

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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## Tie broken for Golden

*Nuckols asked to be removed from council consideration*

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

A tie on election day ended up unofficially uncontested when it came time for the tiebreaker.

Portland City Council members on Monday unanimously voted for incumbent Democrat Dave Golden to retain his at-large council seat over Republican Larry Nuckols, who had asked to be removed from consideration because of health issues.

Council members also approved three requests for economic development income tax (EDIT) funding.

Golden and Nuckols finished in a tie for second place in a three-way race for the city's two at-large council seats in the Nov. 7 election. They each received 485 votes while Ashley Hilfiker won with 669.

By Indiana Code, such a tie is broken by the fiscal body, which in this case is Portland City Council.

Jay County clerk Jon Eads explained Tuesday that since the election, Nuckols contacted his office and requested that his name be removed from the ballot because of health issues. However, it was past the deadline for a candidate to be removed from the ballot. He said Nuckols subsequently contacted city officials to ask that he be removed from consideration.

Council honored that request.

"In light of that fact that Mr. Golden at this time is actually the only candidate, I would make a motion that we vote for Dave Golden to break that tie," said council president Kent McClung.

Council members Don Gillespie, Janet Powers, Matt Goldsworthy, Michele Brewster, Mike Aker and McClung then voted unanimously for Golden to fill the council seat. (Golden abstained, as required by Indiana Code.)

"I wish Larry a quick and complete recovery relative to his health issues," said Golden.

See **Broken** page 2

## JCDC, county at odds over '24 contract

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

In August, Jay County Development Corporation agreed to a contract with the county through the end of the year.

Amidst high tensions, details for 2024 are still being hammered out.

Jay County Commissioners met with JCDC executive director Travis Richards and board member Barb Street during a special session Monday to hash out specifics in a contract for 2024.

County attorney Wes Schemenauer walked through items in the one-year service agreement, which lists services JCDC would

provide to the county. Commissioners and JCDC representatives spent more than an hour discussing JCDC's role.

Per discussion about the proposed contract Monday, JCDC would not be serving as a "liaison to Jay County municipalities for securing grants," with the role instead falling to community coordinator Nate Kimball, who is employed through commissioners' contract with East Central Indiana Regional Planning District. Both parties shared grievances Monday with one another over issues that have been brewing for more than a year.

See **Contract** page 5



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Star student

Third grader Hunter Hamilton holds up a star put together by Bloomfield Elementary students during the school's practice session for its Christmas program Tuesday morning at East Jay Elementary.



Tribune News Service/AFP via Getty Images/Gil Cohen-Magen

## Battles continue

An Israeli artillery unit is pictured near the border with the Gaza Strip on Tuesday amid continuing battles between Israel and the militant group Hamas. Israel said it would consider another short-term cease-fire if an agreement can be reached with Hamas to return more of its 137 hostages still in captivity.

## FR bans dispensaries

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — A moratorium on cannabis dispensaries in the village is in place.

Fort Recovery Village Council approved an ordinance Monday prohibiting medical and recreational marijuana dispensaries from setting up and selling products within village limits.

The decision comes in response to Ohio voters legalizing recreational marijuana for 21-year-old adults and older via their favorable vote on Issue 2 in last month's election. Per the law, residents may grow their own products at home, but there is a limit of six plants per person or 12 plants per residence. (There are also other specifications, such as making sure it isn't accessible to children or teenagers.)

The moratorium doesn't

*Recreational marijuana becomes legal in Ohio beginning on Thursday*

prohibit residents from using cannabis at their own homes, but it does prevent businesses from selling marijuana in the village. Although the law takes effect Thursday, it takes about nine months for dispensaries to obtain licenses to sell recreational marijuana, noted village administrator Randy Diller.

Council passed the ordinance unanimously.

In other business, council members:

•Were reminded they did not purchase the 89 acres of land located along the east edge of Fort Recovery. Diller noted the auction price exceeded their budgeted amount, although he noted plans to meet with the buyer, who Diller said had expressed interest in working with the village.

See **FR** page 2

### Deaths

**Sandy Denney**, 68, Portland  
**Twila Mock**, 64, Dunkirk  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 41 degrees Monday. The low was 34.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the upper 20s. Expect mostly sunny skies Thursday with a high in the upper 40s and winds gusting to 30 miles per hour.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles branches will have a delayed opening Thursday. Branches will open at 10 a.m.

### Coming up

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

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



# Obituaries

## Sandy Denney

Oct. 13, 1955-Dec. 4, 2023  
Sandy Denney, age 68, a former resident of Portland, passed away on Monday, Dec. 4, 2023, at Ball Hospital in Muncie. Sandy was born on Oct. 13, 1955, in Muncie, Indiana, the daughter James and Louise (Anderson) Denney. She attended school in Jay County before living in a group home in New Castle for over 30 years. In the last three-plus years

she was a resident of Albany Health and Rehab. While at Albany, Sandy loved to visit the staff and other residents. She also loved taking friends out to eat and shop. Her favorite holiday was Halloween and she enjoyed watching reruns of *Sammy Terry* on the TV. Survivors include:



Denney

Brother — Robert Denney (wife: Donna)  
Sister — Rebecca El-Bendary, Tennessee  
Nieces — Sheila Scully (husband: Joshua), Heather Denney, Portland, Indiana, and Ameana Basic (husband: Casey), Tennessee  
Nephew — Clay Denney, Portland, Indiana  
Several great-nieces and great-nephews  
Visitation will be held Friday from 1 to 2 p.m. at Williamson-

Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. on Friday at the funeral home. Pastor Herb Hummel will officiate and burial will follow at Green Park Cemetery.  
Memorials may be directed to Gideon's International.  
Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.com.  
**Twila Mock**, Dunkirk, June 5, 1959-Dec. 2, 2023. Services will

be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.  
.....  
*The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.*

## CR almanac

Thursday 12/7	Friday 12/8	Saturday 12/9	Sunday 12/10	Monday 12/11
<b>52/39</b>	<b>54/47</b>	<b>59/40</b>	<b>48/26</b>	<b>40/30</b>
Thursday's forecast shows sunny skies with temperatures sticking between the 40s and 50s.	Temperatures will continue to climb into the mid 50s on Friday, when there's a 30% chance of rain.	Rain is likely on Saturday with a 90% chance of showers day and night.	More rain is possible Sunday with a mixture of snow as well. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	Mostly sunny skies are expected Monday, when the high won't go past 40 degrees.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Monday 18-19-27-28-45 Power Ball: 9 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$435 million	Daily Four: 7-2-6-0 Quick Draw: 4-5-9-14-17-20-21-26-40-44-48-49-55-59-62-65-68-74-75-76 Cash 5: 4-12-22-28-31 Estimated jackpot: \$95,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$377 million	<b>Ohio</b> Monday Midday Pick 3: 4-2-3 Pick 4: 7-5-5-7 Evening Pick 3: 7-2-8 Pick 4: 8-8-2-3 Pick 5: 6-3-1-3-6 Rolling Cash: 5-10-22-25-37 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Monday Midday Daily Three: 7-4-0 Daily Four: 4-8-5-7 Quick Draw: 4-6-10-13-19-22-24-25-28-30-35-38-44-51-58-62-65-69-72-80 Evening Daily Three: 0-4-3	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.57 Jan. corn.....4.77 Wheat.....5.42	Jan. beans.....12.82 Wheat.....5.87
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.57 Dec. corn.....4.67 Jan. corn.....4.77	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.37 Jan. corn.....4.59 Beans.....12.68 Jan. beans.....12.74 Wheat.....5.56
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn.....4.32 Jan. corn.....4.72 Beans.....12.72	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.42 Jan. corn.....4.52 Beans.....12.47 Jan. beans.....12.55 Wheat.....5.27

## Today in history

In 1484, Pope Innocent VIII condemned witchcraft, which led to an effort to prosecute those accused of being witches in Germany.  
In 1757, King Frederick the Great of Prussia defeated Austria in the battle at Leuthen during the Seven Years' War.  
In 1782, President Martin Van Buren was born in Kinderhook, New York. He was one of the founders of the Democratic Party, was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1821, served as vice president under Andrew Jackson and won the 1836 presidential election.  
In 1848, President James K. Polk confirmed the discovery of gold in California during his annual message to Congress.  
In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln nominated Salmon P. Chase for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He was sworn in nine days later and held the post for more than nine years before he died following a stroke in May 7, 1873.  
In 1901, Walt Disney was born in Chicago, Illinois. He produced movies and TV shows, and he planned and built Disneyland near Los Angeles.  
In 2005, the Jay County Development Corporation board of directors approved another one-year contract with Bob Quadrozzi to be its executive director.  
In 2021, Jay County Council approved up to \$700,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds toward a project to convert the former Judge Haynes Elementary School building into a facility for child care. (The funding was later rescinded.)  
—The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Thursday</b> 4 p.m. — Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.	mission executive session, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 8:45 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
<b>Friday</b> 8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Com-	

## Broken ...

Continued from page 1  
"I regret that someone's misfortune results in my good fortune."  
"I thank those of you who did vote for me. If you didn't, it's my goal to win your trust, your confidence that I am doing my very best up here."  
"I appreciate the opportunity that the Lord has seen fit to grant me."  
He also thanked Eads and his department for their work, saying he never considered requesting a recount because he had no doubts about the integrity of the election. Council members gave unanimous approvals to three requests for EDIT funding, following the recommendation of the city's EDIT advisory committee.

It OK'd loans of \$188,250 to Wheel & Spoke Antique Mall for a roof replacement and \$75,000 to Reclaiming Design for interior renovations.  
Both loans are at zero interest and zero payments for three years, followed by a five-year payback with an interest rate at one percentage point above prime. If the businesses meet certain criteria — Wheel & Spoke must complete construction by spring 2025 and have at least 100 vendor spaces while Reclaiming Design must complete the work and invest a minimum of \$180,000 — 50% of the loan amount will be forgiven.  
Also approved was an additional \$8,500 for Jay County Development Corporation to cover its projected budget deficit for 2024.

In other business:  
•Mayor John Boggs, attending his first meeting in person since early September as he has been recovering from a stroke, presented plaques to outgoing council members Gillespie and Powers. Gillespie has served four terms on council while Powers has served two. Both decided not to seek reelection this year. "It's been a very, very big honor in my life to serve as the mayor of this city," added Boggs, who finished third in a four-way Republican primary in May and will end his term Dec. 31. "I've missed the last few weeks not being in the office, and I'll definitely miss it from now on. Thank you very much."  
•Powers asked about the status of the project to replace the Indiana 26 (Water Street) bridge over the Salamonie River on the east edge of Portland. Clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips said the latest update from Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) calls for a target completion date of Dec. 19. (The project was originally scheduled for completion in November.)  
•Golden asked whether an INDOT project to pave Meridian Street in Portland is still on track for 2025. Phillips said the project is out for bid this month and is still in INDOT's plans for next year.  
•Council approved a request from police chief Steve Schlechty to utilize \$36,990 from funds brought in via off truck route tickets for the purchase of two 2015 Ford Explorers for the police

department. Schlechty noted that more than \$72,500 has come in already via the tickets with a total of more than \$98,000 expected. (Golden praised powers for her leadership on the issue, as she had pushed for increasing fines for such violations prior to the two major projects that shut down U.S. 27 and Indiana 26 this year. Council increased fines to \$275 for a first offense and \$500 for each additional offense. The previous fine was \$25.  
•Golden asked about the status of proposals for recording and live-streaming city meetings. (By state law, such meetings must be live-streamed and recorded beginning July 1, 2025.) Phillips said bids will be opened at Thursday's Portland Board of Works meeting and then shared with council.  
•McClung asked about ordinances regarding camping trailers. City attorney Wes Schemenaur said such rules are likely in the city's zoning ordinance. He said he would double-check existing restrictions, but also advised that council may want to look into addressing the issue.  
•Following a question from Goldsworthy, council learned city leaf pick-up will continue through the end of the week. Residents are asked to rake leaves to the edge of, but not into, the street.  
•Golden complimented the city's Christmas decorations.  
•Council approved nepotism and conflict of interest disclosures and payment of claims.

## FR ...

Continued from page 1  
Council authorized Diller and Mayor Dave Kaup on Nov. 20 to bid on and purchase the land, which could be used for potential residential growth with some space for commercial businesses as well.  
•Passed a few legislative items on second readings, including setting pay schedules for village personnel — employees are getting at least 4% raises in 2024 — renewing a two-year contract with village solicitor Erin Abels and authorizing and establishing publication

requirements as Fort Recovery's website and Facebook page.  
•Heard from Brian Miller, a rural Celina resident who is vying for the Republican nomination for a commissioner seat in the 2024 election.  
•Learned the village has no prospective candidates for the open utility superintendent position, which was vacated by Ryan Thien in early November. Diller said he plans to talk to utility employees this week to put together a plan moving forward.

## Capsule Reports

**Cow hit**  
Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000 after a cow ran in front of a Portland man's vehicle, causing an accident along county road 200 South about 6:44 p.m. Nov. 29.  
Todd R. Eley, 57, was driving his 2016 Polaris Ranger along the road when a cow ran in front of his path, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. He wasn't able to stop before hitting the animal. Eley's vehicle was towed due to disabling damage.

accidents involving deer in Jay County recently.  
Donna L. Durham, 39, Hartford City, was driving a 2002 Ford F-150 northwest on Como Road near county road 900 South about 6:10 p.m. Friday when a deer ran in front of her path. Durham swerved to avoid hitting the deer, causing the vehicle to roll into the field. The truck was towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.  
William H. Bolka, 67, Muncie, was driving south on U.S. 27 just south of county road 300 North about 5:44 p.m. Saturday when a deer ran in front of his 2018 Toyota Tundra.  
See page 5

**Deer hit**  
Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000 for three vehicle

**Gun & Knife Show**  
All state and federal laws apply  
Admission \$6  
**Delaware County Fairgrounds**  
Muncie, Indiana  
**Saturday, December 9**  
**Sunday, December 10**  
Buy, Sell and Trade. For more info 765-993-8942

**35th Annual Jay County Farm Toy Show**  
**Sun, Dec. 10, 2023**  
from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
In the green Bob Schmit Memorial Building at the Jay Co. Fairgrounds Portland, IN  
Admission: \$3/Adults, \$2 Youth, 12 & Under Free with an adult.  
Brows thru 70+ tables of new and used farm toys and a few related crafts. You may find toys from 1/64th scale all the way up to pedal tractors with scaled size implements! This is a great opportunity to find something special for the farm enthusiast in your family, regardless of their age! Handicap accessible. Plenty of parking. Concessions in the side room by local 4-H.  
For more info call or text: 260-726-6433 or 260-251-0463

### SERVICES

**Today**  
**Brunswick**, Cyril: 10:30 a.m., St. Peter Catholic Church, 1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery.  
**Rains**, Paula: 11 a.m., Hillcrest Cemetery, Redkey.  
**Mock**, Twila: 1 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

**Friday**  
**Denney**, Sandy: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.  
**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  
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120 N. Meridian St.  
Portland, Indiana 47371  
(260) 726-9201  
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**A CRAGUN FAMILY CHRISTMAS**  
**IN CONCERT**  
Portland First Church of the Nazarene  
920 S. Shank St., Portland, IN 47371  
Sunday, December 10, 2023 @ 6:00 PM  
FREE ADMISSION A LOVE OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN  
[www.thecraguns.com](http://www.thecraguns.com)

# Parents upset by daughter's love life

**DEAR ABBY:** Three days before my daughter "Ginger's" wedding, her fiancé called to announce that he could not marry her because she's bisexual. It's something he knew about for a year but waited until three days before the wedding to mention.

Needless to say, my husband and I were shocked, embarrassed and devastated. We had gone to a wedding with Ginger and her fiancé the Saturday before her wedding date, and they were excited about their own wedding, talking about the home they were building and about having a baby. By the following Wednesday, it was over! She has reimbursed us for half of our expenses for the wedding.

Ginger has since been involved mostly with women who have stolen from her, treated her badly and lied to her. We no longer trust our daughter because we thought she was happily engaged, but she lied when she told us how happy she was and how great she and her fiancé got along. We cannot accept the current situation, and our relation-

*Dear Abby*



ship with her is now very strained.

We told her to live her life but not to bring these women around. Since then, she has chosen to stay away. We miss our daughter but are not willing to accept this behavior. We don't think Ginger is even trying to gain back our trust. Please give us your best advice. — **LOST IN LOUISIANA**

**DEAR LOST:** Has it occurred to you that your daughter may be a lesbian who tried to appease you and her father by claiming to be bisexual? It is a blessing to all concerned that the wedding was canceled.

If you're a regular reader of my column, you surely must be aware that some women have dysfunctional "manpickers." In your daughter's case, she's

having the same problem choosing her female partners. Rejecting her because you don't want "those women" around is not the solution to her problem. Instead, suggest she seek counseling at the nearest LGBTQ community center so she won't continue seeking love in all the wrong places.

.....  
**DEAR ABBY:** My boyfriend and I were excited to go on an \$11,000 Caribbean cruise. His 22-year-old son was not that enthusiastic. We invited him to join us for dinner, shows or to play games, but the majority of the time he refused. The only time he'd join us was for events that were paid for in advance.

He called his mom, grandmother and girlfriend every night, but not once did he call his father's mother. To me, it seems like he's not interested in his father, grandma or me. The moment we arrived home from vacation, he bolted out the door to meet his girlfriend and slept at his mom's house. What can I do to

bring this family together? — **SOCIAL DISASTER**

**DEAR SOCIAL DISASTER:** Although at 22 your boyfriend's son is legally an adult, he didn't act like one on that trip. In fact, he demonstrated that he was uninterested and didn't want to interact with his father or with you. It is nice of you to want to bring him and his dad closer, but it's time for you to step back and let them work it out. Nothing you can do will fix this.

.....  
**DEAR ABBY:** Four years ago, I lost my husband of 20 years. After it happened, I told his younger brother, whom he was closest to, that I was going to write about him. However, some things have stopped me. I lost our dog six months ago and watched her follow a similar path as my late husband, which hurt me deeply. The other reason is, I believe his family may not want to know the truth.

His brother thinks my husband was a great man. He did have good qualities,

but he wasn't the saint his brother thinks he was. He was emotionally abusive and he raped me numerous times. He often yelled at our dog for simple things, and he wasn't faithful, either. So — should I write the story they don't want to hear? — **PEN IN HAND IN TEXAS**

**DEAR PEN:** They say the pen is mightier than the sword. But if you want to continue to interact with these former in-laws, refrain from the temptation to use it to cut their brother down to size.

.....  
**DEAR ABBY:** My boyfriend, "Rick," and I broke up 10 years ago and reunited two years ago. I'm in good health, own my own home, and am financially independent. Rick is nine years older. He owns his own home and is retired. We have been seeing each other every week for the last two years. He has spent many hours painting and doing repairs to my house. I cook for him and give him massages, and we have a fantastic sex life.

So, what is the problem? Rick is emotionally involved with another woman. He claims they aren't in any way sexually involved. Should I tell her about his involvement with me? I have her name, address and phone number. Rick refuses to tell her about me because he says it will "upset her." I think she ought to know. What do you think I should do? I love him dearly and don't want to lose him. — **BEING PLAYED IN NEW JERSEY?**

**DEAR BEING PLAYED?:** Listen to your intuition. The first thing you should do (if you haven't) is ask Rick why that woman's knowing about you would "upset" her. (Does she think his relationship with her is exclusive?) The second would be to tell him you would like him to introduce the two of you. If he refuses, call her. You deserve to know exactly what's going on, which may be that they are much more involved than he has been admitting.

## Birth announcements

**Dirksen**

Andrew Louis, a son, was born Nov. 26 to Deidre and Benjamin Dirksen of Winchester at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital.

He weighed 9 pounds, 7 ounces.

Grandparents are Dennis and Donna Chenoweth of Portland and Matthew and Paula Dirksen of Winchester. Great-grandparents are Max and

Shelba Chenoweth of Portland, Arnold and Martha Hilgefert of Portland and Sally Dirksen of Portland.

**Eicher**

Amos J.E., a son, was born Oct. 31 to John B. and Esther S.C. Eicher.

He weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces. Grandparents are Pete A.J. and Ruby E. Eicher, and Christie S. and Elizabeth C. Schwartz. Great-grandparents

are John H. and Esther U. Schwartz.

**Mills**

Ainsley Eileen, a daughter, was born Nov. 7 to Alicia Felix and Dylan Mills of Winchester at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital. She weighed 6 pounds, 2 ounces.

Grandparents are Kathy and Shawn Felix, Springport, Geneva Lambert Jones and Bob Jones, Ridgeville, and Barry Mills, Portland. Great-grandparents are

Paula Thrasher, Otter Lake, Michigan.

**Roberts**

Finn Laurence, a son, was born Nov. 22 to Bryce and Katie Roberts of Portland at St. Vincent Randolph in Winchester.

He weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces.

Grandparents are Brian and Debbie Aker and Les and Beth Roberts. Great-grandparents are Charlie and Janie Keller, Kay

and Lawrence Roberts, Dick and Bonnie Aker and Karen Johnson.

**Shetler**

Lucinda S.E., a daughter, was born Oct. 23 to Stephen F. and Elizabeth S.C. Shetler.

She weighed 6 pounds. Grandparents are Jacob M. and Freida M. Shetler and Christie S. and Elizabeth C. Schwartz. Great-grandparents are John H. and Esther U. Schwartz.

## Community Calendar

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

**Today**

**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 - 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.

**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 - 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.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

**Tuesday's Solution**

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

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

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**Our Christmas Greetings issue will appear in The Commercial Review, The News-Gazette, The News Times and The News and Sun the week of Dec. 18.**

Ads 15 inches or larger may include a photo of your staff. For those who provide their own photo, the fee will be \$20. (The fee will be waived if you get your photo to us by Nov. 30.) If you'd like us to come take your picture, the fee will be \$50.

**Deadline for all ads & photos is December 8th!**

**We try hard not to miss anyone who wants to be in this issue.**

*If you do not get contacted and would like to be in our Christmas Greetings special section, please email ads@thecr.com or call (260) 726-8141.*

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# Remember to count your blessings

(Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Dec. 12, 2007. Everyone has problems and challenges in life. Sometimes it takes a little reminder like the one Jack got here in order to gain a little perspective.)

By JACK RONALD  
The Commercial Review

Okay, I'll admit it, I was feeling sorry for myself.

An early winter cold had knocked me down, and I was feeling miserable. I was also stressing about the upcoming holidays, the annual Christmas Greetings edition, and a newsroom staff that's suddenly leaner than it ought to be.

Add to that the weather, slippery roads, and the hectic December calendar — with a corporate annual meeting, the company Christmas party, and Koffee Klatsches in both Dunkirk and Portland — and I was in one of those moods that's the opposite of Thanksgiving. Nothing

## Back in the Saddle



seemed a blessing, at the moment, and who had time for blessings anyway with so much else going on.

Then, as sometimes happens, I received an email.

It was from my friend Peter, someone you've never met but someone I think you'd enjoy.

Peter's a tall, lanky, soft-spoken journalist from the American Southwest. He's lived and worked as a reporter in Arizona and Colorado and other parts in the western U.S.

He's also worked abroad on press freedom and press development issues.

That's where our paths crossed.

It was back in 1999, and he had been teaching journalism as a Fulbright scholar in Slovenia.

It wasn't working out for him, and he was becoming discouraged. The folks in charge of the program recommended he try Moldova instead and gave him my number.

Long story short, he transferred his Fulbright to the State University of Moldova and ended up teaching at the same place where I had done my Fulbright in 1998.

We were able to meet up in Moldova later in '99 and again in Armenia when he was running a newspaper development project there for USAID in 2001 and 2002.

That's the last time I saw him, but he's continued to work on the edges of the world ever since, trying to teach the principles of journalism as best he

could in places like Afghanistan and Uganda.

Last weekend's email found him back in Uganda, and if you ever needed a message that would restore some perspective to the little hassles and inconveniences we face, Peter's e-mail would do it.

He'd been out of touch for several weeks. Internet access isn't easy in the heart of Africa. This time, he was writing from a computer at a Catholic radio station in Aura, a town in the West Nile area of Uganda. But it's not your typical radio station. It's in a compound guarded by dogs and guns.

In part, he explained, that's because there's been an outbreak of the Ebola virus in the neighborhood. Panic is setting in.

Wire reports put the number of deaths from the "flesh-eating virus" at more than 20 in this outbreak.

It is, in a word, grim.

But there's still work to be done.

While I'm fussing about who's going to cover the next school board meeting, Peter is recruiting and training a clandestine team of reporters for an international organization he works for. Once assembled and trained, those newly-minted journalists will move across the border to Sudan with the goal of finding out what's truly going on in that bedeviled country that its government doesn't want the world to know about.

The e-mail appeared, was read, and I was, in a word, humbled.

None of my problems are real problems.

None of our uncertainties compare to those uncertainties.

None of our risks match those risks.

It was time to rekindle some of that Thanksgiving spirit that was getting lost amid December's holiday frenzy.

## Pentagon simply can't pass an audit

By LINDSAY KOSHGARIAN  
OtherWords

The Pentagon just failed its audit — again. For the sixth time in a row, the agency that accounts for half the money Congress approves each year can't figure out what it did with all that money.

For a brief recap, the Pentagon has never passed an audit. Until 2018, it had never even completed one.

Since then, the Pentagon has done an audit every year and given itself a participation prize each time. Yet despite this year's triumphant press release — titled "DOD Makes Incremental Progress Towards Clean Audit" — it has failed every time.

In its most recent audit, the Pentagon was able to account for just half of its \$3.8 trillion in assets (including equipment, facilities, etc.). That means \$1.9 trillion is unaccounted for — more than the entire budget Congress agreed to for the current fiscal year.

No other federal agency could get away with this. There would be congressional hearings. There would be demands to remove agency leaders, or to defund those agencies. Every other major federal agency has passed an audit, proving that it knows where taxpayer dollars it is entrusted with are going.

Yet Congress is poised to approve another \$840 billion for the Pentagon despite its failures.

In fact, by my count Congress has approved \$3.9 trillion in Pentagon spending since the first failed audit in 2018. Tens of billions have gone through the Pentagon to fund wars in Afghanistan, Ukraine, and now Israel. Accountability for those "assets" — including weapons and equipment — is also in question.

At this point, lawmakers surely know those funds may never be accounted for. And year after year, half of the Pentagon budget goes to corporate weapons contractors and other corporations who profiteer from this lack of accountability.

There is an entity whose job it is to prevent this sort of abuse: Congress. With each failure at the Pentagon, Congress is failing, too. Every year that members of Congress vote to boost Pentagon spending

Lindsay Koshgarian



*... year after year, half of the Pentagon budget goes to corporate weapons contractors and other corporations who profiteer from this lack of accountability.*

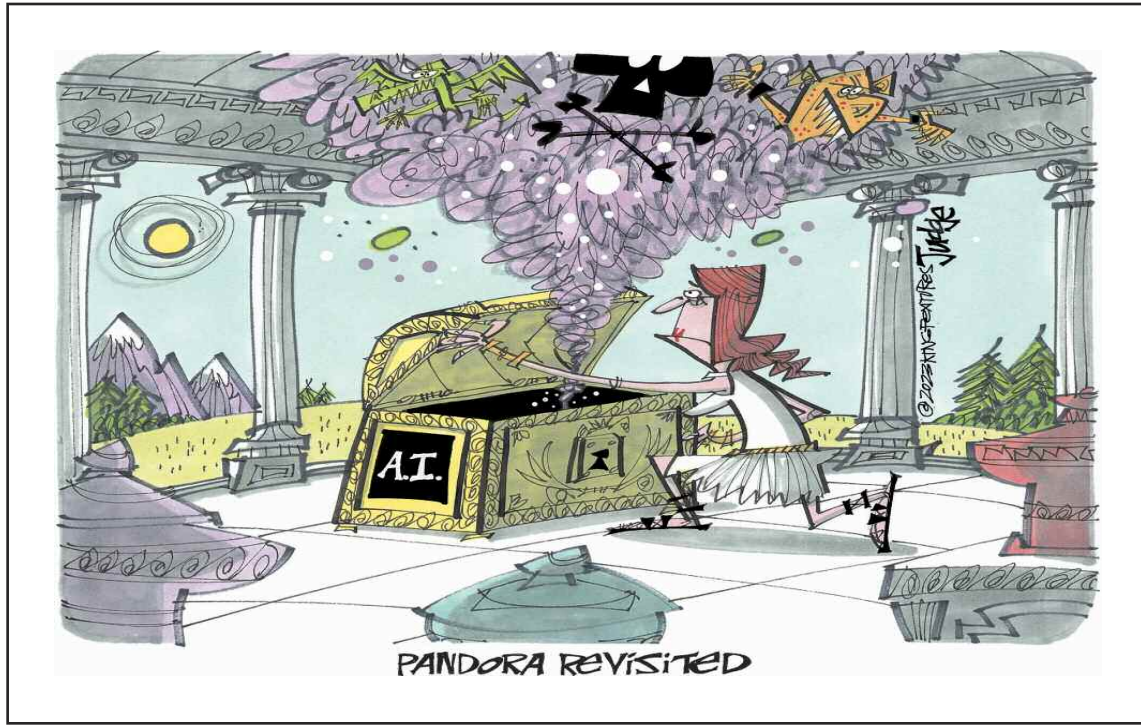
with no strings attached, they choose to spend untold billions on weapons and war with no accountability.

Meanwhile, all those other agencies that have passed their audits could put those funds to much better use serving the public. Too many Americans are struggling to afford necessities like housing, heat, health care, and child care, and meanwhile our country is grappling with homelessness, the opioid epidemic, and increasingly common catastrophic weather events.

With another government shutdown debate looming in early 2024, you'll hear lawmakers say we need to cut those already inadequate investments in working families. But if they're worried about spending, they should start with the agency that has somehow lost track of nearly \$2 trillion worth of publicly funded resources.

.....  
*Koshgarian is a federal budgeting expert who directs the National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies.*

*OtherWords is a free editorial service published by the Institute for Policy Studies.*



## Underage betting can be contained

The Sun (Lowell, Massachusetts)  
Tribune News Service

The lure of the forbidden, especially in all things adult, remains an enduring temptation for youngsters yearning for a piece of that prohibited fruit.

And like alcohol, tobacco and marijuana, with its legalization, sports betting has become the latest test of our ability to prevent its illegal, underage use.

Aware of that potential, regulators at the Massachusetts Gaming Commission have expressed concerns about whether people younger than the legal betting age of 21 have access to mobile apps to bet on sports, and what the betting platforms operating here have done to prevent that from happening.

Commissioners raised the topic Monday as four sports betting companies presented quarterly reports to the commission. Commissioner Brad Hill mentioned meetings and conversations the Gaming Commission has had with "outside sources" that revealed "there is some concern that there are individuals who are underage using computers and passwords from people who are of-age to bet."

Massachusetts' 2022 sports betting law requires that gamblers be at least 21 years old to wager at one of three physical sportsbooks or on one of eight online/mobile betting platforms that the commission licenses. The law also requires operators to "use commercially reasonable efforts to prevent a person under 21 years old from placing a wager."

The four operators Monday reported a total of eight accounts suspended during July, August and September for underage use.

Initially, some commissioners appeared skeptical about the low number of suspect accounts, indicating they believed that was merely the number of questionable cases that could be substantiated.

They referred to a National Collegiate Athletics Association survey of 18- to 22-year-olds from earlier this year, in which over half of the 3,527 underage respondents polled said they had participated in sports

## Guest Editorial

wagering despite state laws or corporate terms and conditions ostensibly preventing them from doing so.

At the same time, according to the survey, the majority of sports wagering occurs here in the Northeast.

The commission is aware there is a problem with underage bettors, said Commissioner Brad Hill.

However, once operators detailed the steps they take to ensure that the person betting is actually the person cleared to open an account, their concerns seem to have been assuaged.

Curtis Lane Jr., digital compliance manager for Caesars Sportsbook, walked the commission through some of the steps his company takes to identify accounts that might be controlled by someone other than the person who registered, like picking up on betting activity from far-apart locations, flagging unusual betting patterns, or identifying accounts that are used by multiple devices.

Each of the other operators that presented third-quarter results to the commission Monday — DraftKings, Penn Sports Interactive and WynnBet — also addressed the topic of minors using their apps and said they all use similar methods.

"I would reiterate what one of the commissioners stated, that, ultimately, it is difficult to police bad parenting. But that doesn't mean there aren't a lot of controls in place for this," said Jake List, senior director of regulatory operations for DraftKings.

He said DraftKings' "know your customer" (KYC) regime includes identity verification, a geo-compliance tool that checks if a user's device is recognized by other programs the user has signed up for, and in some instances require a new user to upload a copy of their ID.

Adam Kates, senior director of

compliance for Penn Sports Interactive, told commissioners that his company switched in July to its own in-house, back-end technology. As part of that switch Penn now requires anyone creating a new sports betting account to upload both a government-issued ID and a real-time selfie.

But as Mass.gov outlines, gambling, like other potential addictive activities, often begins at an early age.

We know when teens experiment with alcohol, illegal substances and vaping, they put themselves at a higher risk for addiction later in life.

While less publicized, gambling is another risk that impacts teens' brain development. That's why it's important to talk to youth about gambling — just as you would discuss other physical threats to their well-being.

Starting a conversation at a young age can help prevent gambling from becoming a problem later in life.

It's instructive to know these statistics before having a conversation with an impressionable minor:

—Gambling disorders can begin in children as young as 10 years old;

—Problem gambling impacts about 4-8% of youths, compared to just 1% of adults;

—By the time they're in high school, 60-80% of students reported that they gambled at least once in the past 12 months;

—Teens who gamble are more likely to use illegal drugs;

—Among all addictions, gambling is linked to the highest suicide rate.

Despite their best efforts, it's unrealistic to expect these sports books to completely ensure that underage gambling won't happen on their platforms.

As was previously stated, parents or other adults play an important role in preventing those under 21 from using these apps to place a sports wager.

Given their digital aptitude, it's a safe bet some teens will find a way around any interdiction efforts.

But that number will be considerably less than it otherwise would have been.

# The Commercial Review

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# Contract ...

Continued from page 1  
Richards expressed his frustration with the county for not coordinating a meeting between himself, commissioners and Kimball, pointing to an administrative meeting commissioners had with Kimball recently. (Per Indiana law, commissioners are able to host administrative meetings with employees for “administrative functions” (which) means only routine activities that are reasonably related to the everyday internal management of the county or town, including conferring with, receiving information from, and making recommendations to staff members and other county or town officials or employees.” The meetings are open to the public but don’t require notice. Commissioners spoke with Kimball following a regular meeting Nov. 1.)

Richards noted Kimball has been visiting businesses to discuss their needs, a role he thought JCDC was meant to fill. (It is also included in the proposed contract.) He requested direction for JCDC’s responsibilities and also voiced a need for another employee in the office.

County officials approached JCDC’s board in October 2022 requesting changes to the organization’s bylaws, which included permanent seats for a county commissioner and county council member on JCDC’s executive committee. On Monday, commissioners Brian McGalliard and Chad Aker referenced a

two-year contract from 2013 between the county and JCDC, which stipulated “JCDC shall maintain within its organizational structure an executive committee the members of which shall include a member appointed by the Jay County Commissioners and a member appointed by the Jay County Council.” McGalliard countered comments from JCDC members who referred to the act as “government overreach,” noting the 2013 contract.

“It was something we (were) trying to do that was done in the past,” said McGalliard.

Richards said he didn’t believe that encompassed the entire discussion, and Aker noted that was what made The Commercial Review’s headline the next day.

“We were demonized for that, just trying to do what had been done in the past, to try and get a little more involvement,” he said.

They also discussed funding. Commissioners have decreased the county’s contribution toward JCDC’s budget for 2024, allocating approximately \$130,000 — that’s \$105,000 less than 2023 — for next year. Aker explained after looking at the organization’s finances and taking into account the Jay County Community Developer position — it was paid approximately \$63,000 — would no longer be occupied, they chose to contribute \$130,000. He also said council members Harold Towell and Cindy Bracy were in agreement with that amount at a pre-

vious meeting but later chose to bump the amount to \$140,000.

(During the budgeting process, Jay County Council OK’d bumping JCDC’s allotment to approximately \$140,000. However, because the dollars are from economic development income tax (EDIT) funds — those are under commissioners’ jurisdiction — and the organization is now paid for through the contractual services fund, which does not specifically list names of each service or organization involved, commissioners chose to stick with the \$130,000 budget and keep the extra \$10,000 for other projects or services.)

Part of the budget cut also stems from whether JCDC has additional dollars in the bank — Richards and commissioners disagreed about whether JCDC received this year’s allotment for the unfilled Jay County Community Developer position. (The job has been replaced by Kimball, who will utilize East Central Indiana Regional Planning District connections to write and secure grants.)

The proposed contract also stipulated JCDC would “provide marketing of Jay County through existing projects such as Make My Move, Yodel Calendar, and social media posts through other such projects as the parties may from time to time agree.” Richards expressed hesitancy to provide those services, with Schemenauer noting he included the item because he noticed JCDC did those services already.

Richards admitted social media is not his strong suit and said he would feel more comfortable if the organization hired another employee or intern to handle it. Both Aker and McGalliard told Richards they could hire a marketing firm for that purpose if needed.

McGalliard said he would like to wait to approve a contract until Richards discussed marketing with his board, which likely won’t meet again until January. Richards said he understands JCDC would not get funding from the county until an agreement has been signed.

Pointing to similar sentiments shared by Street, commissioner Rex Journay voiced a desire to work together in harmony.

“The most important thing is, we have to be unified,” he said.

Richards shared his frustration.

“I guess what I’m getting at is I’d love just to be treated fairly,” said Richards. “I asked for a conversation about this, commissioners meeting and having a conversation with one organization, not both, and that just feels, it doesn’t feel good. For a lot of reasons. I’m sure everyone in this room can understand that.”

McGalliard responded. “Chad and I can because we tried to have a conversation about a commissioner being on your executive board for numerous months, and it never happened,” said McGalliard.

Richards and McGalliard

began arguing back and forth before McGalliard made a motion to adjourn.

In other business, commissioners heard from Sean Hofferr, senior project consultant for SES Environmental. He explained it appeared some fuel had leaked from the underground tanks at Jay County Highway Department, which was noticed while they were being removed just before Thanksgiving. (Representatives from SES Environmental were on site while the project took place.) About 5,000 gallons of water with traces of gas and diesel were removed from the site.

Hofferr noted readings recently came back with low levels of contamination in the area, coming in well below Indiana Department of Environmental Management’s requirements. He anticipated the county wouldn’t need to do more testing — the county had anticipated a \$15,000 fee to do a more in-depth investigation into the problem — and doing a report for IDEM should wrap up the issue.

Commissioners signed a 2024 contract with LifeStream Services. The agreement, which allots more than \$1.4 million toward the transportation service, is funded partially with dollars allocated from the state.

They also signed a \$26,000 claim for insurance coverage of a totaled vehicle from Jay County Sheriff’s Office, which was damaged beyond repair in an Oct. 15 crash in Portland.

# Capsule Reports

Continued from page 2  
Bolka crashed his vehicle into the animal, causing between \$10,000 and \$25,000 in estimated damage.

Zavier A. Lee, 27, Portland, was driving along county road 300 North near the intersection with county road 750 West about 8:10 p.m. Nov. 27 when a deer ran in front of his 2021 Chevrolet Malibu. Lee wasn’t able to avoid hitting the animal, causing between \$10,000 and \$25,000. Lee’s vehicle was towed.

### Applications open

The Portland Foundation is now accepting applications for its winter grant cycle, the Pennville Endowment Fund grant, winter teacher creativity mini grants and scholarships. Applications are available at portlandfoundation.org. For more information, email jcook@portlandfoundation.org or call (260) 726-4260.

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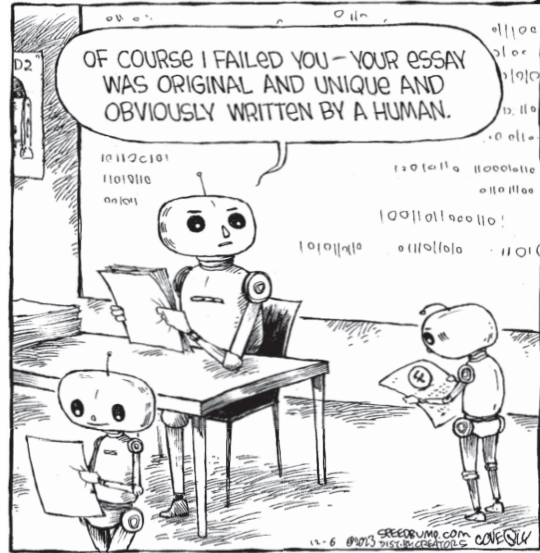
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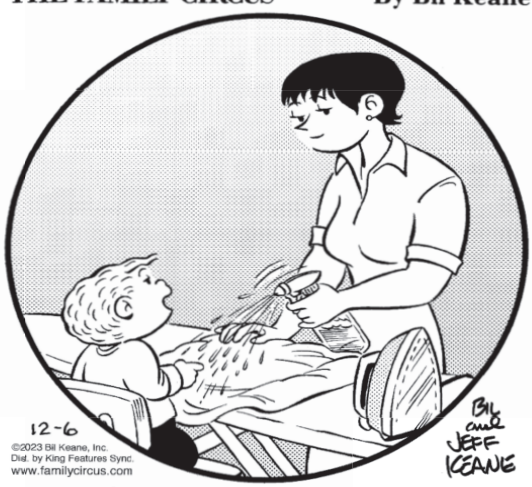
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

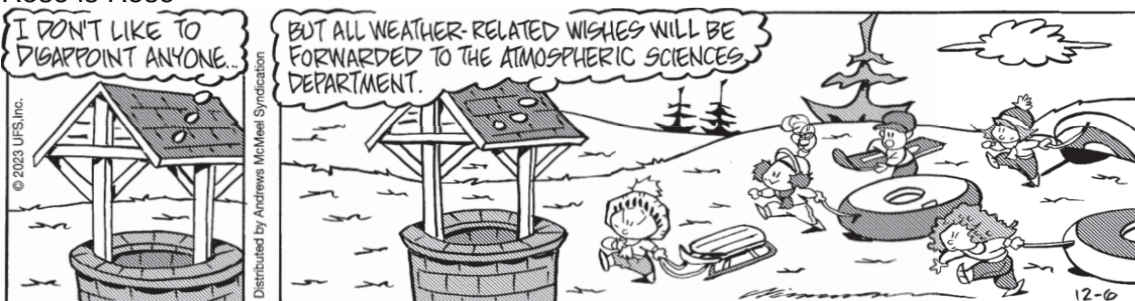


"Can I rain on the clothes for you?"

Peanuts



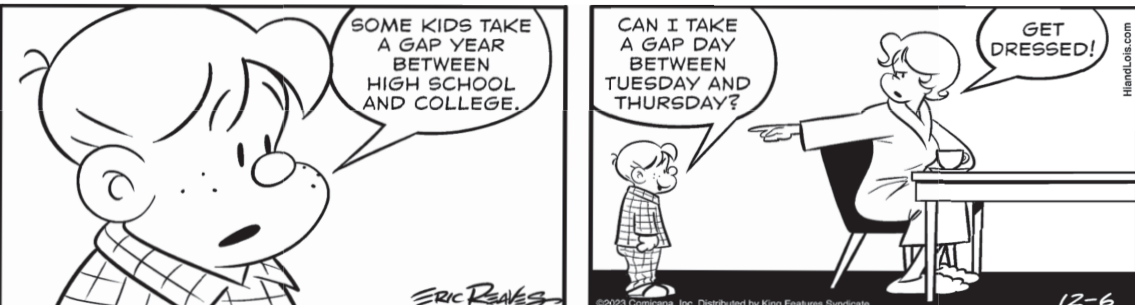
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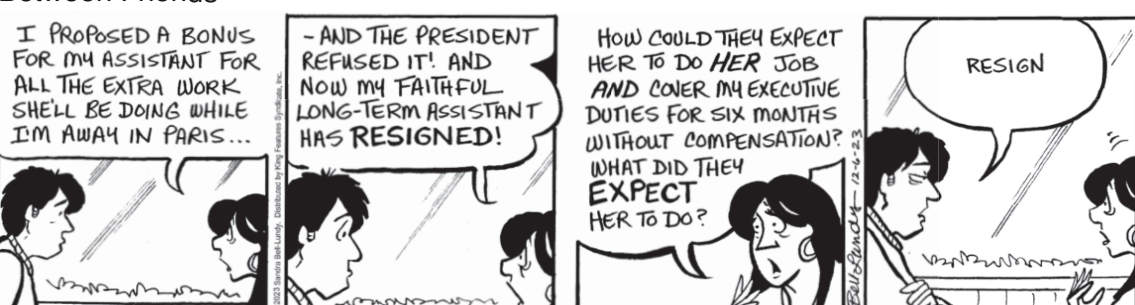
Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Deductive reasoning

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH ... WEST ... EAST ... SOUTH ...

tricks. This strategy backfired when declarer took the diamond queen and cashed seven spades and the ace of clubs to make the contract.

The bidding: West North East South 1 Pass Pass Dble Pass 1 Pass 3 NT

Tomorrow: The art of card-reading.

12-6 CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A CHICKEN WAS TOLD A STORY THAT WAS COMPLETELY UNLIKELY, IT SAID, "YOU'RE PULLING MY EGG!" Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals L

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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# Sports

## Swimmers open with split

HAGERSTOWN — The Indians returned their strongest swimmer for both the boys and the girls, and they wasted no time proving it this season.

### Local roundup

Teigen Fortkamp and Saige Wendel both earned first place wins as the Fort Recovery High School swim team competed in a tri-meet against Delta and Hagerstown on Monday.

The girls came out on top against Hagerstown 99-27, but didn't have enough to top Delta, falling 116-55. The boys got swept by the two schools 115-23 (Delta) and 88-29 (Hagerstown).

Fortkamp headlined the Indians (1-1) with a pair of individual victories in the 200-yard individual medley and the backstroke. Her time of 2 minutes, 24.87 seconds in the individual medley was 18 seconds faster than second place Addison Shoe of Delta. Her victory in the backstroke (1:01.48) was narrower, beating Delta's Olivia Jackson by four seconds.

Wendel's lone victory came in the breaststroke with a time of 1:12.23. He hit the wall less than a second faster than Delta's Josiah Hotmire who swam a 1:12.43. Wendel also earned second place in the sprint freestyle (24.69) behind Zachary Baty (23.97) of Delta.

Other second place finishes came from Caleb Smith in the backstroke and Makenna Huelskamp in the breaststroke.

### Homan recognized

COLUMBUS — Fort Recovery's Troy Homan was named as an honorable

mention for the Division VII All-Ohio football team on Monday.

Homan was one of 20 players listed as an honorable mention at the defensive back position.

During the season, the senior recorded 25 tackles and 2.5 tackles for a loss of yards. He led Fort Recovery with 50 yards lost when tackling the opposition behind the line of scrimmage.

He also had two interceptions for the Indians, second behind Reece Guggenbiller who had three.

Earlier in the year, Homan was selected to the First Team Defense All-Midwest Athletic Conference as a defensive back as well.

### Staying perfect

SELMA — The Jay County Junior High School girls basketball teams swept Selma on Monday with the eight graders winning 35-8 and the seventh graders 32-15.

The Eighth grade team (6-1) had a clear leader for once, as Elizabeth Brunswick went off for 18 points.

Next in line were Natalie May and Amelia Heath with seven and six points respectively. Kylie Shannon and Raylin Hummer both had two.

See **Roundup** page 7



Photo provided

## Heitkamp signs

Fort Recovery High School's Trevor Heitkamp signed his letter of intent on Nov. 21 to run at Roberts Wesleyan University in New York. Pictured seated from left are Aubrie Heitkamp, father Bob, Trevor and mother Laura. Standing are assistant coach Matt Roessner, Tim Heitkamp, coach Christy Diller, Kathy Heitkamp, Gavin Heitkamp, Tom Heitkamp and Elise Heitkamp.

## Michigan gears up for Bama

By ANGELIQUE S. CHENGELIS

The Detroit News  
Tribune News Service

Michigan has the "Beat Ohio" drill and earlier this year added the "Beat Georgia" drill as added incentive considering the Bulldogs were two-time defending national champions and bulldozed the Wolverines in the national semifinals en route to the 2021 title.

The Wolverines renamed a 9-on-7 physical, run and run-stopping drill "Beat Ohio" before the 2021 season. Their motivation was clear—to keep the Buckeyes on their minds throughout the season. Since the renaming, Michigan is 3-0 against Ohio State. The "Beat Georgia" period began during spring practice.

Defensive back Mike Sainristil, who leads the team with five interceptions, said during Big Ten media days last July that "Beat Georgia" is a "heavy, 12- and 13-personnel" drill geared toward run-heavy groupings with stress put on the trenches.

"Because a team like Georgia,

that's big-boy football," Sainristil said at media days. "That's a team that's going to run the football. They're going to play-action you. So in that (drill), it's heavy, and that's what we focus on."

As the No. 1 seed Wolverines (13-0) prepare to face No. 4 Alabama (12-1), a three-time national champion since the inception of the four-team College Football Playoff in 2014, in the Rose Bowl national semifinal on New Year's Day, perhaps they'll change it to the "Beat Alabama" drill.

"We have a Beat Ohio, Beat Georgia deal that comes into play when we have those teams who really bring it up front," linebacker Michael Barrett said Sunday. "You're gonna have a dogfight in the trenches and to prepare us for a time like this, we put that period in practice to get us ready, get our minds right for when that time comes."

Michigan, coming off a third-straight Big Ten championship, is

taking this week off before returning to practice and preparing to face Alabama, which defeated Georgia in the Southeastern Conference championship Saturday. The Crimson Tide ranks 18th nationally in total defense (313.3 yards per game) and 17th in scoring (18.4).

Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh was asked about the Beat Georgia drill during a Rose Bowl conference call Sunday and mentioned the challenging defenses the Wolverines have faced the last month.

"What is it, the last, maybe, five weeks, probably the last four, I think we've played some of the top defenses in the country in Penn State, Iowa, Ohio State, all top-five defenses," Harbaugh said. "Alabama is as good as all of them or better. It'll be a big challenge, big task."

Defensive tackle Kris Jenkins said he got "goosebumps" when he saw the Wolverines' matchup against Alabama announced Sunday.

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