

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Show stealers

JCHS winter guard is hopeful that 'Heist' can carry it off to a second consecutive state berth

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

For a few years, they've tugged at heartstrings.

This year, they're all about theft. But your heart isn't the target.

The Jay County High Schools Winter Guard starts what it hopes will be a three-week post-season run today as it takes its show — "Heist" — to the Indiana High School Color Guard Association state preliminaries at Hamilton Southeastern.

"It's just very different and fun," junior Audrey Hummer said of the show, during which she and her fellow guard members orchestrate an art heist. "Our past two shows were love stories. ... This one's just more fun and interesting."

The show is loosely based on the 1990 art theft at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. Thirteen works, including Rembrandt's "The Storm on the Sea of Galilee," were stolen and the heist remains unsolved. (A \$10 million reward is offered for information leading to the recovery of the stolen works.)

JCHS guard director Emilie Garringer is fascinated by the story, which was made into the 2021 Netflix true crime documentary "This Is a Robbery: The World's Biggest Art Heist."

She created a show that opens with color guard members — clad in black and wearing masks — breaking into an art museum. Once inside, other guard members use black flags with red laser beams on them to mimic museum security devices.

Some members use the laser flags while others use sabres as they skulk around the museum, reaching toward paintings all while a security guard — he's played by Garringer's son Caleb — snoozes off to the side. Eventually the security guard awakes and shines a flashlight on the targeted work — it's based on "The Storm on the Sea of Galilee," which could not be used for copyright reasons — just before it's stolen. That same painting is emblazoned on the flags that are used in the second half of the show.

Eventually, the security guard returns and chases off some of the intruders. But,



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

One of the thieves makes off with the targeted painting Friday night during Jay County High School winter guard's rehearsal at West Jay Elementary School. The group's show, "Heist", is loosely based on a still-unsolved 1990 theft at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston.

unbeknownst to him, the rest of the group makes off with the stolen artwork.

The entire scene plays out over Eklipse's orchestral cover of "Bad Guy" by Billie Eilish.

"The song is very good," said sophomore Madi Schweigel. "I love it. ..."

"I like upbeat songs. ... You hear it, and you can feel it." The Patriots scored 55.91

points to finish fourth in Regional A Class in their season-opener Jan. 28 at Snider, trailing NorthWood, Winchester and Northrop.

See **Stealers** page 2

Judge urged to allow new rule

By SUZANNE MONYAK

CQ-Roll Call
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration has urged a Texas federal judge to preserve the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program in a case that threatens protections for hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants who came to the country as children.

The Justice Department argued Thursday that the administration's latest version of the DACA program, which provides work permits and deportation relief for certain immigrants brought to the U.S. as minors, is a legal use of the government's authority to decide which undocumented immigrants to prioritize for deportation.

The Department of Homeland Security's "resources are limited," which requires the government to reduce the priority for undocumented immigrants who have strong ties to the country, including those who were brought as children and "have never known another country as home," the DOJ wrote in a court filing.

"DACA is carefully designed to address a difficult National problem involving severe resource constraints and significant humanitarian and policy concerns," the government said.

The Justice Department is fighting to protect DACA against a court challenge by a group of Republican-led states that argue they face financial costs for housing and employing recipients of the program, known as "Dreamers."

Judge Andrew Hanen of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas previously ruled against the Obama administration's version of the program but left the policy in place for current recipients.

See **Rule** page 2

Retrospect

Rural Dunkirk couple won \$30 million

Thirty years ago this week, a Jay County family hit the jackpot.

The March 5, 1993, edition of The Commercial Review featured a story about Wendell and Betty Addington of rural Dunkirk, who split a \$60 million Powerball jackpot with another winner.

Wendell, the story begins, skipped work that Friday. But he was still planning to drive a fun bus to the boys basketball sectional tournament that evening.

"We've got to wait until the numbness wears off," said Addington, 64, a Richland Township farmer and bus driver. "Everything happened so fast. It's hard to believe. You read about those things hap-

pening, but you don't really think of it happening at home."

Their lottery win came less than a week after Douglas and Terri Smitley of Dunkirk won \$100,000 in a Powerball drawing.

The winning numbers were 5, 9, 15, 16 and 26, with a Powerball of 44. Wendel bought the ticket at Ludwig's Supermarket in Dunkirk.

The other winner was Millie Bond of Cameron, Missouri.

The Addingtons planned to share the jackpot with their children Brian Addington, Randy Addington, Nancy Fulkerson and Jone Snider, splitting an annual \$1,067,284 check (after taxes) six ways.

Ludwig's owners Jerry and

Barbara Ludwig traveled to Indianapolis with the Addingtons on March 4, 1993, in a pair of limousines to receive a giant check at Hoosier Lottery Headquarters in Indianapolis. The Ludwigs got a \$100,000 commission for selling the ticket.

Wendell said he checked his numbers in the newspaper about 9:30 a.m. on March 4 and realized he had a winner. He immediately called Randy and Brian, who operated Addington Farm Equipment. The sons rushed to the house, thinking there was an emergency.

"He says, 'Look at that. Look at that,'" said Brian. "I must have looked at that ticket 20 or 30 times."



Associated Press

Wendell and Betty Addington of rural Dunkirk look at the ceremonial check they were presented March 4, 1993, at Hoosier Lottery headquarters in Indianapolis after they had the winning numbers in a Powerball drawing.

Deaths

Jay County had a high temperature of 43 degrees Friday. About 1.5 inches of rain fell, putting the county under a flood watch.

Today's forecast calls for part-

Weather

ly sunny skies with a high of 47 and winds gusting to 20 miles per hour. Sunday's high will be 53 under partly sunny skies.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Fort Recovery High School's choirs will hold their cabaret concert beginning at 5 p.m. Sunday in the elementary/middle school auditoria. It will be in three acts, with Act I at 5 p.m., Act II at 6 p.m. and Act III at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Coming up

Tuesday — Coverage of today's town hall meeting with state legislators.

Wednesday — Results from the Jay County junior high swim meet against South Adams.



Rule ...

Continued from page 1
But while the government's appeal was pending, DHS put the program through the formal regulatory process and published a rule to address some of Hanen's concerns about how the immigration program was issued.
The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit backed Hanen's earlier ruling but did not review the latest version of the policy, so it sent the case back to Hanen to consider.

In a court filing in January, the Republican states asked Hanen, again, to strike down the latest version of DACA. They argued that while the Biden administration's new rule "remedies the procedural defects of the DACA Memorandum, it suffers from the same substantive flaws."
The states also asked the judge to issue a ruling that would block the government from approving new DACA

requests, as well as prevent the government from approving renewal requests from current recipients after two years.
In Thursday's brief, the government asked that, if Hanen does rule in favor of the states, he allow DHS to wind down the program at its own pace, and that if he must impose a time frame, that he set one "substantially longer" than two years.
The DOJ also asked Hanen to limit his ruling to apply only in

states that have proved they were harmed by the DACA program, which would allow individuals living in other states to continue to qualify for protections.
While the DACA program remains under court threat, congressional Democrats face an uphill battle to pass legislation codifying protections for "Dreamers" in a divided Congress. Republicans, who control the House, have signaled

they would be unwilling to consider protecting "Dreamers" until they have secured more border security funding and restrictions.
At Democrats' conference earlier on Thursday, caucus chair Rep. Pete Aguilar, D-California, said he was "not optimistic about this Congress" reaching a bipartisan immigration deal "because any Republican who supports any type of reform gets tabooed."

CR almanac

Sunday 3/5	Monday 3/6	Tuesday 3/7	Wednesday 3/8	Thursday 3/9
53/41	65/35	44/25	42/26	41/27
Partly sunny with wind gusts reaching as high as 20 mph.	There's a 20% chance of rain in the afternoon and evening. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	Tuesday's forecast shows partly sunny skies with highs in the low to mid 40s.	Mostly sunny skies, with lows in the mid to upper 20s.	Another day of mostly cloudy skies expected, with a chance of snow late.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 8-0-4 Daily Four: 2-2-4-3 Quick Draw: 9-14-16-17-23-26-28-29-32-33-35-36-39-44-47-65-72-75-79-80	Pick 4: 9-2-1-4 Pick 5: 5-8-2-4-1
Ohio Midday Pick 3: 2-9-8	Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$161 million
	Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$167 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.52 April corn.....6.52 Wheat.....6.82	Wheat.....6.49 July wheat.....6.92
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.52 April corn.....6.58 May corn.....6.60	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.38 Late March corn.....6.38 Beans.....15.15 Late March beans..15.15 Wheat.....6.92
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.40 April corn.....6.40 Beans.....15.09 April beans.....15.09	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....6.12 April corn.....6.14 Beans.....14.95 April beans.....14.95 Wheat.....6.53

Today in history

In 1801, Thomas Jefferson became the first president to be inaugurated in Washington, D.C.
In 1877, "Swan Lake" was performed for the first time in Moscow by the Russian Imperial Ballet. The popular ballet later became one of the most well-known shows of its genre, resulting in countless spinoffs and renditions of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's classic tale.
In 1918, the Spanish flu was first discovered, initiating a worldwide pandemic that claimed the lives of an estimated 50 million people or more.
In 1922, the first vampire film "Nosferatu," adapted from Bram Stoker's 1897 novel, "Dracula," premiered at the Berlin Zoological Garden in Germany.
In 1924, the renowned song, "Happy Birthday To You", was published by Claydon Sunny. (It originated from Patty Smith Hill and Mildred J. Hill's 1893 tune, "Good Morning To All.") In 2016, the song was pushed to public domain after a lawsuit against publisher Warner/Chappell, which had been collecting royalties on the song for 38 years.
In 1927, Babe Ruth signed a 3-year, \$70,000 per season contract with the New York Yankees, making him the highest-paid player in Major League Baseball history at that time.
In 1954, Catherine O'Hara was born in Ontario, Canada. The actress' work includes her roles in "Home Alone," "Beetlejuice" and "The Nightmare Before Christmas," as well as her comedy work on "Second City Television" and "Schitt's Creek."
In 2009, Portland Park Board voted to purchase new playground equipment for Weiler-Wilson and Milton Miller parks at a cost of \$53,500. The sets from Child's Play of Fishers included adult and toddler swings, slides, tunnels and climbing walls.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 Main St.	105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.
Tuesday 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall,	Wednesday 1 p.m. — Jay County Sheriff's Office Merit Board, sheriff's conference room, sheriff's office, 224 W. Water St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Jay County High School junior Audrey Hummer spins an artistic flag Friday night during winter guard rehearsal at West Jay Elementary School. The Patriots open what they hope will be a three-week postseason run today when they compete in the Indiana High School Color Guard Association preliminaries at Hamilton Southeastern.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Stealers ...

Continued from page 1
Their score jumped to 66.42 in a ninth-place finish at Greenwood two weeks later. And last weekend at Carroll they posted a 67.35 to tie Twin Lakes for fourth.
Those results have come during a learning season for a group with no seniors and only three experienced juniors — Skylynn Powell, Alyssa Best and Hummer — among the group of 13. There are two other juniors — Madeline Hudson and Angel Clairday — who are in their first season with the winter guard. The remainder of the roster — Avery Wentz, Cherith Butler, Sophia Hoev-

el, Allie Jellison, Lizzie Schutz, Sophie Henkle, Kaitlyn Moeller and Schweigel — is made up of underclassmen.
Garringer has been pleased with the progress thus far.
"They have come a long way this year," she said. "They still have room to grow, which is a good place to be in. They just need to push themselves and have two really, really good shows over the next two weekends in hopes of making a bid to finals."
The Patriots — they perform at 1:27 p.m. today — had been semifinal regulars previously and broke through to make the IHSCGA finals last sea-

son for the first time since a format change in 2017. They hope to make it two in a row.
The top 18 teams from each of two preliminary sites — the other is at Zionsville — will advance to the state semifinals March 11 at Franklin Central High School. From there, the top 16 will move on to the state finals March 18 at Center Grove.
Confidence over the next two weeks will be key, Garringer said.
"They have a great show," she added. "Each one of them has had multiple really good runs. We just need those really good runs all happen at the same time."

Capsule Reports

Meridian accident
A Portland man crashed the vehicle he was driving into a Winchester woman's car along Meridian Street in Portland about 3:14 p.m. Tuesday.
According to a Portland police report, Angel R. Clarkson, 45, Winchester, was stopped in her 2005 Chevrolet Tahoe on Meridian Street at its intersection with Walnut

Street when a 2003 Buick Rendezvous, driven by 20-year-old Tyler K. Lewis of Portland, crashed into the back of her vehicle. Lewis told police Clarkson stopped abruptly, causing him to strike her car.
Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000. The vehicle Lewis was driving is registered to Arthur Moystner of Ridgeville.

Jay County Fairgrounds

**Saturday, March 11,
Sunday March 12.**
Admission \$6.

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For more info 765-993-8942

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Monday
Chambers, Juanita: 2 p.m.,
Meeks Mortuary and Crematory,
415 E. Washington St., Muncie.

May 13
Warrick, Clarice: 11 a.m.,
West Richmond Friends Meet-
ing, 609 W. Main St., Richmond.

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Felony arrests

Judge Donald Gillespie Default

Adam M. Schmidt, Pen-
nville, driving with a sus-
pended license; Clarence
Cooper, Portland, accu-
mulation of rubbish,
storage of junk, over-
grown weeds and weeds
or grass taller than 8
inches; Alexandria L.
Farmer, Hartford City,
driving with expired
plates; Blake W. Price,
Portland, driving with
expired plates.



Photo provided

Character Counts

East Elementary School recently recognized students for caring with Character Counts awards. Pictured above, front row, are second graders Melanie Laux, Elliana Fischer Gutierrez and Kadence Hines. In the back row are Mikken Huftel, Andrew Lingo, Keenan Osterholt and Wyatt Shawver.

Woman struggles to make connection

Dear Abby



DEAR ABBY: I am a 61-year-old never-married woman with no kids. Most of my life was spent caring for my aging parents, working on my education (I have a master's degree) and saving for my future. I am financially stable. I own my house free and clear, own my car and have very little credit card debt. I have a good job I enjoy, a circle of friends and many activities. I took care of my parents because it was the right thing to do, and I was prepared for their deaths when their time came.

My brother (my only sibling) died unexpectedly one year to the day after my mother's passing. It was a terrible shock, and it has taken me the last two years to come to terms with his loss. My issue is with my brother's widow. We have never been close. There's no animosity, nor have there ever been any harsh words, but we never bonded.

My niece and I get along beautifully but, no matter how much I try, I can't seem to break through to my sister-in-law. She is very dismissive of my grief. She never calls and never asks about my life. She never visits or reaches out in any way. She's responsive and kind when I do, but the communications are one-sided.

I honestly wouldn't miss her if I didn't see her, but my loyalty to my brother and my desire to keep my niece out of the middle has kept me from distancing too much. Now that my parents and brother are gone, there are things I would like to pursue on my own. How much do I owe to her? — FUTURE-THINKING IN TENNESSEE

DEAR FUTURE-THINKING: Your brother's widow may have been dealing with her own grief over the loss of her spouse and unable to handle yours. Be cordial to her, as she is to you, but go on with your life and relationships. Remember her on special occasions with a call, a card or an invitation. If you and your niece

have a closer bond, those things should come naturally.

You have handled the responsibilities life handed you with grace and generosity. It is now time for you to enjoy your own life and worry less about the lives of others.

DEAR ABBY: I recently left my boyfriend. He said he loved me, but I felt like a third wheel in our relationship. He had a female friend he was constantly borrowing money from, even though we both work. He also gave her relationship advice. They would bicker back and forth like 2-year-olds, and when we went places, they made me ride in the back while they were having a conversation I was never part of. He also cut me off every time I talked. When I asked him why, he said I talked about dumb things. Was I wrong for walking away? — BAILING IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR BAILING: Wrong! NO! The man had no respect for your feelings or for you. For all of the reasons you mentioned, you are much better off without him. I'm glad you finally summoned up enough self-esteem to end things with the two of them. To paraphrase the late Princess Diana, there were three people in your relationship.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

'American Pickers' return

Cast members from a television series on The History Channel will be shooting another season in Indiana.

"American Pickers" will be filming episodes in the area in April. The popular documentary series follows antique "pickers" as they hunt for America's most valuable antiques, according to a press release from Cineflix Productions.

The show is currently looking for leads, specifically folks with a large, private collection or accumulation of antiques.

Those interested may send their name, phone number,

Taking Note

location and collection description with photos to americanpickers@cineflix.com or call (646) 493-2184.

The group does not pick from any place open to the public.

Featured art

A Fort Recovery resident has

artwork on display in Findlay, Ohio.

Cassidy Martin, a graphic design major, will have work featured in a senior art exhibition from Monday through March 16 at the University of Findlay. The exhibit will be located in the Dudley and Mary Marks Lea Gallery at the Virginia B. Gardner Fine Arts Pavilion.

A reception for Martin and other exhibiting seniors is slated for 1 to 3 p.m. March 12 at the pavilion. The gallery will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through March 16.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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 museofthesoldier.com.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'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. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

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

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.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

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.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A

Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

Tuesday

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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

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WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

For Jay County Schools

March 6-10

Monday: Main Entrees: Chicken & waffles, breakfast syrup
Alternate Entrees: PB&J Fun lunch, ham and cheese chef salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing, **Sides for all meals:** Hash brown patty

Tuesday: Main Entrees: Classic cheeseburger in bun
Alternate Entrees: PB&J Fun lunch, ham and cheese chef salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing, **Sides for all meals:** Baked crinkle fries

Wednesday: Main Entrees: Mini turkey corn dogs **Alternate Entrees:** PB&J Fun lunch, ham and cheese chef salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing, **Sides for all meals:** Steamed broccoli florets

Thursday: Main Entrees: Mashed potato & chicken bowl
Alternate Entrees: PB&J Fun lunch, ham and cheese chef salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing, **Sides for all meals:** Seasoned corn

Friday: Main Entrees: Classic cheese pizza **Alternate Entrees:** PB&J Fun lunch, ham and cheese chef salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing, **Sides for all meals:** Glazed carrots

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"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." — Nelson Mandela, president of South Africa

"Upon the subject of education ... I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as people may be engaged in." — President Abraham Lincoln

Editorial

Education. It is tremendously important. The more we learn, the richer our lives become. That's why our second new special section being introduced this year will be dedicated to those who provide that

most valuable resource, our teachers. Here's what we're going to do: From now through March 31, we will accept nominations for The Commercial Review's "Teacher of the Year." A panel will review the nominations and select a winner. That winner will then be featured in our new education-focused Teacher Appreciation special section that will run April 14. (We will also run the nomination letter. And we may run additional nomination letters, if the response is strong.)

That begs the question: Who is eligible? In order to be eligible for our Teacher of the Year award, someone must fit one of the following criteria: •Teach at a school in our coverage area •Be a teacher who lives in our coverage area •Be a teacher who used to live in our coverage area Basically, if you teach here or are a teacher who lived here at any time, you're eligible. Those criteria should open the door to a wide range of possibilities.

In order to nominate someone, send us a letter. It should include 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. Letters should range between 300 and 700 words. Nominations can be sent to news@thecr.com or by mail to The Commercial Review, Teacher of the Year nomination, P.O. Box 1049, Portland, IN 47371. We look forward to receiving your nominations and to highlighting the efforts of educators. —R.C.

Helping Ukraine may help the world

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

It is a time of Russia indulging in nuke talk, yanking people out of prisons to replace the dead soldiers in Ukrainian battlefields and China saying it just might hand Russia more fighting tools.

While Ukraine was simultaneously losing some land it had won, there were also some positives, not the least of them a surprise visit by President Joe Biden standing in a danger zone to make it clear that the United States is steadfastly behind Ukraine and NATO.

President Biden, thank you. Here was a bold move, and no doubt it boosted Ukrainian confidence in the United States continuing to supply it with loads of moolah and weapons, not just defensive weapons, but offensive weapons. NATO, with more at stake, is not doing all it could, but is still saying yes, we are with you. Ukraine remains blessed with

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the former TV comedian with courage, charisma, high intelligence and rare leadership capacities, no laughing matter to Ukraine's enemies.

Was it OK for him to force 11 political parties with ties to Russia to get out of parliament? It makes it harder to see him as a respecter of rule of law, but may have been necessary for national survival. His speech to Congress awhile back was touching, encouraging and democratically heroic. He doesn't want to give an inch, has accomplished what no one imagined, but could not have done it without the help of America and NATO. Here is the big question. Should America keep helping out? The experts disagree with each other, and here, first, is the point of view that says no.

The conflict is costing us heaps of money, and in this COVID-recovering, over-spending U.S. economy, we just can't afford it. This has become a war of attrition with lots of soldiers dying on both sides and women and children being blasted to death in acts of Russian terrorism. The Russians hugely outnumber Ukrainians, and Putin will recruit with however many chains and handcuffs are required.

Remember, this war is his whole life right now: the resurrection of the Soviet Union, Russia a

Jay Ambrose



foremost power again, his name never forgotten. Thanks to China and its internationally needed energy resources, the Russian economy has stayed alive and could get better as Russia attains more weapons. Russia might even be serious in its yapping about the possible use of nuclear weapons. If we want to save lives and money, we should stop fighting and win peace if not fairness. Another perspective is that there is no way virtual surrender would save lives or that Russia would risk the retaliation through nuclear games. With Ukrainian victory, Russia would simply go to war with other countries and we'd either have to fight for them or see Russia become an incredible, crushing, threatening power again.

There are also the brave, good Ukrainian people to worry about. It might be that a quick end of the war would keep some from being killed, but there are possibilities of massive death sentences, concentration camps and the torture of totalitarian government. China could be encouraged to go ahead and take over Taiwan, with North Korea and Iran starting their own wars, too, maybe.

The thoughts above are a fraction of the possibilities of varied decisions, but here is something else to keep in mind. This isn't just about the United States, NATO, Ukraine and Russia, but what might happen to the whole world. This, after all, is an era of growing Chinese economic and military might, ongoing Mideast concerns, Europe seemingly unsure about its future, Russia wanting to revive its evil past, South America gone awry, Africa's possible tangled routes, climate change and democracy seemingly insistent on an international turn from conquest to retreat.

There are also issues about morality, faith, socialism, capitalism and liberty, and we had better be wise.

Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speakto-jay@aol.com.



'Problems' are manufactured

By JOHN KRULL
TheStatehouseFile.com
HSPA Infonet

The members of the Indiana General Assembly possess a real passion for solving problems that don't exist or that they created themselves.

Real problems, on the other hand, they pretend not to see.

The push to pass a measure modeled after Florida's "Don't Say Gay" law is a perfect example.

Indiana House Bill 1608 produced a tumult at the Hoosier Statehouse on a cloudy Monday. People showed up to testify against the bill, others simply to demonstrate in opposition to it and a fewer number to show support for the proposed law.

It's doubtful that all the uproar changed many—and maybe not any—minds.

That's the thing about manufactured crises.

They're impossible to resolve because they don't exist in the first place. People can argue endlessly about concepts in the abstract when they are not forced to deal with or acknowledge facts.

The language in HB 1608 is charged with implied urgency:

"A school, an employee or staff member of a school, or a third party vendor used by a school to provide instruction may not provide any instruction to a student in kindergarten through grade 3 on human sexuality."

It sounds as if there were an epidemic of elementary school teachers in Indiana talking about sex, sex, sex, nothing but sex.

I've spent a fair amount of my life in elementary school classrooms.

Before my wife and I married, a good friend who was an elementary school principal told me many of her students needed a male presence in their lives. She talked me into coming up to the school on my lunch hours to organize kickball games and other activities. From there, I took

John Krull



some turns substitute teaching or organizing outings and events for the kids.

When my wife and I had our daughter and son, we both were active parents, in and out of our children's schools often.

In all my time in schools, I never saw a teacher attempting to instruct a kindergartener, a first-grader, a second-grader or a third-grader about sexuality.

I did see them trying to teach small children things like reading, writing and basic arithmetic. They even tried to encourage the little folk to sing and do drawings.

A few times I saw them attempt to instruct kids that they weren't allowed to bully or be mean to other children just because they were a little bit different—you know, the kind of thing that, in an earlier, kinder age, used to be called plain good manners or basic common decency.

But sex? No.

Not ever.

Now, I would think that the people pushing HB 1608 would be able to cite incident after incident after incident of this happening.

Otherwise, they're stirring people up for no reason other than political posturing—and spending a lot of legislative time, which equates to taxpayer money, in the process.

Surely, our noble Hoosier lawmakers wouldn't be that irresponsible, would they?

I mean, that would be like believing that a complicated legal concept like critical race theory is being

taught in public schools and using it as a pretext to erase embarrassing references regarding America's tortured history of slavery and racial injustice from curricula and classrooms.

People couldn't possibly be gullible or weak-minded enough to swallow an obvious political maneuver such as that, could they?

I mean, wouldn't they realize that the object of education is to search for the truth, not run from it?

Then again, many of the people backing the "Don't Say Gay" bill are the same ones who insisted that creating the most expansive and expensive school voucher program in America would lift student achievement. Even when test scores didn't rise as they promised, they still pushed to expand the program—and to remove voucher and charter schools from the accountability measures imposed on traditional public schools.

I guess it's like the old saying: "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me. Fool me a bunch of times, well, elect me to the legislature and let me stay forever."

Once they get into the Indiana General Assembly, they spend their time "solving" nonexistent problems like CRT and a fraudulent epidemic of sexual instruction for kids just figuring out crayons while ignoring real problems, like a statewide teacher shortage and struggling schools.

Let's help these folks with a campaign slogan that speaks to their real goal.

How does "make America dumb again" sound?

Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism and publisher of TheStatehouseFile.com.

HSPA Infonet is a content-sharing service for newspapers that are members of Hoosier State Press Association.

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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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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U.S. Aggregates earns mining award

An organization that operates a local stone quarry recently received a variety of honors. U.S. Aggregates received the Excellence in Mining Award last month at the Indiana Mineral Aggregates Association winter workshop.

The award goes to companies for “their commitment to safety, sustainability and to their contributions in their community.”

The firm also received eight Indiana Mineral Aggregates Association Safety Awards, which go to facilities with no reportable injuries for at least one year.

U.S. Aggregates received 15 gold awards and one silver award across all of its facilities.

“This recognition is a testament to the importance US Aggregates places on worker safety, as well as commitment to setting high standards for employee health and well-being,” the company said in a press release. “US Aggregates is honored to be recognized for our teams’ commitment to quality, environmental stewardship, and safety in our operations. We are proud of the work we do each day to ensure

Business roundup

that our products exceed industry standards while keeping our workers safe on the job site. Congratulations again on these well-deserved awards.

Cooper celebrates

Cooper Farms is celebrating 85 years in operation this year.

The family farm and food company was founded in 1938 with 300 turkeys when Virgil Cooper took over the farm in Oakwood, Ohio, following his mother’s death. It now has 2,400 employees and 375 farms that help raise turkeys, hogs and chickens.

“Being innovative in the way we do things, always looking to improve our processes, is part of the reason our company has been successful,” said Gary Cooper, who returned home with his brother Jim to work for the farm in 1974. “We were founded on a can-do attitude and we will continue to have

that mindset in the way we do business moving forward.”

Lilly cuts

Indianapolis-based Eli Lilly announced Wednesday that it is making price reductions for some of its most commonly prescribed insulins.

The company set the price reductions at 70% from current costs. It also created a program that caps the out-of-pocket insulin cost for patients at \$35 or less per month.

“While the current healthcare system provides access to insulin for most people with diabetes, it still does not provide affordable insulin for everyone and that needs to change,” said David A. Ricks, Lilly’s chair and CEO, in a press release. “The aggressive price cuts we’re announcing today should make a real difference for Americans with diabetes.”

CVS investing

CVS Health announced Tuesday that it is investing \$10 million in a housing project in Indianapolis.

The project calls for construction of St. Lucas Lofts, a new 48-unit “supporting housing community” in the city. It is a collabo-

ration with non-profit developers Englewood Community Development Corporation and RDOOR Housing Corporation.

“Providing access to affordable, secure housing is an important step towards improving overall health outcomes and promoting health equity,” said CVS Health lead manager of workforce initiatives Lena Barkley in a press release. “When people have stable access to safe and affordable housing, it positions them to improve their overall wellbeing — medically, financially and emotionally — by addressing their own health needs or even focus on securing education or steady employment.”

Contest is open

Walgreens is accepting entries in its Expressions by Walgreens contest.

The artistic challenge for high school students awards prizes for visual arts, media arts, spoken word and creative writing.

“Every generation has unique challenges representing the present times,” said Walgreens senior director of community relations John Gremer in a press release. “Expressions began out of a desire to help young people handle the tough issues they may be

facing. Helping high school students find their voices through art lines up perfectly with our commitment to create more joyful lives through better health.”

For more information about the contest, visit expressionschallenge.com. The deadline to enter is March 31.

Invenergy purchasing

Invenergy announced last week that it has entered into an agreement to purchase American Electric Power’s 1,365-megawatt unregulated, contracted renewables portfolio.

The agreement came in at \$1.5 billion, including project debt. The sale is expected to close in the next few months.

“Invenergy is proud to bring our industry-leading development, financial, and operating expertise to this quality renewable operating portfolio,” said Invenergy president and corporate business leader Jim Murphy in a press release. “Our longstanding record of working with AEP, familiarity with the portfolio projects, and the strength and cohesiveness of our investor consortium led to this significant agreement.”

Invenergy is developing Skycrest Solar in Jay County.

Building firm is making move to Carmel

By MITCHELL KIRK
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)
HSPA Infonet

HANCOCK COUNTY — A building materials supplier, producer and construction services company founded in Greenfield over 75 years ago is building a new corporate headquarters in Carmel.

Irving Materials Inc. was founded in Greenfield in 1946 and has been headquartered at 8032 Ind. 9 north of the city since 1962. The company recently announced plans in a news release to buy land and build a new corporate headquarters near Meridian and 111th streets in Carmel.

Plans filed with the city of Carmel indicate IMI’s new four-story, approximately 64,450-square-foot office building with covered parking is going on a 19-acre property near the southeast corner of Illinois and West 111th streets. Plans also show two future developments on the site south of the headquarters. Groundbreaking is scheduled for later this year, according to the news release.

The new corporate headquarters is central to the company’s continued growth plans, the release continues.

“The headquarters’ relocation and expansion will provide the infrastructure we need to support our almost 4,000 employees and our expanding footprint,” IMI president and CEO Pete Lyons said in the release.

The company’s current headquarters is about 11,300 square feet, according to Hancock County property records.

IMI employs Hoosiers in 86 of Indiana’s 92 counties, according to the news release, which adds the company also operates in Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee. The company did not say how many employees would be moved from Greenfield to Carmel.

IMI is a supplier and producer of aggregates, ready-mix concrete and asphalt. The company’s construction divisions, E&B Paving and Specialties Company, deliver site development, heavy highway and civil construction services.

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Tribune News Service/Chicago Tribune/Stacey Wescott

Factory is idled

First-shift workers leave the Belvidere Assembly Plant in Belvidere, Illinois. For nearly six decades, the plant has been the leading employer and economic engine of the small river city near Rockford. On Tuesday, Stellantis idled the plant “indefinitely,” laying off the last 1,200 workers and perhaps closing it for good.

Car debt has been piling up

By PAIGE SMITH
and MICHAEL SASSO

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Chris Martin knew he needed a bigger car as the birth of his fourth child approached, but he and his wife were already \$14,000 underwater on their two vehicles.

So the couple proposed an unusual two-for-one deal with an Atlanta-area auto dealer in 2020: trading in both of their vehicles so they could afford a three-row Ford Explorer. Their total loan after factoring in negative equity, a service contract, fees and other costs ballooned to \$66,000 on the \$49,000 Explorer.

Despite a lot of progress on the debt, he feels uneasy. “I don’t want to be paying interest on cars that I don’t even have anymore,” said Martin, a 36-year-old data engineer.

The build-up in negative equity — or the amount that debt exceeds a vehicle’s value — is rattling consumers and raising alarms within the industry. Though it’s not unusual for drivers to carry negative equity, some dealers say more people are arriving at their lots up to \$10,000 underwater, or “upside down,” on their trade-ins. They’re buying at still-sky-high prices and rolling debt from one car to another and even onto a third. Loans are commonly stretching to seven years.

“As trade-in values begin to cool, each month more and more consumers will find themselves falling from positive to negative equity,” said Ivan Drury, director of insights at auto-market researcher Edmunds. “Unless American car shoppers break their habit of buying again too soon, we’ll see the negative equity tide continue to rise.”

Even if the U.S. economy avoids a recession this year, consumers will likely

struggle to make payments on their auto loans, especially with the Federal Reserve planning to keep raising interest rates. The average new-car interest rate rose to 6.9% in January from 4.3% a year earlier, according to Edmunds. With car prices still elevated, demand high and inventory levels relatively low, Ford Motor Co., General Motors Co. and other automakers continue to rake in sizable profits.

For the typical American, a new car is increasingly out of reach. Today, about two out of 13 people are making monthly car payments of \$1,000 or more. For many, there’s no choice: They have few or no public transportation options and need a car to get to work, bring children to school and buy groceries.

“Because these car loans are generally unaffordable at the outset, that means that every month, borrowers are getting closer to the financial edge,” said Kathleen Engel, a law professor at Suffolk University.

The cost of new vehicles has risen 20% since the start of the pandemic, while used vehicles are still up 37% even after cooling in the fall. For a brief period, car owners hit a topsy-turvy market where they could sell some used cars for more than they paid for them. That helped negative equity plummet earlier in the pandemic.

But as more consumers deplete savings accumulated during the pandemic, they’re falling underwater again.

For trade-ins that carry negative equity, the average amount is approaching prepandemic levels at \$5,500, according to Edmunds data. The surge in prices and prevalence of 84-month loans are fueling concern among consumer advocates and within the auto industry.

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IndianaSpineGroup.com

3-4 CRYPTOQUIP

AX E WEY NLOK OZD VAB
NCDODK DX CAK DZY XERH
SABCO LN RJDKH ODBHOCHS,

AK CH VHKAUH CAWKHJX?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BELIEVE ME, YOU ARE EVERY BIT AS HANDSOME AS I AM. KNOCK OFF THE HOMELIER-THAN-THOU ATTITUDE! Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals H

Trivial Review
(Answers are printed below, upside down.)
In third place
1) What is the third-longest river in the world behind the Nile and the Amazon?
2) Who ranks third in NBA career coaching wins behind Gregg Popovich and Don Nelson?
(2) Lenny Wilkens
1) The Yangtze River

3-6 CRYPTOQUIP
XTIF OUS T VYFBATQ HSUEYF
UO DUEXP HDMFV LGU LTXJFS
TZUEH JUAXP ZUGFIATX
JTXBFV: YUQMT HUHV.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A MAN PUTS TWO BIG PHOTOS OF HIS OWN FACE RIGHT UP CLOSE TOGETHER, IS HE BESIDE HIMSELF? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals G

CRYPTO FUN
Solve the code to discover words related to employees. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 25 = C)
A. 16 19 13 7 14 13
Clue: Employee
B. 19 4 4 26 25 14
Clue: Place to do business
C. 25 3 6 26 25 20 14
Clue: Office desk configuration
D. 6 19 15 15
Clue: Supervisor

WORD SCRAMBLE
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to employees.
YSALRA

Guess Who?
I am a professional makeup artist born in the Netherlands on March 2, 1994. I joined YouTube in 2008 after being inspired by other online makeup artists. I joined Colourful Agency in 2011, and now have more than 14 million subscribers on my YouTube channel.

kids' corner
Illustration of a child and educational items.

HEALTH FACT:
TRUE OR FALSE?
FROZEN VEGETABLES ARE LESS NUTRITIOUS THAN FRESH OR CANNED ONES.
ANSWER: FALSE

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.
Grid with numbers 2, 5, 7, 10, 4 and row totals 10, 16, 20.

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY
MAR 3
• 1845: FLORIDA IS ADMITTED AS THE 27TH U.S. STATE.
• 1910: JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR. RETIRED FROM BUSINESS TO DEVOTE ALL OF HIS TIME TO PHILANTHROPY.
• 1966: THE AUSTRALIA ACT 1986 COMMENCES, RESULTING IN THE COUNTRY'S FULL INDEPENDENCE FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.

New Word
REFRIGERATE
to subject food to cold in order to chill or preserve it

EMPLOYEE BENEFIT WORD SEARCH
V C E U B U K J W D N J M G I U B Q T P
E K H I R E T N Y V R C W Q N P O B N U
M O R W C E T U M M O C O Y T G J Q V L
C N J G H S W Y C S H Y R R E N A V I E
V S N C T U F E S G O S K Y R I P A E D
I E I D R P V D R C U N M O V N B M J R
R P R W T E F S E F R B R G I I D D P Q N
C M Y B J R K Y T Q S D P Q E A I H C P
K Q E V K V H H R H A E R R W R E H O Q
T C L K F I R L A F B G O K B T L G W R
L M E B C S E A U H E R G H Y K O E O E
E H K H O O R H I Q S C E R A D T C R Y R T
I S D W C R V U D U I E E A D D O G I K U
C F I H J Y S N A V F E S B K L A K E P
U W B A C L A F E H F V S I B C U S R M
B T C Q R L H P H G O T A J O E Q F J O
J E E Y O L P M E G B C H S V M Y J P C
Y O T V K G N I T E E M R H Y I K N V B
W C N O I T I S O P C Q W Y S T P Y B V
U H W A J S E C R U O S E R C I H Y N E
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS
COMMUTE
COMPUTER
COWORKER
DEGREE
EMPLOYEE
HEADQUARTERS
HIRE
HOURS
INTERVIEW
JOB
MEETING
OFFICE
PAYCHECK
POSITION
PROGRESS
RAISE
RESOURCES
ROLE
SUPERVISOR
TIMECLOCK
TRAINING
WORK

How they SAY that in...
ENGLISH: Ice
SPANISH: Hielo
ITALIAN: Ghiaccio
FRENCH: Glace
GERMAN: Eis

Did You Know?
DESSERTS LIKE ICE CREAM AND ICE POPS ARE POPULAR FROZEN FOODS.

GET THE PICTURE?
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?
ANSWER: FROZEN (TV) DINNER

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 35 About, date-wise
1 Pooch
4 Detail, briefly
8 Accomplishment
12 Bird (Pref.)
13 Jet speed measure
14 Bygone Peruvian
15 Jo's sister
16 Against
17 Small bell sound
18 1991 Streisand/ Nolle film, with "The"
21 Approves
22 Gaiety
23 Compote fruits
26 Present location?
27 Snooze
30 Hammett pooch
31 Heat source
32 Separate
33 Narc's org.
34 Deli creation
DOWN 23 Cushion
24 Jargon suffix
25 One-time link
26 Fella
27 Neither mate
28 Curved line
29 School org.
31 Wave riders
32 Unuttered "alas"
34 — Paulo
35 Salad type
36 Heron's kin
37 Accra's country
38 Young foxes
39 "Have — a deal for you!"
40 Alaskan seaport
41 Jog
42 Actress Fisher
43 "Exodus" author
44 Croquet site
Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-4
Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-53.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

All it takes is the will to win
South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH: ♠7 5 4, ♥Q 4 2, ♦J 7 3, ♣8 6 5 3
WEST: ♠Q 10 8 6 3, ♥J 7 5, ♦K 8, ♣9 7 2
EAST: ♠K J, ♥10 9 8 6 3, ♦10 9 5 4, ♣10 4
SOUTH: ♠A 9 2, ♥A K, ♦A Q 6 2, ♣A K Q J
The bidding: South West North East
3 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead — six of spades.
There are very few hands that demand a virtuoso performance by declarer for the best result to be achieved. In the great majority of deals, declarer's task consists mostly of determining what line of play offers the best percentage chance of succeeding, utilizing the clues that are almost always present, and playing the right card each time it is his turn. This might sound like a tall order, but it is not really as difficult as it sounds — assuming that one has a desire to play well. Take today's deal, for example. It is not an unusually difficult hand to play correctly, but many declarers would go down at three notrump largely because they might proceed without giving the matter much thought. The natural line of play appears to be to duck the first two spade leads and win West's next spade with the ace. After cashing four clubs and the A-K of hearts, South plays the ace and a low diamond toward the jack. But when it turns out that West has the king of diamonds instead of East, the contract goes down one. Actually, the contract is virtually a sure thing from the outset. There is no reason for declarer to run the risk that West has the king of diamonds. South can avoid that trap by ducking the king of spades at trick one but winning East's return of the jack. He then cashes four clubs and two hearts, as before, to bring his total to seven tricks. His five remaining cards consist of four diamonds and a spade, while dummy has a spade, the queen of hearts and three diamonds. Instead of playing a diamond at this point, South leads his spade. West takes three spade tricks but is then forced to return a heart or a diamond, handing declarer his ninth trick.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

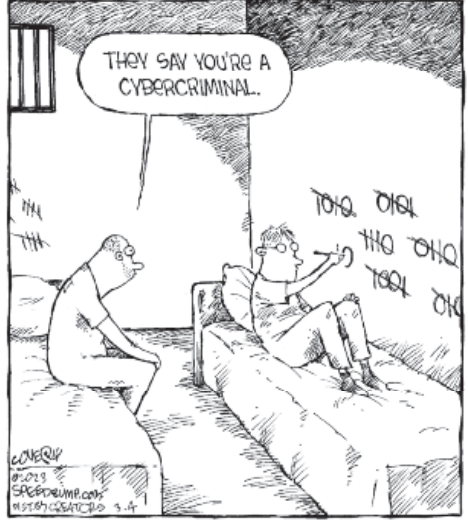
Famous Hand
East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH: ♠5, ♥9 6 2, ♦Q 8 6 3, ♣J 8 6 5 2
WEST: ♠A K J, ♥A 4 3, ♦A J 10 9, ♣K 10 9
EAST: ♠Q, ♥K Q J 10 8 7 5, ♦7 5, ♣A Q 3
SOUTH: ♠10 9 8 7 6 4 3 2, ♥K 4 2, ♦7 4
The bidding: East South West North
4 ♠ Pass 7 ♥ Pass
Pass 7 ♣ Dble
Opening lead — ace of hearts.
This deal occurred at the 1987 world team championship in the semifinal match between Sweden and the United States. At one of the two tables, this was the first deal of the match. As can be seen, it did not take the U.S. pair seated East-West very long to warm up. In fact, it took them just two bids to reach a laydown grand slam! East's opening four-club bid announced a strong four-heart opener, whereupon West leaped directly to seven hearts. But Ljolle Floedqvist of Sweden was not asleep at the switch. When seven hearts came around to him, he bid seven spades, hoping to go down less than the value of the grand slam. West doubled, and Floedqvist went down seven for a loss of 2,000 points. Since West would have scored 2,210 for making the grand slam, this represented a potential savings of 210 points for the Swedes. When the deal was played at the second table, Hugh Ross of the U.S. held the South cards. At this table, the deal was the last of the 16-board set, and Ross had yet to play a hand as declarer. After the Swedes arrived at seven hearts on similar bidding, Ross also bid seven spades, partly due to the frustration of not yet having declared a hand. Here, though, his Swedish opponents would not allow him the dubious distinction of going down seven, doubled and vulnerable. They bid seven notrump instead, giving them a score of 2,220 points. This, combined with the result at the other table, netted them a gain of 6 IMPs on the deal. Thus concluded the strange episode of a player who willingly lost 2,000 points on his very first deal of a world championship semifinal and came out ahead, and another who tried to do exactly the same thing only to be denied that satisfaction by his opponents. Tomorrow: Two chances are better than one.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

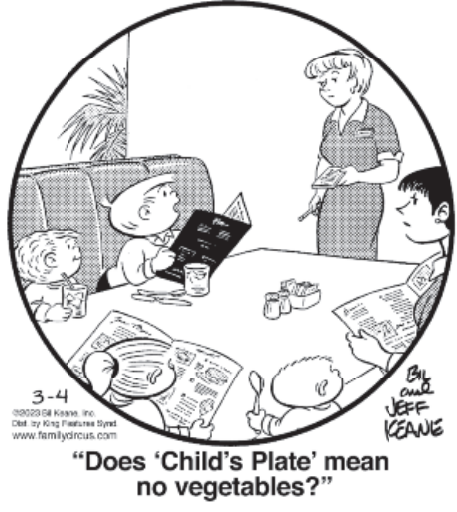
ACROSS 38 Trim the grass
4 Kate's sitcom partner
9 Small ammo
12 Actress Thurman
13 Panorama
14 Feedbag tidbit
15 Fashionable shops
17 Swiss canton
18 Vichy water
19 More Grinch-like
21 Argue
24 Fat
25 "Strange Magic" gp.
26 Where Lux. is
28 Grade A
31 Pal
33 Capek play
35 "Just the two —"
36 Metric measures
DOWN 22 K thru 12
1 Fella
2 Moody rock
27 Pirate's genre
29 Stubborn beast
30 Noble Italian family
32 Relocate Rouge sch.
7 Things
8 Relax
9 Aplenty
10 Expose
11 Swizzle
16 Afternoon social
20 Prefix with dynamic
21 Pack of cards
45 Assess Alike (Fr.)
50 German conjunction
51 CBS logo
52 Minivan alternative
53 Hotel amenity
Solution time: 21 mins.

Saturday's answer 3-6
Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-59.

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



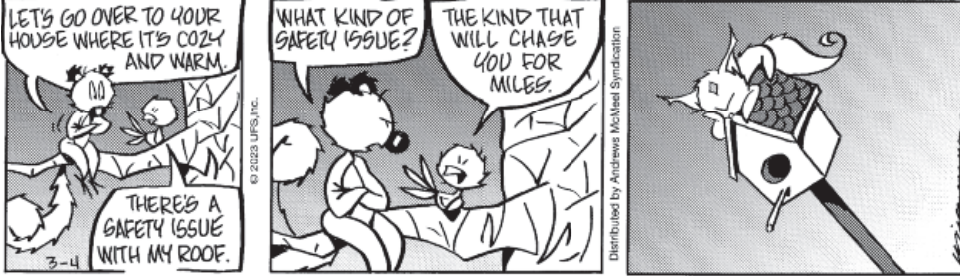
Peanuts



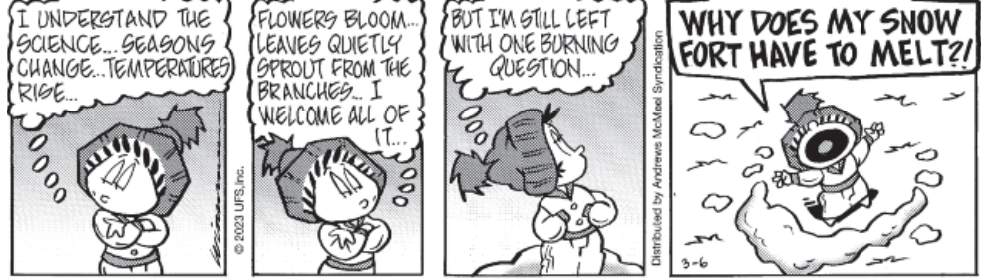
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



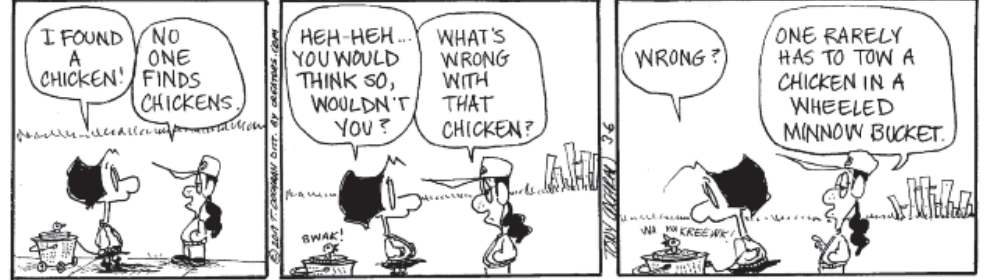
Rose is Rose



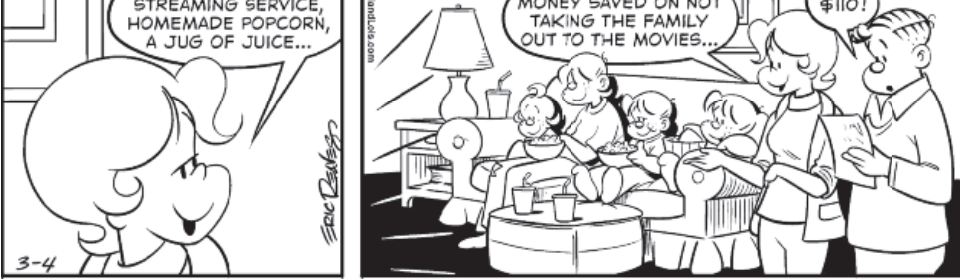
Agnes



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Hi and Lois



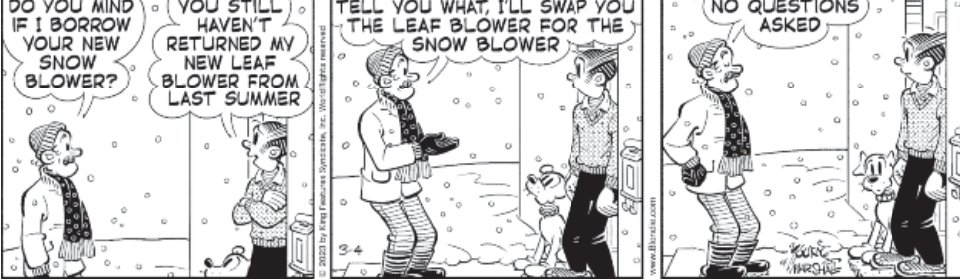
Between Friends



Between Friends



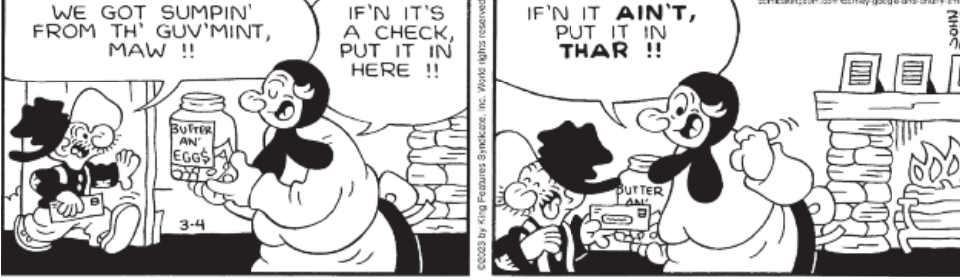
Blondie



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



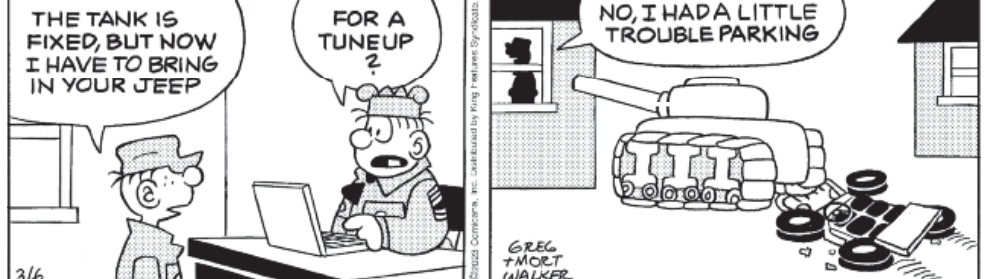
Snuffy Smith



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*

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Commercial
Review

726-8141

00 CLASSIFIEDS

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3 insertions.....96¢/
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6 insertions.... \$1.14/
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26 insertions. \$1.77/
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Classified Display \$6.95/
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allowed on Classified
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In Memory Up to 100
words.... \$13.00
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business opportunities,
jobs wanted, boats and
sporting equipment,
wanted to rent, motor-
ized vehicles, real estate
and mobile homes.

30 LOST, STRAYED OR FOUND

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

40 NOTICES

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

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90 SALE CALENDAR

MARION YOUNG FARMERS
Consignment Auction
Mercer Landmark,
Chickasaw, Ohio
Between U.S. Rt. 127 &
New Bremen
on St. Rt. 274
SATURDAY, MARCH 18
10 A.M.
TRACTORS- TRUCKS- CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT
1999 International 9400,
2001 Ford F-150 XL
212k miles, etc.
DRILLS-PLANTERS- PLOWS-DISK-TILLAGE-AUGERS
International 490 disk
25ft w/ hydraulic fold,
6in upright bin unload
auger w/ motor, etc.
WAGONS-MANURE EQUIPMENT-HAY EQUIPMENT
2003 New Holland 590
Big Baler 3x3 bales,
New Holland 258
Rolabar rake, G690 Ag-
Bagger, J&M 250 hop-
per wagon, etc.
MISCELLANEOUS
Nursery pens and feed-
ers, Nursery fans w/
controls, Flex line feed-
ers, 100 gal fuel transfer
tank, and more.
This is only a partial list-
ing of equipment that
will be at the Auction.
We are still accepting
equipment on Thursday,
March 16th and Friday,
March 17th; 9am till 8pm
No items Will be Con-
signed Saturday Morn-
ing.
Any Questions or to
consign items call Todd
Bertke: 419-230-1705
COLDWATER AUCTION SERVICE
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the State of Ohio

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Bubp Exhibi-
tion Hall, Jay County
Fairgrounds, Portland,
IN
Saturday Morning
MARCH 4, 2023
9:30 A.M.

OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS - TOOLS
Pie safe with screen
sides and front; Chevro-
let 4 x 4 wood truck toy
box;
vintage Zenith TV in
Blonde cabinet; wood
bar table w/4 bar chairs;
metal
plant stand w/marble
top; log bench; log shelf;
Crosley radio; Zenith
Tube case with assorted
tubes;
Power XL smokeless
grill; vintage comic
books; Coca Cola car-
board display with elec-
tronics; Coca Cola
Ecology kit; Coca Cola
Elementary Science lab-
oratory kit; (2) Coca
Cola
Holiday cardboard dis-
plays; Coca Cola 1950
TV tray; vintage Coca
Cola book covers; Coca
Cola calendars; Hummel
figurines; Craftsman
spray gun; 2 plastic
tables; crop moisture
tester; and many other
items not listed.

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Portland, Indiana
260-251-9735

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION LIVE & ONLINE
Located: 100 WEST
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INDIANA 46740 (JUNC-
TION OF HIGHWAY 27
AND STATE ROUTE
116.)
March 4, 2023,
9 A.M.
GOLD – SILVER – COINS
1904 \$20 Gold pc; 1862
\$10 gold pc; 1912 \$10
gold pc; CC Morgan Sil-
ver dollars 1885, 1883,
1871, 1890, Quarters
dating from the 1800's
to present including Bar-
ber, Capped Bust, and
others;
CURRENCY
\$50, \$20, \$10, \$5, \$2,
and \$1 notes; Star, Red
Seal, Yellow Seal, Black
Seal, Repeater, Radar,
Confederate note,
GUNS-KNIVES-TOYS- COLLECTIBLES
Remington 30.06 model
770 w/scope and carry-
ing case; Remington
270 Win. w/night scope;
wooden handle bayonet
(off of M2 rifle) Country
knife w/Star grips and
sheath; USM8A1 bayo-
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NOTE: To bid online go
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2023, from Noon to 6
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HELP WANTED CITY OF PORTLAND Position: Mayor's Assistant – Full time. The Mayor's Assistant is responsible for performing a variety of clerical, administrative and technical tasks in support of the city government. Essential duties: Greet visitors to the Mayor's Office, answer the telephone, schedule appointments for the Mayor, coordinate Mayor's travel schedule, prepare claim vouchers for Mayor's Office. Also, complete special assignments, projects, correspondences, filing, copying, faxing and printing as directed by the Mayor. Applications are available at Portland City Hall, 321 North Meridian Street, Portland, Indiana 47371, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday until March 8th. Application deadline is March 8th, 2023. No applications will be accepted after this time. The City of Portland is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

130 MISC. FOR SALE

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190 FARMERS COLUMN

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260 PUBLIC AUCTION

Marion Young Farmers Consignment Auction

Sale Location-Chickasaw, Landmark St. Rt. 274- Chickasaw, Ohio
Directions: Go 4 miles East of 127, or 6 miles West of New Bremen to Chickasaw
Saturday, March 18th, 2023
10:00AM

Tractors, Trucks, Construction Equipment
1999 International 9400, 10 speed, Detroit 12.7, 120k on overhaul, two line wet kit 2001 Ford F-150 XL 212k miles, 14ft Texas Bragg utility trailer w/ electric brakes

Drills, Planters, Plows, Disk, Tillage, Augers
International 490 disk 25ft w/ hydraulic fold, Massey Ferguson 520 Tandem disk 20ft w/manual fold, Massey Ferguson 880 5 Bottom plow w/ hydraulic reset, White 378 6 row cultivator, 6in upright bin unload auger w/ motor, 8" upright bin unload auger w/motor, 6in x 10 ft transfer auger

Wagons, Manure Equipment, and Hay Equipment
2003 New Holland 590 Big Baler 3x3 bales, New Holland 258 Rolabar rake, G690 Ag-Bagger, J&M 250 hopper wagon, 2 flat bed wagons w/ 5 board sideboards one with john deere running gear, 16ft hay/grain wagon w/ sideboards new tires

Miscellaneous
Nursery pens and feeders, Nursery fans w/ controls, Flex line feeders, 100 gal fuel transfer tank, Cleaning sieves out of a Case IH 2366 combine, Aerovent 27in bin dryer fan, 16 rubber closing wheels, 4 Purafire heaters, 50 Heat lamps, Hay, Straw, Bulk bins in various sizes, Hog feeders, Waterers, Fans, Riding mowers, Tires This is only a partial listing of equipment that will be at the Auction.

We are still accepting equipment on Thursday, March 16th and Friday, March 17th; 9am till 8pm
No Saturday Consignments
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Regrets ...

Continued from page 10
“Very frustrating last year,” he said. “Never really had an injury that put me out for games or even practices or stuff like that. But I feel like I’m gonna come out a better person, better man, better player. So I’m definitely thankful. Just looking at it as a positive. And I think it will be beneficial for me at the end of the day.”

Personal growth aside, the impact on Smith-Njigba’s draft stock remains to be seen.

A year ago, he was being talked about as better than former teammates Chris Olave and Garrett Wilson, who went 10th and 11th overall in the 2022 draft.

Entering the week of the combine, he was 20th on the Pro Football Focus big board and 13th in a consensus top 100 compiled by The Athletic.

“I just think my playmaking ability is second to none in this draft,” he said. “I see myself as a top-five player, not just receiver. I see myself as a top-five player in this draft, just being able to make plays and given the opportunities. You throw me the ball seven

‘It was really hard for me to leave a place like Ohio State ... Coming into the league was a smart decision for me, but it was really hard.’

—C.J. Stroud

to nine times, I can win you the game. And I think that speaks for itself.”

Smith-Njigba’s injury did not erase his monster sophomore season in which he caught 95 passes for 1,606 yards, but it did prevent him from proving he could be more than a slot receiver.

Stroud also entered last season with high expectations from a draft standpoint, and he largely met them.

One exception during the season was a question about whether or not he could beat teams when he had to move in the pocket.

He answered that in the CFP semifinal against Georgia when

he ran for 34 yards and made multiple throws off scrambles, but was it too little, too late?

“I’ll be honest, I told (teams) like I’ll tell y’all: I didn’t do it a lot in college and I feel like I should have,” Stroud said. “It’s something I do regret. I feel like I could have done it a lot more, but I think when you turn on the film and you really watch what I do, and you really look at film game to game, I have used my athleticism not only just in the Georgia game where I did it a lot. I’ve done it in every other game. I’ve had tough third-down runs. I’ve had tough fourth-down runs.

“But there were times I didn’t

run the ball when maybe I should have. I feel like that’s something that I learned and that’s what football is about. It’s about stepping back up to the plate and going back and working hard and fixing those problems. That’s something I plan to fix and I’ll show them my athleticism. I’ve done it before on film, but since people don’t think I can do it, I’m going to do it again.”

Stroud also confirmed he truly considered coming back for a fourth season in Columbus rather than entering the draft, as he was widely expected to do all year.

“I was honestly going to come back to school,” Stroud said. “It was really hard for me to leave a place like Ohio State where it takes time to get to where I was at. It takes a lot of heart and a lot of camaraderie off the field. It’s something you can’t just throw in the trash right away. I don’t feel like I did that. Coming into the league was a smart decision for me, but it was really hard.”

Busch ...

Continued from page 10

One of the first to congratulate him at Fontana was older brother Kurt, who was dressed in street clothes instead of a firesuit. The 2004 Cup Series champion had been enjoying a driving renaissance before sustaining a concussion in a crash at Pocono, Pennsylvania, last season that hastened his retirement.

Kyle’s victory in California ran the brothers’ Cup Series total to 95, moving them ahead of Bobby and Donnie Allison into first place on NASCAR’s all-time list. Kurt won 34 Cup races and his younger brother said he’s going to miss their sibling rivalry.

“When I saw some of my paint scheme renderings for the new year they didn’t have my first name on them anymore, just my last name, and that made it a little weird,” the former Ky. Busch said about Ku. Busch, which is how they have been identified in TV graphics since Kyle made his Cup debut at LVMS in 2004. “It was fun to have him there and coming to see us in victory lane — he was kind of emotional afterward. He’s getting soft in his old age.”

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Junior high swimming at Belmont — 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday
Jay County — Junior high swimming vs. South Adams — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today
7:30 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Newcastle United at Manchester City (USA)
10 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Leeds United at Chelsea (USA)

Noon — Men’s college basketball: Alabama at Texas A&M (CBS); Iowa State at Baylor (ESPN2); Seton Hall at Providence (FOX); Ohio State at Michigan State (ESPN)
12:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: George Mason at Richmond (USA)

12:30 p.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Leicester City at Southampton (NBC)
1 p.m. — NHL hockey: New York Rangers at Boston Bruins (ABC)
2 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Louisville at Virginia (ESPN2); St. John’s at Marquette (FOX); Tennessee at Auburn (ESPN); Kentucky at Arkansas (CBS)

2:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: St. Bonaventure at Massachusetts (USA)
2:30 p.m. — Golf: PGA Tour — Arnold Palmer Invitational (NBC)

3:30 p.m. — NHL hockey: Colorado Avalanche at Dallas Stars (ABC)

4 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Kansas at Texas (ESPN); Stanford at Oregon (CBS); Florida State at Virginia Tech (ESPN2)

4:30 p.m. — Auto racing: NASCAR Xfinity Series — Alcoso Uniforms 300 (FS1)

5 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Wake Forest at Syracuse (Bally Indiana)

6 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Oklahoma State at Texas Tech (ESPN2)

6:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Duke at North Carolina (ESPN)

7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Butler at Xavier (FS1)

7:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Connecticut at Villanova (FOX)

8:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Philadelphia 76ers at Milwaukee Bucks (ABC)

9 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Creighton at DePaul (FS1)

10 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Arizona at UCLA (ESPN)

10:30 p.m. — NHL hockey: St. Louis Blues at Los Angeles Kings (Bally Indiana)

11 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Arizona State at USC (FS1)

Sunday
9 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Everton at Nottingham Forest (USA)

10 a.m. — Auto racing: Formula 1 — Bahrain Grand Prix (ESPN)

11:30 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Manchester United at Liverpool (USA)

Noon — Men’s college basketball: Houston at Memphis (CBS); Maryland at Penn State (BTN)

Noon — Auto racing: IndyCar — Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg (NBC)

12:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Illinois at Purdue (FOX)

1 p.m. — NBA basketball: Phoenix Suns at Dallas Mavericks (ABC)

2 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Nebraska at Iowa (BTN)

2:30 p.m. — Golf: PGA Tour — Arnold Palmer Invitational (NBC)

3 p.m. — NHL hockey: Tampa Bay Lightning at Carolina Hurricanes (TNT)

3:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Indiana Pacers at Chicago Bulls (Bally Indiana)

3:30 p.m. — Auto racing: NASCAR Cup Series — Pennzoil 400 Gran Prix (FOX)

4:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Michigan at Indiana (CBS)

7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: New York Knicks at Boston Celtics (ESPN)

7:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Northwestern at Rutgers (BTN); Wisconsin at Minnesota (FS1)

8 p.m. — XFL football: San Antonio Brahmas at Houston Roughnecks (ESPN2)

10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Memphis Grizzlies at Los Angeles Clippers (ESPN)

Monday
3 p.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Fulham at Brentford (USA)

7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Philadelphia 76ers at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)

7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Southern Conference championship (ESPN); Sun Belt Championship (ESPN2)

9 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: West Coast Conference semifinal (ESPN)

9:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Horizon League semifinal (ESPN2)

11:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: West Coast Conference semifinal (ESPN2)

Tuesday
3 p.m. — Soccer: UEFA Champions League — Borussia Dortmund at Chelsea (CBS)

6 p.m. — Soccer: CONCACAF Champions League — Austin at Violette AC (FS1)

7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Horizon League championship (ESPN); NEC Championship (ESPN2)

7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Philadelphia 76ers at Minnesota Timberwolves (TNT)

8 p.m. — Soccer: CONCACAF Champions League — Philadelphia Union at Alianza (FS1)

9 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: WCC Championship (ESPN); Summit League Championship (ESPN2)

9 p.m. — NHL hockey: St. Louis Blues at Arizona Coyotes (Bally Indiana)

10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Memphis Grizzlies at Los Angeles Lakers (TNT)

11 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Big Sky semifinal (ESPN2)

Wednesday
11:30 a.m. — Men’s college basketball: Atlantic 10 Tournament (USA)

Noon — Men’s college basketball: ACC Tournament (ESPN)

2 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Atlantic 10 Tournament (USA)

2:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: ACC Tournament (ESPN)

3 p.m. — Soccer: UEFA Champions League — Milan at Tottenham Hotspur (CBS)

5 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Atlantic 10 Tournament (USA); Southland Championship (ESPN2)

6:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Big Ten Tournament (BTN)

7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: ACC Tournament (ESPN2)

7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Dallas Mavericks at New Orleans Pelicans (ESPN)

7:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Atlantic 10 Tournament (USA)

7:30 p.m. — NHL hockey: Chicago Blackhawks at Detroit Red Wings (TNT)

9 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Big Ten Tournament (BTN)

9:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: ACC Tournament (ESPN2)

10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Toronto Raptors at Los Angeles Clippers (ESPN)

10 p.m. — NHL hockey: Anaheim Ducks at Vancouver Canucks (TNT)

11:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Big Sky Championship (ESPN2)

Local notes

PJL registration set
Portland Junior League baseball and softball leagues are now open for registration.

Portland Junior League is hosting registration sessions from 9 a.m. to noon today and March 11 at Jay Community Center. There will also be a sign-up session from 6 to 8 p.m. March 15 at JCC.

Online registration is also available via the Portland Junior League page on Facebook.

Leagues are open to players ages 5 through 15.

Soccer/football sign-ups open
Registration is open for Jay Community Center’s Boomer spring soccer and flag football leagues.

Soccer is open to players ages 3 through 14 while flag football is open to ages 3 through 12. The registration fee is \$60 for each.

The deadline is March 13.

For more information, visit jaycc.org.

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.

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To have an event listed in “Sports on tap,” email details to sports@theocr.com.

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



The deadline is March 31.

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@theocr.com (preferred) or The Commercial Review, Teacher of the Year nomination, P.O. Box 1049, Portland, IN 47371



Sports

Stroud, Smith-Njigba admit regrets

By **MARCUS HARTMAN**
Springfield News-Sun
Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — C.J. Stroud and Jaxon Smith-Njigba met the media Friday at the NFL Scouting Combine with eyes on their futures. But in a change of pace from most interviews, the former Ohio State standouts also both admitted some regrets from last season.

For Smith-Njigba, the lament was trying to come back too soon from a hamstring injury that ultimately limited him to three games.

"Definitely wish I would have just been more patient," the junior from Texas said in his first interviews since announcing he would not play in Ohio State's College Football Playoff semifinal against Georgia in December. "But I'm a competitor. Wanted to be out there."

After being injured in the season-opening win over Notre Dame, he sat out the second game of the season against Arkansas State before giving it a go briefly against Toledo in week three.

Smith-Njigba returned for game seven against Iowa but again aggravated the injury, and that was the last he would be seen in an Ohio State uniform.

See **Regrets** page 9



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Sectional shot

Jay County High School senior Bennett Weitzel puts up a shot over Colin Gardner of Frankton during the opening round of the Class 3A Sectional 24 tournament Wednesday at New Castle. Weitzel scored 10 points for the Patriots, whose season came to an end with a 44-39 defeat.

Win leaves Busch with air of vindication

By **RON KANTOWSKI**
Las Vegas Review-Journal
Tribune News Service

LAS VEGAS — A day after driving into victory lane with a new racing team, Kyle Busch was feeling vindicated and invigorated.

People who had questioned his move to Richard Childress Racing were now saying lots of nice things after the two-time NASCAR champion from Las Vegas steered his No. 8 Chevrolet into victory lane at frigid Auto Club Speedway in California.

It happened Sunday, in just his second race with RCR and only a week after a late pileup knocked him out of contention at the Daytona 500 he seemed destined to win.

Everybody seemed overjoyed that the often polarizing veteran was back on top. Fans cheered enthusiastically when he performed his traditional victory bow. Broadcasters sang praises. Even fierce rivals applauded his sudden return to super relevancy.

"Couldn't be more happy for @KyleBusch," wrote 2021 Cup Series champion Kyle Larson in a Twitter post. "The guy is one of the best race car drivers of all time and will always be. I'm glad it only took him two races to remind the world."

Because Busch was speaking on Monday, and he and Larson weren't

scheduled to go wheel-to-wheel again until Sunday's Pennzoil 400 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, he seemed genuinely moved. He will be shooting for an elusive second victory on his hometown oval after winning here in 2009.

"We've had a lot of great battles, a lot of hard battles. We've run into each other a few times," Busch said of Larson after making it 19 consecutive seasons in which he has won at least one Cup Series race, erasing a record formerly held by NASCAR legend Richard Petty. "But we've always respected each other and know that we can get out (of our cars) and shake hands about it."

Still in his racing prime, Busch, 37, ranks ninth in all-time Cup victories with 61 and is the winningest driver in NASCAR history with 225 combined wins in the Cup, Xfinity and Truck Series. (He'll run in all three divisions this weekend at LVMS).

But there were those who believed the victory burnouts would become less frequent after his longtime sponsor, Mars Incorporated, pulled out of NASCAR after the 2022 season. The candy giant's decision forced Busch to end his wildly successful 15-year run with powerhouse Joe Gibbs Racing and seek employment elsewhere.

See **Busch** page 9

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