

Project finished, future planned

Apron work is complete, runway rehab set for 2026

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review
The most recent major project is complete. Paperwork is being submitted for the next one. And plans are in place for additional work through the early 2030s. Portland Board of Aviation heard an update on its apron expansion project at Portland Municipal Airport, approved a pre-application and a contract for runway rehabilitation and a new weather system and OK'd its five-year capital improvement plan during a meeting Wednesday. Jason Clearwaters of engineering firm Butler, Fairman & Seufert told the board that the apron expansion project was substantially complete on Nov. 3. Only small items, such as ensuring grass is growing properly in the spring, remain.

The project added 57,700 square feet to the apron, where aircraft are parked, loaded, unloaded, refueled, boarded and maintained. Board members Faron Parr, Clyde Bray, John Ferguson and Caleb Lutes accepted the substantial completion report. They also approved payment of an invoice from Kwest Group, which handled the project, totaling \$209,385 for work completed between Oct. 12 and Nov. 3. (Five percent is being held back until the project is formally closed.) They then approved two grant reimbursement requests totaling \$242,404.92, which will also cover Butler, Fairman & Seufert fees related to the project. See Airport page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Replacing service

Portland Water Department employee Rich Schlechty replaces dirt over a water line access point Thursday, with coworkers Zach Bailey and Kyle Overla at Haynes Park. The department replaced the water service for the park's restrooms this week.

EU pushes for Ukraine's role

By ANDREA PALASCIANO and ARNE DELFS
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Europe voiced alarm at U.S.-Russia proposals for ending the war in Ukraine and insisted that Kyiv and its allies must have a central role in shaping any peace deal. "What we as Europeans have always supported is a long-lasting and just peace and we welcome any efforts to achieve that," the European Union's top diplomat Kaja Kallas said on Thursday. "For any plan to work, it needs to have Ukrainians and Europeans on board," she told reporters before a meet-

Leaders say buy-in is needed for lasting peace

ing of E.U. foreign ministers in Brussels. The latest attempt by U.S. President Donald Trump's administration to revive negotiations involves a 28-point plan drawn up in consultation between Moscow and Washington that's modeled on the Gaza ceasefire. It outlines known Russian demands for concessions

that are unacceptable to Kyiv and have so far hindered any breakthrough in efforts to reach a ceasefire. A U.S. military delegation led by Secretary of the Army Dan Driscoll has arrived in Kyiv for talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other top officials including Prime Minister Yuliia

Svyrydenko and army chief Oleksandr Syrskiy. It'll examine ways to force Russia to end the fighting, according to people familiar with the matter. European diplomats expressed skepticism about any possible deal, noting that Russian President Vladimir Putin has a track record of appearing to accept overtures when under pressure. Heavy U.S. sanctions targeting Russia's two largest oil companies, Rosneft PJSC and Lukoil PJSC, are due to come into force on Friday, the first major set of penalties imposed by Trump over the war. Russia's latest initiative is an attempt to prevent

those sanctions from coming into effect, according to people familiar with the matter. They requested anonymity to speak freely on the matter. Europe is Ukraine's main supporter in the war and "we expect to be consulted" about any peace plan, Poland's Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski told reporters on Thursday. "It's of course Europe's security that's at stake," he said. Ukraine's National Defense and Security Council Secretary Rustem Umerov met with Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff earlier this week in Miami and was briefed about the plan.

Can legislators say no?

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

For decades, Hoosier governors and lawmakers have sparred over what can be done during a special legislative session. But state leaders are now confronting a different dilemma — can the General Assembly legally ignore a governor's demand to convene? Indiana's debate reached a new breaking point Tuesday when the Senate chamber voted to adjourn until Jan. 5, rebutting Gov. Mike Braun's call for a special session on redistricting. The Senate's decision to simply not show up appears to be unprecedented in state history. Republican Sen. Mike Young, who supports redistricting, said Tuesday that lawmakers are already, by definition, in a special session and therefore can't ignore it. "The governor has the power to call us into a special session, which he's done," Young said. "But we have a right as a body to set a different schedule. ... We could have been in and adjourned, sine die, but we

Refusal to hold special session would be historic

chose not to do it. This is a slap in the face of the governor of the state of Indiana." He told the Indiana Capital Chronicle that the legislature must at least gavel in and out of the special session — even if redistricting matters are left untouched. "We first have to go in," Young said. "I'm not saying we have to do any work. I'm just saying they're not following the rules of the Constitution." But Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray, who leads the chamber, told reporters the opposite. "It does not appear to be a problem that we can make a decision as to whether we come in or not," Bray said, citing internal legal advice to the Senate. Republican House Speaker Todd Huston offered only a brief

response Tuesday when asked whether he believes the legislature can ignore the special session call entirely. "We'll see if that's even necessary," Huston said. Facing mounting resistance from his own party, Braun said he's now looking for ways to "compel" the Senate to act. The governor's office had no further details on what authority he believes he can use. He did radio and television interviews Wednesday but didn't include print reporters. The legislature previously planned to meet Dec. 1 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. See No page 2



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Leslie Bonilla Muñiz

Sen. Mike Young blasts his chamber for ignoring the governor's call for a special session about redistricting, on Organization Day, held on Tuesday.

In review

Weather

In review

Coming up

Holiday activities abound this weekend with Christmas at the Courthouse at 5:30 p.m. tonight, 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.

The temperature in Jay County was between 40 and 48 degrees Wednesday. Rain is expected tonight with a low in the mid 30s. Skies will be partly cloudy Saturday with a high in the upper 40s. Sunday's high will be in the 50s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday in the parking lot at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, and Dunkirk City Park.

Saturday — Results from the JCHS girls basketball game at Class 3A No. 6 Bellmont.

Tuesday — Details from Tuesday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.

Wednesday — Coverage of next week's Dunkirk City Council meeting.

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Airport ...

Continued from page 1

The project is being covered 90% by the Federal Aviation Administration, 5% by Indiana Department of Transportation and 5% by the city.

The board also approved a grant reimbursement request totaling \$18,789.94 for design of the rehabilitation of the original 4,000-foot runway at the airport. (It has since been extended to 5,500 feet.) It then approved a pre-application for FAA funding for the work on the runway, with bidding expected in early 2026. The project is estimated at \$1.52 million.

Also on the list of approvals Wednesday was a \$49,360 contract, plus mileage costs, with Butler, Fairman & Seufert for designing, bidding and overseeing construction of a new automated weather observing station. That project is also scheduled for 2026 and will be funded through the airport's remaining money from the 2021 federal infrastructure bill.

The airport's current weather system is 23 years old. Airport manager Hal Tavzel has previously pointed out that they are intended to last about 15 years.

In addition to the planned 2026 projects, the airport's capital improvement plan includes design and reconstruction of the terminal apron in 2027 and 2028, respectively; designing and constructing rehabilitation of taxiway pavement and upgrading lighting in 2029 and 2030, respectively; and designing a wildlife control and security fence in 2031.

The airport would also add a 10-unit T-hangar if state funding for such a project became available.

“You guys have always done

a good job of having a good plan and working the plan,” said Clearwaters. “I think we’re on a good track.”

The board approved the capital improvement plan, which will now be submitted to the FAA.

In other business, the board:

- Heard from Tavzel that the airport sold 7,758 gallons of fuel in October for \$32,271.85. That's up from 6,713 gallons in October 2024. He also reported that planned cleaning of the fuel tanks was rescheduled.
- Agreed to allow Sonrise Aviation to install spray foam

insulation in one of its hangars in order to make it more energy efficient. Tavzel, co-owner of Sonrise, said a similar project at another hangar resulted in 40% savings in energy costs. The board asked Tavzel to get three quotes for the project and approved moving forward with the lowest quote in order to expedite the process.

- Approved the payment of claims totaling \$1,608.18.
- Heard from clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips that hangar rental contracts have been sent out of 2026.

CR almanac

Saturday 11/22	Sunday 11/23	Monday 11/24	Tuesday 11/25	Wednesday 11/26
 49/35 Saturday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a high in the upper 40s.	 57/35 Sunny skies on Sunday, when the low may hit the mid 30s.	 55/46 Monday's weather shows mostly cloudy skies with the high in the mid 50s.	 57/39 There's a 60% chance of showers on Tuesday when the low may hit around 39.	 42/26 Wednesday's weather looks like mostly cloudy skies with a low around 26.

Lotteries

Powerball 10-31-49-51-68 Power Ball: 19 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$629 million	Daily Four: 5-0-0-6 Quick Draw: 4-6-9-13-17-24-33-34-35-38-40-47-57-58-60-66-68-72-73-74 Cash 5: 5-21-30-37-41 Estimated jackpot: \$341,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$60 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 7-0-9 Pick 4: 2-4-6-1 Pick 5: 7-6-8-8-3 Evening Pick 3: 5-9-0 Pick 4: 8-7-1-0 Pick 5: 3-4-0-1-2 Rolling Cash: 4-11-16-30-35 Estimated jackpot: \$412,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 7-8-8 Daily Four: 5-7-6-8 Quick Draw: 1-7-9-11-18-19-23-27-29-38-43-47-49-50-54-56-57-69-70-78 Evening Daily Three: 2-7-2	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.46 Jan. corn4.47	Wheat 4.99
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.52 Jan. corn4.42 Feb. corn4.42	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.30 Dec. corn4.32 Beans11.14 Dec. beans11.18 Wheat4.96
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.41 Dec. corn4.41 Beans11.13 Dec. beans11.18	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.36 Dec. corn4.41 Beans10.88 Dec. beans10.88 Wheat4.81

Today in history

In 1620, about 41 male passengers onboard the Mayflower signed the Mayflower Compact before landing at Plymouth, Massachusetts. Passengers agreed in the pact to follow the law in the new government they would be creating.

In 1783, Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier and François Laurent d'Arlandes made the first untethered hot-air balloon flight over Paris in a balloon created by the Montgolfier brothers.

In 1877, inventor Thomas Edison announced the invention of the phonograph, the first machine able to record and reproduce sound.

In 1931, “Frankenstein” was released in theaters. The horror film starring Boris Karloff as the monster is based on Mary Shelley’s novel from 1818.

In 1941, Tweety Bird appeared for the first time in Warner Bros. Merrie Melodies cartoon, “A Tale of Two Kitties.”

In 2019, “Frozen II” premiered in theaters, becoming the highest-grossing animated film of all time with more than \$1.4 billion worldwide.

— The CR

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. 4 p.m. — Portland Revolving Loan Fund Committee, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 5:15 p.m. — Portland	Board of Works executive session, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 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.

Local/Indiana

Capsule Reports

Police vehicle hit

A Ridgeville man lost control of his truck, causing him to crash into a parked police vehicle at the intersection of Meridian and High streets in Portland about 5:41 a.m. Wednesday.

Blake V. Prescott, 19, was driving a 2010 Chevrolet Silverado north on Meridian Street near its intersection with High Street when he lost control of his vehicle. Portland police officer Brandon M. McDavid, 37, was sitting at the intersection in a parked 2020 Chevrolet Tahoe. McDavid told Jay County Sheriff’s Office he noticed Prescott’s vehicle begin veering right. Prescott wasn’t able to avoid hitting McDavid’s police car, causing between \$2,500 and \$5,000 in estimated damage.

Rear collision

Damage is estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000 after a Portland man crashed his truck into the back of another Portland man’s vehicle at the intersection of Indiana 67 and county road 200 West about 2:20 p.m. Monday.

Levi P. Stant, 28, was driving his 2021 Chevrolet Silverado northeast

on the highway. At the same time, Kyle J. Stockton, 48, was driving his 2008 Ford Explorer Sport Trac in front of Stant. Stockton told police he stopped at the intersection in order to make a westbound turn onto county road 200 West. Stant told police he didn’t notice Stockton’s vehicle had stopped, and he crashed into it.

Both vehicles were towed.

Unfamiliar crash

A Portland woman drove off county road 300 West, hitting a fence about 3:30 p.m. Monday.

Kyle M. Oliver, 21, was driving a 2017 Buick Encore south when she approached a sharp east turn in the road. She told police she didn’t realize the road didn’t go straight. Oliver attempted to slow down but wasn’t able to before going off the south side of the road and striking a fence and gate owned by Andy Girod.

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Turning accident

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Pennville woman turned into a yard at the

intersection of U.S. 27 and county road 300 North about 6:10 p.m. Monday.

Hazel D. Taylor, 84, was driving her 2016 Ford Escape north on the highway and attempting to turn west onto county road 300 North. She told police headlights coming her way obscured her vision, and she instead turned into Donnie Schlosser’s property. She drove onto a concrete marker, damaging it as well as the yard and her vehicle.

Taylor’s vehicle was towed.

Failed to yield

A Redkey woman crashed her car into oncoming traffic at the intersection of Walnut and Harrison streets in Portland about 12:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Brenda K. Hale, 75, was driving a 2024 Chevrolet Trax west on Walnut Street when she stopped at its intersection with Harrison Street. She told police she didn’t see the northbound 2022 Chevrolet Equinox driven by 61-year-old Kay E. Rohrer of Portland. She drove into the back of Rohrer’s vehicle, causing between \$2,500 and \$5,000 in estimated damage.

Felony courts

Confinement

A Portland woman was arrested Tuesday for confinement.

Magaly Valentino, 23, 320 N. Commerce St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for the alleged crime and a Class A misdemeanor for domestic battery.

She was being held on a \$4,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

SERVICES

Today

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.

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Registration is open for spring music classes

Registration is open for spring MusicWorks classes.

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Spring classes run from Jan. 5 through May 1. Student lessons are

Taking Note

\$292.50, while adult lessons are \$332.50. There's also a \$25 registration fee and \$40 instrument rental fee.

Classes are available at Jay County Campus of Arts Place in Portland and Blackford County Arts Center in Hartford City.

The deadline to register is Dec. 30.

To sign up, visit [myartsplace.easybooking.site](#). For more information or questions on how to be involved, please contact Arts Place by calling

(260) 726-4809 or emailing jcc@myartsplace.org.

Senior learning

Seniors have the opportunity to learn more about home brew next month.

Josh Gibson, a Jay County High School teacher and beekeeper, will present "Buzz, Brew and Bloom Crafting" during John Jay Center for

Learning's Lunch and Learn series Dec. 4. The event starts with lunch at 11:30 a.m. with Gibson's presentation to follow.

Reservations are \$5 for seniors 55 years old and older.

Arts Place benefit

This year's holiday benefit is nearly here. Jay County Campus of

Arts Place will host its annual holiday benefit auction Friday. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with the auction to follow at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are on sale for \$10 and may be purchased online at [myartsplace.org](#) or by visiting Arts Place. For more questions, contact Shawnda Roussey at Arts Place at (260) 726-4809 or jcc@myartsplace.org.

Kind gesture puts elderly father in risky situation

DEAR ABBY: My 19-year-old niece didn't finish high school and has been in and out of rehab for years. She's about to leave a residential program and is looking for a place to live. Her parents have implemented "house rules" she doesn't like, notably staying drug-free and away from her boyfriend.

I have three kids at home, and I'm not able to take her in. My elderly father just offered to let her live with him. This is going to be a disaster. Financially and physically, he is barely able to keep an apartment on his own. We perform a lot of his daily tasks and have been looking for home health options for when he's ready to accept more help.

Dad is in no position to take in

Dear Abby



issues. Her parents have warned Dad with the same result I've had. I want to protect my father. How do I get in front of this craziness before it gets ugly? — DREADING IT IN MISSOURI

DEAR DREADING IT: I don't think there is any way for you to prevent your father from taking the girl in. Stay in close touch so you can monitor what's happening. Let this play out and step in if you see the situation becoming dangerous to his health and welfare, which, at that point, may require involving the authorities.

.....

DEAR ABBY: I have a nephew and niece who are in their 20s.

As teens and adults, they chose not to acknowledge gifts. I stopped sending them anything as a result.

I have recently learned my nephew is engaged. He will be eloping and then having a family reception in a few months. Nobody in my family has met his fiancée. I do not live in the same town they do. Would it be wrong to not attend the reception? I have never said anything to their father (my brother) about his kids' lack of acknowledgement. I know my mother will give me grief, because she did a few months ago when I didn't attend my niece's graduation party. — STAYING AWAY IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR STAYING AWAY: I

understand you are miffed because you weren't thanked for gifts you gave your niece and nephew when they were younger. However, I am sorry you didn't attend your niece's graduation and even sorrier that you are planning not to attend your nephew's wedding reception.

Are you estranged from your brother? Aren't you the least bit curious about the young woman who will be joining your extended family? By pouting and not having a conversation with your brother about your feelings, you are effectively estranging yourself from that branch of the family, which I feel is a mistake.

Community Calendar

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

Today

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. To learn more information, please call (260) 251-3259.

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.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, Nov. 21, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

Saturday

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

Sunday

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

for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

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

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

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

THE LIFE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy, as well as help with the needs of the family. The center is located at 1209 S. Shank St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. 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.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will

meet at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

Tuesday

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard's Restaurant.

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.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30

p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday

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 RECOVERY — 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.



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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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

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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

The state has an anti-urban bias

By MORTON J. MARCUS

The longest shutdown of the national government is over. The do-nothing Congress has given us a meaningless contest between an arrogant, cowardly Republican Party and a disheveled excuse for a party of Democrats. And all the while the Indiana legislature slept. It had study committees which are excuses for inaction. But none was focused on the pressing need for connectivity. Economic success, from ancient times, has been based on connectivity, the ability for getting goods, people and ideas from one place to another. Our basic connectivity remains the 19th-century streets and roads of our elders. Yes, thanks to the federal gov-

Morton J. Marcus



ernment, we now have interstate highways, but fundamentally we live in a network of the past. Roundabouts are not the answer to our needs. The legislature allocates money on the basis of linear miles of roadways. But we drive on lanes of travel. The distance of a roadway from Logansport to Fort Wayne (U.S. 24) is of lesser consequence than the lane miles which allow

for greater volume and safer driving. Thanks to the rural antiquarians of the General Assembly, the length of a roadway's centerline is the key measure of its importance. Thus, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) offers us statistics on 98,132 miles of Hoosier roads, from city streets to tolled interstates. The lane mile data are not available by county, but by INDOT districts which are a mystery to the general public. Statewide, there are 2.5 lane miles for every mile of center lines. In the Greenfield district, which includes Marion County, Indiana has 2.8 lane miles per centerline mile or so I interpret the data. Why is this important?

For years, urban counties have tried to get state funding allocated by lane miles rather than centerline miles. But since there is no effective lobbying force for the municipalities of this state, no vigorous coalition of mayors, no understanding by the public of the disparities inflicted on us by our rural mythology, centerline measures still dominate the allocation of money, or so I believe. But there are other data to support more roadway funding for urban areas. We could use Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled (DVMT in the shorthand of INDOT). For both all vehicles and for commercial vehicles (heavy trucks), Marion, Allen and Lake are the top three counties for vehicular traffic.

The anti-urban bias of Indiana, the residual of a mid-19th century ethos, which infects most county governments, prevents us from having an effective allocation of highway funds. It does nothing to improve the connectivity of declining rural areas to nearby cities where hope lies for the survival of those areas. And while we're discussing connectivity, when will Purdue University reveal its plans for high-speed rail from its campus to the Lebanon Leap District right into the heart of Indianapolis? Marcus is an economist formerly at the IU Kelley School of Business. Contact him via email at mortonjmarcus@gmail.com.

Keep politics out of the classroom

By ALLI ALDIS
Tribune News Service

As classrooms reopened this fall, many teachers returned to school with both new lesson plans and new boundaries — political ones. According to EdChoice and Morning Consult's most recent educator survey, which polled teachers at the end of September, about 40% of America's teachers say they've had to change what they teach or discuss in class because of political pressure. That is not a fringe issue. It's nearly half the profession. Even more striking, a majority of teachers aren't waiting for directives at all. Fifty-six percent said they've decided on their own to avoid or limit discussion of political or social topics in class, a 13-point jump since spring. That's a sign that the classroom atmosphere itself, not just the rules, has changed this school year. Notably, there isn't a divide between public and private schools — both groups of teachers report making curriculum changes at similar rates. What differs is who's driving those changes. Public school teachers point to administrators (35%), the federal government (33%), and state governments (31%) as their main sources of political pressure. Private school teachers, meanwhile, cite parents most often — 41%, compared with 28% in public schools. In public systems, the political climate in Washington or state capitals has a direct impact on teachers' lesson plans. In private or independent settings, politics percolate into the classroom through parents' political attitudes. Political pressure may manifest differently in public and private schools, but the story of censorship remains the same. For public school teachers, that may mean quietly adjusting lessons to match federal or state priorities under the current administration. For private school teachers, this could look like carefully limiting classroom discussion around certain topics after receiving feedback from an unhappy parent. The EdChoice data should be eye-opening for families who don't agree with the dominant political direction of their government — and for anyone who values free thought in

Alli Aldis



the classroom. If 40% of teachers are already modifying lessons and more than half are self-censoring, that means classrooms may reflect political caution rather than genuine inquiry. Classrooms that avoid important political and social issues will struggle to help students become independent thinkers and good citizens. The free exchange of ideas teaches students critical thinking skills and how to engage in respectful civil discourse. School choice might offer some families a solution to the problem of growing censorship. Public schools are uniquely vulnerable to political pressure from the government. When government authorities — of any political leaning — shape classroom content, it narrows what teachers feel free to say. Outside of a public school setting, parents can choose a schooling option that isn't a reflection of directives from political agencies. While the data shows that private schools are not immune to ideological pressure, private schools aren't one-size-fits-all. Parents have the option to seek out an education model that emphasizes free thought and civic discourse. And moreover, school choice isn't limited to just private schools anymore. Charter schools, hybrid homeschools, microschools, and education savings accounts (ESAs) are giving families the ability to shape learning environments in ways traditional systems often can't. The more that classroom lesson plans aren't modified to suit shifting political attitudes, the more likely classrooms can remain bastions of learning — not a reflection of the politics of whoever happens to be in power. Aldis is a research assistant at EdChoice, a non-profit, nonpartisan organization working to advance educational freedom and choice for all students as a pathway to successful lives and a stronger society.



Congress must extend ACA subsidies

Bangor Daily News (Maine)
Tribune News Service

The deal that ended the federal government shutdown this week is, like most political agreements, far from perfect. Most glaring, there is no commitment to extend the federal subsidies that help make health insurance purchased through the Affordable Care Act affordable. Instead, Republicans have agreed to hold a vote on a possible extension. So, it is easy to see why many people, including progressive Democrats, are understandably upset that several members of the Senate Democratic caucus, including Maine's independent Sen. Angus King, voted for the agreement to end the shutdown. It was approved by the House and signed by President Donald Trump on Wednesday night. It is important, however, to look at the agreement, which closely mirrors a draft plan put together by Sen. Susan Collins several weeks ago, in the light of reality, not unreasonable hope. That reality shows that, as the federal shutdown continued, millions of Americans were in danger of losing essential food aid that kept them, their children and their families fed. Many states, including Maine, stepped up to ensure Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits were available this month, but that was not a long-term solution. And it should be widely noted that the Trump administration was actively fighting in court to stop SNAP benefits during the shutdown, going so far as to threaten states that continued the benefits. In other words, the Trump administration was willing to fight to ensure that Americans went hungry. Support for pregnant and new mothers and heating assistance were also under threat as the shutdown, the longest in U.S. history, dragged on.

Guest Editorial

The reality was that more than 1 million federal workers went without paychecks for a month and a half. Many of them were required to work but did not get paid. The Trump administration threatened to withhold their back pay. The bipartisan agreement to end the shutdown requires that federal workers get the back pay they are owed. It also undoes Trump administration firings that were done during the shutdown and funds several agencies and SNAP for a full year. Air traffic controllers and TSA screeners were among those not getting paid. A shortage of these workers was causing flight delays and cancellations at airports around the country. Many of those who oppose the Senate agreement, particularly progressive Democrats, urged lawmakers to continue to fight. Fighting, however, doesn't put food on the table of hungry Americans. Fighting doesn't help unpaid federal workers pay their bills. Fighting doesn't staff control towers and keep flights safe and on time. If the shutdown continued, these and other hardships would have continued, and likely worsened, without any guarantee that the ACA subsidies would be extended. And, don't forget, Trump was pushing Republicans in the Senate to abandon the filibuster to pass a short-term spending bill, without many of the beneficial provisions in this compromise plan, without any Democratic support. Ending the filibuster

would have given the president far more power to enact a dangerous agenda, while completely sidelining Democrats in the Senate, whether they wanted to fight or not. We understand complaints that King and the seven Democrats who voted for the plan in the Senate gave up too easily. Of course, the tax credits that make health insurance more affordable for those who buy their insurance through the ACA need to be extended. Without an extension, premiums for these Americans, many of whom are small-business owners, will double and even triple. Rural areas will be hit the hardest and many will forgo health insurance, which will endanger their health and put pressure on already struggling hospitals. The Senate agreement to end the shutdown calls for a vote next month to extend the subsidies which is far from a guarantee that this will happen. In the House, Rep. Jared Golden, a co-sponsor of a bill to extend the ACA subsidies for a year, voted for the agreement, while Rep. Chellie Pingree voted against it. Republicans, however, do not seem eager to bolster the ACA. Many want to repeal it. So, extending the subsidies remains a significant challenge. Congressional Republicans are already tying additional abortion restrictions to an extension of the tax credits. This is a nonstarter. The challenge now for Collins, who drafted the framework of this plan and built bipartisan support, and for King, who long voted to end the shutdown while pushing for an extension of the tax credits, is to bring enough of their colleagues along to support an extension. Ending the shutdown with a bipartisan deal is a good step. But it must be followed by an extension of ACA subsidies to keep health insurance accessible to millions of Americans.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Bird flu cases on the rise

Price of turkeys is nearly double what it was in 2024

By **ADRIANA PEREZ**
and **CLAIRE MALON**
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

Larger turkey-producing states have been hit hard by bird flu in the past couple of months.

Nearly 2 million turkeys have been affected by bird flu across the country since August, accounting for roughly 24% of all new cases in commercial and backyard flocks, even though turkeys only account for approximately 2% of the U.S. poultry inventory.

According to experts, the disease — combined with a drop of almost 10% in turkey meat production from last year, rising labor costs and lower overall consumer demand throughout the year — is triggering higher prices for wholesale and fresh turkeys just ahead of the holiday season. Frozen turkeys are not likely to be as affected.

More than a third of those recent cases came from Minnesota, where, as of Friday, more than 716,000 commercial turkeys have been infected or exposed to the virus since August and over 1 million since the start of the year. Minnesota, which sells a lot of its turkey to Illinois and other states, led the country in production last year with 32 million birds.

It's not the first time this year that bird flu has disrupted the economy. Following an outbreak last winter, egg prices hit a record high in March. Like turkeys, cases are surging again in egg-laying chickens, with approximately 5.8 million commercial egg layers affected by the disease this fall. Even so, the price of eggs continues to decline from March's record highs — settling at a nearly 12-month low in September. More recent data on egg prices is unavailable because of the government shutdown.

Since 2022, over 183 million commercial birds have died or been killed in the country as this highly pathogenic strain of avian influenza affects poultry flocks across all 50 states. It has no treatment and continues to be spread by wild birds, causing outbreaks during migratory seasons as they return to their seasonal homes.

"The Upper Midwest, in general, is experiencing a very active highly pathogenic avian influenza season," said Michelle Kromm, a doctor of veterinary medicine specializing in poultry and public health based in Minnesota. "I think we're kind of toward the tail end of that activity" this fall.

Even though outbreaks this season appear to be subsiding, spring migration will bring renewed challenges for the poultry industry, especially as it grapples with the recent deaths of turkey breeder hens, which can have longer-term implications. "Every breeder bird rep-



Tribune News Service/Chicago Tribune/Dominic Di Palremo

Bronze turkey hens roam in a fenced grassy area after being fed on Nov. 14 at All Grass Farms in Dundee. Cliff McConville said his flock has not been affected by bird flu.

resented multiple turkeys ... that are no longer being produced, and it takes a long time to adjust that supply chain," said Jada Thompson, associate professor of agricultural economics at the University of Arkansas, whose research focuses on livestock health and the poultry industry.

Market changes

Experts say customers buying conventional frozen turkeys for their Thanksgiving meal might not feel much of an impact on their wallets because a lot of the meat being sold by large retailers was bought before the fall spike in bird flu. Those who prefer to buy their turkey fresh for the holiday, however, might run into higher prices and fewer available options.

Wholesale costs have shot up 81% from 2024.

"That's a huge jump," said David Anderson, professor of agricultural economics at Texas A&M University.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's latest weekly national turkey market report, wholesale prices for whole turkeys were \$1.77 per pound last week compared with 98 cents per pound at the same time last year.

In the lead-up to Thanksgiving and Christmas, wholesale costs aren't expected to come down.

According to agricultural experts, bird flu has been a persistent challenge unlike other temporary market disruptions such as supply chain issues, which often resolve within months. As a result, price forecasts remain raised on "relatively tight supplies," according to a September report from the USDA's World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates.

As a result of those tight supplies in the domestic market, the United States is buying more from foreign suppliers, with turkey

imports jumping roughly 9% month-over-month and more than 33% year-over-year, according to a Tribune analysis of the latest available USDA trade data from July.

On top of that, President Donald Trump's trade war could be contributing to higher prices domestically. Currently, Canada is the sole country that exports turkeys to the United States, and with its general tariff rate set at 35% for goods not exempt under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, import costs are spiking as well.

"Then you have retail prices," Anderson said.

Grocery stores have marketing strategies and holiday specials that will probably keep prices lower — and most big chains, he said, contracted their turkeys eight or 10 months ago.

"So their contract price is most likely much lower than what we're seeing in the wholesale spot market," Anderson said.

In recent weeks, many stores have started to share their holiday deals and discounts.

According to the latest USDA weekly retail turkey feature activity report, retail prices for frozen conventional whole turkeys are averaging 98 cents per pound — or about 80 cents per pound cheaper than the wholesale market.

The average retail price is also roughly the same as a year ago despite the strain on inventory.

"If they (grocery stores) contracted months and months ago, before prices took off, then that explains it a little bit," Anderson said.

Typically, the retail price for fresh turkey is higher. According to the latest data, the price of a conventional fresh whole turkey averages about \$1.71 per pound nationwide.

And as Turkey Day approaches, the price tag

on fresh birds is only increasing.

The average retail price for a whole turkey jumped 12.5% in the second week of November.

"A fresh turkey was going to be harvested pretty close to now, so that it shows up at the store and it has not been frozen or anything. So those are much more related to production right now, which is being hit by bird flu," he said. "I think that really hits the more fresh, specialty market — probably more than the frozen turkeys that some of us are looking for."

Waves of challenges

The recurring market pressures of the bird flu follow the seasonal migration of the waterfowl that carry the disease, both "in the fall and vice versa in the spring," Kromm said.

As the migratory birds start to "bunch up" or congregate ahead of their travels south, "they swap bugs," Kromm said — increasing the circulation of the virus.

"This particular strain of influenza continues to be very unique in the fact that it's sticking around," Kromm said. It was first detected in spring 2022, and wild birds are still carrying it around with "spillover events" into domestic poultry.

Turkey producers specifically continue to be badly hit by the bird flu. It's like standing in the middle of the ocean and getting hit by a wave, Thompson, from the University of Arkansas, said.

"So every time you get hit, and you think, 'I'm recovering,' you get hit by another wave," Thompson said.

Because of their growth cycle, the turkey population is also still recovering from losses in the late spring. Many producers raise turkeys throughout the year to stockpile for Thanksgiving, and com-

mercially raised hens, which are preferred for eating, take 16 to 18 weeks to reach maturity and be ready for harvest, said Wanda, the Harvard, Illinois-based farmer.

The latest surge followed a steep drop-off throughout the summer.

From August to September, the number of birds affected by avian flu in the U.S. jumped a jaw-dropping 6,700%. In August, new cases were reported in only three states — representing less than 57,000 birds. By September, there were confirmed outbreaks in nearly 30 flocks across 10 states, with more than 3.8 million birds affected, according to USDA data.

In October, cases were even more widespread: Nearly 4 million birds were infected or exposed to the virus in 20 states.

A new normal

When birds test positive for avian flu, they are culled, as the USDA has a so-called stamping-out policy, meaning there's zero tolerance for domestic poultry flocks affected with the virus. So all infected and exposed birds in a flock have to be culled.

"That killing, or what we would call depopulation in the industry, is a really important disease control step, because the birds — especially turkeys, to be honest — they're pretty sensitive to infection," Kromm said. "Viruses, being what they are, they require living organisms in order to replicate."

The government usually purchases the birds that have tested positive from producers to kill them, and sometimes offers financial assistance to clean up barns and farms.

"But that typically doesn't make everybody whole, and so, cash-flow-wise, it can get to be a big challenge" for producers, Kromm explained.

Biosecurity measures became a "normal course of business" for big commercial poultry operations after the last outbreak in late 2014.

The measures are "pathogen-agnostic," she said, meaning they protect poultry from a variety of viruses, bacteria and other kinds of germs. "Many of the steps are just best practices for keeping birds healthy, no matter whether we're worried about highly pathogenic avian influenza or not."

"So a lot of the regulatory structure and expectations preceded this outbreak," Kromm said.

But the strain is so contagious that it's been more difficult to contain with standard precautions.

Now, under the new administration and after mass firings across federal agencies that also affected the USDA — whose Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service unit has lost over 1,300 employees since January — new, less experienced staffers are conducting biosecurity audits, Kromm said.

"You have folks coming out to audit a turkey farm that have never been to a poultry farm, or maybe never even been on a livestock operation. And so they're coming through with a rubric and having a conversation and checking boxes," Kromm said. "Sometimes that doesn't go that well. ... There's a little bit more tension now, I would say."

She said, however, that she understands the government's emphasis on accountability and making sure everyone is doing their part to keep the animals safe.

"Ultimately, it's taxpayers that foot the bill when these flocks break with (bird flu)," Kromm said.

Under Trump, the USDA announced in February it was investing \$100 million for vaccine research to curb avian influenza. But vaccinating chickens and turkeys in the United States could affect trade, as importing countries fear asymptomatic birds can still spread infection internationally.

"(The) discussion largely hinges on export markets," Kromm said. "So those conversations have to be had with trade partners."

But it can be frustrating for smaller turkey producers who would rather be able to vaccinate their flocks than worry about being able to export their products.

Still, it is exciting to see research and conversation for a vaccine cautiously move forward, Kromm said.

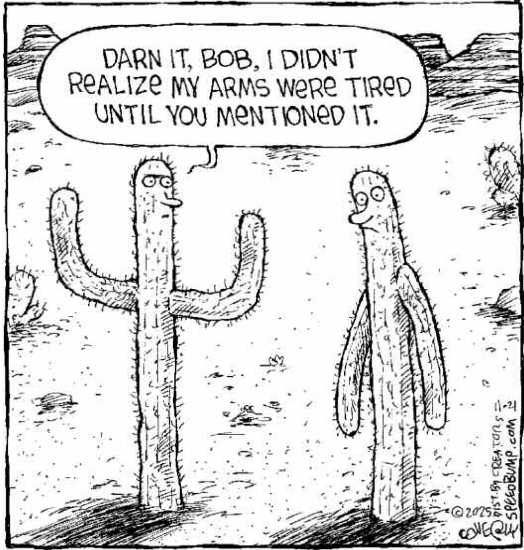
"Because that is a tool that could be helpful in managing this disease," she said. "Not a cure-all — we think about it similar to COVID vaccines. So it's an added layer of protection, but that doesn't mean that you can't still get COVID, right?"

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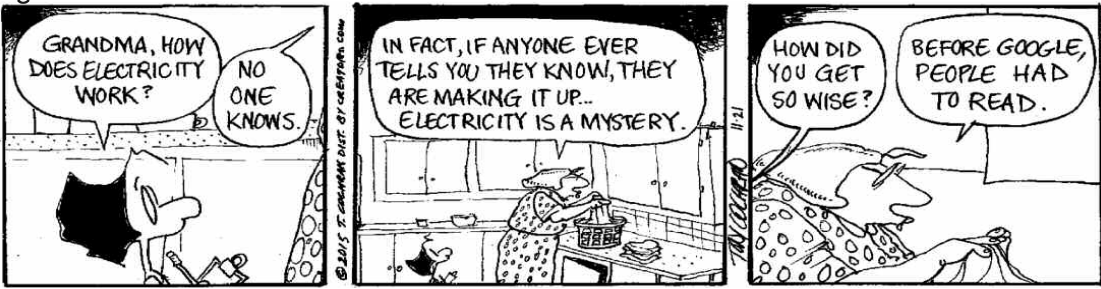
Peanuts



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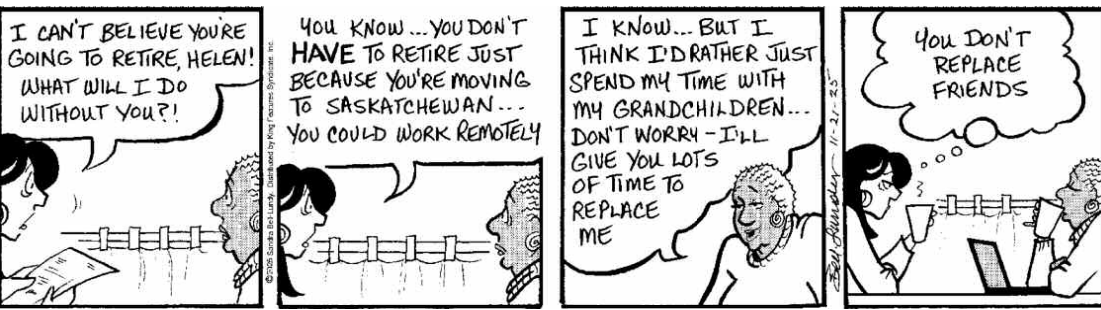
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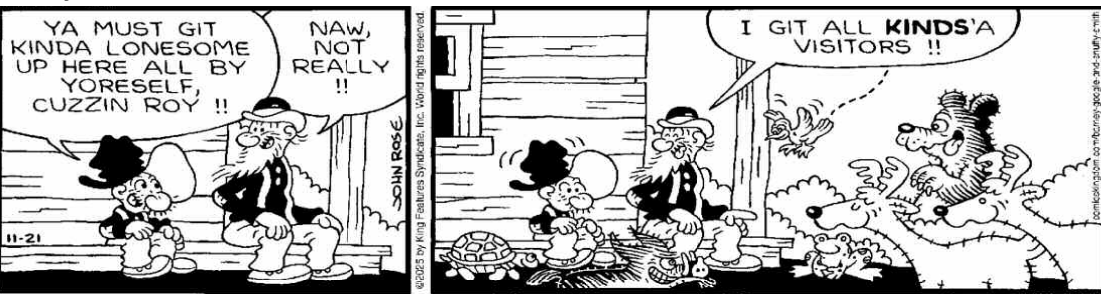
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are the dealer, both sides vulnerable. What would you bid with each of the following three hands:
1. ♠ KJ1063 ♥ AQ ♦ KQ5 ♣ AJ7
2. ♠ K9842 ♥ AKQ93 ♦ 9 ♣ 85
3. ♠ KQ1043 ♥ — ♦ 864 ♣ AQJ75

1. Two notrump. The only bids that can seriously be considered are one spade and two notrump. There are several objections to a one-spade bid. First, there is the danger that partner might pass with four or five points, and a good game contract might be missed. Then there is the possibility that partner might respond one notrump, which you would have to raise to three notrump — a contract that would probably be better placed with the strong hand as declarer rather than as dummy.
Also, there is the natural ambiguity of any opening of one of a suit, a bid that can run the gamut of high-card values and distribution. As opposed to this, the two-notrump opening delivers a very precise message. It shows 20 or 21 points, balanced distribution and usually stoppers in all four suits — which is exactly what you have.
2. One spade. After opening with one spade, you intend to bid your hearts twice, thereby describing at least a 5-5 distribution. You do this even though the hearts are much stronger than the spades.
If you were to bid hearts first and

then follow up by bidding spades twice, you would mislead partner on two counts: First, he would assume that you had six hearts and five spades. Secondly, because such a sequence would constitute a “reverse,” indicating 17 points or more, partner would assume you had a much stronger hand.

3. One club. While it is true that the higher ranking of two five-card suits is ordinarily named first when opening the bidding, as in the previous problem, an exception is often made when the two suits are spades and clubs.

The reason for the exception becomes apparent when the rebid problem is considered. If you opened one spade, you would have to go into the three-level to show your clubs if partner responded two hearts or two diamonds, bid which normally implies extra strength.

Opening one club allows you to bid spades next on the one-level if partner makes the expected response of one diamond or one heart. It is true that at that moment, partner will think you have only four spades, but you plan to bid spades again at your next turn, thereby informing him that you have five spades rather than four. At the same time, this will tell him that you have five or six clubs, since you would not have opened one club with five spades and only four clubs.

Tomorrow: A synthetic trump finesse.
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11-21

CRYPTOQUIP

W G N R X K I Z T U Z K T F K

K S N O D G F L X G U H I M F G X W S R X X

O G M C B A D B G U L R H - I S C O K M G X R X :

“ZKGBR IJ JIMCSUR.”

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A SNAKE IS IN THE PROCESS OF SHEDDING A LAYER OF SKIN, DO PEOPLE SAY IT'S SCALING DOWN?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals W

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Danson of "The Good Place"
- 4 Wound cover
- 8 Sharp tooth
- 12 Carte lead-in
- 13 NYC gallery
- 14 "On the Water-front" director
- 15 Hybrid fruits
- 17 Crystal-tapping sound
- 18 Bassett of "Malcolm X"
- 19 Squeeze (out)
- 21 UFO crew
- 22 More like Unger
- 26 Pottery ovens
- 29 Happy hour venue
- 30 Eastern "way"
- 31 Notion
- 32 Badge metal
- 33 Injure
- 34 Speck

DOWN

- 1 "See ya!"
- 2 Panache
- 3 "Phooey!"
- 4 Refines, as ore
- 5 Fizzy drinks
- 6 Latin 101 word
- 7 Sunburn inhibitor
- 8 Threw a party for
- 9 "Love Story" actress
- 10 Diarist
- 11 Joke
- 16 Davis of "Thelma & Louise"
- 20 White wine cocktail

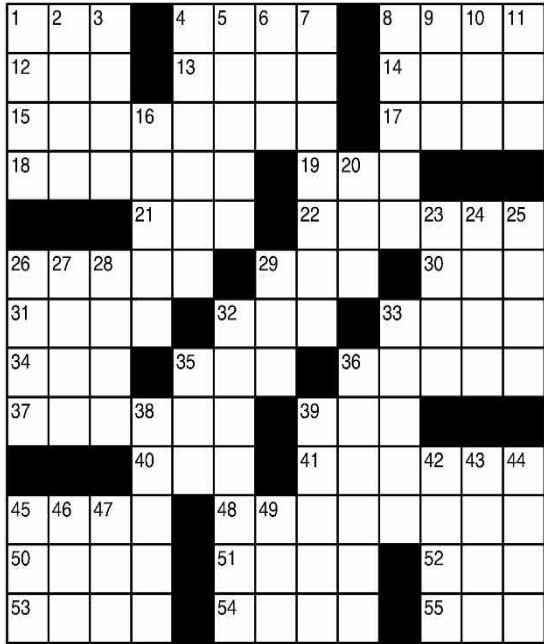
23 Slanted type (Abbr.)

- 24 — Grey tea
- 25 Former QB Tony
- 26 Baby goats
- 27 Fan fave
- 28 Jared of "House of Gucci"
- 29 Clothing protector
- 32 Alehouse vessel
- 33 "The Creation" composer
- 35 The Cowboys, on a score-board
- 36 Trattoria desserts
- 38 Tech whizzes
- 39 Apollo's birthplace
- 42 Engrave
- 43 Rani's wrap
- 44 Threaded fastener
- 45 Average guy
- 46 Aachen article
- 47 Potent stick
- 49 Small digit

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 11-21



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1 and 2.

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2025-26 Fort Recovery boys basketball preview

2024-25 season
The Tribe had an up-and-down season last year on the way to an 8-17 record and its first district championship berth since the 2016-17 season. FRHS dropped its first three games before punching back with three wins to hit .500. That didn't last though as it suffered a nine-game slide that included four Midwest Athletic Conference losses. The Indians finished in a three-way tie for seventh place in the MAC as they shared a 2-7 record with Parkway and New Bremen. Fort Recovery took its first two postseason games before Anna ended its season with a 67-59 defeat.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Pictured is the 2025-26 Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team. Front row from left are Kolton Thompson, Colson Post, Dylan Klenke, Braylon Dilworth, Brady Evers and Grant Fortkamp. Back row are manager Lincoln Wendel, assistant coach Tony Overton, Douglas Bihn, Breaker Jutte, Brody Barga, Hudson Overman, Carter Fortkamp, coach Bob Leverette and manager Rigley Wendel.

Schedule		
Date	Opponent	Time
Saturday, Nov. 29	Jefferson	5 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 6	Jay County	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 9	Fort Loramie	6 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 12	Marion Local	6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13	Bradford	6 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 19	Parkway	6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 20	Ansonia	4:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 27	South Adams	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 2	Lincolnvlew	6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 3	Botkins	4:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 9	New Bremen	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 16	Minster	6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 17	Crestview	5 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 23	Coldwater	6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 24	Mississinawa Valley	4:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 30	New Knoxville	6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 31	Dixie	6 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 6	Versailles	6 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 7	Arcanum	4:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 13	St. John's	6 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 14	Tri-Village	6 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 20	St. Henry	6 p.m.
Home games in bold		

Coach Bob Leverette says

"We're expecting big things this year. We want to be at the top of the MAC, high in the standings. There's no excuses for us this year to not compete and be well over .500. ... They're competitors. ... I mean, they're intense. Their effort is out of this world. I don't know that I've been around the team, even being with (former coach Brian) Patch all those years that we've had a team that just, I mean, they just go at it every day practice. ... So, I think we're just going to be real gritty. We've got good size. And the experience, I think, is hopefully show through."

Top returners

Grant Overman
8.7 points per game

Breaker Jutte
8.1 points per game

Brody Barga
7.2 points per game

Key departures

Briggs Overman
11.9 points per game

Gavin Evers
6.6 points per game

Projected rotation

Grant Fortkamp – Guard
Braylon Dilworth – Guard
Colson Post – Guard
Dylan Klenke – Guard
Breaker Jutte – Forward
Brody Barga – Forward
Hudson Overman – Forward
Doug Bihn – Forward

Games to watch

Saturday, Dec. 6, vs. Jay County

The Tribe fell to Jay County last season. While the Patriots will have a new look this year, this will act as a good measuring stick to see where FRHS is at.

Friday, Feb. 6, vs. Versailles

Leverette mentioned that Versailles and St. John's will both be contenders for the MAC. Fort Recovery will play host to both late in the season on back-to-back Fridays, starting with the Tigers.

Saturday, Feb. 14, at Tri-Village

The Patriots have been a solid program and gave the Indians plenty of trouble last season. This, along with he season finale against rival St. Henry, will be good final tests before heading into the postseason.

MLB ...

Continued from page 8
ESPN is paying \$550 million for the new three-year package, the same as the last contract, according to people familiar with talks who were not authorized to comment publicly.
While ESPN and MLB exchanged harsh words when their longtime arrangement broke up earlier this year, both sides praised the eventual outcome, which puts a greater emphasis on streaming.
“Bringing MLB.TV to ESPN’s new app while

maintaining a presence on linear television reflects a balanced approach to the shifts taking place in the way that fans watch baseball and gives MLB a meaningful presence on an important destination for fans of all sports,” MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement.
ESPN Chairman Jimmy Pitaro called the deal “a fan-friendly agreement” that prioritizes the Walt Disney Co. unit’s “streaming future.”
“Sunday Night Baseball”

will move to NBC, with 25 prime-time games on the broadcast network or NBCUniversal’s streaming platform Peacock. Already the home of “Sunday Night Football,” and “Sunday Night Basketball,” the addition of the MLB — at \$200 million a season — means NBC will have live sports in prime time on every Sunday throughout the year.
The network is also picking up the wild card round of the MLB postseason that had been carried on ESPN.
In 2027 and 2028, NBC

will carry the most consequential game played on the final Sunday of the season.
NBC Sports also gains the rights to the late Sunday morning game, which will be carried on Peacock and followed by a “whip-around” show presenting action from contests around the league that day. Peacock carried the morning game in 2023 and 2024 before it went to Roku this past season.
MLB games exclusive to Peacock will also be

shown on the newly launched NBC Sports Network, which is being offered to cable and satellite TV providers.
Netflix is paying around \$50 million per year to carry the 2026 opening night game between the San Francisco Giants and the New York Yankees on March 25. The annual Home Run Derby, previously on ESPN, also moves to the streamer, as does the Field of Dreams game, which will be played in Dyersville, Iowa, where

the set for “Field of Dreams” is located.
The deal continues Netflix’s approach of offering appointment sporting events to its subscribers rather than investing in a full season package.
The new MLB deals only run for three years. The league wants them to align with its major TV rights package that includes the playoffs, the World Series and the All-Star Game. Fox and Warner Bros. Discovery’s TBS carry those packages until 2028.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Girls basketball at Bellmont – 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball scrimmage at Newton – 5 p.m.; Girls basketball vs. Memorial – 6 p.m.
Saturday
Jay County — Girls wrestling at Mooresville team duals – 9 a.m.; Girls swim at Westfield – 10 a.m.; Boys basketball scrimmage vs. Beech Grove – 3 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys bowling vs. St. Henry at Plaza Lanes – 9 a.m.; Boys bowling vs. Van Wert at Plaza Lanes – 1 p.m.; Girls bowling vs. Van Wert at Plaza Lanes – 1 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
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)
Saturday
7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Burnley at Chelsea (USA)
10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: AFC Bournemouth at West Ham United (USA)
12 p.m. — College football: Missouri at Okla-

homa (ABC); Minnesota at Northwestern (BTN); Rutgers at Ohio State (FOX); Louisville at SMU (ESPN2); Miami at Virginia Tech (ESPN); Kansas at Iowa State (FS1)
12 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: FC Tulsa at Pittsburgh Riverhounds (CBS)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Newcastle United at Manchester City (NBC)
1 p.m. — College football: Baylor at Arizona (TNT)
3:30 p.m. — College football: Arkansas at Texas (ABC); Kentucky at Vanderbilt (ESPN); USC at Oregon (CBS); Michigan State at Iowa (FS1); Syracuse at Notre Dame (NBC)
3:30 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at New York Islanders (FDSN Indiana)
4 p.m. — College football: Michigan at Mary-

land (BTN); TCU at Houston (FOX); Kansas State at Utah (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — College football: Nebraska at Penn State (NBC); Pitt at Georgia Tech (ESPN); Colorado State at Boise State (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Tennessee at Florida (ABC); Illinois at Wisconsin (BTN)
8 p.m. — College football: BYU at Cincinnati (FOX); Arizona State at Colorado (ESPN2)
10:30 p.m. — College football: Washington at UCLA (NBC); San Jose State at San Diego State (FS1)
11 p.m. — Formula 1: Las Vegas Grand Prix (ESPN2)
.....
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 approximately 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, Auc-

90 SALE CALENDAR

tioneer at (260) 726-5160 or Kim Loy, Real Estate Broker at (260) 726-2700.
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Public Notice

INDOT is submitting a Notice of Intent to IDEM of our intent to comply with the requirements of the Construction Stormwater General Permit to discharge stormwater from construction activities associated with small structure replacements and drainage improvements on SR 1 for INDOT Des 2200520. Questions or comments regarding this project should be directed to CSGP@indot.in.gov.
CR 11-21-2025-HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
Date & Time of Sale: Decemeber 18, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. at 120 N Court Street, Suite 305, Portland, IN 47371
Judgment to be Satisfied: \$43,603.71 as of October 30, 2025.
Cause No: 38D01-2505-MF-000010
Plaintiff: First Merchants Bank
Defendant(s): Esther M. Aker a/k/a Esther M. Shaneyfel
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Jay County, Indiana, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, at the date, time, and location listed above, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jay County, Indiana as follows:
LOT NUMBER FOURTEEN (14) IN BLOCK NUMBER TWO (2) IN THE TOWN OF LANCASTER, NOW SALAMONIA, JAY COUNTY, INDIANA.
Commonly Known as: 5910 E 400 S, Salamonina, IN 47381
Parcel No.: 38-12-05-404-049.000-027
Subject to all liens, encumbrances and easements of record not otherwise extinguished in the proceedings known as cause #38D01-2505-MF-000010 in the Superior Court of the County of Jay, Indiana.
Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws. This Notice shall also represent service of Notice of Sale of the above-described real estate upon the owners, pursuant to requirements of IC 32-29-7-3.
Larry Ray Newton, Jr., Sheriff of Jay County
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Matthew L. Kelsey, Atty. #29313-49 DEFUR VORAN LLP
400 S Walnut Street, Suite 200 Muncie, IN 47305
(T) 765-216-0181
The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the commonly known address published herein. It is the buyer's responsibility to research the legal description and associated legal filings.
CR 11-14,21,28-2025-HSPAXLP

Visit Us At: thecr.com

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
IN THE MATTER OF THE
NAME CHANGE OF:
BRYSON J. GAHRET,
A Minor Child
KELLY J. CASSEL,
Petitioner
and
BRANDON J. GAHRET,
Respondent
CAUSE NO.
38C01-2511-MI-000031
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR
CHANGE OF NAME
NOTICE is hereby given that Kelly J. Cassel, the next friend of the minor child, Bryson J. Gahret, filed a VERIFIED PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF MINOR CHILD on November 5, 2025 to change the name of Bryson J. Gahret to Bryson J. Cassel.
The VERIFIED PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF MINOR CHILD is scheduled for hearing in the Jay Circuit Court, Courthouse – Third Floor, 120 North Court Street, Portland, IN 47371, on January 26, 2026 at 1:30 p.m., which is scheduled to be more than thirty days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file a written objection on or before the hearing date.
Dated this: 11-17-2025.
Missy Elliott
Clerk of the Jay Circuit Court
Courthouse – Second Floor
120 North Court Street
Portland, IN 47371
Telephone: (260) 726-4951
CR 11-21,28,12-5-2025-HSPAXLP

Sanders will make his first NFL start

By **PETER SBLENDORIO**
New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

It's officially prime time 2.0.
Cleveland Browns rookie Shedeur Sanders will make his first NFL start Sunday against the Las Vegas Raiders, head coach Kevin Stefanski said Wednesday. That's because starting quarterback Dillon Gabriel remains in concussion protocol.

"I'm doing everything I need to [do] to prepare, to be the best version of myself as possible," Sanders said. "With the circumstances, everything will be sped up, and that's great. I like pressure in life. I'm just excited for everything. I feel like I'm the guy. I know I'm the guy."

Sanders, the high-profile son of Hall of Fame cornerback Deion Sanders, struggled in his NFL debut last weekend when he replaced Gabriel in the second half of Cleveland's 23-16 loss to the Baltimore Ravens.

The 23-year-old Sanders completed only 4 of 16 pass attempts for 47 yards with an interception, and the Browns (2-8) did not score on any of his drives.

But Sanders is optimistic that a week of practice taking first-team reps will pay dividends. Last Sunday's game marked Sanders' first time working with the first-team offense.

"I'm truly excited for

that, knowing that I have a piece of [the] offense and a say-so in how things fit my eye and [to] place the players exactly where they need to be," Sanders said.

"Seeing how they come in and out of routes. Seeing the structure of the O-line-men. Seeing their set. Just having a feeling."

Sanders began the season third on the Browns' depth chart, and he was elevated to the backup role after Cleveland traded Joe Flacco to the Cincinnati Bengals last month.

Stefanski had been non-committal about this week's quarterback plans before he named Sanders the starter. Veteran quarterback Bailey Zappe is signed to the Browns' practice squad.

"He's excited about the opportunity, but he's so focused on the work that goes into it," Stefanski said of Sanders. "As you can imagine [for] any player, and certainly at the quarterback position, there's a lot that gets put on your plate, so he's working hard."

Sunday's game in Las Vegas presents a significant opportunity for Sanders, especially considering the Raiders' defense allows 326.8 yards and 25.3 points per game, both of which rank in the bottom third among NFL teams.

"It's gonna be fun," Sanders said.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Soccer stars

Jay County High School sophomore London Lloyd pushes the ball up the field during the inaugural East Central Indiana Soccer All-Star Game on Saturday. The Patriots, which hosted the event, had 13 kids represent Jay County. JCHS girls who participated were Aixa Lopez, Maleah Parsons, Tessa Frazee, Ariel Beiswanger, Raylin Hummer, Lloyd and Charlee Peters, while Brody Collins, Jaxson DeHoff, Emmitt Reynolds, Elias Mueller, Jacoby Penrod and Peyton Yowell played in the boys game. Burris, Union City, Richmond, Yorktown, Centerville and Delta all had representation as well.

MLB signs media deal

By **STEPHEN BATTAGLIO**
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — After walking away from its TV rights deal with Major League Baseball earlier this year, ESPN has a new package that will provide additional games for its streaming customers.

The deal announced Wednesday by the league will also return baseball to NBC and bring three MLB events — an opening night game, the Home Run Derby and the Field of Dreams game — to Netflix for the first time.

As part of the deal, ESPN will integrate the league's streaming platform MLB.TV into its recently launched direct-to-consumer service that provides the sports channels to consumers with or without a cable subscription.

MLB.TV provides local telecasts of out-of-market games to consumers. In the 2026 season, new customers will now be able to purchase the service as part of an ESPN subscription. Pricing has not yet been set for the combined services.

ESPN Unlimited subscribers will get an additional 150 out-of-market games over the course of the season at no additional cost. ESPN will offer local games in the six MLB markets that no longer have regional sports networks — San Diego, Cleveland, Seattle, Minnesota, Arizona and Colorado. The games, which are produced by MLB, will be available to purchase for streaming in those markets through ESPN.

ESPN will no longer carry "Sunday Night Baseball," a staple of the network for decades, but will have a package of 30 weeknight games. It will also retain its coverage of the MLB Little League Classic and carry a game on Memorial Day.

See MLB page 7

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