



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Shoulder ride

Two-year-old Alden Zaugg of Portland rides on dad Lane Zaugg's shoulders Friday night while trick-or-treating at the corner of Meridian and Main streets in downtown Portland. Local businesses and organizations lined the streets and Brick Alley to take part in the Jay County Chamber of Commerce Merchant Trick or Treat.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Portland Police Department installed radar speed signs this week on Blaine Pike and Seventh Street. Pictured above, the sign along Blaine Pike near its intersection with county road 150 South records a truck's speed as it enters Portland.

Slow down

New signs encourage drivers to adjust speed

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Slow down. That's the message Portland Police Department hopes to get across with the new radar speed signs mounted this week on Blaine Pike and Seventh Street. The radars display drivers' speeds as they drive into the city. "I've seen them in other communities," said Portland Police Chief Dustin Mock. "(This is) something that I have been wanting to do for a while." Portland Police Department shared a post about the new signs on Facebook. Drivers having a reminder in real-time helps them to self-correct, the post says, avoiding stops and fines. Data from the signs will help police

focus their resources to prevent future crashes and injuries. The equipment comes from Radarsign of Marietta, Georgia. Portland Police Department's two radar speed signs, priced at \$3,000 each, include an 11-inch LED display that logs traffic volume, average speeds and other information. The devices are also portable, meaning city employees can move them around Portland as needed. As of Thursday, Seventh Street's radar sits just west of Green Park Cemetery, and Blaine Pike's sits just northeast of county road 150 South. "We've watched the area since we've installed them," Mock said. "We've seen a drastic reduction in speed already." See Slow page 2

Judges issue SNAP rulings

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

A pair of federal judges ruled that emergency funding must be used to keep food aid flowing. If, when and how that will happen is still in question. Local businesses and nonprofits have plans to help in the interim. U.S. District Judge John McConnell in Rhode Island announced that he would order the U.S. Department of Agriculture to distribute contingency money "as soon as possible" for November Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani in Massachusetts rejected the Trump administration's stance that it is legally banned from using alternative funding sources for the program during the ongoing government shutdown.

Local businesses offering meals, discounts to help

Before Friday's rulings, SNAP benefits were expected to be cut off beginning today, with states left to decide whether they would step in to fill the gap. (The federal government had warned that states would not later be reimbursed if they did so.) Indiana's State Budget Committee rejected a push this week to use state surplus funding to help low-income Hoosiers and food banks. On Thurs-

day, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, a Republican, signed an executive order directing the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to provide up to \$25 million to help those who would be impacted by the suspension of federal SNAP benefits. Locally, some business owners were stepping in to provide assistance. Firehouse BBQ and Blues announced it will be offering 50 free meals of pulled chicken, green beans, buns and BBQ sauce for pickup each Sunday at its locations, including 126 E. Commerce St., Dunkirk. The meals will be available from noon to 1 p.m. on Sundays until SNAP benefits are reinstated. The Block-Bites Truck, a local food truck, planned to offer a 20% discount on all products today. See SNAP page 2

Postmaster retires

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

After more than 39 years at Portland Post Office, postmaster Paul Keen has retired. Postal workers celebrated Keen's retirement Friday morning. Keen, 65, has served as Portland postmaster since 2014. He's also worked in other capacities at the Portland branch, including as the officer in charge. "It's pretty much like family, I've been here so long," said Keen, a 1978 Jay County High School graduate. Keen's career in postal work came with a transition to technology. He talked about the change in switching from manual service to using computers on a day-to-day basis.

Keen leaves position after 39 years of service

Detailed carrier and package tracking has also become heavily integrated. Postmasters coordinate administrative and management services for the U.S. Postal Service offices, delegating work among employees. His job, he added, is a responsibility stretching 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

What's kept him at the post office for nearly four decades? "Probably the people," he said, referencing the large group gathered Friday morning at the post office for his retirement party. During a short speech he gave while surrounded by coworkers, he told the team they've become like brothers and sisters to him. It's a mutual feeling. Portland Post Office clerk Carrie Fairchild described him as a friend and father figure. "I've enjoyed working with him more so than any postmaster I've ever had," said Fairchild, who also spent time at post offices in Bryant and Montpelier. See Retires page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Greg Wellman and Paul Keen laugh together Friday morning at Portland Post Office. Keen celebrated his retirement this week after working for the office for more than 39 years. He and Wellman — another former Portland Post Office worker who retired last year — attended Bloomfield Elementary School around the same time.

Deaths

Lana Johnson, 80, Greenfield
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 54 degrees on Halloween. The low was 35. The high will be in the mid 50s today under partly cloudy skies. Expect similar conditions Sunday, with the high then climbing into the upper 50s Monday. See page 2 for an extended forecast.

In review

Fellowship Baptist Church of rural Portland will host its Family Fall Festival from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday. It will include hayrides, games, food, activities and a truck-or-treat. The event is free and open to the public. The church is located at 289 S. 200 West, Portland.

Coming up

Tuesday — Results from the FRHS volleyball team's regional title match.
Wednesday — Details from next week's Portland City Council meeting.
Thursday — Coverage of next week's Jay County Development Corporation meeting.

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Local

Retrospect

Ogden committed to BSU

Twenty-five years ago this week, a local diver was focusing on her future. The Nov. 1, 2000, edition of The Commercial Review featured a story about Jay County High School senior Dawn Ogden committing to extend her athletic career as a diver at Ball State University.

Ogden, who transferred to JCHS during the summer before her junior season, had wanted to be a Cardinal athlete since she was 10 or 11 years old. She was also looking toward loftier goals.

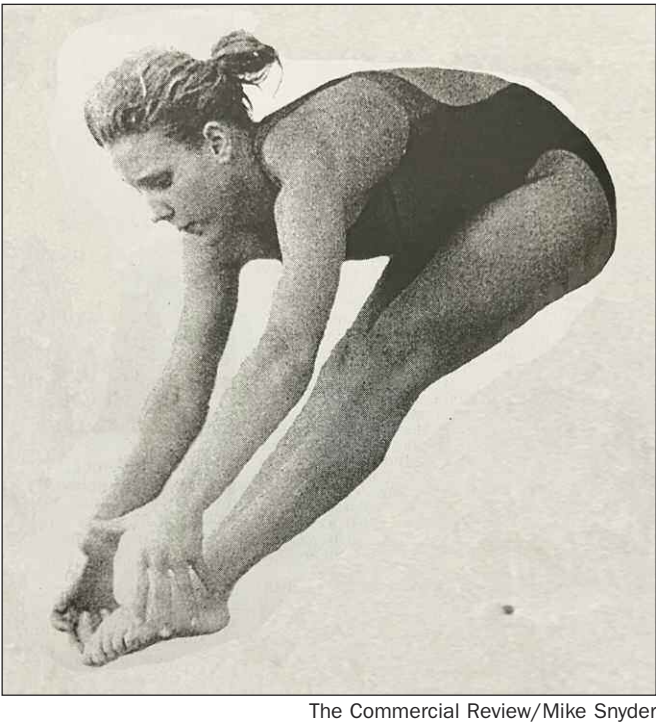
“If I do (diving) exclusively, hopefully more will come out of it than just college,” said Ogden, who was a three-sport state qualifier in diving, gymnastics and track the previous year. “That’s my goal, maybe the 2004 or 2008 Olympics. I kind of feel dumb saying that, but ... it’s always been my goal to be in the Olympics. I haven’t hit my

peak yet, so I can get a lot better. I’ve got a mission just to go out and work as hard as I can to get better.”

Ogden was considering running track in addition to diving at Ball State, where she planned to study exercise science.

She had plans to continue competing in both gymnastics and diving during her senior season with the Patriots, as well as track in the spring. She was a three-time state qualifier in diving, finishing 28th in 1998, 20th in 1999 and 11th in 2000. In gymnastics, she was 10th in the state all-around competition as a junior, including a seventh-place finish on the uneven parallel bars.

“I’m really excited about (the scholarship), and it does make my hard work worth a lot more than what I thought it was,” said Ogden. “All these practices ... I’ve been really tired at times. It just seems like it’s all paying off.”



The Commercial Review/Mike Snyder

Dawn Ogden dives during her junior season at Jay County High School. Ogden committed to dive at Ball State University on Oct. 29, 2000. She signed her national letter of intent about a week later. As a junior at JCHS after transferring from Muncie Southside, Ogden reached the state finals in diving, gymnastics and track.

CR almanac

Sunday 11/2	Monday 11/3	Tuesday 11/4	Wednesday 11/5	Thursday 11/6
56/37 Mostly cloudy skies on Sunday when the high will be in the low to mid 50s.	59/33 Monday's weather looks like sunny skies with the high reaching 59 degrees.	62/46 Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast for Tuesday when the low will be around 46.	66/36 Partly cloudy skies are expected Wednesday when the low may hit 36.	56/40 Mostly sunny skies are expected Thursday when the high may hit 56.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 7-5-3 Daily Four: 0-6-4-1 Quick Draw: 2-6-15-18-22-32-34-35-38-41-42-44-56-59-61-62-68-69-70-76	Pick 3: 0-6-4 Pick 4: 1-0-0-7 Pick 5: 3-4-8-7-1
Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$400 million	
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$754 million	
Ohio Midday	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.30 Dec. corn4.40	Wheat4.89
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.26 Oct./Nov. corn4.31 Nov./Dec. corn4.46	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.19 Nov. corn4.22 Beans10.78 Nov. beans10.78 Wheat5.24
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.22 Nov. corn4.24 Beans10.95 Nov. beans11.00	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.17 Nov. corn4.17 Beans10.60 Nov. beans10.60 Wheat4.79

Today in history

In 1512 , Michelangelo's fresco on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican was open to the public for the first time.	been housed in the U.S. Capitol's Congressional Reading Room. Since then, two more buildings have been added to the Library of Congress complex.
In 1611 , “The Tempest” by William Shakespeare was performed publicly for the first time.	In 1972 , the Dunkirk High School boys basketball team opened its season with an 83-71 victory over Pennville. All five Speedcats scored in double figures, with Cliff Dunnington, Paul Hart and Kim Younkin all totaling 18 points.
In 1755 , an earthquake in Lisbon, Portugal, killed an estimated 30,000 and destroyed more than 9,000 buildings.	In 2021 , Portland City Council approved a bonus structure — it would pay \$1,000 after the first year, \$1,500 after the second year and \$2,500 after the third year — for “lateral transfers” in an effort to attract experienced police officers.
In 1897 , the new Library of Congress building opened. The facility had previously	—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Monday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.
Tuesday 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners executive session, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County	Thursday 5:15 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.

Obituaries

Lana Johnson
Sept. 6, 1945-Oct. 22, 2025

Lana Kay (Armstrong) Johnson, 80, passed away at her home in Greenfield on Oct. 22, 2025.

She was born on Sept. 6, 1945, in Blackford County to the late Gail and Mary M. Armstrong. Lana married her lifelong love, Keith E. Johnson, on Aug. 30, 1964, and together they had one son, Scott Keith Johnson.

Both Keith and Scott preceded Lana in death, and she is now joyfully reunited with them.

Lana graduated from Redkey High School in 1964, and she was honored to serve as the Redkey Tomato Queen with grace and elegance in 1962. Professionally, Lana worked at Indiana Glass and later at American Electric Power (AEP), where she formed many lasting friendships.

Lana and Keith joyfully relocated to Punta Gorda, Florida, where she remained over 20 years until recently returning to Indiana to be closer to family and friends. During her time in Florida, Lana worked for the Punta Gorda School System, retiring in 2019.

Lana cherished her many friendships from throughout her years in Redkey, Punta Gorda and Greenfield. Lana lived her life to the fullest and would encourage others to “use the fancy dishes, take the special vacation and wear the nice outfit with the good jewelry.” She loved to travel, collecting unique jewelry from her various adventures.

Lana had a deep passion for her



Johnson

pets, especially her constant companion over the last several years, Amber kitty, whom she lost in 2024, and her newest kitty, Sophie, who brought her immense joy since she arrived earlier this year.

Lana was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Keith; her son Scott; her siblings Sharon Grayson and Jim Armstrong; and several extended family members.

She is survived by several nieces and nephews; sisters- and brothers-in-law; and many very dear friends.

Lana will be remembered for her strength, independence, kindness and thoughtfulness as a loving aunt and friend.

Graveside services will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025, at Hillcrest Cemetery in Redkey.

Arrangements have been entrusted to MJS Mortuaries – Redkey Chapel

Retires ...

Continued from page 1

Former postal worker Greg Wellman, a longtime friend, attended Bloomfield Elementary School with Keen. They both served in Jay County post offices until Wellman's retirement in 2024. He recalled Jay County residents popping into the post office simply to chat with Keen. Not because he was postmaster, Wellman explained, but because he was a “people person.”

“He cares about other people to a fault,” Wellman said, recalling various times Keen had taken heat for others. “But he makes a great boss. He was always protecting us all the time.”

Keen plans to spend his retirement starting his “Hoosier Handyman” business and doing small construction jobs. An area landlord, he’s built multiple houses, including his own.

Berne postmaster Cynthia Reinhart will take over Keen's role. She currently serves as president of Indiana's chapter of United Postmasters and Managers of America and has also worked in various capacities at Decatur Post Office in her hometown.

Eaton postmaster Kip VanSkyock, who worked for Dunkirk and Portland branches as a carrier as well as a local supervisor for several years, said

Keen's knowledge of the postal world has helped many folks over the years. He knows his job well, VanSkyock said, adding that Portland Post Office has been lucky to have him in charge.

“You don’t find many people who spend 39 and a half years in one place, especially these days,” he said, addressing Keen in a speech Friday morning. “It has been an honor to work with you.”

Slow ...

Continued from page 1

Portland Street and Parks Department superintendent Matt Shauver said he would like to see the signs rotated on a few different streets, pointing out that if radar signs are placed in one spot too long, drivers

may start ignoring them. Other locations could include along Boundary Pike, Wayne Street and Charles Street.

Comparing the cost and toll of injuries and crashes to the cost of the signs, Mock said he felt the signs were worth the investment.

“Traffic safety is one of our core responsibilities,” Mock said. “Smart tools like these radar street signs are what help us determine where we can patrol, where we can make scheduled adjustments if needed.”

SNAP ...

Continued from page 1

Firehouse co-owner Nick Arbogast explained that he first saw the idea via 5 Arch Brewing Co. of Centerville and he and business partner Dustin Garvin jumped on board, as did several other restaurants.

“We loved the idea, love helping people in need,” said Arbogast, emphasizing a commitment to community. “We wanted to give back to the people that are always supporting us in our communities.”

He's hopeful others in Jay County will join the effort.

“Coming together in times of need is essential to have a thriving community,” he said. “I really hope that we don’t have to turn anybody away. My goal is to get other people on board so that way there's more resources.”

Second Harvest Food Bank responded to the impending loss of funding, saying more than 50,000 residents in its service area. That includes \$261,711 in benefits to 1,452 Jay County residents, 7.2% of the county's population.

“This shutdown is more than a political stalemate. It's a crisis for families who depend on SNAP to put food on the table,” said Bekah Clawson, Second Harvest president & CEO, in a news release. “We’re seeing food insecurity already at record highs, and with benefits suspended, families are suddenly left without

the most basic resources. We will do everything we can to respond, but this is a moment that requires all of us to step up.”

The release said Second Harvest is activating its emergency response plan to increase food distributions in its service area, which includes Jay, Blackford, Randolph, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Madison and Wabash counties. There was already a special distribution Friday at Jay County Fairgrounds. Another tailgate food distribution will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday at Jay County Fairgrounds.

The distribution schedule and other options for

assistance are available at curehunger.org/get-help. Resources listed in Jay County include:

- Trinity ArchBridge Church Food Pantry — 3:30 to 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 323 S. Meridian St., Portland
- Asbury United Methodist Church Senior Safety Net — 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at 204 E. Arch St., Portland
- Dunkirk Community Food Pantry — 3 to 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at

Dunkirk Church of the Nazarene, 226 E. Center St., Dunkirk

Second Harvest also asked for donations via curehunger.org/donate and volunteers via curehunger.org/get-involved/volunteer.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is funded in November, the organization said.

Even with the court orders, the USDA said Friday that SNAP benefits could be delayed or only partially funded because contingency money will not cover a full month.

SERVICES

Saturday
Ford, Debra: 1 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 402 N. Ship St., Portland.

Thursday
Murphy, Ann: 2 p.m., Zechar Bailey Funeral Home, 1499 N. Broadway St., Greenville, Ohio.
Johnson, Lana: 2:30 p.m. Hillcrest Cemetery, Redkey.

Service listings provided by
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4-7 P.M.
All meals \$10.00

Drive-thru OR Dine-in

All proceeds To Friends in Need Fund

Animals come out of costumes on holiday

By RICK KOGAN
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

CHICAGO — No matter what you may think (or have heard), dogs and cats can't talk.

Neither can snakes or guinea pigs or any other species of animals that people consider pets. So it is impossible for any of them to tell you what they think of the increasingly popular habit of people dressing them up in costumes for Halloween.

This is some of what Maureen Schulman saw on Saturday when she served as one of the judges for the 38th Annual Doggy and Kitty Halloween Party and Costume Parade held in the park to the east of Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art.

"Three hundred and fifty dogs, and two pairs of cats, dressed to the nines," she said. "There was a Louvre jewel thief with the owner wearing a hat with the museum on top, and her dog, dressed as a thief, dripping in jewels. There was a 'Bark to the Future' complete with a little DeLorean car, a Trader Joe's crew member, and Oscar the Grouch, complete with trash can. A lot of good costumes. Four people dressed as the rapper Pitbull, accompanied by their rescue pit bull dogs.

"People love dressing up with their animals because,

Parade in Chicago draws hundreds of pets

let's face it, how often does one get to take one's pet to a party? The atmosphere was so festive that hundreds of pet-less onlookers stood on the museum's sculpture garden balcony and perimeter to cheer on the participants."

She was a judge for the contest, as I had been in years past, and her enthusiasm took me even further back in time because my relationship with costumed pets started decades ago at the bygone Parkview Pet Store. Without any argument, that is where our city's pet costume contests began in the early 1970s. The store was owned by Donna Dunlap, who told me Sunday, "At first we just thought it would be fun and the sort of event that would appeal to kids, so we scheduled it for after school on Halloween day."

The first year, about 15 contestants turned up on a gloomy, chilly Tuesday and, Dunlap remembers, "only three of them were children." But she remembers one man who came

with a Mason jar with a goldfish inside and a dog collar and leash around the neck of the jar, and tried to convince her that his entry was an Afghan hound who was dressed as a goldfish.

"Over the years, the event grew," Dunlap said. "We closed part of the street, had a portable stage, sound system and a crowd of hundreds of people cheering their favorite costumes."

For a number of years, I was among the judges, along with such other folks as the late actor Ron Dean, theater producer Jane Sahlins, columnist Mike Royko and many other theaterfolk (Dunlap was deeply tied to the local theater scene).

"Most of the contestants were dogs," said Dunlap. "But there were also cats and gerbils, an occasional iguana, now and then a bird, lots of turtles, once a tarantula. One year, a horse van pulled up, the door was opened, and out trotted a horse dressed as Michael Jackson. An immediate crowd

favorite. The woman who owned the horse became a regular, and brought the horse every Halloween after that from a fairly distant suburb. One year, my own personal favorite, she came as a carefully detailed yellow cab."

It was always a great time, a colorful, silly day.

But, as Dunlap told me, "Now and then someone chastised me for degrading dogs by placing them on the stage in costumes. For the record, no one ever spoke to me curtly as to how I was demeaning iguanas. I do not claim to have any clue as to how a snail feels when he is rolling around in a race car pretending he is Mario Andretti. I do know, however, that dogs thrive on learning new things and are eager to experience group activities. I have never seen a dog rip off his costume and eat it. I respect any venture that allows a dog and an owner to join in learning a shared task and to also provide entertainment and camaraderie for a community of neighbors. I see no downside to this."

Longtime dog owner and trainer Jennifer Boznos agrees, saying, "Donna brought people, and their dogs, together. Parkview was more than a pet store. It was a gathering place for neighborhood pet owners. The best part about the Halloween costume contest was that it was pure fun. The dogs

and owners could be close to each other and laugh and admire each other. Today it's all defense and 'Don't let your dog get close to mine! He's not friendly!' In this dog age of ultra reactivity and anxiety medication, we need more Parkview Halloween costume contests."

Parkview closed in the late 1990s. The Halloween pet costume parties stopped. But there is no stopping the trend. The National Retail Federation's annual survey, conducted by Prosper Insights & Analytics, shows that projections for 2025 Halloween spending were more than \$13 billion. Of that, some \$860 million is expected to be spent on pet costumes, with the most popular being pumpkin, hot dog, bat, ghost and bumblebee.

In the early 1990s, I had a German shepherd named Deadline. The stores had run out of the skeleton costumes I wanted to buy for him to wear to the Parkview contest, so I had to sadly settle for a pair of bright red horns that I affixed to his head and a red cape strapped to his back. He growled and snapped at the lens of a WLS-Ch. 7 camera that was shoved in his face on contest day. That video clip was picked up by other ABC stations around the country. It was his 15 minutes of fame and one of my fondest Halloween memories.

Neighbor passes judgment on seniors

DEAR ABBY: My neighbor is 80. She's my political opposite. She's known me since I was 13. Her husband died 10 or so years ago. All she does all day is stay inside her house (even when it's sunny) and watch TV news. I try to be nice to her because she's alone and probably depressed, but sometimes I want to curse her to high heaven.

I borrowed \$40 from her and told her I'd give it back the next day. Well, I didn't get paid until two days later. I saw her in the driveway the next day, and she angrily asked, "Where's my money?" I told her the story and got it back to her promptly.

We want to check on elderly folks, but sometimes they're nasty and cranky, and I just want to leave her alone. My mom died at 89, and she was NEVER like that. What gives with some of these older people? — NEIGHBOR IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR NEIGHBOR: I'll give you a clue about "what gives" with your neighbor. You asked to borrow \$40 from a retired senior, promising to return the money in 24 hours. When the money wasn't forthcoming, she became annoyed and concerned. Stop blaming all seniors for the way

Dear Abby



one of them reacted when you didn't keep your word, and you will have fewer problems with them.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a middle-aged adult with a dilemma about a friend who lacks social awareness. I had told her in the past that I had a problem with a mutual friend, "Michelle," whom I found toxic and disrespectful of my family. She responded that it was my issue, not Michelle's, so I distanced myself from both of them for a few months.

Later, she suddenly texted me for a lunch she wanted to have with the three of us. At the time, I was burying my mother-in-law and didn't respond immediately. The next day, she insisted on an answer as the lunch was in a few days. I responded that I was "unavailable for the foreseeable future," and for them to

enjoy.

How do I sever this relationship with these clueless women of luxury? If I keep saying I'm unavailable, they'll ask when I WILL be available. To make matters worse, they like to get together for traditional holiday luncheons and dinners with their spouses. I feel drained of energy after I've been in their company. Please help. — PULLING AWAY IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR PULLING AWAY: You have two choices regarding how to handle this. The first is to continue being "busy," and when asked when you will be available, tell them you don't know. The other would be to bite the bullet and tell them that you no longer enjoy those get-togethers and don't want to participate in them anymore.

DEAR READERS: Time really flies! Daylight saving ends at 2 a.m. Sunday for most folks. If you are one of them, don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour tonight at bedtime. And while you're at it, be sure to put fresh batteries in your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors. — LOVE, ABBY

Community Calendar

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

Today
ALCOHOLICS ANONY- ROAD RIDERS FOR

MOUS — 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.

JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

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.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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

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It's time to focus on constituents

To the editor:
Indiana Gov. Mike Braun has called a special session of the Indiana Legislature in order to consider the idea of redistricting, out of cycle, in order to game the system in an effort to shift the two Democratic congressional districts in Indiana to attempt to swing them Republican.
As a lifelong Republican, I would certainly like to see more Republican seats held by our party, but is this the right and ethical way to do so? Would it actually have the potential to backfire? And what do the constituents of Indiana think we should do?
Ethically, my partisan view has always been that my party does things the right way, that we

Letters to the Editor

respect our system of government and that we'd take the high road, tell the truth and respect the voters to affirm or deny our platform. Also, I think most vote for a party because they believe in the underlying principles of the platform. That's true conservatism.
However, our state elected officials represent the wants and needs of their state, not blindly following the whims of the presi-

dent. This action would go against our process and redraw districts already confirmed by the Indiana Republican party at large. It is clearly a violation of the process and is disingenuous, at best.
Secondly, this has the potential to backfire. Looking at Andre Carson's seat in the 7th District, he claimed over 68% of the votes in his district in 2024. The plan would be to try to divide his district and push it to three Republican districts. This means that, in effect, you are pushing a big number of Democratic votes into Republican districts. This could backfire, allowing those districts to be in play, especially if the Democrats would run moderate candidates in areas that would be

made up of many moderate, suburban Republican voters.
Finally, what do the people say? In a poll published by the Indianapolis Star on Oct. 14, only 21% of voters agreed we should redraw our districts to offset Democratic efforts to do the same. And 69% said there is no need to spend the time and money (estimated to be over \$500,000) in that effort. The same poll cites that only 29% of Hoosier voters viewed the legislature favorably.
The last session of the legislature produced Senate Enrolled Act 1. This law was widely unpopular, and our elected officials heard significant pushback from local officials but still followed the mandate of our governor and passed the bill. This law has had a

tremendous impact on local units of government, and it only gets worse as time goes on.
Further, from my estimation, after studying the facts in front of us, it will cost a vast majority of Jay County residents a significant increase in total taxes going forward.
It's time for our elected officials to listen to their voters, follow the advice of former Gov. Mitch Daniels and do the right thing — not only say no to redistricting, but while you're there go ahead and fix what you have broken in SEA 1 and serve your constituents.
Bryan Alexander
Portland
Editor's note: Alexander is a member of Jay County Council.

Serve the people, stand up to power

How many of our Indiana legislators will stand strong?
We don't know. But we're going to find out.

For months, President Donald Trump and other Republicans at the federal level have been pushing some state legislatures, including Indiana's, to redraw congressional districts ahead of the 2026 election cycle. This is an effort to preserve the GOP's narrow majority in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The first such redistricting took place in Republican-leaning Texas. Missouri and North Carolina followed suit.

Now, Democrat-leaning California has joined them with Proposition 50, a ballot issue to redraw Congressional districts.

To be clear, all of this is ridiculous, regardless of party.

Redistricting is a process we go through every 10 years, after the census is completed. It's done that way to ensure voter representation and to make adjustments based on population shifts.

It should not be done in an attempt to hold on to power.

We were thrilled on Oct. 22 when Molly Swigart, spokeswoman for the Indiana Senate Republican caucus, put out a statement.

"The votes aren't there for redistricting," she said.

Nonetheless, five days later Indiana Gov. Mike Braun called for a special session to handle redistricting and some tax issues.

By the end of that same day, four more Republicans, including State Sen. Scott Alexander, who represents Randolph and Delaware counties, issued statements supporting redistricting.

"In light of recent events, including the federal government shutdown, and after much thought and consideration, I have decided I will be supporting efforts to redistrict Indiana's congressional districts," Alexander said.

This week, we reached out to other state legislators who represent the voters in our coverage area.

J.D. Prescott, who in August said he opposed redistricting, now says he will support it, provided the maps are fair. He cited other states setting a precedent and said that counting people living in the country illegally gave some states more representation than they should have received. (The U.S.

Editorial

Census counts all residents — citizens and non-citizens — living in the country at the time of the census, according to census.gov. That is not new.)

To say we're disappointed in these stances from Prescott and Alexander is an understatement.

At the same time, we are hopeful that those who have not articulated a clear stance on the issue will come down against redistricting.

State Rep. Matt Lehman (R-Berne) and State Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle), who did not respond to our question, could be particularly important in this discussion because of their length of service and leadership roles in the Indiana Statehouse. Both are level-headed and well-respected.

Those qualities give us a glimmer of hope.

This isn't about Republican and Democrat, red and blue, conservative and liberal. This is about integrity.

Sometimes in life, one must stand up and do the right thing.

Sometimes it's difficult. That's especially true when there is pressure.

It's even more difficult when that pressure is coming from the president.

Those are the times when it is even more important to stand strong. Those are the moments that test whether our principles are real or easily bent when it truly matters.

Beyond everything above, it seems especially callous for national elected officials to be pushing redistricting and state legislators to be considering it when we are in the midst of a month-long federal government shutdown that is affecting everyday Americans, including Hoosiers. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, formerly known as food stamps, are projected to run out today.

The juxtaposition, though, is poignant.

State-level politicians have an important choice to make.

Are they in office to protect their power, and that of the president?

Or are they there to serve the people?

We hope they choose the latter. — R.C.



Recognize that this is a bad deal

By JOHN KRULL

TheStatehouseFile.com

Donald Trump now is teaching Indiana Republicans a hard lesson about what it means to serve a president who cares only about himself.

Trump and his vice president, JD Vance, have applied hammer and tongs to Hoosier lawmakers in the GOP caucuses to get them to call a special session to conjure up new, gerrymandered maps for the state's nine congressional districts. The president and his unquestioning minions think that rigging the maps might allow Republicans to hold onto the U.S. House of Representatives in next year's midterm elections.

That's important because Trump and — more important — his subordinates fear the congressional investigations into misconduct in the executive branch should Democrats regain control of the House. The president may be somewhat immunized, courtesy of a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision, from prosecution and punishment for malfeasance, but his aides do not enjoy the same protection.

Hoosier Republicans, though, have been reluctant to sign onto Trump's quest to stack the deck.

For at least four good reasons.

The first is that the Indiana Constitution has a prohibition against redistricting in the middle of the decade-long census period. Savvy GOP lawmakers — yes, they do still exist — know that any plan they come up with will face an immediate challenge in court, a challenge that has a better-than-even chance of prevailing.

If it does, these Hoosier Republican legislators, many of whom will be on the ballot themselves next year, will have risked alienating the electorate with nothing to show

John Krull



for their efforts but the legal bills racked up in an ill-advised fight.

Indiana voters won't be able to vent their anger on Trump, who — his clickbaity talk of a third term aside — will not grace a ballot again.

But the Hoosier lawmakers will be right there, like a pinata waiting for angry taxpayers to take a whack at.

And those voters likely will be angry.

Poll after poll indicates that Hoosiers — whether they be independents, Democrats and even, yes, Republicans — do not want the Indiana General Assembly to rewrite the rules and redraw the maps simply to help Donald Trump steal an election. Indiana voters are smart enough to realize that such redistricting trickery is an attempt to thwart rather than implement their will and will read it as an insult.

Then there's also the possibility that, even if the courts do okay these new maps, they don't work the way they're supposed to.

At present, Republicans control seven of Indiana's nine U.S. House seats.

Overall, Hoosiers offer Republican candidates 55% to 60% of their support, depending upon turnout and other factors. In the seven GOP districts, Republican candidates captured an average of 62% of the vote.

So, there are some GOP votes that could be shifted to try to offset the 68% U.S. Rep. Andre Caron, D-Indiana, and the 53% U.S. Rep. Frank Mrvan, D-Indiana, rolled up in cen-

tral and northwestern Indiana, respectively.

Political professionals skilled at this sort of thing tell me it's possible to draw maps that result in an 8-1 or even 9-0 Republican congressional delegation.

But they also tell me that the margin for error involved is much smaller than they're comfortable with.

If there's any miscalculation, instead of ending up with nine or even eight Republicans going to Congress, the result could be that only six, five or even four of them win.

Particularly if the electorate is disaffected by blatant political chicanery.

The last reason Hoosier Republicans have been slow to climb aboard this particular Trump train is probably the most important.

There's nothing in it for them.

What the president asks is for Indiana GOP lawmakers to run all the risks and bear all the costs of creating new maps and possibly enraging voters — and he's offering them nothing in return, other than the possibility that he might not punish them for not doing his bidding.

Even the Republican legislators who aren't the sharpest knives in the drawer — and, yes, there are those, too — are smart enough to recognize a bad deal when they see one.

Donald Trump once published a book — there's no evidence that he actually read, much less wrote any of it — called "The Art of the Deal."

To his credit, though, he never claimed it was a good deal.

For anyone but him, that is.

Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism and publisher of TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

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— Thomas Jefferson

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11-1 CRYPTOQUIP

H CEOD DT WGEQ ZTKG LGX
BEVDZ EATPD EYDTQ HGNSKRO.
APD H STOD OGGG DT LOTC
DWG VIQGN SGDEHNZ

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I JUST GOT A REALLY
STRONG FEELING THAT I'VE VISITED THIS
HAUNTED HOUSE BEFORE IT'S DUJA BOO.
Today's Cryptopig: Chief S equals D

Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

They're the leaders

- 1) Killed in 1533 by Pizarro,
Atahualpa was the leader of what people?
- 2) Who coached the Indiana Pacers
from 1997 through 2000?

1) The Incas
2) Larry Bird

11-3 CRYPTOQUIP

NKM-QM QMHG TSWIP T
KISPEXTIP QFNPEWLMXI THH
ZMIZHL OTXJFEWIN GMKEWSEN
"PZF JFEGMXIPWE."

Saturday's Cryptoquip: I WANT TO HEAR SOME
KEY FACTS ABOUT ACTOR FELDMAN, BUT I
DON'T NEED TO KNOW THE COREY DETAILS
Today's Cryptopig: Chief J equals G

CRYPTO FUN

THE COMMERCIAL REVIEW

NOVEMBER 1, 2025

1. THE ANSWER TO THE CRYPTOQUIP IS: I JUST GOT A REALLY STRONG FEELING THAT I'VE VISITED THIS HAUNTED HOUSE BEFORE IT'S DUJA BOO.

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WTF? ACT UP! SEARCH

POET

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

27

1888 - The first ever Thanksgiving parade was held in New York City.

1901 - The first ever Thanksgiving parade was held in New York City.

1918 - The first ever Thanksgiving parade was held in New York City.

WORD

TOPU

Health

FACE

This approach to eating is usually low in saturated fat and high in fiber, potentially reducing the risk of many diseases.

How they say that in...

English: around
Spanish: around
Russian: around
French: around
German: around

Did You Know?

People who eat a lot of vegetables and fruit live longer and healthier lives.

Get the Picture?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Across

1. The answer to the crossword puzzle is: I JUST GOT A REALLY STRONG FEELING THAT I'VE VISITED THIS HAUNTED HOUSE BEFORE IT'S DUJA BOO.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

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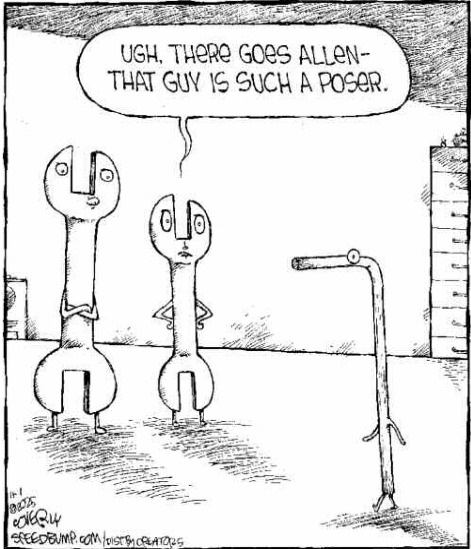
Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

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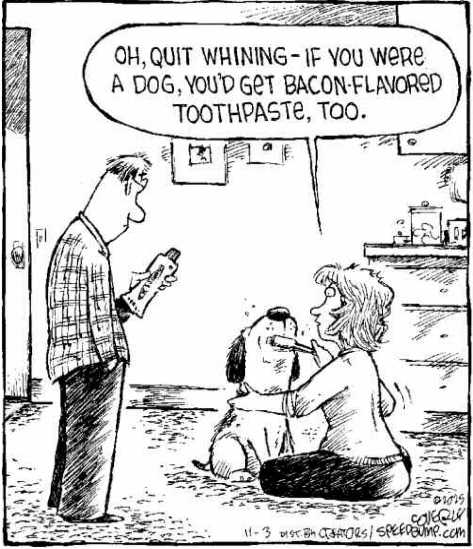
SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



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



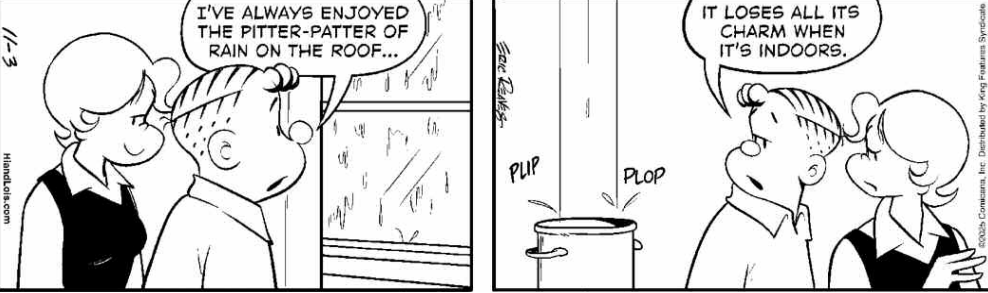
Agnes



Hi and Lois



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Between Friends



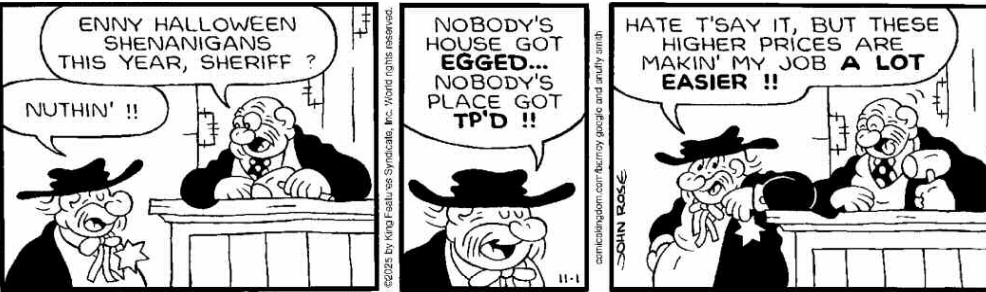
Blondie



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Beetle Bailey



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.

Laughter

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