

The Commercial Review

Prelim work on Skycrest can start

Commission gives approval for limited construction

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Preliminary work on Skycrest Solar Farm's site may begin before the end of the year.

Jay County Plan Commission OK'd a request Thursday for Invenergy to begin limited construction on its prospective solar farm in Jay County.

Also during a nearly two-hour meeting, the plan commission approved an economic development plan and resolution to create three tax increment financing (TIF) districts encompassing prospective solar farms, OK'd a one-year extension for New Jay Solar Farm to begin construction and preliminarily agreed to several amendments to the county's solar and wind ordinances.

Invenergy is planning Skycrest Solar, a \$150 million, 155-megawatt facility on 2,500 acres in Penn and Jackson townships in northwest Jay County. John Hemmelgarn, Jay/Portland Building and Planning director, explained the company recently filed a request for a limited construction permit. Invenergy hopes to treat the limited construction permit differently from the construction permit required to begin the full construction project.

Erin Saal, renewable development senior associate with Invenergy, shared hopes for the company to start preliminary site preparation before the end of the year. (Invenergy's agreements with the county require it to begin construction on the project by the end of 2026, with solar panels to go online by Dec. 31, 2028.) Plans are to install inverter piles at nine locations along Indiana 18 just west of county road 750 West.

Saal explained that inverters are one of the main components for solar farms.

See **Work** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Tasting snow

Henry Vagedes, 5, sticks his tongue out for artificial snowflakes at Krenning Park during Fort Recovery's Christmas Open House festivities Thursday. Activities continue this weekend, with Santa Claus visiting from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Indiana Senate will not convene

By TOM DAVIES, LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ and CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana Senate Republicans announced Friday that they were rejecting President Donald Trump's push for congressional redistricting — a move immediately blasted by Gov. Mike Braun and Trump allies.

Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray said in a statement Friday afternoon that the Senate won't take up the issue, as was expected in an unusual December session.

"Over the last several months, Senate Republi-

Leader says votes are not there for redistricting

cans have given very serious and thoughtful consideration to the concept of redrawing our state's congressional maps," Bray said in a statement released by his office. "Today, I'm announcing there are not enough votes to move that idea forward, and the Senate will not reconvene in December."

Indiana lawmakers were scheduled to meet starting Dec. 1 to consider drawing more Republican-leaning U.S. House districts ahead of next year's midterm elections — following a months-long pressure campaign by Trump's administration and his supporters.

If the decision by Senate

Republicans stands, Indiana would become the first GOP-led state to outright turn down Trump's wish to squeeze out more Republican-friendly congressional seats ahead of the 2026 midterm elections.

Braun had endorsed Trump's push and called for legislators to convene Nov. 3 in a special session to redraw the congressional maps. Legislative leaders had delayed that to Dec. 1.

"I called for our legislators to convene to ensure Hoosiers' voices in Washington, D.C., are not diluted by the Democrats' gerrymandering," Braun said in a statement released by the governor's office Friday.

"Our state senators need to do the right thing and show up to vote for fair maps. Hoosiers deserve to know where their elected officials stand on important issues."

This could be the first time in decades that legislators have not abided by a governor's call for a special session. The state Constitution and code don't explicitly require it.

In response to a request for comment from Republican House Speaker Todd Huston, his spokeswoman replied: "As we've said previously, the House does have the votes to support redistricting."

See **Senate** page 2

Retrospect

Red Cross honored Dennis' heroic efforts

Twenty-five years ago this week, the community honored a young hero.

The Nov. 15, 2000, edition of The Commercial Review featured a story about an informal ceremony at Jay County High School honoring 18-year-old Gary Dennis after he helped prevent a man from bleeding to death two weeks earlier. He was presented with a certificate of recognition from the American Red Cross.

Dennis was in the LoBill Foods grocery store in Portland about 5:45 p.m. Nov. 1, 2000, when a woman ran and yelled for someone to call 911. Dennis went outside to see what was happening.

Earl Grigsby was bleeding from the arm after he was stabbed while trying to break up a fight between his son and another man.

Dennis hurried back into the store, grabbed a pair of plastic gloves from the deli and ran back out to apply pressure to Grigsby's arm. Dennis, who also used a belt as a tourniquet, stayed there until

Jay Emergency Medical Service personnel arrived.

"It's what I was taught to do," said Dennis, a JCHS senior, noting what he had learned in his Red Cross training. "There was nobody else there to do it. I couldn't just sit there and let him bleed to death."

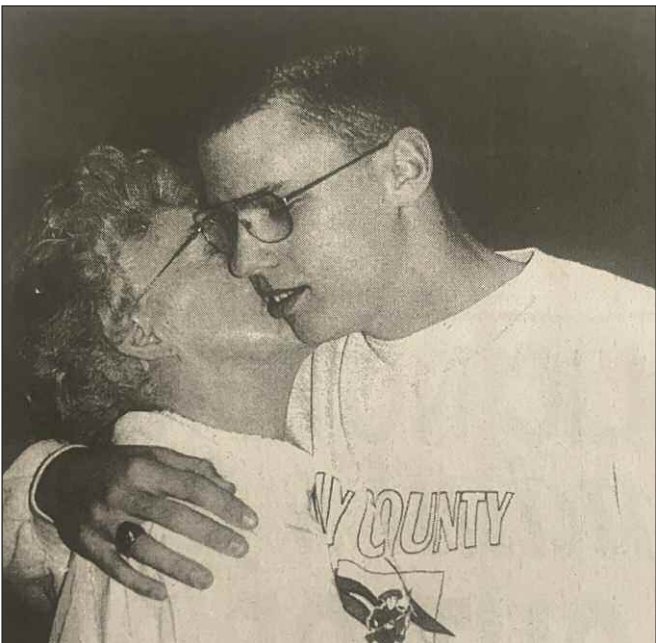
Dennis had earned basic first aid and CPR certification in 1998, learning from instructors Rick Dennis (his father) and Scott Tipton.

That training kicked in when he saw Grigsby.

"We're proud beyond words," said his mom Demara Dennis. "It was something that needed to be done. I'm just glad he was there to help."

Earl Grigsby's family expressed thanks for the actions of the 18-year old.

"It's nice that the kid helped," said his father. "I appreciate him going that far and doing something. I sure appreciate what he did."



The Commercial Review/Laurie Chen

Gary Dennis gets a congratulatory hug from his grandmother Norma Coons on Nov. 14, 2000, after the American Red Cross recognized him for his efforts to help a stabbing victim two weeks earlier.

In review Tickets are on sale for Jay County Civic Theatre's production of the musical "Annie," which will open on Dec. 4. Advance tickets are \$10 for students and \$12 for adults and are available online at bit.ly/JCCTAnnie.	Weather Jay County had a high temperature of 67 degrees Friday. The low was 41. Today's high will be in the upper 60s with winds gusting to 35 mph. Expect highs in the upper 40s on Sunday and Monday. Lows will dip into the upper 20s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.	In review Museum of the Soldier will be open for the final weekend of the season from noon to 5 p.m. today and Sunday. Admission will be free. The museum's display of 125 years of U.S. Marine Corps uniforms will be on display. For more information, call (260) 766-4235.	Coming up Tuesday — Coverage of the JCHS girls basketball game at Hamilton Heights. Wednesday — Details from next week's Jay School Board meeting. Thursday — Photos from the FRHS girls basketball scrimmage against Newton.
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State exploring rare earth options

By LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana leaders gathered Thursday to consider how the state could mine its ample coal waste for the rare earth elements key to modern technology — in a bid to boost domestic production and break China’s dominance.

“I want all these liabilities that we’ve got to turn into resources,” Kit Turpin, direc-

tor of the state’s Abandoned Mine Land Program, told the Indiana Rare Earth Recovery Council at its first meeting.

Gov. Mike Braun created the group in an April executive order. He directed its 13 members to help develop a coal waste-based rare earths industry.

The 17 metallic elements are critical to defense, health care, power generation, transportation and other industries.

They’re also in widely used consumer products, like iPhones and LED lights.

Despite their name, the elements aren’t actually rare — they’re just typically “finely dispersed,” rarely found concentrated enough to easily extract.

Major deposits are found in China — the world’s leading rare earths producer — as well as Brazil, Russia and elsewhere, said Maria Mastalerz, a research geologist for the Indi-

ana Geological and Water Survey. Federal estimates place the U.S. at just 1 million metric tons of reserves, compared to global reserves of about 120 million metric tons.

“Indiana does not have traditional sources” of rare earths, Mastalerz said.

But coal and its production byproducts — gob, slurry, spent substrate, acid drainage and sludge, and more — could be “unconventional” sources.

“Every point” of mining, processing and using coal presents “special” opportunities to recover rare earths, according to Mastalerz.

However, these materials are “low-grade,” with lower concentrations of rare earths, she repeatedly cautioned.

That makes extraction more difficult and expensive.

Mastalerz is testing ways to find rare earth “sweet spots” and “optimize” their recovery.

CR almanac

Sunday 11/16	Monday 11/17	Tuesday 11/18	Wednesday 11/19	Thursday 11/20
 49/28 Skies will be sunny with a high in the upper 40s and winds gusting to 25 mph.	 48/32 There is a 50% chance of rain. Skies will be mostly sunny with a high in the upper 40s.	 45/30 Skies will be mostly cloudy with a 50% chance of rain.	 48/35 Expect a high in the upper 40s under partly cloudy skies. There will be a 20% chance of rain.	 53/41 Skies will be mostly cloudy with a 60% chance of showers and a high in the lower 50s.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 1-3-1 Daily Four: 3-9-3 Quick Draw: 5-7-10-12-15-16-17-18-20-25-33-38-44-46-48-50-51-65-67-73	Pick 3: 3-3-4 Pick 4: 8-3-7-1 Pick 5: 4-8-4-4-4
Ohio Midday	Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$546 million
	Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$980 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.54 Dec. corn4.60	Wheat4.92
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.56 Nov./Dec. corn4.56 Jan. corn4.60	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.38 Dec. corn4.41 Beans11.32 Dec. beans11.32 Wheat4.97
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.45 Dec. corn4.50 Beans11.30 Dec. beans11.35	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.43 Dec. corn4.48 Beans11.00 Dec. beans11.00 Wheat4.83

Today in history

In 1777, the Articles of Confederation were adopted by the Second Continental Congress.

In 1806, explorer Zebulon Pike sighted the snow-capped peak in Colorado that would later be named Pikes Peak.

In 1864, Union Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman began his “March to the Sea” during the Civil War, leaving the captured city of Atlanta.

In 1901, Giuseppe Verdi’s opera Rigoletto premiered at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City.

In 1926, the National Broadcasting Co. (NBC) made its debut with a radio network of 24 stations.

In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt laid the cornerstone for the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C.

In 1956, Elvis Presley made his movie debut as “Love Me Tender” opened in theaters nationwide.

In 1972, Portland Park Board outlined its 20-year plan that included more neighborhood parks, picnic areas, volleyball/badminton courts, basketball courts, softball fields, a lighted ice skating rink and a public golf course.

In 1990, the pop duo Milli Vanilli was stripped of its Grammy Award after it was revealed they had not sung on their hit album.

In 2001, Microsoft released the Xbox video game console.

In 2017, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb announced the state would move forward with major rural broadband expansion efforts, pledging funding aimed at closing gaps in underserved counties.

In 2021, Jay School Board agreed to donate the former Judge Haynes Elementary School building to The Portland Foundation if a county effort to create a child care facility moved forward. After it stalled, the foundation purchased the building for \$35,000 in August 2022.

—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Monday
5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland.
5 p.m. — Portland Economic Development Income Tax Advisory Committee, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council executive session, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.

6:15 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.
6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St.
7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Wednesday
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.

Work ...

Continued from page 1

“All the solar modules are in blocks around inverters,” she said. “Inverters are the piece of equipment that take the direct current electricity that is produced by the modules and switch it to alternating current ... that AC electricity is what we use in our homes and appliances.”

Inverters sit on steel beam foundations with concrete pads.

She said the work serves as preparation for the full commencement of construction later in 2026. Plans are for farmers to continue using the overall project area for agricultural purposes for next year’s growing season before full construction starts.

Hemmeltgarn and several plan commission members pointed out the company benefits from federal solar tax credits if it begins the project before 2026, saying that’s the reason Invenergy wants to start some construction early. Michael Hill of Invenergy noted the company only receives the credits if the project is later completed in full and begins generating electricity.

“This is an opportunity for us to position Skycrest for success in Jay County, it is an economic benefit that will make this project much more attractive as we work to contract it,” Saal said.

Hemmeltgarn voiced concerns about the potential for more delays in the project and additional extension requests. He referenced adjoining landowners and uncertainty regarding the purchase or sale of property amid the project’s development. He suggested the company should have to pay an additional fee for the preliminary permit, proposing \$27,125, which is 10% of the company’s full construction permit cost. (It will still need to pay the full \$271,250 — it’s calculated per megawatt of the project — when it applies for the full construction permit next year.)

Commission member Steve McIntosh argued the company’s plans fall under the full construction permit requirements, pointing to foundational work.

Jay County Building and Planning assistant director Pati McLaughlin read from county zoning ordinance, pointing out that permits are needed for construction work, whether plans are for permanent or temporary structures. Entities have one year to complete the work once permits are filed.

Questions also surfaced about whether the work will impact plans to establish new TIF districts around the solar farms. County attorney Wes Schemenaur said representatives from law firm Barnes & Thornburg have assured the county that as long as it creates the TIF districts by the end of the year, there will be no impact to revenue.

Commission members Steve Ford, Jeanne Houchins, Scott Hilfiker, Chad Aker, Matt Minnich, Casey Wagner and Brad Daniels agreed to the preliminary work. Commission member Todd Skirvin dissented. (McIntosh serves as a non-voting member, but he also expressed his disagreement, saying he believes the project should be considered as the full start of construction.)

Also Thursday, the plan commission approved legislation to move toward creating three new TIF districts.

Jay County Redevelopment Commission is in the midst of creating TIF districts encompassing four prospective solar farms — Skycrest Solar in northwest Jay County, Sun Chief Solar northeast of Redkey, Rose Gold Solar north of Dunkirk and New Jay Solar east of Dunkirk.

The economic development plan says the four solar projects represent a potential \$473 million in new private investment in rural Jay County. Eligible uses for TIF dollars per the plan could include projects for educational purposes, transportation enhancement and utility infrastructure, a proposed broadband project with Mainstream Fiber Networks, Jay County Highway Department garage improvements, Jay County

Senate ...

Continued from page 1

The White House did not immediately comment Friday or respond to messages seeking reaction to Bray’s announcement, though Politico reported that Trump was summoning Indiana Republicans to D.C. for Oval Office visits.

Republican focused

Redistricting supporters had wanted Indiana lawmakers to craft a map with all nine Indiana congressional districts favoring Republicans based on 2020 census data.

The current congressional maps drawn by Republicans in 2021 maintained a 7-2 GOP majority — with Democrat Frank Mrvan holding the 1st District in northwest Indiana and Democrat Andre Carson holding the 7th District, which covers much of Indianapolis.

“Prayer, people, and partnerships power change. We’re about collaboration, not division. We’re about independent thinking — not taking orders from Washington,” Carson said in a Friday statement. “Hoosiers do things differently. I want to thank Senator Bray and all the Republican and Democratic members of the Indiana Statehouse who held firm on Hoosier values. This is a win for all of us.”

Indiana’s entire GOP U.S. House delegation had lined up in support of the maneuver. And some were reacting Friday afternoon to the announcement.

“This is simply unacceptable,” posted U.S. Rep. Marlin Stutzman, R-3rd. “Democrats are gaining ground in their states before our eyes and Indiana state senators are rolling over and letting the left overtake us. What will

it take for Republicans to WANT to WIN?”

Undecided state senators had become the target of advertising campaigns, including digital, cell-phone, television and mail ads from pro-redistricting groups.

Eight Republican senators among the 40-member caucus had come out publicly against redistricting, with 13 having announced their support, before Bray’s statement Friday.

Foes hail decision

Senate Minority Leader Shelli Yoder, D-Bloomington, celebrated the decision, saying in a statement that “Washington insiders pressured the Governor to rig Indiana’s congressional



**COMMUNITY
THANKSGIVING
DINNER**

**THANKSGIVING DAY
NOVEMBER 27, 2025
1:00 P.M.
ASBURY U. M. CHURCH
PORTLAND, INDIANA**

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FREE...but bring a dish IF YOU WISH



Turkey & dressing, ham, beverages and table service provided through donations from individuals and organizations in the community. Those wishing to make a donation may call:
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or
**Caren Huey
264-729-1239**

For those who are homebound, have a special need, or need transportation to Asbury, please call:
**Asbury U.M. Church
260-726-8464**
**Zion Lutheran Church
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(Mornings)
Home delivery requests due by Noon Wednesday
Carry-in dishes may be brought to Asbury the afternoon before or Thanksgiving Day morning.

Do NOT put this flyer in mailboxes"
35th Year of Caring and Sharing

al maps in the middle of a decade for one reason.”

“They were afraid of voters. They were afraid of losing power the honest way,” Yoder said. “... Now that this reckless idea has collapsed, our focus can return to where it should have been all along. Hoosiers. Their budgets. Their safety. Their health. Their future.”

The pro-redistricting campaigns came as a recent statewide poll of 800 registered voters found 51% did not support redistricting now — with 45% “strongly” opposed. About 39% supported the prospect, but just 23% “strongly” backed it.

Trump started the national redistricting fight by pushing Texas Republicans to redraw its congressional map this summer, followed by Republican redistricting moves in Missouri, Ohio and North Carolina. An attempt by Kansas Republicans for a special session on redistricting has stalled.

Democrats responded with their own redistricting in California and possible moves in Illinois and Virginia.

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This story was edited for length. For the full version, visit indianacapitalchronicle.com.

SERVICES

Today
Hudson-White, Barbara: 10:30 a.m., Grace Community Church, 900 Smith Road, Fremont.

Monday, Nov. 17
Lawrence, Norma: 10 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Tuesday, Nov. 18
Rigby, Mary: 10 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Saturday, Nov. 22
Bowen, Luetta: 11 a.m., Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E.Arch St., Portland.

Saturday, Nov. 29
Moore, Stephen: 2 p.m., Redkey Church of the Nazarene, 801 W. High St., Redkey.

Service listings provided by
**PROGRESSIVE
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FR announces high school honor roll

Fort Recovery High School recently announced its first quarter honor roll.

Making the list with all A's were seniors Douglas Bihn, Evvie Briner, Nevaeh Elsass, Elisa Evers, Carson Fullenkamp, Alivia Grube, Aubrie Heitkamp, Jameson Heitkamp, Madison Heitkamp, Maleiah Kaf-fenberger, Olivia Knapke, Brylee Kremer, Cora Kre-mer, Dani Schmitt, Lily Schwieterman, Reece Wendel, Tyler Wendel, Georgia Wenning and Leah Wuebker.

Also on the honor roll with all A's were juniors Kendall Buckland, Tyler Dues, Carter Fortkamp, Alexis Grisez, Russell Hart, Maddie Heitkamp, Makenna Huelskamp, Breaker Jutte, Grace

Lochtefeld, Ian McCain, Cameron Muhlenkamp, Isaac Roessner, Ivy Tobe, Jennifer Wendel and Brynn Willmann.

Earning a spot on the list with A's and B's were seniors Gabe Acheson, Ella Bechtol, Alexis Braun, Ryker Brunswick, Rylee Bubb, Emma Cole-man, Garrett Diller, Kyli-a Dues, Zoe Dues, Yaneth Esparza, Josh Evers, Mal-

lory Evers, Luke Fortkamp, Alex Gaerke, Isabell Hartings, Eli Hawk, Drew Heitkamp, Lillie Heitkamp, Caden Homan and Jenna Homan, Cayson Kaikala, Dylan Klenke, Autumn Leuthold, Luke Lochtefeld, Matthew Marchal, Elena Matsuda, Troy Post, Anthony Roess-ner, Hayden Sieftring, Cle-te Timmerman, Megan Weitzel and Koda Will.

Also making the list with A's and B's were juniors Brody Barga, Deanna Brown, Carley Buckland, Ashlyn Cantu, Alex Car-reto, Reese Diller, Kenna Dues, Cadence Eber, Des-tiny Ervin, Brady Evers, Grant Fortkamp and Ava Fullenkamp.

Also Aubree Heitkamp, Lily Hernandez, Theresa Hipple, Adyson Homan, Meredith Jones, Sydney

Jutte, Jake Meyer, Trinity Rammel, Emma Schmitz, Madelyn Schoenlein, Angel Serio, Cara Shoe-maker, Kiera Stump, Amber Timmerman, Ava Timmerman, Kaylor Wendel, James West-gerdes, Reed Westgerdes, Will Westgerdes and Jase Wuebker.

Sophomores and fresh-men will be published at a later date.

Treatment of son breaks mother’s heart

DEAR ABBY: My ex, “Hank,” and I have two sons together. Both are smart, kind, college-educated, hardworking and independent young adults.

Hank is estranged from our younger son, “Andrew.” Andrew could never live up to his father’s expectations. This is one of the reasons I fell out of love with my husband. He would initiate a verbal confrontation with Andrew and say things like, “You are not my son.” Later, he’d clarify that he meant Andrew doesn’t ACT like his older brother does. Another example: “You didn’t call me last week, so I’m not going to help you out today.”

It has been painful to watch as a mom, and for a child to experience. The one blessing is that both boys love each other. I believe children should know they are loved by their parents. They should NOT have to continually prove they are worthy of their parent’s love. It crushes me that Andrew doesn’t have a

Dear Abby



father he can count on to be there for him unconditionally.

Andrew had emergency surgery this week, and Hank never bothered to check in to ask how he was doing. We have tried therapy. Is there anything else that would help with the estrangement between a father and a son?

— MOM WHO MUST ALSO BE DAD

DEAR MOM: What a sad letter, and what a poor excuse for a husband and father. Your ex-husband engineered the estrangement, and nothing you or Andrew can do will fix it. You didn't mention how Andrew's lack of a healthy relationship

with his father has affected him. Was the therapy that was tried family therapy? Marriage counseling for you and your ex? Individual therapy for your son? It's possible that a licensed mental health professional might help Andrew come to terms with the years of emotional neglect he has suffered, but only if he agrees he needs it.

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DEAR ABBY: I am a 36-year-old woman from Pakistan. I read your advice with great interest. Since childhood, it was always hard for me to make friends. People who I liked I pushed hard to be friends with, but I guess I came across as too clingy. I'm the one who initiates most contact with my old school friends.

Now I see the same thing happening with my 7-year-old son. When his cousins or my cousins' kids come and he plays with them, he wants to maintain friendships with them through

video calls, voice messages, etc. I can see that the other kids and their parents aren't as interested in maintaining friendships, including my brother and his daughter.

My son is sensitive like I was. How do I explain to him that he shouldn't expect everyone to be his friend without giving him the impression that “nobody cares”? — SAD MOM IN PAKISTAN

DEAR SAD MOM: Friendships have to evolve naturally. Often this happens through shared interests. What is your son interested in? Is he involved in sports or other activities outside of school? While it is true that no one can “expect” others to be close friends, relationships form as a result of exposure to a variety of activities and individuals. Your fear that your son will turn out to have the same social difficulties that you do may be groundless. He may need exposure to more kids

than he has had in order to find his way socially.

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DEAR ABBY: I would like to try to understand something. Whatever happened to common courtesy? When did it become acceptable to ignore a friend's phone call, text or email? And to all those people out there who cancel plans with their friends (and you know who you are) simply because you “received a better offer,” this is RUDE! What are your thoughts on this? — DISPOSED IN CANADA

DEAR DISPOSED: Truthfully, I think that if either happens more than once, it's time to reconsider how close these people really are to you and plan accordingly.

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

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 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. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

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. Mon-

day 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.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF — Meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. the third Monday of each month. The support group serves to help individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide. To register, contact Stephanie Patterson at (260) 251-3259.

Tuesday
COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA'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.

Wednesday
WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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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Join in to gather, gobble and giggle

To the editor:
It is nearly time to gather, gobble and giggle at the 35th annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. The committee has been meeting since mid-October, planning and brainstorming to make this year's dinner the best ever. We are excited to welcome everyone in the community to our traditional 1 p.m. dinner. Our committee, guided by Carol Smith's leadership, is privileged to share this traditional holiday turkey dinner with family, friends and neighbors.
Plan now to join us at Asbury U.M. Church Fellowship Hall. A great cross section of people attend this annual event for the

Letters to the Editor

fun, fellowship and the delicious food it offers. We look forward to tables filled with adults and children of all ages, bustling with laughter and conversation and sharing tasty and delectable dishes in an atmosphere of fellowship and true thanksgiving. Come one, come all! We'll make sure you get a seat, a full tummy and a great celebration.
In addition to the meal and

the opportunity to gather with others, there will once again be a variety of games, door prizes and gift certificates to various local businesses. Our hope is to provide a bit of enjoyment and give the home budget some relief even after the holiday is over.
As always, we are looking forward to including the homebound in this holiday tradition by furnishing a meal. If you are homebound, we will have drivers standing by who are anxious to deliver a meal to your home. Please call Asbury United Methodist Church at (260) 726-8464 or Zion Lutheran Church at (260) 726-8832 (mornings) with

your request. Requests for meals must be called in by Wednesday at noon, the day before Thanksgiving, so that we are adequately prepared.
We have a special request for the cooks among us. Even if you have your own holiday tradition with family but would be willing to lend a hand, please help by making an extra dish (in a disposable pan) and drop it off at Asbury on Wednesday afternoon or on Thanksgiving Day morning. Any dish is appreciated, but vegetables and side dishes are especially enjoyed. Together, you will help us create a virtual smorgasbord of goodies.

If you want to spend an hour or two assisting on Thanksgiving Day, feel free to contact our chairperson, Carol Smith, at (260) 726-9049. She will happily schedule you and put you to work.
As Carol said several years ago, we are lovingly serving up "thankfulness and hope." We invite you and your family to be part of this fun day. The welcome mat is out to our entire community.
We hope your family shares a joyous and peace-filled holiday. We hope to see you there!
Dolphus Stephens
Community Thanksgiving Dinner Committee

Cuts to Medicaid hurt rural America

By **MARCIA DINKINS**
Otherwords



Marcia Dinkins

This summer, Congress and President Trump cut over \$1 trillion from Medicaid to help offset the cost of tax cuts for billionaires. Those Medicaid cuts are scheduled to start kicking in after next year's midterms, so it's time for everyone to start understanding the life and death consequences now.
This year, my adult daughter in rural Michigan was hospitalized multiple times with a raging infection of her pancreas, spleen, and gallbladder. Surgery saved my daughter's life. And that surgery was possible because of Medicaid.

As a parent and grandparent, I do everything possible to protect the health and safety of my loved ones — just like you do. That doesn't just mean taking care of things around the house or getting them to the doctor — it can also mean fighting against the policies that make people sick or deny them care.

When my kids were young, poor air quality and environmental hazards caused our family physical, mental, and financial anguish. Now my three adult children have serious medical issues, including seizures and pulmonary embolisms.

Millions of other Americans have health issues like these — and their lives will be at risk if they lose Medicaid coverage.

That's what drove me to found the Black Appalachian Coalition to close race and gender health disparities. Through my work in the Bluegrass region of Kentucky, I met Linda Brown — a staunch advocate for affordable health care, driven by personal experience.

Brown once had a medical emergency and spent nine days in the hospital. "I didn't know if I would live, yet I never had to wonder how I would pay. Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act saved my life," she said. Affordable health care "let me focus on healing, on breathing, on being a mother, instead of drowning in fear of medical bills."

As Brown recovered, she felt hopeful. She could take care of herself and her son, and help others in the community. Now she's a Black Appalachian Coalition trainer and supports people to share their story and point us towards solutions.

Now's the time to start sharing stories like hers. Ten million Americans

will lose health care coverage because of the federal cuts to Medicaid. Coupled with cuts to Affordable Care Act subsidies — the still unresolved sticking point of the recent government shutdown — up to 17 million Americans could lose care overall.

Without medical coverage and funding for health care institutions, people will lose access to maternal health care, mental health and drug treatment, and preventative and primary care.

Rural areas already experience slow care — but with the cuts, we will have no care. That's because health care providers will cut services or shut down — especially in rural areas and low-income communities where hospitals are more dependent on patients with Medicaid coverage.

That will impact care even for people with traditional private insurance. We'll see an increase in emergency room visits, and the burden of the costs will be shifted to already stretched communities.

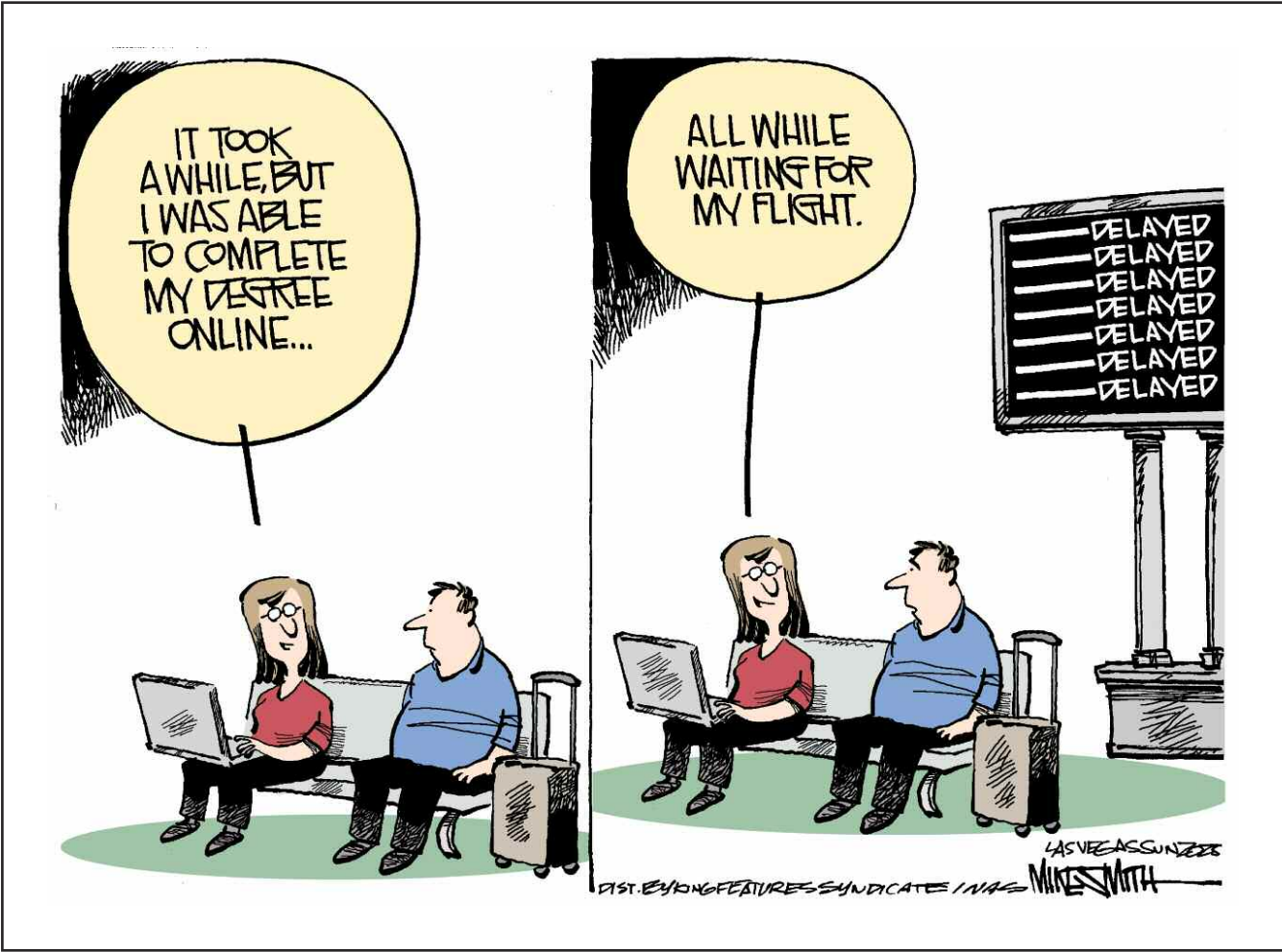
The attacks on Medicaid aren't just policy choices — they're signing people's death certificates before they ever see a physician. They're denying people like my daughter — or someone you love — access to the treatments, prescriptions, and care that could save their lives.

With this experience in mind, I worked with 40 organizations to produce the Rural Policy Action Report, which provides a federal policy agenda — including on health care — to improve rural people's lives.

I know I speak for my rural neighbors when I say we're demanding that Congress reverse its cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act, expand health care coverage, lower prescription drug prices, and ensure the access to care that all of us deserve.

Dinkins is the founder and executive director of the Black Appalachian Coalition.

OtherWords is a free editorial service published by the Institute for Policy Studies.



Some finally did the math

By **JOHN KRULL**
TheStatehouseFile.com

Political fights end for two reasons.

Math and exhaustion.
Both factors played a role in bringing the longest federal government shutdown in U.S. history to a conclusion.

Math first.
Progressives are upset — some, in fact, are furious — that a small band of Democratic and Democratic-leaning members of the U.S. Senate moved to reopen the government and put people back to work.

These centrist Democrats and their allies gained some important concessions from Republicans. They secured back pay for federal workers, many of whom were facing dire consequences if they continued to miss paychecks because of the shutdown. They won limits on the cuts that can be made in future shutdowns, protecting key members of this country's military and basic infrastructure.

And they managed to keep the government open through Jan. 31, which means the United States and its citizens will be able to enjoy a much happier holiday season.

What they didn't get was a commitment to continue funding the subsidies that make health care in this country affordable. The subsidies are due to expire at the end of this year. If the subsidies do disappear, premiums and health-care costs will skyrocket.

But Democrats did garner a pledge from Republican leadership to hold a vote on those subsidies in early December.

That's what enrages progressives. They took heart from the Nov. 4 elections in which Democrats made huge inroads even in Republican bastions such as Mississippi. Those election-day wins led progressives to think that they could have gained a

John Krull



much better deal by hanging on just a little while longer.

Maybe, but probably not.
The fact is that the Republicans already had conceded every item in dispute but the health-care subsidies.

Perhaps asking millions of Americans to endure days, weeks or months more of hardship might have persuaded Republicans to yield on health care, too, but there's little evidence that GOP officeholders were moved at all by suffering among their constituents.

In fact, for many of them, inflicting pain seemed to be at least part of the point.

Republicans' rationale for refusing to commit to supporting the subsidies made that clear. They said they wouldn't do it because they didn't want undocumented immigrants to receive federal health care benefits.

It was and is an absurd and dishonest argument only terminally gullible partisans could have swallowed. Federal law already prevents undocumented immigrants from receiving such benefits.

But even if it were true — and, again, it isn't — let's think about what the Republicans who advanced this argument were saying.

They were telling us that their animosity toward immigrants is so great that they were willing to let native-born children and old people go hungry and perhaps die just to prevent any undocumented people from receiving medical care.

Giving expression to their malice

toward people not from this country was more important to them than taking care of our own sick and hungry.

That's how to make America something, but that something sure isn't "great again."

What ending the shutdown will make clear if there is a vote on continuing the health-care subsidies is just that, unobserved by any other distractions.

Republicans care more about hurting people they don't like than they do about caring for the people they're supposed to serve.

That's the math part of this episode.

The exhaustion piece came courtesy of the American people.

They had grown tired not just of the shutdown, but of leaders who seem more interested in squabbling and settling scores than getting things done.

President Trump loves to foment rage and sees his ability to keep his base perpetually inflamed with resentment as the key to his success.

But people can't eat anger or pay their bills with fury.

That's the reason the president and his fellow Republicans have seen their poll numbers crater.

At some point, most people just want to go about their lives without having to spit and snarl all the time.

At that point, they start looking for leaders who know how to act like adults.

Leaders who know how tight things are for them and how tired they are of all the tumult and chaos. Leaders who understand math and exhaustion.

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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11-15CRYPTOQUIP

ZS SAU ILADDR ODP OZKPE-SZRU

CBZPOI, SUZLAUPI ZPU ZRBZEI

NZJKHV ISTCUHSI CD RDSI DO

VHDNUBDPJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SCIENTIST WHO
CREATES A MONSTER THAT'S ALWAYS PLAYING
HUMOROUS TRICKS ON PEOPLE: PRANKENSTEIN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals H

Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

Coming in first

1) What was the first feature-length
animated film ever released?

2) Who was the first composer whose music was
broadcast into space by the Voyager Golden Record?

1) Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1937)
2) Johann Sebastian Bach

11-17CRYPTOQUIP

OBPYE CPKUBLJ VHDDBYBE ZA

UCLA WBRWKB OXR WYREHQB

RZIBQJV JXCJ CYB WYRIBQJPKBV:

UPVVPKB JRB.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: AT THE SCHOOL FOR
FAIRY-TALE DWARFS, TEACHERS ARE ALWAYS
MAKING STUDENTS DO LOTS OF GNOMEWORK.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals P

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to geography.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 25 = N)

A. 8 2 7 23 13 21 12
Clue: Average weather

B. 13 21 3 2 2
Clue: Ring-shaped island

C. 8 13 25 11 3 25
Clue: Deep cleft

D. 8 3 25 21 7 25 12 25 21
Clue: Large land region

Answers: A. climate B. atoll C. canyon D. continent

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell
something pertaining to geography.

DLEAT

Answer: Delta

GUESS WHO?

I am an actor born in California on
November 11, 1974. An agent suggested I
begin my career acting under the name
Lenny Williams. I made my big screen
debut in a film about critters, but
appeared in sitcoms before that. I've had a
titanic career with many meaty roles.

Answer: Leonardo DiCaprio



Book FACT:

This book by Eric
Carle is one of the
most popular
children's books
ever written.

Answer: "The Very Hungry
Caterpillar"

How they
say
that in...

English: Book
Spanish: Libro
Italian: Libro
French: Livre
German: Buch

Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.

Image of a still life with a basket of fruit, a star-shaped box, and books.

Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

RTHEEAC 1 2 3 4 5
GDREA 6
TONE 7
LPTO 8

U 1 5 7 1 4 2 8 3 6 2

Answer: Turn the page

THIS
DAY IN
HISTORY

NOV
14

1851: "Moby Dick" is
published in the
United States.

1889: Journalist
Nellie Bly begins a
successful trip to
travel around the
world in less than 80
days.

1960: Ruby Bridges
becomes the first Black
child to attend an
all-white elementary
school in Louisiana.

NEW
WORD

ILLUSTRATE

provide a book
with pictures

GEOGRAPHY WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

ARCHIPELAGO
BASIN
CONTINENT
DELTA
DESERT
EQUATOR
EROSION
GLACIER
HEMISPHERE
ISTHMIUS
LATITUDE
LONGITUDE
MOUNTAIN RANGE
PENINSULA
PLATEAU
PRIME MERIDIAN
RAINFOREST
RIVERS
SAVANNA
TOPOGRAPHY
TUNDRA
VALLEY
WATERSHED
WEATHER

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Gem
weight
6 Snow
formation
11 Villa
d'Este
city
12 Downy
ducks
14 Advil
alter-
native
15 Nailed
the test
16 Website
contact
no.
17 Old
market
19 Kimono
sash
20 Book
after Joel
22 Outer
(Pref.)
23 Tennis
great
Steffi
24 Tirades
26 50
percent
28 Year in
Mexico
30 JFK info
31 Ump's
call
35 Stuffed
shirt
39 Caspian
Sea
feeder

40 Night
school
subj.
42 Hammett
pooch
43 Pres.
after
LBJ
44 Increase
Fiddle
stick
47 Skier
Street,
winner of
Olympic
gold
49 Butterfly
protector
51 Quid-
ditch
position
52 Per
annum
53 Georgia
or Vir-
ginia, for
example

54 Song-
writer
Jule
DOWN

1 Movie
theater
2 Arthurian
isle
3 Sinbad's
bird
4 Inter —
5 Hint of
color
6 Cher-
ished
friend
7 Costa —
8 Chemical
suffix
9 Soft felt
hat
10 Clan-
related
11 Early
Mongo-
lian

13 Rigid
18 Kitchen
gadget
brand
21 Play for
time
23 Accra's
country
25 — -Cat
(arctic
vehicle)
27 UFO crew
29 "Another,
please"
31 After-
dinner
remarks?
32 Ant
hordes
33 Surgeon's
cutter
34 "Sixth
sense"
36 "The
Paper
Chase"
novelist
37 Peter in
"Law-
rence of
Arabia"
38 Light
brown
41 Liu and
Lawless
44 Help a
hood
45 Bard
48 Alias
abbr.
50 Archipel-
ago part

Solution time: 26 mins.

RAJAS UFO ACH
ILOVE NON SHA
GLEEM JOEBLOW
BRTIDAL LARK
ABU SUM CONDE
PACS NSYNC
TAKEON INKJET
PREOP SOON
ADDTO CEL EST
NORI FESSUP
JOECOOAL ALANA
ORG APO TEPID
USS RST SEPTA

Yesterday's answer 11-15

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13

14 15

16 17 18 19

20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27

28 29 30

31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38

39 40 41 42

43 44 45 46

47 48 49 50

51 52

53 54

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

It's almost magic

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ Q 10 7 2
♥ A Q 5 4
♦ Q 10 8
♣ Q 3

EAST
♦ K 9 3
♥ K 8 3 2
♦ 7 5 3
♣ 9 6 2

WEST
♦ J 8 6 4
♥ J 10 9 7
♦ 6 2
♠ 8 5 4

SOUTH
♦ A 5
♥ 6
♦ A K J 9 4
♠ A K J 10 7

The bidding:
South 1 ♦ West 1 ♥ North 4 ♥ East 3 ♠
3 ♣ Pass 4 ♦ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♦ Pass
7 ♦ Opening lead — jack of hearts.

When declarer has to choose
between two different methods of
play, either of which might succeed
or fail depending on how the miss-
ing cards are divided, he usually
does best by making the so-called
percentage play.

Consider this deal where West
leads a heart against seven dia-
monds. At first glance it might
seem best for declarer to finesse the
queen, because if he doesn't, he is

very likely to lose a spade trick and
go down one.

Mathematically, there is a 50%
chance that West has the king of
hearts (assuming we disregard the
fact that West would be unlikely to
lead a heart from the king against a
grand slam).

But even if we assume there's a
50-50 chance that West has the
king, the fact remains that there is
another method of play that offers
a much greater chance of success.
Essentially, it depends on the
opposing trumps being divided 3-2,
a 68% proposition.

Accordingly, declarer should win
the heart lead with the ace, ruff a
heart high, lead the four of trump
to the eight and ruff another heart
high. The nine of trump is then led
to the ten, and dummy's last heart
is ruffed with South's last trump.

A low club to the queen now
allows declarer to cash the queen
of trump — drawing the last oppos-
ing trump — while at the same time
he disposes of his spade loser.

South then scores the rest of the
tricks with his remaining clubs.

It may be somewhat difficult to
visualize at the beginning of play
that South's spade loser will even-
tually be discarded on dummy's
queen of diamonds, but that's the
way things usually go in dummy-
reversal hands.

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ A Q 4 3
♥ K Q 5
♦ A K 9 2
♣ 7 4

EAST
♦ J 6
♥ A 9
♦ Q 10
♣ J 10 9 6 5 3

WEST
♦ 10 9 8
♥ J 10 7 4 3
♦ J 6 5
♠ A 2

SOUTH
♦ K 7 5 2
♥ 8 6 2
♦ 8 7 4 3
♣ K 8

The bidding:
North 1 ♣ East 3 ♠ South 3 ♠ West 4 ♠
1 ♣ Pass 3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠

*two or more clubs
Opening lead — ace of clubs.

This deal occurred in the final of
the 2025 Vanderbilt Teams. South
was Marty Fleischer, captain of the
winning team.

Fleischer was off to a good start
when West led the ace of clubs, the
suit East had preempted in. When
East played the club queen on the
ace, West shifted to a low heart,

dummy's queen losing to East's ace.
East then returned the nine of
hearts to dummy's king.

Despite the helpful opening club
lead, it appeared that South was
still certain to lose a heart and a
diamond for down one. But
Fleischer found the way to make
one of the losers disappear, and
there was nothing the defenders
could do about it.

After winning the heart return,
declarer drew the opposing trumps,
cashed the diamond ace, crossed to
the king of clubs and led a dia-
mond. When West followed low,
Fleischer played the nine, losing to
East's queen. Since East had no
more diamonds or hearts, he had to
return a club, allowing South to
discard a heart from one hand
while ruffing in the other, and the
contract was home.

Note that it would not have helped
either defender to play their dia-
monds any differently, as declarer
could counter any move they made
in an attempt to mislead him.

At the other table, North wound
up as declarer in four spades and
finished down two after West led
the club queen, resulting in a
13-IMP gain for the Fleischer team.

Tomorrow: Plan ahead.
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Comic
Carrey
4 Center
7 Bowlers
and
fedoras
11 Six-sided
state
13 Leb.
neighbor
14 They can
take a
yoke
15 Sleuth
Wolfe
16 JFK
Library
architect
17 Genuine
18 Nail
smoother
20 Play-
wright
O'Casey
22 Just out
24 Doesn't
sink
28 Crucial
32 Blazing
33 "Dream
on!"
34 Bur-
rowed
36 Ship's
front
37 Wizard's
garment
39 Low
places
41 Arm's-
length pic

43 Picnic
dessert
44 Sings like
Cardi B
46 Delegate
50 Conduc-
tor
Riccardo
53 Rowing
tool
55 Empty
truck's
weight
56 Apple
desktop
computer
57 Weep
58 Village
People hit
59 Sitarist's
music
60 Hasten
61 Standard

DOWN

1 Flag Day
month
2 Detail
3 Stallion's
mate
4 Trendy
5 Exploits
6 Fleeting
7 Thanks-
giving decora-
tion
8 Chopper
9 Herbal
brew
10 NBC
weekend
show
12 Peninsula
that
includes
Ethiopia
and
Eritrea
19 Still
21 Carte
lead-in
23 Bankroll
25 Suffix for
million

Solution time: 21 mins.

CARAT DRIFT
TIVOLI EIDERS
ANACIN ACEDIT
TEL AGORA OBI
AMOS EXO GRAF
RANTS ONEHALF
ANO ETA
BALLONE SNOOT
URAL ESL ASTA
RMN AMPUP BOW
PICABO COCOON
SEEKER YEARLY
STATE STYNE

Saturday's answer 11-17

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20 21

22 23 24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31 32

33 34 35 36

37 38 39 40

41 42 43

44 45 46 47 48 49

50 51 52 53 54 55

56 57 58

59 60 61

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly

NOW I'M CRAVING CIDER AND DOUGHNUTS AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THOSE THINGS ARE!

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

11-15

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"Aren't they goin' to have Thanksgiving this year, Mommy?"

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly

GREGOR METAMORPHOSED INTO A GIANT COCKROACH AND HE HASN'T EVEN NOTICED YET.

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

11-17

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"Why can't I get the new clothes sometimes and let Billy wear my hand-me-ups?"

Peanuts

AH! THE FIRE INSPECTOR!

CHECKING EVERYTHING OUT, I SEE...

REALLY? THAT'S NICE TO KNOW...

IF YOU KEEP YOUR WATER DISH FILLED, IT CUTS DOWN ON YOUR FIRE INSURANCE!

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Peanuts

I REMEMBER WHEN CHRISTO HUNG THE VALLEY CURTAIN IN COLORADO

I LOVED THE RUNNING FENCE IN CALIFORNIA AND THE WRAPPED WALKWAYS IN KANSAS CITY...

I WONDER WHAT HE'LL DO NEXT...

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Rose is Rose

I GUESS YOU'RE STUCK WITH AUNTIE ROSE, NINI!

DID MOMEE JUHST FAWL UNASLEEP?

YES, IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR A MOMMY TO DOZE OFF MID-SENTENCE.

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Rose is Rose

PASQUALE! YOU'RE MISSING OUR HIKE!

I'M BUSY MANEUVERING THE TREETOP OBSTACLE COURSE...

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Agnes

AGNES... YES?

IS YOUR GRANDMOTHER AWARE THAT YOU ARE WEARING MAKEUP TO SCHOOL?

HEH HEH... OF COURSE NOT! I'M JUST PRETTY, NOT INSANE.

I THINK SHE SENT ME HERE BECAUSE MY BEAUTY WAS A HUGE DISTRACTION TO THE REST OF THE CLASS.

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Agnes

MAKE YOUR BED, AGNES.

I'M LIVING EACH DAY AS IF IT WAS MY LAST.

REALLY?

YES... AND IF THIS IS MY LAST DAY, YOU HAVE TO STRIP THE BED TO SELL IT ANYWAY.

YOU MIGHT BE SPENDING YOUR LAST DAY GROUNDED.

HA! LIKE I HAD ANY PLANS FOR SCHOOL ON MY LAST DAY.

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Hi and Lois

THAT'S THE LAST LEAF.

TIME TO START RAKING.

WAIT! I SEE ANOTHER ONE.

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Hi and Lois

REMEMBER WHEN STREAKING WAS A FAD?

BACK IN THE 70S.

DITTO IS BRINGING IT BACK.

I'M READY FOR MY BATH!

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Between Friends

MAEVE - HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED HOW YOU RUN FROM YOUR RELATIONSHIPS WHEN THINGS GET TOUGH?

I DON'T DO THAT

YOU'RE DOING IT NOW

BENOIT HAS TO DEAL WITH HIS DAUGHTER, NOT ME! IF HE CAN'T CONTROL HER, SHE'LL RUIN OUR RELATIONSHIP!

IF YOU DON'T RESOLVE THIS ISSUE TOGETHER, SHE ALREADY HAS

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Between Friends

YOU KNOW BENOIT'S DAUGHTER IS TRYING TO SABOTAGE YOUR RELATIONSHIP, AND BENOIT KNOWS IT TOO

YOU'RE WRONG TO PULL AWAY FROM BENOIT BECAUSE OF HER WHEN HE SAYS HE WANTS YOU TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION TOGETHER

IT WON'T BE EASY, BUT THAT'S HOW IT GOES... THE TWO OF YOU WILL NEED TO MAKE HARD DECISIONS, BUT ONCE THEY'RE MADE-

-THEY'RE NO LONGER HARD

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Blondie

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Snuffy Smith

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REALLY?

YEAH... I'M NO SPRING CHICKEN !!

L'il SPARKY

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Snuffy Smith

PAW !! WHAT IN TARNATION HAPPENED TO YOU ?!

I GOT INTO IT WIF BARLOW !!

I KNEW YA WUZ BUSY T'DAY SO I FILLED IN FER YA !!

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FOOF

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Back to the basics

Freshmen reap benefits of practice leading to a pair of wins in double dual

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review
The Patriots got an idea of where they stood opening the season with the Monroe Central Invite.

Coming back this week, they focused on the basics and dominated in a pair of dual matches.

The Jay County High School girls wrestling team steamrolled the Richmond Red Devils 66-18 and the Muncie Central Bearcats 72-6 on Thursday.

The Patriots (2-0) claimed nine of the 12 contested matches, winning all of them via pin.

“The girls gave us a lot of effort,” said JCHS coach Troy Jacks. “We went back to basics this week, we coached moves a lot. What we learned this past weekend, and it showed up today, was the girls were working on fundamentals, staying inside the arms, staying hips behind. We got some more wins out of it, which was what we were wanting to do.

“But it’s not really about the wins. It’s about how they’re wrestling and the matchups were a little bit tougher. Richmond and Muncie Central put their tougher girls against our tougher girls to see where we matched up and we shined.”

One athlete who immediately benefited from the extra work on making simple moves was Gracie Rowles.

The freshman wrestled one match in the 125-pound weight class against Muncie Central’s Abygail Berkshire. Rowles quickly pushed the Bearcat to the mat for a takedown in 12 seconds. After tackling Berkshire to the ground, Rowles quickly loosened her grip to allow her opponent to get to her knees, opening the opportunity to get an arm around her leg and run a full nelson.

The Patriot turned Berkshire over to get the quick pin 39 seconds into the match.

“I got my half nelson and didn’t get her leg at the beginning and she just kept scooting,” Rowles said. “Then I grabbed her leg and



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School freshman Alison Tipton keeps Beautiful Criglar of Richmond down on the mat during a double dual the Patriots hosted on Thursday. Tipton was one of three Patriots with a pair of pins to pick up a 66-18 victory over the Red Devils and a 72-6 win against Muncie Central.

flipped her. ... I think it’s amazing that it’s my first year and I’m doing this good. The practice has really helped.”

While Rowles secured her victory in less than a minute, it took Kenady Lyons nearly two periods, but she also benefited from the extra week of practice.

Lyons nearly got a single leg takedown on Arlett Espinoza of Richmond, but the first period ended with no advantage.

Lyons chose to start the second on top and after 1 minute, 42 seconds she finally got her arm around for a half nelson. She ran a near fall until eventually pinning the Red Devil with 5 seconds remaining in the 235 weight class.

“I was finally able to get my hand up above to get around for the half nelson,” Lyons said of how choosing top benefited her. “For a while there, I couldn’t get

it. I was struggling because she kept pinching my arm, so I had to think of different way to get around it.”

A third freshman had a big day as well, as Alison Tipton won a pair of matches. Tipton went 1-1 at Monroe Central and came back to dominate both matches on Thursday.

In her 115-pound contest against Beautiful Criglar of Richmond, Tipton got a takedown in 11 seconds and two two-point near falls before securing the pin with 1:02 left.

Tipton then beat Muncie Central’s Kamylah Harris with a single-leg takedown that immediately led to a pin in 30 seconds.

“Her judo skills turned out really good, by working on the inside stuff instead of outside” Jacks said. “That was a flip floppy match that she pinned that girl

from Central. That first match could have gone a different way had she not had the extra practice time.”

Returners Maleah Parsons (140 pounds) and Madison Gage (155) were the other two Patriots to win two matches. Parsons pinned Richmond’s Ambria Tate in 11 seconds and got a reversal on Learah Rollins of Muncie Central to secure the victory. Gage made quick work of Ashlyn Jones in 11 seconds and pinned the Bearcats’ Abrielle Morton at 1:17.

The other wins came from Katie Rowles and Amara Crawford, both of whom finished the season ranked fifth in the 100 and 190 weight classes respectively. Rowles pinned Richmond’s Veronica Woods in 42 seconds, while Crawford won the 170 contest against Muncie Central’s Joslyn Sutton after 2:21 elapsed.

JCHS dropped three matches on the day, two to Richmond and one to Muncie Central.

Marlee Wampler and Ka’Myia Nicholson secured pins on Kaileigh Compton and Kaylee Bramlett for the Red Devils in the 130 and 135 weight classes, while Jasmine Ray’s pin of Jolee White in the 190 contest was the Bearcats’ sole victory.

Jay County will look to continue improving, with the next major step being to work on more specific wrestling moves.

“We want to start folding in wrestling moves,” Jacks said. “Now we’ve started to lock down positioning, we can kind of start folding in more arrows in the quiver so to speak, or to have them knowing what to do once they break them down inside ties and staying flat.”

2025-26 Fort Recovery girls basketball preview

2024-25 season

The Tribe finished last season just under .500 with a 12-13 record. After moving to the southwest district, Fort Recovery reached the district title game for the first time since the 2010-11 season but fell to Arcanum 44-25. FRHS had a rough start to the season, dropping five of its first seven games before a 6-1 stretch that included Midwest Athletic Conference wins over New Bremen and Coldwater lifted it above .500. It went on a three-game slide before heading into the postseason. The Indians finished in a tie with Coldwater for sixth in the MAC at 3-6.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Pictured is the 2025-26 Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team. Front row from left are managers Rayna Tobin, Courtney Wuebker, Whitley Wendel and Rhea Steinbrunner. Middle row are Kendall Ranley, Kayla Gaerke, Paisley Hart, Brooke Bihn, Emma Schmitz, Brynn Huntsman, Makenna Huelskamp and Mara Wendel. Back row are assistant coach Mandy Gerlach, Ivy Tobe, Kayden Ranley, Cameron Muhlenkamp, Bridget Homan, Hope Evers, Kinlee Kremer, Madie Schoenlein, assistant coach Allison Hughes and coach Tyler Deitsch.

Coach Tyler Deitsch says

“This team, it’s gonna be finding that new role and trusting themselves and being able to do things that other people aren’t willing to do. ... Really digging in and being more aggressive defensively this year and helping that lead into everything else that we that we’re trying to do. ... We want to pick the ball up as early as we can. What we’re really trying to do is make teams do what we think that they’re not very good at. So instead of just focusing on trying to stop the basketball and ... protecting the basket, not giving layups ... we want to take away any open shots on the outside and just make teams do what we don’t think that they’re very good at. So getting things left, really shrinking the floor as much as we can and then really applying pressure and creating some chaos to give us an advantage going the other way ... So that’s the big thing is really just taking away things that teams are really good at, which then just allows us to play within our system versus being more matchup dependent ...”

Top returners

Bridget Homan

8.6 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 1 apg, 1.4 spg

Makenna Huelskamp

6.3 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 1.3 apg, 2.1 spg

Cameron Muhlenkamp

2.8 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 1.8 apg, 1.8 spg

Key departures

Karlie Niekamp

13.0 ppg, 9.4 rpg, 1.6 apg, 2.3 spg

Kennedy Muhlenkamp

11.4 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 1.4 apg, 2.0 bpg

Projected starters

Madie Schoenlein – Guard
Makenna Huelskamp – Guard
Cameron Muhlenkamp – Guard
Emma Schmitz – Forward
Bridget Homan – Forward

Fast facts

•The Indians return 41.2% of their points from the 2024-25 season. A bulk of that scoring came from Cameron Muhlenkamp, Bridget Homan and Makenna Huelskamp.

•This will be Tyler Deitsch’s third year at the helm of the Fort Recovery program. The Tribe is 20-28 (6-13 Midwest Athletic Conference) under his leadership.

•The Indians’ district dry spell continued as they fell to Arcanum in the 2024-25 final 44-25. Despite making the championship game last year, FRHS hasn’t claimed a title since the 2011 season.

Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Friday, Nov. 21	Memorial	6 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 28	Mississinawa Valley	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 2	Newton	6 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 4	St. Henry	6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 6	Jay County	noon
Tuesday, Dec. 9	Crestview	6 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 11	Marion Local	6 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 15	Ansonia	6 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 18	Parkway	6 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 22	Houston	6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 27	Preble Shawnee	11 a.m.
Monday, Dec. 29	Graham Local	3 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 8	New Bremen	6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 10	Arcanum	1 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 15	Minster	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 20	South Adams	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 22	Coldwater	6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 24	Franklin Monroe	10 a.m.
Thursday, Jan. 29	New Knoxville	6 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 2	Celina	6 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 5	Versailles	6 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 12	St. John’s	6 p.m.
Home games in bold		

Games to watch

Friday, Nov. 28, vs. Mississinawa Valley

The visit from the Blackhawks marks the first big test of the season. Mississinawa Valley advanced to the 2025 regional final in Division VII before falling to Fort Loramie while the Indians were Division VI district finalists.

Thursday, Dec. 18, vs. Parkway

A year ago, these teams represented the split in the Midwest Athletic Conference. Parkway was fifth in the league at 5-4 while Fort Recovery sat sixth at 3-6. If the Indians are to move into the top half of the MAC standings, this is one of the results they will have to flip.

Saturday, Jan. 10, vs. Arcanum

The Trojans ended Fort Recovery’s 2025 tournament run by a 44-25 score in the district championship game. Arcanum lost its top scorer to graduation but returns every other significant contributor. The Indians know a tournament rematch is a possibility, so this will be a chance to learn where they stand.

Fort Recovery High School's Brody Barga rips Brayden Mescher out of bounds during the OHSAA Division VII Regional 28 semifinal game at Marion Local on Friday night. The Indians fell 35-0 to the undefeated Midwest Athletic Conference foe to finish the season with seven or more wins for just the fourth time in school history.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Box score			
No. 10 Fort Recovery Indians (7-6) at No. 1 Marion Local Flyers (12-0)		Comp-Att-Int 3-11-0 14-15-0	
OHSAA Division VII Region 28 semifinal		Passing yds 36 211	
Ft. Rec. 0 0 0 0 — 0		Total Plays 39 51	
Marion Lo. 7 14 7 7 — 35		Total Offense 143 361	
First Quarter		Punt ret - yds 0-0 1-6	
ML — Kamden Eifert 7 run (Thomas Winner kick), 2:42.		Kickoff ret - yds 4-22 1-15	
Second Quarter		Sacks - yds lost 1-9 1-9	
ML — Eifert 6 run (Winner kick), 7:18.		Ints - yds 0-0 0-0	
ML — Brayden Mescher 2 run (Winner kick), 0:31.		Fumbles - lost 0-0 0-0	
Third Quarter		Penalties - yds 3-23 4-45	
ML — Eifert 1 run (Winner kick), 3:49.		Individual Statistics	
Fourth Quarter		Rushing — Fort Recovery — Reece Wendel 14-77, Alex Gaerke 9-16, Breaker Jutte 3-12, Brodie Hart 2-2. Marion Local — Kamden Eifert 20-112, Ben Meier 8-26, Brayden Mescher 2-8, Cale Nagel 1-4, Landyne Minton 2-2, Nolan Eckstein 1-1, Brennen Hess 2-(-3).	
Team Statistics		Passing — Fort Recovery — Gaerke 3-11-0 36, Marion Local — Hess 14-15-0 211.	
FR ML		Receiving — Fort Recovery — Reece Wendel 1-17, Colson Post 1-13, Breaker Jutte 1-6. Marion Local — Mescher 4-73, Eifert 2-56, Oliver Huelsman 1-40, Nagel 4-33, Meier 1-7, Andrew Schmackers 2-2.	
Rushes - yds 28-107 36-150			

Downed ...

Continued from page 10
Alex Gaerke was better in first half with 36 yards as he completed three of his six passing attempts, but couldn't find any receivers in the second half. "It's just consistency of putting together 10-12 positive plays against this defense,"

Wenning said. "At times we moved the ball well and then it came to finishing. It felt like we were just short of finishing." Still, the Indians saw improvement over the season. Not only did they win their first playoff game since 2021, they made the regional semifinal for

the first time since 2016 and their seven wins were more than the last three seasons combined. (They had three in 2022, one in 2023 and two in 2024.) "It's meant the world for me," said Wendel, who played his final football game for the Tribe. "I'm unbelievably grate-

ful for coach Wes and everybody who came back. They mean so much even if they didn't start on the actual field, just in practice. They were all helpful the whole season. Every single day was amazing." Wenning is also looking forward to a brighter future.

"It was a stepping stone in the right direction," he said. "This is the fourth time in school history that we've had seven or more wins. I've raved about these seniors and their sacrifice ... I can't express my gratitude to these seniors enough."

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Girls basketball at Hamilton Heights — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball scrimmage at Houston — 9 a.m.; Boys bowling vs. Minster at Community Lanes — 9 a.m.; Girls bowling vs. Minster at Community Lanes — 9 a.m.; Middle school boys basketball scrimmage at Russia — 9 a.m.

Monday
Jay County — Junior high boys basketball vs. Norwell — 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at Norwell — 6 p.m.

Tuesday
Jay County — Junior high girls basketball at Adams Central — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball vs. Adams Central — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball scrimmage vs. Newton — 5 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
9 a.m. — World Cup Qualification soccer: Kazakhstan at Belgium (FS1)

12 p.m. — College football: South Carolina at Texas A&M (ESPN); Wisconsin at Indiana (BTN); Michigan at Northwestern (FOX); Notre Dame at Pitt (ABC); Arizona at Cincinnati (FS1); South Florida at Navy (ESPN2)
12 p.m. — NWSL soccer: Washington Spirit at Portland Thorns (CBS)
1 p.m. — College football: West Virginia at Arizona State (TNT)
3 p.m. — Curling: U.S. Olympic Trials (USA)
3:30 p.m. — College football: Oklahoma at Alabama (ABC); Penn State at Michigan State (CBS); Maryland at Illinois (FS1); Iowa at USC (BTN); Virginia at Duke (ESPN2); N.C. State at Miami (ESPN); UCF at Texas Tech (FOX)
4 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Notre Dame at Michigan (NBC)
7 p.m. — College football: Florida at Ole Miss (ESPN); Purdue at Washington (FS1); Utah at Baylor (ESPN2); Texas at Georgia (ABC); UCLA at Ohio State (NBC)
7 p.m. — NBA: Toronto Raptors at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)
7 p.m. — College basketball: UConn at BYU (FOX); Oklahoma at Nebraska (BTN)
7 p.m. — Curling: U.S. Olympic Trials (USA)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Green Bay at Minnesota (BTN)

10:15 p.m. — College football: TCU at BYU (ESPN)
10:30 p.m. — College football: Wyoming at Fresno State (FS1); UC Davis at Montana State (ESPN2)

Sunday
7 a.m. — Women's Super League soccer: Liverpool at Chelsea Women (ESPN2)
9 a.m. — World Cup Qualification: Hungary at Republic of Ireland (FS1)
12:30 p.m. — College basketball: Notre Dame at Ohio State (FS1)
1 p.m. — NFL: Cincinnati Bengals at Pittsburgh Steelers (CBS); Chicago Bears at Minnesota Vikings (FOX)
1 p.m. — Women's college basketball: North Dakota State at Nebraska (BTN); TCU at N.C. State (ESPN)
2:30 p.m. — Curling: U.S. Olympic Trials (USA)
2:45 p.m. — World Cup Qualification: Italy at Norway (FS1)
2:55 p.m. — Speed Skating World Cup (NBC)
3 p.m. — College basketball: Houston at Auburn (ESPN)
3 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Louisville at Clemson (ESPN2)

3 p.m. — College soccer: Michigan at UCLA (BTN)
3 p.m. — NWSL soccer: Orlando Pride at Gotham FC (ABC)
3 p.m. — Figure skating: Skate America (NBC)
4:25 p.m. — NFL: Kansas City Chiefs at Denver Broncos (CBS)
5 p.m. — College basketball: UNLV at Memphis (ESPN)
5 p.m. — NHRA: In-N-Out Burger NHRA Finals (FS1)
5:30 p.m. — College basketball: Incarnate Word at Indiana (BTN)
7 p.m. — College wrestling: National Duals Invitational (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — College basketball: Akron at Purdue (BTN)
8:30 p.m. — NFL: Detroit Lions at Philadelphia Eagles (NBC)
8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Miami at Florida (ESPN)

Monday
7 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Detroit Pistons (FDSN Indiana)
8 p.m. — NBA: Oklahoma City Thunder at New Orleans Pelicans (FOX)
8 p.m. — College basketball: SIU Edwardsville

at Wisconsin (BTN)
8:15 p.m. — NFL: Dallas Cowboys at Las Vegas Raiders (ABC)
10 p.m. — College basketball: Oregon State at Oregon (FS1)

Tuesday
12 p.m. — Euro U21 Qualification soccer: Georgia at Germany (ESPN)
12 p.m. — PGA Jr. League Championship golf (ESPN2)
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Michigan State at Kentucky (ESPN); American at Rutgers (BTN)
7 p.m. — College football: Western Michigan at Northern Illinois (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Toronto Maple Leafs (FDSN Indiana)
8 p.m. — NBA: Memphis Grizzlies at San Antonio Spurs (NBC)
8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Southeast Missouri State at Iowa (BTN)
8:30 p.m. — International Friendly soccer: Mexico at Paraguay (ESPN)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Kansas at Duke (ESPN)
11 p.m. — NBA: Phoenix Suns at Portland Trail Blazers (NBC)



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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Brayden Mescher of Marion Local reels in a pass despite double coverage from Fort Recovery High School's Anthony Roessner (15) and Isaac Roessner (8) during the regional semifinal loss on Friday. Mescher led all receivers with 73 yards, including a pair of catches that set up scores as the Tribe's season came to an end 35-0.

Tribe's season came to an end in regional semifinal at the hands of the Flyers

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

MARIA STEIN, Ohio — The Tribe moved the ball into the Flyers' territory on its first drive, but got stopped on fourth down.

When the Flyers pushed back the other way, the Indians caught a few breaks to put the undefeated, four-time defending state champs in fourth-and-long. But one big pass play secured first down and set up a short run to break the ice.

And that sequence repeated itself all night.

The 12th-seeded, No. 10 Fort Recovery High School football team had its season come to a close in a 35-0 loss Friday to the No. 1 Marion Local Flyers in their OHSAA Division VII Regional 28 semifinal.

While the season comes to a close for the Tribe (7-6) after winning a playoff game for the first time since 2021, Marion Local (12-0) extended its winning streak — it dates back to the 2021 season — to 76 games and will face another Midwest Athletic Conference team in St. Henry in the regional final.

"They're well coached and you can tell that's a 20-year system they're doing over there with their kids," said FRHS first-year coach Wes Wenning. "They're well coached, technique is to a T, anything you feel you have an edge in is completely wiped out."

"We took some gambles early on and sometimes those pay off and sometimes you feel like you die right then and there, but regardless, I'm proud of these dudes and the way they fought tonight."

While the Indians' gambles didn't often pay off, the Flyers' risks resulted in touchdowns.

On Marion Local's first drive of the game, it marched down the field to the 28-yard line. After a trio of short runs by Ben Meier and Kamden Eifert,

who led with 112 yards on 20 carries, the top-ranked team faced fourth-and-3.

The Flyers then had a false start, setting them back 5 yards for fourth-and-8 at Fort Recovery's 29-yard line. But they took a gamble and it paid off as Brennen Hess' pass found Brayden Mescher for a 22-yard reception and a first down.

Eifert punched the ball into the end zone on the very next play for a 7-yard score, the longest of the game.

"Whenever you can extend a drive, especially early, and you can convert on it, you never know how that changes the game," said MLHS coach Tim Goodwin. "(Fort Recovery) came here and wanted to play a physical game. It took us a couple of plays there to figure out what they wanted to do. Wes is doing a great job over there and they're moving in the right direction."

That became a trend on nearly all the following drives. The Flyers would come up with one or two big plays before eventually punching in a short touchdown.

Mescher caught two of those passes, while Hess found Eifert once and Oliver Huelsman another time. Hess finished with 211 yards on 14-of-15 passing (93.3%), but didn't have any touchdowns. Four of the scores came from Eifert, while Mescher punched in a direct snap from the 2-yard line.

The Tribe only made two stops — one to start the second half when Marion Local turned the ball over on downs and another in the fourth quarter after the game had been decided.

On the other side of the field, the Tribe couldn't get the ball rolling enough to score. Reece Wendel finished with the most offense for Fort Recovery with 77 yards on 14 carries.

See **Downed** page 9

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