

Schools propose deal for TIF \$

Commission will consider agreement for districts

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review
Representatives of Jay Schools have expressed concerns about funding cuts in future years. The county may opt into an agreement specifying a portion of tax increment financing dollars go toward the local school system each year. Jay County Redevelopment Commission agreed Wednesday to look into a proposed agreement with Jay School Corporation that would guarantee a certain amount of funding from new TIF districts to go into the school system's coffers each year. Commission members also formally approved a resolution and economic development plan to begin the process of enacting three new TIF districts in Jay County. TIF districts capture additional property tax revenue created by property improvements and set it aside to fund initiatives within the district, with the redevelopment commission overseeing those dollars. The redevelopment commission is in the midst of creating TIF districts encompassing four prospective solar farms — Invenergy in northwest Jay County, Sun Chief Solar northeast of Redkey, Rose Gold Solar north of Dunkirk and New Jay Solar east of Dunkirk. Jay County Redevelopment Commission non-voting member Shannon Current, who also serves as business manager for Jay School Corporation, read a prepared statement Wednesday to commission members. "Jay Schools fully supports the county's initiative to attract private investment and recognizes the significant long-term value of such projects," Current said. "However, the fiscal landscape for public schools has changed substantially following the enactment of Senate Enrolled Act 1." Current referenced statistics compiled by financial consulting firm Baker Tilly, saying Jay Schools is projected to experience a \$273,047 reduction in property tax levy capacity by 2028 and lose another \$553,152 in local income tax revenues beginning the same year. That's a total annual revenue decline of about \$826,000 starting in 2028. "These losses will occur irrespective of enrollment or operational efficiency and will directly affect our ability to sustain classroom, transportation and facility operations," she said. Current pointed to Indiana Code, which allows redevelopment commissions to allocate up to 15% of their annual TIF revenues toward educational or workforce training purposes. See Propose page 2

Nearing closure



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County Country Living director Stacey Johnson reported Wednesday that the final residents still living at the facility are slated to move out in the next two weeks. The moves will facilitate the closure of the site formerly known as Jay County Retirement Center. This summer, Jay County Commissioners voted 2-1 to close the facility with a target date of Dec. 31, 2026. It is now expected to be closed by the end of this year.

Jay County Country Living residents moving; council OKs incentive pay for facility employees

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review
The remaining residents at Jay County Country Living plan to move out within the next two weeks. Employees will be receiving additional wages for helping with efforts to close the facility by the end of the year. Jay County Council approved the 2026 salary ordinance and an amendment that lists incentive pay amounts for living facility employees Wednesday. Council members also made an \$82,000 additional

appropriation for the severance bonuses. Jay County Country Living director Stacey Johnson reported to council Wednesday that the residents still living at the facility are slated to leave within the next two weeks. "It's been a lot of work, but my staff is awesome," Johnson said. Council president Matt Minnich and vice president Cindy Bracy both expressed shock at the news of residents' early departure. Plans had been for residents to move out by the end

of the year. They both commended Johnson and staff for their efforts. "I know there's a lot of challenges and definitely a lot of emotions," Minnich said. County officials have mulled over whether to continue funding and operating the residential center for years, pointing to tax dollars and liability issues. Jay County Country Living Advisory Board recommended in June that the county close the facility. Jay County Commissioners followed suit, deciding on a 2-1 vote in August to close the facility by

Dec. 31, 2026. Council moved that deadline up to June 30, 2026, when it approved the 2026 budget in October and allocated half the living facility's regular annual amount. Johnson said the facility could close as soon as the end of this year and asked officials to consider severance pay for employees who chose to stay until the last day. Commissioners agreed in October to provide the equivalent of four months' worth of additional pay to workers if the facility closes by Dec. 31. See Closure page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Coffey considers

Amarah Coffey, 10, Muncie looks through sewn items at a stall Saturday during the The Delts' Holiday Crafts and Gifts Show at Jay County Junior-Senior High School. This year marked the 30th show, which generates most of the \$30,000 to \$35,000 the sorority raises each year.

Government opens following shutdown

Stoppage that lasted 43 days was the longest in U.S. history

By JENNIFER SHUTT, ARIANA FIGUEROA and SHAUNEEN MIRANDA
Indiana Capital Chronicle indianacapitalchronicle.com

WASHINGTON — The longest shutdown in U.S. history ended Wednesday night when President Donald Trump signed a spending package that reopens the government and funds most of it through January. The Oval Office ceremony came just hours after the House voted to approve the legislation,

which senators passed earlier in the week. "I hope we can all agree that the government should never be shut down again," Trump said, before urging Senate Republicans to eliminate the rule that requires bills to garner the support of at least 60 lawmakers to advance. "Terminate the filibuster." The 222-209 vote marked the first time that chamber took up a bill since mid-September, when Republican leaders recessed after members approved a stopgap spending measure they knew couldn't advance in the Senate. That stalemate, centered around sharply rising health care costs, led to a 43-day shutdown that affected nearly every corner of the country through delayed funding for nutrition programs for millions of Americans, no pay for federal workers, flight delays tied to staffing shortages and much more.

Deaths

Norma Lawrence, 95, rural Portland
Derek Whitenack, 46, rural Ridgeville
Sara Briggs, 97, Geneva
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 52 degrees Wednesday. The low was 38. Tonight's low will be in the mid 40s with winds gusting to 20 mph after midnight. Expect mostly cloudy skies Saturday with windy conditions and a high in the mid 60s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday across from Pennville Fire Station and 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot at 220 Lincoln St., Portland.

Coming up

Saturday — Results from the FRHS football regional semifinal against Marion Local.

Tuesday — Coverage of the JCHS girls basketball game at Hamilton Heights.

Wednesday — Details from next week's Jay School Board meeting.





Photo provided

Veterans honored

Doug Inman, executive director of The Portland Foundation, spoke at Portland Evening Optimist Club on Monday about nonprofit organization Honor Flight Northeast Indiana, which actively fundraises and coordinates honor flights for war veterans. Pictured above are veterans and club members Gary Maitlen, Doug Inman, Ferrell Blazer, Mike Leonhard, Jane Jobe, Tony Fisher, Pat Gibson and Don Shauver.

Smoker gave up packs 50 years ago

DEAR ABBY: I often see ads about stopping smoking. I'd like to share my story of success in overcoming this filthy habit in the hope that it may help someone else.

I smoked four packs of non-filtered cigarettes every day. At the age of 37, I knew I wanted to quit. I set a goal to stop one month away, and on that day, cold turkey went into action.

I'm almost 86 now and have had no desire to smoke again since that day. People, be brave. Be strong and follow through. I hope this will help someone else to live long. — FREE IN WEST VIRGINIA
DEAR FREE: Congratulations. You are fortunate that your heavy smoking didn't cause health problems for you later in life. I'm pleased that going "cold turkey" worked so well for you. Today, products are available (gum, patches, etc.) to ease the discomfort of nicotine withdrawal.

For decades, the American Cancer Society has sponsored

Dear Abby



an event called **The Great American Smokeout**. The theory behind it is, if someone can refrain from smoking for **ONE DAY**, he or she can build upon that for two days, a week, a month, etc.

Many former smokers have quit this way. This year, the Smokeout is on Thursday, Nov. 20. I wish those of you who decide to give it a try good luck and good health.

.....
DEAR ABBY: I have a close friend who, I think, needs help. She's a loving and caring mother, wife, teacher and friend. Because her husband has health issues, she retired early to be at home to care

for him. She recently confided to me that they haven't been intimate in almost 20 years.

Two years ago, she started a romantic relationship with a man she knew. She says they both lack physical affection in their marriages and came together to fill that void. I was shocked and disappointed. Why would she risk everything for a roll in the hay?

How do I remain a supportive friend when I disagree philosophically with what she's doing? She knows I don't condone her actions, and we haven't discussed the issue since she told me. — DISAPPOINTED FRIEND IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR FRIEND: You describe this woman as a loving, caring mother, wife and friend. Her husband may have been impotent for the past 20 years. It is possible to be a supportive friend without passing judgment on her predicament, and that is what I recommend you do. If you would prefer she not discuss her affair with you, tell her that.

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Community Calendar

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

Today
PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian

St., Portland. To learn more information, please call (260) 251-3259.

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

from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the third Friday and Saturday of each month at Webster Depot, 132 W. Railroad St.

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.

Sunday
A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, 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.

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.

THE LIFE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy, as well as help with the needs of the family. The center is located at 1209 S. Shank St., Portland. Hours are 1

to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

Children on the farm

Researchers explore support gaps for childcare

By NICOLE MILLER
University of Wisconsin

When you search Google for “family farms,” the dominant images served up show parents and their young children in bucolic agricultural settings, often walking together through verdant or golden fields. These idyllic family portraits, however, overlook the reality that many farm parents face. Farmwork often involves high-tech equipment, heavy machinery, and large animals. That makes many farms hazardous places — especially for kids.

According to data from the National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, a child dies in an agriculture-related incident about every three days, and around 33 injuries occur per day. Common causes of fatalities include transportation incidents with tractors and ATVs and contact with machinery and animals.

For more than 30 years, farm safety experts have been encouraging farm parents to seek dedicated, off-farm childcare. But rural areas tend to be “childcare deserts,” with few affordable options nearby. That makes childcare a significant challenge and stressor for farm parents.

“Even though these pictures are often used to celebrate agriculture, they also create hardships for the people who are trying to do this work,” says Michaela Hoffelmeyer, an assistant professor in the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology. “Farmers are really struggling because they often have to work off-farm to get health insurance for their families. They may have to drive many miles to find childcare. Recent studies have shown that farmers can feel a real sense of failure and anxiety around not being able to meet the expectations reflected in the images.”

Hoffelmeyer is part of a team looking more closely at this issue through involvement in a multi-institution project called Linking Childcare to Farm Children Safety, which seeks to understand what farm parents do with their children while they work and how these choices impact farm productivity and the safety of their children.

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The Linking Childcare to Farm Children Safety project is co-lead by Florence Becot of the Pennsylvania State University and Shoshannah Inwood of The Ohio State University. The project is part of the National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, which is based in Marshfield, Wisconsin,

and funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Hoffelmeyer’s portion of the project aims to get a better sense of the environment in which farm parents make decisions about childcare and farming, looking at how farm organizations, extension services, and agricultural agencies regard childcare. This includes whether these organizations consider childcare as part of the labor that goes into running a successful family farm or as a separate issue — more like a personal or household expense. The goal is to understand how these groups are attending to this issue, the broader implications, and, if needed, steps that could bolster support.

“We found a diversity of views of how farm business organizations perceive the centrality of children and families to overall farm viability,” Hoffelmeyer says.

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Hoffelmeyer joined CALS in 2023, a strategic addition to the UW Dairy Innovation Hub’s faculty roster, to focus on public engagement with agriculture. More specifically, as a member of the Hub’s “growing farm businesses and communities” theme area, Hoffelmeyer’s role is to explore public awareness and engagement with broadscale social, economic, and ecological issues that are entangled with agriculture.

Hoffelmeyer (they/she pronouns) is a good fit for the job. Before joining UW, their work focused on how various groups access agricultural resources and how structural inequalities influence food production and environmental sustainability, focusing on rural and urban women farmers; LGBTQ farmers; and farm workers. Now, at UW, Hoffelmeyer will continue this work and also expand into new dairy-focused areas, such as robotics and market concentration. The underlying motivation remains the same. “My driving focus is to improve the agrifood system for everyone, with the goal of serving all farmers and celebrating all people involved in agricultural production,” Hoffelmeyer says.

Hoffelmeyer’s research on women’s farm organizations in the Northeast caught the attention of Florence Becot at Pennsylvania State University. Becot reached out to see if Hoffelmeyer would be interested in collaborating on the “Linking Childcare to Farm Children Safety” project, which launched in fall 2020 with funding from the National Insti-

tute for Occupational Safety and Health at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

By the time Hoffelmeyer joined in 2023 the researchers had already conducted interviews with key informants, focus groups and a photovoice activity with women farmers, and a survey of farm households. In the survey, which is the first national assessment of childcare for the farm sector, over three-quarters of farm families with children under 18 reported that they had experienced childcare challenges in the last two years. Furthermore, three-quarters of farm families surveyed said they believe farm organizations should represent their needs in national childcare policy discussions. And the overall findings were clear: Farm parents expressed the need for childcare support. In particular, they cited a preference for holistic support that serves their household and childcare needs as part of their broader farm business needs.

Hoffelmeyer was brought onto the project to help assess an existing set of interviews conducted with leaders and service providers in the agricultural sector to uncover how these organizations are responding to and supporting farmers’ childcare needs, with a special focus on the gendered dynamics of the situation.

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For the UW portion of the study, Hoffelmeyer and their research assistant are taking a second look at interviews conducted with 36 professionals who provide support and educational opportunities to farmers, including farm safety service providers, farm business planning providers, federal and state-level government agencies, and non-profit farmer organizations. Interviewees come from Ohio, Vermont, and Wisconsin, with one-third from the Dairy State. The interviews reveal a diversity of perspectives and approaches.

“Some farm service providers position the presence of children on the farm and the need to provide childcare as liabilities for the success of the farm business. It’s portrayed as a tradeoff,” says Trish Fisher, a Ph.D. student studying community and environmental sociology, who conducted the analysis. This was the majority view, in fact.

“I think it’s the health and safety of the kids on the farm versus the financial productivity of the farm,” expressed one farm business organization representative. Fisher and Hoffelmeyer shared this paraphrased remark from an interview to illustrate the trade-

off perspective in a recent presentation.

The initial analysis of the interviews, published in 2022 by Becot and colleagues, found that, when it comes to farm business planning, most interviewees don’t incorporate childcare. Instead, children are considered personal or household expenses, and, therefore, outside the purview of a farm business plan. However, some organizations treat farm viability and the flourishing of the farm family like a united enterprise, considering childcare and health care as integral parts of farm business planning.

In cases where childcare was not actively considered, respondents cited several reasons. They explained that childcare was beyond the scope of their organization’s mission, and they expressed having a lack of tools and resources on the topic area. In other cases, they believed other types of professionals or groups were already supporting farmers in this way and are in a better position to handle it. Still others reported a lack of demand from their constituents.

To build on these findings, the Wisconsin team was asked to dig into the interviews anew, exploring what was shared through a gender lens.

“A lot of these farm service organizations shared the sentiment that childcare for farm families is important, but their male farmers are not bringing those issues to the table,” Fisher says. “I don’t want to paint the wrong picture — this isn’t a burden that is universally borne by women. Our collaborators involved in other areas of the overarching project have published findings showing that male partners are often also very worried about child safety. Everybody is extremely stressed about it.”

At the same time, it’s clear that gender dynamics are playing a role.

“I think one of the main themes so far is that, within these organizations that serve farmers, childcare is largely seen as a women’s issue rather than a business issue,” says Fisher. “So childcare, if it’s being addressed, is often being addressed in contexts that are specific to women farmers.”

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The overall findings show there’s a need that’s not being met adequately — at least, not yet.

“We’ve identified a number of structural and resource constraints that serve as barriers for these organizations to address the childcare issues being faced

by their constituents,” Hoffelmeyer says.

These findings are not surprising to Hoffelmeyer, who has spent a lot of time thinking about underpaid and undervalued labor on farms. “A real issue in farming more broadly is that, while we often take ownership very seriously, we’ve never taken labor seriously,” they say. “If you look back, historically, women have often done a lot of unpaid and invisible labor, whether it was animal rearing or bookkeeping.”

Similarly, the tasks involved in social reproduction — such as raising kids, taking care of the elderly — often fall to women and are likewise unpaid and invisible, Hoffelmeyer notes. Yet these are critical tasks required by society to keep families going and for the succession of farms.

“We tend to value economic involvement more than household involvement [when it comes to ensuring the viability of family farms],” Hoffelmeyer says. “Because of this, there’s a lack of support for the people who most acutely feel the need for childcare support. Oftentimes, that’s women because of social norms, what people are expected to do.”

The next steps involve raising awareness about these issues. For their part, Hoffelmeyer and Fisher shared their initial findings at the 2025 Dairy Summit, a Hub event for farmers, agricultural leaders, and researchers. Hoffelmeyer’s collaborators have also been sharing project findings through research briefs, conversations with federal congressional leaders and national farm organizations, and a traveling picture exhibit created with farm women who participated in the study.

As with most complex societal problems, Hoffelmeyer doesn’t anticipate a quick fix. “In social sciences research, we often go to the root of the problem — looking at how it began,” Hoffelmeyer says. “So, I think instead of offering a solution to a specific problem, we’re really asking how did things get to be this way?”

“We actually know how to solve a lot of issues. And we even understand the causes of our problems, broadly, but it’s often the cultural norms, the social expectations, those kind of dynamics that are preventing change. It takes a long time to change power dynamics and inequality and big global issues.”

Yet it’s satisfying work for Hoffelmeyer, doing what’s possible to help ensure all members of the agricultural community are heard, considered, and supported.



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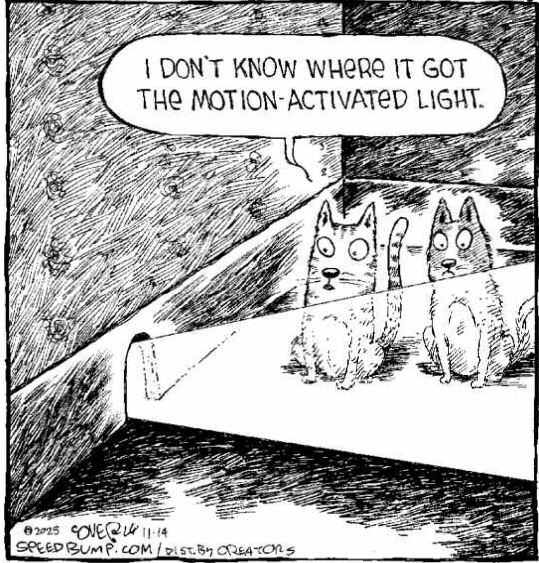


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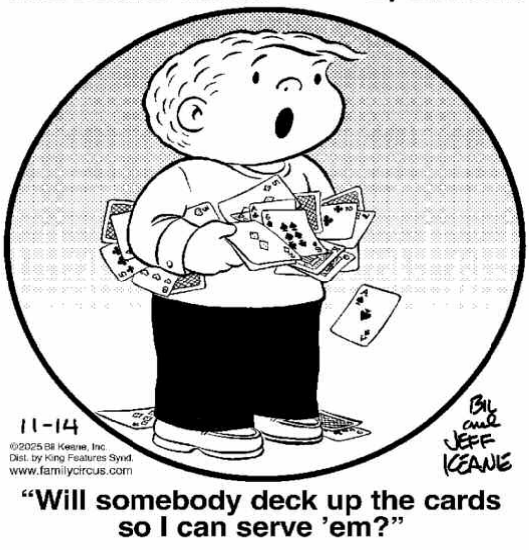
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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South, neither side vulnerable. The bidding has been:

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	2 ♦	Pass	?

What would you bid now with each of the following five hands?

1. ♠ KJ74 ♥ AJ6 ♦ Q3 ♣ K952
2. ♠ 85 ♥ A9843 ♦ QJ4 ♣ K75
3. ♠ 6 ♥ 92 ♦ A875 ♣ AQ9643
4. ♠ AJ93 ♥ KQ74 ♦ 9 ♣ 8764
5. ♠ 75 ♥ KQJ8742 ♦ 74 ♣ A8

1. Three notrump. Before discussing the proper action, it might be best to define the meaning of a non-jump overcall on the two-level. Generally, this shows not only a very good suit but also the values for an opening bid.

Once this definition is accepted, it becomes clear that this is a game-going hand, and the most likely game is in notrump. Two notrump, which would be invitational and not forcing, would be totally inadequate.

2. Three diamonds. A partner who overcalls is usually much more interested in learning if you have support for his suit and the values for a forward-going bid than to learn whether you have a suit of your own and a hand of indeterminate strength. It is therefore better to raise diamonds with the given hand than to bid two hearts, which you could also do with ♠ 974 ♥ KJ9852 ♦ 6 ♣ Q83. You are hoping, after you raise diamonds, that partner will be able to bid three notrump.

3. Four diamonds. Here you want to invite game in a suit rather than notrump. True, you have only 10 high-card points, but your distributional features more than make up for your lack of high-card strength. Another way of implying strong interest in game in diamonds would be to cuebid two spades, a method currently popular with many players.

4. Pass. Chances for game are poor, considering your lack of support for partner's suit. To bid two hearts with a four-card suit is out of the question, and two notrump is likewise not feasible because partner's diamonds might prove useless as a significant source of tricks in notrump. Despite your singleton diamond, partner is a favorite to make two diamonds, so you should get out of the bidding while you still have a chance for a plus score.

5. Four hearts. Given partner's two-level overcall, you should be a heavy favorite to make four hearts, and you should bid it directly. It would be wrong to bid only three hearts, which is highly invitational but not forcing.

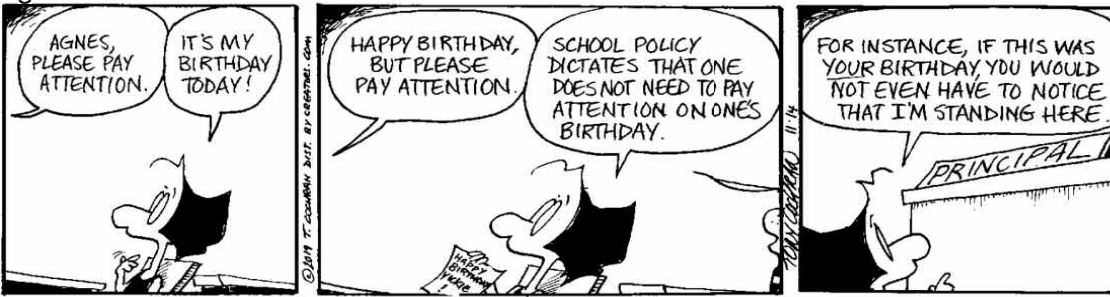
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



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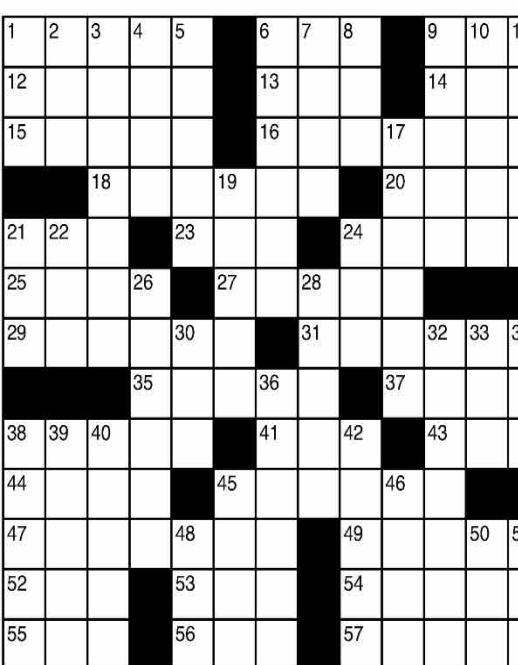
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 43 "Guinness Book" 2 The whole enchilada 19 Writer Dominick 21 Suitable 22 Sheepish remark 24 MSNBC rival 26 Tank type 28 "Holy smokes!" 30 Granada gold 32 Theater producer who founded "Shakespeare in the Park" 33 Daybreak goddess 34 Blaster's need 36 Feral feline 38 Pear variety 39 Entrances 40 Sediment 42 Exams for future attys. 45 Dandies 46 Peter Fonda role 48 Crew tool 50 Quibble 51 Oklahoma city

DOWN 1 Princes of India 6 E.T.'s craft 9 Essen exclamation 12 "— You" (Billie Eilish song) 13 Dijon denial 14 — Na Na 15 Old toothpaste brand 16 Average guy 18 Type of registry 20 Songbird 21 — Dhahi 23 Bottom line 24 "— Nast Traveler" 25 Lobbying orgs 27 "Bye Bye Bye" band 29 Hire 31 Printer type 35 Hosp. prep area 37 Anon 38 Augment 41 Animation frame

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COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER. Plan now to attend November 27, 2025, 1:00 pm. Asbury UM Church. All Jay County welcome. No charge for the meal.

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2025-26 Fort Recovery girls bowling preview



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Pictured is the 2025-26 Fort Recovery High School girls bowling team. The front row from left are Malia Grisez, Deanna Brown, Jady Weyerick and Lilah Thien. Back row are Elizabeth Kahlig, Claire Gaerke, Liliana Williams and coach Doug Stone.

- Fast facts**
 - The Tribe has made back-to-back state appearances and claimed its first sectional championship during the 2025 season. They also shared the Midwest Athletic Conference title and had the MAC Bowler of the Year (Deanna Brown) and Coach of the Year (Alison Rosegrant).
 - This will be Doug Stone’s first year at the helm of the Fort Recovery girls. He has previously served as the coach at Troy for 10 seasons.
 - This will be the first year that bowling is recognized as a full school sport at Fort Recovery, rather than just a club sport.

- Matches to watch**

Friday, Nov. 15, at Minster

With three girls departing from the program, Fort Recovery will need at least two new bowlers in the lineup at any point. This non-conference match against a Midwest Athletic Conference team will provide a basis to judge where the Indians are at early.

Saturday, Jan. 10, at Versailles

Fort Recovery has had to share the MAC title with the Tigers the past two seasons. If it wants a chance at a third title, shared or alone, it will need to take this match.

Saturday, Feb. 7, MAC Tournament at New Bremen

Even though the Indians were undefeated in the MAC during the regular season last year, they finished second in the conference tournament. This is also a final tuneup before taking on the sectional.

2024-25 season

The Tribe built on its success from the previous season and made it to state for the second time in school history. While the Indians struggled at state to finish in 12th, they managed to claim their second share of the Midwest Athletic Conference title with Versailles and won its first sectional tournament championship. After its 9-1 season (6-0 MAC), Fort Recovery had plenty of representation in the postseason awards. Deanna Brown was named MAC Bowler of the Year while Alison Rosegrant was named Coach of the Year. It also had three first-teamers, one second-teamer and two honorable mentions.

Coach Doug Stone says

“I’ve got three girls coming back that I think will be able to carry the team and I’ve got four girls that have just started bowling. We had a tournament this weekend and I had one of those (new) girls make the cut, which was good and then the other girls bowled really well. I still think I’m going to have a pretty decent team this year, being this is my first year (with the team).”

Projected lineup

Deanna Brown (Junior)
Claire Gaerke (Soph.)
Malia Grisez (Soph.)
Elizabeth Kahlig (Soph.)
Lilah Thien (Sophomore)
Jady Weyerick (Soph.)
Liliana Williams (Fresh.)

Top returners

Deanna Brown
183.6 average pins

Lilah Thien
178.1 average pins

Jayden Weyerick
173.8 average pins

Key departures

Ella Schoen
186.9 average pins

Emily Lauber
178.7 average pins

Kayla Heitkamp
162.3 average pins

Girls bowling			
Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Saturday, Nov. 15	Minster	Minster	9 a.m.
Saturday, Nov. 22	Van Wert	Celina	1 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 29	Mississinawa Valley	Union City	10 a.m.
Saturday, Dec. 6	Tournament	Columbus	12 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13	Minster	Fort Recovery	9 a.m.
Saturday, Dec. 20	Marion Local	Coldwater	9 a.m.
Saturday, Dec. 27	Parkway	New Bremen	9 a.m.
Monday, Dec. 29	Tournament	Bellefontaine	8:30 a.m.
Saturday, Jan. 3	Tournament	Fairfield	9 a.m.
Thursday, Jan. 8	Bath	Fort Recovery	5 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 10	Versailles	Versailles	9 a.m.
Thursday, Jan. 15	Newton	Versailles	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 16	Memorial	Fort Recovery	5 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 17	New Bremen	Coldwater	9 a.m.
Monday, Jan. 19	Tournament	Bellefontaine	8:30 a.m.
Saturday, Jan. 24	Coldwater	Minster	9 a.m.
Monday, Jan. 26	Ansonia	Versailles	4:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 30	Ponitz	Fort Recovery	5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 31	Fort Loramie	Fort Recovery	9 a.m.
Saturday, Feb. 7	MAC Tournament	New Bremen	9:15 a.m.
Home matches in bold at Miracle Lanes			

Skubal gets 2nd Cy Young

By CHRIS MCCOSKY
The Detroit News
Tribune News Service

DETROIT — Tarik Skubal continues to entrench himself in the pantheon of great Detroit Tigers pitchers.

On Wednesday, by a vote of the Baseball Writers Association of America, Skubal won his second straight American League Cy Young Award.

He is the first American League pitcher to win the award in consecutive years since Boston Red Sox Hall of Famer Pedro Martinez won it in 1999 and 2000. And he joins Denny McLain (1968, 1969) as the only Tigers pitcher to win it more than once.

Skubal, a unanimous choice for the award in 2024, got 26 of 30 first place votes, beating out Red Sox Garrett Crochet (four first place votes, 26 second place votes) and Astros’ Hunter Brown (Wayne State).

The Tigers were 21-10 in Skubal’s 31 regular-season starts this past season. His 6.5 WAR and 2.21 ERA led the American League. Per Baseball Reference, Skubal led in 12 different statistical categories, including an MLB-low 0.891 WHIP.

His 195 1/3 innings and 241 strikeouts were career highs. He had a 32.2% strikeout rate and a 4.4% walk rate. His 7.30 strikeout-to-walk ratio was tops in the game. He allowed zero earned runs in 12 of his 31 starts, and two runs or less in 21 of them.

Pistons beat Bulls

By COTY M. DAVIS
The Detroit News
Tribune News Service

DETROIT — Headlined by the absences of Cade Cunningham and Jalen Duren, the Detroit Pistons came into Wednesday’s game against the Chicago Bulls missing six of their core players. Despite being significantly shorthanded, the Pistons built a 23-point lead midway through the third quarter.

The Bulls made a strong comeback at the start of the fourth quarter and came within a point, but the Pistons avoided a collapse in the final minutes, securing a 124-113 win at Little Caesars Arena. While extending their

winning streak to eight, the Pistons improved to 10-2 on the season.

Paul Reed led the Pistons with a season-high 28 points, 12 rebounds and six assists, while Daniss Jenkins followed up his career performance on Monday night with 18 points and 11 assists. Duncan Robinson added 23 points on 7-of-10 shooting from behind the arc. With 4:33 left in the fourth quarter, Robinson’s sixth 3-point field goal of the night put the game out of reach.

The Bulls, who remain with Josh Giddey and Coby White, were led by Matas Buzelis, who recorded 21 points and 13 rebounds.

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