

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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## Thobe leaving as FR principal

*She will move to new role at Marion Local*

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Another school official will be out the door at the end of the school year.

Kelli Thobe, principal at Fort Recovery Elementary, has resigned effective July 31. She will be taking over as principal of Marion Local Elementary/Middle School beginning in August.

Fort Recovery School Board accepted her resignation during a special meeting Wednesday. Thobe will finish her role as principal this school year and assist with the transition after officials select someone to take over her position.

Her resignation comes about two months after school board accepted superintendent Larry Brown's retirement, which will be effective at the end of the calendar year.

Thobe spent four years leading the elementary school, which houses approximately 500 students between preschool and fifth grade. She led the school amid the coronavirus pandemic when schools closed their doors, utilizing remote learning and later in-person classes while encouraging COVID-19 safety precautions.

She said on a phone call Wednesday she appreciated the opportunity to serve the Fort Recovery community for the last few years.

"(I've had) great students, great staff, great parents, so it's not an easy decision, but it's a decision that was made for myself and my family," said Thobe, who lives in the Marion Local school district with her husband, Dustin, and children Kalyn, Troy and Hayden.

She highlighted support from the school board and others during her role as principal.

See **Leaving** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Creative cupcakes

Jay County Public Library on Wednesday hosted "Cupcake Wars," a cupcake decorating contest for children. Pictured above, Emery Swaffer, 7, sneaks a bite of a marshmallow before stacking on more sweets to his creation. At right, Joslyn Norman, 11, pipes frosting onto her cupcake in the community room at the library. Participants created confectionary treats and voted on their favorite creations. The library has been hosting activities throughout the week during Jay School Corporation's spring break, including an event for setting up Legos like dominoes and attaching them to zip lines from 3:30 to 5 p.m. today.



## Bill faces opposition in committee

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

A bill that would allow pharmacists to prescribe birth control to Hoosiers saw some opposition in a Senate health committee after easily passing the House last month.

Supporters contend that many Hoosiers live in areas with physician shortages but nearly all live within a few miles of a pharmacy. The majority of Indiana births are the result of an unintended pregnancy and advocates maintain that this would increase access

to popular contraceptive options like hormonal implants or pills.

Bill co-author Rep. Rita Fleming, a retired OB-GYN, emphasized the importance of this legislation, which 24 states have adopted and eight other states are considering.

"Doctors' offices are not open on weekends, in the evenings, or on holidays. Most women of reproductive age work outside of their home so it's very difficult for them to make an appointment. In my office, sometimes they sat for an hour or so while I was deliv-

ering a baby," Fleming, D-Jeffersonville, said. "They want access to birth control. We know in states that have passed similar legislation, the unintended pregnancy rate has decreased and the number of abortions has decreased."

See **Opposition** page 2

## Congress poised to repeal authorization

By TRACY WILKINSON

Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — Matthew Hoh was a 28-year-old Marine captain assigned to the Pentagon in late 2002, just as then-President George W. Bush was laying the groundwork for war in Iraq. Like many of his generation, Hoh was steeled in his patriotism by the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks, and he was eager to serve.

It was widely assumed at the time that the war would be swift and decisive. Hoh worried it would be over before his tour at the Pentagon freed him up to head to combat, and he'd miss his chance.

But the war would drag on another eight years. And 20

### *Legislation takes aim at measures that allowed the Iraq War*

years later, it still weighs on Iraqis whose lives were destroyed and a Middle East that remains convulsed, along with Americans shocked at the humanitarian and moral disaster it became and the balance of power it wrought in Washington.

Now, Congress is poised to remove from the books the law

that authorized the Iraq War, a step that would formally end the war.

"Here I am 20 years later and still talking about it today," Hoh said. He eventually got his turn to serve in Iraq — two tours, in fact, and a third in Afghanistan as a civilian working for the State Department — and today is part of a campaign to repeal the

law known as the Authorization to Use Military Force.

The law authorized Bush to eventually send tens of thousands of military service members into Iraq, starting on March 20, 2003. Because the law is still in place, presidents can and have used it to conduct other military operations technically not covered under the authorization. Normally, under the U.S. system, only Congress can declare war.

The repeal effort is also targeting a similar 1991 authorization that gave President George H.W. Bush permission to start the Persian Gulf War, which was aimed at ejecting Iraqi invaders from Kuwait. That law is also still on the books.

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Virginia, a lead proponent of the repeal,

said both laws are "outdated and unnecessary."

"Congress has a constitutional and moral responsibility to repeal them so that future presidents can't use these authorizations as a blank check to send service members into harm's way," Kaine said after the repeal measure cleared Senate committee hurdles and headed for a vote by the full chamber.

In 2020, then-President Donald Trump used the authorization to justify the killing of Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who was in Iraq at the time.

The repeal bill has enjoyed bipartisan support in the Senate and is likely to pass when the vote comes up within the next few days.

See **Repeal** page 2

### Deaths

**Viola Ahlers**, 96, Fort Recovery  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

The temperature in Jay County started at 42 degrees early Wednesday and climbed throughout the day to 54 just before midnight. There was about a tenth of an inch of rain.

More rain is expected tonight with a low of 40.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

The Jay County Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT) Advisory Committee has scheduled a meeting for 5:30 p.m. Monday in council chambers at Portland Fire Department, 1616 N. Franklin St.

### Coming up

**Friday** — Results from Thursday's NCAA Tournament games.

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



## Opposition ...

Continued from page 1  
Two Republican committee members — northeastern Indiana Sens. Liz Brown and Tyler Johnson — consistently peppered supporters, questioning why pharmacists should have this authority and whether it would have any impact on the state's abysmal maternal mortality rate.  
Brown said birth control couldn't be that effective if half of women seeking abortions reported using contraceptives during the month of their conception. Johnson, a physician, said he didn't understand how pharmacies could have more availability. He also didn't know of a town with a pharmacy but no doctor.  
During their barrage of criticism, fellow Republican Sen. Jean

Leising praised the bill for increasing access in her rural district — where she said just three of her seven counties had a hospital with OB-GYN services. Roughly one-third of Indiana's counties are considered obstetrics deserts with few specialized providers.  
"I know people that when they start going into labor, they go toward the hospital where they're going to deliver and find a park or a nice place to sit in their car when they're beginning labor because they don't know how fast they're going to move," Leising, R-Oldenburg, said.  
"I think it's sometimes hard for everybody — even in this committee — to understand that there are serious access issues. That's

just for having the babies, much less for the contraception."  
Pharmacist Veronica Vernon, a professor at Butler University and president of the Indiana Pharmacy Association, said there are communities where pharmacists are the only healthcare provider.  
Other states that had enacted similar legislation actually saw cost savings, since billing for pharmacists is less than physician fees.  
"In one state, pharmacists wrote 10% of all new Medicaid prescriptions in one year for self-administered hormonal contraception... this saved the state \$1.3 million by avoiding 51 unintended pregnancies," Vernon said.  
As a safety precaution, the bill requires pharmacists to refer a patient to a provider and can only

prescribe birth control for up to a year. In the state mentioned above, 90% of patients did eventually schedule with a primary care provider, Vernon said.  
Even the bill's supporters had suggestions for improvement, including former state health commissioner Dr. Richard Feldman.  
"Now, more than ever, it is important to prevent unwanted and unintended pregnancies. I think most everyone would agree that pregnancy prevention is much more desirable than addressing an unwanted, unintended pregnancy after it occurs," Feldman said, representing the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians. "And despite some discussion... three elements are missing."

## Obituaries

**Viola "Vi" Marie (Wendel) Ahlers**, Fort Recovery, died Tuesday. A Mass of Christian Burial is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Saturday at St. Peter Catholic Church, Fort Recovery.

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

## CR almanac

Friday 3/24	Saturday 3/25	Sunday 3/26	Monday 3/27	Tuesday 3/28
<b>44/39</b>	<b>56/31</b>	<b>53/33</b>	<b>52/33</b>	<b>48/28</b>
More rain is on the horizon for Friday with a 70% chance of showers or a thunderstorm.	An 80% chance of showers Saturday, with up to a quarter of an inch or more possible.	Sunday looks to be mostly sunny with a high in the low to mid 50s. The low may hit 33.	There's a 30% chance of showers Monday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	Mostly sunny Tuesday, with the low dipping to the mid to high 20s at night.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> 27-28-37-50-57 Power Ball: 5 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$112 million	61-62-63-74-76-77-79 Cash 5: 3-10-15-16-30 Hoosier Lotto: 4-6-12-14-37-40 Estimated jackpot: \$13.2 million
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$302 million	<b>Ohio</b> Midday Pick 3: 4-3-8 Pick 4: 4-3-1-5 Pick 5: 6-4-2-3-4 Evening Pick 3: 2-5-1 Pick 4: 2-1-3-3 Pick 5: 2-2-1-8-1 Rolling Cash: 2-4-8-28-31 Classic Lotto: 7-18-24-35-41-42 Kicker: 2-3-2-5-4-6 Estimated jackpot: \$6.9 million
<b>Hoosier</b> Midday Daily Three: 9-2-1 Daily Four: 4-3-1-9 Quick Draw: 1-16-20-22-24-27-28-31-32-38-39-49-51-52-53-54-57-64-65-79 Evening Daily Three: 1-1-6 Daily Four: 3-9-7-1 Quick Draw: 5-9-16-18-21-24-25-30-33-34-46-48-55-	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....6.44 April corn.....6.46 Wheat.....6.45	Wheat.....6.09 July wheat.....6.55
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....6.52 April corn.....6.54 May corn.....6.56	<b>Central States Montpelier</b> Corn.....6.34 May corn.....6.38 Beans.....14.25 April beans.....14.27 Wheat.....6.55
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn.....6.36 April corn.....6.36 Beans.....14.19 April beans.....14.19	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....6.16 April corn.....6.16 Beans.....14.08 April beans.....14.08 Wheat.....6.13

## Today in history

In 1775, Patrick Henry gave his famous "give me liberty or give me death" speech during the second Virginia Convention in Richmond. He was a major figure in the American Revolution.  
In 1932, Elizabeth Taylor was born Dame Elizabeth Rosemond Taylor in London.  
In 1972, Portland Park Board approved a plan designed to raise funds for development of the city's parks and recreation facilities.  
In 1983, during a national TV address, President Ronald Reagan announced the Strategic Defense Initiative, a proposed defense system against nuclear attacks. It was commonly known as Star Wars.  
In 2013, 11-year-old Halle Hill of Jay County placed sixth on the balance beam, scoring a 9.175 during a state meet at Terre Haute South High School.  
In 2018, Garrett Campbell of Jay County High School signed to swim on the team at Anderson University.  
In 2022, a job posting for a new high school boys basketball coach signaled Fort Recovery Local Schools' decision to move on from coach Jim Melton. He had coached the team for three seasons. —The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Monday</b> 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Jay County EDIT Advisory Committee, Portland Fire Department, 1616 N. Franklin St.	6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.
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## Felony arrests

### Domestic battery

A Portland man was arrested Tuesday for domestic battery and related charges.  
Christopher M. Grady, 49, 1320 W. Arch St., is charged in Jay Circuit Court with a Level 5 felony for domestic battery resulting in serious bodily injury, a Level 6 felony for confinement and an enhancement for being a habitual offender. He also violated a former bond agreement.  
Grady is being held in Jay County Jail without bond.

### Common nuisance

A Portland woman was arrested Wednesday for maintaining a common nuisance.  
Misty D. George, 46, 995 S. Boundary Pike, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance,

as well as a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.  
She was released on a \$4,500 bond from Jay County Jail.

### Drug possession

A Portland woman was arrested Tuesday for possession of drugs.  
Christina R. Morgan, 49, 510 W. High St., is charged in Jay Circuit Court with a Level 5 felony for possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance, a Class A misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.  
She's being held without bond in Jay County Jail.

### Failed to appear

A Dunkirk man was arrested

Tuesday for failing to appear in court.

Troy D. Easton, 54, 615 N. Hickory St., Dunkirk, failed to appear Nov. 29 in Jay Superior Court for a case in which he is charged with a Level 6 felony for theft.  
He's being held without bond in Jay County Jail.

### Probation violation

A Fort Recovery man was arrested Wednesday for violating his probation.  
Jeremy M. Springer, 21, 117 E. Broadway St., pleaded guilty in November to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but 18 months suspended and placed on probation.  
Springer is being held on a \$500 bond in Jay County Jail.

## Leaving ...

Continued from page 1  
Brown noted in a press release Wednesday he started working for the district the same day four years ago as Thobe.  
"It has been a pleasure working alongside Mrs. Thobe for these four school years," he said. "I wish her success as she continues to provide lead-

ership to her students and families."  
Fort Recovery Local Schools posted an ad today for a new elementary principal. The deadline to apply is April 14.  
Also Wednesday, school board members held an executive session in order to conduct interviews for the next superintendent.

In January, the board accepted Brown's resignation, effective Dec. 31 of this year. (He will resign his position as superintendent effective July 31 and serve as director of the school district through the end of 2023 to provide transitional support to the next superintendent.)  
Earlier this month, the

school board narrowed its list of superintendent candidates after two days of interviews. Finalists who were interviewed Wednesday are Fort Recovery High School principal Tony Stahl, Sidney City Schools Elementary principal Stephanie Klingshirm and Little Miami High School principal Cathy Trevathan.

## Capsule Reports

### Left road

A Parker City man was hospitalized after he drove off Indiana 1 about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday.  
Joseph W. Beatrice Jr., 63, was driving his 1997 GMC Sonoma north on the highway near county road 350 North when the vehicle left the road. His truck hit a utility pole and a tree, according to a report from Jay County Sheriff's Office.  
Beatrice complained of neck

pain and was transported to IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie.  
His vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

### Lost control

An Ohio man attempting to avoid deer on county road 200 South veered off the road, causing a collision about 12:40 p.m. Monday.

Jared A. Alig, 27, Rossburg, was driving his 2012 Ford F-250 east on the road when he swerved to avoid deer. His vehicle went off the south side of the road, hitting a telephone pole and stopping in a ditch.  
He sustained a cut on his face from the crash.  
Alig's vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

## Repeal ...

Continued from page 1  
In the House, however, it's a different story.  
Some hard-right Republicans in that chamber appear to favor, at least philosophically, returning war powers to Congress. Other GOP House members, however, have argued that a sitting president needs flexibility to counter potential attacks from Iran or other enemies.  
It is not yet clear how House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-California, will herd his members.  
"Just because a bill passes in the Senate, doesn't mean it comes directly to the floor," McCarthy said last week, stating the obvious while dousing expectations. Later, during the House Republicans' Orlando, Florida, retreat this week, McCarthy signaled support for the repeal but said it would go through the committee process, which could take days or weeks.  
Bush gave as justification for the war in Iraq what he claimed was intelligence showing that dictator Saddam Hussein was developing weapons of mass destruction. None were ever discovered.  
About 4,500 Americans were killed in the Iraq War; the death toll for Iraqis has been estimated to be as high as half a million. The brutal Hussein was toppled, eventually captured and executed by an Iraqi tribunal. But the U.S. inva-

sion, followed by a long, stultifying occupation, gave rise to more insurgency, including the Islamic State that terrorized people throughout the region and beyond, especially in Iraq.  
President Barack Obama finally ended the bulk of combat operations in 2011. About 2,500 U.S. personnel remain in Iraq, mostly dedicated to counterterrorism. Iraq and the U.S. are formally partners with full diplomatic ties, making a war decree hanging overhead all the more off-key.  
Proponents of the repeal contend that restoring war

powers to Congress would produce more scrutiny and transparency in the lead-up to and execution of U.S.-directed conflict. The Founding Fathers intended it this way, reasoning that the executive branch will always be more inclined to go to war and the legislative branch provides a necessary counterweight, Kaine said.  
Kaine recalled that he thought the justifications being offered for the war in Iraq at the time seemed questionable and said Congress had to take a more proactive role.

"We owe it to our service members to fulfill our constitutional obligations and vote to end endless wars," Kaine said.  
Repealing the law "is vital to restoring the proper role of Congress in authorizing the use of military force and affirmatively stating when conflicts are over," said Sen. Todd Young, R-Indiana, who co-sponsored the bill with Kaine. Young served three tours in Iraq as a Marine Corps officer.

### New Program by JCSWMD

## Paper Shredding Service

**Bring your confidential files to be shredded on site!**

Jay County Residents Only.

**Appointments are required.**

**260-729-5071**

Please sort all of your material and remove Metal bindings, paperclips large staples, rubber bands, junk mail magazines or newspaper

**Pre-sorting will save a lot of time and prevent damage to our machine.**

**Jay County Solid Waste Management District**

5948 W. State Road 67, Portland, IN

260-729-5071

### SERVICES

Thursday

**Lowrance**, Jerry: 1 p.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 N. Walnut St., Ridgeville.  
**VanSkyock**, Larry: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Saturday

**Ahlers**, Viola: 10:30 a.m., St. Peter Catholic Church, 3512 St. Peter Road, Fort Recovery.

May 13

**Warrick**, Clarice: 11 a.m., West Richmond Friends Meeting, 609 W. Main St., Richmond.

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Service listings provided by

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120 N. Meridian St.  
Portland, Indiana 47371  
(260) 726-9201  
progressiveofficeproducts.com

# Spring dance set for April 8

Time to dance. The Greenville Veterans of Foreign Wars is sponsoring the Darke County Singles Dance from 8 to 11 p.m. April 8 at 219 N. Ohio St. Food, raffle tickets and door prizes will be available. "Hearts on Fire" are set to perform for the dance, which is limited to those 21 and older. Also, prior to the event, line dance classes will be offered for \$1 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The doors open at 6 p.m., and tickets are \$9 each. For more information, contact Don Dietrich at (937) 423-2664 or Lori Deniston at (937) 621-1044.

## Author visit

A fiction author is visiting Fort Recovery next week. Kimberly Nixon, who debuted her career with the biographical fiction, "Rock Bottom, Tennessee," will be visiting Fort Recovery Library at 6 p.m. Tuesday. Nixon's first novel is based on her grandmother's criminal

## Taking Note

conviction in 1920s Appalachia. The public is invited to attend for free.

## Old Time Radio

Tom Cherry's Old Time Radio Show returns this weekend.

The show kicks off at 3 p.m. Saturday at Farm-land Community Center, 100 N. Main St., beginning with the classic comedy "My Friend Irma." It features talents from Wendy Carpenter, Sean Orlosky, Katy Wolfe, Angela Gick, Jeff Shull, Larry Beck and Debby Girtman.

Tickets are \$1 each. For more information, call (765) 468-7631.



Photo provided

## Speech contest winners

Portland Rotary Club hosted a speech contest on March 1. Adam Keesler took first place, with Christopher Riojas, Garrett Hidy and Gabi Billbrey coming in second, third and fourth places, respectively. Pictured, front row, are Billbrey, Hidy, Keesler and Riojas. In the back row are judges Jammie Michael, Tracy Carpenter, Drew Houck.

# Relationship has become nightmare

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship for five years. It started out wonderful, but now I'm having second thoughts. He keeps putting my kids down and telling me I'm a bad mother. It's so bad he has even put a knife to my throat. And, yes, he hits me.

I am not an angel, but I always stand up for him and have his back. However, I don't see him having mine. There's so much more I could say, but I am scared if he knew I was writing to you it would end up bad for me. I need help, but I don't know what to do. He has isolated me from my family and friends. Please help me. — LOST AND AFRAID IN THE EAST

DEAR LOST: The man you are involved with is a dangerous abuser. What you must do next, for the sake of yourself and your children, is quietly contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline by calling 1-800-799-7233 or

## Dear Abby



visiting [thehotline.org](http://thehotline.org) for help in formulating a safe escape plan.

It has been some time since I printed the Warning Signs of an Abuser. For anyone who hasn't seen this list, these are classic indicators. Read on:

1. Pushes for quick involvement: Comes on strong, claiming, "I've never felt loved like this by anyone." An abuser pressures the new partner for an exclusive commitment almost immediately.
2. Jealous: Excessively possessive; calls constantly or

visits unexpectedly; prevents you from going to work because "you might meet someone"; checks the mileage on your car.

3. Controlling: If you are late, interrogates you intensively about whom you talked to and where you were; keeps all the money; insists you ask permission to go anywhere or do anything.

4. Unrealistic expectations: Expects you to be the perfect mate and meet his or her every need.

5. Isolation: Tries to isolate you from family and friends; accuses people who are your supporters of "causing trouble." The abuser may deprive you of a phone or car, or try to prevent you from holding a job.

6. Blames others for problems or mistakes: It's always someone else's fault if something goes wrong.

7. Makes others responsible for his or her feelings **MAKES OTHERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OR HER FEELINGS:** The abuser says, "You make me angry" instead of "I am angry," or says, "You're hurting me by not doing what I tell you."

8. Hypersensitivity: Is easily insulted, claiming hurt feelings when he or she is really mad. Rants about the injustice of things that are just a part of life.

9. Cruelty to animals or children: Kills or punishes animals brutally. Also may expect children to do things that are far beyond their ability (whips a 3-year-old for wetting a diaper) or tease them until they cry. Sixty-five percent of abusers who beat their partners will also abuse children.

10. "Playful" use of force during sex: Enjoys throwing

you down or holding you down against your will during sex; finds the idea of rape exciting.

11. Verbal abuse: Constantly criticizes or says blatantly cruel things; degrades, curses, calls you ugly names. This may also involve sleep deprivation, waking you with relentless verbal abuse.

12. Rigid role of dominance: Expects you to serve, obey and remain at home.

13. Sudden mood swings: Switches from sweet to violent in minutes.

14. Past battering: Admits to hitting a mate in the past, but says the person "made" him (or her) do it.

15. Threats of violence: Says things like, "I'll break your neck" or "I'll kill you," and then dismisses them with, "Everybody talks that way," or "I didn't really mean it."

# Community Calendar

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

## Today

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at

(260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

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

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

**MISSISSINEWA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION** — Will meet at 6:30

p.m. Thursday, March 23, at Jay County Historical Museum in Portland. Women interested in joining the NSDAR are invited to attend. Contact Kathy Selman at (260) 251-1694 or Susan Sommers at (260) 726-2678 for more information.

## Saturday

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

## Sunday

**A BETTER LIFE - BRINNA'S HOPE** — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

## Wednesday's Solution

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

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.

# Help us choose our first TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The Commercial Review will honor its inaugural Teacher of the Year in a special section April 14.

Anyone can nominate a teacher. The award is open to anyone who:

- Teaches at a school in our coverage area
- Is a teacher who lives in our coverage area
- Is a teacher who previously lived in our coverage area

To nominate, send us a letter that includes your name, the name of the teacher being nominated, their school, the grade(s) and subject(s) they teach and your reasons for nominating them.

You can send it to [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com) (preferred) or The Commercial Review, Teacher of the Year nomination, P.O. Box 1049, Portland, IN 47371



The deadline is March 31.

# General Assembly is biggest threat

By MORTON J. MARCUS

I don't want to write this column.

I'd prefer to find a good set of data about Indiana cities and counties, to put our state in a national context. But today, the Indiana General Assembly is the greatest threat to the future of our state.

Our legislature is afflicted with a disease of ideological anarchy, totally at odds with the noblest thoughts of our founders. What does our legislature seek?

Destroy the concept of the public schools.

Subsidize business expansion and relocation in a way that erodes both large and small communities.

Fight any effort to improve the environment and ignore global warming.

## Eye on the Pie



Eliminate the personal income tax.

Promote gambling and marijuana for their revenue potential.

Put the immediate interests of business above the permanent interest of citizens.

And without competitive elections, behave like irresponsible teenagers when the grownups are away for the evening.

The private sector is the motor power of America. As trains, that power requires

rails. As planes, it cannot be permitted to fly without regulation and information about its route. As autos, it cannot be free to run over the land of others, to leave the assigned roadways.

There is a bond among Conservatives and Liberals that they do not acknowledge: both are concerned with how and to what extent we control the behaviors of individuals. People and corporations, as if they were people, want the liberty to do as they please, but they do not want the liberty of others to impede the enjoyment of their own liberty.

For that reason, we have private property. For that reason, we have limitations of what you may not do on your property which has a negative effect on the owners of other properties. Is my body mine? Then you

cannot tell me I must have a vaccination or a vasectomy. You must not categorically deny her an abortion. You may advise me about the health risks of tattoos and body piercings, but you cannot prohibit them unless you can prove they harm others.

But Conservative and Liberal legislators often cross the line. The extreme, absolutist abortion arguments violate Liberty. Likewise, restrictions against suicide are often immoderate.

Previous generations, suffering hysterical religious visions, prohibited Sunday baseball. (Try doing that today with Sunday football!) Who was harmed? Only the players and the attendees were doomed to Hell by their own actions.

Today, legislators want to obscure the history of our nation as they once tried to

eliminate the concept of evolution. Economic mythology is the basis for taxation and development policies. The equal playing field and the mantra of growth are misapplied to support regressive government.

We are eager to seek equality without equity. Too often we punish truth-tellers and reward liars. Noble institutions (newspapers and unions) are dismissed because we fail to recognize the dangers of pixelization and the benefits of bonding.

And where is our Indiana General Assembly? Firmly camped on the wrong side of most issues, catering to the crowd rather than fostering the future.

Marcus is an economist. Email him at [mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com](mailto:mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com).

# America needs to fulfill responsibility

The Virginian-Pilot  
Tribune News Service

Twenty years ago, the United States launched its first wave of attacks against Iraq. The mission to depose Saddam Hussein began with overwhelming popular support at home as Americans rallied to the Bush administration's insistence that Iraq's weapons stockpile posed a grave risk to the country and the world at large.

Time revealed the extent of that folly and the hubris invading and indefinitely occupying a diverse nation of 27 million. It came at a cost: thousands of American lives, possibly hundreds of thousands of Iraqi lives, trillions of dollars and the tarnishing of our nation's reputation.

What the country should not forget — what it must not forget — is the selfless sacrifice of the American armed forces who risked their lives in the noble hope of helping Iraq forge a democratic future. Many of these heroes live here in Hampton Roads, and while Americans are right to view the war unfavorably, the warriors who served deserve our gratitude, our compassion and our ceaseless support.

It wasn't long after the Sept. 11 attacks and the invasion of Afghanistan that the Bush administration turned its attention to Iraq and the Hussein regime, which had for years resisted international efforts to inspect weapons labs and assure the destruction of chemical and biological agents.

With a broad mandate to pursue the al-Qaida terrorist network, President George W. Bush ramped up pressure on Iraq, building the case for war. The administration provided intelligence, later proved false, that received endorsement by Congress and the backing of the American people.

Assertions that coalition forces would be greeted as liberators proved true — for a time. The Hussein regime was quickly deposed and the president eventually arrested. But the officials who assumed control of the country made repeated mistakes, including the De-Ba'athification policies that put tens of thousands of civilians and hundreds of thousands of Iraq servicemembers out of work. Those idle hands would fuel a resulting insurgency that raged for years.

Through it all, however, the members of the Ameri-

## Guest Editorial

can military deployed to Iraq largely acted with honor and professionalism with whatever came their way. They risked life and limb to liberate the country, battle the insurgency and help rebuild a country that could sustain itself in peace with its neighbors.

There were undoubtedly some who disgraced themselves and their country. The torture and humiliation of prisoners at the notorious Abu Ghraib prison outside of Baghdad was one such disgusting episode and part of a larger pattern of abuse in American-run prisons and detention centers.

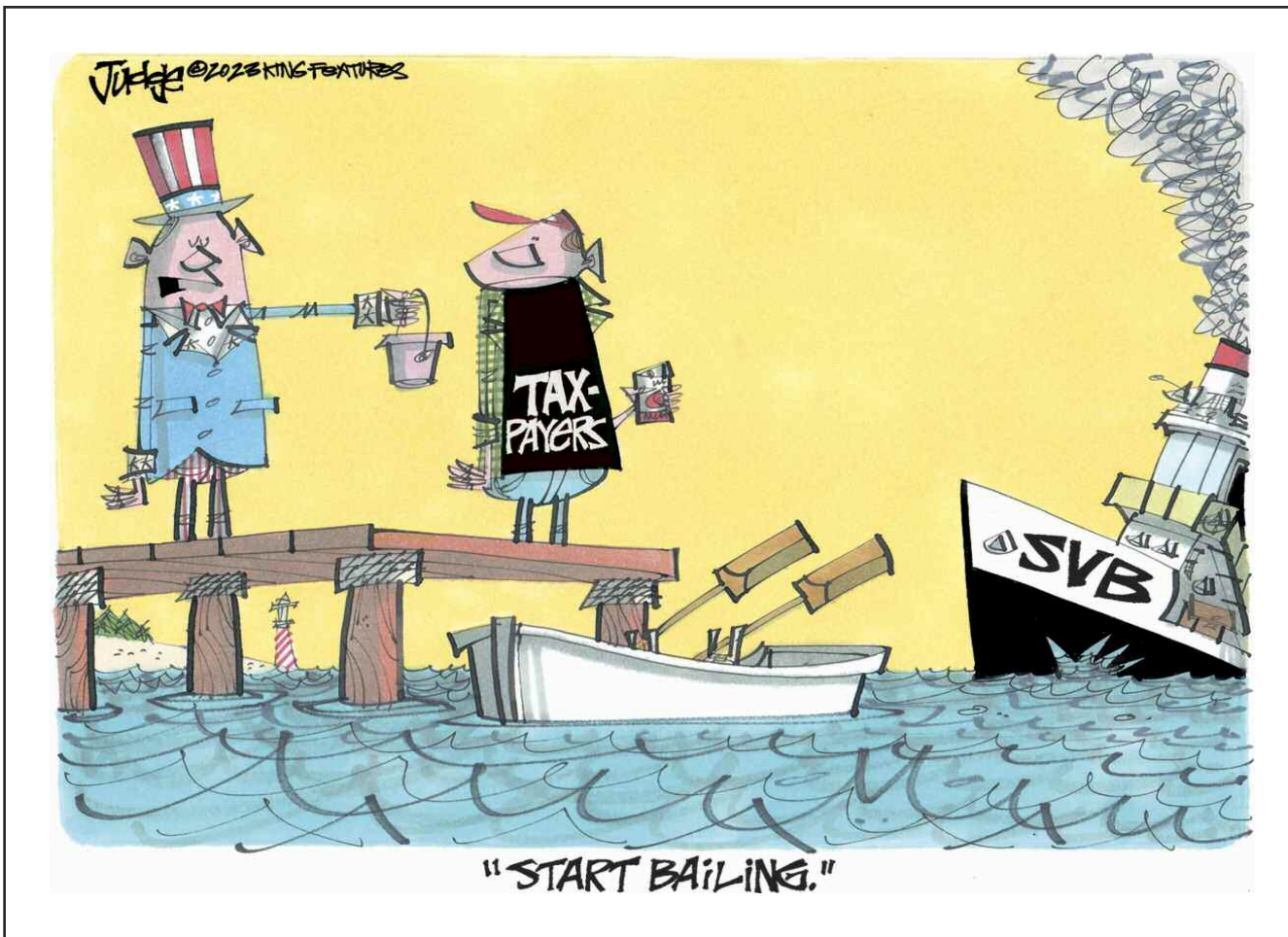
But the burden of service in that war and in Afghanistan largely fell to a relatively small number of Americans as much of the nation moved on to other distractions. All told, about 1.9 million service members served in country and another 1 million in support capacities or in related theaters.

Unlike in many previous conflicts, such as Vietnam, these men and women volunteered for the military. And given the length of those wars, many joined knowing the risk they could face on the front lines.

According to the Department of Defense, 4,431 service members died in Iraq. Another 32,000 were wounded, including more than 1,500 who lost a limb. And suicide has claimed more than four times the number of veteran lives than those killed in the war itself.

The Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University estimates the "total costs of caring for veterans of the post-9/11 wars are estimated to reach between \$2.2 trillion and \$2.5 trillion." It is a bill the nation should gladly pay, as it should whenever it sends its sons and daughters, husbands and wives, into harm's way. The expense of war isn't just in the fighting but also, in Abraham Lincoln's words, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan."

As America marks this anniversary, we must never forget that awesome responsibility.



# We can't give up on children

By JEFFERY GERRITT  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
Tribune News Service

Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey, who's grappling with an increase in youth crime, and Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, who's pushing an expansive juvenile detention center, should talk to Antonio Howard. In truth, most adults could benefit from his insights on young people in trouble, and the myriad of mistakes grown folks make with them.

Howard, an artist, writer, teacher and activist from Erie, is not a kid. He's 47. But in 1992, he received a mandatory life sentence for a crime he committed when he was 15.

He and two other teenagers robbed a cabdriver. One of the three — not Howard — fatally shot the driver. As a participant in the crime, Howard was convicted of murder under Pennsylvania's conspiracy statute.

His life had paralleled those of many young people in Pittsburgh, Detroit or Chicago, marked by poverty, abuse, chaos and neglect. Everything around him, even the streets he walked, told him he was nothing and would remain nothing. He didn't understand his past or expect a future.

"I was writing rap songs throughout my trial," he told me last week. "I had no concept of what was going on."

During the 1990s, Pennsylvania led the nation in juvenile lifers, with 500 people serving mandatory life sentences for crimes they committed when they were too young to legally smoke cigarettes. In 1992, Howard became one of them.

Entering the State Correctional Institution at Pittsburgh, Howard learned to protect himself from adult inmates and guards, who could abuse and dehumanize him at will. "I was too busy fighting for my life to understand what a life sentence meant," he said.

## Jeffery Gerritt



A few months later, a nun gave him a book: "The autobiography of Malcolm X." Reading about Malcolm's transformation in prison led him to books on philosophy, psychology, history, Shakespeare and much more. He earned his GED, tutored inmates and trained as a paralegal.

In 1999, Howard began to paint. Self-taught, he eventually finished four murals at the State Correctional Institution at Huntingdon, one in the visiting room.

Painting gave him a way to express and affirm himself. "When I started to paint, people no longer called me the N-word or a piece of sh—," he said. "I was the artist, the guy who could paint. It added a modicum of humanity to my name. I was doing my thing, creating something people could appreciate."

In 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court finally ruled that mandatory life sentences for juveniles were unconstitutional. Most of Pennsylvania's juvenile lifers were either re-sentenced or released. After serving nearly 27 years in prison, Howard was paroled in 2018.

After he went home, Erie Arts & Culture commissioned him to paint a 1,300-square-foot mural at Manus Sunoco, Erie's only Black-owned gas station. Since then, Howard has done more than a dozen other murals, with grants and awards from Erie Arts and Culture and the Erie County Redevelopment Authority. His wife, Sarah Howard, teaches art at the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House.

Aside from painting and working as a paralegal, Howard is a public speaker who published two books: "When a child is worth more than the worst mistake he ever made," and "A prisoner's introduction to William Shakespeare." He participates in community efforts to reduce gun violence, the Erie County Pardon Project, and Youth Leadership of Erie, which honored him for public service.

Pennsylvania is far better for having Antonino Howard in Erie, instead of a state prison, where he would cost taxpayers more than \$40,000 a year. But how many others like him have we destroyed, and who created a world where young people have to shoot someone to get respect or attention?

Adult shot-callers should understand why kids don't respect them, why they are wary of cops, and what pushes them into crime, drugs and gangs. If politicians and policymakers want them to say no to negative activities, they need to provide positive alternatives and opportunities.

Locking up kids and throwing away the keys, or dismissing their voices, is the Pennsylvania way. It's why the state led the nation in incarcerating children. It's why the mayor won't let young people and ex-offenders drive the city's anti-violence initiative. It's why the county executive wants to replace a shuttered 130-bed juvenile detention center.

That's not to minimize youth crime. Bullets fired by kids are just as deadly as bullets fired by adults, even if a child's more impulsive, unstable brain bears less responsibility. But whenever you want to give up on young people, or wonder why it matters, remember Antonio Howard.

Gerritt is a Pulitzer Prize winner and the editorial page editor for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

# The Commercial Review



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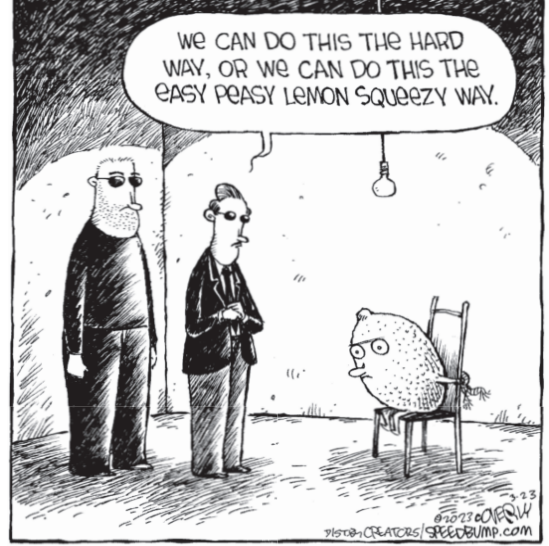
"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."  
—Thomas Jefferson

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SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



More on Daddy's sickbed escapades.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Root of knowledge

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH ... WEST ... EAST ... SOUTH ...

contract — "slightly optimistic." Root observes — seems hopeless, since South apparently must lose a heart trick and a trump trick.

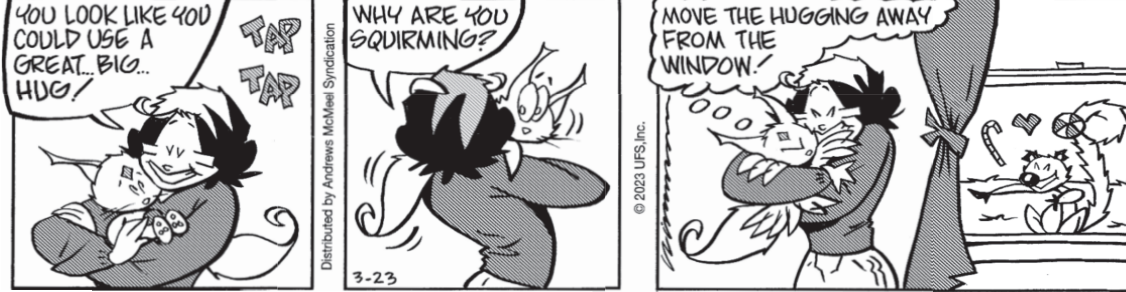
The bidding: North East South West ... Opening lead — queen of clubs. There was probably no better-known bridge teacher than Bill Root.

At trick three, he leads a diamond to dummy, then ruffs a club and cashes the A-J of diamonds. (Alternatively, he can also cash the K-A-J of diamonds and discard dummy's club.)

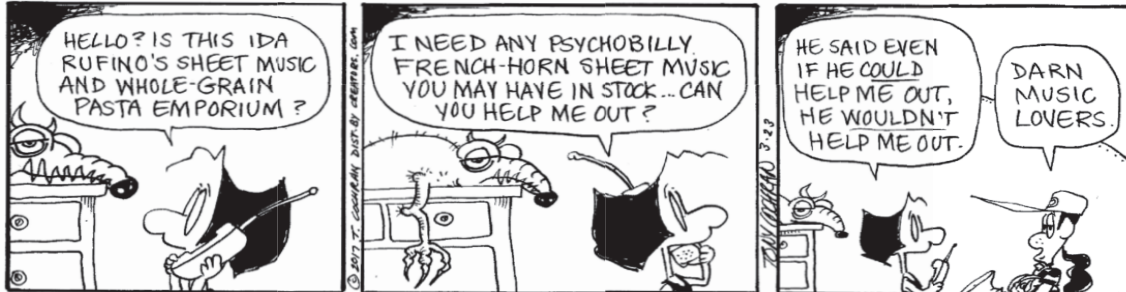
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



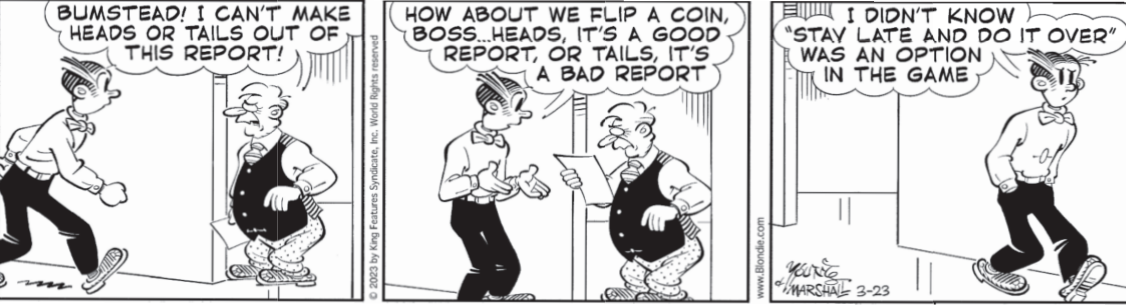
Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



3-23

CRYPTOQUIP

VO XNTD XIGVHF FDDXD IKBHDC B ADLNHHBVXXBHL D OKVFQY, ZQBY ZVKK YQDG

CN? FB YQDA VH ONATBYVNH. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT MIGHT YOU CALL SMALL CHILDREN DWELLING IN THE VOLGA RIVER VALLEY IN RUSSIA? TATAR TOTS.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 "Legally Blonde" role 5 Deity 8 Bohemian 12 Ache 13 "Suits" network 14 "Arbitrage" star Richard 15 Apple variety 16 Meditation 17 "Lucky Jim" author 18 Guitarist Santana 20 Mandolin's kin 22 1996 Pfeiffer/Clooney rom-com 26 Rodeo rope 29 Genetic letters 30 Bill of sale (Abbr.) 31 "By the power vested ... 32 Glitch 33 Hereditary unit



Table with 11 columns and 11 rows representing a crossword puzzle grid.

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Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Jim Cooper

The NASCAR First Union 400 at North Wilkesboro Speedway in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina. Drivers have expressed excitement for the first NASCAR event the racetrack has hosted since 1996.

# Track ...

Continued from page 8  
In other words: It's a driver's dream.

"You're kind of on ice skates taking off, for sure," Reddick said. "This place has got a lot of age and character to it. You're having to pedal it pretty good. The first lap, you kind of have to be careful squeezing the gas down, and as you run, it's hard to get back to wide-open throttle. ...

"But one little misstep or miscue into Turn 1 or Turn 3, you lose a second sliding up out of the groove and losing control of your car. That's with no traffic, no mistakes. So maybe with more traffic the fall-off will be more, so certainly we're out of control from really Lap 10 on. You have to really take care of your car."

Dillon agreed, and added that the slight elevation change going into Turn 1 — a slight downhill run — will pose more welcomed challenges to Cup drivers in late May.

"It was slick out there, really had to take care of your tires," Dillon said. "It just feels good to be close to home at a short track that is slick and that you really have to take care of your tires. Speed wasn't everything today. It was more about taking care of your tires and seeing where the fall-off was. ... It was more about making the car like the track. We used every minute of our time."

Dillon added: "To me, with all

the work that's going into here, we're not just coming here for one race. We're coming here for a while. So I'm excited about that."

Tuesday was also another early chance these drivers had to test out the Next Gen car's new short-track package, one that features 30% less downforce to promote more passing and generally better racing.

Buescher weighed in on what he learned.

"The speeds are fairly slow just because of the (little) amount of grip here," Buescher said. "It's hard to get wide open until you're straight. There's a challenge to just hitting a turn. The shifting for the most part seemed to just go away. There's not enough grip to use the RPM, which is some-

thing I think all the drivers have been excited about — trying to figure out how to get rid of shifting — and pretty sure that's the case here right now.

"That's an exciting part for me, to not have something that instantly recovers mistakes. I think that'll help make better racing. So when you do move out of the groove, you can't just drop a gear and re-accelerate and recover from it."

A new hospitality area is being erected just above Turn 4. Grandstands facing Turn 3 have been put in where the rusted "Junior Johnson Grandstand" sign stood purpose-less for a generation. Pit road is paved. The new version of this racetrack is fitted with adequate fiber infrastructure tech-

nology and towering LED lights — operated by an iPad.

North Wilkesboro Speedway will soon be equipped for the future.

And drivers are thankful it is a part of their present.

"I'm sure I was running around, doing something, as a kid up here," Dillon said, recounting memories he had of when his father, Mike Dillon, regularly visited North Wilkesboro Speedway as a driver. "More just driving by it as a kid. Going into the mountains and seeing this ghost of a track that you hear about from your family, and all of the good times that were had here."

"And now we're getting to experience it. It's coming to life fast. And it's cool to be a part of it."

*'It just feels good to be close to home at a short track that is slick and that you really have to take care of your tires. Speed wasn't everything today. It was more about taking care of your tires and seeing where the fall-off was. ... It was more about making the car like the track.'*  
—Austin Dillon

# Clay ...

Continued from page 8  
13. North Carolina, No. 1 in the AP preseason Top 25, failed to make the NCAA Tournament and declined an invitation to the NIT. The Tar Heels are the first preseason No. 1 to miss the tournament since the field was expanded to 64 teams in 1985.

14. Besides North Carolina, four other teams in the top 10 of the preseason AP Top 25 failed to make the Sweet 16. The four: No. 4 Kentucky, No. 5 Kansas and Baylor the two tied at No. 5 and No. 7 Duke. All four lost in the second round.

15. Seven of the Sweet 16 teams were not in the preseason AP Top 25, including Princeton, FAU, Xavier, Michigan State, UConn, Kansas State and Miami. Princeton, FAU and Kansas State did not receive a single vote.

16. The last time Kentucky went three consecutive college basketball seasons without reaching an NCAA Tournament regional semifinal was the stretch of 2006 through 2009 when UK went four straight years without advancing to the Sweet 16. Those were the last two seasons (2007 and 2008) with Tubby Smith as coach and the only two seasons (2008 and 2009) with Billy Gillispie as coach.

# Collegiate ...

Continued from page 8  
LeFevre posted a time of 11.44 seconds in the 100-meter dash. He trailed teammate Liam Volz, who won the race in 11.29.

## Olivia Bright Jay County — 2022

Got playing time in seven of the first 10 games of the season for the Lincoln Trail Community College softball team.

Bright has recorded two hits and three runs in her young collegiate career. She was 1-for-1 with a run in the Statesmen's season-opening 9-1 win over Three Rivers and then posted the same stat line March 9 in a 13-9 victory over Harford Community College.

## Kenzie Ring Jay County — 2021

Competed for the Trine University acro and tumbling team as it broke more records March 16 in a 269.905-247.945 loss to Mary Hardin-Baylor.

Ring helped the Thunder (2-2) to a school record in the compulsory event with 34.55 points, including a new high of 9.35 in the acro heat. The team also broke records in pyramid (28.7) and tumbling (46.475).

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

**Today**  
Fort Recovery — Softball scrimmage at Newton — 5 p.m.

**Friday**  
Fort Recovery — Baseball scrimmage vs. Perry — 5 p.m.

**Saturday**  
Jay County — Gabi Bilbrey in Hoosier State Relays at Indiana University — 10 a.m.  
Fort Recovery — Baseball at Houston — 1 p.m.; JV baseball at St. Henry — noon; Freshman baseball doubleheader at Versailles — noon

**TV sports**  
**Today**  
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: NCAA Tournament — Kansas State vs. Michigan State (TBS)  
6:30 p.m. — NHL hockey: Minnesota Wild at Philadelphia Flyers (ESPN)

7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Indiana Pacers at Boston Celtics (Bally Indiana)  
7:15 p.m. — Men's college basketball: NCAA Tournament — Connecticut vs. Arkansas (CBS)

8 p.m. — Soccer: CONCACAF Nations League — United States vs. Grenada (TNT)  
8:30 p.m. — Professional Fighting League (ESPN2)

9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: NCAA Tournament — Tennessee vs. Florida Atlantic (TBS)  
9 p.m. — NHL hockey: Pittsburgh Penguins at Dallas Stars (ESPN)  
9:45 p.m. — Men's college basketball: NCAA Tournament — UCLA vs. Gonzaga (CBS)

**Friday**  
3:45 p.m. — Soccer: Euro qualification — Belgium vs. Sweden (FS1)  
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: NCAA Tournament — Alabama vs. San Diego State (TBS)  
7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Indiana

Pacers at Boston Celtics (Bally Indiana)  
7:15 p.m. — Men's college basketball: NCAA Tournament — Houston vs. Miami (CBS)

8 p.m. — Soccer: CONCACAF Nations League — United States vs. Grenada (TNT)  
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: NCAA Tournament — Creighton vs. Princeton (TBC)  
9:45 p.m. — Men's college basketball: NCAA Tournament — Texas vs. Xavier (CBS)

**Saturday**  
10:30 a.m. — High school boys basketball: IHSAA Class 1A championship — Southwood vs. Indianapolis Lutheran (Bally Indiana)  
Noon — Golf: PGA Tour — Dell Technologies Matchplay (NBC)  
Noon — College baseball: Texas A&M at Tennessee (ESPN2)  
12:30 p.m. — High school boys basketball: IHSAA Class 2A champi-

onship — Blackhawk Christian vs. Linton-Stockton (Bally Indiana)  
1 p.m. — Auto racing: Formula E — Sao Paulo E-Prix (CBS)  
1:30 p.m. — Auto racing: NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series — XPEL 225 (FS1)  
1:30 p.m. — XFL football: Seattle Sea Dragons at Orlando Guardians (ABC)  
4 p.m. — Mixed martial arts — UFC Fight Night (ESPN)  
4:30 p.m. — Major League Soccer: Los Angeles Galaxy at Portland Timbers (FOX)  
5 p.m. — NBA basketball: Indiana Pacers at Atlanta Hawks (Bally Indiana)  
5 p.m. — Auto racing: NASCAR Xfinity Series — Pit Boss 250 (FS1)  
6 p.m. — Men's college basketball: NCAA Tournament (TBS)  
6 p.m. — High school boys basketball: IHSAA Class 1A championship — NorthWood vs. Guerin Catholic (Bally Indiana)  
8 p.m. — High school boys basket-

ball: IHSAA Class 1A championship — Kokomo vs. Ben Davis (Bally Indiana)  
8 p.m. — NHL hockey: Washington Capitals at Pittsburgh Penguins (ABC)  
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: NCAA Tournament (TBS)  
10 p.m. — Boxing: Jose Ramirez vs. Richard Comney (ESPN)

**Local notes**  
**Wrestling club hosting event**  
Jay County Wrestling Club will host Delaware County Championship Wrestling for a professional wrestling event April 8.

The DCCW show scheduled for 7 p.m. April 8 at Jay Community Center will feature an appearance by Olympic gold medalist and WWE Hall of Famer Kurt Angle. The card also features an appearance by WWE Hall of Famer Rikishi.

Tickets start at \$20 for general admission. To purchase tickets, call James Myers at (260) 726-5088 or Andy Frasher at (260) 251-2842, or

visit Jacks & Associates, 954 Industrial Drive, Portland.  
**5K circuit registration underway**  
Registration is open for the Run Jay County 5K Circuit.  
The circuit features eight races running from April through August. Awards are presented in nine divisions.  
The opening race in the circuit is the Sprint to Spring 5K at 9 a.m. April 22. Registration is \$20.  
For more information, visit runjay-county.com.

**T-Ball/coach-pitch registration open**  
Registration is open for Jay Community Center's Boomer t-ball and coach-pitch leagues.  
The leagues are open to players ages 3 through 6. The registration fee is \$60 and the deadline is May 22.  
For more information, visit jaycc.org.  
.....  
To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@theccr.com.

**90 SALE CALENDAR**

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Located: 8909 S 1150 W REDKEY, IN  
SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023  
10:00 A.M.  
VEHICLES—UTV—TRAILER—EQUIPMENT  
2019 Buick Envision 40,380 miles (nice), 2005 Chevy Monte Carlo Tony Stewart edition 93,640 miles (1 of 1100 made), 2020 5ft x 8ft utility trailer w/ ramp gate.  
PEDAL —TRACTORS—TOOLS—ANTIQUES  
JD 4440, JD 720, AC D17, JD 10 w/ 3 holes and engine compartment pedal tractors, Standard oil glass crown for premium fuel, 7-up cans w/advertisement from the Anderson.  
COINS—FURNITURE—HOUSEHOLD  
4 troy ounce clown silver bar, JD 5 coin collection .999 silver, gold and silver jewelry, much more.  
LAWN AND GARDEN—

**90 SALE CALENDAR**

**SHOP TOOLS— MISC.**  
JD X590 riding mower 54in cut 305hrs, DR 28in brush cutter self-propelled w/ 3hrs, Craftsman roll away tool boxes, Craftsman shop and hand tools.  
OWNERS: Thomas B. & Phyllis J. Johnson Trust  
Shawver Auctioneering and Real Estate  
AC31800004  
AUCTIONEERS  
Pete D. Shawver  
AU19700040  
260-726-5587  
Zane Shawver  
AU10500168  
260-729-2229  
Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.  
**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall, Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland, IN  
Saturday Morning  
MARCH 25, 2023  
9:30 A.M.  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS—

**90 SALE CAELNDAR**

**OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS**  
Pepsi Bottle machine; LARGE ASSORTMENT OF SALT & PEPPERS OVER 500+ SETS; wrought iron rocker; wrought iron garden table; wicker chair; cedar chest; wood pulleys; LARGE ASSORTMENT OF JEWELRY, includes necklaces, bracelets, earrings, 1st edition Flash Comic, comic books; and many others items not listed.  
TOOLS  
Remington electric chain saw; metal sign holders w/signs; hose; wheel barrow; socket sets; plastic garden pots; shepherds hooks; air compressor; cooler; pet carrier; and many other items not mentioned.  
ROXANNE JONES  
Loy Auction  
AC#31600027  
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Gary Loy AU01031608  
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AU11200131

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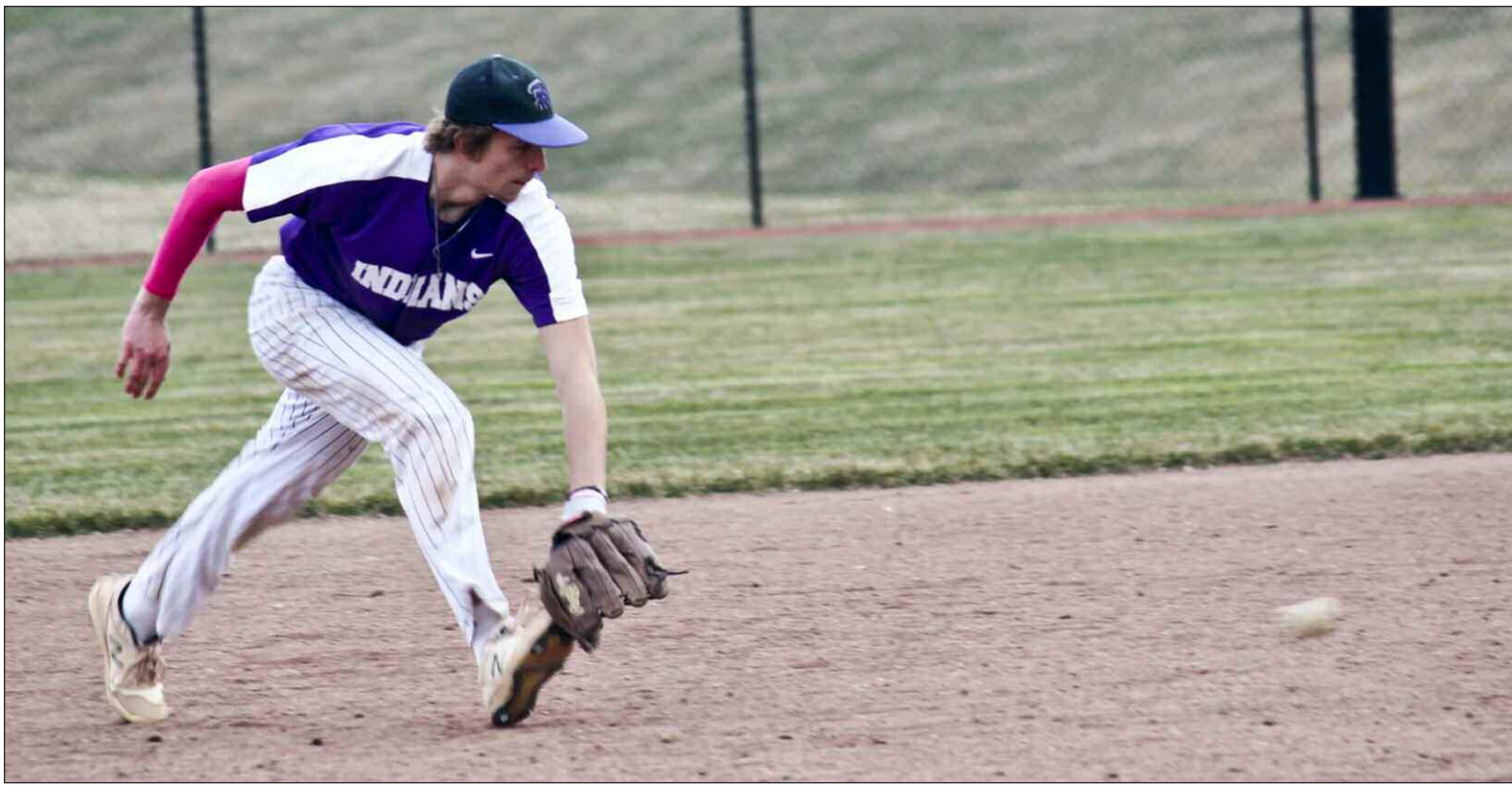
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# Sports



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

## Making plays

Fort Recovery High School shortstop Alex Dues fields a ball to turn a double play during the Tribe baseball team's scrimmage at home Tuesday against the Wayne Trace Raiders. The Indians have one more scrimmage Friday at home against Lima Perry High School before opening their season Saturday with a visit to Houston.

John Clay



## NCAA tourney makes no sense

**By JOHN CLAY**  
Lexington Herald-Leader Tribune News Service  
LEXINGTON, Ky. As NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 play begins Thursday, 16 reasons college basketball this season makes no sense:

1. There are teams from 11 different conferences in the Sweet 16. Three teams are from the SEC and Big East. Two are from the Big 12. There is one each from the Big Ten, Conference USA, the American Athletic, the Ivy League, the Pac-12, the West Coast Conference, the Mountain West and the ACC.

2. No. 1 overall seed Alabama was picked to finish fifth in the SEC by the league's preseason media poll. Alabama plays San Diego State in a South Region semifinal on Friday in Louisville.

3. Arkansas started 1-5 and finished 8-10 in the SEC. After beating No. 1 seed Kansas on Saturday, the Razorbacks play Connecticut in a West Region semifinal Thursday night in Las Vegas.

4. At one point this season, Connecticut lost six of eight games, including five of six. Danny Hurley's Huskies have now won nine of their last 10 heading into Thursday.

5. Under first-year coach Jerome Tang, Kansas State was picked to finish dead last in the Big 12. After beating Kentucky on Sunday, the Wildcats from Manhattan play Michigan State on Thursday night in New York.

6. Michigan State was 7-7 in its last 14 regular-season games before losing to Ohio State in the Big Ten tournament. That's the same Ohio State that finished 16-19.

7. Princeton started the season 0-2 with losses to Hofstra and Navy. The Tigers play Creighton in a South Region semifinal on Friday in Louisville.

8. Florida Atlantic has had one 20-win season in its 29-year history as a Division I program. That was in 2010-11. Mike Jarvis was the coach. Now the Owls will play Tennessee in an East Region semifinal on Thursday night at Madison Square Garden.

9. Tennessee went 5-7 in its last 12 games before the NCAA Tournament. It also lost starting point guard Zakai Zeigler to a torn ACL on Feb. 28.

10. No. 1 seed Purdue was led by Zach Edey, its 7-foot-4 center who is likely favorite for national player of the year honors. Purdue lost its first-round game to No. 16 seed Fairleigh Dickinson, whose starters' average height was 6-foot-11.

11. This is the second time in three tournaments that blue bloods Kentucky, Duke, North Carolina and Kansas all failed to make it to the Sweet 16. It also happened in 2021. Before that, you have to go all the way back to the 1979 NCAA Tournament when none of the big four made the Sweet 16.

12. With its loss to Miami in the second round on Saturday, Indiana has not reached the Sweet 16 since 2016. The Hoosiers are on their third different coach since the Hoosiers beat Kentucky 73-67 in Des Moines to reach the East Regional semifinal. IU has gone from Tom Crean to Archie Miller to Mike Woodson.

See Clay page 7

## Homan records two hits, run for USF

The Cougars have dropped three in a row, but a former Indian had her best game of the 2023 season during that stretch.

Brenna Homan, a 2021 Fort Recovery High School graduate, recorded multiple hits for the second time this season Tuesday in the second game of a University of St. Francis softball doubleheader against Huntington.

The sophomore started in right field and led off the top of the second inning for the Cougars' 11-8 loss with a single. She advanced to second base when Aubrey Dunnuck was hit

### Collegiate Check-up

by a pitch, took third on a double steal and scored on a wild pitch. She was also hit by a pitch in the fifth inning and singled in the seventh.

Homan also scored a run for the USF (5-7) as it dropped the first game of the doubleheader 9-4.

For the season, Homan is third for the Cougars with a .313 batting average, five hits, three runs, one RBI and one stolen base.

### Max Moser Jay County - 2019

Drew a walk that led to the game-winning run March 16 as the Huntington University baseball team edged Mount Vernon Nazarene 14-13 in the second game of a doubleheader.

Moser, who finished 1-for-3 with two walks and a run, drew a one-out walk with the game

ended in the bottom of the eighth inning.

Kallen Kelsheimer then took over as a pinch runner and eventually scored on a double by Satchell Wilson.

Moser also drew a walk in the first game as the Foresters (16-7) won 11-0.

### Robbie LeFevre Fort Recovery - 2019

Took second place in a race Saturday for the Fordham University men's track team at the Stony Brook Snowflake Classic.

See Collegiate page 7

## Drivers excited by speedway track

**By ALEX ZIETLOW**  
The Charlotte Observer Tribune News Service

WILKES COUNTY, N.C. — The last time Chris Buescher was here was December 2019 — a cold and misty day when Dale Earnhardt Jr. and a documentary crew and a handful of other volunteers were cleaning up the icorn-turned-eyesore that was North Wilkesboro Speedway.

Buescher remembers it well.

"The last time we were here, we had lunch, and it was about 30 degrees and misty, and half the garage was falling down on top of itself, and we decided to go in there anyway," the driver said with a smile. He then looked around. "It's a little nicer now."

Buescher was one of three NASCAR Cup Series drivers to participate in a tire test at North Wilkesboro Speedway on Tuesday evening. That meant he drove his No. 17 Ford Cup car around the 0.625-mile track a bunch of times — recording data for his team and tire engineers to evalu-

ate, yes, but also getting an early idea for what this racetrack will feel like when the NASCAR All-Star Race descends here on May 21.

The All-Star Race will mark the first NASCAR event the racetrack has hosted since 1996.

"It's still keeping a lot of the same flair and feel to it," Buescher told reporters after his run. "I hope that a lot of it stays. I see a lot of the newer stuff that's made to look nostalgic as well. I like that. I hope a lot of the stuff that is rusty and chalky stays with us for the race because I think fans will really enjoy coming to see it in person."

Austin Dillon and Tyler Reddick joined Buescher at the track Tuesday.

They all essentially reported the same thing: So much of Wilkesboro has been renovated since construction began in September and really took off in the winter — but the track still hasn't been repaved and has its fair share of unique qualities that make it difficult to race.

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