

Healing quest



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Hayden Hale as Chuck “DMBiggs” and Ali McGraw as Agnes Evans perform together during Tuesday’s rehearsal for the Jay County Junior-Senior High School Drama Club’s production of the play “She Kills Monsters.” The drama-comedy takes the audience into a “Dungeons & Dragons” game created by Agnes’ sister Tilly before her death in a car accident. Agnes learns about the sister she mostly ignored and about herself during an emotional, adventure-packed journey.

High school production of ‘She Kills Monsters’ takes audience on emotional, adventurous journey

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Fun.
Different.
Challenging.
Important.
Those single words from the cast and director describe “She Kills Monsters.”
Jay County Junior-Senior High School Drama Club’s production of the 2011 drama-comedy play by Qui Nguyen is scheduled for this weekend, with shows at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$5 and will be available at the door.
The play has been one that director Cain Bilbrey, and former and current students, have targeted for several years. Growth in the number of students participating in the drama program helped open

the door to staging the show this year.
“The other reason I want to do it — the subject matter that’s in it, I think, is important to not just our students, but our community,” said Bilbrey. “And hopefully we are going to present it in a way that everyone feels we stayed true to the playwright, but we’re also presenting it in a way that is not beating you over the head...”
The play involves grief, as Agnes Evans deals with the death of her sister Tilly and her parents in a car accident that occurred a year before the events of the show, as well as regret, self-discovery, acceptance, belonging, courage and healing. As she processes the loss of her family, Agnes finds a module for the game “Dungeons & Dragons” written by her sister.

Through the game, she learns more about the sister to whom she never paid much attention. She comes face-to-face with Tilly’s demons — literally and figuratively — like bullying, shame and loneliness, and the challenges of her relationship.
“It’s like a journey of not just finding out about her sister,” said junior Ali McGraw, who plays Agnes, “but finding out about herself and dealing with all of the stresses in her life.”
The show shifts between Agnes’ real-life world and the fantasy world of “Dungeons & Dragons,” with most of the actors play dual roles.
Senior Jacob Kellogg handles two of those roles, playing Orcus, demon overlord of the underworld, in the game and one of Tilly’s classmates in real life.

“I like the D&D aspect of it,” Kellogg said. “I like the fact that I get to play a demon for most of the show. It’s fun.”
It will also be his first straight play after performing in musicals for both the high school and Jay County Civic Theatre. He was Gomez Addams in the school’s May production of “The Addams Family.”
“Doing a play is very different,” he said. “It’s interesting. I’ve enjoyed it. ...
“I think in a way, you have to think about your character more than what you do in a musical, because in a musical, music tells the story. (In a play), you are telling the story with purely spoken words. I find it slightly more challenging for it.”

See **Quest** page 2

Congress advances Epstein bill to president

House, Senate call for the DOJ to release investigative documents

By ANA CEBALLOS
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service
WASHINGTON — The long-standing fight to demand the Justice Department release all documents tied to its investigation into late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein shifted to President Trump on Tuesday after the House and Senate, within hours of each other, voted overwhelmingly to publicize the files.
Trump, who tried to thwart the release of the records for several months, reversed course on Sunday night and indicated that he plans to sign the measure when it reaches his desk. For that to happen, the Senate and House needed to approve the measure — and on Tuesday that happened with near-unanimous support in both chambers, at the urging of Epstein survivors.

The action, however, did not come without some tension.
Hours before the House vote, Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., said he would support the measure even though he believed it did not do enough to protect the privacy of the victims. Calling the bill “flawed,” Johnson then called on Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., to fix the bill in the chamber prior to sending it to the president’s desk.
But amending the bill would have further delayed passage of the measure, prolonging a hugely divisive congressional fight. The Senate ultimately decided to quickly pass the bill in the chamber without making any changes — or a recorded vote — following a successful procedural maneuver led by Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York.
“Epstein victim groups have made clear that they support this bill as written, without amendments,” Schumer said. “We should listen to them and pass this bill quickly.”

Senate adjourns until Jan. 5

By TOM DAVIES
and CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana Gov. Mike Braun on Tuesday made his most overt political threat to recalcitrant Republican state senators over early congressional redistricting, saying he’d look for ways to “compel” them to act — and vowing to support primary challengers.
Braun’s rebuke came shortly after a deep divide among Senate Republicans was exposed with a typically routine vote on adjourning Tuesday’s procedural Organization Day session until January.
Votes in the Senate and House set Jan. 5 as the date lawmakers will return to the Statehouse and start the new legislative session — not on Dec. 1, as previously

Braun continues to push for session on redistricting

planned, to take up President Donald Trump’s wish for Republican-led states to draw more GOP-friendly U.S. House districts ahead of the 2026 midterm elections.
The Senate’s adjournment resolution was approved by a 29-19 margin. All 10 Democratic senators supported the resolution, while Republican senators split 19-19 on whether to back Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray’s

decision last week against meeting in December, on the grounds of too little support for a congressional redistricting to pass the chamber.
The Senate’s action sidesteps Braun’s call for a special legislative session that was to have started Nov. 3, with Braun responding Tuesday that “it’s time now for our state senators to commit to showing up for work.”
See **Adjourns** page 2



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Leslie Bonilla Muñiz

Indiana Gov. Mike Braun, from left, House Speaker Todd Huston and Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray sit together during a Statehouse event on Tuesday.

Deaths

Patsy Hodge, 75, Portland
Robert Daniels, 67, Indianapolis
Mark Theurer, 61, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 42 degrees Tuesday. The low was 34.
Tonight’s low will be in the upper 40s. There is a 50% chance of rain Friday under cloudy skies. The high will be in the mid 50s.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Holiday activities abound this weekend with Christmas at the Courthouse at 5:30 p.m. Friday, followed by the Arts Place Holiday Benefit Auction at 6:30 p.m. The Little Miss Winterfest Pageant is scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday at Fellowship Baptist Church and the Parade of Lights will be at 6:30 p.m. in downtown Portland.

Coming up

Friday — Coverage of this week’s Portland Board of Aviation meeting.
Saturday — Results from the JCHS girls basketball game at Class 3A No. 6 Belmont.
Tuesday — Details from Tuesday’s Jay County Commissioners meeting.



Quest ...

Continued from page 1

Bryn Weaver narrates the action, with Aeroelet Cooke portraying Tillius the Paladin (Tilly's character in the game). The cast also features Cheyenne Ladewig as Lilly (Tilly's close friend) and Lilith Morningstar (a demon queen), Ava Franks as Kelly (another friend) and Kaliope Darkwalke (a dark elf tracker), Liam Serjern as Miles (Agnes' boyfriend), Lucy Smith as Vera (another friend), and the duo of Skylah Honeycutt and Danica Myers as Evil Tina and Evil Gabbi (evil cheerleaders), respectively.

Bilbrey said he's been impressed with the way the cast has handled the dual roles and approached the sometimes-difficult subject matter.

"I've had some kids I've been working with for three, four years now," he said. "And to watch the maturation and the

maturity level that they're putting, not just backstage, but on stage — I don't have to tell them as much. I say, 'Hey, you work this out.'"

As Agnes continues to work her way through Tilly's game module, the lines between reality and fantasy blur. Agnes not only learns about her sister and the pain she felt, but also confronts her own regrets.

Playing the role of Chuck "DMBiggs" — the DM stands for Dungeon Master — Hayden Hale introduces Agnes to "Dungeons & Dragons" and guides her through her journey. He said he has many favorite aspects to the show as he makes his first foray into theatre.

"It's really hard to choose," he said. "I mean, probably the most fun scene is the final scene where everything ... finally fits everything just fits together."



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Agnes Evans (Ali McGraw) does battle with Orcus (Jacob Kellogg), demon overlord of the underworld, in "She Kills Monsters." Performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday, at Jay County Junior-Senior High School.

CR almanac

Friday 11/21	Saturday 11/22	Sunday 11/23	Monday 11/24	Tuesday 11/25
52/38	51/37	54/39	55/43	57/39
There's a 50% chance of showers on Friday, with low temperature dipping to around 38.	Saturday's weather looks like mostly sunny skies with a low temperature around 37.	Sunday looks to be mostly sunny with a high temperature around 54.	Mostly cloudy skies are expected Monday when the low may hit the 40s.	Tuesday's forecast shows a 60% chance of rain with a low around 39 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$593 million	Daily Three: 9-9-8 Daily Four: 1-6-2-7 Quick Draw: 2-10-11-15-20-22-24-29-31-36-39-45-47-49-54-58-61-69-75-76
Mega Millions 5-10-23-27-30 Mega Ball: 10 Estimated jackpot: \$60 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 0-0-8 Pick 4: 7-0-4-3 Pick 5: 2-3-1-7-3 Evening Pick 3: 3-9-3 Pick 4: 3-2-7-8 Pick 5: 0-4-3-5-8 Rolling Cash: 10-23-27-32-34 Estimated jackpot: \$353,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 7-4-8 Daily Four: 0-2-9-6 Quick Draw: 4-6-8-9-11-12-23-24-29-32-35-42-46-62-63-66-71-73-75-79 Evening	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.51 Dec. corn.....4.51 Jan. corn.....4.53	Dec. beans11.31 Wheat 4.94
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.56 Jan. corn4.48 Feb. corn4.48	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.33 Dec. corn4.33 Beans11.27 Dec. beans11.31 Wheat5.04
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.46 Dec. corn4.46 Beans11.26	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.41 Dec. corn4.46 Beans11.01 Dec. beans11.01 Wheat4.89

Today in history

In 1789 , New Jersey ratified the Bill of Rights for the United States. It was the first state to pass the measure.	Moscow, beginning its path to global popularity.
In 1805 , "Fidelio," Ludwig van Beethoven's opera, premiered at Theater an der Wien in Vienna.	In 2015 , Portland celebrated the opening of Indiana 26 (Water Street) with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in front of East Jay Middle School after a \$4.2 million construction project started in May. At completion, the road featured 11-foot wide lanes, grass buffer strips and 4-foot wide sidewalks on both sides of the road, as well as adding new water and sewer lines and 16 LED street lights. — The CR
In 1910 , Francisco I. Madero crossed into Mexico, issuing the Plan of San Luis Potosí and sparking the Mexican Revolution.	
In 1983 , the iconic 3D puzzle game Tetris was first demonstrated to computer scientists in	

Citizen's calendar

Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, district office, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk	City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St. Tuesday 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St. 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.
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Obituaries

Patsy Hodge

Oct. 29, 1950-Nov. 17, 2025

Patsy J. Hodge, age 75, of Portland passed away on Monday, Nov. 17, 2025, at her home.

She was born in Portland on Oct. 29, 1950, the daughter of Harry and Catherine (Schwartzkopf) Kelly. She was married to Paul David Hodge and he passed away on Feb. 2, 2011.

Patsy was a homemaker and had worked at EP Graphics and as a house cleaner. She attended Banner Christian Church, graduated from Portland High School and enjoyed crocheting, McDonald's and watching wrestling.

Surviving are a son, Michael Hodge (wife: Amy) of Bryant; a daughter, Barbara Van Horn (husband: David) of Redkey; a sister, Janet Rines of Ridgeville; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by three brothers, Jack Kelly, Robert Kelly and Ronald Kelly.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, Nov. 21, at 2 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home. Burial will be in the Green Park Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1 to 2 p.m. on Friday.

Memorials can be made to the Jay County Humane Society.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.



Hodge

children and 16 great-grandchildren who brought her immense joy; her brother, Bob Wendel of New Weston, Ohio; her sister-in-law, Ruth Wendel of Coldwater; her brother-in-law, John Evers of Fort Recovery; and her in-laws, Roger (Edna) Lochtefeld of Fort Recovery, Alvin Lochtefeld of Chickasaw, Ohio, Paul Lochtefeld of New Lebanon, Ohio, and Janet (Dick) O'Neill of Springfield, Ohio.

In addition to her parents, Annie was preceded in death by her son, Dale Lochtefeld; her grandsons, Robert and David; her siblings, Oliver Wendel and Mary Jean Evers; and her in-laws, Ralph Lochtefeld, Marceil Lochtefeld and Sandy Lochtefeld.

A 1958 graduate of Fort Recovery High School, Annie married the love of her life the following spring and joyfully embraced her role as a dedicated wife, mother and homemaker. She worked side by side with Willie as an active farm wife, helping manage the daily chores of the family farm while nurturing a lively and loving household of seven children. Aside from working on the family farm, Annie also sold Mary Kay for many years.

Annie enjoyed life's simple pleasures — playing cards with friends, traveling near and far with Willie and spending treasured time with her growing family. She was a woman of strong faith and a longtime member of St. Paul's Catholic Church in Sharpsburg, Ohio. She was also active in the St. Paul Altar Rosary Sodality and the Daughters of Isabella Circle 180 in Fort Recovery.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 22, at St. Paul Catholic Church, Sharpsburg. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Guests may visit with Annie's family on Friday, Nov. 21, from 3 to 7 p.m. and again on Saturday from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery. A D of I prayer service will be held at 6:45 p.m. on Friday.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Fort Recovery Community Foundation.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockman-boeckmanfh.com.

Robert Daniels

Dec. 26, 1957-Nov. 16, 2025

Robert Gail Daniels, 67, of Indianapolis passed away peacefully on Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025, surrounded by loved ones at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie.

Bob was born on Dec. 26, 1957, in

Portland to the late Gail Hiatt and Daytha Maxine (Hudson) Daniels. He graduated from Jay County High School in 1976 and furthered his education at the Indiana Police Academy, graduating in 1978.

Bob served on the Redkey Police Department and then spent the next decade as chief investigator for the Jay County Prosecutor's Office, leaving behind a lasting legacy of dedication and service.

After his career in law enforcement, Bob excelled as vice president of operations for Createc Manufacturing Company and later owned his own security company for the remainder of his working life.

A devoted member of St. Pius X Catholic Church in Indianapolis, Bob was an avid golfer and a passionate University of Notre Dame football fan. He had a deep appreciation for history and enjoyed spending time on the beach, cooking favorite meals for his loved ones, reading biographies and listening to country music while indulging in his favorite treats — chocolate and Cheetos Puffs.

Bob is survived by his two daughters, Brandy Daniels (Josh Hammers) and Caitlin Daniels; one brother, Dan Daniels (Judy); two sisters, Kristy Helm and Shari Anderson (Mike); four grandchildren, Jordan (Allyssa), Abbi, Ashten (Macy) and Grayson; one great-grandson, Jonah; and another precious great-grandchild on the way. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews and extended family members.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents; and one sister, Darla Hall.

In accordance with his wishes, there will be no public services at this time.

A private graveside service will be held at a later date in Hillcrest Cemetery in Redkey.

Arrangements have been entrusted to MJS Mortuaries – Redkey Chapel.

Mark Theurer, Portland, Sept. 10, 1964-Nov. 14, 2025. Graveside services will be held at a later date in Dunkirk IOOF Cemetery.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

SERVICES

Friday, Nov. 21
Dailey, Betty: 10 a.m., Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 7321 Indiana 67, Bryant.

Saturday, Nov. 22
Lochtefeld, Ann: 10 a.m., St. Paul Catholic Church, 517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery.
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
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Adjourns ...

Continued from page 1

"Unfortunately, Sen. Rod Bray was forced to partner with DEMOCRATS to block an effort by the growing number of America First Senators who wanted to have a vote on passing fair maps. Now I am left with no choice other than to explore all options at my disposal to compel the State Senate to show up and vote," Braun said in a statement. "I will support President Trump's efforts to recruit, endorse, and finance primary challengers for Indiana's senators who refuse to support fair maps."

Braun's office did not answer questions from the Indiana Capital Chronicle about what steps the governor could take to "compel" Senate action.

In a statement to the Cap-

Holdman takes position

State Sen. Travis Holdman, who represents Jay County, issued a statement Tuesday publicly taking a stance on proposed redistricting for the first time:

"As a state senator, my duty is to my constituents. Over the last several months, I have given tremendous consideration to whether Indiana should redraw our existing congressional districts, and I have listened to the many Hoosiers of Senate District 19 as they have called, written and spoken to me. The message from my district has been clear — they do not support mid-cycle redistricting, and therefore I cannot support it."

ital Chronicle, Bray downplayed the dispute.

"Senate Republicans may have a difference of opinion on a policy matter with the governor, and that happens from time to time, but we are committed to pursuing policies that will make

life better for Hoosiers, and we will continue to look for ways to collaborate with the governor," Bray said.

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



Photo provided

Displaying respect

East Elementary School recognized second graders for representing respectful behavior. Pictured above are (front row) Leannah Landers, Warren Ralph, Daneyri Lopez Lucas and Lucas Reinhart. In the back row are Emery Rollins, Evie Brelsford, Parker Miles and Josiah Abney.

Energetic kids cause ruckus for neighbor

DEAR ABBY: I recently bought a first-floor condo because I am an older woman with a knee disability. Otherwise, I would have purchased a unit on the second floor of this two-story condo complex. I am only here part time because my husband is not ready for retirement.

The owner above me has two children who jump off the kitchen counter onto the floor multiple times a night as late as 10 p.m. It causes everything in my kitchen cabinets to rattle. I have spoken with the property manager. He's willing to send them violation notices which would eventually include fines. I haven't taken him up on it because, since I am a part-time resident, I'm concerned about retaliation such as broken windows or vandalism to my car in the parking lot. Of course, that neighbor would be the prime suspect, but I would have no proof.

I can't afford a more expensive community. My husband

Dear Abby



and I did knock on her door in a congenial manner one day to introduce ourselves as new neighbors. She did not give us the time of day. What would you do if you were me? — FEELS THE NOISE DOWN SOUTH

DEAR FEELS THE NOISE: I would knock on the woman's door, explain the problem and politely ask her to instruct her children not to jump off the kitchen counter after 6 p.m. because the crashing noise prevents me from enjoying my apartment. If she didn't cooperate, I'd have another talk with the manager. If the warnings and fines didn't work, I'd contact Child Protective Services, because what those

kids are doing is dangerous and their parent is unwilling to supervise them.

.....

DEAR ABBY: I have been happily married to my husband for 35 years. My mother-in-law just drafted her will and is passing her entire estate to him, with it being split equally among our three adult kids if he were to pass away before her. She was asked to name a beneficiary if all four of them predecease her. (I know it would be extremely unlikely.) My MIL has no other living relatives — no parents, siblings, husband, cousins, etc.

She named a friend and neighbor rather than me as the beneficiary of her estate in this event. This neighbor lives next door to her and drives her to the grocery store, bank and doctor appointments, since my MIL does not drive and we live 3 1/2 hours away.

I thought she and I have always had a good relationship. My husband and I send flowers and cards on her birthday and

Mother's Day. I select thoughtful gifts for her at Christmas. I have always treated her with kindness, respect and gentleness. I am helpful when she has health issues. I assist her in the kitchen with dishes, etc. I have always treated her son well. Am I petty, unreasonable or immature for having negative feelings about not being mentioned in her will? — HURT IN COLORADO

DEAR HURT: Not at all. You're human. It does appear to be a glaring omission, and under these circumstances, your reaction is understandable. What does your husband feel about what his mother did? Perhaps he should speak to her and ask if she forgot she has a daughter-in-law when she made her will.

.....

DEAR ABBY: My wife of 31 years and I have been fighting over politics and cultural changes in our country. The arguments have cooled down by mutual agreement, but so

has our sexual desire for each other. Our marriage consultant has always taken my wife's position; I am left on my own. I have no support from the rest of my family (three lovely daughters), but I still love and respect my wife. She told me that I must switch my politics to hers or she will leave me. What do I do? — THREATENED IN WISCONSIN

DEAR THREATENED: Tell your wife and her marriage consultant that as your political arguments have dwindled, so has your sex life. It may be time to seek professional counseling with someone else on your own. Your wife's ultimatum is unrealistic. Unless the two of you can agree to disagree, take her up on her offer.

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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 Dear Abby 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@the-cr.com.

Today

STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and tell is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

CELEBRATE RECOV-

ERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health

Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF — Meets from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the third Thursday 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.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about

the latest products and information.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1.

Friday

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.

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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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Why are our cyber defenses down?

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

America's enemies are growing bolder and more sophisticated in cyberspace. To fend them off, the government must stop unilaterally disarming.

Two recent reports underscore the danger: In mid-October, Seattle-based cybersecurity firm F5 Inc. acknowledged a "catastrophic" breach of its systems, which may have allowed Chinese hackers to penetrate networks used by federal agencies and Fortune 500 companies. Less than a week later, a congressionally mandated watchdog, the Cyberspace Solarium Commission, warned that US cyber readiness had for the first time regressed since the body was formed five years ago. Nearly a quarter of the group's recommendations judged to have been "fully implemented" had lost that status.

Much of the damage has

Guest Editorial

occurred at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, responsible for coordinating defense of the nation's civilian networks. Launched in 2018, the agency has generally won plaudits for helping secure election systems around the country, providing early warning of attacks, and helping companies and infrastructure managers bolster their cyberdefenses. Since January, the agency has lost nearly a third of its personnel — including most of its senior staff — to layoffs, buyouts and early resignations. About two-

thirds of the remaining employees were furloughed during the government shutdown, while others have been transferred to agencies focused on deportations. At one point, fewer than 900 were still on the job.

Meanwhile, a key law offering liability protections to companies when they share information about attacks with the government and each other lapsed temporarily, slowing down potential responses. While Congress has revived it through the end of January, a long-term fix is still needed. The administration's proposed budget for 2026 would slash nearly \$500 million from CISA's funding, further shrinking collaboration with states and companies, as well as education and training programs.

Although the White House defends the cuts as streamlining the agency's mission,

cybersecurity professionals and members of the Cyberspace Solarium Commission are alarmed. Artificial intelligence tools threaten to supercharge the capabilities of criminals and US adversaries even as, according to the commission's new report, the "nation's ability to protect itself and its allies from cyber threats is stalling and, in several areas, slipping." States and infrastructure operators can't easily replicate the resources and bird's-eye view of the federal government, nor can they play the same coordinating role. If that delays responses to hacks of critical systems, including energy grids and hospitals, attacks could swiftly cascade.

Congress should heed the warnings of its own commission. The information-sharing law in particular has widespread support across both sides of the aisle

and across industry. It should be extended beyond January, and a replacement found for the public-private council that formerly allowed industry to discuss sensitive security information with the government.

When legislators finally get around to drawing up a new budget for next year, they should also restore funding and staffing for CISA, preferably on a multi-year basis to insulate the agency against future shutdowns. While it may be difficult to restock the ranks with experienced professionals given more lucrative private-sector opportunities, the government should at least strive to retain those that are left and to restore the pipeline for new recruits.

Threats to the nation's digital networks are not going to shrink. Neither should the agency tasked with helping to defeat them.



It's essential to improve communities

By **MICHAEL J. HICKS**

I enjoy telling this little anecdote about how voters tend to feel about taxes and spending.

From 2004 to 2007, I lived in a suburb near a military base in Ohio. It was a very conservative area, voting for George W. Bush, John McCain and Mitt Romney by double-digit margins. But, twice during my brief time there, we voted on school referendums. The total amount was fairly large, raising my household tax burden by about \$80 a month.

The largest of the two referenda asked for money to install artificial turf onto the high school football field, provide heated benches for players and build a second pre-K-1 school. The pre-K-1 school had scaled-down features, catering to the smallest students. Cute and functional.

The school district was not permitted to campaign for the referendum but could share official information. So, my kindergarten brought home financial proformas in her backpack. I was impressed that the artificial turf would pay for itself in maintenance savings within four years. The referendum passed easily.

Around the time we were preparing to vote on the first school referendum, my wife shared a story about a playground experience.

Michael J. Hicks



Most new neighborhoods in our town had small playgrounds — developers were required to add them. Ours was modest: five or six pieces of equipment, some benches and picnic tables. My wife was there one afternoon, watching our three kids play and chatting with other adults.

One was a grandmother keeping her grandkids after school. Their conversation turned to the convenience of the playground. This grandmother remarked that she'd voted against the referendum to pay for these new playgrounds and thought she'd made a mistake.

She loved going there with her grandkids and was happy that the community voted to build and maintain these facilities despite her vote. She explained that her kids were already through school and she felt a bit put upon to pay the extra taxes.

That's not an uncommon position. But, as she thought more about it, she realized she was mistaken. The better facilities

attracted her daughter and son-in-law back to town after college. It also made her house value appreciate, giving her more options in retirement.

These sorts of conversations are poor substitutes for hard data on tax rates, local amenities and migration decisions. However, this view is notable because it is precisely what more than a half-century of economic research tells us to be true about the household location decision of families.

Most of county-to-county migration in the U.S. is from people moving from low-tax counties to high-tax counties. I know that isn't what cable TV tells you, nor does it match the claims of tax-cut advocates, but it is a simple fact, like the time of sunrise this morning or today's high temperature.

Of course, this doesn't mean taxes don't matter. If a family can choose between two otherwise identical neighborhoods, the one with lower taxes will see more immigration. The problem is, such choices are very rare. For the most part, the higher-tax places have better schools, lower crime rates, better parks and more retail and recreational options.

This isn't universally true, and it is worth noting that places with high taxes and low-quality public

services lose residents — as well they should. Population change is a clear signal about the value of your community. At the same time, higher taxes aren't a panacea for making a place better any more than low taxes are a tool for attracting residents. Neither of these strategies work by themselves.

There's always some crank who claims taxes are theft and wishes to defund teachers, police and water districts. And there's always someone who wants local government throwing money at new housing even when rents are too low to attract builders. Neither cohort enjoys a firm grasp of high school economics.

The challenge is how to judge how well your community is doing, and how you should approach the challenge of finding a tax rate and amenities that will attract residents — or, at least, prevent population decline.

It turns out, there's an easy rule of thumb. If you are losing people, or your home values are declining, it is pretty likely that you have too few amenities for your current taxes.

In a place like this, the easiest thing to do is ask, "Are my taxes above or below the national average?" If they are above, you could cut taxes to be more in line with your low amenities. You are a

place where local government is underperforming.

If your state and local taxes are below the national average, and people are still leaving, you'd better scramble to gather more tax revenue. You are in a low-amenity place that risks permanent decline, and you need tax dollars to fund the improvements.

Every Indiana community has low taxes — overall among the lowest 10%-25% of counties nationwide. Yet, perhaps this year, and certainly next year, most Hoosier counties will see population losses. Affluent places can largely muddle through slow population declines. Poorer places cannot.

There has never been a more critical time for civic leaders, elected or otherwise, to push for improvements in those local characteristics that make people want to build a life there. Be like that grandmother on the playground 20 years ago. Make your community better, and maybe your kids will return.

.....

Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University. Email him at mhicks@bsu.edu.

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The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and six holidays (New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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VOLUME 152—NUMBER 143
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025

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—Thomas Jefferson

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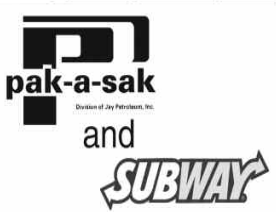
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Asbury United Methodist
204 E. Arch St., Portland
Josh Arthur
(260) 726-8464
Services: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
asburyministries.org

Bellefountain United Methodist
440 S. 600 East
Pamela Freeman
Services: 9 a.m.

Bluff Point Friends
80 E. 650 South
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Boundary St. Paul
Corner of Treaty Line Road and county road 300 East
Ava Gannon
(260) 726-2373
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Bryant Wesleyan
209 S. Hendricks St.
Paul VanCise
(260) 997-6231
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
bryantwesleyanchurch.com

Calvary United Methodist
301 N. Main St., Dunkirk
Susan Durovey-Antrim
(765) 499-0368
Services: 10:30 a.m.
susan.duroveyantrim@in.unc.org

Christ Chapel
2535 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery
(419) 733-1469
christchapelfr.com

Church of the Living God (Miracle Missions)
8472 S. 800 East, Union City
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Church of God of Prophecy
797 N. Creagor Ave., Portland
Nanette Weesner
(260) 766-9334
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nanybell@yahoo.com

Church of the Brethren
Floral and Chicago avenues, Portland
Kevin McClung
(260) 729-7295
Services: 10 a.m.

Church of the Living God
South Broad Street, Dunkirk
Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Friday

Collett Nazarene
450 South, 1 mile west of U.S. 27
Billy Stanton
(260) 251-2403
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Cornerstone Baptist
211 E. Main St., Portland
Wayne Ward
(260) 726-7714
Services: 10 a.m.

Cornerstone Church of Pennville
190 W. Main St., Pennville
Jack Houck
(260) 729-2164
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Dunkirk Nazarene
226 E. Center St., Dunkirk
Tom Fett
(765) 768-6199
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Evangelical Methodist
930 W. Main St., Portland
Steve Arnold
(260) 251-0970
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Fairview United Methodist/Jay County
2875 E. 200 South
Pamela Freeman
Lay leader: Beth Stephen
(260) 726-9184
Services: 10:15 a.m.

Faith Community
9560 W. 200 South, Dunkirk
Mark Acree
(260) 251-0987
Services: 10 a.m.

Family Worship Center
200 E. Elder St., Portland
Ronald Willis
(260) 726-4844
Services: 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
thefamilyworshipcenter.org

Fellowship Baptist
289 S. 200 West
Hugh Kelly
(260) 726-8873
Services: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
pastorkelly@fbc-portland.com

First Church of Christ
1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery
David J. Nicholson
(419) 375-2860
Services: 10:30 a.m.
fccftrecovery.org

First Community Baptist
341 S. Meridian St., Redkey
Everett Bilbrey Jr.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. Wednesday

First Free Will Baptist
12369 W. 600 South, Dunkirk
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday

First Presbyterian
402 N. Ship St., Portland
Rev. M. Rex Espiritu
(260) 726-8462
Services: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.
firstpcportland.org

Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene
401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
(419) 375-4680
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Kids vision and teen ministries: 6 p.m. Wednesday
frnaz@frontier.com

Fort Recovery United Methodist
309 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
Rev. Carol McKay
(304) 617-0101
Services: 9 a.m.

Full Gospel Lighthouse Tabernacle
468 E. Washington St., Dunkirk
Robert Thomas
(765) 348-4620
Services: 6:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Thursday

Geneva First United Methodist
100 W. Line St., Geneva
Barry McCune
(260) 368-7655
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Geneva Nazarene
225 Decatur St., Geneva
(260) 525-8609
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Prayer meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Gilead Church
County road 650 North, one-quarter mile east of Balbec
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Hickory Grove Church of the Brethren
Indiana 1 and Indiana 26
Earl Doll
(260) 731-4477
Services: 10:30 a.m.

High Street United Methodist
435 High St., Geneva
Rev. Joseph Hampton
(260) 368-7233
Services: 9 a.m.

Holy Trinity Catholic
7321 E. Indiana 67, Bryant
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
Services: 8 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Saturday

Hopewell of Life Ministries
County road 200 South, 2 miles east of Indiana 1
Rev. Ruth Funk
(260) 251-8581
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Catholic
506 E. Walnut St., Portland
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
(260) 726-7055
Services: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Kingsley Full Gospel
4030 S. 700 East, Dunkirk
Stuart Phillips
Services: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

Mary Help of Christians
403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
(419) 375-4153
Services: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.

Mount Tabor Community Church
216 W. Pleasant St., Dunkirk
Scott McClain
(765) 768-7273
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Mount Zion United Methodist
County roads 600 East and 200 North
Rev. Darrell Borders
(260) 726-4786
Services: 9 a.m.

New Beginnings Holiness Church of Blaine
4017 W. 200 South
Randy Smith
(260) 251-2406
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nbholiness.com

New Covenant Fellowship
1238 W. 450 South
Chuck Myers
(260) 251-0063
Services: 10:30 a.m.

New Life Ministries
415 S. Helen St., Portland
Dr. Kay Fairchild
(260) 223-2961
Services: 4 p.m.
drkayfairchild.com

New Mt. Pleasant United Methodist
5905 S. Como Road
Neil Butcher
(765) 499-7838
Services: 9 a.m.

Noble Congregational Christian
1964 N. 800 East
Aaron Huey
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Oak Grove United Methodist
829 S. Indiana 1
Neil Butcher
(765) 760-9085
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Pleasant Hill
9945 N. 800 East, Union City
Bruce Bryan
(765) 964-3664
Services: 9 a.m., 6 p.m.
mypleasanthillchurch.org

Portland Church of Christ
1217 W. Votaw St., Portland
Bob Graham
(260) 726-7777
Bible class: 9:15 a.m.
Services: 10:20 a.m.
Bible School: 6 p.m. Wednesday
portlandcoc.com

Portland First Church of Nazarene
920 S. Shank St., Portland
Steve Cecil
(260) 726-8040
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Portland Friends
226 E. Main St., Portland
Herb Hummel
(260) 202-9732
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.

Praise Chapel Church of God
4527 E. 1000 North (Jay-Randolph county line)
Rev. Josh Canfield
(765) 584-7045
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran
Malin and Elm streets, Bryant
Father Dan Layden
(260) 997-6787
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey Faith Ministries
9811 W. Indiana 67, southwest of Redkey
Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman
(765) 369-2920
Services: 10 a.m.
RedkeyFaith.org

Redkey First Christian
Union and Malin streets
Jeff Hammers
(765) 468-6172
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey United Methodist
122 W. Main St.
Lori McIntosh
(765) 369-2085
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redkey Church of the Nazarene
801 W. High St.
Fred Stevens
(765) 369-2676
redkeynaz.org
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

River of Life
722 W. Main St., Portland
Susan Hathaway
(260) 729-1095
Services: 10:30 a.m.

The ROCK
1605 N. Meridian St., Portland
Matt Ransom
(260) 726-7474
Services: 10 a.m.
matt@therockjc.org

Salamonia Church of Christ
3900 S. 600 East
Bruce Phillips
(260) 335-2017
Services: 9 a.m.

Second Chance at Life Ministries
228 S. Meridian St., Portland
Dave Keen (260) 251-8792
Mike Eads (260) 703-0733
Services: 10:30 a.m.

St. Joseph Catholic
1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 7:30 a.m. Sunday

St. Mary's Catholic
346 S. Broad St., Dunkirk
Rev. Kevin Hurley
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Thursday

St. Paul Catholic
517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 11 a.m. Sunday

St. Peter Catholic
1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 9 a.m. Sunday

Sugar Grove Nazarene
3984 N. 550 West, Portland
Pastor Mike Heckman
(615) 517-1017
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Bible study: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Sugar Grove Church
County roads 600 South and 1150 West, Dunkirk
Scott McClain
Services: 9 a.m.

Temple Baptist
17920 Indiana 167, Dunkirk
John Elam
(765) 768-7708
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday
7pillarsdirector@gmail.com
templebaptistin.com

The Church at Westchester
4487 E. 400 North
(260) 726-6311
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:35 a.m.
churchatwestchester.org

Trinity Lutheran
301 N. Wayne St., Fort Recovery
Ron McCallum
(419) 375-4498
Services: 9 a.m. (contemporary service, fourth Sunday)

Trinity ArchBridge Church
323 S. Meridian St., Portland
Dan Vore
(260) 726-8391
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Services: 10:15 a.m.
portlandtrinity.com

Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Interim Pastor Chris Kruckow
(260) 849-0687
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Union Chapel Church of the Nazarene
County road 900 North (Jay-Wells county line)
Fred Stevens
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Walnut Corner
County roads 200 North and 500 West
Steve Rogers
(260) 251-1113
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

West Walnut Church of Christ
204 W. Walnut St., Portland
Gil Alicea
(260) 726-4691
Services: 10 a.m.
westwalnutchurchof-christ.org

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Ron McCallum
218 E. High St., Portland
(260) 726-8832
zionlutheranportland@gmail.com
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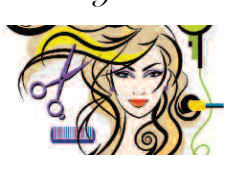
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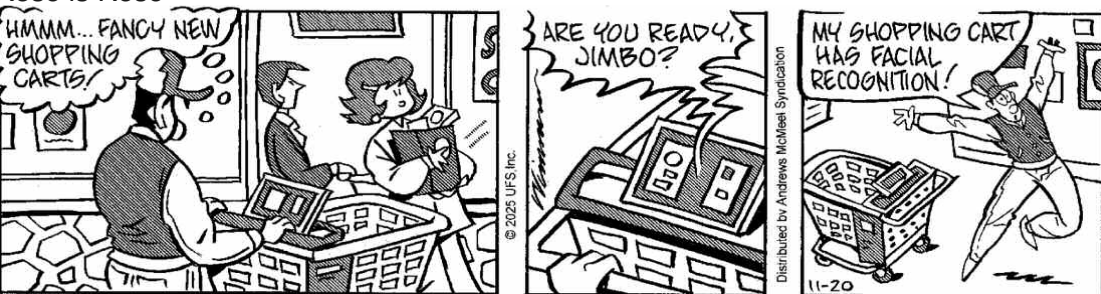
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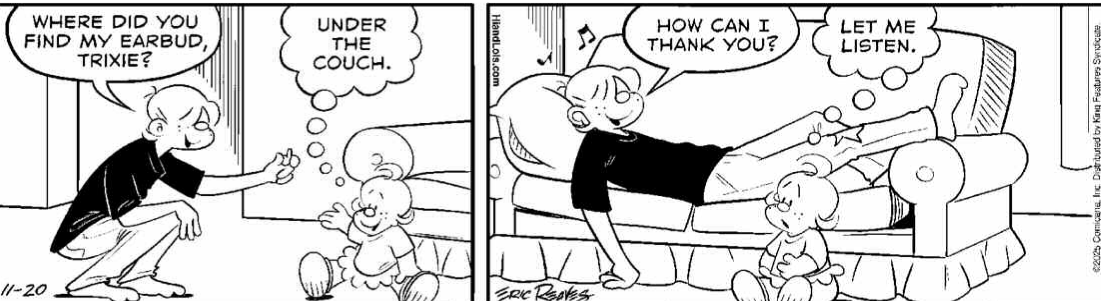
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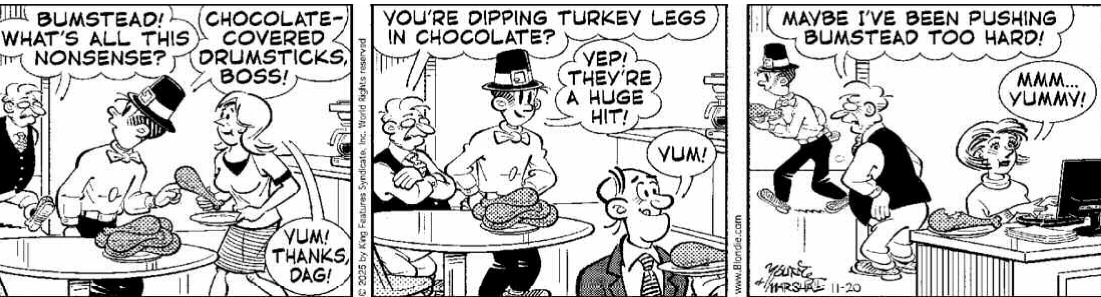
Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

How the other half lives

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 7 5
♥ 10 8 5 4
♦ J 5
♣ 10 7 4 3

WEST
♠ A 9 8
♥ K 9 7
♦ 9 6 4 3
♣ 9 8 5

EAST
♠ Q 6 2
♥ J 6 3 2
♦ A Q 10
♣ A Q 6

SOUTH
♠ K J 4 3
♥ A Q
♦ K 8 7 2
♣ K J 2

The bidding:
North 1♥ South 1NT
West 2♣ East 2NT
Opening lead — three of diamonds.
This deal occurred many years ago in a match between Cadbury's and Waddington's, two English bridge clubs. The deal could be regarded as more amusing than instructive, but it is published here so that our readers will have some idea of how the other half lives.
North was Tony Priday, partnered by G.C.H. Fox, both well-known international players. As to what happened on the deal, we couldn't possibly do better to describe it than did Ewart Kempson, whose witty account appeared in the British Bridge Magazine, of which he was the editor.

"Sitting North and playing Acol, Mr. Priday opened the bidding smartly with one heart. Maybe I'm a bit old-fashioned, but to my way of thinking, one club is a better bid. It is true that the club suit is not as good as the heart suit — this is probably what influenced Mr. Priday — but I always think one should prepare for a rebid when opening, and if South responds one diamond, North is free to rebid one heart if the other inmates don't mind.
"East had the temerity to bid one notrump, which South doubled. It seemed to the deafened spectators that Mr. Fox was not doubling for takedown. A swift redouble by West allowed Mr. Priday to show his other suit with a corking bid of two clubs. This infuriated Mr. Fox into bidding two notrump, which was defeated by three tricks undoubled.
"Why Mr. Fox bid only two notrump on his 17-point hand after Mr. Priday had opened vulnerable is one of those unsolved and unsavoury crimes which will remain in the open files at Scotland Yard probably forever.
"Mr. Priday described it as a gross overbid. 'It should have been obvious, even to Foxy, that I had made one of my very fine psychs,' said Mr. Priday.
"Nothing about your bidding is ever obvious to me,' riposted Mr. Fox."

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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11-20

CRYPTOQUIP

M T H R N F R N A H U F U R O T H
K Y V Q H F F V G F T H X X U R B N
C N Z H Y V G F A U R , X V K H V K C H

FNZ UO'F FQNCURB XVMR?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT DO YOU THINK HORNED FARM ANIMALS PROBABLY WANT FOR BREAKFAST AFTER WAKING UP? GOATMEAL.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Infant
5 Clock radio toggle
9 Zodiac animal
12 Reed instrument
13 Wise one
14 Inventor Whitney
15 Heavenly
17 Ran into
18 Tennis great
19 Upright
21 Fire-fighter's need
22 Lieu
24 Kin of IMHO
27 Cato's 502
28 Even
31 Oft-tattooed extremity
32 Right angle
33 "Selma" director DuVernay
34 ilk
36 Cavs, on score-boards

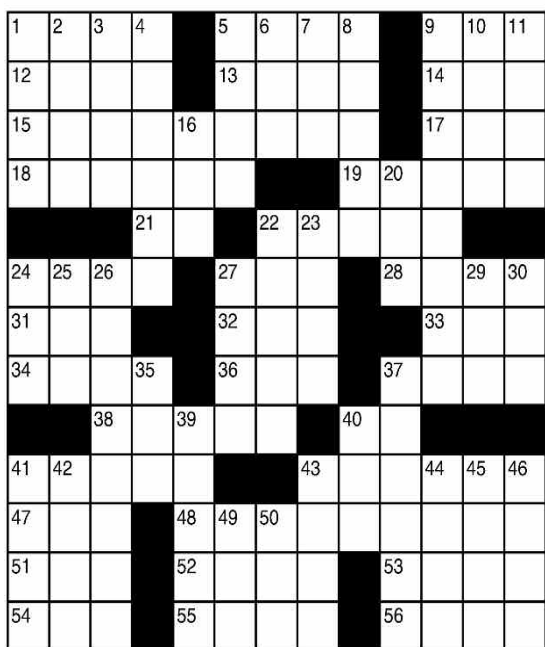
DOWN
1 — Raton
2 Genesis shepherd
3 Piece of hardware
4 Rodeo cry
5 Nick and Nora's pet
6 Avril follower
7 Links org.
8 Donnybrook
9 Therapeutic
10 Actor Baldwin
11 Baseball glove
16 Gender

37 Broadway production
56 Gentle soul
20 Dumpster explorer
22 Inane
23 Scrabble piece
24 Blubber
25 Like some humor
26 Majestic
27 Erte's style
29 "Frontera" actress
30 24 hours
35 Chemical suffix
37 Like cats and dogs
39 "Ozark" star
40 Comic Philips
41 Polynesian drink
42 Skip
43 Eyelid woe
44 Latvia's capital
45 Produce producer
46 Thick cut
49 Alias abbr.
50 LL Cool J's music

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 11-20



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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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90 SALE CALENDAR

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Tract 1: 76 +/- Acres with 68 Acres Tillable with frontage on County Road 100 N.
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Tract 3: Combination of Tracts 1 and 2.
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All-GPC team

Graphic Printing Company Player of the Year Auden Hummel

Winchester High School junior

Auden Hummel was selected as the second Graphic Printing Company Player of the Year for volleyball.

“I mean that’s a big deal and volleyball has become what my life is about,” Hummel said. “I’m constantly working and constantly training in practice to be the best at this game. So it means a lot that the work that I’m putting in is being recognized and noticed.”

Hummel led all players from the Graphic Printing Company’s coverage area with 425 kills, which was 103 more than the runner-up. The WCHS junior did that in 93 sets to average 4.57 kills per set.

All of that effort led to Hummel netting her 1,000th kill during the Golden Falcons’ loss to Northeastern in the sectional semifinal. (She had 16 kills in the match.)

“My team’s consistency helped a lot with all of the same girls coming back,” Hummel said. “We’re all comfortable

with each other. ... I know what my setter wants to do during this situation or during that kind of play because she’s set me for the past three years. ... I think it was just understanding each other and how we all play together that helped me specifically. It helped me feel comfortable and ready for what I wanted to do next or the shot I wanted to take and just the little details in the game, knowing how my team reacts.”

Hummel also tallied 45 blocks, 42 aces, 204 digs and 16 assists.

Her leadership also helped Winchester to a 26-6 record that included a 16-match run in which they didn’t drop a single set.

“Auden Hummel is a player that is an important part of this team,” said WCHS coach Matt Curts. “She’s a six rotation player and a team captain. As a player she has a lot of drive, enthusiasm and expectations and that siphons down to our other players.”



All-Graphic Printing Company first team

Kenna Dues Fort Recovery so. (DS)	Of the area players who were primarily defensive specialists, Dues had the second most digs at 221, while also helping the offense out with 62 kills, 38 aces and 21 assists.	Kyra Murry Delta sophomore (MB)	Murry averaged 3.4 kills per set by putting down 282 balls out of the middle of the floor. She added 49 aces and 214 digs to help round out the Eagles.
Hadley Hendrickson Monroe Central sr. (MB)	The leader of the Golden Bears stepped outside to put down 302 balls while blocking 24 attacks. Hendrickson also had 54 aces and 211 digs.	Cali Parker Wapahani senior (L)	The Raider earned the libero role on the All-GPC team as her 5 digs per set led all area players. In total, she saved 476 balls from hitting the floor and added 88 assists.
Marin Hopkins Wapahani senior (OH)	Only Hummel tallied more kills throughout the year as Hopkins led the Raiders’ attack with 322 kills. She also put in work in the back row with 343 digs.	Lynde Whitenack Winchester junior (S)	The WCHS setter finished with 648 assists, while her 99 aces led all area players. When the Golden Falcons ran a 6-2, she also stepped outside to put down 94 kills.

All-Graphic Printing Company honorable mention

Shyan Bennett, senior, Monroe Central Paisley Fugiett, senior, Jay County	Mya Kunkler, senior, Jay County Lilyana Mayberry, junior, Winchester Cameron Muhlenkamp, junior, Fort Recovery	Lani Muhlenkamp, senior, Jay County Hallie Schwieterman, junior, Jay County
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LeBron ...

Continued from page 7

“Wind was a little shaky to begin,” James said. “Obviously, that was expected. But as the game went on and on, my wind got a lot better, got my second wind, got my third wind. Rhythm is still coming back, first game in quite a while, in almost seven months. Everything that happened tonight was as expected. The pace, versus a team like Utah, who play with a lot of pace, a lot of movement, a lot of cutting, things of that nature, tested us, tested me obviously. I was happy with the way I was able to keep up with the guys.”

With James back, Austin Reaves (26 points on 7-of-11 shooting) was able to pick his spots offensively.

Center Deandre Ayton (20 points and 14 rebounds for his third consecutive 20-point, 10-rebound double-double) was a frequent recipient of James’ playmaking. Forward Jake LaRavia (15 points on 6-of-10 shooting) also found easier scoring opportunities because of James.

“I’m telling everybody that I’m sure with some of these passes that he didn’t even see me cutting,” Ayton said. “And just being in the right place at the right time, he’s finding you right away with sharp passes. He’s making your life easy.”

The result of James’ debut, and the offense clicking – especially in the final three quarters, when they outscored the Jazz 113-90 – was the Lakers having

their highest-scoring game of the season.

“We have two of the best passers to ever touch a basketball,” Reaves said. “And with them making the right read, I’d say 90% of the time, you’re gonna play advantage basketball. And at that point, the game should be pretty easy.”

The Lakers shot a season-best 59.5% from the floor (50 for 84), despite their 3-pointers not falling at a high clip (11 for 32 – 34.4%), and improved to 11-4 on the season.

“There [are] a lot of games in the NBA, so we’ve got to go game by game,” Doncic said. “We have a lot of potential.”

Keyonte George, who was born 10 days after James’ NBA

debut in 2003, had 34 points, seven assists and four rebounds to lead the Jazz (5-9). Lauri Markkanen added 31 points for Utah, which has lost five of seven games.

The Jazz jumped out to a 36-27 lead at the end of the first quarter, and held a 71-67 advantage at halftime against a Lakers defense that was often a step behind the play.

But the Lakers tightened their defense from there, holding the Jazz to 36 points over the next 18 minutes while building a game-high 23-point lead in the fourth.

“We were more physical,” Redick said. “The cadence of what they were trying to do, we started pattern [recognition] a little bit, but the physicality was

where it started. We started honoring the game plan. We did to start the game, they made some shots, and we just kind of overreacted. When we started the second half, they made some shots, but again, those were tough contested shots, and then we got into a nice rhythm defensively of getting stops.”

James didn’t score in his first 11 minutes on the court, but his two 3-pointers in the first half moved him past Reggie Miller for the sixth-most in NBA history.

James made a driving layup in the third quarter to extend his streak of double-digit scoring performances to a record 1,293 games – every game in which he has played since Jan. 6, 2007.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today

Jay County — Girls wrestling at Columbia City – 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at Muncie Southside – 5:30 p.m.

Friday

Jay County — Girls basketball at Bellmont – 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys basketball scrimmage at Newton – 5 p.m.

TV schedule

Today

6 p.m. — College basketball: Lindenwood at Indiana (BTN)

7 p.m. — College basketball: Bucknell at St. John’s (TNT); Pitt at UCF (ESPN2)

7 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Philadelphia Flyers (FDSN Indiana)

7:30 p.m. — College football: Louisiana at Arkansas State (ESPN)

7:30 p.m. — Formula 1: Las Vegas Grand Prix (ESPN)

8 p.m. — NBA: Sacramento Kings at Memphis Grizzlies (NBC)

8 p.m. — College basketball: Western Michigan at Ohio State (BTN)

8 p.m. — College volleyball: Iowa at Nebraska (FS1)

8:15 p.m. — NFL: Buffalo Bills at Houston Texans (ABC)

9 p.m. — College basketball: Rider at Houston (TNT)

9 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Iowa at Baylor (ESPN2)

10 p.m. — College basketball: Troy at USC (BTN)

11 p.m. — Formula 1: Las Vegas Grand Prix (ESPN2)

Friday

12:25 a.m. — F1 Academy: Las Vegas (ESPN2)

1 p.m. — College basketball: Utah State at Tulane (ESPN2)

3:30 p.m. — College basketball: Davidson at Boston College (ESPN2)

6 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: USC at Notre Dame (ESPN)

6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Detroit Mercy at Michigan State (BTN); West Virginia at Clemson (ESPN2)

8 p.m. — College football: Florida State at N.C. State (ESPN)

8 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Michigan at UConn (FOX)

8:30 p.m. — College wrestling: Iowa

at Pitt (BTN)

9 p.m. — College basketball: Georgia at Xavier (ESPN2)

10:30 p.m. — College football: Hawai’i at UNLV (FS1)

10:30 p.m. — College basketball: Presbyterian at UCLA (BTN)

11 p.m. — Formula 1: Las Vegas Grand Prix (ESPN2)

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

90 SALE CALENDAR PUBLIC AUCTION Located: Women's Building at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 E Votaw St., Portland, IN Thursday Evening DECEMBER 4, 2025 6:00 P.M. REAL ESTATE - PIKE TOWNSHIP, JAY COUNTY INDIANA TRACT 1 - 31.48 acres of land located in Section 30 of Pike Township. 28.92 acres of tillable land and the balance in non tillable land and roadway. This parcel of land has road frontage on CR 175W and CR 800 S. TRACT 2 - 43 +/- acres of land with approxi-	90 SALE CALENDAR mately 42 acres of tillable land and the balance in roadway and utility transmission towers. This parcel of land has road frontage on CR 175W. TRACT 3 - 74.48 +/- acres of land, which is the combination of Tract 1 and Tract 2. For more information contact Gary Loy, Auctioneer at (260) 726-5160 or Kim Loy, Real Estate Broker at (260) 726-2700. MITCH AND CHRISTI LOY Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608	100 JOBS WANTED AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.	130 MISC. FOR SALE SCRATCH PADS ARE BACK Various bundles sizes and XL pads. \$1.25 plus tax. Pick up at The Commercial Review Tuesday thru Friday 10am to 4pm.	200 FOR RENT LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamorespace.com
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2025-26 Jay County boys basketball preview



Pictured is the 2025-26 Jay County High School boys basketball team. Front row from left are Benson Barnett, Aiden Phillips, Jayden Comer, Jacob Monroe and Gabe Overton. Back row are Brock Wasson, Kade Sommers, Gradin Swoveland, Cole Forthofer and Eli Petro.

Schedule		
Date	Opponent	Time
Tuesday, Nov. 25	South Side	6 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 29	Richmond	6 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 5	Woodlan	6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 6	Fort Recovery	6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13	New Castle	6 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 19	Delta	6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 27	Wapahani	6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 3	Muncie Central	6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 10	Adams Central	5 p.m.
Tues.-Sat., Jan. 13-17	ACAC Tourney	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 23	South Adams	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 30	Bluffton	5 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 31	Blackford	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 5	Southern Wells	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 10	St. Henry	6 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 13	Heritage	6 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 14	Yorktown	6 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 20	Norwell	6 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 21	Hamilton Heights	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 24	Winchester	6 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 27	Belmont	6 p.m.
Home games in bold		

Top returners	Key departures	Projected lineup
Gradin Swoveland 10.7 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 3.1 apg, 1.6 spg	Tucker Griffin 12.1 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 3.2 apg, 2.0 spg	Benson Barnett – Guard
Cole Forthofer 9.1 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 0.6 apg, 0.5 spg	Eli Dirksen 3.4 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 0.3 apg, 0.5 spg	Jayden Comer – Guard
Jayden Comer 9.0 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 3.2 apg, 2.1 spg	Carter Fugiett 0.7 ppg, 0.3 rpg, 0.3 apg	Gabe Overton – Guard
Brock Wasson 4.0 ppg, 1.4 rpg, 0.7 apg, 0.3 bpg		Jacob Monroe – Forward

2024-25 season

The Patriots fought through multiple hardships for a 13-10 season. They secured coach Jerry Bomholt’s 600th career victory in the opening round of the Allen County Athletic Conference tournament. Health problems then forced him to retire following a loss at Blackford, which was one of two games for which assistant coach Doug Arbuckle had to step in for Bomholt because of medical emergencies. Brogan Gary was named interim coach and finished the season 5-3. JCHS tied for fourth with Adams Central in the ACAC with a 3-3 record. The Patriots’ season came to an end in the sectional opener at the hands of Yorktown.

Coach Tyler Rigby says

“The first thing that comes to mind is just setting a high standard. I think they’ve seen that this summer with the amount of work that they’ve put in and they haven’t complained about it. So that’s a positive. They’ve worked hard and it’s been a real pleasant surprise because it is a lot of work and it’s really hard, but we’ve got to experience those things together in order to build something. So I think we’re off in a good direction when it comes to that.”

Games to watch
Friday, Dec. 5, vs. Woodlan

Woodlan won the ACAC and is the first conference foe JCHS will see this season. This game also comes one day before going across the border to Fort Recovery.

Friday, Dec. 19, vs. Delta

The Patriots play Delta and Wapahani back-to-back. Both teams from Delaware County have established themselves by making semi-state tournaments in the previous two seasons (three for Delta) .

Friday, Jan. 30, vs. Bluffton

In consecutive days, coach Tyler Rigby gets reunions with his former coach, Craig Teagle, versus Bluffton and teammate, Aaron Daniels, against Blackford.

Fast facts

- The Patriots return 69.6% of their points from the 2024-25 season, including three of their four players with more than 100 points.

- This will be Tyler Rigby’s first year at the helm of the Jay County program. He graduated from JCHS in 2006 and served as an assistant at IU East for 11 years.

- Jay County hasn’t won a sectional title since the 2010-11 season. Since then, the Patriots have only reached the sectional championship game twice.

LeBron James returns with double-double

By KHOBI PRICE
The Orange County Register
Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — He was the caboose during the Lakers’ pregame run onto the court, and he was the first one introduced before tip-off, drawing the loudest reactions of the night.

And with each flashy pass that assisted a teammate for a basket, the sold-out crowd of 18,997 inside Crypto.com Arena roared.

Because as much as Tuesday night was about another brilliant performance from Luka Doncic (37 points, 10 assists and five rebounds), who received “M-V-P” chants when he stepped up to the free-throw line, or the Lakers showcasing their offensive potential when they’re whole, the focus of the Lakers’ 140-126 victory over the Utah Jazz was LeBron James making his long-awaited debut to begin his unprecedented 23rd NBA season.

Lakers superstar missed first 14 games of the season due to sciatica, but had 11 points and 12 assists in season debut

“It was just fun to be out there with the guys,” James said. “It’s been rough mentally for me. This is the first time I’ve started a basketball season and not played since I’ve started playing basketball. Since I was nine years old, I’ve never missed the beginning of a basketball season. So just going through that physically, emotionally, spiritually and everything just tested me and keeping my head down with the work and then keeping my head up with the faith has gotten me

to this point. A lot of joy. A lot of probably seeing me smiling and talking a lot on the court. Just being out there with those guys was so fun.”

And by the time he subbed out midway through the fourth quarter, leading the Lakers during a 20-9 run in the period to open what at the time was a game-best 19-point lead, James provided a glimpse of what he could add to a Lakers team that started the season strong without him.

“He played with the right spir-

it,” Coach JJ Redick said. “Very unselfish all night, was a willing passer. Didn’t force it. Took his drives and his shots when they were there. The defense is going to pay attention to him, particularly when he has the ball in the post, particularly when he’s putting pressure on the rim. He made a lot of great decisions. Really good to have him back.”

The 40-year-old James had an 11-point, 12-assist double-double in 30 minutes in his first game of the season, putting on a passing

masterclass and setting up a variety of teammates for easy looks after missing all of training camp and their first 14 games due to sciatica.

“I can fit in with anybody,” said James, who had more assists than points in a game for just the seventh time in his NBA career. “I can ride with anybody. So, just watching the guys in the first 14 games, just watching them and seeing. ... I was just putting myself in position while I was watching the games and how I can help the team and how I can be successful to help those guys.”

Tuesday was James’ first game in 6½ months after last playing in the Lakers’ Game 5 loss to the Minnesota Timberwolves in the first-round playoff series that ended their 2024-25 season on April 30.

See **LeBron** page 7

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