

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Candy time

Eight-year-old Raylee Laxton, above, talks to a ghost (Alivia Rowles) during the Jay County Chamber of Commerce Merchants Trick or Treat on Tuesday. Rowles and her fellow Beauty Bar coworkers were set up outside the business' new location along Meridian Street. At right, 5-year-old Emerson Bost digs through a tub of candy while trick-or-treating along Meridian Street.



Harper gets 150 in prison

Man was found guilty of molesting daughter

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

One-hundred and fifty years.

That's how long an Indiana man was sentenced to prison for molesting his 4-year-old daughter.

Zachary T. Harper, 29, learned his fate during a hearing Tuesday in Jay Circuit Court. He was found guilty by trial in September of three Level 1 felony counts of child molestation, along with being a habitual offender. Harper was sentenced Tuesday to three consecutive 45-year sentences with a 15-year enhancement.

According to details presented in the case, Harper molested his daughter in March and April 2022. The girl was interviewed in September 2022 about the crime, with charges filed in court in March.

Jay County deputy prosecutor Zechariah Landers played a video — a one-minute clip from an interview with the girl — for Judge Brian Hutchison during the Tuesday hearing. As the girl's answers about the molestation were played, a woman in the crowd put her arm around the girl's mother, Alexys Abney.

A probable cause affidavit filed in connection with the case includes information from a forensic interview with the girl, who detailed how her father abused her.

Abney, mother of the now 6-year-old girl, testified Tuesday that her daughter has been having nightmares for a year and a half. She said her daughter refuses to sleep in her own room or lay by herself, and when she wakes up from a nightmare, she doesn't want to be hugged or comforted with physical touch. Abney noted her daughter is going to counseling now.

"It's been hard," said Abney. "We're getting through it. We're trying."

Landers pointed to Harper's criminal history, which includes two felony convictions and a misdemeanor conviction on charges for auto theft, burglary and resisting law enforcement.

He also referenced the trauma Harper has inflicted on his daughter and referenced child molesters in general.

"These are innocent, little children that they're taking advantage of," said Landers.

He noted Harper also threatened his daughter to not tell anyone about the crime.

Landers recommended 45-year sentences for each count to be served consecutively as well as a 20-year habitual offender enhancement.

"This is exactly why we have the Department of Correction, for cases like this," he said.

See 150 page 2

Untreated illness costs billions

By CASEY SMITH

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Untreated mental illness in the Hoosier state comes at a cost of more than \$4 billion a year, according to a new Indiana University study.

The research published by the IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health found that one in five Indiana residents with mental illness do not receive the treatment they

need. Hoosiers who do not receive such treatment are also more likely to experience other chronic health conditions, such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, researchers said.

The economic burden of untreated mental illness in Indiana is estimated to be \$4.2 billion annually, including \$3.3 billion in indirect costs — like unemployment and caregiving — \$708.5 million in

direct health care costs, and \$185.4 million in non-health care costs.

The largest cost attributable to untreated mental illness was premature mortality, at over \$1.4 billion. Productivity losses were estimated to cost \$885 million each year.

"These costs represent a significant public health and financial challenge for our state," said Heather Taylor, lead author on the study and

assistant professor at the Fairbanks School, in a news release. "When you measure this across the state, every year there is a loss of over \$600 for every person, or nearly \$1,600 per family. Untreated mental illness is a hugely consequential cost for Hoosiers."

The findings were published Oct. 13 in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Researchers worked

with the Indiana Behavioral Health Commission to perform their analysis. The research was used in support of Senate Enrolled Act 1, which passed during the 2023 legislative session.

The sweeping legislation will create a new mental health care system in Indiana, fortifying the relatively new 988 crisis response center and hotline with funding for mental health emergencies.

Ronald is Working Woman of the Year

By BAILEY CLINE

The Graphic Printing Company

She's the working woman of the year.

Louise Ronald, president of The Graphic Printing Company, was named Working Woman of the Year on Oct. 23 at the Winchester chapter of Business and Professional Women's 100th anniversary celebration.

Ronald took over as president of the company after her brother and former president Jack Ronald died a year and a half ago.

She admitted this past year has been one of the busiest times of her life, recalling her words that drew a laugh from the crowd when she accepted the award Oct. 23.

"If there's any year in my life where I deserved this title, this is the year," she said.

Bonnie Mayfield, treasurer for the Winchester chapter of Business and Professional Women and 1994 winner of the Working Woman of the Year award, explained that the accolade is given

BPW chapter recognizes Graphic president

annually to a woman who has grown in the field.

"We try to give the award each year to a woman that has grown as a business and professional woman, somebody that has strength of character, confidence and determination," said Mayfield. "We always try to honor somebody that we feel has went beyond the scope of whatever their job is, and it's just a good example of what a working woman should be."

See Ronald page 2



The Graphic Printing Company/Bailey Cline

Louise Ronald was recently named Working Woman of the Year by the Winchester chapter of Business and Professional Women. Pictured above, the Graphic Printing Company president stands in front of the printing press at the company's headquarters in Portland.

Deaths

William Osborne, 90, Portland

Robert Kunkle, 95, rural Portland

Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 39 degrees on Halloween. The low was 27 and there was a trace of snow.

Tonight's low will be in the lower 30s with winds gusting to 30 miles per hour. Expect windy conditions Friday with partly cloudy skies and a high in the mid 50s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Staff from U.S. Sen. Mike Braun's office will hold mobile office hours from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland. Those who would like to speak with Braun's staff are asked to RSVP by emailing Jerry Alexander at Jerry_Alexander@braun.senate.gov.

Coming up

Friday — Coverage of the social media seminar held this week at JCHS.

Saturday — Results from the JCHS girls wrestling team's season opener.



Obituaries

Pat Osborne

May 7, 1933-Oct. 30, 2023
William "Pat" Osborne, 90, Portland, a former Pennville resident, died Monday at Persimmon Ridge in Portland.
Arrangements are pending at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

Robert Kunkle

Sept. 10, 1928-Oct. 31, 2023
Robert "Bob" Kunkle, age 95, a resident of rural Portland, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 31,

2023, at The Gardens of St. Henry in Ohio.
Bob was born on Sept. 10, 1928, in Madison Township, Jay County, the son of Merle and Hazel (Greaf) Kunkle. He graduated from Madison Township School in 1946 and was a lifelong farmer in Noble Township and retired from Union City Body Company. He was a member of Salamonina Christian Church and



Kunkle

West Walnut Church of Christ in Portland. He served on the Salamonina Cemetery Board and the committee to restore the Salamonina School House into the Salamonina Community Building.
Bob married Inez Matchett on Nov. 27, 1948, and she passed away on July 31, 2011.
Survivors include:
His children — Dick Kunkle (wife: Frankie), Portland, Indiana, and Jeff Kunkle (wife Rosie), Portland, Indiana
Five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren

He was preceded in death by a great-grandchild, Emerson Kunkle.
Visitation will be held on Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. on Saturday at the funeral home. Pastors Bruce Phillips and Gil Alicea will officiate the service. Burial will follow at Salamonina Cemetery in Salamonina, Indiana.
Memorials may be directed towards EverHeart Hospice or

West Walnut Street Church of Christ.
Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.
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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

Friday 11/3	Saturday 11/4	Sunday 11/5	Monday 11/6	Tuesday 11/7
55/43	60/44	60/48	62/42	51/36
Another day of mostly cloudy skies is in the forecast for Friday. Temperatures may be in the mid 50s.	Mostly cloudy skies expected on Saturday. There's also a slight chance of rain late.	More rain is possible Sunday, when the high won't surpass 60 degrees.	Monday has a 50% chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with temperatures climbing to the 60s.	More rain is in the forecast for Tuesday, when the high will dip back to the low 50s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$152 million	Evening Daily Three: 0-2-1 Daily Four: 5-0-6-9 Quick Draw: 1-3-4-5-7-8-11-12-13-14-16-26-28-37-39-42-45-54-60-76
Mega Millions 14-35-37-55-70 Mega Ball: 15 Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$181 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 2-7-0 Pick 4: 1-2-5-8 Pick 5: 5-6-2-2-2 Evening Pick 3: 0-0-8 Pick 4: 8-5-7-2 Pick 5: 7-8-7-0-8 Rolling Cash: 14-19-20-26-27
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 8-9-0 Daily Four: 3-2-2-7 Quick Draw: 1-4-9-16-17-20-23-26-32-34-41-42-45-48-49-50-54-57-62-71	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.65 Late Nov. corn4.65 Wheat5.50	Dec. beans12.89 Wheat 5.22
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.65 Dec. corn.....4.70 Jan. corn.....4.84	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.50 Late Nov. corn4.52 Beans12.61 Dec. beans12.88 Wheat5.22
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.50 Dec. corn.....4.60 Beans12.49	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.30 Dec. corn.....4.40 Beans12.44 Dec. beans12.64 Jan. wheat.....5.35

Today in history

In 1862, First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln sent a letter to her husband, President Abraham Lincoln, advising him about pushback regarding the cautious nature of Gen. George B. McClellan. The general was removed from his command three days later.
In 1889, North Dakota and South Dakota became the 39th and 40th states. Previously the Dakota Territory, the area was split into the north and south sections that became states by Congress on Feb. 22, 1889.
In 1963, Ngo Dinh Diem, president of South Vietnam, was killed in a coup led by Gen. Duong Van Minh. Diem had been criticized for nepotism and there had been Buddhist protests against religious discrimination.
In 1964, King Faisal of Saudi Arabia took over after his brother, King Saud, was deposed. Following his father on the throne, Saud had served as king for 11 years but was losing support in times of economic hardship.
In 1972, a Blackford County Circuit Court jury convicted Dr. Richard L. Stump, operator of the Redkey Clinic, on a charge of illegal possession of narcotics. Stump faced two to 10 years in prison. He also had other charges still pending.
In 1976, Jimmy Carter was elected as the 39th president of the United States. Carter, a Democrat, would lose his re-election bid to Ronald Reagan four years later but has become revered for his humanitarian work post-presidency.
In 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill that designated the third Monday of January as a national holiday in memory of Martin Luther King Jr.
In 2021, Portland Park Board members Brian Ison and Shauna Runkle reviewed a draft of the city's five-year park plan. They were unable to vote as they were the only board members in attendance, leaving them one member short of a quorum.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Thursday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, City Council, council mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.	Monday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
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Ronald ...

Continued from page 1
Louise Ronald started her first job at 14 years old with her family's Portland newspaper, The Commercial Review. She served in a few different roles, including as a file clerk, and put together a daily column, "Looking Backward," which summarized events from the past in a few sentences.

Throughout her life, Ronald pursued a variety of different career paths. She received a history degree with a specialty in East Asia from Earlham College in Richmond and a master's degree in ancient civilizations from the University of Iowa.

Among other roles, Ronald worked at the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago for about three years and spent about 15 years overall in Tokyo, serving about eight years as an English teacher at Friends Girls School. She also worked for the Whitney Center of Richmond for about three years.

"I didn't really think I would go into the newspaper business," admitted Ronald.

But starting in 2000, she joined the staff at the Palladium-Item in Richmond. Ronald started as a part-time writer for "news services," rewriting submitted material to the newspaper. She later switched to a full-time role as an obituary writer and, when the role opened, a night-time copy editor. She enjoyed designing and proofing pages daily.

She later took a reporting job, working as a business reporter for two and a half years and an education reporter for another two and a half years before she retired in 2015.

150 ...

Continued from page 1
Harper's defense attorney, Eric Orr, said he had no mitigating factors to present. Still, he asked for the sentences to be served concurrently, with a 6-year habitual offender enhancement.

Hutchison noted the aggravating factors but said what bothered him most was that Harper's victim was his own daughter.

The acts he committed, Hutchison said, were "disturbing to me, but I'm sure they were also very painful to her."

He added that children who have been molested can grow up to have disorders or other issues in their adulthood.

"The damage to her is significant," he said, noting he didn't see any mitigating factors in the case.

He adopted the state's recommendation with the caveat of a 15-year enhancement instead of 20 years. Hutchison walked Harper through the rest of the details, specifically his court fees and rights to

petition the court in the future "if you can perform a miracle in prison," he said.

"I suggest you wait until I'm no longer on the bench, though," he added.

SERVICES

Today

Hamner, Ralph: 11 a.m., Bruning Hope Baptist Church, 331 E Pegoda Road, Trinity, Texas.

Fields, William: 3 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Saturday

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

Service listings provided by

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Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

Holidays become less fun with the in-laws

DEAR ABBY: My daughter's in-laws have no place to go on holidays. They have two children, but haven't spoken to one of them in several years, so my son-in-law is their only family close by.

I enjoy entertaining and having family over, but I really don't care for their company. It's a different vibe when they're here because her father-in-law, "Sam," and my husband drink too much and talk politics (both activities I avoid). They know how I feel, but make comments behind my back, thinking I don't hear them.

My husband loves their company and goes out often with my son-in-law and Sam. My daughter understands how I feel. She doesn't like to cook or entertain, but will host a holiday once in a while. However, it doesn't solve the problem, because I end up doing a lot of the work and I miss not entertaining in my own home. Please advise. — CATCH-22 IN NEW YORK

DEAR CATCH-22: I'm not sure why you feel it's your

Dear Abby



responsibility to entertain your daughter's in-laws on every holiday. Discuss this with your husband (when he's sober) and tell him you don't like it when he and Sam get drunk, talk politics and make snide remarks behind your back. Inform him he should be more respectful, or the in-laws won't be invited to your home for the holidays anymore.

Nowhere in your letter did you mention your daughter's MOTHER-in-law. Do you have anything in common with her? If so, spend most of your time with her and your daughter or, once the meal has been served, ask them if they'd like to go out to a

movie, get some exercise, etc. That way you won't be forced to stick around when the "boys" over imbibe and indulge themselves in their favorite subject.

DEAR ABBY: Recently, my current husband went on a fishing trip with my brother. My brother was drinking and confided to him that my ex-husband cheated on me. My brother was present when it happened. I was shocked, to say the least. I felt so betrayed by both. I can't believe my brother would keep this secret from me, but my ex-husband has some dirt on my brother as well.

I sent my brother a text telling him how upset I am about his having kept that secret from me. Had I known the truth, it could have changed my life in so many ways. He wants to talk about it with me, but I'm not interested in doing that right now. I don't know if I can get past this. Can you advise if I'm doing the right thing? — BETRAYED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR BETRAYED: I understand why you are furious. And it might be better if you don't discuss this with your brother until you have had a chance to cool down. While it's logical that you might not be able to trust your brother again, I do think that at some point, you should hear him out. Once you have done that, you will be in a better position to decide whether you want to have a relationship.

DEAR ABBY: My sister, who is quite a bit older than me, was married to a man for more than 20 years. He was a part of my family from the time I was 3. When I was a teenager, he made a "move" on me, which was disgusting because I trusted him. My family swept it under the rug and downplays it to this day. If that wasn't enough, I twice caught him cheating on my sister. They eventually divorced.

As an adult, I want nothing to do with him. However, my sister and mother insist on him being involved in our important gath-

erings. I feel they completely disregard my feelings, and I have since removed myself from those gatherings. I feel cheated, but they say it's "necessary" for him to be around their shared children, and they keep trying to make me feel like I am being unreasonable. Am I? — LITTLE SISTER IN TENNESSEE

DEAR SISTER: You are not unreasonable; you are pragmatic. You come from a family that prefers to ignore misbehavior rather than confront and deal with it. I don't know if you have had psychotherapy, but from what you have written you might have — and with a very competent therapist.

Enforcing boundaries is not unreasonable. While your sister and mother may prefer hiding their heads in the sand "for the sake of the children," who by now should be pretty close to adulthood, you have every right to keep your distance. From my perspective, what you are doing is healthy.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Friday

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.

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

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will meet at noon Friday, Nov. 3, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

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.

ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.

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.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

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

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon

each Monday at Jay Community Center.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

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.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian 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.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday of each

month at Richards Restaurant.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland.

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

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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

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- The News and Sun — **\$210**

Ads must run in November
Rates do not apply to The CR's Nov. 22 Thanksgiving edition.

Call (260) 726-8141 or email ads@thecr.com



Eisenhower is worthy namesake

The Kansas City Star
Tribune News Service

As a general, Dwight D. Eisenhower led Allied troops to victory over Adolf Hitler's racist and genocidal regime.

As president, he enforced the Supreme Court's order to desegregate U.S. schools by ordering troops to Arkansas to protect Black students enrolled in Little Rock's formerly all-white Central High School.

And now, more than 50 years after his death, Kansas' favorite son has won an additional victory against white supremacy. On Friday, the U.S. Army completed the process of rebranding its bases that had previously been

Guest Editorial

named for Confederate generals. Fort Gordon in Georgia received a new — and much more honorable — name: Fort Eisenhower.

"He's absolutely the right namesake," Army Maj. Gen. Paul Stanton, the fort's commander, told the military newspaper Stars and Stripes.

We agree, and not just because

we're admirers of Eisenhower's accomplishments. The fort was previously named for Confederate Gen. John Brown Gordon, who led troops in a failed rebellion against the United States — a slave owner who after the Civil War was reputedly the head of the Ku Klux Klan in Georgia.

That made him a traitor twice over to America and its ideals. Gordon's name never deserved to adorn a U.S. military base.

Last week's long-overdue rebranding came as a result of the work by the Naming Commission created in 2020 by Congress. After the widespread protests over George Floyd's death, it was clear to many

Democrats and Republicans that honoring former Confederate generals — who fought a war to preserve slavery — was utterly inappropriate. (Not everybody agreed: Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley vocally opposed the renaming effort, though he did eventually vote for the Pentagon funding bill that included the measure.)

Eight other Army bases have been renamed. So have two Navy ships, as well as hundreds of buildings and roads at U.S. bases.

We are especially pleased to see Eisenhower honored with the fort's new name. Abilene, Kansas' most famous resident

served his country and the world with tremendous distinction in the fight against fascism and authoritarianism. And — unlike Gordon — he did so in winning fashion.

"We're transitioning from arguably a failed leader (as a namesake) to the visionary world leader who resonated with all of the soldiers that he led on a world stage," Stanton said Friday.

That's a much better, more inspirational example for our troops to follow.

The renaming of a fort might not seem like much in the ongoing fight against racism in America. But it's a start. Dwight Eisenhower has made us proud again.

Shootings are not natural disasters

By PETER HANINK
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

America witnessed yet another mass shooting on Oct. 25, this time in the small city of Lewiston, Maine.

While people were shocked by the scale and location of the shooting — with 18 people slain in a state with one the country's lowest homicide rates — no one was shocked that it occurred. Hearing how resigned commentators and politicians have become about yet another mass shooting emphasized something I've been thinking for a while: We've started treating mass shootings like natural disasters.

As a native Californian, I'm familiar with this approach. We grow up thinking of earthquakes as just a fact of life, destructive but unavoidable. Don't get me wrong, we take earthquakes seriously, but since there's nothing we can do to prevent them, we focus on preparing for them. We strengthen our homes, stock supplies in our earthquake kits and teach our kids to "duck and cover."

As mass shootings have increased in frequency and severity, we seem to have adopted a similar mindset. We can't prevent them; we can only prepare for them. After the 1999 shooting at Columbine High School — the event that ushered in the modern era of mass shootings — we have mostly responded by treating mass shootings like earthquakes.

We strengthened our schools by stationing resource officers on campus and installing better locks and stronger doors. Inspired by the refrain that "the only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun," politicians and pundits concluded that we should expand concealed-carry licenses and arm teachers. We installed more cameras and metal detectors. We required students to bring clear plastic backpacks. We started conducting active shooter drills at our elementary schools, which replaced "duck and cover" with "run, hide, fight." We turned our schools into fortresses and our children into watchers on the wall.

And still mass shootings keep happening and we resign ourselves to the conclusion that we can only prepare for them. It makes sense. At some point, the earth is going to quake, the tornado is going to touch down, the hurricane is going to make landfall, so it's foolish to pretend it's

Peter Hanink



not going to happen and it's smart to prepare for the worst.

But are mass shootings really like natural disasters?

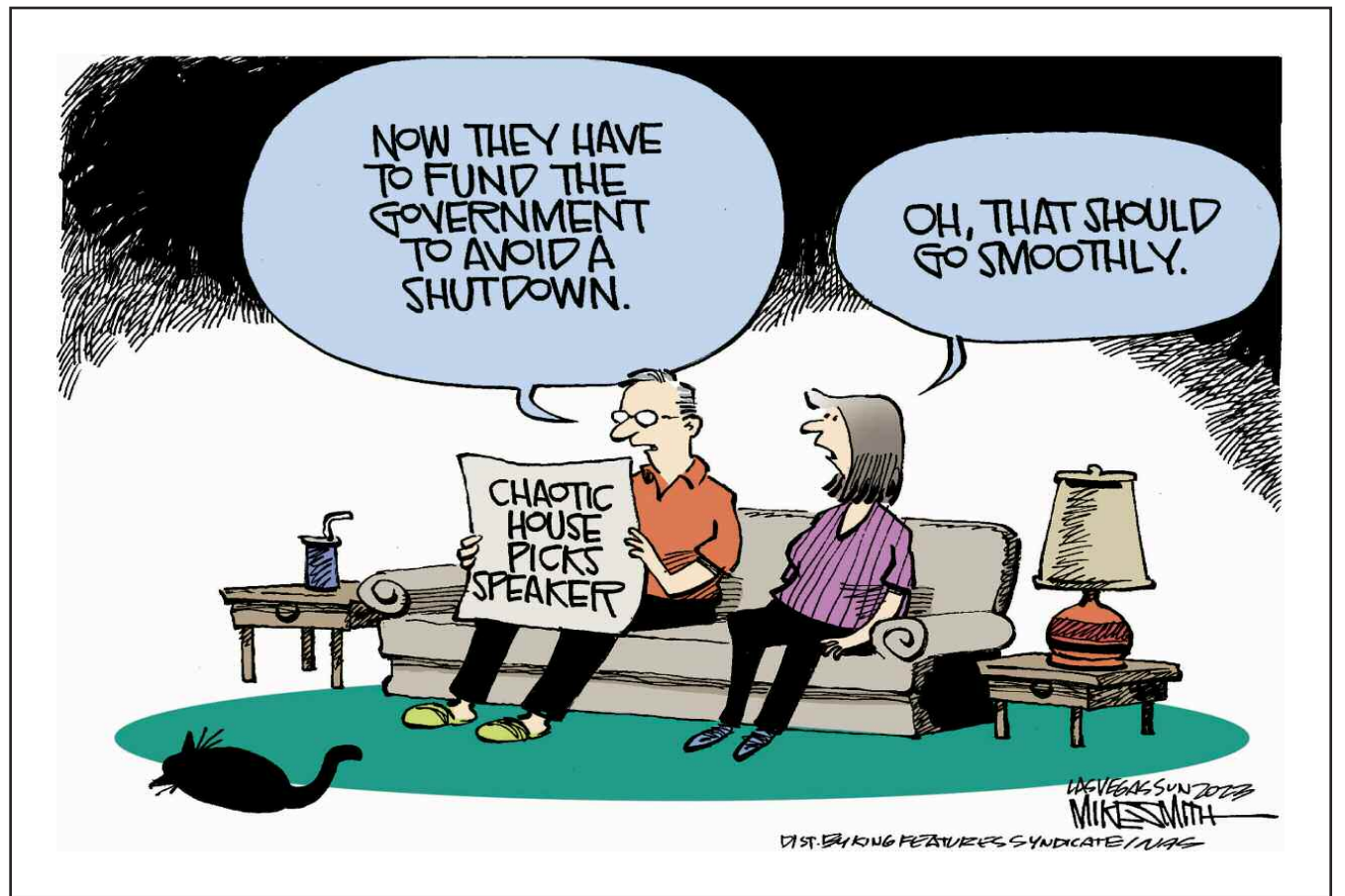
A better way to think about them, really, is like fires. Of course, we take fires seriously and do a lot to prepare for them to reduce the damage they cause. We install smoke detectors and fire extinguishers, we hire firefighters and pay them to be on call, round the clock. We install fire doors, conduct fire drills and label evacuation routes. We require space between single family homes to limit the chance that fire could spread from one building to the next. We require folks in fire-prone areas to "harden their homes" by creating "defensible space" and clearing out dead brush.

But we don't stop there. We focus as well on fire prevention. Local governments establish building codes regulating everything from construction materials and building techniques to wiring standards. Even consumer goods from refrigerators to robot vacuums are inspected to make sure that they don't pose fire hazards.

Focusing on prevention doesn't stop us from preparing for disasters, it just makes them less likely. We can and should do the same for mass shootings. Common sense and widely supported reforms such as instituting background checks and red flag lists for people with histories of violence; eliminating loopholes that allow for unregulated firearms sales at gun shows; reducing magazine capacity; restricting "ghost guns"; and banning the general sale of military-style rifles, such as the AR-15, will make it harder for "bad guys" to get guns and will prevent hundreds, if not thousands, of deaths every year.

If it were enough to simply have more good guys with guns, the fact that there are more guns than people in the U.S. should have reduced the number of mass shootings. Instead, we have more than ever. We must do better.

Hanink is a criminology professor at Cal Poly Pomona.



U.S. should follow Europe's lead

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

Most Republicans and Democrats can agree that Big Tech needs reining in. But given the gridlock in Congress, even popular legislative initiatives are going nowhere these days, including measures that would update the law to address fast-moving social media companies such as Meta. Unlike Europe, which is adopting holistic, modern laws, the U.S. is stuck with dysfunctional legislation-by-lawsuit.

In the latest example, dozens of state attorneys general, including Illinois' Kwame Raoul, have targeted Meta for supposedly violating consumer protection laws by pushing "addictive" products on youngsters.

The bipartisan group of lawyers behind this litigation have compared it to the landmark Big Tobacco cases, except the "addictive" products in this case are Meta's Facebook and Instagram.

"Meta has harnessed powerful and unprecedented technologies to entice, engage and ultimately ensnare youth and teens," the lawsuit thunders.

But wasn't that true of television networks a few decades ago? Plenty of baby boomers who spent Saturday mornings staring at the telly can confirm that those commercials sold a lot of Cap'n Crunch and Froot Loops, dental decay be damned.

Worse yet — from the attorneys general point of view, that is — Meta's "motive is profit," and the company is "seeking to maximize its financial gains." As Colorado AG Phil Weiser put it, "Just like Big Tobacco and vaping companies have done in years past, Meta chose to maximize its profit at the expense of public health."

The lawsuit's core allegation is that Meta misled the public about the alleged dangers of its social media platforms, and concealed how these platforms get several billion people around the world to spend a lot of time using them. The familiar "likes," "alerts" and "infinite scrolls" that keep youngsters and others glued to their phones are described in the lawsuit as if they're

Guest Editorial

smoking guns that the AGs have just discovered and dramatically flourished to shocked jurors, Hollywood-style.

Some allegations in the lawsuit sound like legitimate issues to us, including the charge that Meta routinely collects data on children under 13 without their parents' consent, which would violate federal law. But our nonsense-detector alarm goes off when New York AG Letitia James overstates, "Kids and teenagers are suffering from record levels of poor mental health and social media companies like Meta are to blame."

James' broadside has its roots in the emergence of Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen, who came forward in 2021 with internal documents supposedly showing that Meta knew its products could have a negative impact on the mental health of youngsters, especially girls. But it's a long way from that assertion to blaming Meta for the declining state of mental health in America.

Even if there is a link between social media use and mental distress, it's unclear that one leads to the other. Studies have not established an increased risk for mental illnesses such as bipolar disorder for social media users, and some therapists believe youngsters turn to social media to help them cope with broader societal stresses.

Would tossing young people off social media altogether necessarily be positive for their well-being? Still hard to say.

Further, the term "social media" covers a lot of ground. Facebook and Instagram are one thing, LinkedIn quite another, Reddit and Pinterest quite another still. One of the ironies of the lawsuit is that it's brought by a group of aging adults supposedly intent on protecting kids and it focuses on Facebook, which is the most

studied platform but one that many kids don't use.

Meta, for its part, said it's committed to youth safety online, and has rolled out up-to-date tools to help protect users. "We're disappointed that instead of working productively with companies across the industry to create clear, age-appropriate standards for the many apps teens use, the attorneys general have chosen this path," Meta said in a statement.

What's most disappointing is that while America's AGs are grandstanding, and regulators such as the Federal Trade Commission tinker with new ways to restrict how Meta can operate, the European Union has made real progress in broadly protecting consumers. Those going online in the EU get asked up front for their consent to data gathering and other practices they might reasonably object to. Not so here.

And rest assured that if you think Meta's current platforms are "addictive," you ain't seen nothing yet. Artificial Intelligence is coming fast, bringing with it digital systems with longer memories and greater personalization, among other astonishing capabilities.

Again, Europe is closing in on laws that would help protect society from bad actors using AI. Again, not so here.

Try not to laugh out loud at the thought, but our dysfunctional Congress needs to get cracking to create standard rules for the internet.

Even Meta boss Mark Zuckerberg said he thinks so, not long after the embarrassing whistleblower disclosures raised doubts about the trade-offs his company was making in balancing profits and growth with social imperatives. "We're committed to doing the best work we can," Zuckerberg wrote in a note to employees, "but at some level the right body to assess trade-offs between social equities is our democratically elected Congress."

Yes, the same crowd that just went through weeks of messy infighting to pick a new House speaker needs to pull its act together — and fast — before this genie is so far out of the bottle there's no putting it back.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A little bit of knowledge

North dealer. North-South: vulnerable. NORTH A Q 10 5 3 ... WEST A Q 10 9 7 6 3 ... EAST 9 8 2 ... SOUTH K J 6 4 ...

The bidding: North 1♣ Pass 5♣ Pass ... The bidding on this hand was certainly out of the ordinary. North's opening club bid and South's spade response were both normal, but at his next turn, North was faced with an unusual problem.

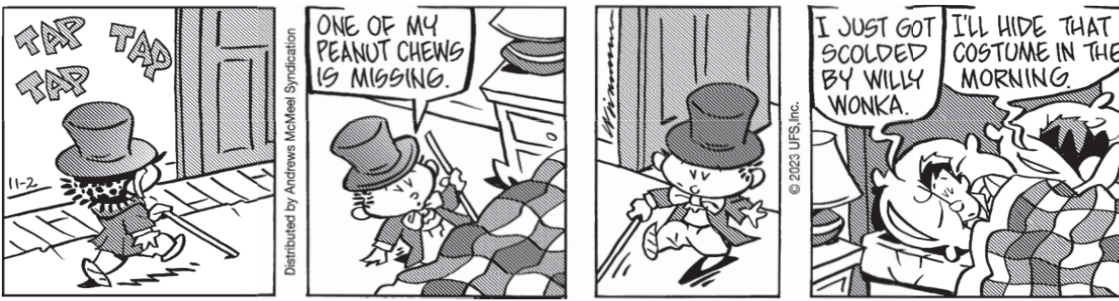
He had only 12 high-card points, but — considering his 7-5-1-0 distribution and South's tantalizing spade response — a small or grand slam loomed as distinct possibilities.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz. ©2023 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

BRV FVISCFTVECQ YADXRBMGI EDXRBDAX MDBR GASQJ, JCQQ IGLVF, ESF QGTYSE G LVBBVF IMSFJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AS THE GUY REPORTED ON THE CHURCH SERVICE HE HAD BEEN TO, HE GAVE A PRAY-BY-PRAY DESCRIPTION. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Carrots' mates 5 NASCAR advertiser 8 Herring's kin 12 Ticklish Muppet 13 Luau bowlful 14 Carton sealer 15 Actor Hems-worth 16 LBJ's successor 17 Checks out 18 Japanese mat 20 High cards 22 Gilbert & Sullivan offering 26 Barbecue site 29 Author Fleming 30 Long time 31 Water, to Juan 32 Connections 33 Tennis score 34 Saw-buck 35 "Life of Pi" director Lee 36 Super-market section 37 Led Zep-pelin's genre 40 "— Lisa" 41 Holiday Inn rival 45 Yuletide tune 47 Eastern "way" 49 Redact 50 Piece of hardware 51 Flight angle 52 iPod type 53 Barracks beds 54 Pitcher Maglie 55 Fed. agents 21 Record holder? 23 Door piece 24 Stir up 25 Green Gables girl 26 Walk-way 27 Screen-writer James 28 Cheese-topped diner order 32 Prisoners concern 33 Clinic 35 Writer Rand 36 Small battery 38 Battery measures 39 Blogger's bane 42 Cain's dad 43 Eat in style 44 Like — of bricks 45 "The Wall" network 46 Tic-tac-toe win 48 Carte lead-in

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 11-2

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-55 and some filled-in letters.

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Seniors' swan song

FRHS runners will use state appearance as final celebration for four seniors

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

Christy Diller knew if her team executed that it would find itself at the state meet.

The Indians came through at the regional meet with some starting to peak at the right times.

Now they are riding a high as they attempt to put together their best performance.

The Fort Recovery High School girls cross country team and Trevor Heitkamp are full of energy as they get ready to run at the OHSAA Division III state meet at Fortress Obetz on Saturday. The team will look to try and crack the top-10 while Heitmap and Natalie Brunswick are looking to make the All-Ohio teams, but ultimately, the Indians are looking to enjoy the fruits of their labor and the seniors want to use this opportunity as a celebration of their careers.

"Our main priority is to celebrate the hard work of the season," Diller said. "The best way to end the season is at state, and we have been extremely lucky to do that the last couple of years. So, we just want to go and celebrate these kids and have a good time."

This will be Heitkamp's third straight appearance at the state meet. In 2021 he came in 76th and improved to 35th in 2022.

The senior has set two goals for himself. The first goal is to make the All-Ohio team, which includes the top 30 finishers. The second goal is a lot more lofty.

Heitkamp wants to run a time in the 16 minute to upper-15 minute range to make a push for the top-10. His current school record is a 15 minutes, 53 seconds that he set at the Troy Twilight meet on Sept. 19. That time would have earned a third-place finish at the state meet last year.

"Obviously, it's my last cross country race I'm running for Fort Recovery, so I want it to be a good one," Heitkamp said. "But I also understand it's a championship setting. Sometimes how these races go is it's not about time, it's about place."

"People will go out really fast. So you get boxed in stuff like that time can't always come, but ideally I'd be around that school record range. I've been dreaming of a 15:30. We'll see if that happens."

See **Song** page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jenna Hart, a senior at Fort Recovery High School, comes out of the final stretch in the woods during the district meet at Columbus Grove on Oct. 21. Hart will get the opportunity to compete at state for the fourth time and is planning on leaving everything out on the course.

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