

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Breaking through

The JAShroyer Group crew working on the demolition of The Bailey Building on Main Street in Portland. The 205 W. Main St. portion of the building has been substantially removed. The city is demolishing the building that stretches from 201 through 205 W. Main St. and also reached an agreement with Chris Grieshop and Thomas Emerick to tear down 207 W. Main St., the former home of Schmit Chiropractic. Grieshop and Emerick are owners of The Greazy Pickle, which is adjacent to the buildings that are being demolished.

John Jay to offer an early childhood course

Class is in response to the planned opening of two local facilities

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Two new daycare facilities are planned to open in Portland.

A local educational outlet is seeking to prepare staff for job opportunities that will come with them.

John Jay Center for Learning has announced that it will offer an early childhood education course beginning in January.

John Jay recently announced that it will offer Intro to Early Childhood Education (ECED 100) beginning next month. The entry level course is designed for early care and education teachers. It will offer an overview of the history, theory and foundations of childhood education as well as programs, curriculum and services for young children.

The class will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. from Jan. 19 through March 8. It requires work on campus and online.

Registration is currently open for the course. Those interested can sign up at John Jay Center for Learning or schedule an appointment with the Ivy Tech advisor by calling (260) 729-5525. The advisor is scheduled to be at John Jay on Wednesday.

The early childhood education course is being offered as The Portland Foundation and Pioneer Packaging are working toward opening early childhood education and daycare facilities in Portland.

The Portland Foundation is partnering with Westminster Preschools of Marion on Jay County Early Learning Center. To be located in the former Judge Haynes Elementary School on the west side of Portland, it is expected to serve 150 children from ages birth through 5. The target is to open the new facility in August.

Pioneer Warehousing is also in the midst of a \$1 million project to construct an 8,100-square-foot child care facility at the north end of Wayne Street in Portland. When it opens, the facility is expected to serve 48 children.

Israel calls for Gaza evacuations

By ANTONY SGUAZZIN and ONUR ANT
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Southern parts of the Gaza Strip were hit by airstrikes on Sunday hours after Israel called for the evacuation of areas of the Palestinian enclave it believes Hamas leaders are located.

Al Jazeera reported 10 people dead and more than 100 wounded in an airstrike in the Al-Geneina neighborhood of the border city of Rafah in southern Gaza, citing eyewitness reports. The information can't

be verified, and the Israel Defense Force hasn't commented on its latest operations.

Separately, the Pentagon said a U.S. warship had been attacked in the Red Sea, and Houthi rebels in Yemen said they had carried out operations against "two Israeli ships."

Israel on Sunday instructed Palestinians to abandon areas near Khan Younis, the southern city where Israel believes top Hamas militants are ensconced. The U.S., concerned about high civilian casualty rates in Gaza, has been urging

Israel to come up with safe zones for fleeing civilians.

Israel on Saturday pulled its officials from Qatar, where negotiations had earlier resulted in a seven-day truce accompanied by exchanges of hostages for Palestinian prisoners.

In ordering its team to come home, Israel said Hamas had reneged on a pledge to release women and children held since the Oct. 7 attacks on southern Israel. Hamas is designated as a terrorist group by the U.S. and the European Union.

Qatar said Sunday it will continue efforts to revive the truce,

and Eylon Levy, a spokesman for the Israeli government, said Israel is prepared to entertain further offers from Hamas.

About 1,200 people, mostly civilians, were killed when Hamas stormed Israeli towns, kibbutzim, army bases and a music festival in October. The violent incursion triggered Israeli's bombardment and invasion of Gaza, now approaching its second month, with the Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza saying more than 15,500 people have been killed, the majority of them women and children.

Improving literacy

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Scrambling to improve literacy rates among Hoosier students, state lawmakers seem adamant to toughen Indiana's policy that requires most kids who are deficient in reading to repeat the third grade.

But the proposal has so far been met with skepticism from Hoosier teachers, school officials and education experts who maintain that a more stringent statewide retention law could further inflate classroom sizes and have negative social and emotional effects for students. Critics additionally caution

Proposal to hold students back has been met with some skepticism

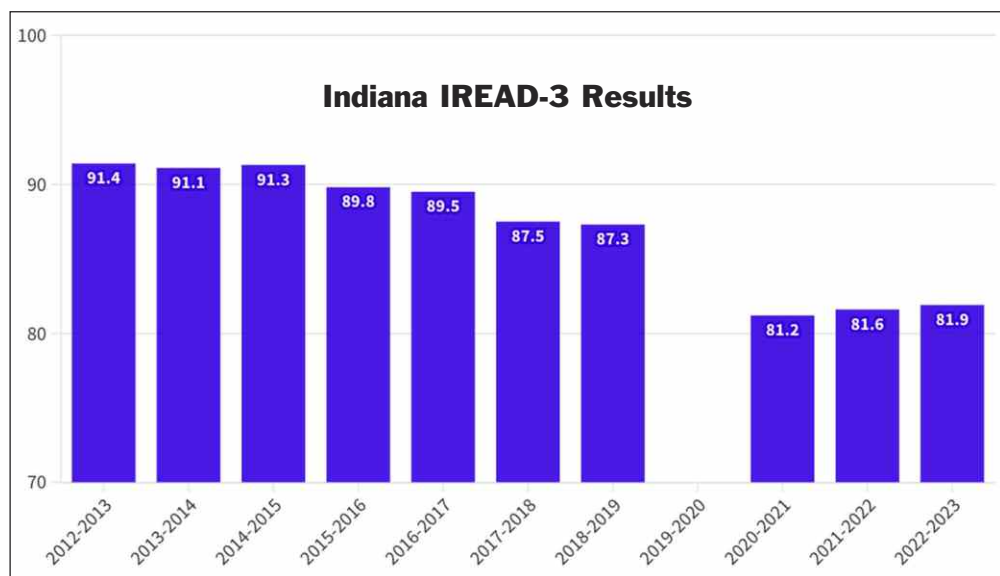
that holding back more kids will cost the state hundreds of millions dollars more in education expenses.

The idea has so far been tossed around by Republican legislative leaders, who said the current state law isn't being implemented effectively. The latest read-

ing scores showed that one in five Hoosier third graders continue to struggle with foundational reading skills.

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb said he also working on a similar proposal, but hasn't provided specific details.

See Literacy page 2



Indiana Capital Chronicle

One in five Hoosier third graders continue to struggle with foundational reading skills, according to 2023 IREAD-3 test results from Indiana Department of Education. But reading scores were on the decline even before the pandemic.

Deaths

Alma Timmerman, 89, Coldwater
Cyril Brunswick, 70, Fort Recovery
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 45 degrees Sunday. The low was 37.

Tonight's forecast calls for a slight chance of rain and snow showers with a low in the upper 20s. Expect mostly cloudy skies Wednesday with a high in the upper 30s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

United Way of Jay County and Second Harvest Food Bank are partnering to host a free food tailgate at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Jay County Fairgrounds.

Income verification is not required.

Coming up

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

Thursday — Results from the JCHS girls basketball game against Muncie Central.



Obituaries

Alma Timmerman

May 27, 1934-Dec. 1, 2023
Alma D. Timmerman, 89, of Coldwater, Ohio, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, at her home.

She was born on May 27, 1934, in Yorkshire, Ohio, to the late Joseph and Anna (Klingshirn) Hoehne. On June 18, 1955, at St. Nicholas Church in Osgood, Alma married Louis A. Timmerman, who preceded her in death on June 12, 1996.

Alma was the youngest of five siblings. She is survived by a daughter, Nancy (Patrick) Reinhard of Fort Recovery; her son-in-law, Ernest Bergman of Maria Stein, Ohio; her nine

grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren; and her in-laws, Irene Timmerman, Urban Dirksen and Jerry (Lucille) Laux.

In addition to her husband and parents, Alma was preceded in death by her two daughters, Shirley Bergman and Bonnie Timmerman; a granddaughter, Carla Bergman; her siblings, Rita Hoehne (deceased as a child), Marie (Henry) Dirksen, Norb (Rita) Hoehne and Alice (Julius) Weitzel; her in-laws, Wilfred (first wife, Rita, and second wife, Jean) Timmerman,



Timmerman

Erma (Art) Eischen, Gerald Timmerman, Joan (Gregor) Hartings, Richard (Loudonna) Timmerman, Bernard (Esther) Hartings, Paul (Edna) Klingshirn and Bernice Dirksen.

Mrs. Timmerman was a dedicated farm wife and homemaker. Years ago, she was a 4-H advisor and retired from Cooper Farms, St. Henry, Ohio. She was a member of St. Paul Catholic Church, Sharpsburg, and belonged to the Ladies Sodality and was a life member of the Fort Recovery Legion Auxiliary and a life member of the YMCA. She enjoyed crafts, cooking, fishing, selling bee pollen, shooting groundhogs, doing word searches, dancing, playing

cards, babysitting and mowing the grass.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Paul Catholic Church, Sharpsburg, with Father Ethan Hoying celebrating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Guests may visit with Alma's family on Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, from 6 to 8 p.m. and again on Saturday from 9 to 10 a.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery.

Memorial contributions may be given to Fort Recovery Community Foundation, in care of the Friends of St. Paul Church, P.O. Box 52, Fort Recovery, OH 45846.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockmanboeckmanfh.com.

Cyril "Cy" L. Brunswick, Fort Recovery, March 14, 1953-Dec. 2, 2023. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at St. Peter Catholic Church.

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 12/6	Thursday 12/7	Friday 12/8	Saturday 12/9	Sunday 12/10
39/29	49/40	55/44	53/35	41/28
Mostly cloudy throughout the day Wednesday, when the high won't surpass 40.	Thursday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with temperatures sticking in the 40s all day and night.	Temperatures will continue to climb into the mid 50s on Friday, when there's a 50% chance of rain.	Rain is likely on Saturday with a 60% chance of showers day and night.	More rain is possible Sunday with a mixture of snow as well. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$412 million	61-63-64-67-70-74-75-78 Cash 5: 5-17-27-41-43 Estimated jackpot: \$90,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$377 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 8-3-7 Pick 4: 3-5-3-7 Pick 5: 3-6-0-2-4 Evening Pick 3: 9-3-0 Pick 4: 9-8-9-1 Pick 5: 2-1-5-5-1 Rolling Cash 5: 1-9-11-16-21 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 5-7-0 Daily Four: 5-3-8-2 Evening Daily Three: 9-0-5 Daily Four: 9-2-3-4 Quick Draw: 11-13-15-31-32-33-34-40-50-57-58-60-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.29 Dec. corn4.75 Wheat5.36	Jan. beans12.93 Wheat 5.80
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.55 Dec. corn4.65 Late Dec. corn4.75	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.34 Jan. corn4.56 Beans12.78 Jan. beans12.84 Wheat5.33
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.29 Jan. corn4.69 Beans12.83	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.40 Jan. corn4.50 Beans12.57 Jan. beans12.65 Wheat5.20

Today in history

In 1484, Pope Innocent VIII condemned witchcraft. He later sent inquisitors to Germany to put accused witches on trial.

In 1757, King Frederick II of Prussia defeated Austria in a battle at Leuthen during the Seven Years' War.

In 1776, five students at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, founded Phi Beta Kappa. It was the first Greek letter society in America.

In 1782, President Martin Van Buren was born in Kinderhook, New York. He served as a senator and was secretary of state and vice president under President Andrew Jackson. He followed Jackson as

president, losing his bid for a second term to William Henry Harrison in 1840.

In 1791, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died at the age of 35 at his home in Vienna, Austria.

In 2013, Jay County High School's wrestling team racked up eight pins, including six in the first period, as it knocked off Muncie Southside 48-30. Senior Eric Hemmelgarn led the way by finishing off Daquevon Hopkins in the heavyweights match.

In 2018, Jay County High School senior Vivienne Kunkler signed to continue her swimming career at Bethel College. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town

hall, 105 N. Washington St.
7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.

Thursday
4 p.m. — Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.

Capsule Reports

Lost control

Two Indiana residents recently lost control of their vehicles, causing accidents while driving in Jay County.

Ruth E. Paul, 51, Dunkirk, was driving along county road 1150 West near county road 300 South about noon Thursday when she became distracted and missed the curve. Paul drove her 2015 Chevrolet Suburban off the road and into several trees. She and her passengers, 71-year-old Patricia Rawlings of Dunkirk and 29-year-old Samuel Paul of Dunkirk, were taken to IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie for their injuries. Damage is estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

Preston I. Gordon, 23, Hartford City, was driving northwest on Como Road near county road 900 South about 10 p.m. Saturday when he lost control of his 2001 Dodge Dakota on the curve. Gordon's vehicle went into the ditch and through a field, causing between \$1,000 and \$2,500 in estimated damage.

Turning crash

A Centerville man crashed the dump truck he was driving into the back of a Fort Recovery woman's van at the intersection of Votaw and Charles streets in Portland about 9 a.m. Nov. 30.

Quinten G. Shiverdecker, 29, was driving a 2003 Mack dump truck west on Votaw Street. At the same time, 30-year-old Virginia D. Marchal was driving in front of him and turning south onto Charles Street. Shiverdecker told police he didn't see Marchal and couldn't stop before crashing into the back of Marchal's 2018 Honda Odyssey.

Damage to the van is estimated at about \$5,000. The Mack truck is registered to MAC Trucking of Richmond.

Intersection accident

Damage is estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000 after two Jay County teenagers got into a car accident at the intersection of Indiana 67 and Tyson Road about 3:40 p.m. Friday.

Keegan A. Cavanaugh, 17, Bryant, was driving north on the highway leaving Jay County Junior-Senior High School. As he entered the intersection with Tyson Road, 17-year-old Austin R. Curtis of Portland was driving his 2016 Jeep Cherokee east on Tyson Road. Curtis' vehicle struck Cavanaugh's 2008 GMC Acadia. Both vehicles were towed.

Backing crash

A Ridgeville woman backed her car into a Richmond woman's vehi-

cle at Portland Veterinary Clinic in Portland about 10:40 a.m. Friday.

Lily A. Bruursema, 82, was backing her 2010 Jeep Grand Cherokee out of a parking spot at 1407 W. Votaw St. when she struck a parked 2023 Subaru Crosstrek. The vehicle — it's owned by 24-year-old Olivia B. Smith — was parked but wasn't in a parking spot, according to a Portland police report.

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

Overcorrected

A Washington woman drove off county road 800 South and overcorrected, causing her to lose control of her vehicle about 2:15 p.m. Thursday.

Carie J. Hammons, 37, was driving her 2000 Dodge Durango west when she drove off the north side of the road. She attempted to swerve back on the road and overcorrected, causing her to drive across the road and into a ditch along the side of 800 South. Her car rolled before coming to a rest on its top.

She was cited with an infraction for driving while her license was suspended and another infraction for driving without proof of registration.

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Her car was towed.

Literacy ...

Continued from page 1
Currently, Indiana third-graders who fail the statewide reading exam can be held back, although there are numerous exceptions, and deciding how to implement the state policy is ultimately left up to schools.

Indiana does not track third grade retention related to IREAD-3 testing, making it hard to quantify how many students are required to repeat the third grade specifically as a result of their inability to pass the exam.

No bills have been released yet, but drafts are expected when lawmakers reconvene for the 2024 legislative session Jan. 8. Indiana's State Board of Education is expected to discuss

retention at its monthly meeting, scheduled for Tuesday.

"If the approach is to make retention truly mandatory ... that means you're going to hold back kids that have known disabilities, where they may be making progress, but it's slow. You're going to have students that it just takes a lot of time and effort for them to learn — they can learn, but it's not going to look like a majority of kids. And you've also got students who are brand new English speakers — any rational person can easily guess that they're not going to pass (standardized testing)," said Fortville Elementary School principal Vincent Edwards.

SERVICES

Tuesday
Wagner, Donald: 6 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Wednesday
Brunswick, Cyril: 10:30 a.m., St. Peter Catholic Church, 1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery.
Rains, Paula: 11 a.m., Hillcrest Cemetery, Redkey.

Friday
Iliff, Anita: 6 p.m., Wayne Street Methodist Church, 130 N. Wayne St., St. Marys, Ohio.

Saturday
Timmerman, Alma: 10:30 a.m., St. Paul Catholic Church, 517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery, Ohio.

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

Felony arrests

Habitual violator
A Geneva man was arrested Saturday for being a habitual traffic violator and related offenses.

Ernest H. Eicher, 59, 210 Lincoln St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony, along with a Class C misdemeanor for operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

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

Domestic battery

Two Dunkirk residents were arrested recently for domestic battery.

Charles L. Copeland, 58, 423 N. Main St., was arrested Friday and preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony. He's being held in Jay County Jail on a \$3,000 bond.

Sarah E. Bledsoe, 35, 210 E. Center St., was arrested Nov. 28 and preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony, as well as two Class B misdemeanors for domestic battery and dealing marijuana. She was being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

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Rates do not apply to the Christmas Greetings special section. Ads must run in December

Christmas season is finally here

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review
I was planning to finish unearthing the Christmas decorations this past weekend. The gloomy, wet weather disagreed and welded me to the couch instead.

As I See It



but they elected to stay where they were. I usually put the nativity out first. We rearranged things over the summer, and the place where the figurines go is no longer an option.

Part of me looks forward to decorating for the holiday because many of the baubles were handmade. The crocheted ones were made by my mom. Others were made by our

daughter or my sister-in-law. It has been years since store-bought ornaments adorned the tree.

Another part of me is lazy and wants to skip decorating as my hubby and I are the only ones who will enjoy it. Plus, real Christmas trees are expensive, and they leave their needles all over the place.

I hate to admit it but the silver tree I grew up with is getting more and more attractive every year. It is too bad that none of us wanted it at the time.

I am not looking forward to doing Christmas cards this year. My handwriting has gone from bad

to worse. I usually look at Christmas cards as a way to catch up to ones I love. I may have to resort to just signing our names instead.

One thing I won't be doing this year is getting upset at people who say "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas," or vice versa. I think that people who get upset at the greeting forget that we have more than one religion in this country, and they are all valid. A little tolerance would be welcome.

How do you decorate (or not) this time of year? Do you go with simple white lights or colorful ones?

Does your house look like a magazine layout or a well-lived in home? Do you have pets that insist on redecorating while you aren't looking? Do your children help? Do you decorate outside?

In addition to decorating, most of us who celebrate also cook. I have seen people make dozens and dozens of cookies, cakes, candies and other treats. I like to bake, but the idea of baking multiple kinds of sweets is a bit overwhelming.

Many, many years ago I would pick a day in December to go shopping with my mom. We would go to Richmond and spend

the day. My brothers were little and anything made by Tonka was a good present. We stopped exchanging presents a couple of years ago. They are way too big for toys, and the last thing I need is more stuff. I miss those shopping trips.

Somehow all the decorations will get put out. The shopping will get done. Hard-to-shop-for people will find presents under the tree just for them. They may or may not like the carefully chosen gifts.

Christmas will be here before we know it. Now, where am I going to put the nativity?

Office coworker ignores cordial greetings

DEAR ABBY: A woman where I work refuses to acknowledge me. Every day for the past nine months, she walks by my desk and ignores me even after I've said "Hello" or "Good morning." I hate to seem petty, but I don't get how someone can be so rude.

Has workplace culture become so impersonal that people no longer have or employ basic social skills? It costs nothing to say hello or to smile — it's the least she could do. — FEELING INVISIBLE IN LOUISIANA

Dear Abby



kind of reply you receive. I agree that there has been a general decline in basic good manners over the last 10 years.

However, one never knows what burdens those we encounter might be carrying. Depression, anger and stress can affect the way we treat others. My advice would be not to take this personally and, because you know she's not open to exchanging social amenities,

to stop what you have been doing.

DEAR ABBY: My grandson's ex-wife is instructing their four children to "be mean" to his new 6-year-old stepdaughter. The children are all under 12. We do not speak to the ex-wife, but what can we do to stop this destructive behavior? — APPALLED IN GEORGIA

DEAR APPALLED: I am so glad you wrote. Your grandson's former wife is behaving

like a vengeful witch. That she would use the children to hurt a blameless child is appalling. You may be able to defuse some of this by sitting the "grands" down and explaining what you expect of them. Tell them that the little girl is not to blame for their parents' divorce, and that you expect them to treat her the way they would like to be treated. Then enforce the rules, as their father should.

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 - BRANNA'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.

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

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 - BRANNA'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.

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.

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.

Friday

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

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.

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 3 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio.

JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at 3:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month at Portland Fire Department, 1616 N. Franklin St. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

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.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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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Traffic damages downtown efforts

To the editor:
I am writing with respect to factors to be considered for the Portland Downtown Economic Development Plan.

Noted as key issues were walkability and bikeability. Also noted was the plan's vision statement, which included references to "sense of charm," "activated streets" and "providing opportunities to support a diversifying population, thriving businesses, forward thinkers and visionary leaders."

I applaud all of these goals/attributes. I think they are great.

Might I ask, have you walked downtown Portland, especially

Letters to the Editor

on Meridian Street? If so, then you should have noticed the heavy semi-truck traffic. This traffic is extremely loud, fast-moving and a hazard to foot and bicycle traffic. The noise factor makes it impossible to hear — I know as I used to visit a friend who had a shop a block off of Meridian and when we would sit outside it was not only impossible to hear each other,

but the noise level was deafening. When you walk along Meridian, the sound reverberating off the buildings from the 18 wheelers is even louder, plus seeing wheels roll by at head level can be intimidating and threatening.

I once read a quote: "If you know the truth, speak it."

The truth is, with these large trucks driving through downtown, regardless of how much money is spent, there can be no "sense of charm, activated streets, thriving businesses, forward thinkers and visionary leaders." Visionary leaders will not be able to have a conversation, share their thoughts at a nice outside coffee shop/cafe;

forward thinkers will not be able to think; people will not care to walk to/park, thus affecting downtown businesses and finally as to sense of charm — we are talking about vibe baby — you want to be there, hang out, relax and there ain't no positive vibe possibilities with heavy trucks screaming by!

As to walkability and bikeability, well, it's not going to happen. For those that enjoy/have such a passion, they are not going to be the least bit interested in pursuing such an endeavor in the midst of the sound and potential life-threatening capability of heavy truck traffic.

In closing, if you really want to give downtown Portland a chance, be a place people love to be, downtown businesses to thrive, just create a place that has a positive vibe. The first thing that has to happen is get rid of the downtown heavy truck traffic. Do that and downtown Portland has a damned good chance to thrive. It has great amenities in place — Arts Place, John Jay Center for Learning, Jay Community Center, a great library and, most importantly, a lot of good, decent folks.

All the best and respectfully yours,
Kenny Bantz
Portland

Short session can yield major results

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

When the General Assembly returns January 8, it is clear nothing about the session will be bold, aggressive or transformational.

Republican leaders have cautioned so. They're starting a few days later than usual and likely leaving early to focus on elections for 125 lawmakers.

That means there likely won't be any meaningful action to help Hoosiers coping with high child care costs; no additional money dedicated to drooping reading scores; no solution for a budding water war; no movement on legalizing marijuana.

Instead, they will "fine-tune" some items and address reading and truancy in some way.

Call it a status-quo session. A placeholder. Do no harm.

"We will have fewer agenda bills, a signal that leadership is of a 'less is more opinion' right now. ... Short sessions are supposed to be for emergency items only," GOP House Speaker Todd Huston said at a legislative preview this month. "We've kind of expanded the definition of emergency through the years but we'll try to get back to the more limited agenda."

So why does Indiana even have short sessions in even-numbered years?

That goes back to a 1970 constitutional amendment allowing the General Assembly to set the length and frequency of its own sessions. The year after, lawmakers passed a bill to return in annual sessions instead of every other year.

To avoid becoming a full-time legislature, there are limits to the sessions. The long budget session in odd-numbered years must end by April 30 and the short session must end by March 14.

According to the "Centennial History of the General Assembly," the first short session in 1972 was described by Edward Ziegner, dean of the Statehouse reporters, as "unloved, unmentioned and cursed even by some of its own members." He found a short session convening in a year with a governor's contest and other elections sidetracked substantive issues.

Then, in 1974, Senate President Pro Tem Phillip Gutman urged a re-evaluation of short sessions. "I

Niki Kelly



feel we must find some technique to define what we want to do in an off session."

After a dismal 1976 session with a politically divided General Assembly, then-Rep. Kermit Burrous — who authored the bill moving to annual sessions just a few years prior — admitted to having second thoughts about the change.

By 1978, the legislature remained split but moved major legislation involving state construction projects, highways, streets and roads, increased school funding and removal of a sales tax on gasoline, the centennial history shows.

Ultimately, a rule change in 1980 indicated short sessions were for emergency legislation only, or as the Indianapolis Star explained "business that can't wait until the next year's long session." But subjects considered that year included posting the Ten Commandments in every public school classroom, according to the history book.

Since then, internal House and Senate rules have placed limits on the number of bills that can be filed to try to control the short session.

And over the years, some significant legislation has passed during the short session. Former Gov. Mitch Daniels especially didn't believe in wasting any sessions. In 2006 he pushed through a bill allowing him to lease the Indiana Toll Road for billions in road-funding dollars. Then in 2012, Daniels used another short session to pass a right-to-work-law limiting unions.

This shows that the Indiana General Assembly can do big things that impact Indiana in the short session — if they want to. Or they can head home and run for re-election.

.....
Kelly has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, non-profit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.



Ruling could eviscerate rights act

By ERWIN CHEMERINSKY

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

If a decision handed down by a conservative federal appeals court last week is allowed to stand, it will gut what remains of one of the most important federal laws enacted in my lifetime, the Voting Rights Act.

An 8th Circuit Court of Appeals panel held that no one other than the federal government can sue to enforce a key section of this vital statute. And as the dissenting judge pointed out, only 15 of the 182 successful suits under the section over the last 40 years were brought solely by the Department of Justice.

The Voting Rights Act has been remarkably effective in countering the myriad laws and practices the Southern states adopted to keep Black people from voting since the end of Reconstruction. Turnout among Black voters in Mississippi increased from 6% in 1964, the year before the law was enacted, to 59% in 1969.

Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act prohibits state and local election practices and systems from discriminating against voters of color. Congress strengthened the provision in 1982 so that proof of intentional discrimination would no longer be necessary; it's sufficient to show discriminatory impact.

Even under the conservative Roberts court, Section 2 has provided crucial protection against race discrimination in voting. This year, for example, in *Allen v. Milligan*, the court found that Alabama had violated the Voting Rights Act in drawing congressional districts.

Alabama's population is 27% Black, but the state's Legislature had drawn the congressional districts so that only one of six had a

Erwin Chemerinsky



Black majority. The court's ruling that the districts violated Section 2 led to a new map with two majority-Black districts.

Under the 8th Circuit's 2-1 ruling, however, private individuals and groups such as the ACLU and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund could not sue to enforce Section 2. Hundreds of such suits have been brought, and many have been adjudicated by the Supreme Court — among them *Allen v. Milligan* — without being questioned on these grounds.

This latest threat to the Voting Rights Act comes a decade after the Supreme Court overruled another key aspect of the law, Section 5. Under that section, jurisdictions with a history of race discrimination in voting had to secure the U.S. attorney general's approval before making significant changes to their election systems.

The court declared this "pre-clearance" requirement unconstitutional in 2013, ruling 5 to 4 that it violated the principle of "equal state sovereignty" to single out Southern states for the restriction. States such as North Carolina and Texas responded by quickly instituting discriminatory election practices that were previously blocked.

The latest case arose in 2021, when the Arkansas NAACP and others challenged new state House districts. The plaintiffs alleged that the Arkansas map diluted Black voting strength in violation

of Section 2 and that five additional majority-Black districts should be drawn to fairly represent the state's Black population.

The majority opinion by 8th Circuit Court Judge David Stras, a Trump appointee, concludes that only the United States government can bring such suits, contradicting 58 years of practice since the Voting Rights Act became law. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, whom Stras clerked for, raised this possibility in his *Milligan* dissent, but the prospect of such a radical change in the law wasn't taken seriously by many. In fact, none of the parties in the Arkansas litigation even raised the issue: The U.S. District Court where the case was first heard improperly raised the issue on its own.

At best, the Justice Department has the resources to bring only a handful of Section 2 lawsuits a year. At worst, especially under a conservative administration, it may bring none.

In his dissent from the appeals court's decision, Chief Judge Lavenski Smith rightly described the ruling as threatening major upheaval. "Rights so foundational to self-government and citizenship," he wrote, "should not depend solely on the discretion or availability of the government's agents for protection."

As Smith noted, the Supreme Court declared more than two centuries ago, in *Marbury v. Madison*, that where there is a violation of a right, there must be a remedy. If the Supreme Court doesn't reverse the 8th Circuit's decision, it will leave little remedy for violations of one of our most important rights.

.....
Chemerinsky is a contributing writer to *Opinion* and the dean of the UC Berkeley School of Law.

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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.

Urgent care opening in Muncie

IU Health will open its new urgent care facility in Muncie next week.

IU Health Urgent Care will open Monday at 2598 W. White River Blvd. in the same building that houses IU Health Imaging Center and IU Health Employer Solutions Clinic. It is designed to provide care for minor illnesses and injuries.

"We are excited to launch our newest urgent care in the East Central Region," says Lyndsay Adams, director of IU Health Urgent Care, in a press release. "It not only serves as a convenient, affordable care option for local residents, but also as another access point to drive referrals into the system, offering our patients a solid continuum of care."

A ribbon-cutting for the new facility is scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9.

Tips offered

Indiana Michigan Power recently offered tips regarding electrical safety while decorating for the holiday season.

Among the recommendations are:

Business roundup

- Inspecting lights for damaged sockets, loose connections and frayed or bare wires

- Making sure bulbs do not touch flammable material

- Turning off lights when leaving the house or going to bed

- Avoiding overloading electrical outlets

- Eliminating use of staples or nails to secure lights.

For other tips, visit Electricideas.com.

Ardagh honored

Ardagh Glass Packaging – Poland was named the overall winner in the 2023 international edition of the Global KAIZEN Award.

The award recognizes organizations leading in applying KAIZEN principles and practices for meeting customer expectations, leadership, efficien-

cy, staff development and transparency.

"This achievement reaffirms our dedication to excellence and sets a standard for the industry," said Kamil Kantecki, operations director for Ardagh Glass Packaging – Portland in a press release.

Ardagh also announced heat-up of the N3 furnace at its Nigel production facility in Gauteng, South Africa this week. The project includes a new furnace and four production lines.

The company operates glass manufacturing facilities in Dunkirk and Winchester.

BSU media wins

Ball State University student media organizations won various awards recently at the Fall National College Media Convention in Atlanta.

The Ball State Daily News was a Newspaper Pacemaker for the fifth year in a row. Ball Bearings magazine won a national "Website of the Year" award.

"These students spend thousands of hours each year pursuing excellence, and while they don't do it

for the recognition, sometimes that commitment is rewarded with national titles," said Lisa Renze-Rhodes, director of the Unified Media Lab at BSU. "We are beyond fortunate to do this work at a University that has a more than century-long history of robust student journalism, and we're lucky to get to protect that important legacy."

Adding cookie

Subway is adding a foot-long cookie to its regular menu.

The restaurant chain plans to add the cookie to its regular menu beginning in early 2024. It was available in a handful of restaurants in Chicago, Dallas, Miami and New York on Monday.

The foot-long cookie debuted for a limited run last year.

"The overwhelming response we received from fans around the country last year let us know that we needed to make the footlong cookie a permanent addition to our menu," Sunday senior vice president of culinary and innovation Paul Fabre

said in a press release. "At Cookieway this year, our guests will get a sneak peek of an even better foot-long cookie: thick, gooey, packed with chocolate chips, and served warm – right out of the oven. It's the perfect pairing with your favorite footlong sub and may even become your favorite footlong after the first bite."

Footprint may shrink

Dollar Tree may consider reducing its number of Family Dollar locations after the stores fell short of company performance expectations in the third quarter.

During an earnings call, Dollar Tree CEO Rick Dreiling said "a comprehensive review of our Family Dollar portfolio to address underperforming stores that are not aligned with our transformative vision for the company." The review will involve identifying stores for possible closure, Retail Dive reported.

The company has more than 16,600 stores, slightly more than half of which operate under the Family Dollar banner.

CVS helping

CVS, Columbus (Ohio) Metropolitan Authority, Beacon 360 Management and government leaders last week announced the opening of a facility to provide housing for survivors of human trafficking.

Harriet's Hope is a 52-unit multifamily supportive housing community minted in honor of abolitionist Harriet Tubman. Residents will be provided with onsite case management and social services to address their needs and encourage rehabilitation.

"Whether forced into labor or sex work, human trafficking is detrimental to the health of an individual and larger community – making this both a health care and public health issue," explains CVS Health anti-human trafficking administrator Latasha Brown in a press release. "A survivor cannot improve their overall health and wellbeing without stable access to quality housing. For Harriet's Hope residents, this haven will allow them to focus on their healing journey and position them for a bright next chapter."

UAW wants to organize non-union plants

By J. SCOTT TRUBEY,
MICHAEL E. KANELL
and ZACHARY HANSEN

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Tribune News Service

The United Auto Workers on Wednesday said employees at non-union auto manufacturers across the U.S. have launched coordinated campaigns to organize their plants and join the union. Some of the biggest targets stretch across the South.

The sprawling campaign to organize workers at 13 non-union automakers follows the UAW's successful negotiations for new contracts with the Detroit's Big Three that came after a six-week strike. The simultaneous action targets factories of automakers including BMW, Honda, Lucid, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz, Rivian, Subaru, Tesla, and Toyota.

The organizing push would cover almost 150,000 employees at non-union plants, the UAW said, many of them across the Sun Belt. The push includes Hyundai Motor Group, which has a Hyundai factory in Alabama and a Kia plant in Georgia. Hyundai also is building a \$7.6 billion electric vehicle factory near Savannah.

California-based Rivian, meanwhile, operates a non-union plant in Illinois and plans a \$5 billion factory near Social Circle east of Atlanta.

"CEOs are raking in billions while auto workers' real wages are falling," UAW President Shawn Fain said in a video. "Car prices are through the roof, but



Tribune News Service/The Atlanta Journal-Constitution/Drew Kann

Construction progress on Hyundai Motor Groups Metaplant near Savannah is shown Oct. 25. The \$7.6 billion electric vehicle and battery plant is expected to begin production in early 2025.

workers can't afford to buy the vehicles they make. Wall Street is making a killing, but communities are being left behind.

"... To all the auto workers out there working without the benefits of a union: Now it's your turn," Fain said.

The UAW is riding high off its recent contracts with the Big Three of General Motors, Ford and Stellantis, the owner of Dodge, Chrysler and Jeep. Since those contracts were reached, several non-union automakers including Hyundai and Toyota

have hiked pay in the U.S. in a bid to tamp down potential union pushes.

In a statement, Hyundai said the company "provides excellent wages and benefits and maintains a strong culture of safety, quality and continuous improvement in all our operations."

"We are proud to employ directly or indirectly more than 114,000 Americans today — a number that will increase significantly as we invest more than \$12 billion in Alabama and Georgia to expand our U.S. manufacturing pres-

ence," the statement said. "During Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama's 18-year manufacturing history in the U.S., our team members have not shown an interest in union representation."

The UAW represents more than 400,000 workers in numerous sectors, including 146,000 at the Detroit-based automakers. But UAW membership at auto plants has waned as the U.S. auto industry saw growth in non-union factories operated by foreign brands and Tesla in the Sun Belt. As U.S. and foreign brands have announced multibillion-dollar EV factories in Georgia and other Southern states, the UAW's urgency to penetrate non-union factories has only increased.

In September, a coalition of union groups launched an effort to unionize workers at the future Hyundai Metaplant in Bryan County, where the Korean conglomerate has pledged to hire 8,500 workers by 2031.

Just 5.4% of Georgia's workforce is represented by unions, compared to 11.3% nationally. Georgia labor laws also discourage organizing, meaning the union push faces long odds in succeeding. But the nation and Georgia have seen an increase in organizing activity, and the Teamsters recently reached a landmark five-year deal for its 340,000 organized workers at Sandy Springs-based UPS.

The UAW efforts were bolstered when President Joe Biden

joined picketing workers amid the strike.

In a post on its website, the union said one of its biggest targets is Toyota's factory in Georgetown, Kentucky, where the automaker makes its popular Camry, RAV 4 and Lexus ES models. Another target is Hyundai's factory in Montgomery, Alabama.

Hyundai is racing to complete its Metaplant and plans to begin production in early 2025, though officials have said it could open late next year. Hyundai has said it expects to produce 300,000 Hyundai, Genesis and Kia models per year at full production and will build batteries at the plant in a joint venture with LG Energy Solution. Hyundai also has a partnership with SK On for a battery plant in Bartow County.

Rivian is expected to break ground on its factory in southern Walton and Morgan counties early next year, though site work has been underway for some time. Rivian declined to comment. Cox Enterprises, owner of the AJC, owns about a 4% stake in Rivian.

For decades, the presence of unions has been on the wane in the United States, most especially in the South.

However, the last few years have seen a flurry of organizing activity touching a spectrum of workers in Georgia, from baristas to beer-making, from delivery drivers to doctoral students, some successful, some decidedly not.

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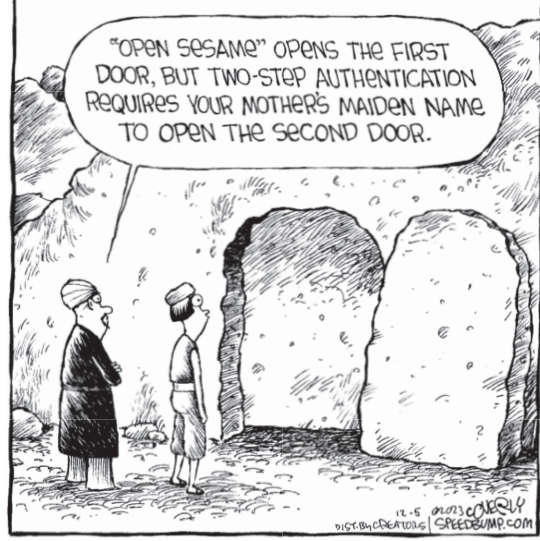
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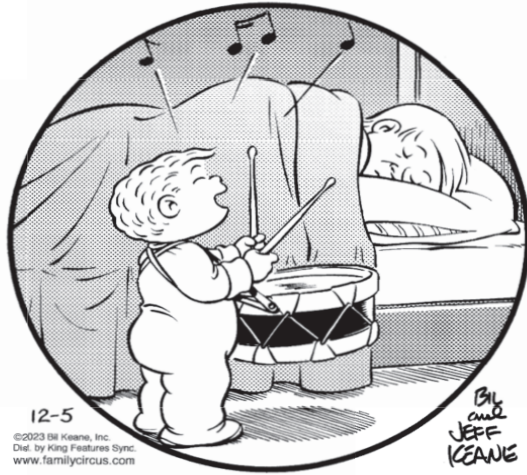


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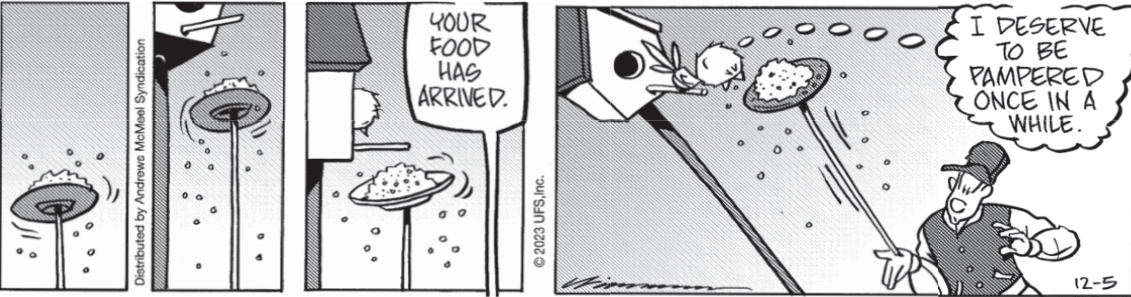
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



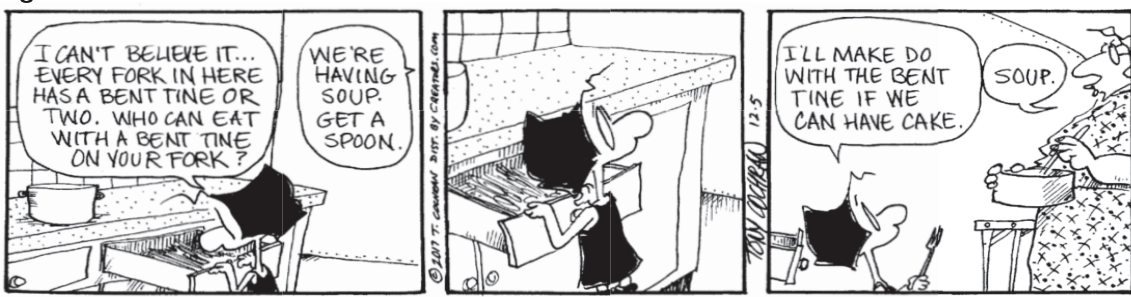
Peanuts



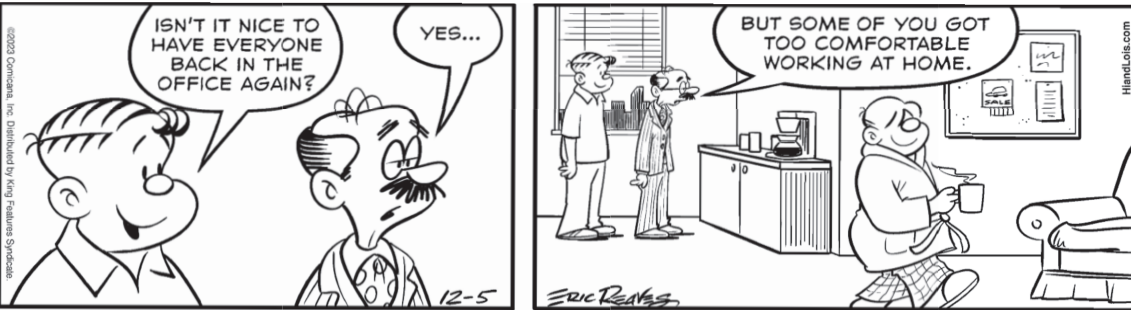
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Merrily we roll along

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A K J 5
♥ K J 9 6 3
♦ A 8
♣ 6 2

EAST
♠ 9 3
♥ A 10 8 2
♦ 7 4
♣ Q J 7 5 4

SOUTH
♠ Q 8 7 6 4 2
♥ —
♦ K Q 10 5 3
♣ A K

The bidding:
North 1♥ Pass South 1♣ Pass West 3♠ Pass East 4♣ Pass South 5NT Pass West 7♠

Opening lead — ten of clubs.

Grand slams are comparatively rare, occurring in approximately one deal out of 100. But when the occasion arises and it becomes clear to either member of the bidding side that the possibility of a grand slam exists, good bidding technique is usually required.

Consider this case where North opened one heart and South responded with one spade. North raised to three spades (indicating seven spades, which was easily made. True, North-South together had only 30 high-card points, but that didn't stop them from making all the tricks.

South needed only three specific cards from partner — the A-K of trump and ace of diamonds — for the grand slam to become a feasible contract. He used the necessary tools to extract that information and was well rewarded for his efforts.

North duly responded by bidding seven spades, which was easily made. True, North-South together had only 30 high-card points, but that didn't stop them from making all the tricks.

South needed only three specific cards from partner — the A-K of trump and ace of diamonds — for the grand slam to become a feasible contract. He used the necessary tools to extract that information and was well rewarded for his efforts.

Tomorrow: Deductive reasoning.
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12-5 CRYPTOQUIP

KWDJ E YWGYLDJ KEU SQVO E
USQTR SWES KEU YQACVDSVDR
FJVGLDVR, GS UEGO, "RQF'TD
CFVVGJH AR DHH!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: "PETER PAN" VILLAIN FAMOUS FOR SMOKING TOBACCO VIA A BENDABLE LONG-TUBED PIPE: CAPTAIN HOOKAH.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals G

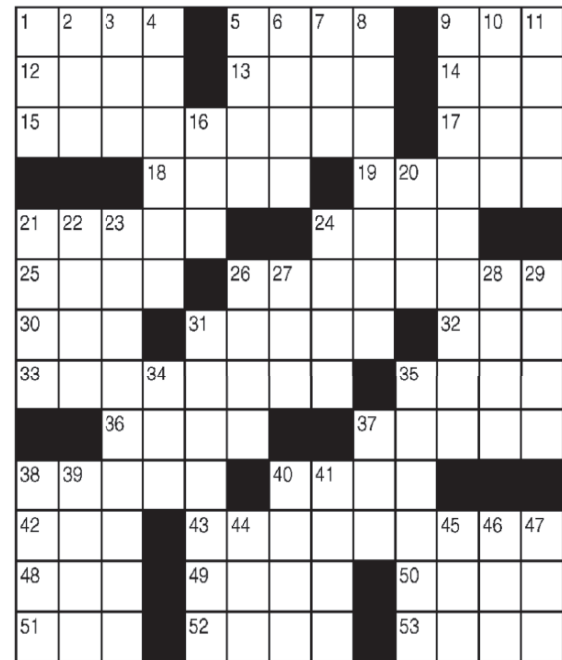
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ACROSS | 35 Sultry | DOWN | 21 Oil |
| 1 Shopping center | 36 Paris notion | 1 Super Bowl | 22 Taboo |
| 5 Entryway | 37 Carnival attractions | 2 Tire filler | 23 Service suppliers |
| 9 Cpl.'s subordinate | 38 "The Merry —" | 3 Brazilian city | 24 IRS employees |
| 12 Henry | 40 Oahu souvenirs | 4 Short-form video-sharing app | 26 Loyal |
| 13 Competent | 42 Rushmore face | 5 Loony award | 27 "Uh-huh" |
| 14 Classic car | 43 Taking charge, say | 6 Theater | 28 Fork part |
| 15 "Peter and the Wolf" composer | 48 Aachen article | 7 Yucatan | 29 Salty septet |
| 17 Ear-related prefix | 49 Squad | 8 Adored | 31 Ale seller |
| 18 London gallery | 50 Love god | 9 Went | 34 Tokyo, once |
| 19 Spreadsheet software | 51 UFO passengers | 10 Big party | 35 "Hear me out" |
| 21 Stoned | 52 Striped fish | 11 Hip | 37 Docu-mentarian |
| 24 Manitoba tribe | 53 Salamander | 16 Granola morsel | 38 Test the waters |
| 25 Beans go-with | | 20 Ballot marks | 39 "Yeah, right" |
| 26 Works on galleys | | | 40 "Family Guy" mom |
| 30 Rock producer Brian | | | 41 Diner sign |
| 31 The staff of life | | | 44 Gonotic letters |
| 32 Conk out | | | 45 Rage |
| 33 Concealment of crimes | | | 46 "I do," for one |
| | | | 47 "Guinness Book" suffix |

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 12-5



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2 insertions.....81¢/word
3 insertions.....96¢/word
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12 insertions. \$1.52/word
26 insertions. \$1.77/word
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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County's Sophie Saxman (10) goes up for a layup as three Fort Recovery defenders converge around her in the paint.

Troubles ...

Continued from page 8
"We just didn't play to our level today," McIntire said. "We've got to move on. We're not going to dwell on this. We've got to get prepared for next week."

Junior varsity

The guards for Jay County exploded in the second quarter of the three-period 44-24 victory over the Indians.

Leading by five after the first period, Raylah Newton and Alexis Sibray both sprayed in three shots each while the former also nailed two free throws to power a 17-point second period. Meredith Dirksen also hit a three for the Patriots (3-5) while the Indians only got baskets from Madie Schoenlein and Ivy Tobe. Schoenlein led Fort Recovery with five points.

Newton finished with 16 points for Jay County while Natalie Carreno put up 13 and Sibray had 10.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Swimming vs. Oak Hill — 6 p.m.; Boys wrestling tri-meet at home— 6 p.m.; Girls basketball vs. Muncie Central — 7 p.m. Junior high girls basketball vs. Muncie Southside — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Middle school boys basketball vs. New Knoxville — 5 p.m.; Middle school

girls basketball at New Knoxville — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Florida Atlantic at Illinois (ESPN); Delaware at Xavier (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: New York Knicks at Milwaukee Bucks (TNT)

8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Buffalo at Butler (FS1)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: North Carolina at UConn (ESPN); Seton Hall at Baylor (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — NBA: Phoenix Suns at Los Angeles Lakers (TNT)

Wednesday

7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Penn

State at Maryland (BTN)
7 p.m. — NHL: Dallas Stars at Florida Panthers (TNT)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: San Antonio Spurs at Minnesota Timberwolves (ESPN)
8 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Texas at Marquette (FS1)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Nebraska at Minnesota (BTN); Pitt at West Virginia (ESPN2)
9 p.m. — NHL: Vegas Golden Knights at St.

Louis Blues (Bally Indiana)
9:30 p.m. — NHL: Carolina Panthers at Edmonton Oilers (TNT)
10 p.m. — Men's college basketball: SMU at Arizona State (FS1)
10 p.m. — NBA: Denver Nuggets at Los Angeles Clippers (ESPN)

To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@theocr.com.

Line ...

Continued from page 10

Four of the Patriots' five starters struggled offensively, as Westly Bihn, Trevin Dunnington, Garringer and Swoveland finished with a combined 4 points on 1-for-18 from the floor.

"I'm disappointed that at critical times where we needed a play made, we never really got it," Jay County coach Jerry Bomholt said. "We have a very small margin of error, because we don't have the dominant player."

The Patriots started the game off well, holding the Indians scoreless until 2:44 in the first quarter when Troy Homan went coast to coast off of a steal. Nichols led Jay County early on, hitting the first to shots of the game and scoring eight of the 10 JCHS points.

Nichols had 10 points to lead Jay County as no one else could break double-digits.

The momentum flipped in the second quarter when Fort Recovery moved into a 3-2 zone, bothering the Patriots enough to hold them scoreless.

At the same time, Fort Recovery started to dial in from distance. Biggs Overman broke the seal before Guggenbiller sunk back-go-back threes, all of which were assisted by Homan.

Bob Leverette saw the success as a self-feeding cycle where the offense and defense were feeding off of each other.

"Briggs Overman hit a huge, deep three for us early on in the second quarter early on and that got our defense going," he said. "Once we got it close, then we made some huge stops down that second quarter."

Guggenbiller was Fort Recovery's leading scorer with 12 points on 2-for-4 shooting behind the arc and 6-for-8 at the line. It also got some big contributions from its front court in Rex Leverette and Gavin Faller. The former ripped down 11

rebounds, put up six assists to the latter in some high-low action.

Faller had eight points, six of which came in the third quarter. The senior who hadn't played for the last three years accredited the early success to the chemistry he's built with Rex Leverette and the other players early in the pre-season.

Another bright spot for Jay County came in the form of Muhlenkamp off the bench. The junior scored a career-high eight points, including consecutive 3-pointers in the third quarter that snapped an 18-0 Indians run.

Beyond Nichols, Muhlenkamp and Crouch, Jay County didn't get a lot offensively, and Bomholt will be looking for ways to fix that before they travel to New Castle on Saturday.

"I've seen certain things that good, solid high school basketball players don't do in certain situations," Bomholt said. "It's just been really, really inconsistent play and we've got to get that corrected or it's going to be a long season."

"We've just got to do a better job. That's all there is to it."

Junior varsity

In a higher-scoring game, the Jay County junior varsity team took down Fort Recovery 43-38.

Carter Fugiett was on fire from 3-point range, splashing in six triples, three in the first quarter. He finished with a game-high 19 points. Jayden Comer added two threes as well, as he finished with eight points for the Patriots (4-0).

Breaker Jutte scored 14 for the Indians. The freshman knocked down three free throws, one three and four 2-pointers. He had seven of the Indians' 12 fourth-quarter points.

Freshman

Grant Fortkamp and Brody Barga led Fort

Box score

Fort Recovery Indians vs. Jay County Patriots

Boys varsity summary

Jay County (2-2)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Nichols	4-11	0-0	10
Muhlenkamp	3-4	0-0	8
Edwards	1-4	0-0	3
Garringer	0-9	1-2	1
Dunnington	0-1	0-0	0
Crouch	3-5	0-1	6
Bihn	1-2	0-2	2
Swoveland	0-6	1-2	1
Totals	12-42	2-7	31
	.286	.286	
Def. rebound percentage:	.647		

Fort Recovery (1-0)

	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Overman	1-4	0-0	3
Guggenbiller	2-4	6-8	12
Dues	2-2	0-0	6
Homan	1-3	1-2	3
Leverette	2-6	2-3	6
Evers	0-0	0-0	0
Lennartz	0-0	0-0	0
Faller	3-4	2-5	8
Totals	11-23	11-18	38
	.478	.611	
Def. rebound percentage:	.767		

Score by quarters:
Jay Co. 10 0 12 9 — 31
Ft. Rec. 2 12 9 15 — 38

3-point shooting: Jay County 5-24 (Muhlenkamp 2-3, Nichols 2-8, Edwards 1-4, Dunnington 0-1, Crouch 0-1, Garringer 0-3, Swoveland 0-4). Fort Recovery 5-9 (Dues 2-2, Guggenbiller 2-4, Overman 1-2, Leverette 0-1).

Rebounds: Jay County 18 (Crouch 5, Swoveland 5, Bihn 4, Dunnington 2, Edwards, Garringer). Fort Recovery 28 (Leverette 11, Faller 6, Guggenbiller 4, Homan 3, Team 3, Overman, Lennartz).

Assists: Jay County 6 (Swoveland 4, Nichols, Crouch). Fort Recovery 8 (Homan 4, Guggenbiller 2, Leverette 2).

Blocks: Jay County 2 (Garringer, Swoveland). Fort Recovery 1 (Leverette).

Personal fouls: Jay County 19 (Garringer 5, Dunnington 4, Bihn 4, Muhlenkamp 2, Nichols, Edwards, Crouch, Swoveland). Fort Recovery 14 (Homan 4, Guggenbiller 2, Dues 2, Lennartz 2, Overman 2, Leverette, Faller).

Turnovers: Jay County 9. Fort Recovery 17.

Recovery to a 49-34 win in the freshman game.

Fortkamp led with 15 points, while Barga added 10.

Jay County's leader was Brock Wasson, who had a strong third quarter. The freshman scored 10 of his 16 points in the third period alone.

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Selected entries will be published in The Graphic Printing Company's annual Christmas Greetings special section. The first-place entry will also receive a \$250 prize.

Original short stories with a Christmas theme or setting should be emailed to news@theocr.com by Dec. 8. Each entry should include the writer's name, complete address and phone number.

Entry Deadline is Dec. 8, 2023.

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"Christmas Magic"

By Madison Bihn

Sports

On the line



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Troy Homan, a senior on the Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team, goes up for a left-handed, reverse layup as Jay County's Ben Crouch tries to block it from behind in the first half of the Indians' 38-31 victory on Saturday. It was the only hoop for the Indians in the first quarter, but they stormed back with an 18-0 run starting in the second period.

Indians sink clutch free throws to put away JCHS in opener

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Gradin Swoveland knocked down one of two free throws to pull the Patriots within one point with 1 minute, 12 seconds remaining.

It was the last point they would score.

Through the final minute, Reece Guggenbiller and Rex Leverette pulled down rebounds, marched to the other end of the floor and nailed free throws to put the Patriots on ice.

The Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team knocked down eight of its 14 fourth-quarter free throws, including five in the final minute to hold off the Jay County Patriots and win its season opener 38-31 Saturday night.

"It's always a slugfest anytime you go against Jerry's 1-2-2," FRHS coach Bob Leverette said. "You've got to hit shots, you have to be patient and take care of the ball. ...

"This was the opener for us. We didn't finish real strong in the scrimmage season, so we had some major question marks. To win that and show that grit, that's huge for us. That shows our character."

The Indians (1-0) entered the fourth quarter leading by only one point after Jackson Edwards nailed a buzzer-beating three for Jay County (2-2). The teams traded buckets before Fort Recovery built a six-point lead on a score from Rex Leverette off of a baseline inbound and a corner three by Alex Dues.

Jay County battled back as

Parker Nichols crossed over and lost his man for a pull-up jumper and Ben Crouch found success twice off the drive before Swoveland hit his free throw.

Guggenbiller came down with the rebound off of Swoveland's missed free throw and was fouled by Liam Garringer, who picked up his fifth with 1:10 left. Guggenbiller knocked both foul shots down to make it a two-possession game.

"Our assistant coach (Toby) Metzger on the bench, he always has a saying for us — 'Stay calm. Life's good,'" Guggenbiller said. "I just followed and thought about that. I just calmed down, took a deep breath and hit them."

Then, the Patriots went silent from the field.

Three-point attempts from Nichols, Edwards and Levi Muhlenkamp all came up empty in the closing minutes.

Jay County fouled Guggenbiller again with less than 30 seconds and the senior hit another pair to make it 37-31. After another empty possession and subsequent foul, Guggenbiller missed both free throws, but it didn't hurt the Indians, as the Patriots missed another three with Rex Leverette making the trip to the charity stripe.

He missed the first before draining the second to reach Fort Recovery's final score. By then it was too late, as the Patriots advanced the ball and took a final shot from the corner that missed the mark ending the game.

See Line page 9

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