

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Honorary mural

Marie McKinley, pictured with her father R.D., completed, for now, her mural at the northwest corner of U.S. 27 and county road 400 North last week. (She plans to add a Case tractor to the mural in the spring.) The west side of the mural depicts ditch lilies and raspberries, which are common to the area, while the east side is a tribute both to Houser Farm Equipment, the Case dealership her father R.D. Houser and grandfather Raymond Houser ran from 1954 through 1968, and the Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Association.

"In a way, I'm kind of proud of it," said R.D. Houser. "In another way, I'm kind of humbled because I never thought anything like this would happen."



City asked to pause demo process

Commission requests time to finish plan, evaluate possibilities

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Portland Board of Works was scheduled to meet Tuesday to potentially award a bid for the demolition of a downtown building.

Portland Redevelopment Commission is requesting that the process be paused.

CWC Latitudes consultant Ed Curtin, who assists the redevelopment commission, visited Portland City Council on Monday to ask that the city hold off on the demolition of the former Hunts building at 208 and 210 N. Meridian St. for at least a few months.

Curtin explained that his firm is working with the redevelopment commission to update its economic development plan for its tax increment financing (TIF) district, which includes the downtown area. As part of that process, they are identifying buildings that have potential for redevelopment. He said the structure being considered for demolition is among those on the list.

"That's a building that probably has some opportunity."

He requested that the city consider pausing the process toward demolishing the building to allow the redevelopment commission to complete its economic development plan update and determine if there is a way to maintain the 208/201 N. Meridian St. building and potentially increase its assessed value. The plan is expected to be complete in December.

See Asked page 5

Tentative agreement detailed

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Jay School Corporation and its teachers have reached a tentative agreement.

Jay School Board reviewed the agreement, which calls for average teacher raises of 7.5%, during its meeting Monday.

The board plans to vote on the agreement, along with wage increases for administrators, support staff, bus drivers and substitute teachers, during a special meeting at 5 p.m. Oct. 23.

School board will vote on salary increases Oct. 23

Jay Classroom Teachers Association approved the agreement last week.

Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley told the board the average raise for teachers would be 7.5%, with the lowest raise coming in at

5.5%. Starting teacher pay increased by 7.5% in the proposed contract, putting that wage at \$43,003. Salaries range up to \$67,003 for those with 30 years of experience. Teachers who have a master's degree would

receive an additional increase.

Board member Vickie Reitz expressed her hope that the contract keeps Jay School Corporation competitive with others.

In addition to the raises for teachers, the agreement calls for a 4% increase for all extracurricular activities employees. It also would add 12 extracurricular positions as coaches for the new elementary school basketball program.

"It was smooth," said Gulley of the negotiation

process. "People were prepared and professional. ... I think the level of trust is probably as high as it could be."

He also thanked board officers Ron Laux, Donna Geesaman and Phil Ford for their work during the negotiations process.

Gulley also provided an enrollment update, noting that Jay Schools' enrollment went up by 27 students this year. Enrollment has gone up just twice in the last seven years.

See Detailed page 2

FR reviews water options

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — The village has a choice to make.

Fort Recovery Village Council learned about its options for water treatment during a work session Monday.

Marvin Gnagy, owner of PMG Consulting, and Rob Shoaf, owner of Shoaf Consulting, shared information about two possible water softening alternatives for the village moving forward.

Village administrator Randy Diller advised the village in January about a proposal from Gnagy to do an in-depth study on the village's water plant. At that time, Diller suggested looking into options to move away from treating water with lime and caustic soda because chemical costs had skyrocketed.

Gnagy explained treatment plants across the board are experiencing price increases for chemicals annually, with costs raising by as much as 30% overall in the last three years. Sludge disposal management, which is typically needed regularly with the village's wastewater lagoons, is also costly, he added. Since 2021, chemical costs

Village considering ion exchange or reverse osmosis membrane system

have increased by more than \$76,000, Gnagy explained. (Electricity costs have also raised by nearly \$7,000.) The total price in 2023 for water treatment is projected to cost about \$266,000.

Utilities superintendent Ryan Thien had expressed interest in reducing operational costs, water hardness and plant operating time, Gnagy continued. (Thien asked to reduce water hardness to 150 milligrams per liter, which is about 50 milligrams per liter less than the current rate. He also requested an option to reduce plant operating time, which right now is about 11 hours per day.)

Gnagy and Shoaf suggested flipping to either ion exchange softening or reverse osmosis membrane softening processes. Both options are common treatments for smaller water systems.

According to a presentation shared by Gnagy and Shoaf, ion exchange works by removing nearly all hardness from the water with ion exchange resin regenerated with brine (a salt solution). The process would require a bypass stream to create the desired hardness (150 milligrams per liter).

"Some of you may have a home water softener, that's the same as this," said Shoaf. "Exactly the same. One of the disadvantages, it does add a bunch of sodium to your water."

With ion exchange softening, the village would shift from using lime and caustic soda to salt. Gnagy and Shoaf's projections estimate the village would save more than \$153,000 annually with the process, which is anticipated to cost nearly \$4 million in construction fees.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Rob Shoaf, owner of Shoaf Consulting, shows Fort Recovery Village Council members a reverse osmosis membrane element sized to the village's treatment plant.

Reverse osmosis membrane softening is accomplished by pumping water under pressure through reverse osmosis membrane elements, or tube-shaped tools with approximately 15 layers that remove nearly all hardness and other ions. (It would also need a bypass stream to adjust water quality to about 145 milligrams per liter.)

See Options page 2

Deaths

Arthur Garringer, 96, Fort Wayne
Karen Topp, 70, Anna, Ohio
Peggy Miller, 70, Hartford City
Janet Cross, 61, Dunkirk
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 55 degrees Monday. The low was 45.

Tonight's low will be 51 with a 50% chance of showers after midnight and winds gusting to 25 miles per hour. Windy conditions will continue Thursday with rain expected.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Arts Place is accepting proposals for performances for its 2024 concert series at the Hudson Family Park amphitheater. Proposals can be submitted by visiting bit.ly/APsummer2024.

Coming up

Thursday — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Works meeting.

Friday — Results from Wednesday's FRHS volleyball sectional opener.



Obituaries

Arthur Garringer

Arthur W. Garringer, 96, of Fort Wayne passed away Oct. 14, 2023, at home.

He was the son of David and Faye (Money) Garringer. Arthur graduated from Portland High School in 1944, and married his high school sweetheart on Nov. 23, 1946. He was a World War II U.S. Army Air Corps veteran.



Garringer

Arthur was vice president and treasurer of Wayne Hardware Co., retiring in 1994. He enjoyed scouting and camping with his six sons and collecting matchbook covers, stamps and other hobbies.

Arthur was a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by his six sons, Michael (Teresa) of Ossian, Mark (Donna) of Markle, Frank (Linda) of Auburn, Matt (Londa), Martin and Andy (Marcia) all of Fort Wayne; 14 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Arthur was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years Edna; one sister; and four brothers.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 10700 Aboite Center Road, Fort Wayne, with calling one hour prior. Calling will also be held from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20, 2023, at Divine Mercy Funeral Home, 3500 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne, with the Rosary at 1:30 p.m. Entombment with military honors will be in Catholic Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

Memorial contributions may

be made to Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

To sign the online guest book, go to divinemercyfuneral-home.com.

Karen Topp

Nov. 12, 1952-Oct. 15, 2023

Karen M. Topp, age 70 of Anna, Ohio, died on Oct. 15, 2023, at OSU Medical Center; Columbus, Ohio.

She was born on Nov. 12, 1952, in Coldwater, Ohio, to the late Melvin and Pauline (Bender) Schmiesing.

She married Dale Topp on April 3, 1976, in Minster, Ohio. He survives in Anna.

She is also survived by siblings Jane Guthrie, Dayton, Ohio, Gary and Cindy Schmiesing, Portland, Indiana, Mary and Tom Jutte, Celina, Ohio, and Edna and Don Kremer, Chickasaw, Ohio; sister-in-law Marcile Schmiesing; in-laws Karen Lewis, Florida, Judy and Steve Borges, Minster, Ohio,

and Jerry Topp, New Bremen, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Dave Schmiesing.

Karen was an avid bowler for many years and enjoyed reading, crossword puzzles and sudoku puzzles. She was an executive administrative assistant at Copeland/Emerson for 44 years.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023, at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, New Bremen, with burial to follow in German Protestant Cemetery, New Bremen. Friends may call at the Hogenkamp Funeral Home in Minster on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023, from 2 to 7 p.m. and on Thursday, Oct. 19, from 9 to 10 a.m.



Topp

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to ASPCA. Condolences may be left at hogenkampfh.com.

Paggy Miller, Hartford City, Nov. 18, 1952-Oct. 14, 2023. Services will be at 2 p.m. today at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

Janet Lynn Cross, Dunkirk, Sept. 20, 1962-Oct. 12, 2023. Services are scheduled for 3 p.m. today at Wilson Shook Funeral Home, Dunkirk Memorial Chapel.

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

Thursday 10/19	Friday 10/20	Saturday 10/21	Sunday 10/22	Monday 10/23
65/46	59/41	58/38	59/38	60/40
There's a 70% chance of showers on Thursday, when the high may hit 65 during the day.	Friday has a 50% chance of rain under mostly cloudy skies. The low may be 41.	More rain is possible but not likely Saturday. The low at night may dip into the 30s.	Mostly sunny skies are expected on Sunday, with the low sticking in the 30s.	Monday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies. At night, the low may dip below the 40s.

Lotteries

Powerball
Monday
2-27-31-44-64
Power Ball: 18
Power Play: 3
Estimated jackpot: \$49 million

Daily Four: 6-0-6-0
Quick Draw: 2-9-25-27-28-32-38-40-41-43-52-53-56-61-63-69-70-71-73-80
Cash 5: 2-9-13-23-38
Estimated jackpot: \$430,500

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$69 million

Hoosier
Monday
Midday
Daily Three: 5-4-6
Daily Four: 2-5-3-0
Quick Draw: 6-8-10-13-14-15-16-22-26-30-31-41-42-46-54-57-61-63-70-77
Evening
Daily Three: 8-6-8

Ohio
Monday
Midday
Pick 3: 3-8-1
Pick 4: 7-3-1-2
Pick 5: 6-2-8-2-9
Evening
Pick 3: 6-3-6
Pick 4: 0-7-7-2
Pick 5: 2-6-5-2-8
Rolling Cash: 11-12-18-19-38
Estimated jackpot: \$130,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery
Corn.....5.04
Late Oct. corn.....4.84
Wheat5.21

Dec. beans12.93
Wheat 4.86

POET Biorefining Portland
Corn.....4.99
Oct./Nov. corn4.69
Dec. corn4.84

ADM Montpelier
Corn.....4.59
Nov. corn4.64
Beans12.63
Nov. beans12.68
Wheat5.32

The Andersons Richland Township
Corn4.64
Dec. corn4.74
Beans12.51

Heartland St. Anthony
Corn.....4.44
Jan. corn4.69
Beans12.36
Nov. beans12.41
Oct. wheat4.86

Today in history

In 2019, the Fort Recovery High School volleyball team rolled to the sectional championship as it recorded 20 aces in a three-set sweep of Columbus Grove.

In 2020, Sophia Fugiett and Lydia Keihn of Jay County High School advanced to the semi-state thanks to their efforts in the regional cross country meet at Muncie Sportsplex.

Keihn a sophomore, finished in 15th place while Fugiett, a senior, was 26th.

In 2022, Jay School Corporation superintendent presented Jay School Board with a tentative collective bargaining agreement with Jay Classroom Teachers Association. The agreement sought to sort out oddities with the wage scale. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

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

rium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.

Thursday
6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.

5 p.m. — Jay School Board special meeting, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland.

Monday
9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditor-

6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St.

Options ...

Continued from page 1
Shoaf has designed 25 out of 30 plants using the reverse osmosis membrane treatment in Ohio. He compared the layers, which act as barriers at each stage, to a roll of paper towels.

"This really doesn't take much chemical, it takes some antiscalant, but not the chemicals that you would get with the current process," Shoaf said.

Reverse osmosis membrane softening would significantly decrease the village's chemical costs — Gnagy and Shoaf estimated a total cost of \$12,601 annually. Overall, that's about a \$210,000 cost savings from the village's current yearly expenditures. Initial construction costs are estimated at about \$4.35 million. (The village would need about 56 reverse osmosis membranes, which come to about \$550 apiece. They also need to be replaced every five years.)

"Between the two, it's more expensive (upfront), but it does get

you a significantly lower operating cost," said Gnagy.

Factoring in anticipated costs, said Gnagy, the village is estimated to save \$25,000 per year with the reverse osmosis membrane treatment. He noted it's favored by Thien and Diller. Although the village would need to take a loan to pay for the construction, he said, it would not need to adjust residents' water rates to make the improvements.

"So the project basically pays for itself, on the reduction and overall operating costs per year," said Gnagy.

Regardless of its decision, the village will need new pressure filters, according to the study. Both treatment plans also include adding a new treatment building next to southwestern portion of the current water plant building, a process that would likely take about two years to design and construct.

Built in 1982, the village's current water plant has a capacity of 500,000 gallons a day. It pumps

between 210,000 and 220,000 gallons per day now.

The village has two wells — Gnagy and Shoaf both recommended adding a third well in the event one breaks down suddenly or needs extended maintenance — which feed into an aerator and get treated with lime caustic soda in a clarifier. The resulting sludge goes into the wastewater lagoons, and the water goes through the rest of the cleaning process, which include chemical treatments and traveling through a reaction basin, a stabilization basin, filters and clear wells.

During village council's regular meeting following the work session, Diller noted he'll look into potential funding sources such as grants.

"I mean, the bottom line is, if we can do this and not raise our water rates, we'd be pretty foolish not to," he said.

"It would be pretty impressive, I think," added Mayor Dave Kaup.

Detailed ...

Continued from page 1
Also Monday, board members Jason Phillips, Marcie Vormohr, Chip Phillips, Geesaman, Ford and Reitz, absent Laux, received information regarding the newly created Jay County School Safety Commission, which will include a judge, the sheriff, school safety specialists and others as appointed by the school board. (Such a group is required by state law this year.)

Gulley said an initial meeting with county commissioners president Chad Aker and Jay County Sheriff Ray Newton went well and brought forth some new ideas. Newton, for example, suggested that additional officers at schools be made part-time employees. Gulley said he's considering that idea, adding that it might result in a greater police presence than if a second school resource officer was added.

Gulley plans to have a proposal in writing for the board to review next

month with plans to bring the subject to a vote in December.

In other business, the board:

- During its Patriot Pride moment, heard from staff and a student involved in the Project Lead the Way program at Bloomfield Elementary School. Sixth grade students work together to build and race VEX IQ robots.

- Reviewed two options for the school corporations' 2024-25 calendar. One runs from Aug. 8 through May 23 and the other from Aug. 15 through May 29, with slight adjustments made to breaks to accommodate the differences. The board plans to review the options and vote on them at its next meeting. Gulley also mentioned the coming eclipse on April 8 and discussed options for that day, noting that some school districts are taking the day off. He plans to have a recommendation for the day next month.

- Approved the following: accepting a \$44,300.40

Formative Assessment Grant to help with the purchase of the NWEA assessments; the purchase of online curriculum for vocational agriculture courses at a total cost of \$13,130 for seven years; various extracurricular assignments including Ava Stockton as FFA sponsor; leaves of absence for Sarah Sudhoff, Jane Evans, Kiah Bruns and Julia Kable; field trips for the FFA soil judging team Oct. 19 through 21 to Benton High School and Early College Students on Oct. 26 to Wright State University; a bus request from Fellowship Baptist Church for Nov. 12; and a contract for occupational therapy services with Abigail Muhlenkamp.

- Heard the financial report that shows projected positive cash flows of \$161,714 and \$105,933, respectively, in the education fund and operations fund.

SERVICES

Wednesday

Miller, Paggy: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Cross, Janet: 3 p.m., Wilson Shook Funeral Home, 317 N. Main St., Dunkirk.

Thursday

Topp, Karen: 10:30 a.m., Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, 120 S. Eastmoor Drive, New Bremen, Ohio.

Friday

Smith, Carolyn: 10 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Saturday

Garringer, Arthur: 11 a.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 10700 Aboite Center Road, Fort Wayne.

Service listings provided by

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Sharol Fullenkamp, RN to Retire



Sharol has been a nurse at Jay County Hospital for 47 consecutive years. She graduated in 1976 from Sinclair Community College of Nursing in Dayton, OH. The entirety of her tenure has been spent on third shift, including her last 20 years as supervisor.

Sharol has been a dedicated servant to our community and demonstrated this numerous times throughout the years. During the blizzard of 1978, she stayed overnight at the hospital for five days straight. On other occasions, including multiple Christmas snowstorms, she has been driven to work by the sheriff, and even a few times by volunteers on snowmobiles.

In addition to her time spent at Jay County Hospital, Sharol is also a dedicated wife and mother of four. Even on as little as three hours of sleep, she still manages to participate in various family and community events. She will especially miss her co-workers, teaching new nurses her superior IV placement skills, and caring for patients. Congratulations on your retirement Sharol and thank you for all you've done!



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'Cinderella' gets her happy ending

By **ANDREW J. CAMPA**

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

For months, video clips that circulated on social media and local newscasts told the tale of 6-year-old Cinderella, a brown-and-white female pit bull mix living at a Long Beach shelter but looking for a permanent home.

Cinderella spent more time — 1,139 days — than any of the 105 dogs housed at the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' facility in Long Beach.

Cinderella had her loving fans: a legion of pet lovers who donated for her knee surgery and a few volunteers who

helped her recover afterward.

Yet she lingered in the facility for more than three years — probably because of the reputation of her breed — while the average dog put up for an spcaLA adoption waited between 10 days and two weeks, according to spcaLA spokesperson Ana Bustilloz.

The wait ended when Wilmington's Jessika and Joseph Solis Sr., a couple looking to adopt, asked the crucial question: "Who has been here the longest?"

On Thursday, the couple and their infant son Joseph Jr. adopted Cin-

derella, ending a saga that began when the dog arrived at spcaLA in August 2020.

"In terms of finding Cinderella or any dog at home, you have to ask yourself questions like, 'Does this dog fit in your family and are you prepared to care of the animal?'" Bustilloz said. "In this case, it was a perfect fit."

Cinderella's journey to adoption hit a snag shortly after her arrival at the shelter when she developed a limp in her left back leg. Radiographs performed at VCA Rossmoor-El Dorado Animal Hospital showed she need-

ed surgery to repair a torn ligament in her knee.

The surgery cost \$3,000 and was made possible thanks to donations from spcaLA supporters. Cinderella underwent a successful operation at VCA Lakewood Hospital and convalesced at a volunteer's home for a month. There, she received food, rest and veterinary care, according to Bustilloz.

"Staff did an excellent job keeping Cinderella healthy and joyful while she was at spcaLA," spcaLA President Madeline Bernstein said in a statement. "I also must acknowledge our donors. Without their support,

this happy ending would not be possible!"

Bustilloz said that no other animal had stayed longer during her 13-year tenure than Cinderella.

Officials from spcaLA speculated that Cinderella's pit bull breed — and its largely unfounded reputation as ill-tempered — played into her delay.

Bustilloz noted that many insurance agencies will not grant home coverage for pit bulls, while some people are afraid of the breed.

One of the previous longest-staying dogs, according to Bustilloz, was also a pit bull named Melvin, who spent 667

days with the spcaLA before being adopted in March 2021.

Two mixed terrier and pit bulls named Hashbrown and Diego have been waiting for a home since 2021, according to Bustilloz. An Akita-terrier-pit bull mix named Jamie has also been hanging around since late 2020.

"A lot of people have very negative connotations regarding pit bulls and we just want people to be mindful, to ask us questions, and not be shy simply because of a dog's breed or lifestyle," Bustilloz said. "Breed bans and stigmas are unfortunate."

Wife's puzzling behavior is an obstacle

DEAR ABBY: I'm a lesbian. My wife and I have been married for nine years, but since COVID and my mother's death, we have had problems. I met a man online; he's an actor. We grew close via the internet. When my wife found out, we fought, and this man and I haven't been as close.

Although we mended our relationship and I love her, I seem to always wonder. About a year ago, I got hit on by another actor on Instagram, and we also grew close until my wife found out. I stopped, but I still maintain contact with these men, and I'm not sure why.

I wonder if I'm happy with my wife or if it would be better with someone else. I wonder if I'm staying with her for love or for comfort. I'm not sure. I keep questioning my identity and my life. Any advice? — LACKING CERTAINTY IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR LACKING CERTAINTY: If you were getting everything you need from your mar-

riage, you wouldn't be "wondering" and reaching out to members of the opposite sex. It is important for you AND your wife that you find the answers to your very important questions.

Because you are unsure about the depth of your commitment to your wife as well as your identity, your next step should be to discuss this with a licensed mental health professional. Your doctor or health insurance company can refer you to someone who is qualified. Your local LGBTQ community center may also be able to help. Please don't wait.

Dear Abby



DEAR ABBY: A family friend, "Simone," makes the time we spend together unbearable. She's married to my husband's best friend, "Earl." We see them often and spend many holidays together. Before Earl married Simone, we thought she was a pretty normal person and a great match for him. Over time, we have come to realize that she's anything but.

Simone is loud and dramatic, and she loves to be the center of attention. One example: One day, she sat down in a chair and immediately started to panic that she could not get out of the chair due to her size (she's overweight). My husband and other friends were taken aback because it was visibly clear that she wasn't stuck. She demanded that someone help her get up, and it was embarrassing to watch.

Also, if she doesn't get her way, she resorts to talking like a baby or making a scene. She constant-

ly complains about being sick. It happens every time she isn't the center of attention. My husband and I and another couple are getting fed up being around her. My husband has been best friends with Earl since they were kids, so this is a tough situation. I'd love some advice. — HARD TO BEAR IN THE SOUTH

DEAR HARD TO BEAR: Not all friendships last forever. The solution to your problem may be as simple as making yourself less available. Because your husband is on the same page as you and the other couple, it shouldn't be too hard to start seeing Earl and Simone less often. When the men want to get together, they can do it without you. Try it, and it may bring you some relief.

DEAR ABBY: A month ago, when I invited a co-worker to a concert happening next month, he was so excited to go. But we

had a big disagreement at work — and, since then, we haven't found a way to get along. At this point, it might be more awkward than fun to go to a concert together, but I feel stuck. If I take back my invitation, he can hold that against me. If I don't take it back, it could be an incredibly awkward night. Am I missing an option? What should I do? — AWKWARD IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR AWKWARD: If you disinvite your co-worker it will create more bad feelings at work. If you follow through, the concert may provide an opportunity for the two of you to resolve your differences. I think it's worth a try.

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@theccr.com.

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.

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 teal 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. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

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

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

JAY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY — Will meet at 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Jay County Public Library. The public is welcome.

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

Friday

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

land. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

Saturday

LOCALS MARKET — Is held from 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday in May through October on East Main Street in Portland. For more information, contact The Flower Nook at (260) 726-7166.

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

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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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Sometimes we need a superhero

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Oct. 19, 2005. Jack always had stories about trips to the cabin Connie's family owns in New Hampshire. They frequently involved some sort of challenge that comes along with vacationing in a spot that lacks some of the modern conveniences we sometimes take for granted.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

"The dam has broken," said the voice on the phone. Now, I don't know about you, but those aren't words I've ever encountered in a phone conversation before. "The bridge has washed away," said the voice. Alien words. Words out of a comic book or a Hollywood blockbuster. Broken dams? Washed away bridges? The sense of unreality was unshakable. But, then again, there's been a

Back in the Saddle



lot of that this year: The tsunami, the hurricanes, the ongoing dreadfulness of Iraq, the earthquake in Kashmir, and the sudden deaths of good friends who were here one minute and gone the next.

The voice on the phone, however, was insistent. The dam had indeed broken. The bridge had indeed washed away. New England has been trapped in a purgatory of rain the past couple of weeks, seeing 2 inches an hour for hours on end, witnessing flooding in places no one had ever witnessed flooding before, and seeing dams break and bridges wash away.

Since early in the last century, Connie's family has had a cabin on a hillside above Gregg Lake in southwestern New Hampshire. It's a charming place, as long as your idea of charm involves no heat except the fireplace, exposed wiring, no insulation, water service from a gravity-driven, spring-fed system of hoses above ground, and a 90-foot hike up a 45-degree hillside from the parking area to the front door.

In other words, it's heaven, within unique definitions of that word. The lake itself dates from 1793 when a guy named Samuel Gregg muscled enough boulders into place to create a primitive dam, creating what was then known as Gregg Pond. In 1847, in the water-mill era, the locals improved the dam in a new location, creating Gregg Lake. Since then, of course, it's been rebuilt a number of times. But in all the time I've been

visiting the cabin — dating back to 1969 before Connie and I were married — the dam has been there and it has held the waters of the lake out of Great Brook and controlled the flow into the little town of Antrim. This month's rain changed all that.

While we've been enjoying a tranquil end of summer and nascent autumn, New Hampshire and the rest of New England have been getting hammered. On Saturday, the call came. The dam had broken, at least a portion of it which was used to control the flow of water. The surge washed away the bridge we've driven across hundreds of times and sent a torrent down a ravine where it was almost certain to do damage to more than one house. Meanwhile, with the dam's failure and the bridge's absence, the folks who live on the same hillside where the

cabin is located were suddenly cut off from civilization. They had power, and they had phones. But they couldn't leave except by boat. The last we knew, eight or nine folks — most of them people we've visited with each summer for decades — were stuck. They were going nowhere. I'm sure they'll be OK. Inconvenienced, of course, but OK. But I keep thinking back to that phone call and those words — just as I keep thinking back to the tsunami and the hurricanes and the earthquake and the shock of the sudden death of friends — and I find myself wishing that Superman really existed. He was the guy, after all, who took care of breaking dams. And tidal waves. And earthquakes. And even the sudden deaths of good friends. But he's not there. And, instead, I'm stuck with a very difficult reality: "The dam has broken."

Fatigue is not an excuse

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

More than a year and a half after Russia invaded Ukraine, Western leaders continue to support that country's valiant efforts to repel an unprovoked invasion. But the U.S. Congress needs to act swiftly to provide new assistance. It must not be distracted by fatigue among the American public or the ominous opposition of some Republicans in Congress to further assistance.

It's heartening that NATO officials this week assured Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that more than \$2 billion in additional military assistance will be provided before winter. But NATO countries, including the United States, need to do more, even as they appropriately disclaim any intention to deploy their own troops in the conflict.

After Congress passed a stopgap funding measure that didn't include more aid for Ukraine, President Joe Biden rightly argued that Congress must provide more assistance.

"The vast majority of both parties — Democrats and Republicans, Senate and House — support helping Ukraine and the brutal aggression that is being thrust upon them by Russia," Biden said. "Stop playing games, get this done."

In August, Biden asked lawmakers to approve an additional \$24 billion in aid, but some supporters of Ukraine in Congress reportedly want the president to propose a larger appropriation— perhaps as much as \$100 billion — to support Ukraine's self-defense through the 2024 U.S. presidential election. There is also speculation that Biden might propose linking new aid for Ukraine to additional military assistance to Israel following the vicious attack on that country by Hamas militants.

The U.S. has directed more than \$75 billion in humanitarian, financial and military assistance to Ukraine and approved billions more for other purposes, including protect-

Guest Editorial

The assistance the U.S. and its allies have provided does more than help Ukraine defend itself.

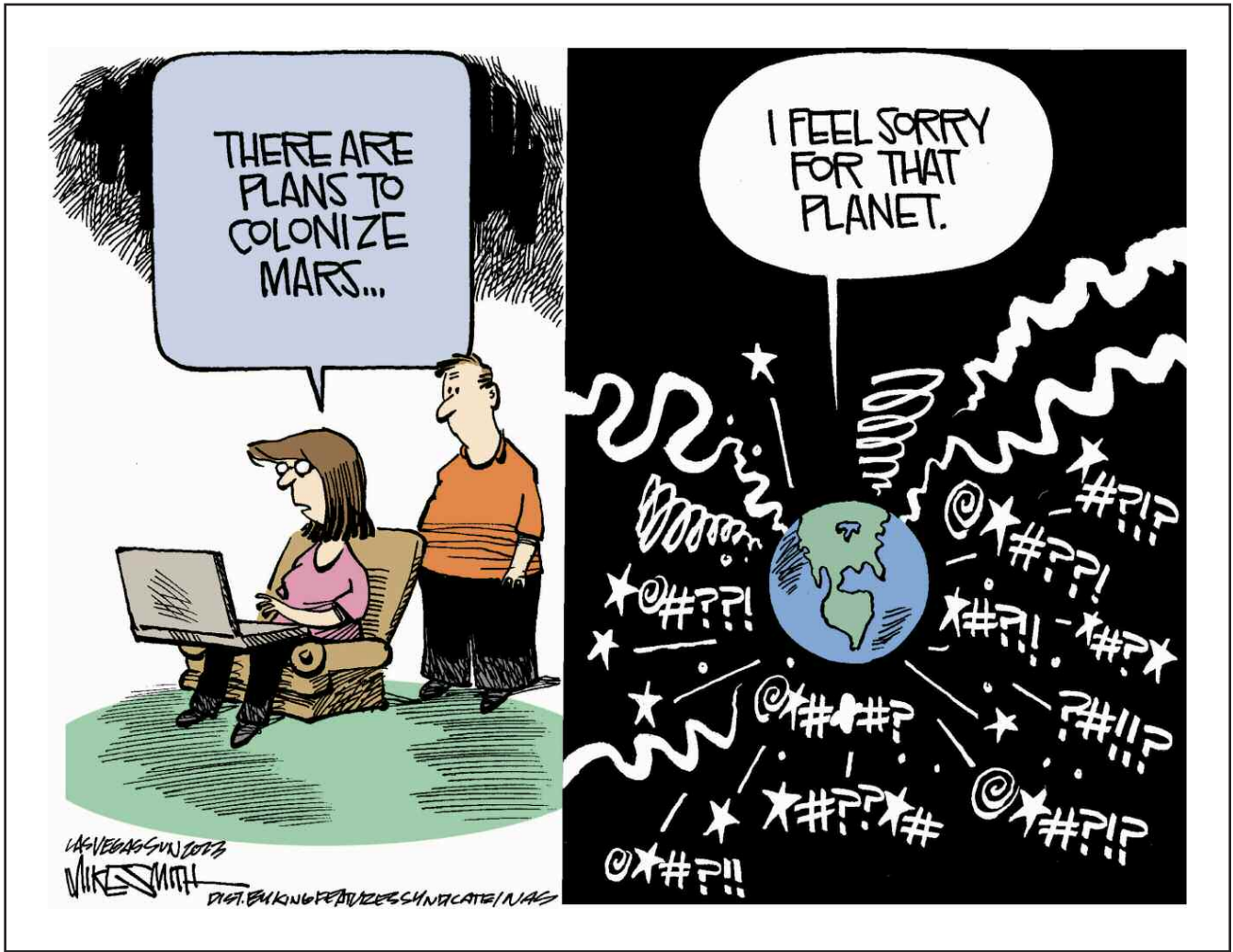
ing other countries in Europe that feel threatened by Russia. In all, Congress has approved \$113 billion in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Americans might wonder why such large sums are necessary, given other pressing needs. Some may also ask why, if the independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine are so important, the U.S. and its NATO are not committing troops to the fight.

There are good answers to those questions. The assistance the U.S. and its allies have provided does more than help Ukraine defend itself. It puts Vladimir Putin on notice that Russian aggression elsewhere — including against NATO member states — would come at a steep price. Deployment of NATO troops to assist Ukraine, which is not a NATO member, would risk a war between the alliance and Russia.

Ideally this war would end with a negotiated settlement under which Russia would relinquish all Ukrainian territory. A peace agreement conceivably could include some concessions to Russia, but Biden rightly has emphasized that one of the purposes of aid is to put Ukraine "in the strongest possible position at the negotiating table."

The U.S. and its allies must not jeopardize that outcome by softening their support for Ukraine.



Ouster shows we aren't polarized

By DAVE ANDERSON
The Fulcrum
Tribune News Service

The ousting of Kevin McCarthy as speaker, a topic that will be discussed for years to come by scholars, the media, politicians, and political consultants, shows that a very small number of members of Congress in the majority party can foist their chamber and the country into a major crisis if they force a potential speaker to change the rules about voting a speaker out of office and then implement that change. Among Republicans, 202 voted not to oust McCarthy and eight voted to oust him. The Democrats stayed out of the internal fight within the Republican Party. They all voted to oust McCarthy.

The removal of McCarthy from his post definitely does not show that the people of the United States are polarized. It points to the opposite conclusion. There is a stark contrast between the near 50/50 split in the Senate and the House, where there is extreme polarization, rancor, and manipulation and the country, where 40% to 44% of Americans over the last year have answered the monthly Gallup survey in almost every month by saying that they do not identify with either major party, even though the majority of them lean toward one party.

Leaning toward a party is not identifying with it. It is critical not to underestimate how significant is the fact that about 40 out of 100 Americans refuse to say that they are either Democrats or Republicans. Political scientists can twist the facts as much as they like, but the bottom line is that a person who refuses to be asso-

Dave Anderson



ciated with either political party is telling you something of paramount importance.

It is certainly true that there are extremists in our country, maybe 10% in each party, who are fiercely opposed to the other party. Moreover, about 40% of the country, in addition to the 20% who are extremists, is polarized. But with 40% not even associating themselves with either party, we don't have any basis to say that the country is polarized.

The picture of the U.S. House of Representatives and the picture of the approximately 220 million adults who could vote if they were registered, is not a snapshot of the larger canvas of the whole country. The pictures are not even similar. The picture of the U.S. House of Representatives is one of total dysfunction. The picture of the country has about 40% of the people essentially sitting out a conflict between the other 60%, and only about one-third of those fighting are extremely angry and unhinged; and less than 1% of that one-third have been violent.

There can be no doubt that American democracy is under threat as more than a few notable scholars have pointed out in recent days, including Daniel Ziblatt, professor of government at Harvard University and co-author with Steven Levitsky

of the landmark book, "How Democracies Die." Yet it is of the first importance to appreciate that it is the nation's capital that is threatening the republic right now and not the vast majority of citizens of the United States. The nation's capital itself has become polarized and dysfunctional for many reasons, including gerrymandering; the outsized role of money in politics; the prevention of independents from having an opportunity to elect more moderate candidates as a result of living in any of the 30 states that prohibit open primaries; and the prevention of all voters from having their votes for moderate candidates really count as a result of living in virtually all of the 50 states and territories that do not have ranked-choice voting in their elections.

The fact that Washington and not the country is polarized and dysfunctional does not guarantee that American democracy will not suffer additional blows in the weeks and months ahead, even a mortal blow. Yet it should be reassuring that the people of the United States are not at war with each other and revolting. Most, rather, are revolted by what is happening in Washington in recent days.

Harnessing the decency and moral center of the vast majority of Americans, not only the 40% who do not identify as Democrats and Republicans but the majority of the 60% who do, can be done by the president, Congress, and pro-democracy organizations in the days ahead.

Anderson has taught at five universities and ran for the Democratic nomination for a Maryland congressional seat in 2016.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Asked ...

Continued from page 1

“The concern that we have initially is that if the building comes down, that really is a non-conforming property,” said Curtin. “You can’t necessarily go build that same building back once it’s torn down.”

Council president Kent McClung, who was presiding over the meeting in the absence of Mayor John Boggs, told Curtin the decision is in the hands of the city’s board of works.

The board was scheduled to meet Tuesday to vote on awarding a contract for the demolition of the building. Clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips suggested that that redevelopment commission send a representative to the board of works meeting to reiterate the request to pause the process.

On Oct. 5, the board opened bids for the demolition for 208 and 210 N. Meridian St., with WEU Corporation of Portland bidding \$150,000 and JASHroyer Group of Muncie bidding \$249,000. (JASHroyer has been awarded the contract to tear down the Bailey Building at the southwest corner of Main and Commerce streets.)

The building was declared unsafe in August, at which point owner Juan Marentes had 30 days to tear down the building or otherwise mitigate its issues to make it safe before the city could take further action.

At previous meetings, John Hemmelgarn of Jay/Portland Building and Planning and city attorney Wes Schemenaur have expressed concern about the structure making it through the winter months. Portions of the west wall have already caved in and collapsed.

“The issue becomes, what’s the end game,” said Curtin.

Tax abatements approved for Pioneer Warehousing, Fort Recovery Industries

“So, once it’s down, what do we do with it.”

Also Monday, council members Janet Powers, Michele Brewster, Matt Goldsworthy, Mike Aker, Dave Golden and McClung, absent Don Gillespie, approved two tax abatements and sent two more requests to the city’s tax abatement advisory committee.

The abatements approved Monday were for Pioneer Warehousing and Fort Recovery Industries.

Pioneer Warehousing was approved for a five-year abatement on a \$1.5 million expansion at 1600 N. Meridian St. It is expected to save the company \$129,000 while the expansion will generate \$321,000 in property taxes over 10 years.

Fort Recovery Industries was OK’d for an \$850,000 investment on new equipment. It is expected to save the company about \$22,000 while it will generate \$67,000 in property taxes over a 10-year period.

Travis Richards, executive director of Jay County Development Corporation, also presented a pair of tax abatement requests from Joyce-Dayton. The firm is planning a 25,000-square-foot expansion at a cost

of nearly \$6 million. It also plans to purchase \$1.7 million in new equipment. The projects are expected to create 22 new jobs.

The expansion is eligible for a 10-year abatement that would save the company \$823,000 in taxes. (It would generate \$953,000 in taxes over a 10-year period.)

The new equipment is eligible for a three-year abatement that would save Joyce-Dayton \$45,000 in taxes. (It would generate \$135,000 in taxes over a 10-year period.)

Council sent Joyce-Dayton’s requests to the advisory committee for its review.

In other business, council:

- Received an update from park board president Brian Ison, who told members about recent upgrades to the parks such as a new pickleball court at Milton Miller Park and the lighting of the gazebo at Hudson Family Park. He also presented possible future projects, including new playground equipment at Haynes Park, expansion of the fenced in area around Portland Water Park and new restrooms at Milton Miller Park.

- Approved an ordinance

requested by the park board that makes all fishing in the pond at Hudson Family Park catch-and-release only, with no nets allowed. Boats are also not allowed on the pond. The ordinance is in response to reports that individuals have been netting 20 to 30 fish at a time and taking them from the pond.

- Heard a request from Chad Fifer of Fifer Services that council look into the contracts being proposed for his purchase of the former Sheller-Globe south property at 510 S. Bridge St., Portland. Fifer said those involved — he and the city have both hired additional council to work through environmental issues related to the property — have struggled to come up with a fair agreement.

- On a 4-2 vote, asked city attorney Wes Schemenaur to draw up an ordinance to create a second part-time level for police officers in order to adjust the pay for the newly hired Kyle Denney. He returned to the department recently and was expecting to be paid as a full-time officer. But, because he was gone from the department for more than 180 days, he can not be considered full-time until he goes through a process related to the Public Employees Retirement Fund. Portland Mayor John Boggs, who was not in attendance, and Police Chief Steve Schlechty requested the ordinance to adjust Denney’s pay to the full-time level. The motion to have Schemenaur draw up the ordinance passed 4-2, with Powers and Golden dissenting.

- Heard a request from Shawnda Roussey, center director for the Jay County Campus of Arts Place, to install stop signs at the intersection of two alleys west of the performing arts center because of safety

concerns involving students walking from the parking lot to the building. She also asked that a pedestrian crossing sign be placed along the north-south alley. Council and others in attendance discussed various options, including the signs, speed bumps and making the alley one way. Council asked Schemenaur to draw up an ordinance for the spots signs and agreed to look into the situation.

- Heard from Phillips that ATVs and golf carts are continuing to drive on the new paved walking path along the east side of Blaine Pike. The path is not intended for motorized vehicles. She and council discussed the possibility of putting up signs, but made no decision on the issue.

- Got a reminder that city-wide clean-up is scheduled for 7 to 11 a.m. Saturday. Residents may bring large trash items to the street department building to be disposed of free of charge. Residents need to bring a copy of their water bill. (The city’s alley clean-up is scheduled for next week.)

- Heard information regarding the county’s owner-occupied rehabilitation program. The program is being funded with the \$1 million the county is receiving through Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for being a part of the state’s Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP) that assisted with planning for how to spend federal coronavirus relief funds through the American Rescue Plan Act. Kimball said the county is still working on getting approval for its application process from the state. (Kimball also provided information about grants for which the city could potential apply.)

Biden plans visit to Israel

By JENNIFER JACOBS
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

President Joe Biden will make a dangerous and politically risky trip to Israel intended to show solidarity with the U.S.’s closest ally in the Middle East and prevent the conflict from engulfing the wider region.

The president’s rare visit near an active and expanding war zone comes as American-led efforts to open a humanitarian corridor to the Gaza Strip faltered. Highlighting the security considerations facing the 80-year-old commander-in-chief, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken briefly took shelter Monday in Tel Aviv after sirens signaled a rocket attack.

The president’s decision to make such a high-stakes mission to the Middle East underscores the administration’s concerns about the crisis spiraling out of control. The threat of a war drawing in Iran and other Middle Eastern nations has quickly consumed Washington, and Biden has deployed two aircraft carrier strike groups to the Mediterranean to deter Tehran and proxy militant groups in Gaza and Lebanon from taking further action.

Biden’s trip on Wednesday follows days of shuttle diplomacy by Blinken and will come on the heels of a similar visit to Israel by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Tuesday. The American president will also travel to Jordan, where he’ll meet with Arab leaders including Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

“He’s coming here at a critical moment for Israel, for the region and for the world,” Blinken said early Tuesday in Tel Aviv, after seven and a half hours of meetings with Netanyahu to broker the trip. Blinken said that Israel had agreed to develop a plan alongside the U.S. “that will enable humanitarian aid from donor nations and multi-lateral organizations to reach civilians in Gaza” as

soon as possible. U.S. and Israeli leaders will also discuss creating civilian safe zones, as Israel prepares for an expected invasion of Gaza to “wipe out” the leadership of Hamas, which the U.S. and European Union have designated as a terrorist organization. More than 1,400 people were killed and 200 others kidnapped and held hostage in the incursion into southern Israel earlier this month, the deadliest such assault in decades.

Thousands of Palestinians have died as Israel blockades the territory and carries out air strikes on what it says are military targets in Gaza, prompting protests in cities around the world. Israel overnight bombarded targets in southern Gaza, an area where the government in Tel Aviv had previously advised residents to seek refuge.

The president is also facing increasing pressure at home to secure the U.S.’s position in the region after the administration appeared surprised by the Oct. 7 attack. The threat of a wider conflict in the Middle East has emboldened Republican critics of military funding for Ukraine, such as former President Donald Trump, ahead of U.S. elections next year.

Biden said he was traveling to “Israel to stand in solidarity in the face of Hamas’s brutal terrorist attack,” according to a post on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter. “I’ll then travel to Jordan to address dire humanitarian needs, meet with leaders, and make clear that Hamas does not stand for Palestinians’ right to self-determination,” he said.

Biden’s trip to Israel would be his second to an active war zone as president following a visit to Kyiv earlier this year to show his support for Ukraine as it seeks to repel Russia’s invasion. National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters Monday evening that the trip would last one day and that Biden would visit Tel Aviv during the Israeli portion.



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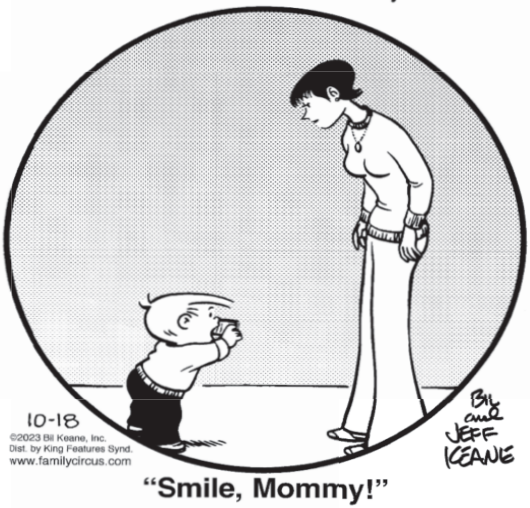
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South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 9 8 5 2
♥ A K 7
♦ K 7 3
♣ Q 6

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

EAST
♠ 6
♥ Q 8 5 3 2
♦ Q 5 4
♣ 7 5 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 3
♥ —
♦ A 10 9 8 6
♣ K 9 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ Pass 3♠ Pass
6♣

with the king or ace, declarer played low from dummy and ruffed in his hand. Had he not done this, he would have gone down one against proper defense.

South next played the A-K of trump followed by a low club toward dummy's Q-6, presenting West with a Hobson's choice. If he went up with the ace of clubs, South would later discard one of dummy's diamonds on the king of clubs and thus escape a diamond loser.

And if West did not go up with the ace of clubs, declarer would win with dummy's queen and discard his K-9 of clubs on the A-K of hearts. South would later lose a diamond trick, but no more.

Observe that if declarer incorrectly wins the opening heart lead in dummy, he places himself in a position where he must decide prematurely whether to discard a diamond or a club. Whichever he chooses, he will eventually go down one.

By delaying his discard until a more propitious moment, declarer can present West with a losing choice of plays at trick four, instead of subjecting himself to a losing choice of discards at trick one.

Tomorrow: Positive and negative signals.
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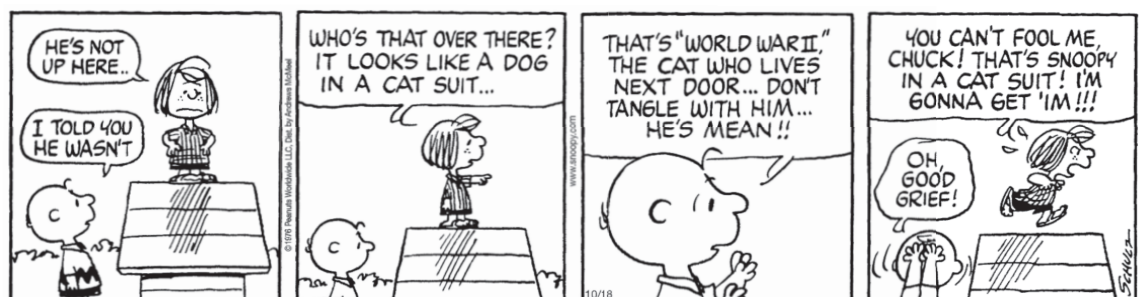
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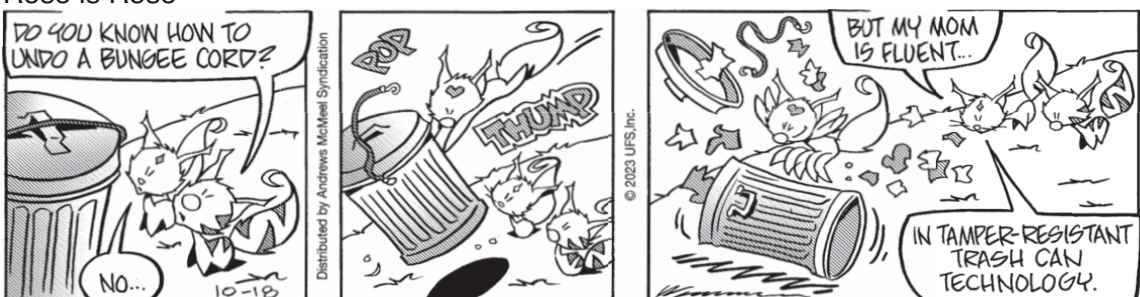
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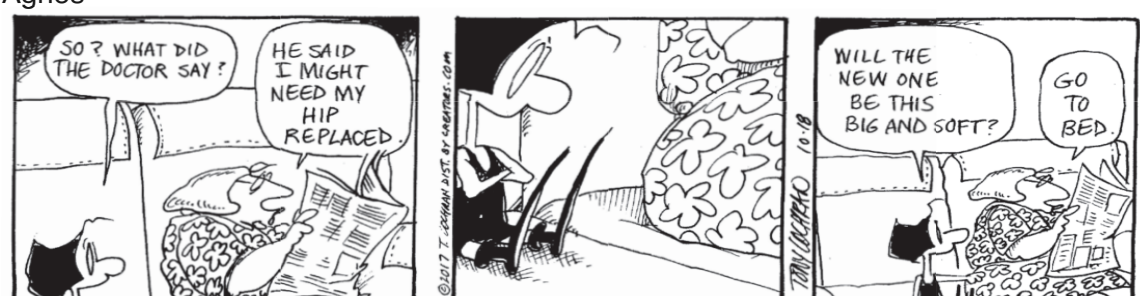
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



10-18 CRYPTOQUIP

XTEC XJKHM JSO LEHH E
YKSLT JR AKIOV-TJC IOIIOVA
YONSD LJJZOM NS E AZNHHOC?
E IENSRKH IESRKH.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WOMAN SEWING AMERICAN FLAGS FOR PEOPLE TO BUY ON A POPULAR CRAFTS WEBSITE: ETSY ROSS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals C

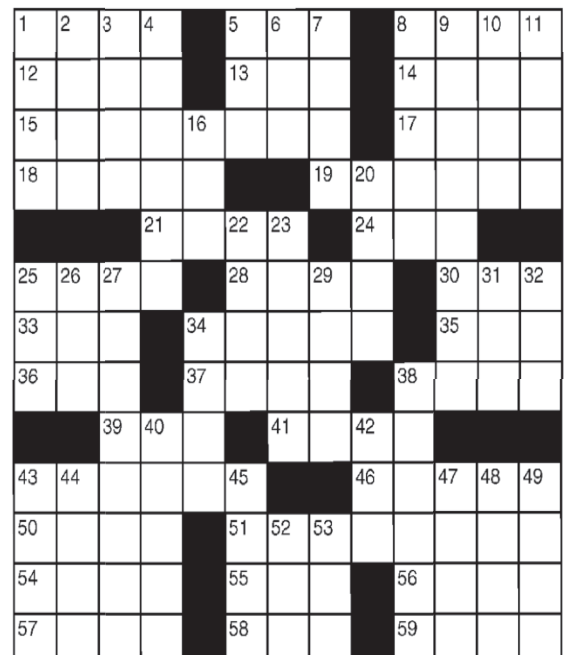
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Treaty
 - 5 — Jima
 - 8 Skirt feature
 - 12 Job-safety org.
 - 13 Part of DJIA
 - 14 Ritzy
 - 15 Resign
 - 17 Advocacy org.
 - 18 Photocopier need
 - 19 Added alcohol
 - 21 Stagger
 - 24 Connections
 - 25 Novelist Oz
 - 28 Stallion's mate
 - 30 Bit of ink
 - 33 "Lion" star Patel
 - 34 Marathon stats
 - 35 Conceit
 - 36 Flamenco cheer
 - 37 Slightly
 - 38 Lovers' quarrel
 - 39 "Mayberry —"
 - 41 Peregrinate
 - 43 Electric cars
 - 46 "The Lion King"
 - 50 Italian wine region
 - 51 Members of blended families
 - 54 "Got it"
 - 55 "Little piggie"
 - 56 Pesky insect
 - 57 Cuts off after fa
 - 58 Note
 - 59 "May It Be" singer
 - 2 Re-gardening
 - 3 Olympic skater Nathan
 - 4 Becomes narrower
 - 5 Altar affirmative
 - 6 Dazzle
 - 7 Has
 - 8 Iberian nation
 - 9 Rigid conformity
 - 10 Cruise stop
 - 11 Dull sound of impact
 - 16 Dad on "Black-ish"
 - 20 Bakery buys
 - 22 Send forth
 - 23 Truman's birthplace
 - 25 Ruckus
 - 26 Podcaster and motivational speaker
 - 27 Go too far
 - 29 Decorate anew
 - 31 Turkish title
 - 32 Youngster
 - 34 "There!"
 - 38 Wee bit
 - 40 Travels by jet
 - 42 Nile reptile
 - 43 Shadow
 - 44 Old U.S. gas brand
 - 45 Bygone fleet
 - 47 Educator Horace
 - 48 Party time, briefly
 - 49 Hammett pooch
 - 52 Overly
 - 53 Slithery fish

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 10-18



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Cowboys ...

Continued from page 8
The first time the defense took the field was at its own 42-yard line. Ekeler caught a 28-yard pass, setting up a 1-yard Justin Herbert touchdown pass to wide receiver Keenan Allen.

Little help from the offense followed. McCarthy ended the first half on a curious note.

The Cowboys ran their two-minute offense in hopes of breaking a 7-7 tie before the break. McCarthy had two timeouts at his disposal, able to use one then and a second after a potential shot to the end zone.

McCarthy thought otherwise, uncomfortable with the amount of time that remained. He allowed six seconds to expire before he called his second timeout. Kicker Brandon Aubrey converted a 32-yard field goal as time expired.

But the lack of fight carried into a third quarter Los Angeles dominated.

The Chargers ran 23 plays for 121 yards, the damage contained to three points in part because of a fourth-and-1 pass that cornerback DaRon Bland broke up in the end zone.

Meanwhile, the Cowboys achieved minus-3 yards on five plays.

On the first play of the fourth, Prescott found Pollard, who finished with 30 rushing yards on 15 carries, for a 60-yard catch-and-run. Six plays later, Pollard had a pickup in pass protection to help Prescott find Brandin Cooks for the first touchdown in Cooks' six-game team tenure.

The defense got a stop. But on the punt, Tolbert was blocked into returner KaVontae Turpin and apparently believed that a Cowboys player touched the football as it bounced across the field. Tolbert attempted to make a hustle play and fall on the ball, but it only became a live ball once Tolbert touched it without securing possession.

The Chargers recovered. Again, the Cowboys defense had a short field, this time at their own 20. Herbert threw a 1-yard touchdown four plays later.

A field-goal drive from the offense followed. It made three key conversions to set up Brandon Aubrey's 39-yard kick.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Maria Hammer -garn

Jay County High School sophomore Maria Hemmelgarn takes a big swing at the ball during the Patriots' loss to Frankton in the sectional semifinal on Saturday. Hemmelgarn recorded back-to-back kills to start the fourth set.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Fort Recovery — Volleyball sectional championship vs. Allen East at St. Henry — 7:15 p.m.

TV sports

Today
6 p.m. — College volleyball: Michigan at Michigan State (BTN)
7:30 p.m. — NHL: Pittsburgh Penguins at

Detroit Red Wings (TNT)
8 p.m. — College volleyball: Ohio State at Wisconsin (BTN)
8 p.m. — College volleyball: Texas at TCU (ESPN2)
9 p.m. — College football: New Mexico State at UTEP (ESPN2)

Thursday
5:07 p.m. — MLB playoffs: Philadelphia Phillies at Arizona Diamondbacks (TBS)

7 p.m. — College football: James Madison at Marshall (ESPN); Rice at Tulsa (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — NHL: Arizona Coyotes at St. Louis Blues (Bally Indiana)
8:03 p.m. — MLB playoffs: Houston Astros at Texas Rangers (FS1)
10:30 p.m. — NHL: Chicago Blackhawks at Colorado Avalanche (ESPN)

Turkey Trot sign-up open
Cooper Farms will be hosting its 16th annual Turkey Trot Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Cooper Farms Turkey Harvesting Plant in St. Henry, Ohio.
Participation costs \$15. All proceeds benefit EverHeart Hospice.
The race will begin at 10 a.m. There will be splits at each mile of the 3.1-mile course. There will also be chip timing for participants operated by Speedy Feet.

Water will be provided throughout the race, as well as a to-go turkey meal at the end.
You can register by visiting bit.ly/cooperfarmsturkeytrot, or registration will open at 9 a.m. at Cooper Farms on the day of the race.
.....
To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.com.

Local notes

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ATTENTION! LOST A PET Or found one? The Jay county humane society can serve as an information center. 260-726-6339

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PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one days incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mistakes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.

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90 SALE CALENDAR

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS AUCTION
Evening Optimists of Portland, Saturday, November 4th, 10:00am-?. Smitley's Auction House, 119 E Main, Portland. Door prizes every hour. Items in Auction: Miscellaneous, personal, household items, gift certificates and food items. All new! Proceeds to fund Optimist projects and Christmas families. Sandwiches, pies, drinks to purchase. Lacey Smitley will be the auctioneer. AU10600051

PUBLIC AUCTION MONDAY NOVEMBER 13TH, 2023 TIME 5:00 P.M.

LOCATED: 7259 W 200 N. Pennville, IN
REAL ESTATE
79 Acres in section 7 Greene Township, Jay County Indiana. To be offered in two tracts and entirety.
Tract 1: 16 acres with approximately 13 acres tillable, balance being road frontage on County Road 200 N and wooded. Tract 2: 63 acres practically all tillable with road frontage on County Road 150 N.
Tract 3: Combination of tract 1 and 2. For more information phone auctioneers.
OWNERS: Carl and Betty Stultz Estate
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL

90 SALE CALENDAR

ESTATE
AC31800004
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587
Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.

PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4 TH , 2023
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 1301 E Old SR 22, Hartford City, IN
Open House Sunday October 22 from 1-3pm or for private showing phone auctioneers
REAL ESTATE
37 +/- Acres in section 12 Licking Township, Blackford County. To be offered in two tracts and entirety. Tract 1: 3 acres with 3 bedroom, 2 bath home containing 3500 sq foot of finished living area.
Hot tub. Attached 24' x 45' garage. Tract 2: 34 +/- acres with approximately 15 acres tillable, balance being wooded with some sellable timber.

VEHICLES - TRACTOR - RTV - GOLF CART
2012 GMC 1500 Kodiak pickup truck, 2009 Saturn Sky redline turbo convertible, Ford 4000 gas tractor with 2400 GT hyd. loader, Craftsman GT 3000 23 HP mower 46" cut with snowblower.
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180 Small square bales Alfalfa. 100 bales mixed grass. 25 bales straw. Saddles and bridles.
GUNS - ANTIQUES - MISC

Remington model 41 22 cal. single shot. Thomson Center Scout 50 cal. muzzleloader. 5 gallon and 2 gallon crock jugs. Barn pulleys. Steamer trunk. Settee. 2 miniature porcelain dolls (over 150 years old). Porcelain Kewpie doll. 1956 Rempel doll. Copper horse.
LARGE AUCTION: SEVERAL ITEMS NOT MENTIONED
OWNERS: Roy and Dorothy Stewart.
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC31800004
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
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260-726-5587
Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.

PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY OCTOBER 21ST, 2023
TIME 10:00 A. M.
LOCATED: 3386 North US 27 Portland, IN
COLLECTOR CARS-VEHICLES-TRACTORS-TRAILERS
1929 Ford model A-older restoration, 1955 Ford F100 pickup-auto trans, 1971 Chevy Monte Carlo 350, 1972 Chevrolet El Camino, 1932 Ford Roadster project car-semi complete, 7,000 lb car trailer, Ford 1510 FWA tractor with turf tires, 9N Ford tractor. 7 foot grader blade.
MOTORCYCLES-RIDING MOWER-CUSHMAN-AUTO PARTS
2004 Vento Rebellion 250 motorcycle with 2500 miles, Cushman LP gas truckster, Cushman frame, Cub Cadet 1650 riding mower with snow blower, front blade, rototiller, and rear weights.
SHOP TOOLS
Tire changer- complete, Exhaust bender-complete, Weaver 2 column car hoist, Large engine lift. Engine stand, Lincoln 225 welder, Pneumatic air and body tools, Milwaukee weed eater/pole saw, Echo CS 310 chainsaw. **GUNS-ANTIQUES-MISC 20**
Gauge double barrel shotgun, 22 Cal & 410 ammo, 2 short pot belly stoves, Miniature gas pumps, Yamaha, Urban guitars.
LARGE AUCTION: SEVERAL ITEMS NOT MENTIONED
OWNER: JERRY VORE
ESTATE-TROY VORE REPRESENTATIVE SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC31800004
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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall, Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland, IN
Saturday Morning October 21st, 2023 9:30 A.M.
MODERN HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS
Frigidaire front load washer & dryer; Amana side by side refrigerator; Oak counter from Redkey Hardware store; Victorian Style settee and chair; Lazy Boy leather recliner; Smith Bros. 3 cushion sofa; Gene Stratton Porter books; oil cans; spice tins; crock churns; #2 crown water jug; cast iron stove; and many other items not listed.
MOWER - TOOLS
Simplicity zero turn mower; 2 wheel garden trailer; Dyna Glo 140,000 BTU heater; hay forks; 130 arc welder; barn door tracks; mechanic box; weed eaters; and other items not listed.
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Sports

Johnson celebrated

Longtime Browns Backer recognized for support given to club

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

Sports can be a unifying activity — not just for those on the field, but for those of us in the stands.

Some spectators like to casually consume sports. Others are more serious about their fandom.

Fanatics will often dive deep into their favorite team, going beyond just watching games in their free time.

With 124 professional sports teams between the big four sports — MLB, NBA, NFL and NHL — fans have a lot of options to choose from.

For Dave Johnson, it's the Cleveland Browns.

Earlier this month, Scott Stahl, the president of the Union City (Ohio) chapter of Browns Backers presented Johnson with a plaque celebrating his support for the team and the club over the years.

"We just wanted to honor (Johnson) as a dedicated member of our club," Stahl said. "He's worked real hard to get Browns fans to join the club and he has done an awesome job at that. He has even paid some of their dues for (other members). He's just a good Browns fan."

Johnson, a longtime Portland resident, has been a Browns fan since the late 1950s. He became a fan because of Pete Brewster, who lived across the street from Johnson growing up and played for

Cleveland from 1952-58.

Brewster was a part of Portland High School's "Three B's" along with John Bright and Dick Bond. The trio led the Panthers all the way to the semi-state championship game but fell to Muncie Central.

Johnson can still recall the game watching the game.

"They were up by a point," Johnson recalled. "Muncie Central ended up scoring with no time left on the clock to win the game."

Brewster graduated from Portland High School in 1948 and went on to play basketball and football at Purdue University. He was drafted with the 21st overall pick by the Chicago Cardinals in the 1952 draft before being immediately traded to the Browns. He played on both sides of the ball and was selected for Pro Bowl honors in 1955 and 1956.

After playing for the Browns, Brewster spent two seasons with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Ten years after his retirement, Brewster earned a Super Bowl ring as a member of the Kansas City Chiefs' coaching staff in Super Bowl IV. The former tight end has since been inducted into the Cleveland Browns legends program in 2022. The program honors former Browns who made noteworthy impacts to the history of the franchise.

The Union City chapter of the Browns Backers, of



Photo provided

Dave Johnson poses with a plaque given to him on Oct. 14 by Union City Browns Backers president Scott Stahl for Johnson's continuous support.

which Johnson is a longtime member, was founded in 1987. The group would often meet at Woodcrest Lanes in Union City and occasionally organize

trips to a home game each year with a banquet where players would speak to the group.

"Everybody says it's easy to stay home and

watch it on TV, but you've got to go to the stadium to watch the game," Johnson said. "There's stuff you just don't see on TV because the cameraman is

focused on the ball. You really miss a lot of stuff that's going on watching the game on TV."

Stahl wanted to celebrate Johnson for the efforts he's given over the years to help the club grow. Johnson talked to other sports fans about the club and the Browns, and often invited fans to come to meetings to see what membership would be like. He was also welcoming to fans of other teams when making the trip up to Cleveland for games as well.

Some of Johnson's work for the club was based around its charitable causes. He would try to get people involved in the club and to come to events like its preseason raffle that benefits a variety of different causes. In the past, Johnson has helped raise money that was donated to Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and The Journey Home veterans shelter in Winchester among others.

Johnson, who is currently suffering from prostate cancer, last took the trip to Cleveland in 2009 and has been forced to join meetings over the phone since 2011.

Despite dealing with cancer, Johnson has kept a positive attitude and has enjoyed his Browns whatever way he can.

"Here's my thing," Johnson said. "Life is one day at a time. Never give up."

Defense wins it for Cowboys

By MICHAEL GEHLKEN

The Dallas Morning News Tribune News Service

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Dante Fowler threw a right hook Monday at Austin Ekeler, ejecting the Los Angeles Chargers running back's helmet like a bagel from a toaster. He kept swinging, left hand, right hand, in a skirmish during which fellow Cowboys defensive linemen Sam Williams and Mazi Smith were also in the middle.

The defense showed fight before the game. It delivered the knockout to end it.

On consecutive snaps, Micah Parsons and Stephon Gilmore recorded the Cowboys' first sack and interception of the evening, respectively, allowing the team to escape a back-and-forth brawl at SoFi Stadium with a 20-17 win.

All night, the offense and special teams did the defense little favor, either keeping the unit on the field or giving it too short of one. Dallas survived to enter the bye week with a 4-2 record, one game back of

the Philadelphia Eagles for the NFC East lead.

"It was a bumpy game out there," coach Mike McCarthy said. "Twenty penalties called [11 on the Cowboys]. A lot of back and forth. A lot of resetting your jaw and just keep fighting. I thought our men did a really good job there."

The Cowboys' first five games in 2023 were decided by an average of 28.4 points. The margin in their first three wins was between 20 and 40 points, including two shutouts.

This result did not come easy.

Repeatedly, in a sloppy game the Cowboys polluted with several presnap penalties, their defense was put in a bad spot. While the defense was far from perfect, the group withstood the Chargers' barrage.

Dallas opened the game with a three-and-out. Jalen Brooks and Jalen Tolbert in punt coverage were unable to affect returner Derius Davis on a 26-yard gain, forcing punter Bryan Anger to make the tackle.

See Cowboys page 7

Harper homers help Phillies prevail

By SCOTT LAUBER

The Philadelphia Inquirer Tribune News Service

PHILADELPHIA — Bryce Harper hadn't played on his birthday before. So, after bashing the first pitch of his first at-bat, he thought of an appropriate way to mark turning 31.

Raise three fingers on one hand. Hold up one finger on the other.

Then, blow out the candles.

Harper didn't quite turn out the lights on the Diamondbacks with his first-inning blast. But as the Phillies claimed another homer-filled victory, 5-3 in Game 1 of the National League Championship Series, he did remind everyone of why they are heavy favorites to get back to the World Series.

Harper's smash came on only the fifth pitch of the game from Arizona starter Zac Gallen. Kyle Schwarber smoked Gallen's first pitch — 117.1 mph off the bat, in fact — for a leadoff homer, the fourth of his career, a major-league record.

Citizens Bank Park, packed with 45,396 paying customers, rocked — and that was before Jason Kelce chugged a beer on Phanavision, and Tim McGraw joined the Phanatic on the field, and Zack Wheeler set down 15 consecutive batters, and Nick Castellanos joined Reggie Jackson as the only players in history with five homers in a span of three postseason games.






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