

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Together at The 615

Jay County High School graduates Nathan Klatt and Eric Maitlen, who were among the original members of the band My Yellow Rickshaw, performed as a duo Sunday evening at The 615, a music venue created in 2020 by Tim and Cindy Morris at 615 N. Williams St. in Portland.

Redkey, Dunkirk, Portland receive grants

Community Crossings funding will pay for street paving

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review
Three Jay County communities will receive funding for paving projects.

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb and Indiana Department of Transportation on Friday announced more than \$91 million in funding through the Community Crossings grant program, including more than \$130,000 each for Redkey, Portland and Dunkirk.

"Community Crossings continues to provide opportunities for Indiana local communities, large and small, to make connectivity and safety road improvements for Hoosier families and our visitors," Holcomb said in a press release. "The importance of this matching grant program is immediately obvious as we take our award-winning statewide infrastructure network to the next level."

Redkey received the largest funding amount in Jay County with a grant of \$163,686.75. (The funding requires a 25% local match, putting Redkey's commitment at about \$55,000.)

The City of Portland received a \$153,164.10 Community Crossings grant, which will require a local match of about \$51,000.

INDOT awarded Dunkirk \$132,093.75, which will require a match of about \$44,000.

See Grants page 2

Toll reportedly passes 10,000

By OMAR TAMO
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

More than 10,000 people have been killed in Gaza since the Israel-Hamas war erupted just under a month ago, according to the Hamas-run health ministry in the besieged territory.

Since Israel began airstrikes on Oct. 7, more than 4,100 children have died and over 25,000 have been wounded, the health ministry said on Monday.

Israel has regularly disputed the figures, which can't be independently ver-

Israel has disputed figures from Hamas-run health ministry

ified, and said they're exaggerated.

The bombardment began after militants from Hamas, designated a terrorist group by the U.S. and European Union, swarmed southern Israel and killed

around 1,400 people, according to Israeli officials. Many of them were children.

Around 10 days ago, Israel started a ground incursion and now says it's effectively cut off the

northern Gaza Strip, where its concentrating its troops, from the south, where it's urged civilians to evacuate to.

Israel has resisted calls from Arab states and the likes of Turkey for a cease-

fire, saying that would allow Hamas to regroup. It says it needs to continue until it's destroyed the Iran-backed organization.

In recent days, the U.S. has applied pressure on Israel to pause fighting for a short period to allow more aid to get into Gaza, and for hostage negotiations to progress. Hamas and other groups abducted around 240 people on Oct. 7.

The soaring Palestinian death toll has triggered protests around the world, including in the U.S., UK and Germany.

Yellen to meet ahead of talks

By VIKTORIA DENDRINO
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and her Chinese counterpart will hold two days of talks in San Francisco this week, a step toward more-normal ties ahead of a long-anticipated meeting between the leaders of the world's two largest economies.

Yellen and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng — the nation's top economic official — will meet on Nov. 9 and 10, the Treasury Department said in a statement Monday. That's just before the U.S. hosts a week of gatherings in the California city that will bring together leaders and senior ministers from some 21 Pacific Rim economies, under the auspices of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group.

The Yellen-He talks build on a series of visits and announcements between the two sides that have sought to re-establish diplomatic ties and resume dialogue on economic topics amid tensions on issues from U.S. export controls to Chinese military engagement in the South China Sea.

Trips by Yellen and other U.S. officials to China this year, and

Biden is set for summit with Chinese president Xi next week

last month's visit to Washington by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, helped lay the groundwork for the expected meeting between presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping at the upcoming APEC summit — their first one-on-one discussion in a year.

The Biden administration's policy toward China is geared toward defending and securing national security while stressing that the U.S. isn't trying to hold China back economically — a message that Chinese officials have criticized, given U.S. export controls enacted last year that are designed to deprive China of key technologies.

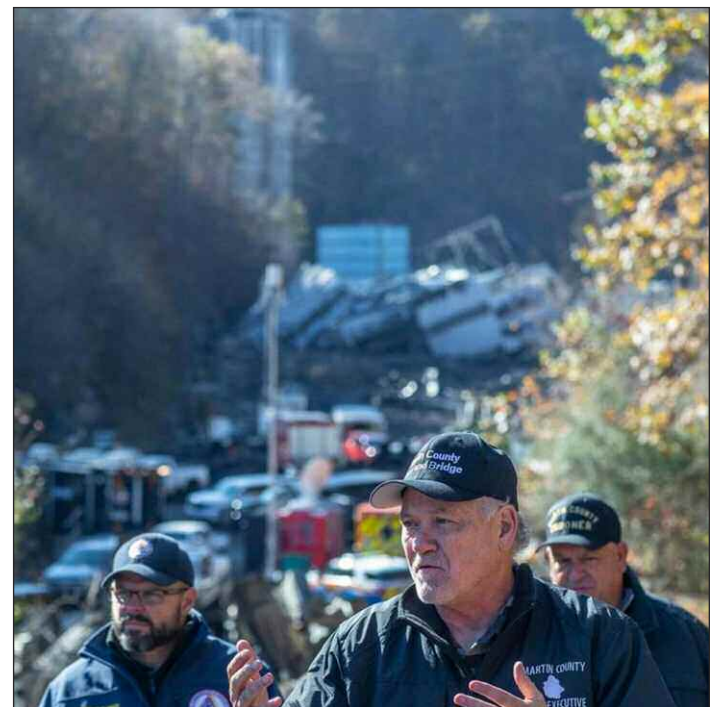
While the Biden approach is less combative than the Trump administration's trade wars, it nevertheless marks a stark departure from the prior two decades of more-open economic relations.

In fact, the Biden administration has kept President Donald Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods, and there's no indication they're easing anytime soon.

The U.S. has said it doesn't seek to decouple from China, though it has been looking to "de-risk" and diversify, partly through strengthening economic ties with allies in the Indo-Pacific region, a strategy that will be a key theme for the Biden administration during the upcoming APEC summit.

The diplomacy is "designed to further stabilize the relationship and make progress on key issues," Yellen wrote in an opinion piece being published in the Washington Post on Monday.

"We should not make the mistake of becoming so consumed with our competition with China that we become defined by it," she said in the op-ed.



Tribune News Service/Lexington Herald-Leader/Ryan C. Hermens

Plant collapsed

Martin County Judge-Executive Lon Lafferty speaks to members of the media as rescue crews continue to work the scene of a mine plant collapse Friday in Martin County, Kentucky.

Deaths

Chris Whitesell, 64, Dunkirk
William Osborne, 90, Pennington
Robert Bumbalough, 88, Dunkirk
Bert Cover, 68, Muncie
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 59 degrees Sunday. The low was 32.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the mid 40s and a chance of rain after midnight. Expect mostly cloudy skies Wednesday with a slight chance of rain and a high in the upper 60s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Today is Election Day. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. today for voting in the municipal elections in Dunkirk, Redkey and Portland.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of this week's Portland City Council meeting.

Thursday — Results from the JCHS girls basketball season opener.

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Obituaries

Chris Whitesell

Dec. 12, 1958-Nov. 2, 2023
Chris Whitesell, 64, Dunkirk, died Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023, at The Waters of Dunkirk following a brief illness.

Born in Portland on Dec. 12, 1958, he grew up in Dunkirk and graduated from Jay County High School in 1977. He also received banking credentials from the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Whitesell

Chris was a banker for 46 years; he began as a teller and was the current chief financial officer at Citizens State Bank of New Castle. He was a member of Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church and Neighborhood Crime Watch. He formerly belonged to the Dunkirk Industrial Development Corporation and Rotary Club of Hartford City.

Chris enjoyed doing yard

work, watching NASCAR, traveling — including trips to Gatlinburg with Deb — and most importantly he loved being with family, his grandchildren and attending their activities.

Survivors include his wife of 45 years, Debbie Whitesell; daughters Nicole Knoth (husband: Dave), Fort Wayne, and Lauren Whitesell, Fort Wayne; mother Aloma Whitesell, Dunkirk; brothers Danny R. Whitesell (wife: Carol), Dunkirk, and Mike Whitesell (wife: Brenda), Dunkirk; sister Robin Hayden (husband: Kip), Dunkirk; brothers-in-law Gordon Lowe (wife: Ginger), Clarence Lowe (wife: Marty), Alton Lowe (wife: Reba), Warren Lowe (wife: Jan) and Junior Price; sister-in-law Jennie Henry (husband: Dick); grandchildren Sydney, Abram, Chloe and Ethan Christopher; and nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his father Richard "Dick" Whitesell; in-laws Raymond and Inez Lowe; sisters-in-law Ruthann Lowe, Florene Lowe and Sharon Price; and nephews Jarrod

Whitesell and one who died in infancy.

Services will be 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 10, 2023, at Meacham Funeral Service with burial following at Dunkirk I.O.O.F. Cemetery.

Visiting hours are Friday from noon until 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be sent to Honor Flight of Northeast Indiana or The Dunkirk Foundation.

Condolences and other expressions of sympathy may be given at MeachamFuneralService.com.

William Osborne

May 7, 1933-Oct. 30, 2023
William "Pat" Osborne, age 90, a former longtime resident of Pennville, passed away on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023, at Persimmon Ridge in Portland.

Pat was born on May 7, 1933, in Crackers Neck, Virginia, the son of William and Virginia (Wells) Osborne. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, farmed in Greene Township, Jay County,

for many years and also worked at Jay Petroleum in Portland.

Pat was a member of Cornerstone of Pennville, Portland Morning Optimist Club and enjoyed square dancing.

Pat married Dorothy Wells on Jan. 31, 1958.

Survivors include: His wife of 64 years — Dorothy Osborne, Portland, Indiana

His children — Jenny Guingrich (husband: Cliff), Portland, Indiana, and Dewey Osborne (wife: Karla), Redkey, Indiana

Four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren

Visitation will be held on Friday, Nov. 10, 2023, from 2 to 7 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Cornerstone Church of Pennville, 190 W. Main St., Pennville. Pastors Dave Davidson and Gary Newton will officiate



Osborne

and burial will follow at IOOF Twin Hill Cemetery in Pennville.

Memorials may be directed towards Alzheimer's Association or Jay County Cancer Society.

Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.com.

Robert Lee Bumbalough, Dunkirk, Feb. 28, 1935-Nov. 3, 2023. Services will be at 4 p.m. Thursday at MJS Mortuaries - Redkey Chapel.

Bert M. Cover, Muncie, a relative of local residents, June 3, 1955-Nov. 1, 2023. Private visitation will be held at the convenience of the family.

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

Wednesday 11/8	Thursday 11/9	Friday 11/10	Saturday 11/11	Sunday 11/12
67/50	58/37	53/31	49/30	50/31
Mostly cloudy skies on Wednesday, with a slight chance of rain in the afternoon.	Another small chance of showers. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high in the upper 50s.	Friday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies and a low at night below freezing.	Mostly sunny on Saturday, when the low will again dip to about 30 degrees.	Sunday looks to be partly sunny with a high during the day in the 50s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$179 million	62-65-72-74-76-79-80 Cash 5: 15-26-32-35-37 Estimated jackpot: \$991,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$196 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 7-0-7 Pick 4: 4-8-5-8 Pick 5: 2-2-7-3-1 Evening Pick 3: 9-8-2 Pick 4: 2-9-8-0 Pick 5: 4-4-7-9-4 Rolling Cash 5: 4-21-25-27-32 Estimated jackpot: \$235,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 5-6-4 Daily Four: 2-7-8-5 Evening Daily Three: 0-8-3 Daily Four: 8-0-3-4 Quick Draw: 7-9-11-14-15-19-28-31-35-36-42-52-54	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.59 Late Nov. corn4.79 Wheat4.83	Dec. beans13.42 Wheat 5.36
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.54 Late Nov. corn4.59 Dec. corn4.74	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.57 Late Nov. corn4.61 Beans13.22 Dec. beans13.42 Wheat5.35
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.54 Dec. corn4.65 Beans13.17	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.39 Dec. corn4.49 Beans13.07 Dec. beans13.17 Wheat4.91

Today in history

In 1989, Democrat Douglas Wilder became the first African American to be elected as a governor as he won the race in Virginia, defeating Republican J. Marshall Coleman

In 1991, Magic Johnson announced his retirement from basketball because he was HIV positive. He returned to the sport to play for the Dream Team in the 1992 Summer Olympics and to the NBA for part of the 1995-96 season.

In 2018, the GOP dominated Jay County election races, with Republican candidates winning by wide margins. Those elected included Chad Aker as county commissioner, Betty St. Myers as county recorder and J.D. Prescott as state representative in District 33.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Tuesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, community resource center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.	ter. Wednesday 5:15 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council joint executive session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St.
7 p.m. — Salamononia Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Cen-	

Tyson recalling frozen chicken

By THERESA BRAINE

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

Tyson Foods is recalling 30,000 pounds of frozen chicken "Fun Nuggets" after consumers reported finding metal shards in the dinosaur-shaped patties.

"A limited number of consumers have reported they found small, pliable metal pieces in the product, and out of an abundance of caution, the company is recalling this product," Tyson said in a statement that included the bag label. "No other Tyson Brand products are affected."

The recall applies to 29-ounce plastic bag packages made at a single location on Sept. 5, Tyson said in its recall announcement on Saturday.

About 16,500 packages of the nuggets, bearing a Sept. 4, 2024

'Fun Nuggets' being pulled after customers reported finding metal shards

best-by date, were shipped to distributors in Alabama, California, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin, to be sold to retailers. The USDA has promised to post a list of those stores on its recall website, though they had not been named as of Sunday.

Tyson's told authorities about the complaints as it issued the voluntary recall.

"FSIS is concerned that some product may be in consumers' freezers," the food inspection agency said. "Consumers who have purchased these products are urged not to consume them. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase."

No deaths or major injuries have been reported, though the metal caused one reported "minor oral injury," the FSIS said.

Grants ...

Continued from page 1

The funding will go toward paving the streets in Quincy Place — Hard Drive, Merry Court and Shrack Lane — as well as Washington Street on the west side of the city. (Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins had planned to apply for the Quincy Place streets a year ago, but they had inadvertently been left off of the city's asset management plan. Instead, the city received a Community Crossings grant for paving all of Mount Auburn Street, Lincoln Avenue on the west side of the city and Angle Street on the north side of the city.)

Grant applications were turned in to the state in July.

Jay County had submitted a request for funds to help with the replacement of Portland's Seventh Street bridge over the Salamonie River, but that project was not funded. (The county can apply for the funds again in the next round of Community Crossings.)

Nearby communities that joined Redkey, Portland and Dunkirk in receiving funding

include Randolph Wells (\$971,250), Delaware (\$416,624.35), and Blackford (\$332,542) and Bluffton (\$1 million), Winchester (\$579,883.44) and Union City (\$262,452.00).

"It's encouraging to see continued dedication and

commitment to transportation infrastructure at the local level," said INDOT commissioner Mike Smith in a press release. "Seeing the completed projects from this program is a reward in itself and a win for the state."

Since it was established in 2016, Communi-

ty Crossings has provided almost \$1.5 billion for local road improvement projects.

Jay County Conservation Club
ALL YOU CAN EAT FISH & CHICKEN FRY

VETERAN'S DAY - VETERANS EAT FREE!

November 11, 2023
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Adults \$12.00 Kids 5 & under FREE
6243 S. 325 W Portland, IN

INDIANA UNCLAIMED RETURNS \$1 MILLION IN UNCLAIMED PROPERTY TO HOOSIERS EACH WEEK

VISIT
INDIANAUNCLAIMED.GOV
TO SEARCH FOR YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES
TEXT "DISCOVER" TO 46220

SERVICES

Wednesday
Jackson, Treasada: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
Baughman, Pamela: 1 p.m., Highland Memorial Park Cemetery, West Liberty, Ohio.
Ridgway, Terry: 8 p.m., Dunkirk Church of the Nazarene, 226 E. Center St., Dunkirk.

Thursday
Bumbalough, Robert: 4 p.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

Friday
Whitesell, Chris: 2 p.m., Meacham Funeral Service, 648 W. State St., Albany.

Saturday
Osborne, William: 11 a.m., Cornerstone Church of Pennville, 190 W. Main St., Pennville.

Service listings provided by
PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS
120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

Don't Wait, Act Now!

Run a 4x4 ad once a week throughout November in:

- *The Commercial Review
- *The News-Gazette
- *The News Times
- *The News and Sun

\$415
(85% off regular price)

GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

As we head toward winter, advertise your heating, cooling and plumbing businesses!

Or run a 4x4 ad once a week in the publication(s) of your choice:

- The Commercial Review — \$275
- The News-Gazette — \$250
- The News Times — \$210
- The News and Sun — \$210

*Ads must run in November
*Rate does not apply to CR's Nov. 22 Thanksgiving edition

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

Hit the polls, your vote really counts

By **DIANA DOLECKI**
Special to The Commercial Review

Today is election day so be sure to vote. I generally vote for the loser but every once in a while my person wins. Many of us don't think our vote counts but the voting booth is the one place where we are all equal. A poor person's opinion counts just as much as a rich person's. There are no tests asking if we have researched the issues.

As I See It



For all of the people who want to "drain the swamp" I say quit voting for the incumbent. As long as we keep voting for the same people nothing will change. Better yet, if we don't like our options then I have the perfect solution. Why don't you run for office? I would love to have more choices on the ballot. I

would also like to be able to vote for a particular person rather than against the other guy. While I am complaining, how about we stop this foolishness of getting all upset over nothing. Personally, I don't care if there are drag queens among us. The prettiest woman I have ever seen was a guy. He was a customer in a sandwich shop where I worked at the time. He came in, ordered his food, ate and left without causing any problems at all. What I would like to see is a reasonable solution to all these mass murders taking place in our country.

What is there about our country that says it is perfectly acceptable to shoot at a random bunch of people? It has become so common that the story of the latest shooting ends up on an inside page of the newspaper. I am much more concerned about innocents dying than I am about some guy playing dress up. I don't mean that as an insult. If there wasn't a demand for that kind of entertainment, then all the drag queens would live quietly in the background. Then there is the issue of banning books. Yes, there are books that are not

appropriate for young children. I don't understand why certain books are banned. Why on earth can't we read "Tom Sawyer" or "Huckleberry Finn" and explain exactly why the language therein is objectionable? My grandson's teachers are considering whether or not to have the class read "To Kill a Mockingbird." He is a freshman in high school. The reasoning is that it might upset the children. I would certainly hope it would upset them. Isn't that part of the purpose of school, to teach children how to handle injustice?

None of the candidates, local or national, have a valid plan to decrease the availability of weapons designed to kill. I haven't read of anyone who opposes book banning. There are hundreds of problems just waiting to be remedied. Instead they focus on what I think are nonsense issues. Or, if by some chance, they do contemplate a serious problem, they vote along party lines instead of voting before or against the issue itself. I am done ranting now. So get out there and vote if you haven't already. Your opinion really does count.

Recording may be worth more than words

DEAR ABBY: I have some advice for your readers who write regarding problems with how others behave badly or are verbally abusive or inappropriate toward them. Hopefully, it will help someone. I suggest recording video of the offending individual while it's happening, and then showing them the video later when they are calm/sober/receptive. If the behavior is drug- or alcohol-driven, this can show the person they're not fun and funny; they are obnoxious and offensive. I'm certain I would have quit drinking years earlier had I been able to see how I acted. This advice could also work with a relative you are concerned

Dear Abby



about with regard to dementia or Alzheimer's. You could show the video to their doctor, rather than make generalizations about their behavior. Telling your husband to talk to his mom about how critical or rude she is to you puts your husband on the spot, and it's still a "she said/she said" situation. Maybe your mother-in-law has no idea how she sounds. But she

should. If a picture is worth a thousand words, a video is worth even more. — "GOTCHA" IN CALIFORNIA
DEAR "GOTCHA": I'm printing your letter because I think in some cases it has merit. However, videoing someone who is in the middle of a rant (or some other socially unacceptable activity) could cause some individuals to become violent. ("Stop videotaping me!!") That's why I have to add that if one chooses to do this, they should be aware of the risk.
.....
DEAR ABBY: I'm a 35-year-old woman who is married to a 27-year-old man. We currently live

in the same house as his mother. She lives downstairs; we live upstairs. Thanks to my husband's upbringing, he has a hair-trigger temper. His dad has an explosive temper, and his mother is a narcissist. He's never directed it at me, but his mother sets him off. Sometimes, I think she does it on purpose because she has some kind of victim complex. I have tried everything to help him control his temper; nothing has worked. It has become normal for me to end the day with them fighting. I am exhausted. If they're home before I go to work, they'll get into some sort of yelling match. When I'm finishing my workday, he'll call me and I'll hear them arguing on the phone.

I'm tired of the fighting. It's creating so much anxiety and depression. I have told him this and asked him to at least try to stop, but it's still the same. What do I do? — SURROUNDED BY WAR IN TEXAS
DEAR SURROUNDED: You are more mature than your husband, both emotionally and chronologically. He is still under his mother's thumb, which is why she's so good at pushing his buttons. It is time for you both to move as far away from his mother's dwelling as possible. If you do, he will have less exposure to his mother, and you may have peace under your roof (once you unplug the phone).

Community Calendar

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

Today
BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.
A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

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.
BRYANT/NEW CORYDON SENIOR CITIZENS — Will meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Bryant Community Center for a carry-in dinner. Meat is provided.
PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.
JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE — Holds its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the boardroom at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut 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
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.
INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.
JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB — Will meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.
Saturday
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.
Sunday
A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 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.
EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.
DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 3 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio.
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.

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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.

Swiss Village

**NOW SEEKING:
FULL TIME, DAY SHIFT NURSE**

Swiss Village, Inc. is now seeking a Full-Time Healthcare Nurse for Day Shift! Position will be 3 days/week, 6am-6pm, with a weekend rotation required. Candidates must be licensed in the State of Indiana as a Licensed Practical Nurse or Registered Nurse and be dependable, flexible, and have excellent interpersonal skills. Position eligible for insurance benefits, Paid Time Off (PTO), and 403(b) retirement plan participation.

\$5,000 Sign On Bonus!!

Apply online at www.swissvillage.org, in person, or send Resume to:
Taylor Lehman, Vice President of HR
Swiss Village, Inc.
1350 W. Main St.
Berne, IN 46711
careers@swissvillage.org

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Willkommen!

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Swiss Village
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Berne, IN 46711
Or email: careers@swissvillage.org

Thank you for program support

To the editor:
On behalf of Jay School Corporation's Reading is Fundamental program, I would like to take this time to thank all of the Jay County businesses, industries and not-for-profit organizations for their generous contribution to this wonderful reading program.

Letters to the Editor

The Reading is Fundamental program, known as RIF, allows each student in grades kindergarten through sixth to receive a free book of their choice. It is usually distributed with a theme for what is going on in the individual school or some kind of national event encouraging how important reading is in the learning process.

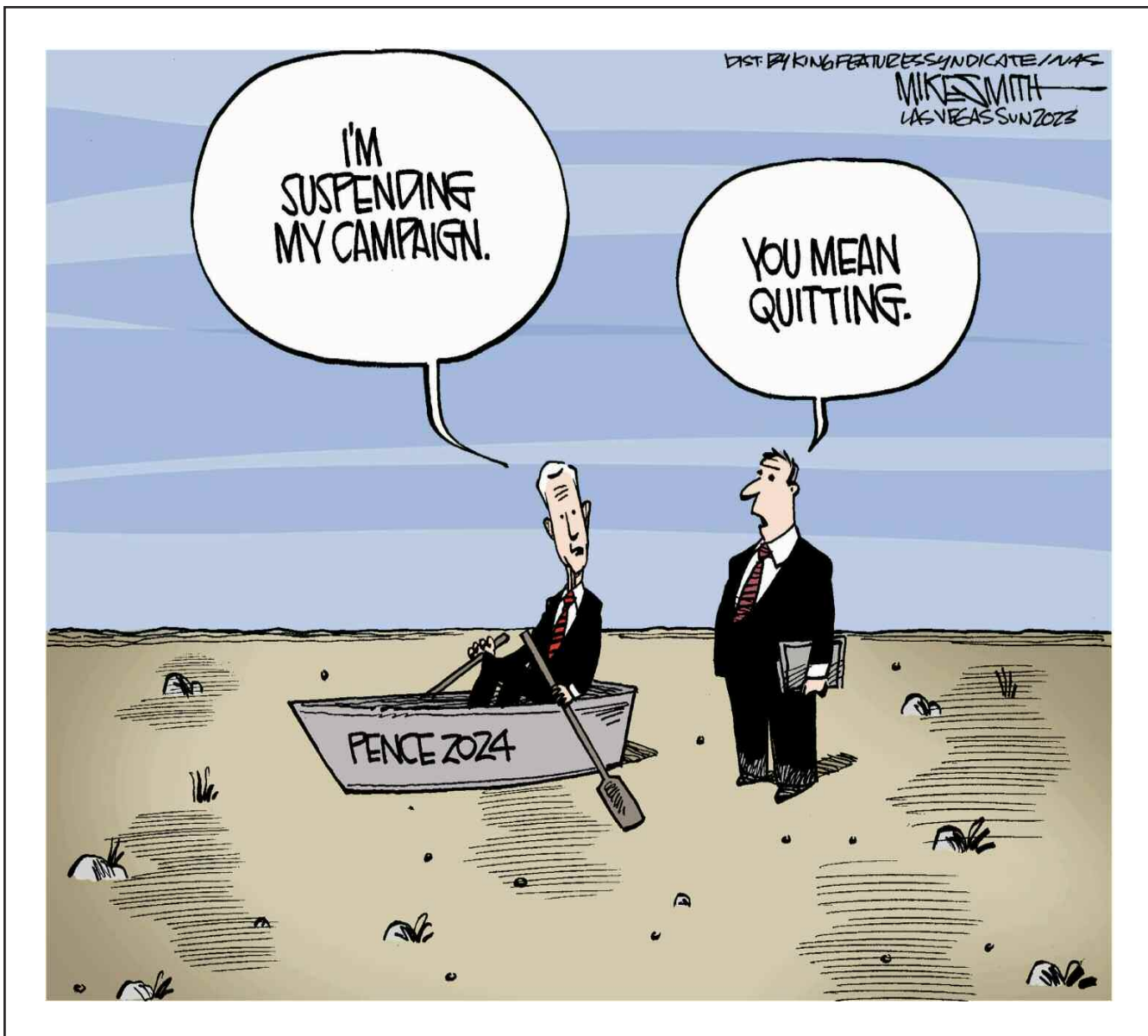
Our local distribution reaches over 1,600 students in all five of our county elementary schools. For some of the students, it might be their only book they will ever have in their home.

This program has been made possible by the following contributors: Bixler Insurance/Delta Theta Tau Xi Chapter; First Bank Of Berne, Portland Rotary

Foundation, Tri-Kappa-Beta, CrossRoads Financial, Delta Theta Tau of Dunkirk, FCC (Indiana), Gamma Alpha Psi Iota Xi of Portland, Gamma Nu Sorority, Portland Evening Optimist, Portland Lions Club, Tri-Kappa-Alpha, American Legion Post #211, American Legion Post #227, Ardagh Glass, Bollenbacher & Associates, Fullenkamp Machine, Kiwanis of Portland, M.J.S. Mortuaries, P.O.E.T. Biorefining, Portland, Eagles #928, Portland Veterinary Clinic, Sonoco, Tyson Foods and the Dunkirk Lions Club.

Again, thank you for investing in our biggest asset in Jay County — our children.

Sincerely,
Trent Paxson
Assistant superintendent
Jay School Corporation



State can change the game

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Niki Kelly



Many parents can't afford child care. And, if they can, there aren't enough slots.

That's because staff aren't paid enough, and turnover is high. But if providers raise pay, then they must raise prices; more parents can't afford child care.

The chicken-and-egg predicament is real, and even worse in Indiana.

The Economic Policy Institute ranks all states for their child care costs. When I opened the site, the first to pop up was Alabama. I whistled a bit at the average of \$6,000 for infant care annually, or \$5,184 for a 4-year-old child.

But when I navigated to Indiana's page, my jaw dropped.

The average annual cost of care in Indiana is \$12,612 for infants, or \$9,557 for 4-year-olds.

To put that in perspective, infant care in Indiana costs 40% MORE per year on average than in-state tuition for a four-year public college.

The institute also ranks Indiana 18th worst out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia for most expensive infant care.

Infant care for one child would take up 22% of a median family's income in Indiana.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, child care is affordable if it costs no more than 7% of a family's income. By this standard, only 5% of Indiana families can afford infant care.

No wonder Indiana parents are sitting out the workforce and staying home with children instead. This has led to tens of thousands of unfilled jobs.

Indiana got a bit of hope recently when the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration announced a new employer-sponsored child care fund.

The program offers \$25 million in seed money for child care initiatives led by

employers to try to help the 55% of Hoosiers that live in a child care desert.

But there is more to be done, especially because providers will face a steep decline in available financial support when emergency federal child care assistance ends this year.

An interim study committee tasked with evaluating child care needs came up with several recommendations. A few that would help with staff shortages are:

- Making child care workers currently employed by licensed child care programs categorically eligible for public subsidies under the Child Care and Development Fund and On My Way Pre-Kindergarten programs.

- Designating child care credentials as a tuition-free option under the Workforce Ready Grant.

- Reducing the age requirement for working alone in an infant or toddler classroom in a licensed child care center from age 21 to age 18 and for working, supervised, in school-age child care to 16.

These examples are a constructive start. But it's hard to see any substantive improvement without direct state investment of dollars. That could be in terms of a child care tax credit, which Democrats have pushed for years.

According to the Institute of Taxation and Economic Policy, 14 states provide Child Tax Credits to reduce poverty, boost economic security, and invest in children. This year alone, lawmakers in three states — Minnesota, Oregon, and Utah — created new Child Tax Credits while lawmakers in seven states expanded existing credits. Meanwhile,

... child care is affordable if it costs no more than 7% of a family's income. By this standard, only 5% of Indiana families can afford infant care.

Arizona lawmakers created a one-time nonrefundable child tax rebate.

A bill filed earlier this year would have provided such a credit to Hoosiers with an adjusted gross income of less than 250% of the federal poverty level. It would have cost between \$100 million and \$229 million annually beginning in FY 2024.

Lawmakers also could expand a tax credit they created in the 2023 budget for employers to create child care opportunities. It was funded with just \$2.5 million, which simply isn't enough to make a dent in this problem.

And while prekindergarten is not child care, fully funding a program that already has immense upside for the state and its next generation's future success would help ease the access issues and free up Hoosier workers.

Most importantly, legislators can't kick this can down the road claiming it's not a budget year. There is a short session for a reason and it is to address critical issues like this — even if it costs money.

.....
Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

Reading promotes empathy, intelligence

The Columbian
(Vancouver, Washington)
Tribune News Service

Guest Editorial

Among the more perplexing aspects of the United States' culture wars is the targeting of books and libraries.

Expanding minds and sharing experiences and offering diverse points of view, it seems, is regarded as threatening by far too many Americans.

Schools and public libraries across the country have been challenged by activists who insist that certain books are not fit for consumption. And in Columbia County, home to approximately 4,000 Washingtonians, a petition this year supported a ballot measure that could have closed the only public library.

The measure received enough signatures to land on the ballot but was blocked by a court ruling and will not be up for a vote next week. The Dayton Memorial Library will continue for now — but so will opposition to libraries.

All of which calls to mind a quote from famed author Mark Twain, who is credited with saying that "a person who won't read has no advantage over one who can't read." And a quote from Walt Disney: "There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island." And ... well, it calls to mind many quotes, because reading inspires words of wisdom.

It is no coincidence that the invention of the movable-type printing press — by Johannes Gutenberg in the 1400s — is regarded as perhaps the most significant evolution in human history. The widespread printing of books that eventually resulted from Gutenberg's invention greatly expanded the sharing of knowledge, bringing it to the masses and expediting formal education.

Which leads us to some recent news items. Articles in The Columbian have included a Vancouver bookstore that caters to fans of romance novels; a local author who has written a book detailing the history of Battle Ground Lake; and the Clark County Arts Commission seeking applications for Clark County poet laureate.

Also reflecting our love of the written word is the Portland Book Festival this weekend, bringing to the area many nationally known authors from a variety of genres.

Among the obvious benefits to reading — increased general knowledge, improved vocabulary, free entertainment — there are less-obvious advantages. Various studies have found that reading books can promote empathy and emotional intelligence while reducing stress and improving sleep.

And still, attempts to ban books are increasing. The American Library Association reported challenges to 1,915 unique titles during the first eight months of 2023 — a 20 percent increase from the same period in 2022 and the highest total in the 20 years data has been compiled. The association reports, "Most of the challenges were to books written by or about a person of color or a member of the LGBTQIA+ community."

Such enmity also is evident in boisterous complaints about having men dressed as women while hosting readings for children.

The solution seems simple: If you don't approve, don't have your child participate. Seeking "parental control" while limiting options for other people's children is offensive and hypocritical.

Which leads us to another quote. In a letter to a colleague, Thomas Jefferson once wrote about a book, "If it be false in its facts, disprove them; if false in its reasoning, refute it. But, for god's sake, let us freely hear both sides, if we choose."

Books and libraries have become an unlikely battleground for America's specious culture wars, driven by people who often ignore facts and reasoning in their arguments. The situation gives us all the more reason to celebrate local bookstores, local authors and local book festivals.

The Commercial Review



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We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to letters@thecr.com. They should be 700 words or fewer, signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

www.thecr.com

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

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Photo provided

Bank donates

First Bank of Berne recently donated \$2,920 to Jay Community Center for its summer day camp, 5K runs, Boomer sports and senior day. Pictured, from left, are community center board president Brian Ison, community center executive director Kyle Cook and bank branch manager Tracy Carpenter.

Vaughn named branch manager

A branch of a local credit union has a new leader.

CrossRoads Financial Federal Credit Union announced Thursday that Zackary Vaughn has been named as the new branch manager for its Dunkirk location.

Vaughn will take over leadership of the branch at 18919 N. Indiana 167. He will be responsible for consumer lending, office operations and member development.

“His addition to our staff strengthens our ability to meet the needs of our members,” CrossRoads president and CEO Donald Gillespie said in a press release. “Zack’s knowledge of the community and its people will greatly benefit CrossRoads. His energy, experience and industry knowledge has already made Zack a key addition to the CrossRoads family.”

Vaughn is a Dunkirk native with banking experience and is pursuing a degree from Ball State University.

Hosting drive

First Financial Bank is collecting food for those in need through Nov. 17.

The bank will accept donations at all of its locations, including 112 N. Meridian St., Portland, and 220 N. Wayne St., Fort Recovery. Following the drive, bank employees will distribute the food to organizations in the community.

“Helping the communities we serve comes naturally to our team, and this is a fun, impactful volunteer effort that will benefit the neighbors who keep our communities vibrant,” said Roddell McCullough, chief corporate responsibility officer for First Financial Bank, in a press release.

During its first drive last year, First Financial Bank gathered more than 7,600 food items at its

Business roundup

locations in Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky.

LIFT meeting set

The next meeting of LIFT Jay is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Nov. 28 at John Jay Center for Learning.

LIFT (Leaders Inspiring Females Together) was formed this year in an effort to connect professional women in the community. Bonnie Maitlen will be the speaker and discuss assertive communication.

The event is \$18 for Jay County Chamber of Commerce members and \$23 for non-members. For more information or to register, email tabby@jaycountychamber.com or (260) 726-4481.

Open house set

Mercer Health will host an open house for its Mendon location from 4 to 7 p.m. Dec. 1.

The open house will highlight the renovated office in Mendon (128 Drake St.) and offer the public a chance to meet with staff. There will be refreshments and a drawing for a \$100 prize.

For more information, call (419) 795-2050 or visit merchealth.com.

CEO named

Scooter’s Coffee, announced Wednesday that it will appoint Joe Thornton as its next CEO.

Thornton, who currently serves as the company’s president, will take the new role on Jan. 1. He takes over from Todd Graeve, who will retire after serving as CEO since 2016.

“Joe has been a blessing for our business since joining as presi-

dent,” said Scooter’s co-founder and chairman Don Eckles in a press release. “He’s an exceptionally experienced leader in the restaurant, franchise and retail industry, and I know Joe is the right leader for us in our next acceleration of growth.

Prior to joining Scooter’s, Thornton was the chief operation officer at HMSHost and Jamba Juice.

Revenue up

Indiana University Health saw a 7.1% revenue increase for the first nine months of the year.

Becker’s Hospital Review reported Friday that increases in inpatient and outpatient surgeries drove the increase. IU Health also saw a 3.2% increase in operating expenditures.

“Overall financial performance is trending in the right direction, but we still have challenges,” IU Health chief financial officer Jenni Alvey said in a press release. “Continued financial investments in our team members coupled with cost pressures require that we continue to focus on sustainable strategies to improve operational efficiencies and reduce administrative costs.”

Ardagh participates

Ardagh Glass Packaging – Africa recently took part in the Made in Africa exhibition in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The exhibition showcases regional development and encourages further investment.

“Our footprint on the African continent has grown considerably over the past decade, with production facilities in South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya and Ethiopia,” said Paul Curnow, CEO of AGP-Africa, in a press release. “Our recent acquisition by Ardagh Group, a global supplier of sustainable glass packaging for brand owners around the world, has enabled us to invest

even further in the growth of the South African glass industry.”

Ardagh operates glass manufacturing facilities in Dunkirk and Winchester.

Agreements signed

Delaware County last week signed three memorandums of understanding with Italian firms.

The county signed an agreement with plastics recycling firm Gamma Meccanica to develop a local facility. It also signed agreements with robotics firm Trebi Srl, which plans to add a warehouse location to its existing sales office in the county, and technology firm Vi-Technik, which plans to establish operations with a 15,000-square-foot facility in the south Muncie Industrial Center.

“We are very happy with the success of the trip and wish to welcome these great

new firms to our business community,” said Delaware County Commissioner James King, who made the trip to Italy to sign the agreements along with fellow commission Shannon Henry and local economic development leaders. “Our new approach is diversification of business

in various advanced technical sectors by promoting relationships with both existing and new companies.”

Named provost

Ball State University last week announced that Anand R. Marri will serve as its new provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

Marri had served as interim provost since April and had been dean of BSU’s Teachers College since 2020.

“Dr. Marri’s extensive experience as an academic administrator, professor, and executive at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York is matched by his collaborative leadership style,” BSU presi-

dent Geoffrey S. Mearns said in a press release. “I look forward to the opportunity to continue working with him to implement the shared vision, values, and goals articulated in our University’s strategic plan.”

Marri earned his bachelor’s degree from Bowdoin College and master’s degree from Stanford University.

Paxton purchases

Paxton Media Group last week announced that it will purchase The Southern Illinoisan from Lee Enterprises.

A timeline for completion of the purchase of the newspaper based in Carbondale, Illinois, was not announced. Media merger company Dirks, Van Essen & April is representing Lee Enterprises in the transaction.

“The SI naturally fits our footprint for community-based journalism. The team of journalists I have the opportunity to lead from our Paducah and southern Illinois newsrooms has covered many of the important stories impacting our hometowns in southern Illinois. I look forward to expanding our coverage. We have the resources to allocate to covering southern Illinois,” said Evans.

Paxton owns more than 120 newspapers in all and 14 in Indiana, including The Courier-Times (New Castle), The Chronicle-Tribune (Marion), the Huntington Herald-Press and the Connersville News-Examiner.

Lee Enterprises publishes 77 newspapers in the U.S., including The Times of Northwest Indiana (Munster).

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Does your business have news to share? Email us at news@thecr.com to be included in our weekly business roundup.

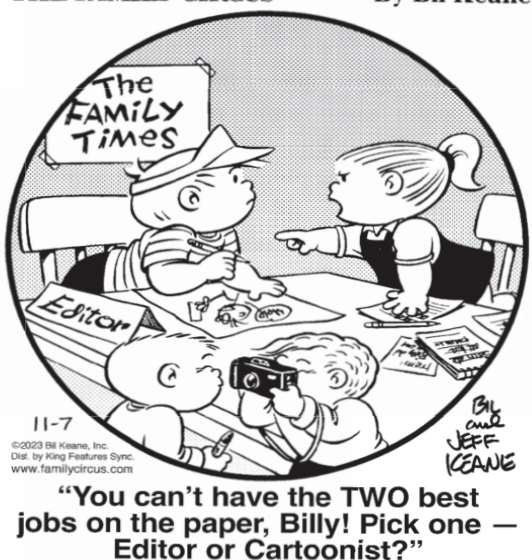
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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Only for a minute

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 9 6
♥ K 7 5
♦ K 8 7 5 3
♣ 7 2
WEST
♠ K Q J 10
♥ J 8 3
♦ 10 9
♣ Q 9 5 3

EAST
♠ 4 3
♥ Q 9 6 2
♦ J 6 4 2
♣ J 10 4

SOUTH
♠ 8 7 5 2
♥ A 10 4
♦ A Q
♣ A K 8 6

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — king of spades.

Declarer must sometimes go to great lengths to gain entry to dummy or his own hand in order to cash one or more tricks. In some cases, the defenders can see what he is attempting to do and might find a way to prevent it. In other cases, though, declarer cannot be stopped unless he stops himself.

Consider this deal where the entry problem is critical. South is in three

notrump, and West leads the king of spades. Declarer ducks, then wins the spade continuation with the ace.

Let's say South cashes the A-Q of diamonds, leads a heart to the king and plays the king of diamonds. When the diamonds turn out to be divided 4-2 rather than 3-3, declarer is out of ammunition and finishes down one.

South could blame the outcome on bad luck, if he were so minded, but the fact is that he missed his cue and should have made the contract. All he had to do was to take note of West's play of the nine and ten of diamonds as the ace and queen were led. South could then have overtaken the queen with the king and returned the eight to force out the jack and thus assure scoring four diamond tricks.

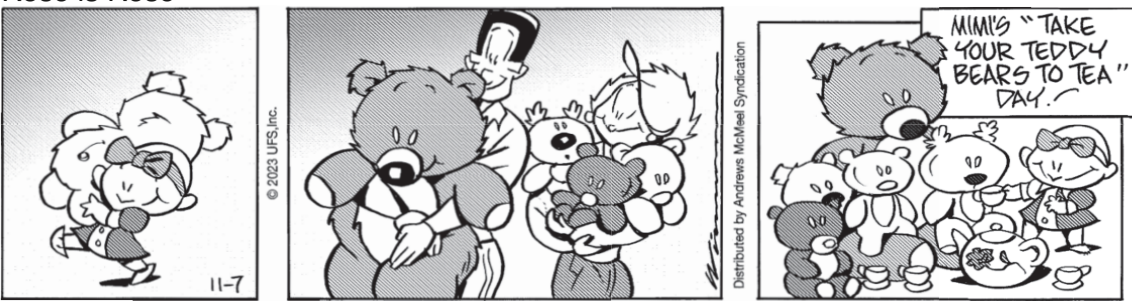
Overtaking the queen enables South to conserve the king of hearts as an entry to guarantee making nine tricks whether the diamonds are divided 3-3 or 4-2. It might pain him a little to play the king and queen of diamonds on the same trick, but he should realize that it will only hurt for a minute.

Tomorrow: All rules have exceptions.
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Peanuts



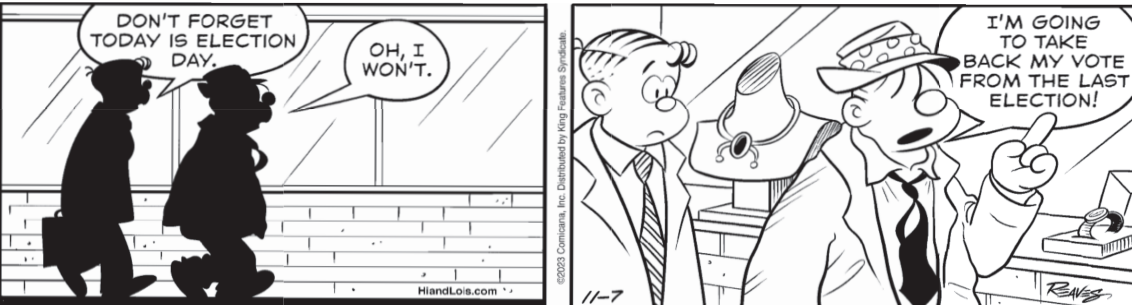
Rose is Rose



Agnes



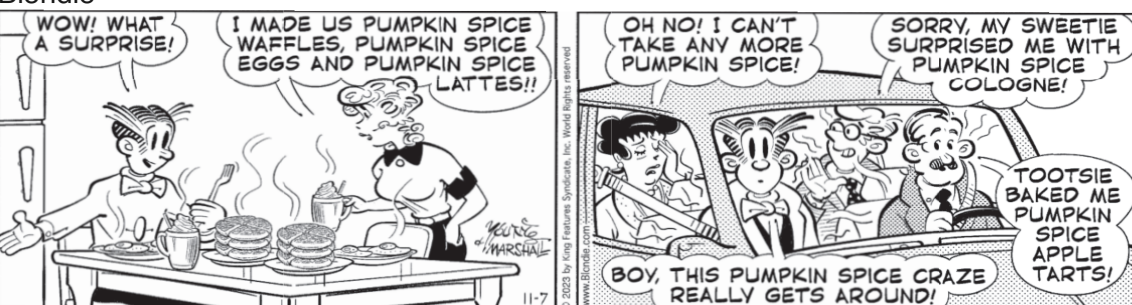
Hi and Lois



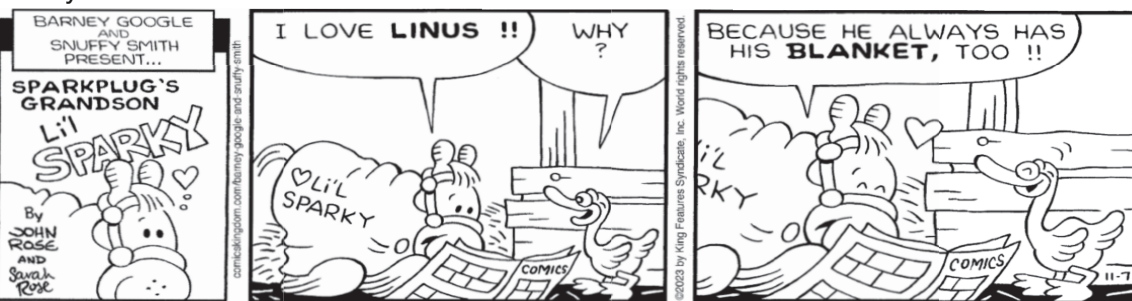
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



11-7 CRYPTOQUIP

Y M Y R B D O "H D A H T D M Y O W E
W D E M A A E A Z E G D U A A Z Y Z
R H A T T A D T D B D Z," Y W E G R E
R U Y W W Y A Z W E R E D U D Z E ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE RATE AT WHICH A CHEF WOULD PREPARE VERY SHARP-FLAVORED DISHES: THE PIQUANCY FREQUENCY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals P

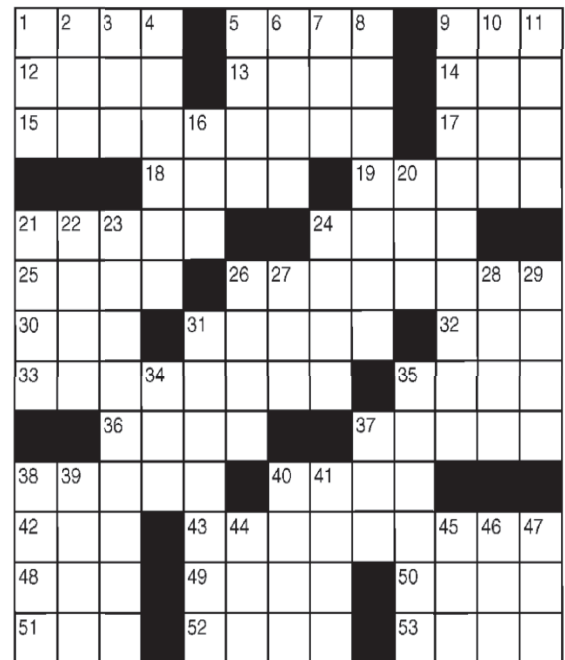
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 36 Saturn feature | DOWN | 20 Televised |
| 1 Poet Angelou | 37 Fine sprays | 1 French pronoun | 21 Formerly, once |
| 5 Computer brand | 38 Reacts in horror | 2 Man-dela's org. | 22 "Last Christmas" |
| 9 — de France | 40 Colorations | 3 "—haw!" (rodeo cry) | actress Michelle |
| 12 Singles ganders | 42 Yucatan "Bravo!" | 4 Green light | 23 True nature |
| 13 Like Vardalos | 43 Hearty pub meal | 5 Cupid's specialty | 24 Yaks |
| 14 Actress Harsh | 48 MSN alter-native | 6 Astronomer Sagan | 26 Web journal |
| 15 Winter rains | 49 "Burr" author Vidal | 7 Shade provider | 27 Sharing word |
| 17 White wine cocktail | 50 Austen heroine | 8 Spas | 28 Geezer |
| 18 — of Sandwich | 51 Dict. info | 9 Calligrapher's problems | 29 Tolkien creatures |
| 19 Desert haven | 52 Must have | 10 Ovid's 53 zones? | 31 Give over (to) |
| 21 Sizing up | 53 French perfume brand | 11 Canal | 34 Chips go-with |
| 24 Sand | | 16 Label | 35 Smooched |
| 25 Tenant's payment | | | 37 "Not impressed ..." |
| 26 Regatta | | | 38 Incite |
| 30 Abel, to Eve | | | 39 Skin soother |
| 31 After-school groups | | | 40 Employ |
| 32 Charged bit | | | 41 Second-hand |
| 33 "Light My Fire" band | | | 44 Caviar |
| 35 Shoelace snarl | | | 45 Texter's "Enough!" |
| | | | 46 Comic Philips |
| | | | 47 Kids' card game |

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 11-7



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12 insertions. \$1.52/word
26 insertions. \$1.77/word
Includes
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In Memory Up to 100 words.... \$13.00
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30 LOST, STRAYED OR FOUND

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

40 NOTICES

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER. Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Plan now to attend November 23, 2023, 1:00 pm. Asbury UM Church. All Jay County welcome. No charge for the meal.

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Seniors finish on top

FRHS girls finish top-10 for first time

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review
OBETZ, Ohio — Jenna Hart learned throughout the season that she needed to start races conservatively and ramp things up near the end.

She came out ultra conservative on Saturday and that strategy did not fail her.

Coming down the final stretch of the race, Hart had the energy to pass one last girl. The Indians needed every single point they could get.

Hart passed Jilian Curfman of Grandview Heights to finish 160th as the fifth scorer for the Fort Recovery High School girls cross country team that finished 10th at the OHSAA State cross country championship at Fortress Obetz and Memorial Park on Saturday.

The Indians finished with 306 points to earn the 10th-place finish, just one point above Fairbanks and Sand Valley who had 307 each. Midwest Athletic Conference foe Minster took home the crown with 62 points.

The finish was the best the FRHS girls



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Fort Recovery High School freshman Makenna Huelskamp (3049) leads a pack of runners including senior Ellie Will (3055) as they approach the two-mile mark at the OHSAA State Championship at Fortress Obetz and Memorial Park on Saturday.

have ever had at the state meet. In 1999 and 2021 the Indians finished 12th, but couldn't crack the top-10 until now.

"It's pretty amazing," coach Christy Diller said. "The first year, we went down there with Ellie (Will) and Jenna,

we were 13th, then 12th, then 13th again, and then to come back and finish 10th, in a year where we maybe weren't really expected to even return to state, is a huge accomplishment for these kids.

"They just really stepped up, we were

ranked 15th coming into this meet today, and anytime we can perform higher than our ranking is always a good day. ... I'm very proud of all of them."

Fort Recovery needed all seven Indians to earn 10th place.

See **Top** page 7

Final race for fun

Trevor Heitkamp finishes 33rd in final state meet

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review
OBETZ, Ohio — Trevor Heitkamp does a lot to prepare for his races.

In previous years, he has studied film of past state champions and combined that knowledge with his strengths to create a detailed race strategy.

On Saturday, the senior took a different approach. He came into the day looking to enjoy his final high school race.

While the more relaxed approach doesn't fit Heitkamp's M.O., he still found his way to his best showing.

Heitkamp ended his cross country career at Fort Recovery High School as he finished in 33rd place at the OHSAA Division III State Championship at Fortress Obetz and Memorial Park.

"Trevor had a really strong race considering the last few weeks," coach Christy Diller said. "He's got to be so proud of that."

Heitkamp clocked in at 16 minutes, 32.77 seconds.

Heitkamp's primary goals for the race were to make the All-Ohio team and to give himself a shot at standing on the podium. All-Ohio includes the top 30 finishes, while the top 20 earn medals.

The senior fell three spots short of that goal, as Ryan Lehman of Northmor claimed 30th place with a time of 16:25.9, eight seconds ahead of Heitkamp.

Cincinnati's Christian Micah Katz (16:21.4) was the final athlete to make the podium, while Rittman's Luke Snyder (15:23.03) walked away with the championship.

"Obviously, I would have liked to be in the top 30, but that didn't happen today," Heitkamp said. "And that's just the reality of it. I'm very happy to be here. ... In the end, how I'm feeling is, I'm just very thankful for everything."

As he often does, Heitkamp started the race near the front of the pack, clocking in sixth place the first time he entered the stadium at the 450 meter marker. During the first mile, he fell back to 29th place but still held onto the chance of earning All-Ohio.

Unable to hold the position, he fell back to 34th at the 2-mile mark. Heitkamp was able to gain ground during the third mile, taking advantage of a hill and passing a pair of runners. During the final 90-meter stretch, Jose Blanco of Fayette came storming back to edge him by two seconds.

While he didn't necessarily get the finish he was hoping for, it was his best appearance at the state meet. In 2022, he placed 35th (16:46.4) and in 2021 he was 76th (17:09.6).

Diller thinks the relaxed mindset may have played a key role in the improved finish.

"He has a tendency to think too much, and he knows that," Diller said. "To finish your season at state any year is a good year, but especially as a senior. Then, you know, when your last race is. Why not be grateful about it and run happy?"

Heitkamp leaves behind a legacy.

See **Fun** page 7



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