

Saturday, January 10, 2026

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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Inducting Renna

Jay County High School inducted 2023 graduate Renna Schwieterman to its Athletic Wall of Fame before Friday's Patriot girls basketball game against the Bluffton Tigers. Schwieterman is Jay County's all-time leading scorer for basketball with 1,754 career points. She was also a Junior Indiana All-Star. For more on the game, in which Renna's sisters Hallie and Karsyn led the Patriots to an Allen County Athletic Conference victory, see page 10.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Help offered to pay for early learning

Foundation will provide scholarships beginning on Feb. 1

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

With state funding no longer available to subsidize the cost of child care, the community foundation is stepping in to fill the gap.

The Portland Foundation announced this week that it is launching a scholarship pilot program to help Jay County residents cover the cost of child care at Westminster Preschool Portland at Jay County Early Learning Center.

"Access to quality early education can have a life-long impact on a child's success," said Doug Inman, executive director of The Portland Foundation. "This pilot program allows us to support families during a critical stage of development while evaluating how we can expand this model in the future."

The program will offer 50 scholarships to cover part or all of the cost of enrollment at Westminster Preschool Portland. Scholarships will be based on need as determined by a sliding scale utilizing the Federal Poverty Level.

They are available to any child from infancy through age 5 and will continue as long as funding is available. More information and applications are available at portlandfoundation.org. Scholarships will be issued beginning Feb. 1.

The effort is in response to the state freezing the Child Care and Development Fund voucher program in December 2024. The vouchers helped families pay for child care costs for children from infancy through age 12.

See Help page 2

Firetruck purchase approved

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Portland will get a new firetruck.

Portland Board of Works approved the purchase of a new tanker truck for the fire department during its meeting Thursday. At a cost of more than half a million dollars, the new truck will replace a two-and-a-half-decade-old vehicle. Fire Chief Mike Weitzel, who also presented the purchase request to the city council on Monday, told the board that the current tanker has been in service since 2001. Tanker trucks are

Portland will get new tanker to replace vehicle in service since '01

used to transport large volumes of water to fire scenes.

Weitzel presented two quotes for the truck:

• \$558,442 from Spencer Fire Trucks of Michigan

• \$491,037 from Toyne Fire Apparatus of Iowa

The Spencer quote includes

hoses and nozzles while the Toyne quote does not, because that company currently does not handle the manufacturer that Portland Fire Department uses.

The hoses would cost about an additional \$24,000.

He noted that a third quote came in significantly higher and

was therefore taken out of consideration.

Though the cost was higher, Weitzel said the committee formed to study the purchase recommended buying from Toyne. He explained that the Toyne truck has a more traditional pump design that the committee preferred.

Board of works member Steve McIntosh agreed that the truck from Toyne seemed more user-friendly. He also noted the difference in delivery time — 540 days from Spencer compared to 775 days from Toyne.

See Firetruck page 2

Retrospect

Local fourth graders attended inauguration

Twenty-five years ago this week, local students attended the inauguration of Indiana's governor.

The Jan. 9, 2001, edition of The Commercial Review featured coverage of Judge Haynes and Redkey elementary school fourth graders attending the inauguration of Indiana Gov. Frank O'Bannon.

The local students were among the 25,000 fourth graders who were selected to attend the event at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

"It was kind of weird because I never had an important person touch my hand," said Judge Haynes student Lance Franklin, who touched hands with the governor as he passed through the

crowd. "I didn't know that he looked so old."

O'Bannon was 69 at the time.

Students enjoyed the excitement of the beginning of the event before the crowd quieted down and the speeches began. As the comments from dignitaries continued, there were plenty of yawns, stretches and hair fiddling.

"At the very beginning (it was good), but it was kind of going down, boring ... I almost fell asleep," said Judge Haynes student Kristen Hardwick.

Students were jolted back to attention with a fireworks display near the end of the ceremony. Students watched in rapt attention as the fireworks exploded close to the

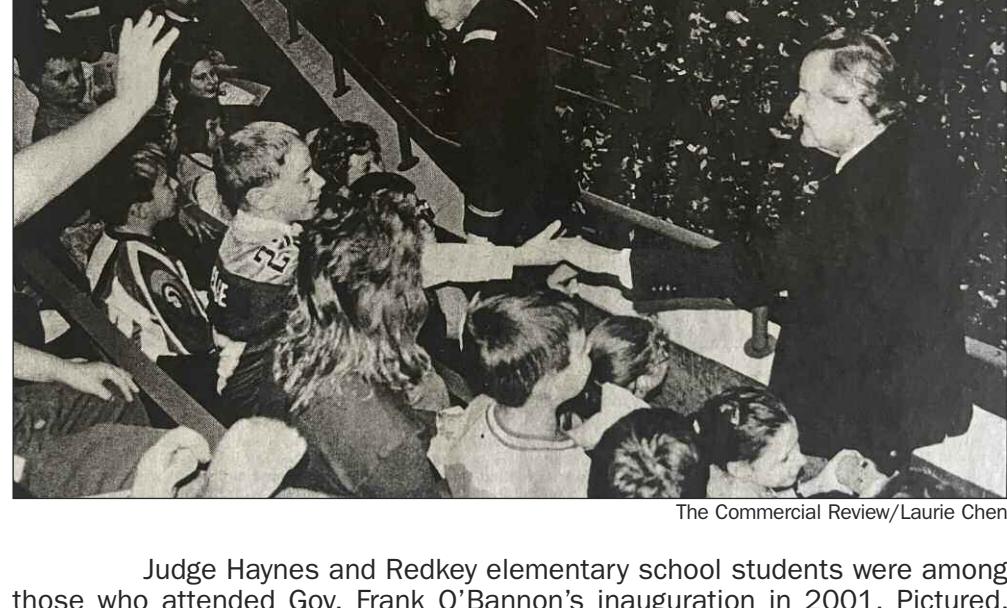
stage, sparks approaching the ceiling of the dome.

Most were ready to leave when the hour-long ceremony ended, though Colton Lombardo of Judge Haynes said he thought the event was going to be longer.

Trent Kongar, also of Judge Haynes, said he was glad to have the opportunity to attend.

"I feel kind of happy," he said. "I'm glad that my brother doesn't get to go with me."

O'Bannon, who was first elected governor in 1996, led the state until his death on Sept. 13, 2003. A Democrat, he had previously served two terms as lieutenant governor under Evan Bayh and 18 years in the Indiana Senate.



Judge Haynes and Redkey elementary school students were among those who attended Gov. Frank O'Bannon's inauguration in 2001. Pictured, Judge Haynes student Lance Franklin touches O'Bannon's hand as he walks through the crowd at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

Deaths

Max Moser, 88, rural Bryant
Wendell Rockwell, 73, rural Portland
Merlin Wickey, 21, Bryant

Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 60 degrees early Friday. The low dipped to 36.

Skies will be cloudy today with rain expected and winds gusting to 25 mph. Sunday's high will be in the lower 30s with a slight chance of snow.

See page 2 for an extended forecast.

In review

Newspaper subscribers may have received an email from BLOX Digital this week. It was sent in error, but it is not a scam.

We are in the process of preparing to shift our website to a new hosting company, but we

aren't ready to launch yet. The company was testing things yesterday and sent out the email by mistake.

We will let all readers know how to log in to the new website as we get closer to going live.

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Obituaries

Max Moser

Oct. 31, 1937-Jan. 8, 2026

Max Moser, age 88, a resident of rural Bryant, passed away on Wednesday at The Waters of Dunkirk.

Max was born on Oct. 31, 1937, in Bryant, Indiana, the son of Harold and Irene (Franks) Moser. He graduated from Poling Moser High School and



was employed by Pennville Custom Cabinets, B&R Kitchens, Richards Kitchens and Baths in Muncie and retired from All American Homes in Decatur.

In addition to his career, Max farmed in Jackson Township for many years. He enjoyed bowling, fishing and cheering on the Detroit Tigers and Indiana Hoosiers.

Max married Frances Hilfiker on May 4, 1957, and she passed away on Oct. 18, 2023.

Survivors include:

His children — Mark Moser, Bryant, Indiana, Sherri Bost (husband: Adam), Portland, Indiana, and Todd Moser (wife: Belinda), Portland, Indiana.

His siblings — Kenny Moser — Bryant, Indiana, Cliff Moser (wife: Jo), Portland, Indiana, Duane Moser, Bryant, Indiana, Barb Booth (husband: Art), Geneva, Indiana.

Sister-in-law — Mary Moser, Portland.

Seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his siblings, Jack Moser and Betty Brumbaugh.

Visitation will be held on Monday from 2 to 4 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod

Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 4 p.m. on Monday at the funeral home.

Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.com.

Wendell Rockwell

Dec. 13, 1952-Jan. 7, 2026

Wendell G. (Wendy) Rockwell, age 73, of rural Portland passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026, in Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was born in Berwind, West Virginia, on Dec. 13, 1952, the daughter of Alfred and Mossie (Collins) Shrader. She was married on Dec. 2, 1972, to Vernon Rockwell who survives.

She was retired and was a member of First Church of Christ, Women's VFW in Fort Recovery and enjoyed knitting and playing cards.

Surviving is her husband Vernon; two sons, Ryan Rockwell (wife: Beth) of Portland and Chris Rockwell (wife: Carla) of St. Henry, Ohio; sister Maidria Rodeheffer of Greenville; six grandchildren, Jonathan Rockwell (wife: Madison), Elizabeth Rockwell, Keith Rinker, Mitchell Rockwell, Courtney Rockwell and Lillian Rockwell; two great-grandchildren, Calvin and Delilah Rockwell; two sisters-in-law; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Jim and Roger Shrader; and two sisters, Judy Huff and Betty Allen.

Funeral services will be held Friday, Jan. 16, at 6 p.m. in the



Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Gil Alicea presiding. Visitation will be on Friday from 3 to 6 p.m.

Memorials can be made to State of the Heart Hospice.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Merlin W. Wickey, rural Bryant, Oct. 7, 2004-Jan. 9, 2026. Services will be at 9 a.m. Monday, Jan. 12, at the William D.L. Wickey residence, 3343 E. 900 North, Bryant.

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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.

CR almanac

Sunday 1/11	Monday 1/12	Tuesday 1/13	Wednesday 1/14	Thursday 1/15
31/23	39/29	45/32	37/17	26/17
There is a 20% chance of snow showers before 1 p.m. The high will be 31 with winds gusting to 30 mph.	Skies will be mostly sunny with a high near 40.	The high will be in the mid 40s under mostly cloudy skies. There is a 20% chance of rain.	The forecast calls for a 40% chance of rain. Skies will be cloudy with a high of 37.	Expect partly sunny skies with a high in the mid 20s.

Help ...

Continued from page 1

The freeze came just weeks after Westminster Preschool Portland opened its doors.

In the year since, the facility in the former Judge Haynes Elementary School in Portland has topped out at 34 children. It has a capacity of 160.

"So the fact that it's not extremely affordable for Jay County families to begin with, and then the people that really need the help, the state took it away," said Inman. "So this is all in response to that. The Portland Foundation really just wants to help children and families afford early childhood education."

The Portland Foundation started discussing early childhood education in 2017, when it partnered with Indiana Communities Institute at Ball State University for its Jay County 20/20 Vision initiative. Discussions through that process and strategic planning through a Community Leadership Grant from Lilly Endowment's Giving

Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT VII) in 2021 and 2022 continued to come back to child care.

In 2022, the foundation purchased the former elementary school, 827 W. High St., Portland, that had closed to students four years earlier. A \$4.3 million renovation project — about \$1.3 million came from the foundation with grant funding from multiple sources — included a new roof, plumbing with restrooms installed in all of the toddler and preschool classrooms, paint, LED lighting and new playground equipment.

Westminster

Preschools, based in Marion, entered into an agreement with The Portland Foundation to run the facility in 2023, and it opened in late 2024.

The facility at the Jay County Early Learning Center operates as a Level 4 — the highest — on the Family and Social Services Administration's Paths to Quality rating system. It carries that rating by providing for the health and safety of children,

learning environments and planned curricula.

But, Inman acknowledged, keeping that level of services comes with a cost. Fees are \$190 a week for a baby, \$170 for a toddler age 1 to two-and-a-half, and so on.

"Partnering with The Portland Foundation enables us to welcome more children into a nurturing, high-quality learning environment," said Dani Svantner, executive director of Westminster Preschools. "We are grateful for their investment in our students and the community."

He pointed out that the foundation has been giving scholarships to college students since 1954, totaling more than \$3 million over its history. He and the organization's board see the pilot program as an extension of that mission.

"So what we're really doing with this is flipping the script and giving scholarships to kids that are 1, 2 and 3 years old, etc., to begin their educational careers in early learning," Inman said. "Because

there have been a multitude of studies done over the years that show that children that receive high-quality education, early education, are better in school, do a better job in their educational careers, K-12, they're better citizens of a community, they're just more productive adults."

The pilot program is being paid for via the foundation's unrestricted funds. If it is successful, it will likely be expanded to encourage more parents to take advantage of Westminster Preschool Portland's services.

Still, Inman said, the scholarships are not a long-term solution. And the state voucher program is frozen until at least 2027.

For that reason, he said, the foundation is planning to approach businesses and industries for funding to help set up an endowment to support early learning. He noted that it is a workforce issue, as some parents choose to stay home instead of working because of the cost of child care.

Firetruck ...

Continued from page 1

Board of works members Jerry Leonhard, Mayor Jeff Westlake and McIntosh approved the purchase from Spencer. The chassis will be paid for when Spencer receives it, with the remainder of the balance coming due when the fire department receives the truck.

Delivery of the new truck is expected in mid-2027. Weitzel noted that he is hopeful that the existing tanker truck can be used by one of the other fire departments in the county.

The city last purchased a new ladder truck in 2021 for \$1.2 million.

Also Thursday, clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips asked about the status of a proposed agreement with Ritter Strategic Services to lead a feasibility study about the possibility of combining emergency responder dispatching at Jay County Sheriff's Office. She questioned why the issue was not on the agenda for the meeting and asked if a committee had been formed.

Portland City Council voted unani-

mously Dec. 1 to move forward with a process to explore consolidating the dispatching of emergency responders. The council has discussed the issue multiple times since September, saying then that such a change would make sense to be handled in conjunction with a countywide project to upgrade radio equipment for emergency responders.

Westlake said he planned to have Ritter attend the Feb. 5 board of works meeting and wanted to do that first before signing a contract for a study or forming a committee.

Leonhard said he feels there are a lot of unanswered questions about potential consolidation, with Phillips responding that the study is intended to provide those answers.

McIntosh said he thinks it makes sense to partner, saying it could streamline dispatching. He suggested that the board of works could hold a special meeting with Ritter this month instead of waiting until February.

Westlake said he would contact Ritter to check his availability for a

meeting in January. By late Friday afternoon, a board of works meeting to discuss Ritter's proposal was scheduled for 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14.

Westlake also reappointed McIntosh and Leonhard to the board of works for 2026.

In other business, the board:

• Approved a \$1,370,835 pay request from James Jackson Company of Bluffton for work completed on the construction of a wet weather pump station at the wastewater treatment facility. Answering a question from Leonhard, Phillips said there is still \$6.4 million outstanding on the \$13.73 million project. (Substantial completion of the work is expected in October.)

• Wrote off outstanding debt more than two years old totaling \$768 and checks more than two years old totaling \$748.16.

• OK'd a right-of-way agreement with Brightspeed for a street cut on Main Street between Commerce and Ship streets to install a fiber optic line.

Capsule Reports

New filings

Several new candidates have filed to run for office, including two who set up contested elections in either the May primary or November general election.

Among the new filers are Timothy C. Murphy for state senator in District 19 and Sara Darby for Jay County recorder.

Murphy, Fort Wayne resident, is seeking the Democratic nomination to challenge incumbent State Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle). Darby, a Portland resident, will challenge incumbent Angela Byrum for Jay County recorder.

Filing to seek re-election were State Rep. Matt Lehman, Jay Superior Court Judge Gail Dues, District 1 Jay County Council member Randy May, Jackson Township Trustee Rex Pinkerton and Jefferson Township Advisor

sory Board member Janet Confer, all Republicans.

Filing for this year's election cycle continues through Feb. 6 in the clerk's office at Jay County Courthouse.

Rear-end accident

A Ridgeville teenager's vehicle struck the rear of an SUV driven by a Ridgeville woman in front of Jay County High School on Wednesday.

Kaylynn D. Clark, 16, was driving a 2013 Ford Fusion north on Indiana 67 just before 8 a.m. Wednesday behind Martha R. Doss, 40, in her 2020 Volkswagen Atlas. Both drivers told police traffic was slowing as vehicles were turning into the school driveway. They said traffic slowed abruptly and Clark said she was unable to stop before her vehicle struck the Atlas.

The Fusion that Clark

was driving is registered to Erica D. Van Note, Ridgeville.

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

Recycling available

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

Applications open

Applications are open for the 2026 Indiana House and Senate page programs.

The page programs allow students in sixth through 12th grade to watch the legislative process in person, tour the Statehouse and interact with lawmakers.

To apply, visit IndianaHouseRepublicans.com/PageProgram and IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/PageProgram.

SERVICES

Monday, Jan. 12

Wickey, Merlin: 9 a.m., Wickey residence, 3343 E. 900

North, Bryant.

Gallagher, Mary: 2 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Moser, Max: 4 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Friday, Jan. 16

Rockwell, Wendell: 6 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Saturday, Feb. 28

Hughes, Alyssah: noon, 205

E. 1st St., Bath, Illinois.

Service listings provided by

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Mac and cheese is quick, comforting

By LINDA
GASSENHEIMER

Tribune News Service

I was looking for a quick and comforting meal for this busy time of year, and creamy mac and cheese with store-bought cooked chicken was the perfect answer. Once the elbow macaroni is boiled, the rest of the ingredients come together in minutes.

This dinner can be ready in just 10 minutes. For a festive touch, I added fresh tomato pieces to a bag of washed, ready-to-eat greens for a simple red-and-green side salad.

Helpful hints

Any onion can be used in place of red onion.

Any short cut pasta can be used.

Look for cooked or rotisserie chicken breast in the meat department.



Tribune News Service/Linda Gassenheimer

Chicken Mac and Cheese with Lettuce and Tomato Salad. Simple recipe is the perfect answer for a quick, comforting meal.

Countdown

Place water for macaroni on to boil.

Assemble ingredients. Boil macaroni. Make cheese sauce.

Add the macaroni to the sauce.

Shopping list

To buy: 1 container elbow macaroni, 1 container no-

salt-added chicken broth, 1 bag shredded sharp Cheddar cheese, 1 carton nonfat ricotta cheese, 1 small piece Parmesan cheese, 8 ounces cooked chicken breast, 1 bottle smoked paprika, 1 red onion, 1 bag washed, ready-to-eat Romaine lettuce, 1 bottle reduced fat salad dressing.

Staples: salt and black peppercorns.

Chicken Mac and Cheese

1 cup elbow macaroni

1 cup no-salt-add chicken broth

1/2 cup diced red onion,

3/4 cup shredded reduced fat sharp Cheddar cheese

1/2 cup nonfat ricotta cheese

2 teaspoons smoked paprika

8 ounces cooked chicken breast cut into small cubes (about 1 1/2-cups)

2 tablespoons freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Place a pot containing 3

to 4 quarts of water on to

boil for pasta. Add maca-

roni and boil 8 minutes.

Meanwhile, add chicken

broth to a saucepan and

place over medium high

heat to bring it to a simmer.

Add onion and simmer 2

minutes. Remove from heat

and stir in Cheddar cheese

and ricotta cheese. Mix

well. Add smoked paprika,

chicken and Parmesan

cheese. When ready, drain

the macaroni and add to

cheese sauce. Toss well and

add salt and pepper to taste.

Serve immediately on two

dinner plates.

Yield 2 servings.

Per serving: 35 calories

(32 percent from fat), 1.3 g

fat (0.1 g saturated, 0.4 g

monounsaturated), 1 mg

cholesterol, 1.4 g protein,

5.7 g carbohydrates, 2.1 g

fiber, 13 mg sodium.

Lettuce and Tomato Salad

2 cups washed, ready-to-eat Romaine lettuce cut into bite-size pieces

1 ripe medium tomato, washed and cut into eighths

2 tablespoons reduced fat salad dressing

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Add lettuce and tomato to bowl and toss with dressing. Sprinkle salt and pepper to taste. Serve with Chicken Mac and Cheese.

Yield 2 servings

Per serving: 35 calories (32 percent from fat), 1.3 g fat (0.1 g saturated, 0.4 g monounsaturated), 1 mg cholesterol, 1.4 g protein, 5.7 g carbohydrates, 2.1 g fiber, 13 mg sodium.

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Gassenheimer is the author of over 30 cookbooks. Email her at Linda@DinnerInMinutes.com.

Man blames mother for robbing inheritance

DEAR ABBY: My mother passed away six years ago. She was a manipulative woman who had alienated all family members except my adult son. She promised him a sizable amount of money when she passed but didn't follow through. As the fiduciary of my parents' estate, I followed their trust directives as written, with no exceptions.

My son received a nice check, but not as large as he had expected. He was upset and blamed me for "taking" his money. Then he declared that we would never see our grandsons again unless he received what his grandmother had promised. He refused to understand the concept of a trustee's fiduciary duty and has ghosted us, even though I have tried

Dear Abby



reaching out to him several times.

Thanks to the generosity of our former daughter-in-law, we do have access to our grandsons. I have finally come to terms with my son's decision to remove himself from the family, which includes his brother and sister. He's an adult and can make that decision for himself.

It was always my intention to one day pass what I inherited on

to my three children. What I am struggling with is that I'm feeling a considerable amount of guilt because my husband and I have excluded this son from any monetary distributions from our own trust because of how he has behaved and his attempt at blackmail. Am I justified in excluding him? I want to forgive and forget, but I can't get past his actions. — CONFLICTED IN IDAHO

DEAR CONFLICTED: That your son misdirected his anger from his grandmother, where it belonged, onto you is very sad. Forgive him in your heart, but do not reward him by changing your estate plans. If you haven't already done so, discuss with your lawyer leaving your son's share of your

estate in trust for your grandsons instead.

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DEAR ABBY: I am married to a verbally and economically abusive alcoholic. His drinking has grown much worse during this last year to the point that he can no longer hold a job longer than two months. We have three children, and I know our constant fighting is bad for the kids.

Because I haven't worked in

eight years, it has been extremely hard for me to find a job. I have applied for many. I want to leave this toxic marriage, but I'm scared. I don't know how. I have nowhere to go, no money, no car, no job. What can I do, Abby? I am so miserable that I can't stand it. — BREAKING POINT IN THE WEST

DEAR BREAKING POINT:

It's time to contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline, which can be accessed at thehotline.org or by calling toll-free 800-799-7233. Your husband may not be beating you, but that does not mean you aren't being abused. The atmosphere you describe isn't healthy for you or your children. You cannot save your husband from his addiction. Only he can do that when he finally hits rock bottom and decides to seek help for his drinking.

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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@thecr.com.

Today

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

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE — BRINNAN'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

PORLAND 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.

JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at noon the second Monday of each month at Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

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.

REDISCOVERING JOY — The support group of widows and widowers meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at R & R Fabrications, 601 E. Washington St., St. Henry, Ohio.

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.

High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

Wednesday

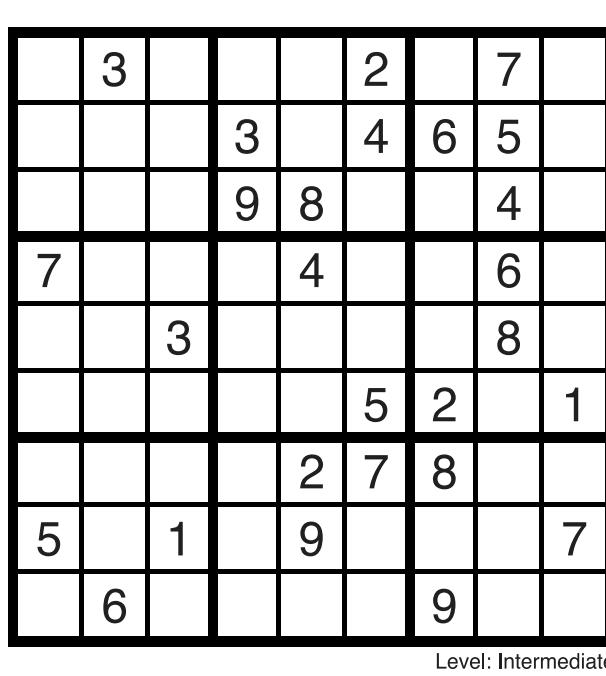
WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

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.

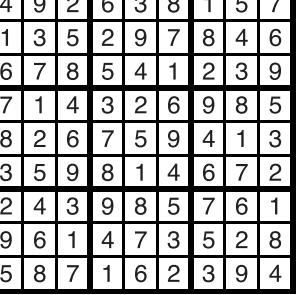


Sudoku



Level: Intermediate

Friday's Solution



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.

Our Wedding special section

will be distributed in:

*The Commercial Review (Portland),
The News-Gazette (Winchester)
and The News Times (Hartford City)*

full-page color — \$625

full-page B&W — \$525

1/2-page color — \$425

1/2-page B&W — \$325

1/4-page color — \$275

1/4-page B&W — \$225

Big business card (3x3.5) — \$110

Business card (2x2) — \$52



Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Deadline for ads is Tuesday, Jan. 20.

GRAPHIC
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NEWS PAPERS

Contact Lindsey at
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Auto industry shifting to hybrids

The Detroit News

Tribune News Service

The auto industry is headed back to where it should have stayed in the quest to put a cleaner fleet on the road: hybrids.

Automakers are rapidly backing away from plans to fully electrify their offerings, due to an easing of fuel economy and emissions mandates by the Trump administration and continued resistance from consumers.

But that doesn't mean they are totally abandoning their green ambitions. Rather, most manufacturers are making the common sense decision to expand the hybrid market. They are putting more hybrid models in showrooms and continuing to perfect the technology to achieve greater fuel efficiency.

That's what they should have

Guest Editorial

done in the first place. But government regulators bowed to the demand from environmentalists for a 100% switch to zero-emissions vehicles, and on a pace that ignored consumer wariness and the practical challenges to going all electric.

Hybrids were the first step away from traditional ICEs. They enjoyed consumer confidence and did not require a complete remake of the vehicles motorists were used to driving.

And best of all, they didn't

need a new national charging network. Because they have both a gasoline engine and electric motor, they can fuel up, and quickly, at existing gas stations.

Perhaps they made too much sense. But the industry, with Washington's hand on its back, largely blew past hybrids and committed billions to developing and building EVs.

Practicality is now prevailing. Sales of hybrids were up 20% in the third quarter of 2025, according to the analytics firm PwC, and the surge is expected to continue this year. In Europe, hybrids account for 35% of all vehicle sales.

Most automakers have revamped their strategy to get as many hybrids as possible in showrooms, as soon as possible.

Toyota, which never aban-

doned hybrids, is selling its popular Sienna and Camry brands only in hybrid versions. Hyundai is doubling its lineup to offer 14 hybrid models. Ford has quadrupled hybrid production as it scales down the building of EVs.

General Motors, which not so long ago was committed to an all-in EV strategy, is reintroducing plug-in hybrids.

It's all good news for consumers. EVs carry an average sticker price of \$59,200, compared to \$47,500 for a hybrid. And in the U.S. market, there are currently 87 hybrid models to choose from.

While not as fuel-efficient as an all-electric vehicle, they still reduce fuel costs by roughly 35% compared to standard gas-powered models, while curbing emissions by 20% to 30%.

And you can drive them wher-

ever you want, whenever you want, and as far as you want, without the charging anxiety that haunts EV drivers.

Some motorists prefer EVs, and they aren't going away. But America has always needed a vehicle for the masses, and hybrids adequately fill that role in today's transportation mix.

The key difference between hybrids and EVs is that the decision to build them is market driven. Consumers prefer them because of their convenience and greater affordability, and because they still carry a significant environmental benefit.

Automakers should hurry to make hybrids the inevitable future transportation technology before the power pendulum in Washington swings to bring back the zero-emissions crowd.

AI is making old guys obsolete

The Detroit News

Tribune News Service

Of all the items on the worry list of how artificial intelligence will disrupt American society, perhaps the most troublesome is its impact on old men.

Google and YouTube have already cut deeply into our usefulness as advisors to younger generations. I fear AI will finish us off.

All of the how-to knowledge we've gleaned from decades of working under car hoods and kitchen sinks is now stored on supercomputers ready to be spit-out with a few key-strokes, and with step-by-step videos included.

I spent my years growing up in the garage with my dad and in the barn with my uncle. Between the two of them, they knew how to do just about everything that could be done with their hands.

Dad and I replaced an engine and transmission in a 1965 Ford Fairlane when I was in high school. And sure, we had a bucket of extra parts left over when we finished, but it ran just fine. "Must not have needed them," he concluded.

The do-it-yourself movement is gaining a resurgence. When I asked AI why that is, it cited "two main trends: the booming interest in personal projects (home repair, crafting) and a political/economic idea called DIY Economics, favoring individual action over government."

I've never viewed keeping my basement crammed full of tools as a political statement. But apparently it is. AI describes it as "an ideology emphasizing individual responsibility, free markets, minimal regulation, and self-reliance, contrasting with large government programs."

The theory, it says, is that "people can solve problems better themselves than bureaucrats."

That's pretty high-brow stuff. I've always been my own handyman largely because I was fundamentally opposed to paying someone else to do something I could (or thought I could) do myself. And if I couldn't, I could call on my late father-in-law to help.

This DIY revival ought to be creating a booming market for old guys who know how to do stuff. But

Noah Finley



Dad and I replaced an engine and transmission in a 1965 Ford Fairlane when I was in high school.

AI goes on to explain the reason that's not happening is because of "online communities sharing skills."

And that's the nutshell. One do-it-yourselfer demonstrating step-by-step how to rewire an electrical outlet via a TikTok video replaces thousands of dads and grandpas who could do the same thing. The TikTok guy will even teach you how to use the tools required for the job. And he never loses his temper. Why put up with a grumpy old know-it-all when you can get the same tips from an internet expert without the wise-cracks?

There's nothing AI doesn't know. When my grandson shot a deer on our recent hunting trip, the first thing he did was search Google for a video on how to gut it. The smartphone has become the most important tool in the toolbox.

Working together on home improvement projects was never just about saving money. There was a considerable amount of bonding involved, and some quality time with each other.

That's disappearing, and so, like a lot of other old guys, I'm sitting on a store of information gleaned from countless trial-and-error experiences, and AI has made me obsolete.

But at least I still have a pick-up truck, making me essential for toting drywall and other bulky material from the Home Depot. AI hasn't figured out how to do that. Yet.

So, he decided just to take them.



As usual, Trump indicts himself

By JOHN KRULL

TheStatehouseFile.com

One must hand it to President Donald Trump and the coteries of enablers and users surrounding him.

Even when they're attempting to justify some outrageous act on his or their part, they always find a way to indict themselves. They just can't help it.

The attack on Venezuela — a sovereign nation — and the seizure of corrupt and venal Venezuelan strong man Nicolas Maduro and his wife is but the latest example.

Trump's apologists in his administration and among the Republican caucuses in Congress have done their best to argue that the bombing and assault in which at least 40 Venezuelans were killed was not a military action — which would have required congressional approval — but a law-enforcement exercise.

The president's mouthpieces said he was within his constitutional powers to arrest the Maduros because they had committed crimes against the United States and their own people. This justified the violation of another nation's borders and the overthrow of that nation's government, the half-fast constitutional scholars argued.

As legal reasoning goes, that's barely above "the-dog-ate-my-homework" levels of arguing and persuading. At least, though, it provided a fig leaf of justification for what any reasonable person would have seen as an act of war.

Trump, as usual, refused to stick to the script, maybe because he hadn't even bothered to read it.

In his rambling and often incomprehensible explanation of the attack, he didn't talk about how he and his administration were playing global police officer.

No, he focused on Venezuela's oil production and reserves — resources Trump made clear that he wanted.

So, he decided just to take them.

John Krull



And he boasted that the United States was going to "run Venezuela" for a while.

It's at times like this that Trump's odd bromance with Russia's thugish, murderous leader, Vladimir Putin, makes the most sense.

Trump's reasoning for assaulting Venezuela is remarkably similar to Putin's for invading Ukraine.

There was something they wanted. They saw an opportunity to get it. So, they took it.

Might makes right.

There's a reason the International Criminal Court has charged Putin with war crimes, and an arrest warrant has been issued for him. That's why, when the Russian thug flew to Alaska to meet with Trump last year, there were calls in the United States and from around the world for the administration to arrest Putin as soon as he stepped off the plane.

Trump and his supporting cast argued then that it would be wrong to do that to a head of state — an argument they either forgot or ignored when it came to Maduro.

Instead, Trump's cleanup crew has tried to argue the law enforcement angle.

But even that creates problems for them and for the president.

After all, if lawbreaking on the part of a head of state provides justification for violating another nation's sovereignty, then the president's own defenders have made a case for other nations to attempt to hold him accountable.

Unlike Maduro, Trump is a convicted felon. He also has been found

liable by another court of committing sexual assault.

Had he not won the presidency in 2024, Trump also would have faced irrefutable evidence that he attempted to rig the 2020 election. And, of course, his role in killing people in Venezuelan seacraft — even when they have tried to surrender — has earned accusations from around the globe that he has violated both U.S. and international law.

So, if having evidence — even overwhelmingly compelling evidence — that a nation's leader has violated either that nation's or international laws provides an acceptable excuse for attacking the country and capturing the leader, then other nations now have a rationale for coming after us and our president.

And Trump's own team provided that rationale.

Nothing good will come of this.

Maduro was and is an evil man.

But so, for that matter, is Putin. So are many other leaders around the world.

Trump, though, made clear that the issue wasn't lawbreaking. He's provided ample evidence that breaking the law doesn't really bother him.

No, the reason we went into Venezuela — and the reason we may be stuck there for quite some time — is that Venezuela had something we wanted.

Our president decided to take it.

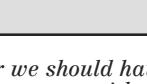
We Americans have assets other nations would like.

Doubtless, those nations are grateful for this new Trump doctrine: Whatever you're strong enough to take, you're entitled to have.

.....

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

The Commercial Review



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SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026

www.thecr.com

"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

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1-10

CRYPTOQUIP

HDRQC RUQ OWHVDSW RQHGUQC
RKQE HWW ZD UQC OSOKWT
TUZQWHGQT RZXQRUQC, RUQV
UHE H GWHTT RCKO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHENEVER KEEBLER
ELVES GO TO BED EACH NIGHT, I'D THINK
THEY PROBABLY SLEEP ON COOKIE SHEETS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals P

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to the new year. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 21 = O)

A. 24 11 8 21 23 22 4 13 21 16
Clue: Made on January 1

B. 20 24 21 2 13 8 11
Clue: Pledge

C. 25 11 3 23 4 25 17
Clue: Good for you

D. 15 21 3 23
Clue: Objective

Trivial Review
(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

Space and time

- 1) In what way is Yoknapatawpha County famous in literature?
- 2) Which planet in our solar system has the shortest day at less than 11 hours?
- 3) Setting for most of William Faulkner's novels

CRYPTOQUIP

SHMS-WXEF LXNPX YKXR PSXP
YVNP HZNKWP-KXPHZM FHECN
XEK LXEPHXR PV: YXWXEVZH
XZC FKKN.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: AFTER THE PLAYFUL
TEACHER TIED ALL OF HER PUPILS' SHOELACES
TOGETHER, THEY HAD A CLASS TRIP.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals G

RESOLUTIONS WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

ACCOUNTABILITY
ACHIEVEMENT
ASPIRATION
CHANGE
COMMITMENT
DETERMINATION
DISCIPLINE
FOCUS
GOAL
HABIT
IMPROVEMENT
INTENTION
MILESTONE
MINDSET
MOTIVATION
OBJECTIVE
PERSISTENCE
PLAN
PROGRESS
PROMISE
RENEWAL
ROUTINE
TRANSFORMATION
VISION



People FACT:

This term for
restaurant workers
typically refers to
those who wait on
tables.

ANSWER: Servers

How they say that in...

English: Food
Spanish: Comida
Italian: Cibo
French: Nourriture
German: Essen

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

			11	34
2			15	27
		5		20

Solution:

7	5	8
2	10	15
3	11	

Get Scrambled
Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.
KMEA A SERVRENATAI

ANSWER: Make a reservation

Did You KNOW?

When it comes to the busiest day of the year for the restaurant industry, Mother's Day tops the list for bookings and footfall.

ANSWER: Restaurant host

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

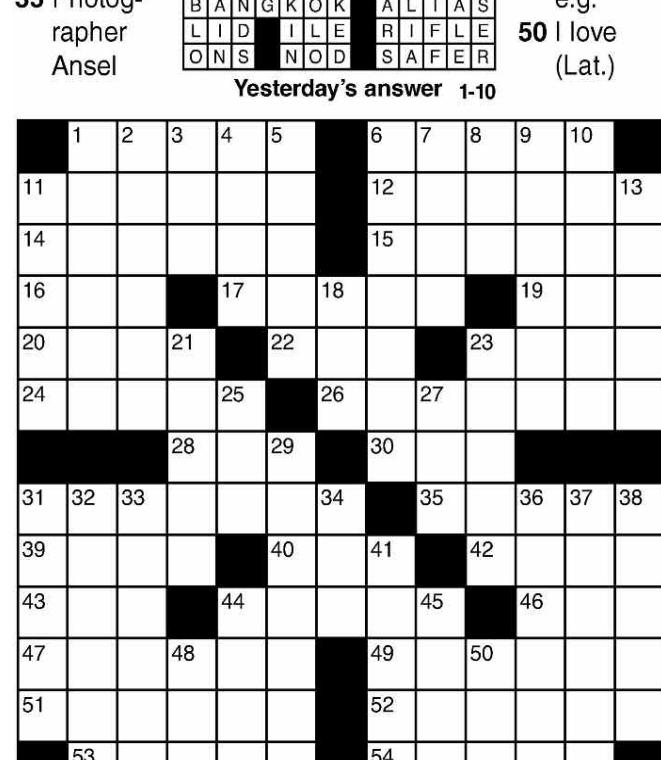
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 39 "In the Woods" 1 "West Side" 21 Mystical board 23 Chopin piece 25 Singer Rawls 27 Soup legume 29 Ballpark figures 31 Personnel 33 Foot butter 35 Bit of butter 36 "Gosford Park" 38 Designer Norma 41 "Three Sisters" sister 44 Chest muscles, briefly 45 Attempt 48 Earl Grey, e.g. 50 I love (Lat.)

DOWN 1 Pilgrim-age site 6 Director French Welles 11 Endured spray 12 Portugal's place 14 End of a threat (Abbr.) 15 Fragrant flowers 16 Moment 17 Gets ready, briefly 19 Gen.'s underling 20 Aware of 22 Dallas sch. 23 Scat expert Fitzgerald 24 City in Iraq 26 Gazillions 28 Debtor's note 30 Little, in Lille 31 Winter Olympics event 35 Photog-rapher Ansel

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-10



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The right road to follow

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ 10 8 3
♥ A 10 6
♦ Q 10
♣ Q J 7 5 2

WEST
♦ K 4
♥ Q 7
♦ 9 8 7 6 3
♣ K 10 8 6

EAST
♦ Q 7 6 5 2
♥ J 9 5 4 3
♦ A 4 2
♣ —

SOUTH
♦ A J 9
♥ K 8 2
♦ K J 5
♣ A 9 4 3

The bidding:
East South West North

Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead — nine of diamonds.

It is axiomatic to say that making the contract is declarer's first consideration, but applying this principle on every deal is more easily said than done.

Consider this case where East won the opening diamond lead with the ace and returned a diamond, won by dummy's queen. Declarer then led the queen of clubs, and when East showed out, South could no longer make the contract.

West took the queen with the king and played a third round of

diamonds to establish his suit, and South could do no better than take eight tricks to finish down one.

It is easy to dismiss the outcome by saying that declarer was extremely unlucky that the clubs were divided 4-0 — the only distribution that could defeat him. Nevertheless, the fact remains that South's failure to make the contract was a violation — albeit unintentional — of the principle stated above.

Declarer's goal from the start should be to make sure he scores four club tricks. If he does that, he is home free and clear. Since there is no problem if the opposing clubs are divided 2-2 or 3-1, South should shape his play to cater to the possibility of either opponent having all four clubs.

Accordingly, he should win the diamond return with the king at trick two and lead a low club toward dummy at trick three. In the actual case, West cannot score more than one club trick, whether he takes the king immediately or later.

The same is true if East is the player with four clubs. He also cannot stop declarer from scoring four club tricks no matter how he defends. The safety play thus guarantees the contract regardless of how the opposing clubs are divided.

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ A 10 9
♥ K 9 3
♦ Q 2
♣ A K 10 8 2

WEST
♦ Q 4
♥ 8 6 5 4
♦ 8 6 3
♣ 7 4 3

EAST
♦ K J 8 3 2
♥ A J 9 5
♦ Q J 6 5

SOUTH
♦ 7 6 5

♦ A Q 10 7 2

♦ K 10 7 4

♦ 9

The bidding:
East South West North

1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠

Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠

Opening lead — queen of spades.

This deal occurred during the 1980 World Bridge Olympiad in the match between Italy and Ireland. With Lorenzo Lauria and Benito Garozzo North-South for Italy, the bidding went as shown.

Against four hearts, the Irish West led the queen of spades, taken by dummy's ace. With the contract all but assured with normal breaks, Garozzo decided to try to protect himself against a bad trump division. And so, without playing any trumps, he cashed the A-K of

clubs, discarding a spade, and ruffed a club in his hand.

He next led a low diamond to the queen, taken by East with the ace. East then cashed the king of spades before continuing with the jack. Garozzo wisely ruffed with the ace of trump and cashed the king of diamonds, producing this position with declarer needing four of the last five tricks:

North ♠ K 9 3

♦ 10 8

West ♠ J 8 6 5 4

♦ 8 2

♦ J 9

♦ Q

South ♠ Q 10 7

♦ Q 10 7

Garozzo led the seven of diamonds. West ruffing with the six and dummy overruffing with the nine. Next came the king of hearts, and when East showed out, the hand became an open book. The eight of clubs was led from dummy, and after East played the queen, Garozzo discarded his ten of diamonds, forcing West to ruff and return a trump from the J-8 to declarer's Q-10.

Thus, despite West's five trumps, Garozzo made four hearts, losing only a spade, a diamond and one trump trick.

TOMORROW: Super psychology.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

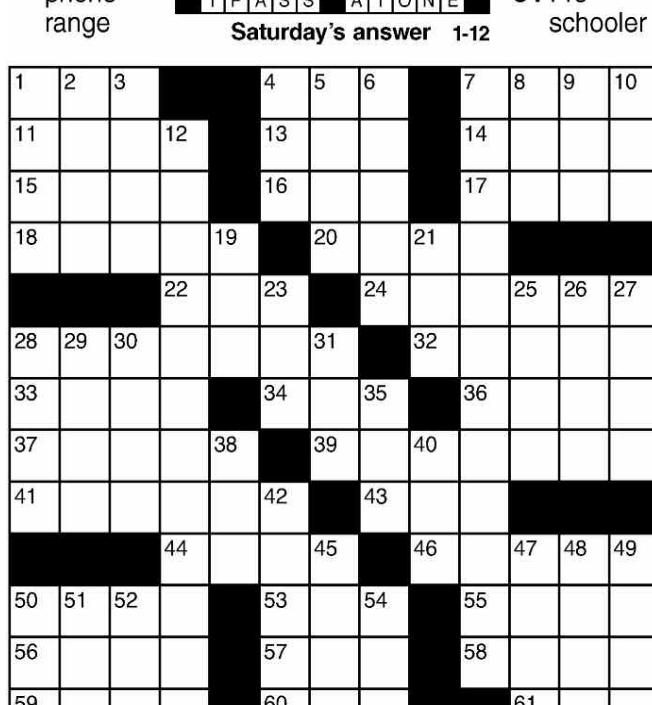
ACROSS 37 Board 1 Golfer 39 Radiator 41 Pampering, for short 43 "Today" 44 Enthusiastic 46 Huge success 50 Froth 53 Bird doc 55 Golden State sch. 56 Waikiki's island 57 Moody music 58 Viewed 59 Bikini parts 60 D-Day vessel 61 Hwys.

DOWN 1 Israel's Abba 2 Frilly 3 Fraud 4 Bit of ink 5 Zhivago's love 6 Make butter 7 Area of the brain that regulates body temperature 8 Not 'neath 9 Ear-related prefix 10 Carried out 12 River horse 19 That ship 21 Robitaille of hockey

Solution time: 21 mins.

32 Para-trooper's need
33 Ready, as for surgery
34 Menagerie
36 Saxophone range

Saturday's answer 1-12



SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



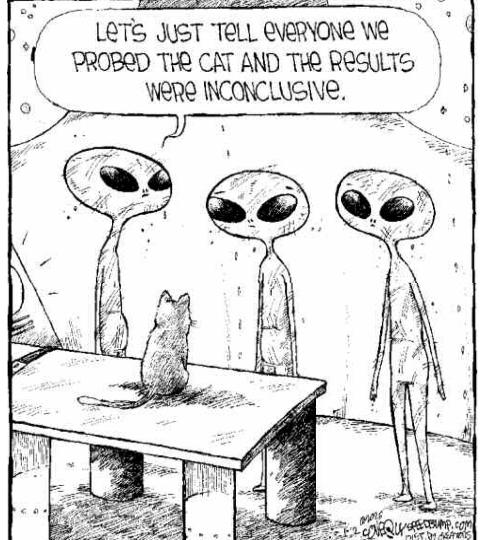
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly

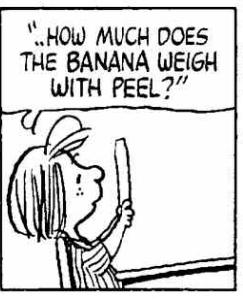
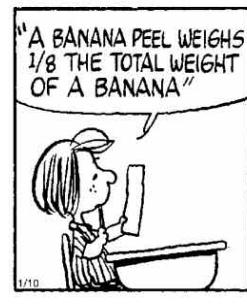


THE FAMILY CIRCUS

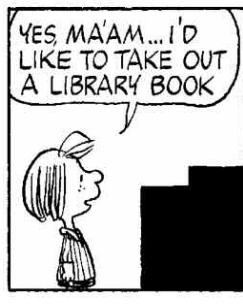
By Bil Keane



Peanuts



Peanuts



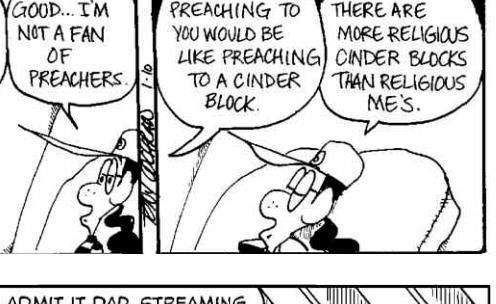
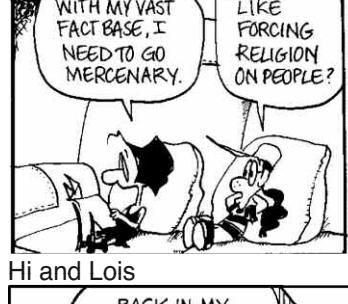
Rose is Rose



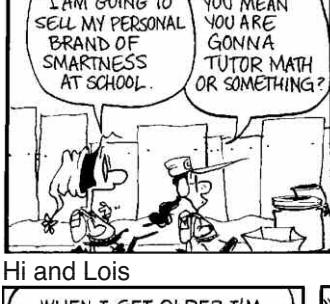
Rose is Rose



Agnes



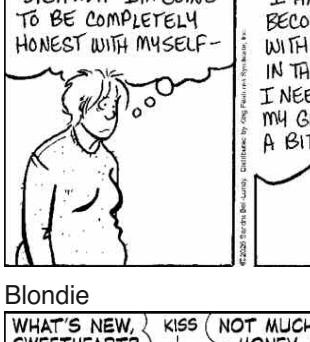
Agnes



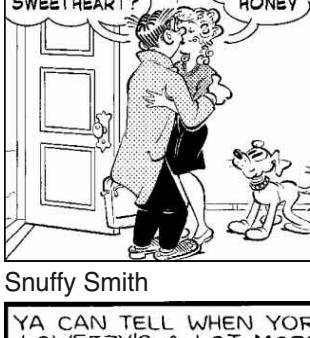
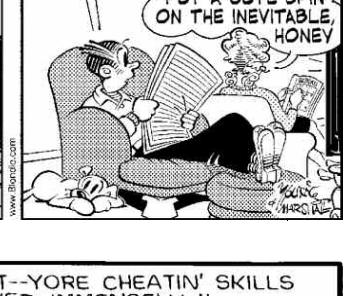
Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

The Commercial Review We Deliver

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word
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Inside-out to upside down

Cardinals go on 14-0 run by attacking the paint to beat Fort Recovery

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

NEW BREMEN — The Indians led for the majority of the first three quarters. They scored the first three points of the final period, but a 14-point run did them in.

Fort Recovery High School's girls basketball team has an opportunity for a Midwest Athletic Conference win on Thursday, but it slipped away as the New Bremen Cardinals outscored 11 more points in the fourth to give the Indians a 38-28 loss.

"Every conference game that we play, it's a dog fight," said FRHS coach Tyler Deitsch. "A lot of things just came down to executing down the stretch. They definitely did execute and we weren't able to, whether it was rushing shots, or just not taking the right shots at the right time. That's what a lot of it came down to, just being disciplined down the stretch."

The Tribe (2-10, 0-4 MAC) entered the fourth quarter with a 24-22 advantage. Bridget Homan ran up the first three points of the period after splitting a pair of foul shots and a jumper at the free-throw line.

The Cardinals (5-8, 2-2 MAC) didn't stay down long. They cut it to a one-possession game after a baseline-out-of-bounds give-and-go play had Sophia Tangeman knocking down a short corner jumper on an assist from Lucia Whitlatch.

New Bremen tied things up 26 seconds later as Halle Kuenning got the ball in the post and kicked it out to Whitlatch on the opposite wing for a three.

"That's normally how we like to play," said NBHS coach Stephanie Wheeler, whose team made a concerted effort to penetrate the area in the second half. "We didn't have Stella (Patch) so we were lacking maybe a little bit with the ball handling that we normally have in the attack. So we needed to get it inside. To execute what we were running already. We just struggled to execute the first half with too many turnovers."

Kuenning then scored four points after a post up led to a pair of free throws



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Makenna Huelskamp of the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team comes to a jump stop between New Bremen's Liviya Whitlatch (2) and Allie Bornhorst (34) during Thursday's 38-28 loss. The Tribe led most of the game before a 14-0 run in the fourth quarter gave the Cardinals the edge.

and by ripping down an offensive rebound and putting it back up.

Whitlatch hit the kill shot with 2:14 remaining on an assist from Maria Kramer. Two more free throws from Whitlatch put the Cardinals up 36-27 with 1:07 left. (Tangeman hit a final pair of foul shots after the 14-0 run was over).

The Tribe's offense stalled to end the third and fourth quarters. Fort Recovery was up eight points with three minutes left in the third before giving up six unanswered points and didn't score in the final seven minutes of the game other than a free throw from Makenna Huelskamp.

New Bremen put on a press that sped up the Indians and baited rushed shots. The Cardinals were also able to take advantage of Huelskamp being in foul trouble for a majority of the second half.

"I think the big thing was them keeping us outta the flow with them being in the press,"

Deitsch said. "Not having Makenna definitely doesn't help. She does a really good job of controlling the pace and being able to get us set up and into things. ... Then when we broke the press and got it into the half court, we were a little bit helter skelter."

While the Tribe has

LeFevre leads Tribe bowlers past Lima Bath

FORT RECOVERY — Reece LeFevre hasn't been in the lineup for every match, but when he is, he often produces some solid scores.

When the Wildcats came to visit, he was the most consistent of the Indians and powered them to victory.

LeFevre rolled a 428 series at Miracle Lanes to lead the Fort Recovery High School boys bowling team to a 2,091-1,964 win over the Lima Bath Wildcats on Thursday.

LeFevre opened the day with a game of 223 pins, beating out teammate Gabe Acheson by just eight. He followed it up with a 205, which only got outdone by Ricky Phillips' 235, which was a match-high for the Wildcats.

Garrett Diller was the only other Indian to bowl two games, finishing with a 320 series.

Other individual scores for

Local Roundup

the Tribe (8-1) came from James Westgerdes (159), Troy Post (155), Riley Stammen (153) and Leland Wilson (143).

FRHS outscored Lima Bath in Baker play with games of 190 and 180, while the Wildcats shot 131 and 165.

Second seals it

FORT RECOVERY — Strong second games from Deanna Brown and Lilah Thien powered the Fort Recovery girls bowling team past the Lima Bath Wildcats 1,953-1,693 on Thursday at Miracle Lanes.

Thien shot a 184 in the first game before knocking down a match-high 225 pins in her second game. Brown rolled through 144 in the opening game before bouncing back for 213 in the second.

Malia Grisez also bowled two individual games finishing with a career-best 334 pins.

In other individual games, Liliana Williams threw a 143, Jadyn Wyerick shot a 135, Elizabeth Kahlig had a 112 and Claire Gaerke finished with 106.

The Indians (7-1) ran away with the match in the Baker games. They started with 180 pins and followed it up with 177. Lima Bath had games of 158 and 127.

Petro leads

FORT RECOVERY — The Jay County Junior High School girls basketball teams both beat Fort

Recovery on Thursday.

The eighth grade team topped the Tribe 36-26.

A pair of Patriots scored in double figures with Breanna Weitzel dropping 14 points and Boo Towell putting up 10.

Also scoring for Jay County was Arabella Link with four points, Kyla Sims with three, Kinze Homan with three and Emalynn Clark with a bucket.

Gretchen Petro led the seventh grade team to a 30-9 victory. Petro had a game-high 16 points against the Indians.

Haley Comer followed with six points, while Kendall Farr had three. Brooklyn McGill and Alyssa Schwieterman both had a bucket and Makenna Wellman hit one free throw.

Boys sweep

Jay County Junior High

School's boys basketball teams took down Selma on Thursday with the eighth graders winning 41-27 and the seventh grade squad pulling out a 32-26 victory.

Abram Lee and Finn Hemmigarn powered the eighth-grade Patriots with 17 and 12 points, respectively. Job Dirksen wasn't far behind with seven points.

Dillon Dunnington and Eli Homan both had three in the win and Roman Clamme hit a bucket.

Carter May and Carson Pfeifer scored nine apiece to lead the seventh grade team. Sawyer Smiley found the hoop a couple of times for five points as well.

Cruz Darby and Beckham Hough each had three points, while Henry Teeter hit a 2-pointer and Ryker Price sank a free throw.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today

Jay County — Girls wrestling regional at Muncie Central — 9 a.m.; Boys wrestling in Class 2A Team State Duals at Brownsburg — 9 a.m.; Girls basketball at Pendleton Heights — 12 p.m.; Boys basketball at Adams Central (including freshman) — 5 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls bowling vs. Versailles at McBo's Lanes — 9 a.m.; Girls basketball vs. Arcanum — 1 p.m.; Boys bowling vs. Versailles at McBo's Lanes — 1 p.m.; Boys basketball vs. Bradford — 6 p.m.

Monday

Jay County — Junior high boys basketball vs. Hagerstown — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Freshman boys basketball vs. Anna — 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball vs. Minster — 5 p.m.

Tuesday

Jay County — Swim at Yorktown — 6 p.m.; Girls basketball in Allen County Athletic Conference tournament vs. Wood-

ian — 6 p.m.; Boys basketball in Allen County Athletic Conference tournament vs. Woodlan — 7:30 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball at Northside — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — JV boys bowling vs. Coldwater at Community Lanes — 5 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball at Minster — 5 p.m.

FRHS outscored Lima Bath in Baker play with games of 190 and 180, while the Wildcats shot 131 and 165.

LeFevre opened the day with a game of 223 pins, beating out teammate Gabe Acheson by just eight. He followed it up with a 205, which only got outdone by Ricky Phillips' 235, which was a match-high for the Wildcats.

Garrett Diller was the only other Indian to bowl two games, finishing with a 320 series.

Other individual scores for

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Phantom BC at Mist BC (TNT)

8:15 p.m. — NFL Wild Card: Houston Texans at Pittsburgh Steelers (ABC)

8:45 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Lunar Owls BC at Laces BC (TNT)

Tuesday

6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Villanova at Providence (FS1)

7 p.m. — College basketball: Virginia at Louisville (ESPN2); Wisconsin at Minnesota (TNT)

8:30 p.m. — College basketball: West Virginia at Houston (FS1)

9 p.m. — College basketball: Florida at Oklahoma (ESPN2); Iowa State at Kansas (ESPN); Oregon at Nebraska (BTN)

10 p.m. — NHL: Dallas Stars at Anaheim Ducks (TNT)

10:30 p.m. — College basketball: Maryland at USC (FS1)

11 p.m. — NBA: Portland Trail Blazers at Golden State Warriors (NBC)

11 p.m. — College basketball: St. Mary's at San Francisco (ESPN2)

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Box score

Bluffton Tigers at Jay County Patriots			
Girls varsity summary			
Bluffton (11-5, 3-2 ACAC)			
FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Nash	0-4	0-2	0
Dick	2-8	0-0	6
KoAult	7-21	3-4	21
Strunk	3-10	2-6	9
KaAult	1-3	0-0	3
Funk	1-1	0-0	2
Gibson	1-3	0-0	2
Eisenhut	1-5	0-0	2
Totals	14-55	5-12	45
	.255	.417	
Def. Rebound percentage: .633			

Jay County (10-4, 3-1 ACAC)			
FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
KSchwtrmn	12-18	5-7	29
Newton	3-5	3-4	11
HSchwtrmn	6-19	0-0	14
Brunswick	1-3	0-0	2
Dirksen	0-0	0-0	0
Schemenrau	0-1	0-0	0
May	1-3	0-0	3
Peters	1-4	2-4	4
Totals	24-53	10-15	63
	.453	.667	
Def. Rebound percentage: .561			

Score by quarters:
Bluffton 6 14 9 16—45
Jay Co. 11 13 26 13—63

3-point shooting: Bluffton 8-23 (KoAult 4-7, Dick 2-6, KaAult 1-2, Strunk 1-6, Gibson 0-2). Jay County 5-12 (Newton 2-4, HSchwierman 2-7, May 1-1).

Rebounds: Bluffton 37 (Eisenhut 9, KoAult 6, Nash 5, Strunk 5, Team 4, Dick 3, KaAult 2, Gibson 2, Funk). Jay County 34 (Brunswick 7, Team 7, HSchwierman 6, KSchwierman 5, Peters 5, Dirksen 2, Schemenrau, May).

Assists: Bluffton 10 (Eisenhut 3, Nash 2, KoAult 2, Strunk, KaAult, Funk). Jay County 9 (Brunswick 4, HSchwierman 3, Newton, Dirksen).

Blocks: Bluffton 8 (Eisenhut 8). Jay County 2 (HSchwierman, Brunswick).

Personal fouls: Bluffton 12 (KoAult 3, Strunk 3, Dick 2, KaAult, Funk, Eisenhut, Bench). Jay County 12 (KSchwierman 3, Brunswick 3, Newton 2, HSchwierman 2, Schemenrau, May).

Turnovers: Bluffton 20. Jay County 15.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County's Karsyn Schwierman drives past Kamryn Ault of Bluffton during Friday's 63-45 win. After seeing her older sister, Renna Schwierman, get inducted into the Jay County Wall of Fame, Karsyn Schwierman dropped a game-high 29 points, including 12 in the third quarter when a 1-3-1 zone picked apart the Tigers' offensive scheme.

Family ...

Continued from page 10

The victory over Bluffton comes one year after the Patriots took a 30-point loss to the Tigers.

"I'm extremely pleased with our kids," said JCHS coach Sherri McIntire. "I said something to them on the bench about, 'You remember last year, it was definitely not the same result.' The growth that we've shown from last year to this year is great."

"They're a solid ball club. They're a lot like us, as far as, they like to push the ball, they like to drive and they like to get out and get some transition baskets. For us to come out and be able to get a victory like that, I'm proud of us."

Jay County (10-4, 3-1 ACAC) let the Tribe hang around in the first half. The Patriots deployed a man-to-man defense for the first two quarters and while it held Bluffton's top two scorers on the season to just seven points, JCHS entered the intermission with only a 4-point lead.

Coming out for the second half, McIntire decided to give

Bluffton a different look in the form of a 1-3-1 zone.

"I saw them struggle with that a bit against Woodlan," McIntire said. "They like to dribble drive and it's harder to dribble drive in that 1-3-1. It was a good decision on our part and the kids executed it just like we wanted them to and got in the passing lanes. It was a big key to our win tonight."

The zone did its job, forcing the Tigers to cough up the rock seven times in the quarter. Of those seven turnovers, four of them directly led to transition buckets for Karsyn Schwierman, who played the top part of the zone, and another put her on the line for a pair of free throws she knocked down.

"Hallie was getting up every time and everybody on the sides too," Karsyn Schwierman said. "We were just doing a really good job of jumping out and getting on all the passes."

While the defense played a large role in Jay County outscoring BHS 26-9 in the third, the Patriots found success in the half court as well.

Hallie Schwierman found Raylah Newton twice on the wings for wide open 3-point shots that the senior drained. Newton repaid the favor midway through the period for Hallie Schwierman's second triple of the night.

Hallie Schwierman also pushed the pace for Jay County, creating a pair of transition opportunities off of defensive rebounds that she took coast-to-coast for easy layups.

"We had a really good halftime talk," Hallie Schwierman said. "She really came at us at halftime and told us we need to step it up for next week, because we need to show that needs to be beaten and it's hard to beat us."

JCHS was up just two points before going on the 21-2 run to end the period. The two Bluffton points came on a pair of free throws by Konley Ault after she came up from a scrum with the ball under the rim.

Bluffton's Konley Ault only needed 12 points to hit 1,000 in her career, but the defensive effort from Karsyn Schwierman and the zone kept her down until the

fourth quarter. She reached the milestone on a 3-pointer from the right wing with 7:30 left in the game on an assist from Kamryn Ault. (Hallie Schwierman also recently reached the 1,000-point mark, doing so on Tuesday's 74-45 win over Concordia.)

Konley Ault finished with 21 points, 14 of which came in the fourth quarter after Jay County had developed a 20-point advantage.

While the Schwiermans headlined the night, JCHS got some solid contributions from other Patriots as well. Newton followed the sisters with 11 points, Elizabeth Brunswick grabbed a team-high seven rebounds and dished out four assists and Charlee Peters hit the offensive glass hard to create four extra possessions.

"It was just a huge team effort," McIntire said. "Raylah was shooting the ball and shooting with confidence. When she can hit those threes, it makes us harder to defend. ... We asked Liz to run the point a little bit and she didn't hesitate to do that. I'm pleased

she was able to step in a different role like that tonight. ... We need a girl like Charlee to be a big rebounder. That's big for a freshman to do."

Junior varsity

The Patriots' JV team fell to Bluffton 21-10 in two quarters of play on Friday.

Jay County struggled to guard the 3-point line, giving up four triples to the Tigers. Three of the 3-pointers came in the first quarter with Krista Blair, Grace Fry and Josie Nash all hitting from deep. Blair and Fry also had 2-point baskets to help Bluffton take a 13-7 advantage.

Araitz Lekue Magro led Jay County with six points. She hit a triple and sank a pair of free throws in the first quarter, but only went 1-for-4 from the charity stripe in the second.

Kayah Kaigler had the only other basket for the Patriots, hitting it in the opening period. Claudia Dirksen and Kendal Schemenauer both split a pair of free throws in the second period.

Miami ...

Continued from page 10

Said linebacker Mo Toure: "Just trust in your brother. Trust in the man to your left and to your right, just knowing they're going to get the job done and knowing your brother is going to do the best he can ... to stop them from getting in the end zone."

But Ole Miss moved the ball quickly. The first play was a 23-yard pass to the Ole Miss 48-yard line. Then Chambliss connected on another pass to the UM 35. There was still time for one play: likely a heave to the end zone.

"It's always weird," Hetherman said. "You have years where we practice that play, and it never happens. Last year it happened twice. This year it hasn't happened once. And now for it to come up and it's almost to the point where the message during the week is like, 'Guys, when we practice this on Thursday and Friday you can't get bored because it may never happen but the one time it happens, everyone has to be detailed. Everyone has to be locked in. Everyone's got to know exactly what their job is to finish the game.'"

Chambliss skipped out of the pocket, looking for an open man down the field. He threw to wide receiver De'Zhaun Stribling, who was covered closely by cornerback Ethan O'Conor.

"Make that play. Make that play. Make that play," wide receiver Keeelan Marion said. "That's all I was thinking. Make that play."

The ball bounced out of the end zone. There were no flags on the field. Miami had won and is headed to the national championship game in Miami on Jan. 19.

"Should You Go First"

In Loving Memory of Margaret Warren

Originally printed January 1996, 30 years ago this week.

Should you go first and I remain
To walk the road alone,
I'll live in memory's garden, dear.
With happy days we've known.

In Spring I'll watch for roses red
When fades the lilac blue,
In early Fall when brown leaves call
I'll catch a glimpse of you.

Should you go first and I remain
For battles to be fought,
Each thing you've touched along the way
Will be a hallowed spot.

I'll hear your voice, I'll see your smile,
Though blindly I may grope,
The memory of your helping hand
Will buoy me on with hope.

Should you go first and I remain
To finish with the scroll
No length'ning shadows shall creep in
To make this life seem droll.

We've known so much of happiness,
We've had our cup of joy
And memory is one gift of God
That death cannot destroy.

Should you go first and I remain
One thing I'd have you do;
Walk slowly down that long, lone path,
For soon I'll follow you.

I'll want to know each step you take
That I may walk the same.
For someday, down that lonely road,
You'll hear me call your name.

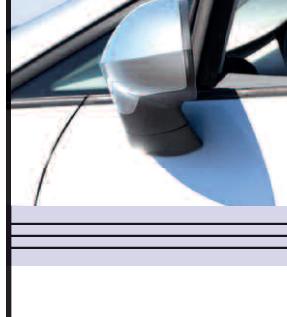
by Albert Rowswell

Loved beyond words and missed beyond measure.

*Your loving daughter, Robin, son-in-law
Mike, and grandkids Maggie and Kaden
Khayata*

CARS

Special Section



Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.
Deadline for ads is Feb. 2.

Contact Lindsey at
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full-page color — \$550
(only one available)

1/2-page color — \$475

1/2-page B&W — \$275

1/4-page B&W — \$225

Big business card (3x3.5) — \$105

Business card (2x2) — \$60

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Tribe girls basketball fell to New Bremen on Thursday, see story page 8

JCHS girls wrestlers compete in regional today, see Sports on tap

Sports

Family business

Schwietermans combine for 43 points on night sister was inducted to Wall of Fame

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

Renna Schwieterman, one of the best basketball players in the history of the county, received her flowers prior to the tipoff.

While one Schwieterman got her due for her time served, two more powered the Patriots past an Allen County Athletic Conference foe.

On the same night their older sister got inducted into the Wall of Fame, Hallie and Karsyn Schwieterman combined for 43 points to power the Jay County High School girls basketball team past the Bluffton Tigers 63-45 Friday evening.

Minutes before the Schwieterman sisters took to the floor, Renna Schwieterman, who is the all-time leading scorer in county history at 1,754 points, got inducted onto the Jay County Wall of Fame. After watching their older sister get honored, Hallie and Karsyn came ready to beat Bluffton (11-5, 3-2 ACAC).

"I think it just gave us confidence to do good and take after her," Hallie Schwieterman said. "I think we came in good as a group. We were rough at times, but I think that really showed what we can do and showed that we are the better team."

"Honestly, I'm so proud of her," Karsyn Schwieterman said. "I'm so blessed for everything and so proud of what she did."

The sisters stuffed the stat sheet. Karsyn Schwieterman scored a game-high 29 points and also sucked in five rebounds. Hallie Schwieterman added 14 points while snagging six boards, dishing out three assists and blocking one shot.

See Family page 9



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School junior Hallie Schwieterman rises up to shoot a 3-pointer from the left corner during the Patriots 63-45 win over Bluffton on Friday. Schwieterman had 14 points, six rebounds, three assists and a block to help lift the Patriots over the Tigers.

Tribe's offense stalled for 3 quarters in loss

FORT RECOVERY — The Indians found their touch from long range in the fourth quarter.

It was not nearly enough to overcome three quarters of offensive woes.

Fort Recovery High School's boys basketball team was unable to do much on offense for the first 24 minutes Friday in a 52-38 loss to the New Bremen Cardinals.

It was the third consecutive loss for the Indians after a 6-1 start.

After managing just three first-quarter field goals, the Indians (6-4, 1-2 Midwest Athletic Conference) were held to just two in the second. They trailed by 14 at halftime.

The deficit grew to 16 after three quarters.

Fort Recovery made a fourth-quarter push thanks in part to four 3-pointers — Hudson Overman hit three and Colson Post made the other — but it was not enough. New Bremen (7-3, 1-1 MAC) maintained its advantage with five players hitting field goals in the final eight minutes.

Overman's late long-distance barrage pushed him to share the game-high 15 points with a pair of Cardinals. Brody Barga joined him in double figures with a dozen points, but no other Indian had more than four.

Gavin Dicke and Wyatt Weidner were the 15-point scorers for New Bremen. Jaylen Powell added 10 points.

Fort Recovery will try to get back on track tonight when it hosts Bradford (4-6) for its fourth consecutive game at Fort Site Fieldhouse before heading on the road to Minster and Crestview next weekend.

Junior varsity

Fort Recovery fell apart in the third, letting a lead slip away en route to a 47-38 loss.

The Indians (6-4) built a three-point halftime lead. But they gave up 24 third-quarter points to New Bremen as the game slipped away.

Carter Fortkamp and Braylan Dilworth each scored 10 points to lead FRHS. Tank Thompson added nine.

Miami escapes to make title game

By ADAM LICHTENSTEIN

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Tribune News Service

GLENDALE, Arizona — All Rueben Bain Jr. could do was pray.

The star defensive end had done his best to sack Ole Miss quarterback Trinidad Chambliss, but he could not get to him. Now the ball was in the air, sailing toward the end zone. If it hit the ground, Miami would play for the national championship. If a player

in a powder blue Rebels jersey caught it, they would go to the title game instead.

"Once I (saw) that ball released," Bain said. "I was just like, 'Please, God. Please, God.'

"He listened."

The ball sailed out of reach and out of the end zone. Miami won 31-27 and clinched a spot in its first championship game since the 2002 season.

"I just wanted to see the

ball hit the ground," offensive lineman James Brockermeyer said. "It was a very surreal moment, and I'm just really happy for our guys."

It took a stunning series of events to get to that point in the game. Miami and Ole Miss traded punches in the back half of the fourth quarter. The Rebels took a two-point lead with a short field goal with seven minutes left.

The Hurricanes, who had run methodical drives all game, scored less than two minutes later on a 36-yard catch-and-run by Malachi Toney. They held that 24-19 lead for less than two minutes, as Chambliss tossed a touchdown pass to Dae'Quan Wright with just over three minutes left in the game.

The Hurricanes had one more drive in them, moving

down the field and scoring what proved to be the game-winning touchdown on a 3-yard run by Carson Beck. When that drive was over, the Rebels had just 18 seconds to go 75 yards.

"We had a plan," defensive coordinator Corey Hetherman said. "I think they had one timeout and basically we knew they needed a touchdown."

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