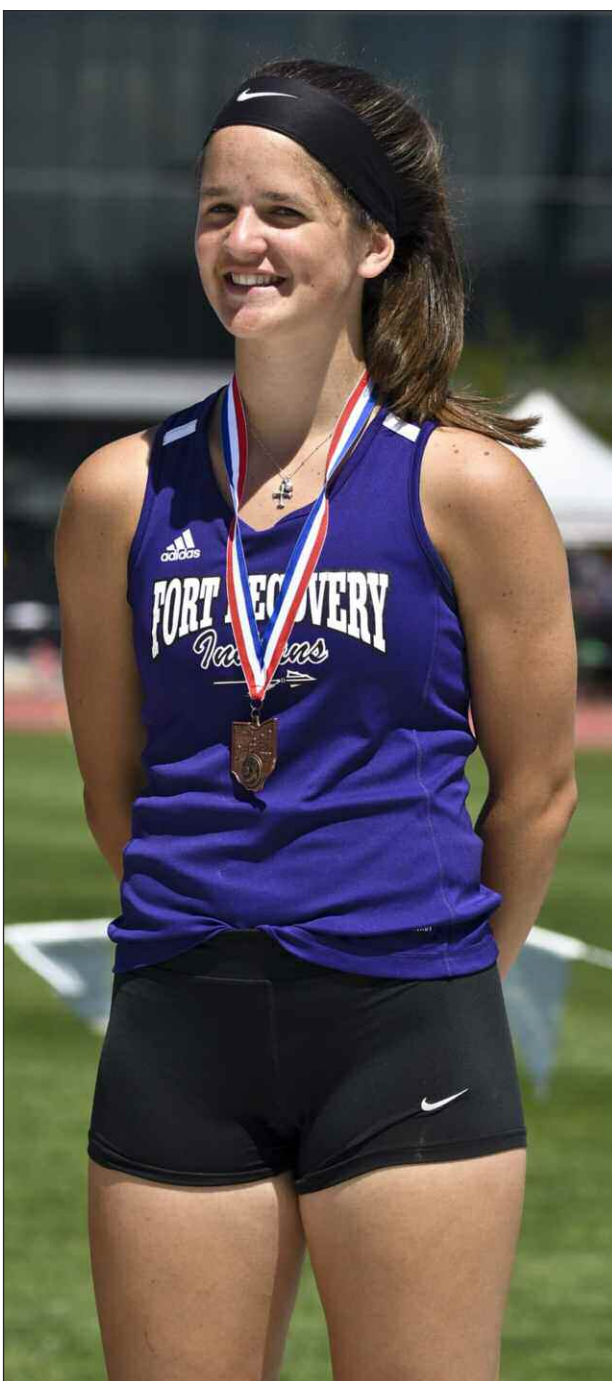
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\$1



## Two in one

Fort Recovery High School walked away with two medals Friday as senior Whitley Rammel (left) finished third in the shot put and sophomore Mara Pearson took seventh in the long jump at the OHSAA Girls Track and Field State Tournament at Ohio State University's Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium in Columbus. Also Friday, FRHS senior Abbie Francis earned the opportunity to run in today's 200-meter dash championship race by posting the No. 7 time in the preliminaries. For more on the meet, see page 8.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Murder trial begins Monday

### Boyd is charged with murder, criminal confinement

The last of five individuals who was charged with murder in 2020 in Jay County is scheduled to go to trial Monday.

Roger L. Boyd Jr., 36, will stand trial before a Jay County Circuit Court jury for the Sept. 5, 2020, murder of James P. Miller. The trial has been delayed multiple times since officials filed the case.

Along with murder, Boyd also faces a Level 3 felony for criminal confinement while armed with a deadly weapon.

Police arrested Boyd, a former police officer, after 49-year-old Miller was shot early Sept. 5, 2020, outside of a house at 1215 S. Bridge St., Portland. Miller was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to court documents filed in connection with the case, Boyd admitted to police he shot Miller but said it was in self defense because he thought Miller had a weapon. (Such a weapon was never found, according to police.)

Police later found Nicole L. Burke, Miller's girlfriend, in the basement. She told police she was standing in the driveway after the shooting when Boyd ordered her to go into the house, according to court documents.

Boyd's girlfriend, Britney Shewmake, owned the property at the time of the incident. She was inside the house with two children, ages 3 and 5, when the shooting occurred, according to court documents.

See Trial page 2

## War in Ukraine reaches 100 days

By ANDRE BALLIN and ULF MAUDER

dpa GmbH  
Tribune News Service

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine called for more help but said it was still holding its own in the besieged eastern city of Severodonetsk as the war reached the 100-day mark on Friday.

The stalemate on the ground was summed up by both sides claiming small victories, with Ukraine's parliamentary speaker Ruslan Stefanchuk saying his country needed more and better military equipment from the West.

"Waiting and hesitation costs lives. One day costs around 100 soldiers' lives and 500 or more wounded," Stefanchuk told dpa on a visit to Berlin to meet Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

Also Friday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said he is willing

### Officials request more, quality military equipment; Putin offers to boost Ukrainian grain deliveries

to help boost Ukrainian grain deliveries, Senegalese leader Macky Sall said following a meeting between the pair aimed at limiting the humanitarian crisis.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a major global wheat grower, has sent prices soaring as grain exports dwindle due to the conflict.

In contrast, deliveries of Russian oil via sea to the European Union are now officially impossi-

ble as the latest round of EU sanctions against Moscow came into force.

Stefanchuk's trip coincided with the German parliament agreeing to change the constitution, paving the way for a landmark \$107 billion investment in the armed forces which could ultimately help Ukraine. Scholz announced on Wednesday that more heavy weapons would be supplied to Kyiv.

The Ukrainian military reported that it had managed to hold its positions in the strategically important city of Severodonetsk.

"Fighting continues in the center of Severodonetsk," the Ukrainian general staff said in its situation report, adding that Russian forces were continually shelling Ukrainian positions in the city, as well as in the suburbs.

In addition, the general staff reported Russian airstrikes on the village of Myrna Dolyna and unsuccessful attempts to storm the nearby settlements of Metyolkyn and Bilohorivka.

Russian attempts to cut Severodonetsk off from supply lines farther west were also unsuccessful, the Ukrainian report said.

The Russian military meanwhile said it had launched further missile and artillery strikes in Ukraine as well as airstrikes.

See 100 page 2

## Retrospect

### Hull prepared for race

Twenty-five years ago this week, a Fort Recovery resident was preparing for a cross country airplane race.

The June 7, 1997, edition of The Commercial Review featured coverage of Terri Hull getting ready to serve as co-pilot for Gayle Lowe of Sacramento, Kentucky, for the 21st annual all-woman cross country Air Race Classic.

Growing up near an airport in Detroit, Hull said she used to stand on the ground and dream of being in the air.

"I always wanted to fly," said Hull.

She couldn't afford flying lessons as a child, but she went on to become a part-time flying instructor.

In the Air Race Classic, Hull and Lowe would fly a 180 horsepower 1958 Piper Comanche in the 2,706-mile competition that was slated to start in Boise, Idaho, and end in Knoxville, Tennessee. (They were one of 40 teams involved in the event, which would be Hull's first race.) Stops for the event included Wyoming, North Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan, Indiana and West Virginia.

The competition was based on technical expertise in navigation, with each plane handicapped according to the aircraft manufacturer's handbook.

"The race is timed and measured to the hundredths," Hull said. "We will fly two legs a day, or approximately 700 miles.

The trick is to find a good tail wind to increase our ground speed."

Hull's flight dream got on the runway to reality when she and her husband Bob stopped at Portland Municipal Airport on the way back from Fort Wayne in 1986. The next year, she started training and earned her private pilot's license. She went on to get a flight and ground instructor certificates.

She met Lowe, who operated a private airport with her husband, through the International Cessna 120140 Association.

"She just asked me one day if I would like to be in the race," Hull said.

She didn't have to think twice before answering.



Photo provided

Fort Recovery resident Terri Hull stands beside her 1946 Cessna 140 at Portland Municipal Airport in 1997. She was getting ready for the Air Race Classic that was slated to begin June 24 in Boise, Idaho, later in the month.

### Weather

Jay County's high temperature was 82 degrees Friday.

Today's forecast shows sunny skies, with a cool wind reaching 5 mph. The high may reach the upper 70s, with the low dipping into the mid 50s at night.

Sunday's weather calls for temperatures in the low 80s under mostly sunny skies.

There's a chance of showers at

night, when the low will reach around 62.

Rain and possibly thunderstorms are likely Monday, along with temperatures remaining in the mid 80s. Precipitation is expected to continue throughout the night and into Tuesday morning.

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

**Tuesday** — Results from Jay County boys golf sectional at Hickory Hills Golf Course in Farmland.

**Wednesday** — Coverage of Tuesday's Portland Park Board meeting.



CR almanac

Table with 5 columns: Sunday 6/5, Monday 6/6, Tuesday 6/7, Wednesday 6/8, Thursday 6/9. Includes weather icons and temperature forecasts (e.g., 82/62, 78/58).

Lotteries

Lottery results for Hoosier, Ohio, Powerball, and Mega Millions. Includes pick numbers and estimated jackpots.

Markets

Market prices for Cooper Farms, POET Biorefining, and The Andersons. Lists various crops like corn, wheat, and soybeans.

Today in history

On June 4, 1919, Congress approved the 19th amendment... In 1824, the first free press was founded in Australia... In 1917, a Pulitzer Prize was awarded to its first recipient.

Citizen's calendar

Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School Board special meeting... Wednesday 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, commissioners' room... June 13 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners' room.

Trial ...

Continued from page 1 She's charged with assisting a criminal, a Level 5 felony, and criminal confinement, a Level 3 felony.

iff's Office. He was fired from his position at the sheriff's office. In related news, trial dates for four Portland residents who allegedly committed foul play in the last year have also been set.

Rain foreshadows tropical storm

By CHRIS PERSIENS, ANGIE DIMICHELE and KEVEN LERNER South Florida Sun Sentinel Tribune News Service FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Heavy rains from what is expected to be Tropical Storm Alex dumped several inches of rain in South Florida, where a tropical storm warning was in effect late Friday.

As of 8 p.m. Friday, the system had sustained tropical-storm-force winds of 40 mph, and was located about 95 miles north of the western tip of Cuba and about 300 miles southwest of Fort Myers while moving north at 7 mph.

ability to handle the predicted rainfall amounts. The SFWMD manages water from Orlando to the Florida Keys, and has been lowering canal levels in South Florida for days in preparation of a possible onslaught of rain.

The National Hurricane Center said aircraft data indicates the system in the southeastern Gulf of Mexico changed little over several hours Friday as it drenched southwestern Cuba. The system is expected to become Tropical Storm Alex by early Saturday, the hurricane center said at 8 p.m. Eastern time.

The system has yet to organize its circulation to be a named storm. "On the forecast track," the hurricane center said, "the system should move across the southeastern Gulf of Mexico through tonight, across the southern and central portions of the Florida Peninsula on Saturday, and then over the southwestern Atlantic north of the northwestern Bahamas Saturday afternoon through Sunday."

"You have all of the feeder canals that are the smaller roads and highways that feed into the Water Management District canals," he said. "Then we take that water and move it out into the ocean, so everything is moving to the east. And we do that by gravity, moving water from the west, where the elevation is a little higher, to the east, and by using mechanical methods like the big pumping stations."

Despite the expected heavy rainfall and potential for flooding, the South Florida Water Management District said the region is prepared to handle the storm. "Our grounds are not overly saturated at this point," said Randy Smith, spokesman for the SFWMD.

The tropical storm warning now runs on the Gulf Coast from the middle of Longboat Key on the Sarasota-Manatee County border south, including all of the Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas, and then along Florida's east coast to the Brevard-Volusia County line as well as Lake Okeechobee.

"We are in a good situation in that it's been fairly dry up until the last few days," he said. "We don't have any problematic areas that we're concerned about." Smith said residents should make sure storm drains are clear.

The Defense Ministry in Moscow said more than 360 "nationalists" had been eliminated while 49 weapon systems and military vehicles had been destroyed. It was not possible to verify the reports independently.

The hurricane center predicted the system's wind speeds will reach a maximum of 50 mph by Sunday evening. The South Florida Water Management District is optimistic about its

The system is expected to cross the state and into the Atlantic Ocean during the early part of the day on Saturday. It is lopsided, with the heaviest rain and strongest wind gusts to the east and south of its center, the National Weather Service said.

100 ...

Continued from page 1 The Defense Ministry in Moscow said more than 360 "nationalists" had been eliminated while 49 weapon systems and military vehicles had been destroyed.

a sixth round of EU sanctions targeting Russian oil, Russian banks and Russian military officials entered into legal force after publication in the EU Official Journal. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on Twitter the package was "a big blow to Putin's war chest."

fourth consecutive month, up 5.6% in May alone, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported, with the war having a big impact on what is a major global region for grain production. Grain deliveries from Ukraine are to top Moscow's diplomatic agenda over the days ahead, Kremlin spokesman Dmitri Peskov said.

Meanwhile, the displaced mayor of the captured Ukrainian city of Mariupol accused Russia of holding the remaining citizens hostage. Vadym Boichenko said there are still about 100,000 residents in the city who are unable to flee to safe Ukrainian territory. He believes Russia is keeping them there to make it more difficult for Ukraine to mount a counter-offensive.

Russian oil delivered by sea but exempts oil that moves via pipeline such as the Soviet-era Druzhba pipeline, which connects Russia with several Eastern and Central European countries. Russian oil exports will clearly be hit, but the future of Ukrainian grain exports remains a huge issue of concern for the wider world. International wheat prices have risen for a

Many countries are facing soaring food prices and a humanitarian crisis could result in places such as Africa, experts predict.

Felony arrests

Failed to appear A Dunkirk woman was arrested Thursday for failing to appear in court. Debra J. Poor, 65, 141 8th St., has two original Level

6 felony charges for criminal recklessness and pointing a firearm at another person. She's being held without bond in Jay County Jail.

SERVICES Saturday Schultz, Megan: 11 a.m., Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 W. 200 South, Portland. Monday Harold, Robert: 1 p.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

6-4 Saturday Happy 101st Birthday Ruth (Bub) Pontius 6-19-2022 "Happy Father's Day" Homer Pontius 6-27 Monday, Happy 78th Anniversay Mom & Dad "There is a love that death cannot sever. Love and remembrance last forever." John 14:3 Steve, Jane, Mark & Craig

# Consider swimmer safety tips for kids

By LAUREL KELLY  
Mayo Clinic News Network  
Tribune News Service

For many people, the hot summer days are often spent swimming at a lake or pool.

But before you help your child suit up, it's important to consider some safety tips.

## Swimming after eating

The old saying about waiting an hour after eating before swimming isn't entirely true. It's OK to swim immediately after a light meal or snack. If your child feels lethargic after eating a heavy meal, however,

encourage a break before swimming.

## Swimming lessons

Many kids learn to ride a bike and to swim on their own at the same age — often the summer before kindergarten. The American Academy of Pediatrics supports swimming lessons for most children 4 and older.

If you enroll a child younger than 4 in a swimming program, pick one that requires parental involvement, has qualified teachers and a fun atmosphere, and involves a limited number of underwater submersions. This will limit the amount of water

your child might swallow. Can children swim when they're sick?

It's fine for children who have colds or other minor illnesses to swim so long as they feel well enough to do so. Your child should stay out of the water if experiencing diarrhea, vomiting or fever, or if diagnosed with an infectious illness. It's OK for children to swim with cuts and scrapes, as long as the wounds aren't bleeding.

## Swimming and ear tubes

Ask your child's health care professional about ear protection during swimming if your child

has ear tubes. Some recommend that children who have ear tubes wear earplugs while swimming to prevent bacteria from entering the middle ear. However, routine use of earplugs might only be needed when children dive or swim in untreated water, such as lakes and rivers.

## Preventing swimmer's ear

Swimmer's ear, or otitis externa, is an infection in the outer ear canal that's often brought on by water that remains in your ear, creating a moist environment that helps bacteria grow. Swimmer's ear often

is treated with prescription eardrops.

## To prevent swimmer's ear:

- Keep ears dry. Encourage your child to wear earplugs while swimming. After swimming, dry your child's ears by wiping the outer ears gently with a soft towel or use a hair dryer. Put the hair dryer on the lowest setting, holding it at least 1 foot away from the ear.
- Use an at-home preventive treatment. As long as your child doesn't have punctured eardrums, use homemade preventive eardrops before and after swimming. A mixture of

one part white vinegar to one part rubbing alcohol might promote drying and prevent the bacteria and fungi that can cause swimmer's ear from growing. Pour 1 teaspoon of the solution into each ear and let it drain back out.

- Avoid putting foreign objects in your child's ear. Cotton swabs can pack material deeper into the ear canal, irritate the thin skin inside the ear or break the skin. If you are trying to clean the ear and remove wax, do so without using cotton swabs or other instruments. And encourage children to keep their fingers and objects out of their ears.

# Daughter feels powerless to help aging father

DEAR ABBY: My dad, who is nearing 80, has been married to my stepmom, "Ruth," for nearly 35 years. She has always been temperamental and controlling to a degree, but during the last few years it has become abundantly clear that she's emotionally abusive to my dad.

Twenty years ago, I moved to another coast, and although Dad wanted to visit, the decision was always up to Ruth, so they never did. However, when it comes to her immediate family, Dad is required to attend every event. During COVID I moved just a few states away, and that's when I got the full picture. Ruth took away Dad's cellphone and sold his car, so he is virtually stuck. She will not even let him mention purchasing a vehicle. He's an artist, and she never "allowed" him to get a studio.

The list is long, sad and frustrating. He forbids me to confront her, but it is giving me daily stress because I love my dad and I fear her control is something he has grown accustomed to. Any advice? —DISTRESSED DAUGHTER IN THE SOUTH

DEAR DAUGHTER: As repugnant as the situation may be to you, I do not think

Dear Abby



me. He invited me to his formal dance, but I turned him down because I didn't know him very well. He didn't take anyone else even though he had plenty of time to find a date. My friend at the dance said he didn't even talk to another girl, so I know he's very loyal already.

The other contender, "Shay," is taller and has dark hair. He has kind, blue eyes and a shy personality, although with me he really opens up and talks. He always checks in to see how I'm doing when I've had a rough day. In the simplest terms, he puts up with my nonsense. He has seen me at some of my worst moments and still showed compassion.

I'm genuinely torn between these two and don't know how to choose because I don't want to lose either of them. What do I do? —BOY CRAZY IN IOWA

DEAR BOY CRAZY: I have good news. Because nowhere in your letter did you mention that either of these young men have asked you for an exclusive relationship, you do not "have" to make a difficult choice. Some people like both chocolate AND vanilla ice cream. I suggest you be honest and enjoy seeing them both

until the answer to your question becomes obvious.

DEAR ABBY: I survived 17 years of abuse. I'm slowly healing and now in a healthy relationship I enjoy. My ex did what most abusers do in these situations: He isolated me from my family. He would force me to say mean things to my sisters and parents to keep them away and make them hate me.

Now that I'm out of that situation, I want a relationship with them again. Sadly, my sisters say I must apologize for my behavior (again), which I'm not comfortable doing. I did apologize once, but it wasn't good enough for them, since I stated that I was sorry HE MADE ME do those things. What should I do? —GETTING PAST IT IN KANSAS

DEAR GETTING PAST: I'm not sure why your sisters are insisting you apologize again, but if I were you, I would do it to try to smooth things over. At that time I would explain to them about Stockholm syndrome, which sometimes happens when people are kidnapped, held prisoner and eventually begin to identify with their captors. Something

similar may have happened between you and your abuser because, in a sense, you were being held hostage.

DEAR ABBY: My precious dog, "Rover," died nearly a year ago. I have grieved deeply, and feel I have handled it in a healthy way. I now have a new dog, "Spot," who has brought new energy to my home. I keep a few pictures of Rover around the house, as well as pictures of Spot. Part of me feels it's weird to have pictures of a deceased pet on display and that it may not be healthy. Yet, I also feel it's fine, as long as it isn't a shrine to him. Sometimes I stop and look at Rover's pictures and smile; other times, I feel an ache in my stomach and tear up. What is your take on this? —STILL HEALING IN FLORIDA

DEAR STILL HEALING: My "take" is that although you have moved on to a great degree, you are still grieving. Rover is part of your history. If photos of him bring you pleasure, continue to display them. However, if more often they make you sad, consider putting them away until more time has elapsed since his passing.

# Community Calendar

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

## Reunions

Graduates of Portland High School will host an alumni banquet on June 18 at Jay County High School. Honor classes are from the years 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967 and 1972. All Portland High School graduates are welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-7209.

Jay County High School Class of 1997 will hold its 25th reunion at 7 p.m. June 11 at Jay County Event Center.

## Saturday

PORTLAND FARMERS

MARKET — Will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Saturday in the parking lot at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St.

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

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

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is

located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

## Monday

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

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

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

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

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

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

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

# Pay by the day

Bargains Deals Specials

# let's talk

Call, email or stop by during the week of June 6 through 10 and pay per-inch cost based on the date for any black and white ad 10 column inches or larger.

June 6 pay \$6 per column inch  
(This is 54% off the regular price!)

June 7 pay \$7 per column inch

June 8 pay \$8 per column inch

June 9 pay \$9 per column inch

June 10 pay \$10 per column inch

BOGO 6 col x 3" ads  
for FREE \$234

(All specials are for the regular paper only. Pricing does not apply for special sections. Ads must run in June.)

ADVERTISE IN The CR

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

# Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

## Friday's Solution

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

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.

# At least remove liability protection

St. Louis Post-Dispatch  
Tribune News Service

With more than 300 million firearms in Americans' hands — enough for every man, woman and child to have one — it does no good anymore to rant and rave about gun control.

The National Rifle Association owns enough members of Congress to block meaningful measures and is no doubt working this very minute to block any new legislation in response to the slaughter of 19 children in Uvalde, Texas.

The gun lobby — or, more accurately, the pro-death lobby — succeeds because it knows Americans have a ridiculously short attention span. The sense of outrage over Uvalde will last

## Guest Editorial

only slightly longer than the insincere moment of silence that the NRA will let its politicians observe before unleashing a new campaign to twist this tragedy into a victory for gun rights.

The bloodshed profiteers, coincidentally, gathered May 27 not far away from Uvalde in Houston for the NRA's annual convention. There, former President Donald Trump joined

presidential aspirants like Sen. Ted Cruz in a political competition to see who could bow lowest to kiss the feet of the gun gods.

They, like the NRA, know that Americans will soon forget this tragedy, just as they've put out of their minds the slaughter of 20 first-graders and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut and the killing of 17 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida. They know that even the racist mass murder of 10 people in Buffalo, less than two weeks ago, already seems like a distant memory.

To his credit, Golden State Warriors Coach Steve Kerr refused to let the NRA win at the game of distraction. He used an NBA playoff news conference

Tuesday not to talk about basketball but to focus loudly on the Uvalde slaughter. "When are we going to do something? ..." Kerr said, shouting and pounding the table. "I'm tired of the moments of silence. Enough!"

He blamed Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell among 50 senators "who refuse to vote" on a House-passed background check bill, putting political interests ahead of measures to prevent future mass shootings. Even though the vast majority of Americans favor strengthened background checks, subservient politicians won't budget without NRA permission.

One thing that does get gun manufacturers' attention, however, is the single successful

product-liability lawsuit brought by families of the Sandy Hook victims against gun maker Remington, which in February yielded a \$74 million settlement. If Republicans don't want to impose better background checks or controls, then why not at least consider repealing the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act of 2005?

Tobacco companies, once among the most powerful in politics, were brought to their knees once billion-dollar lawsuits forced them to account for the death their products wrought. It's time Congress stopped protecting gun makers and forced them to be held accountable for their products' deadly toll.

## Approval rating hits dreary mark

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN  
Bloomberg Opinion  
Tribune News Service

The bad news for President Joe Biden is that his popularity has fallen, this past week, into dead last place.

Of the 13 presidents during the polling era, none has been in worse shape at this point in his first term, almost 500 days into a presidency, than Biden's 40.5% approval rating.

That's according to FiveThirtyEight's estimate of his average standing in all the public opinion polls. It's not quite Biden's own low point — he briefly dipped a bit lower in late February — but it's close.

Is there any good news for the president? Sort of. His 40.5% is not a historic low for first-term presidents.

Donald Trump, Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush, Ronald Reagan, Gerald Ford, Lyndon Johnson and Harry Truman all had lower lows. Clinton, Reagan and Truman hit bottom before being re-elected, with the latter two dipping well below 40% closer to their elections than Biden is to his. Indeed, there's no relationship between approval ratings at the 500-day mark and re-election.

The news is worse for Democrats with respect to this November's midterm elections, however. It's not clear when voters make up their minds before heading to the polls for general elections, but political scientists do know that presidential approval ratings are usually strong factors affecting midterm results.

Democrats hope, at this point, that the issue context of the election will be focused on policy areas that tend to help them.

And that is possible. But it seems unlikely that even if that happens, it will be enough to overcome the president's unpopularity.

It's impossible to be certain about the reasons for Biden's miserable ratings, but I believe that the big factors have been the pandemic and the economy, with the latter pretty much about inflation. If that's true, then moderating prices and waning COVID-19 surges would be the factors most likely to turn things around.

Jonathan Bernstein



That is, of course, easier said than done.

Especially since what seems to matter are results, not policies, even concerning circumstances over which presidents have little short-term control. The other potential bit of good news for Biden is that what usually matters is the direction of change, not the level. So if gasoline prices trend down over the next several months from the current national average of \$4.60 a gallon to \$4 or so, Biden may well be better off than if prices had been at \$4 the whole time, and may even be better off than if prices at the pump were slowly rising to, say, \$3.75 a gallon. The same should be true of inflation overall.

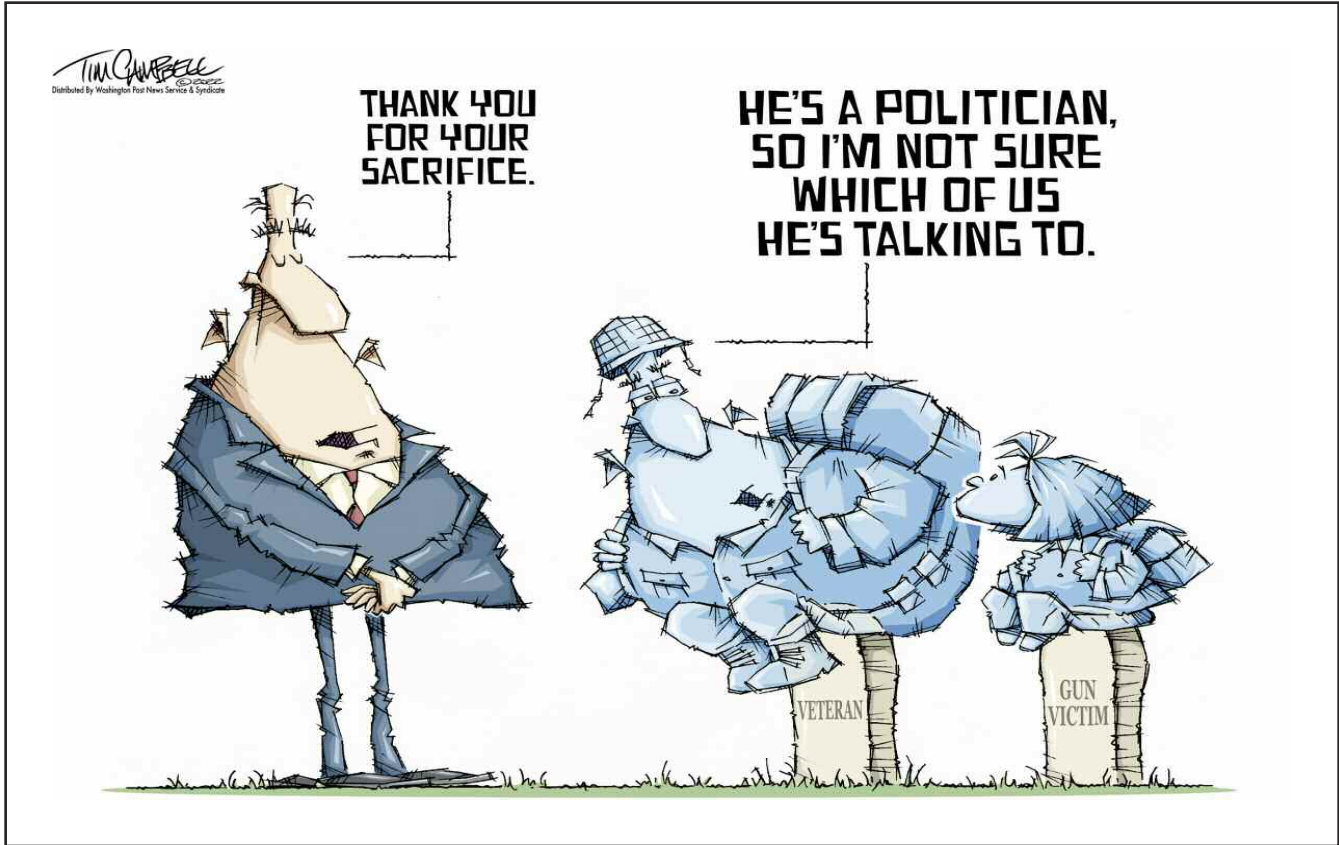
But the flip side is that the same goes for economic growth and jobs. If the labor market cools but remains at a historically healthy level, voters may be more likely to punish Biden for a recent falloff than they would be to reward him for the still-low rates of unemployment.

Remember that approval ratings tend to drive pundits' (and often politicians') views of the president and everything he does. When a president is unpopular, then pundits ascribe that trouble to practically everything the president is doing.

That's a fallacy. If it's true that inflation and the pandemic account for the bulk of Biden's unpopularity, then other things he's doing may actually be helping him, not hurting him.

But much of what presidents do, even what they do publicly, just doesn't change the way people think about his success or failure.

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*Bernstein is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering politics and policy. A former professor of political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePauw University, he wrote A Plain Blog About Politics.*



## We should be free to be us

By JERRY DAVICH  
Post-Tribune (Merrillville)

The two middle-aged men walked hand in hand down the crowded sidewalk, pausing for a second to embrace and kiss on the mouth before disappearing into a store.

It was a sweet, tender moment. Nobody really noticed. Just another casual exchange amid a bustling Saturday morning in the North Halsted Street neighborhood of Chicago (formerly called Boystown). It stood out to me as I bicycled past them while taking streetscape videos of my 20-mile trek from Lincoln Park to Adler Planetarium.

The couple's loving exchange in public is commonplace in their neighborhood and in their city, but not so much in Northwest Indiana and too many other areas across our country. In fact, I can't recall the last time I saw such an intimate yet casual exchange, in public, between two middle-aged men in our region.

Maybe I haven't been paying attention. Or maybe, as I suspect, such public exchanges between members of the gay community continue to be stigmatized in much of our nation. We live in an America which is still learning how to genuinely embrace the LGBTQ community (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning).

Wednesday kicks off Pride Month, when the world's LGBTQ communities celebrate the hard-earned freedom to be themselves, a freedom that most of us take for granted. We don't think twice about showing affection in public for our spouse, partner, or lover. A kiss here, an embrace there, a playful pat on the butt, or holding hands while strolling down a crowded sidewalk.

We don't have to first look around to see if anyone is watching. We don't have to duck into a storefront vestibule to steal a kiss or loving embrace. We don't have to worry who might see us, what they might say, or who they might tell. Or if that casual, loving moment in public will destroy our career or alienate our family.

Freedom to be ourselves is such a simple privilege that we don't notice it.

Jerry Davich



I have friends, readers, and acquaintances in Northwest Indiana's LGBTQ community who don't feel they have the same freedom and openness to be themselves in public. It saddens me. It angers me. I can't imagine how they deal with it on a daily basis. I can't comprehend why they must deal with it in 2022.

It's not like we're still living in 1952, when the American Psychiatric Association's diagnostic manual listed homosexuality as a sociopathic personality disturbance. This fact is disturbing and disgusting. One year later, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed an executive order banning homosexuals from working for the federal government, saying they are a security risk. Again, pathetic.

Just last year, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg became the first openly gay Cabinet member confirmed by the Senate. As I wrote in a 2019 column when the Hoosier native launched his bid for president, "I suspect when Buttigieg outlined the three main principles of his campaign — freedom, security and democracy — millions of Americans could only think he's gay, gay, gay."

From my perspective as a straight middle-aged man, "openly gay" is a crucial qualifier with this topic. I have a friend who's gay and anything but open about his sexual orientation and personal lifestyle. He's a public official in Northwest Indiana who can't be himself in public, feeling forced to remain closeted to protect his career, his safety, and his reputation.

This is a shameful reflection of our society. And this is partly why the month of June is designated as Pride Month. Too many people in the LGBTQ community don't feel the openness to be publicly proud of

themselves. And too many people outside of that community remain wrongly judgmental about a lifestyle they don't understand or faultily condemn.

This is a familiar situation in most of Indiana, a state that too often hides its rampant discrimination behind religious conservatism. There are only pockets of rainbow-themed acceptance and openness for the LGBTQ lifestyle, if you're looking for them, which I do.

I'm noticing Pride Month merchandise at retail chain stores, a reflection of potential profits from the mainstream woke movement regarding traditionally marginalized communities. At a Walgreens in Portage, I noticed a rainbow plush doll from the "Disney Pride Collection." It's stocked on the lowest shelf in an aisle, but still.

"Together We Rise" is the theme for a concert later this month performed by the Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire at the Center for Visual & Performing Arts in Munster.

"This will be the chorus's first time to sing in Northwest Indiana in their 43 years," said Arthur Stark, of Dyer, who's publicizing the event.

The June 18 concert, presented by Unity of Northwest Indiana, will feature Songs of the Phoenix, a new commissioned collection of songs by Andrew Lipka, Stephen Sondheim, Jorah Kwame', Diana Syrse, and other notable names.

"Windy City Performing Arts sings to inspire change, celebrate diversity, and honor the dignity of the LGBTQ+ community," Stark said.

This community has come a long way from the first Pride March in New York City on June 28, 1970, the one-year anniversary of the violent Stonewall Uprising in that city. Yet more than a half century later, the march for equality continues to circle the intersection of public awareness and personal acceptance.

On a nearby sidewalk, it shouldn't stand out to see two middle-aged men walking hand in hand, pausing for a second to embrace and kiss on the mouth before disappearing into normalcy.

# The Commercial Review

US PS 125820

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus  
JOHN C. "JACK" RONALD (1948-2022), Publisher Emeritus

The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

We welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be 700 words or fewer, signed and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for content and clarity. Email letters to news@thecr.com.

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VOLUME 149—NUMBER 25  
SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 4, 2022

www.thecr.com

"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter." — Thomas Jefferson

Subscription rates: City delivery and Internet-only pay at the office rates: 13 weeks — \$32; six months — \$60; one year — \$108. Motor route pay at the office rates: 13 weeks — \$39; six months — \$68; one year — \$125; Mail: 13 weeks — \$47; six months — \$77; one year — \$135.

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6-4 CRYPTOQUIP

C J M K J A G S J D S F Y J F

H E Q Z Q W N F Y W A J A S W X J Z W A Z

E C W Q F H B X M J D I E B Z S E C I J D J M N:

"ZSF KWMZFIF CWMDE."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN BROWN BEARS  
AREN'T FINDING FISH TO EAT FOR A LONG TIME,  
THAT MIGHT BE A SALMON FAMINE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals H

CRYPTO FUN  
Solve the code to discover words related to dairy.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
A. 21 22 6 10  
Clue: Liquid dairy  
B. 7 9 11 18  
Clue: Watery part of milk  
C. 6 25 12 13 24 5 11  
Clue: Type of sugar  
D. 12 15 11 25 21 18  
Clue: Thick and smooth consistency

WORD SCRAMBLE  
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to dairy.  
R S C D U  
Answers: Curds

Guess Who?  
I am a journalist and television personality born in New York on June 3, 1967.  
Before becoming involved in media, I interned with the CIA. My mother was a renowned heiress and entrepreneur. I've risen to fame on a popular cable news channel where I host a nightly show.  
Answer: Anderson Cooper

kids' corner  
MOST OF THE TALLEST MOUNTAIN PEAKS ON EARTH BELONG TO THIS MOUNTAIN RANGE.  
ANSWER: HIMALAYAS

WORLD FACT!  
ANSWER: Mother Nature

Get Scrambled  
Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.  
TERHOM TUANER  
Answer: Mother Nature

How they SAY that in...  
ENGLISH: Bird  
SPANISH: Pájaro  
ITALIAN: Uccello  
FRENCH: Oiseau  
GERMAN: Vogel

6-6 CRYPTOQUIP

B K W Z S Y D S W Z S B Z E Q S ' D

M Z V C L S S H K G L Z G G J B L

K E K C Y V S W K "D G K V E K V D"

M J N N K J B: H K V G Q Z M K H Z V.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: FILM IN WHICH EDIE  
PORTRAYED AN INHABITANT OF A REPUBLIC  
SOUTH OF SICILY: "THE MALTESE FALCO."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals M

Math Blocks  
Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-10.  
The numbers in each row add up to the totals to the right.  
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.  
Solution

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY  
1553: ANNE BOLEYN IS CROWNED QUEEN OF ENGLAND.  
1831: JAMES CLARK ROSS BECOMES THE FIRST EUROPEAN AT THE NORTH MAGNETIC POLE.  
2011: A RARE TORNADO OUTBREAK OCCURS IN NEW ENGLAND.

New Word  
NATURE  
the phenomena of the physical world

I LOVE DAIRY WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

- WORDS: ANTIBIOTICS, BLOCK, BUTTER, CHEESE, CHURNING, CLARIFY, CLOTTING, COW, CREAMERY, DAIRY, ENZYME, FAT, GOAT, GRADE, ICE CREAM, LACTATION, MILK, ORGANIC, PASTEURIZE, PROTEIN, SHEEP, SOFT, UDDER, YOGURT

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Bar fight funder, 6 Maestro repair, 11 Poodle follower, 12 One expressing a view, 14 Chew out, 15 Prankster's cry, 16 Lith., once, 17 Heroic tales, 19 French article, 20 Twosome, 22 Computer acronym, 23 Vault, 24 Lovable, 26 Woodwind players, 28 Life story, 30 Possess, 31 Scruffy TV sleuth, 35 Haunting, 39 Pub orders, 40 Journal, 42 Faction.

Solution time: 26 mins.  
EASES RAM MCC  
LAPUP EMU OOO  
SHIRR CADENZAZ  
NOISES UTES  
EMO GAD AGENT  
SIZE LETME  
SCARFS WNONNA  
ORATE ERIN  
RADIO REC GAY  
ALEC EUODORA  
BONANZA BONDS  
BUT URN RAZES  
IDS BAT ADAMS

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The art of discovery  
South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.  
NORTH: ♠ Q J 10 9, ♥ K 7 5 2, ♦ A J 10, ♣ 6 3  
WEST: ♠ 6 5 2, ♥ 6, ♦ K 4, ♣ Q J 10 8 7 5 4  
EAST: ♠ 4, ♥ J 10 8 3, ♦ Q 9 8 7 6 3 2, ♣ 9  
SOUTH: ♠ A K 8 7 3, ♥ A Q 9 4, ♦ 5, ♣ A K 2  
The bidding: South 1♠, West Pass, North 3♠, East Pass, South 4♥, West Pass, North 5♦, East Pass, South 7♣, West Pass, North Pass, East Pass.  
Opening lead — queen of clubs.  
There are some deals where declarer can force the defenders to reveal their distribution, and then use what he has learned to his advantage.  
Here is a case in point. South got to seven spades as shown, and West led the queen of clubs. Declarer saw at once that the grand slam was a certainty unless he lost a heart trick. Since this could happen only if the opposing hearts were not divided 3-2, South decided to take whatever measures he could to guard against a 4-1 or 5-0 heart division.  
Accordingly, he won the club lead with the ace, cashed dummy's ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond, returned to dummy with a trump and ruffed another diamond. When West showed out, South learned that East originally held seven diamonds.  
Declarer then played two more rounds of trump, learning that East had started with precisely one spade. And when South next cashed the king of clubs, East failed to follow suit. As a result, East's original distribution became an open book. He had started with seven diamonds, one spade and one club, so it followed that he had exactly four hearts.  
All South had to do now was to take advantage of the clues he had so diligently accumulated. He led a low heart to the king and a low heart back. When East produced the eight, South finessed the nine and so made the grand slam.  
Observe that it would not have helped East to play the ten instead of the eight on the second round of hearts, as South would simply win with the queen, ruff a club in dummy and then take the proven heart finesse.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand  
North dealer. North-South vulnerable.  
NORTH: ♠ A Q J 4, ♥ A 10 8 3 2, ♦ K J 2, ♣ 2  
WEST: ♠ K 9 7, ♥ K Q J 7 5, ♦ 6, ♣ 9 8 5 4  
EAST: ♠ 8 6 5 3 2, ♥ 9, ♦ 10 8, ♣ K Q 10 6 3  
SOUTH: ♠ 10, ♥ 6 4, ♦ A Q 9 7 5 4 3, ♣ A J 7  
The bidding: North 1♥, East Pass, South 2♦, West Pass, North 3♦, East Pass, North 5♥, West Pass, South 7♦, East Pass, North Pass, West Pass.  
Opening lead — king of hearts.  
This is one of the most dramatic hands in bridge history. It occurred during a match between Sweden and Italy at the World Bridge Olympiad in New York in 1964.  
The deal was played on Bridge-O-Rama before a large and enthusiastic audience. The match was close, and the spectators, regardless of their sympathies, were in a high state of excitement when the hand was displayed on the huge electronic screen. They saw that the Swedish North-South pair could make a grand slam by guessing which opponent had the king of spades, and they already knew the Italian pair at the first table had bid and made only six diamonds.  
A great roar went up from the audience when South (Sven Berglund) bid seven diamonds. The Italian West led the king of hearts, taken by dummy's ace. Berglund then took five long minutes to study the situation as the spectators debated whether he would guess the location of the king of spades and thus avoid a heart loser.  
Most of them thought he would cash the ace of spades and then lead the queen, discarding a heart if East followed low. This, of course, would have resulted in down one.  
The audience sat transfixed until, at long last, Berglund led a club to the ace, returned the ten of spades and followed low from dummy. At this point, pandemonium broke loose. The cheers, the groans, the shouts, the applause and the I-told-you-so's that followed could surely have been heard in Stockholm.  
Berglund proceeded to make the grand slam by ruffing two clubs in dummy and discarding a heart on the ace of spades. This gave the Swedish team a gain of 13 International Match Points instead of a loss of 16, and Sweden won the match, 66 IMPs to 49.  
Tomorrow: Eternal vigilance.  
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Cauldron, 4 Motor homes, 7 Roof overhang, 11 Fencing sword, 13 Plant seeds, 14 Marvel superheroes, 15 Deserve, 16 "Little piggie", 17 "Othello" villain, 18 "Symposium" philosopher, 20 Thaw, 22 Harry Potter pal, 24 Old Spanish coin, 28 President Lincoln, 32 Razor sharpener, 33 Hammer part, 34 Tavern, 36 Ocho —, Jamaica, 37 Sand castle site.

Solution time: 21 mins.  
S C A R S M A S U R  
T E A C U P O P I N E R  
B E R A T E G O T C H A  
S S R S A G A S L E S  
P A I R R O M L E A P  
S W E E T O B O I S T S  
B I O W N  
C O L U M B O E E R I E  
A L E S L O G S E C T  
N E A K A P U T D A H  
D A N G I T A R M O R Y  
O R N A T E R U P A U L  
Y E S E S D E S K S

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61

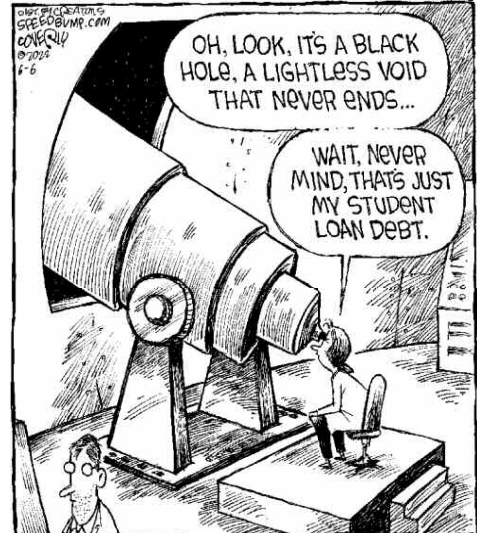
**SPEED BUMP** Dave Coverly



**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane



**SPEED BUMP** Dave Coverly



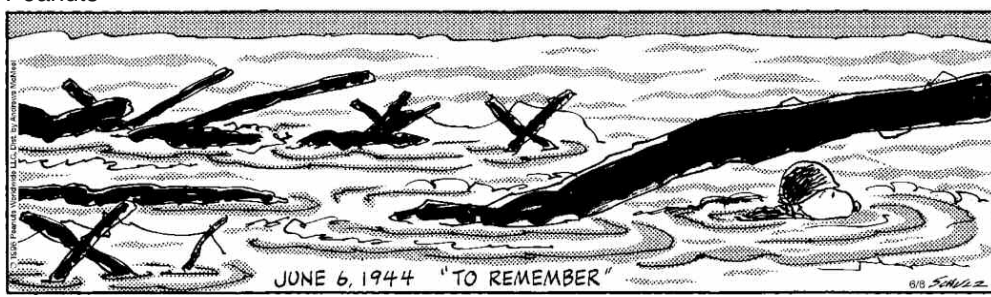
**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane



Peanuts



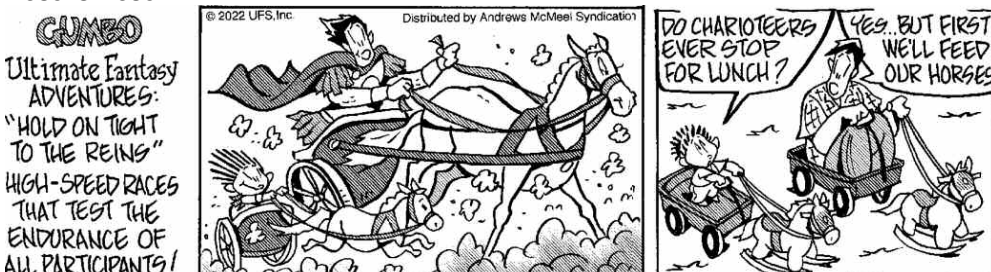
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Hi and Lois



Funky Winkerbean



Funky Winkerbean



Blondie



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Beetle Bailey



*We Deliver*

*Laughter*



Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

The Commercial Review *We Deliver*



## Multiple medalists

*Rammel comes up big on final try for third in shot put; Pearson places seventh for Fort Recovery in the long jump*

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

COLUMBUS, Ohio — One way or another, Whitley Rammel's career was ending.

She had one attempt left.

She was sitting in sixth place, exactly where she finished in the state shot put competition last season. And she had not neared her career-best, school-record mark.

Rammel made the most of her final time in the ring.

The Fort Recovery High School senior saved her best effort for last, launching the shot put 40 feet, 11 1/4 inches to vault herself into third place Friday in the OHSAA Division III Girls Track and Field State Tournament at Ohio State University's Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium.

"My last throw, hitting 40, I was just like, 'It's my last throw ever, I'm just going to throw it out there and see what happens,'" said Rammel. "And I feel really good about it."

Hers was the second FRHS medal effort of the day as sophomore Mara Pearson placed seventh in the long jump.

Also Friday, Abbie Francis ran the sixth-fastest time in the 200-meter dash and broke the school record to earn a spot in today's finals.

When Rammel placed sixth a year ago in the shot put, she became Fort Recovery's first state medalist in girls track since Holly Brunswick (high jump) in 2011. Now the Indians have two medalists in a single day, with a chance to add a third.

"That's a pretty darn good day," said FRHS coach Christy Diller. "It's hard to complain about that."

"We've got some more opportunities tomorrow too. It's been a great meet so far."

Both Rammel and Pearson lived dangerously Friday.

Pearson was beyond the board on each of her first two long jump attempts. Rammel's first two tries in the shot put went wide to the left of the vector.

Both girls came through in the clutch.

Rammel simply tried to make sure her third throw was in play — in both shot put and long jump athletes get three preliminary attempts, with the top nine moving forward to the finals — in order to give her the opportunity to keep competing. She succeeded, sending the shot 38 feet, 10 1/2 inches, to move her into fourth place.

She was sixth after all of the preliminaries were completed, and that's where she remained heading into her final attempt of the day. Trying to give it everything she had to close out her career — she is headed to play volleyball at Eastern Ten-



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Whitley Rammel, a Fort Recovery High School senior, launches the shot put during the finals of the event at Friday's Division III OHSAA State Track and Field Tournament at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium on the campus of Ohio State University in Columbus. Rammel's last throw of the day was her best, earning her third place.

nessee University next year — she turned in her best throw of the day.

"She stepped right up," said Diller. "That was awesome."

"She had it in her head. She made us sweat a little bit ... but

she shows up when she needs to show up. I'm really proud of her."

That last try was just short of her career-best (41 feet, 2 inches), but it was enough to push her ahead of Colonel Craw-

ford's Julia Feik, Minster's Lillian Barhorst and Caldwell's Gwyn Lori for third place. (Marion Local's Molly Winner won the state championship at 43 feet with Kaitlyn Gum of New London second.)

After fouling on each of her first two tries, Pearson made sure to be legal on her third. She was looking down at the board to guarantee her foot placement, but still soared 17 feet 2 1/2 inches. That put her into second place. She was third after her flight and sixth at the conclusion of preliminaries.

She dropped to seventh when Sierra Kendall of North Adams busted out a jump of 17 feet, 8 1/4 inches, on her fifth attempt. That's where she would remain as her slightly improved distance of 17 feet, 3 3/4 inches, on her second jump of the finals wasn't enough to move her up. (Ashtan Winfrey of Columbus Africentric won the state championship at 18 feet, 8 3/4 inches.)

Pearson, who fell just short of a medal when she finished ninth last season, was disappointed to not repeat her regional championship effort — 17 feet, 8.25 inches, a school record that had her seeded second heading into the state finals — but happy to get to stand on the podium for the first time.

"It's good," said Pearson. "After that jump, I told my coach right away, 'It's better than last year.' Last year I wasn't happy with my jump. It's 9 inches further than last year. If we keep making those baby steps, we'll get it done."

"I'm ready for next year. I'll prove myself next year."

Francis had some concerns about getting a good start, but after a couple of warm-up tries and a motivational chat with Calvert's Leah Smith in the lane next to her she felt good. She launched out of the blocks and was fourth-fastest in a blistering first heat in 25.86 seconds.

Her time held up through the second heat, putting her as the No. 7 seed for today's finals.

"I felt good with that race," said Francis. "It felt really good."

It should have. She was 0.3 seconds faster than the career-best time she set to finish as the regional runner-up last week.

"That's awesome," said FRHS coach Christy Diller. "That is a huge PR. It is definitely under the school record."

How did she know for sure? It was her record — 25.9 in 1996.

"That is awesome," she added. "I'm super excited about that. ..."

"If you PR at the state meet, that makes your day. That is awesome."

Francis is scheduled to race in the finals at 11:25 a.m. today. (Smith is the No. 1 seed at 24.82.)

Fort Recovery's Trevor Heitkamp, who is seeded ninth, will follow almost immediately as he competes in the boys 3,200 run at 11:30 p.m.

## Consistency lifts Bilbrey to 15th

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

BLOOMINGTON — The school record wasn't in the cards.

Neither was a career-best throw.

But simply by being able to match her regional effort, Gabi Bilbrey climbed the state ladder.

Bilbrey, a Jay County High School junior, jumped nearly 10 spots from her seed to finish 15th in the discus Friday afternoon at the IHSAA Girls Track and Field State Finals at Indiana University's Robert C. Haugh Complex.

"From where we started, ending 15th in the state is, I think, pretty cool," said JCHS coach Joe Imel.

Bilbrey, who had been dealing with an undeter-

mined nagging injury for a few days, had a bit of a

slow start as her first throw went 101 feet, 5 inches.

Her second proved to be her best of the day.

Bilbrey went slightly further than she had in finishing as the runner-up at the Ben Davis regional, sending the discus 116 feet, 6 inches.

(Her third attempt came in at 113 feet, 7 inches.)

While that was not enough to get her into the finals — top 10 — it pushed her much higher than the No. 24 seed she held coming into the meet. (She also accomplished one of her goals by finishing ahead of Allen County Athletic Conference rival Lauren Reiff of Bluffton. She was 17th at 108 feet, 2 inches.)

Bilbrey achieved that by simply having a level of consistency, tossing 6

inches further than at the regional meet.

Meanwhile, the field struggled.

Eleven of the state finalists had reached at least 130 feet at their regional meets. Only seven made that mark Friday.

Seventeen had gone at least 125 feet. That number was just nine at the state finals.

The final state medal went to Greensburg's Emarie Jackson at 125 feet, 7 inches, as she placed ninth. Bloomington North's Hadley Lucas, who was the prohibitive favorite heading into the meet, won the state title at 147 feet, 4 inches.

The visit to the state finals marked the end to a season of big improvements for Bilbrey, whose best effort at the 2021

regional was 102 feet, 1 inch. She came in stronger this season, hitting the 120-foot mark for the first time at the Muncie Central Relays. Then she extended her career-best distance twice at the sectional meet, winning the championship at Delta with a toss of 123 feet, 6 inches.

By advancing to Friday's meet, Bilbrey gave the Patriots at least one state finalist for the second consecutive year. She follows 2021 qualifiers Elisa Parazzi, who earned a medal by finishing seventh in the high jump, and Kinsey Shannon.

"We're real proud of her," said Imel, noting that Bilbrey enjoyed the experience of being on high school track's biggest stage. "I'm real happy that she moved up nine spots."



Special to The Commercial Review/Clint Anderson

Jay County High School junior Gabi Bilbrey poses with Patriot throwing coach Brian Miles after she finished 15th in the discus Friday during the state finals at Indiana University.