

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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Scholarly Sims



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Gage Sims wipes tears from his eyes while getting hugs from family after he was surprised Thursday afternoon with the announcement that he is this year's The Portland Foundation Community Scholar. The Jay County High School senior will receive tuition and room and board for the Indiana College of his choice, as well as a stipend for books.

Senior surprised with Lilly award

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Gage Sims stood just inside the doorway of the TV studio at Jay County Junior-Senior High School, an unsure look on his face.

Then he leaned back slightly, realization washing over him.

Sims was surprised Thursday afternoon with the announcement that he is The Portland Foundation's 2024 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar.

"It's just an incredible pressure lifted off," said Sims. "Not having to worry about the financials of college is such a weight lifted off my chest. Now I don't have to worry about how I'm going to be able to pay for it ... It's incredible."

Minutes earlier, Brandyn Towell said her son was not an emotional kid. That turned out not quite to be the case, as he

wiped tears from his eyes after getting hugs from family members who had gathered to be part of surprise.

Having the financial burden of college removed will do that.

As the Lilly scholar, Sims will receive room and board at the Indiana college or university of his choice. He will also receive up to a \$900 stipend annually for books and other materials.

"Incredible," said Sims, whose hands were still shaking as he was being interviewed following the announcement. "This is like the golden ticket. I'm going to the chocolate factory right now ..."

"It's crazy," he added later. "I'm finally starting to calm down. I'm not shaking as bad."

Sims plans to study engineering, though he's not sure yet what specific discipline that will involve. He's currently taking his third pathway course in

engineering at JCHS, learning about designing houses and a variety of other computer design skills. In the past he has made a variety of "gadgets and gizmos" as well as ball markers and tees to use while playing for the Patriot boys golf team.

"I'm undecided which specific discipline, but I love the general topic," said Sims. "It's just what I enjoy doing, the class I look forward to every day here at school. ..."

"I think it's mainly real-world application in math and creativity. I can do and make whatever I want from nothing. I feel like that's so cool."

He's narrowed his list of colleges to Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and Purdue University.

He noted Purdue has the benefit of a general first year of engineering study that would allow him more time to hone in

on the specific sector he would like to pursue. He said he enjoyed his recent visit to the Rose-Hulman campus and the possibility of playing men's golf for the Fightin' Engineers.

Either way, the Lilly announcement provides him with flexibility.

"With this, now I have all my options open," said Sims, who ranks ninth in his class with a 4.184 grade point average. "It'll take some serious decision-making here in the future."

Sims was one of 25 Jay County High School seniors to apply for the scholarship, which requires a minimum 3.5 cumulative grade point average. Applicants are evaluated on academic excellence, financial need, school/community activities, if they are a first-generation college student and their response to an essay question.

See Sims page 2

Purchase of Hood Building approved

Commission plans to pursue housing in upper floors

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Portland Redevelopment Commission hopes to spur housing development in one downtown building.

It will continue to look at options for another that is facing demolition.

The redevelopment commission on Friday authorized president Rusty Inman to execute documents related to the purchase and subsequent lease of The Hood Building and approved getting formal reports from a structural engineer and architect on the former Hunt's Building.

It also passed a declaratory resolution, the first step toward approving Portland's Downtown Economic Development Plan.

The current draft of the purchase agreement calls for Portland Redevelopment Commission to buy the Hood Building from The Graphic Printing Company for \$300,000. (The building is home to The Commercial Review and headquarters of The Graphic Printing Company, which also publishes The News-Gazette of Winchester, The News Times of Hartford City, The News and Sun of Dunkirk and the regional advertising publication Red Ball, and offers commercial printing services.) A companion lease agreement calls for the company to continue as a tenant, leasing the first floor and basement of the building at a rate of \$2,000 per month.

Inman explained after the meeting that the redevelopment commission plans to seek proposals to develop the second, third and fourth floors for housing.

"There's been multiple housing studies that say there's housing of all kinds that are needed," said Inman. "I think that there's room for not only this, but there's room for more housing ... This won't be the first and last. I think this is the first ..."

See Purchase page 2

Board opens technology bids

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The city now has an idea of what it will cost to be in compliance with a new state requirement.

Portland Board of Works on Thursday opened bids for equipment to allow the live-streaming and recording of government meetings.

The board also OK'd the purchase of two vehicles for the police department.

A new state law passed during this year's legislative session requires that all governmental bodies live-stream and record their meetings beginning July 1, 2025. City attorney Wes Schemenaur advised that it's good to be considering the equipment now in order to be able to address any potential problems prior to the requirement going into effect. He

noted that there have been challenges with equipment that has been installed in Jay County Courthouse for the same purpose.

"There's just a lot of kinks, as you might imagine with any electronic and computer system," he said. "So we decided we better not have July of 2025 be our first meeting that we try to make this work ... It would probably be better, probably next year, to get it installed, work out all the bugs, give us at least a year to play with it and make sure it works."

Portland City Council heard two proposals for the installation of such equipment in council chambers at Portland Fire Department in July, but took no action as there were several questions regarding warranties, technical support and timelines for installation.

Instead, council decided to take a step back, revamp specs and seek a second round of bids. The updated bid specifications call for 10 desk-mounted microphones, a podium microphone, a desk microphone and ceiling-mounted microphones, seven speakers, three video feeds, a storage platform and the ability to live-stream.

Dynamic Business Solutions of Portland was the low bidder Friday at \$26,000 plus \$2,000 for monitoring, \$700 for storage and \$150 quarterly for support. BIS Digital, a Florida company owned by a Portland native, was next at \$66,126.23, and Sharp came in at \$66,493.

Board of works members Steve McIntosh, Jerry Leonhard and Mayor John Boggs tabled the bids for review. See Bids page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Holiday dance

East Elementary second graders Addalyn Bost and Ashley Rodriguez dance together in front of the bleachers in East Jay Elementary's gymnasium on Thursday during practice for their Christmas program.

Deaths

Marilyn Hiday, 93, Portland
Ronnie Hartley Sr., 81, Huntington
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 54 degrees Friday. Today's forecast shows a 40% chance of rain with winds gusting up to 35 mph. Rain may continue into Sunday, when the high will be around 38 degrees. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

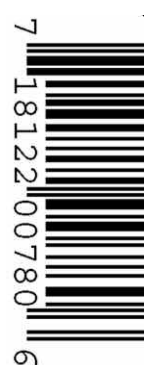
In review

The annual nativity festival is being held from noon to 4 p.m. today and Sunday at Trinity Arch Bridge Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. The event features hundreds of nativity scenes on display.

Coming up

Tuesday — Results from this weekend's ACAC wrestling duals at Jay County.

Wednesday — Coverage of the Dunkirk City Council meeting.



Obituaries

Marilyn Hiday

April 10, 1930-Dec. 7, 2023

Marilyn J. Hiday, 93, of Portland, Indiana, passed away at 9:04 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, at her home.

She was born on Thursday, April 10, 1930, in Bluffton, Indiana, to Albert John Keller Jr. and Evelyn May (Captain) Keller. Marilyn was a 1948 graduate of Bluffton High School. Shortly after graduating high school, she married Harold R. "Dutch" Hiday on June 6, 1948, in Bluffton, Indiana. Dutch passed away on Nov. 26, 2007.

Marilyn worked for Corning Glass for 17 years, however she spent most of her life filling the proud role of wife and mother. She spent many years at home, raising her family on the farm and helping Dutch with anything he needed related to the farm. She enjoyed transporting

midwives and hauling many Amish families and children to school over the years. Marilyn was a long-time member of Six Mile Church in Wells County.

Loving survivors include her children, Teresa Kelly, Alvin, Texas, Ted (Judy) Hiday, Celina, Ohio, Tim (Vickie) Hiday, Salamanca, Indiana, and Toneta (Alan) Bailey, Portland, Indiana; 17 grandchildren; 55 great-grandchildren; 47 great-great-grandchildren; sisters Joyce Harris, Bluffton, Indiana, and Jill Brown, Greensburg, Indiana; and brothers, Roger Keller, Hickory, North Carolina, and Jerome Keller, Elkhart, Indiana.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; daughters Tamara Gordon and Tonya Hiday; and siblings Alberta Dubach, Sharon Battershell, Ralph Keller and Larry Keller. Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Downing and Glancy Funeral Home, located at 100 N. Washington St., Geneva, on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A service to celebrate Mar-

ilyn's life will follow at 2 p.m. with Pastor Steve Rogers officiating. Burial will follow in Elm Grove Cemetery, Bluffton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in honor of Marilyn to CHP Home Care and Hospice, 816 Pro Drive, Celina, OH 45822.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Downing and Glancy Funeral Home in Geneva.

Condolences may be expressed at glancyfuneral-homes.com.

Ronnie Hartley

Nov. 24, 1942-Dec. 6, 2023

Ronnie L. Hartley Sr., age 81, a resident of Huntington, Indiana, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, at his home in Huntington.

Ronnie was born on Nov. 24, 1942, the son of Charles and Lucille (Loer) Hartley. Ronnie served in the U.S. Army and retired from Dilling Mechanical in Logansport, Indiana. He was a member of Oak Grove United Methodist Church.

Ronnie married Patricia (Paxson) Harold, a former resident of Jay County, on June 11, 1994.

Survivors include: His wife — Patricia Hartley, Huntington, Indiana

Children — Helen Stephens, Hartford City, Indiana, Ronnie "Butch" Hartley, Jr. (wife: Karla), Hartford City, Indiana, and Tim Hartley, Hartford City, Indiana

Stepchildren — Laura McKenney (husband: Tony), Harker Heights, Texas, Becky Hernandez (husband: Agustin), Huntington, Indiana, and Valerie Hodge (husband: Allen), Huntington, Indiana

Brothers — Ray Hartley (wife: Maggie), Marion, Indiana, Jim Hartley (wife: Pat), Wabash, Indiana, and Leon Hartley (wife: Carolyn), Warsaw, Indiana

Several grandchildren and great-grandchildren Visitation will be held on



Hartley

Tuesday from 1 to 3 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. at the Pennville Chapel of Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home. Funeral services will be on Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the Pennville Chapel of Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home. Pastor Neil Butcher and John Retter will officiate and burial will follow at IOOF Twin Hill Cemetery in Pennville. American Legion Post #211 of Portland will conduct military graveside rites.

Memorials may be directed towards Oak Grove United Methodist Church.

Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.com.

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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Sunday 12/10	Monday 12/11	Tuesday 12/12	Wednesday 12/13	Thursday 12/14
38/25	38/25	44/23	41/25	44/27
There's a 20% chance of rain in the morning and early afternoon. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	Monday's forecast shows sunny skies and a high temperature in the mid to upper 30s.	Sunny skies are expected again on Tuesday, when the high will be around 44 degrees.	Mostly sunny, with a high of 41. At night, the low may dip to 25 degrees.	Thursday's forecast looks to be sunny with the low at night expected to hit 27 degrees.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 3-3-1 Daily Four: 1-1-7-6 Quick Draw: 3-6-9-10-11-15-21-27-35-38-41-44-45-46-52-56-58-60-63-64	Pick 5: 7-2-0-2-4 Evening Rolling Cash 5: 5-19-21-28-31 Jackpot: \$221,000
Ohio Midday Pick 3: 6-2-8 Pick 4: 6-8-4-6	Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$468 million
	Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$395 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.55 Late Dec. corn.....4.75 Wheat5.47	Jan. beans12.89 Wheat5.92
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.55 Jan. corn4.65 Feb. corn4.75	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.40 Jan. corn4.57 Beans12.76 Jan. beans12.82 Wheat5.65
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.31 Jan. corn4.71 Beans12.79	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.46 Jan. corn4.51 Beans12.54 Jan. beans12.62 Wheat5.32

Today in history

In 1824, Antonio Jose de Sucre of Venezuela led a revolutionary force to victory over Spain in the Battle of Ayacucho. It led to Peru being freed during the Latin-American wars of independence.

In 1868, the world's first traffic light was installed new Westminster Bridge in London.

In 1979, smallpox was officially declared eradicated 10 years after the World Health Organization began its global vaccination program.

In 2010, Jay County

Democrats selected Debbie James to take over as Redkey clerk-treasurer following the retirement of Sandy Kirby, who had announced her plans to step aside the previous month.

In 2021, the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team picked up its first win of the season by topping St. John's 48-39. Mara Pearson scored 14 points to lead the Tribe, which had opened with four consecutive defeats.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city St.	building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.
Wednesday 1 p.m. — Jay County Sheriff's Office Merit Board, sheriff's conference room, sheriff's office, 224 W. Water St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St.	

Purchase ...

Continued from page 1

"Since Stellar, there has been interest in developing that building as mixed-use development for commercial on the first floor and housing on the upper floors," added redevelopment consultant Ed Curtin of CWC Latitudes, referencing the Jay! Region's status as a finalist for the 2019 Stellar Communities designation.

Inman and Curtin both noted the building is being targeted because of its location in the downtown area and within the city's tax increment financing (TIF) district. Inman also referenced a structural engineering study the commission had done on the building, saying "it is built very soundly."

"I think we've had significant discussion over a long period of time," said commission member Joe Johnston. "I think it's been well-researched."

Commission members Dave Teeter, Reda Theurer-Miller, Mike Simons and Joe Johnston unanimously approved authorizing Inman to execute documents to complete the purchase of the building.

The sales agreement between The Graphic Printing Company and the redevelopment commission includes a clause that allows the company to buy the building back if plans for housing development do not come to fruition.

The board also discussed the former Hunt's Building, 208 and 210 N. Meridian St., which Portland Board of Works has

approved for demolition. (The board subsequently agreed to give the redevelopment commission time to study the building and consider whether it is interested in getting financially involved to save it.)

Curtin said Friday that upon inspection he expected the building to be in worse shape. He acknowledged the need for repairs to second-floor joists, parts of the roof and the rear wall, but added that overall the roof structure seems to be in good shape.

He said the architect hired by the commission to look at the building gave an informal estimate of \$120,000 to \$150,000 to fix the roof and rear wall. He said he would feel more comfortable with numbers if a structural engineer and architect took more time to put together formal written reports.

"I feel like we need that to move forward," said Inman. "I don't think we have all the information yet."

"Again I think it's just exercising due diligence," added Theurer-Miller, "not just on behalf of the redevelopment commission but on behalf of the city."

Portland clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips pointed out that the city has had Wessler Engineering provide a report on the building. Curtin responded that it is his understanding that the assessment was done from the exterior only and did not include an interior inspection.

The commission unanimously approved utilizing

Silver Creek Engineering (Indianapolis) and SEBREE Architects (Carmel) to provide a formal assessment of the structure.

City attorney Wes Schemenaur encouraged the commission to keep in mind that the building has already been approved for demolition so any effort to change course would need to happen quickly.

Curtin said he expects the reports can be completed in the next week or two.

Also approved Friday was the declaratory resolution, which moves forward with the process of approving Portland's Downtown Economic Development Plan. It has been developed over the course of the last six months and was presented publicly late last month.

The plan addresses issues including vacant/dilapidated buildings, need for more walkability/bikeability, barriers to entry for small business and a lack of housing options and sets out goals such as beautifying the city, creating an environment that encourages small business and increasing housing options. It is available at portlanddowntownplan.com.

The approval process now moves to Portland Plan Commission. If approved there, it would go to Portland City Council. The final steps would then be to hold a public hearing prior to returning to the redevelopment commission for a confirmatory resolution.

Bids ...

Continued from page 1

They will also be presented to Portland City Council.

The board also approved the purchase of two 2015 Ford Explorers for the police department at a total cost of \$36,990 from Chicago Motors. (City council on Monday approved utilizing some of the more than \$72,500 that has been collected so far via tickets for trucks being off the approved route while U.S. 27 and Indiana 26 have been closed for construction this year.)

Police Chief Steve Schlechty noted that two of the department's Dodge Durangos are currently out for service with another to follow.

He also told the board there will be an additional \$13,000 in fees to equip the newly purchased vehicles for police use.

In other business, the board: •OK'd a final payment of \$4,350 to Milestone Contractors for Community Crossings paving work completed this year. Work included paving all of Arch and Pierce streets as well as Walnut Street east of Meridian Street, Noble Street between Main and High streets, and Union Street between Meridian and Bridge streets.

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For additional news from the Board of Works meeting, see Tuesday's edition of The Commercial Review.

Sims ...

Continued from page 1

Four finalists were selected this year to complete an impromptu essay and be interviewed by The Portland Foundation's selection committee. The foundation then sent its recommendation to the Independent Colleges of Indiana for selection of the recipient.

Jeremy Gulley, president of The Portland School Corporation superintendent, complimented all of the finalists on their academic achievements and community involvement.

What was it that made Sims stand out?

"Humility," Gulley said. "That's a quality, especially when you're talking about these kids because they've achieved so much. They're high achievers. They wouldn't be here where they're at otherwise. How do you balance telling your story, but also having that calm humility in front of adults you don't necessarily even know."

Sims is Jay County's 42nd recipient of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship that has been in existence since 1998-99. Other finalists this year were Zion Beiswanger, Nick Lyons and Danielle May.

In addition to golf, Sims also plays tennis for JCHS. He is involved in FFA, National Honor Society, academic competition, Jay County Junior Fair Board and 4-H. (He also plans to show his girlfriend's pygmy goats this year and hopes to advance to the small animal supreme showmanship competition, having already been a competitor in the large animal competition.)

Over the life of the scholarship program, the Lilly Endowment has provided about \$505 million to the more than 5,200 students who have been selected.

SERVICES

Saturday

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

Monday

Bertke, Gerald: 10:30 a.m., 1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery.

Tuesday

Hiday, Marilyn: 2 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Wednesday

Hartley, Ronnie: 11 a.m., Williamson, Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 190 S. Union St., Pennville.

Service listings provided by

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Toy drive helps incarcerated mothers

By HEIDI STEVENS
Tribune News Service

It started with a hopeful phone call. The holidays were approaching and Sharon Fitzner, family coordinator at Logan Correctional Center, a designated women's prison in central Illinois, was hearing from moms worried their children wouldn't have any gifts to open.

She reached out to attorney and advocate Alexis Mansfield, who coordinated with a Chicago-based group called Moms United Against Violence and Incarceration. Together, they planned a toy drive with a goal of 400 donations.

That was a decade ago, and Moms United now hosts the toy drive annually. Since 2014, the group has collected and distributed around 1,500 gifts per year, which they distribute to Decatur Prison, Cook County Jail and a handful of rehabilitation centers across Illinois, in addition to Logan Correctional Center.

"This is a way of showing incarcerated parents that we see them and we understand that they're still parents and that it's important to do something as simple as giving a gift to their child," said Holly Krig, director of organizing for Moms United. "And it's important for the child to know the gift is from their parent, not from a stranger. It's not an act of charity, it's an act of solidarity."

Around half of imprisoned people in the United States are parents of children under 18, according to the Sentencing Project, a criminal justice reform research and advocacy group. That means 2.7 million children have a parent serving time in prison or jail on any given day, and more than 5.2 million have had an incarcerated parent at some point during their lives.

"If you think you've never met a child with an incarcerated parent, you probably have," Krig said. "Especially if you're a

teacher or you work in a school or you work in health care."

Sixty percent of women in state prisons have a child under the age of 18, according to Sentencing Project data. That's a heartbreaking statistic any day of the year. It's particularly so at the holidays.

"The toy drive is in support of material donations," Krig said, "but it's also a way of defying and resisting the way in which the prison system works to isolate people and remove them from our consciousness."

The toy drive works like this: You choose a toy or teen gift at this link: bit.ly/holidaysolidarity10. You add it to your online cart. For shipping address, you choose "shipping to the address on Holiday Solidarity Moms United's Community Registry." You place your order.

The gifts are then shipped directly to the designated facility, where staff members open and inspect them. Then volun-

teers set up the gifts for moms to choose among and present to their children during a supervised visit.

Keeping parents and their children meaningfully connected throughout a prison term substantially decreases the negative impacts of incarceration on children, research shows, and is correlated with reduced recidivism rates by the parents, which in turn minimizes the retraumatization of the children.

We have a ways to go in creating and cultivating those meaningful connections.

I'll never forget reading a 2020 report examining the relationships between incarcerated mothers and their children, filled with haunting interviews with women at Logan Correctional Center.

The woman who learned her son was living with a person who had sexually abused her as a child, and was powerless to do anything about it. The woman

who desperately wanted to receive a drawing from her child, but couldn't receive mail with any crayon markings, per prison policy.

Only 1 in 3 mothers had children who lived within two hours of the prison, the report found, and many of the children lived with relatives who were unable to drive them to visit. When their children could visit, the mothers interviewed worried they'd be traumatized or physically harmed by the conditions: pervasive mold, broken toilets, raccoon and other pest invasions, lead paint.

Some people will shrug at this. Some people will see it as justice. I asked Krig how she responds to those critics.

"I encourage people to remember, as a starting point, that for the children there's nothing they've done to deserve or justify having their parents ripped from them," Krig said.

From there, she encourages people to examine whether our mass incarcer-

ation policies are meant to—or built to—reform and heal, or punish and avenge.

"For me, these mutual support drives are things we're doing to take care of each other and build relationships, even across razor-lined walls," Krig said. "The more we can build those relationships, the more we can see one another as people and really care about one another; the more we can really effectively challenge these systems."

And ideally come with a better one.

Meanwhile: Children deserve joy. At the holidays, and not at the holidays. And parents deserve the basic right to try and provide it.

And those of us who are able to can help them do so.

Heidi Stevens is a Tribune News Service columnist. You can reach her at heidikstevens@gmail.com, find her on Twitter @heidistevens13 or join her Heidi Stevens' Balancing Act Facebook group.

Son caught off guard by parents' reunion

DEAR ABBY: My husband's parents divorced 50 years ago when he was a newborn. Both remarried within a few years. My husband was raised by his mom and stepdad. His mother and father had little contact after their divorce. Because of that, my husband does not have a close relationship with his biological father, who made little effort to be in his life or the life of our children.

Recently, both of my husband's step parents passed away. After their passing, his mom and dad decided to get back together. They told us

Dear Abby



DEAR ABBY: My husband's parents divorced 50 years ago when he was a newborn. Both remarried within a few years. My husband was raised by his mom and stepdad. His mother and father had little contact after their divorce. Because of that, my husband does not have a close relationship with his biological father, who made little effort to be in his life or the life of our children.

DEAR ABBY: My husband's parents divorced 50 years ago when he was a newborn. Both remarried within a few years. My husband was raised by his mom and stepdad. His mother and father had little contact after their divorce. Because of that, my husband does not have a close relationship with his biological father, who made little effort to be in his life or the life of our children.

recently that they plan to remarry. My husband is having a hard time with their reunion. He feels they are rebounding from the death of their spouses. How can he learn to accept a relationship he doesn't agree with but ultimately has no con-

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DEAR ABBY: Shortly after my daughter's surgery, I got a text that I had received a food delivery gift from a friend. The text came from the delivery service, with a photo of the package sitting at the front door. The trouble was, it wasn't MY front door — the package had been delivered to the wrong address.

What would be the polite way to address this? Of course I want to thank the gift-giver, but should I let them know I never actually got the gift? I'd feel bad having them put even more effort into their gift, as I

know those delivery services can be a real hassle. And I wouldn't expect them to buy it again if, say, the food was redelivered correctly later, but cold. Thanks for your advice. — GIFT GONE IN ILLINOIS

DEAR GIFT GONE: Notify the delivery service of the screw-up. Then let your friends know you are grateful for their thoughtfulness, but do not want them charged for something that was misdelivered.

They may want to dispute the charge on their credit card.

Community Calendar

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

Today
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.

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.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

REDISCOVERING JOY — The support group of widows and widowers meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at R & R Fabrications, 601 E. Washington St., St. Henry, Ohio. For more information, email

rediscoveringjoy@yahoo.com.

Tuesday
JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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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WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

For Jay County Schools December 11-15

Monday: Main Entrees: Classic Cheeseburger **Alternate Entrees:** PB&J and cheese fun lunch, Ham & cheese salad, breadstick **Sides for all meals:** French fries

Tuesday: Main Entrees: Turkey corn dog **Alternate Entrees:** PB&J and cheese fun lunch, Ham & cheese salad, breadstick **Sides for all meals:** Roasted broccoli

Wednesday: Main Entrees: Italian meatball sub **Alternate Entrees:** PB&J and cheese fun lunch, Ham & cheese salad, breadstick **Sides for all meals:** Her roasted potatoes

Thursday: Main Entrees: Beef nachos **Alternate Entrees:** PB&J and cheese fun lunch, Ham & cheese salad, breadstick **Sides for all meals:** Vegetarian refried beans

Friday: Main Entree: Classic cheese pizza **Alternate Entrees:** PB&J and cheese fun lunch, Ham & cheese salad, breadstick **Sides for all meals:** Savory green beans

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Our holiday schedule is changing

Change. Folks tend to be averse to change. Even when change is positive, there are often unforeseen consequences.

We've been through a lot of changes this year. One was altering our printing schedule to allow for same-day delivery to in-county and other nearby customers who receive the newspaper by mail.

All in all, it's been a positive change. Many customers who had dropped the paper decided to come back once same-day delivery was restored.

One of the unintended consequences was the impact on holi-

Editorial

days for our employees. In order to achieve same-day mail delivery, we have to print earlier in order to get the newspaper to the post office in time to be sorted and end up in your mailbox.

On most days, that's not a problem. On weeks when there is a Monday holiday, it's different.

In order to get Tuesday's paper out, employees have had to work on Monday holidays — so far, Memorial Day and Labor Day — giving up their time off. While employees have been gracious in doing so, it's a tough ask given that we take so few holidays — only six — each year.

The issue rears its head again this month, as both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Mondays.

We had already been considering making a future adjustment. The back-to-back holidays this month have pushed our timeline.

Rather than asking employees

to give up their holidays again, The Commercial Review is implementing the following policy: We will no longer publish on the Tuesday following one of the Monday holidays we observe.

In the next month, that will mean no newspaper on Tuesday, Dec. 26, and Tuesday, Jan. 2.

For the long term, it will mean:

•No newspaper on the Tuesdays after Memorial Day and Labor Day every year

•No newspaper on the Tuesdays after New Year's Day, Independence Day or Christmas when those holidays fall on Monday.

Christmas and New Year's being celebrated on Monday happens every five to 11 years — the next occurrence will be 2028 — depending on how the calendar falls. Independence Day will not be on a Monday again until 2033.

We are hopeful that our subscribers and readers will understand this change and appreciate the importance of allowing our employees to spend these holidays with their families.

We want them to be able to relax and have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

We wish the same to you as well. — R.C.

Our seniors need a boost

By TERESA GHILARDUCCI and CHRISTOPHER D. COOK

Progressive Perspectives
Tribune News Service

Guest Opinion

When it comes to seniors' economic security, America is in poor shape. This October, an annual assessment of pension systems worldwide gave the United States a barely passable C+, ranking the country's retirement security apparatus below Kazakhstan and just a slight notch above Colombia, two far poorer nations. How can this be?

Similar to previous years, the Mercer/CFA Institute Global Pension Index found the U.S. system is marred by low benefits, conflicts of interest and anemic financing. No wonder elder poverty in this country ranks the highest among the G-7 nations at a drearily elevated 23.1%, while other rich OECD nations have senior poverty rates under 10%.

And senior poverty in America is getting worse. Due to eroding Social Security, failing 401(k)s and soaring medical costs, the poverty rate for U.S. seniors aged 65 and over rose between 2020 and 2022.

Elders are not alone in their deprivation. Poverty among U.S. children is also shamefully high at 21.3%.

While elder poverty actually eclipses that of children, the "Greedy Geezer" myth—the false notion that seniors' needs are raiding the nation's piggy bank for kids—refuses to go away. But in fact, there is no empirical evidence that pension systems transfer funds from the young to the old. Taking a dollar from the old does not mean the nation will give it to kids. Politics doesn't work that way.

When nations support vulnerable populations, both elders and children do better. Economist Axel Boersch-Supan examined 16 countries and found that a nation's generosity toward the elderly does not reduce the share of total social expenditures for programs targeting youth. Similarly, a group of American economists found that young people have higher returns on their taxes than older cohorts when comparing U.S. education spending to Social Security and Medicare.

Research by this article's lead author revealed that, across at least 63 countries, spending for

the young and old coincided rather than contradicted. To put it in numbers, a 10% increase in spending on education is correlated with a 7.3% increase in spending on pensions.

There is no "economic war of the generations," as some claim. As both senior and child poverty stay stubbornly high in America, the solution is clear: When one group is politically attacked, coalitions must rise up to defend both generations and their common fate.

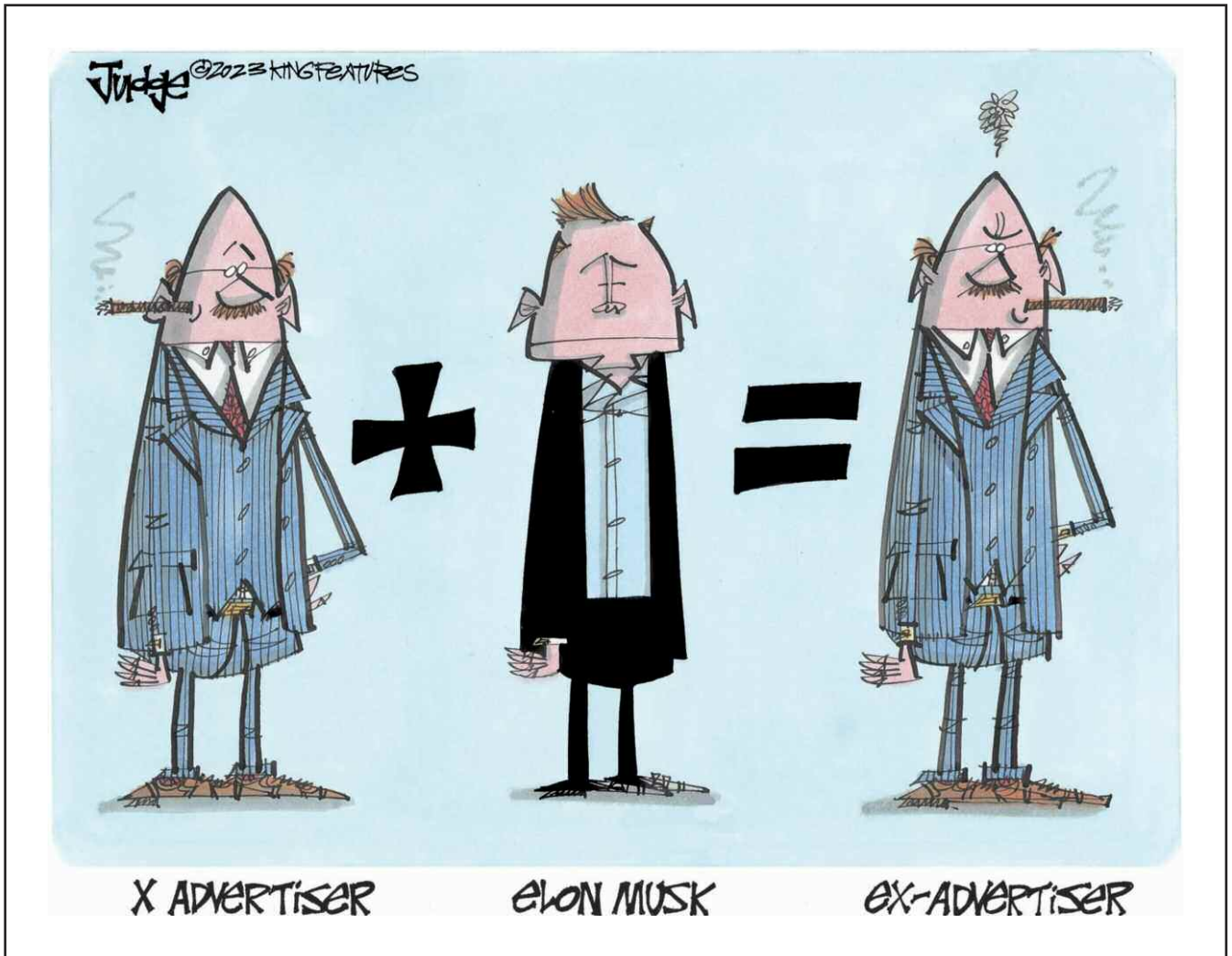
To tackle child poverty, a few policies will go a long way: The child tax credit, earned income tax credit and Social Security are critical to helping poor kids and families escape impoverishment.

For America's seniors, we must boost Social Security's revenues and raise the minimum benefit. All workers need and deserve retirement protections. America's do-it-yourself retirement system, dominated by voluntary pension plans and eroding Social Security, works best for those at the top, while leaving tens of millions of elders out in the cold.

Seventy-seven percent of the over \$279 billion in retirement tax breaks go to the wealthiest 20% of Americans, according to an Economic Innovation Group report. What's more, only the top 10% of Americans have enjoyed wealth increases over the last 40 years.

Cutting Social Security only deepens these economic chasms. Instead, with targeted tax increases on the wealthiest Americans, we can sustain and expand Social Security and Medicare, keeping the hounds of elder poverty at bay. Tax breaks for retirement accounts should go to ordinary workers, for example by passing the newly introduced, bipartisan Retirement Savings for Americans Act.

.....
Ghilarducci is professor of economics at the New School for Social Research and director of the Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis. Cook is Senior Writer for The New School.



What is Braun running for?

By MICHAEL LEPPERT

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

I was watching the IU men's team play its first Big Ten game against Maryland with a friend on Friday night when I saw it. During the game's first time out, Mike Braun's newest commercial in his campaign for Governor of Indiana ran.

When it was done, we turned and looked at each other for a silent moment before my pal broke the silence, asking, "What the hell is he running for?" My question exactly.

Back in October, I evaluated a couple of ads by two other gubernatorial candidates, Brad Chambers and Eric Doden. The theme of that critique was that their first ads were void of the reason, or the "why," Indiana would be better with either of them in its highest office. Yea, they were the introduction ads, strategically designed to play on Hoosier sensibilities while they politely shake voters' hands in a digitally manufactured way.

Their task at hand was clear to them both. My disagreement with the strategy was that neither of them made clear what issue, what challenge, what commitment would define their campaigns. Is it taxes? Is it healthcare? Is it education? In those ads, the strategy apparently was, "you can trust me because I am one of you." Neither of them has run for office before, so, the strategy has merit, even though the lack of any stated policy position made both ads deficient to me.

Braun's new ad, on the other hand, is offensive.

The ad is titled, "Safer," but it's not about how he can make Indiana safer at all.

The first item in the ad covers how he "worked with President Trump to secure our border." While he speaks of this apparent point of pride, the video shows him shaking

Michael Leppert



the former president's hand, while a newspaper headline runs at the bottom that states, "Braun says, 'Secure our own border before another dollar goes overseas.'" That headline is dated October 3rd, days before the Israel/Hamas war began.

This seamlessly flows into his brief discussion of the fentanyl crisis he wants to solve while "Joe Biden does nothing." That is spoken over a red map of communist China on the left, a map of Indiana on the right with little dots peppering primarily the southern part of the state that I assume signify overdose deaths. Then the middle features a sad, drooping image of the current president, who is Braun's apparent opponent.

Next is the most quotable of quotes from the ad. Braun looks deeply into the camera and says, "Talk is cheap. Leaders get things done." Hmm. Fifteen seconds into the ad, I bet we are about to hear some specifics about that.

And there it is—video of Braun's field trip to the southern border last month. There are action shots of him riding in a boat with a border enforcement officer and shaking hands with a sheriff from the area.

These senator-in-action vids flow nicely into his three-step plan for making Indiana "safer." First, "deport criminal illegals." Next, "destroy the cartels." And finally, "hold China accountable."

None of these things are in the job description. They are often

specifically prohibited from direct state intervention.

The ad makes promises that no governor can keep, and more importantly, no governor should make. Braun understands what the job is, but he apparently believes his voters don't. Who am I kidding? This strategy has engulfed all GOP campaigns: Vote for me, I'm as generically mad as all of you!

He mentions the most indicted man in America once, and at the end of the ad shows how Trump's endorsement of him is now the campaign's title. That's right. The campaign branding at the end reads: "Endorsed by President Trump, Mike Braun, Republican for Governor."

My critique of his opponents' ads back in October centered on my belief that their first ads were "about nothing." I acknowledged the goals of those ads, even though I thought they missed an opportunity to meaningfully give Hoosiers a reason to listen to them further.

Braun's ad misses the mark in a whole new and disturbing way. He isn't running for governor in hopes of one day getting to do the job of governor. It's as if he is running for the office so that he can be a more notable sycophant to the politician he got into bed with in 2018 when he ran statewide the first time.

And finally, it's all an act. It began for him during that first senate run six years ago and it has become all he is. Being the Trumpiest of the Trumpy will lead him to electoral success, and at the same time, it will prevent him from actually doing anything worthwhile.

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Leppert is an author, educator and a communication consultant in Indianapolis.

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The Commercial Review



US PS 125820

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—Thomas Jefferson

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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.

12-9 CRYPTOQUIP

RM TNQ NDVIJUIA S PXRIM
VCSPKXRCE VNHI AIURKIV
MJNH SC SBBZI VPNJI, ONQZA

TNQ DI SC RORPCIVV?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU'D REALLY LIKE TO MAKE A SQUID START LAUGHING, WHAT MIGHT THAT REQUIRE? TEN TICKLES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals G

Trivial Review (Answers are printed below, upside down.)
Story adjacent
1) What poet is known for leading the transcendentalist movement of the mid 1800s?
2) Higbee's department store was rebranded under what name in 1992?

12-11 CRYPTOQUIP

QLVEF SXZH OTFVF FIFVH
DFVYLMFMZ WOFQQFV TLP ZTF
PLYF EXIFM MLYF LP LSZGV

WLYGM: YLZZ-VGDGQXP.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU OBSERVED A THIEF SNATCHING SOME DEVICES FROM AN APPLE STORE, WOULD YOU BE AN IWITNESS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals E

CRYPTO FUN
Determine the code to reveal the answer!
A. 25 15 18 8 11
B. 5 3 22 19 11
C. 11 18 15 15 19 23
D. 16 8 13 26 11

WORD SCRAMBLE
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to holiday baking.
GERNGI

Guess Who?
I am an actor born in California on December 7, 1966. I was a rodeo champion before becoming an actor, following in the footsteps of my dad. I am best known for work in popular movies like "Red Dawn" and "The Outsiders."

kids' corner
Illustration of a child's desk with a laptop, calculator, and books.

FOOD FACT!
THERE ARE MORE THAN 3,000 VARIETIES OF THIS FRUIT WORLDWIDE.
ANSWER: PEARS

How they SAY that in...
ENGLISH: Sweet
SPANISH: Dulce
ITALIAN: Dolce
FRENCH: Sucre
GERMAN: Süß

Math Blocks
Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-10.
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY
1962: WORKERS AT FOUR NYC NEWSPAPERS BEGIN A STRIKE THAT ULTIMATELY LASTS FOR 114 DAYS.
1990: THE GAILEO SPACECRAFT FLIES PAST EARTH FOR THE FIRST TIME.
2013: METALLICA PERFORMS A SHOW IN ANTARCTICA, MAKING THEM THE FIRST BAND TO PERFORM ON ALL SEVEN CONTINENTS.

New word
MATURE
fully developed

HOLIDAY BAKING WORD SEARCH
WORDS: BAKED, CHOCOLATE, COOKIES, CREAM, CRUMBS, DESSERT, EGGS, FOLD, FRUITCAKE, GINGERBREAD, INGREDIENTS, KNEAD, PASTRY, PLATTER, PUDDING, PUMPKIN PIE, RECIPE, ROLLING PIN, SPRINKLES, STRUDEL, TEMPERATURE, TORTE, TREATS, VANILLA

Get Scrambled
Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.
REPA RTTA
ANSWER: Four tart

Did You Know?
PEARS ARE ONE OF THE FEW FRUITS THAT HAVE AN EXTENSIVE HISTORY, DATING BACK TO AROUND 1,000 B.C.

GET THE PICTURE?
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?
ANSWER: PEARS

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Search for gold, 4 1920s art style, 8 Sugar or starch, for short, 12 "Hail!", 13 Human rights lawyer Clooney, 14 KOA patron, 15 "Unstoppable" singer, 16 Three feet, 17 Unctuous, 18 "Person of Interest" actress who played a mathematician in 38-, 21 Texter's guffaw, 22 Pub pint, 23 Esau's brother, 26 NBC sketch show, 27 Satchel, 30 Shrek, for one
31 Owned, 32 Extra-long, 33 The "G" of LGBTQ, 34 Police officer, 35 Bargains, 36 Priestly garment, 37 Moving day rental, 38 Oscar-nominated film about NASA, 45 Vicinity, 46 Gymnast Korbut, 47 Granada gold, 48 Genie's home, 49 Prosperous, 50 Decks in the ring
51 Getting the job done, 52 Crime lab fluids, 53 GI entertainers, DOWN 1 Bygone days, 2 Athletic shoe brand, 3 Close, 4 Nine-to-five gig, 5 Cyber-message, 6 Kvetch, 7 Seasoned vet, 8 Witch, 9 Rara —, 10 Move, in lingo, 11 — Mawr
Solution time: 26 mins.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14
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45 46 47
48 49 50
51 52 53

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Hidden chance
East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH: A Q, Q 10 9, Q 10 6 3, A K 6 5
WEST: 9 7 5 4, K 7 2, 8 2, J 10 9 7
EAST: 8 6 3, 8 6 5 3, A 7 5 4, 8 2
SOUTH: K J 10 2, A J 4, K J 9, Q 4 3
The bidding: East South West North Pass 1 NT Pass 6 NT
Opening lead — jack of clubs.
Assume you're declarer at six notrump and West leads the jack of clubs. You have only eight cashable winners and can immediately raise your total to 11 by establishing your diamonds, so you win the club with dummy's king and lead a low diamond to your king, which holds.
You continue with the jack of diamonds, taken by East with the ace, and back comes the three of hearts, bringing you to a critical decision. Should you take the heart finesse, or should you go up with the ace and hope the opposing clubs are divided 3-3?
There is about a 50% chance that East was dealt the king of hearts, and only about a 36% chance of the clubs dividing 3-3. This might lead you to conclude that the heart finesse offers a better chance to make the slam. However, the fact is that you will do better in the long run to reject the heart finesse.
This is because there is a third factor to consider, namely the possibility that the defender with the king of hearts might also have been dealt four or more clubs, in which case he is subject to a squeeze. This is not a negligible possibility; in fact, when added to the chance of a 3-3 club division, it gives you better than a 60% chance to make the slam.
Accordingly, you should go up with the ace of hearts at trick four and cash all your spades and diamonds, reducing your hand to three cards consisting of the jack of hearts and Q-4 of clubs. Dummy's last three cards are the A-6-5 of clubs.
But note what has happened to poor West in the meantime. On the previous trick, he had to choose a discard from the king of hearts and 10-9-7 of clubs, and whatever he selected, the rest of the tricks are yours.

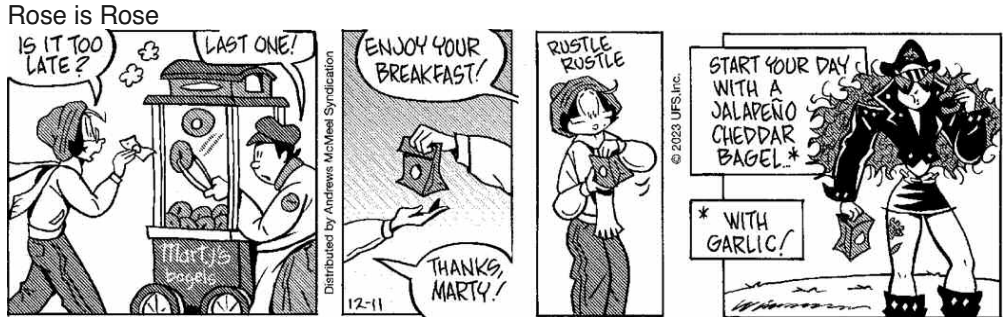
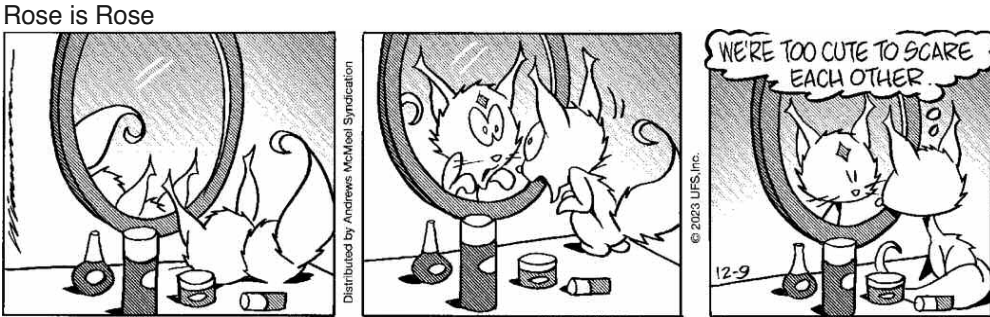
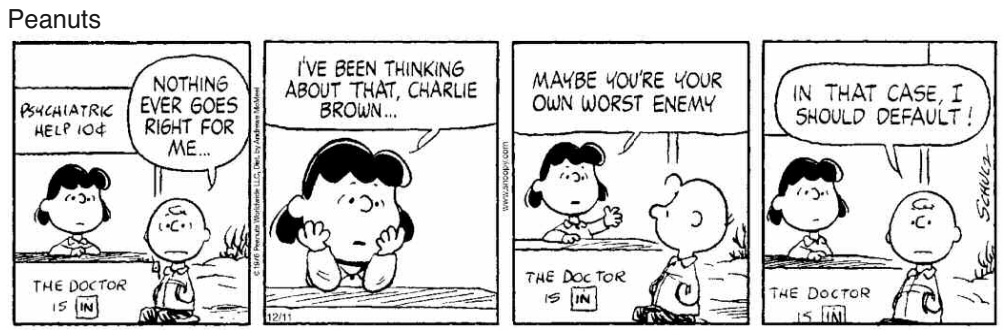
Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand
South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH: A K 10 4 2, A Q J 6, Q 8 4 2
WEST: 7, K 10 8 4 3 2, 5, A K 8 5 2
EAST: 9, 9 7 5, K J 9 7 6, Q 10 6 3
SOUTH: Q J 8 6 5 3, A 10 3, J 9 7 4
The bidding: South West North East 2 3 4 4 NT 5 5 Dble
Opening lead ace of clubs.
Today's deal occurred in the final of the 2011 world team championship. The event was won by a young squad from the Netherlands, who defeated an equally young group of Americans by 45 IMPs.
The U.S. got off to a fast start in the early going, leading by 21 IMPs after the first quarter, with this deal accounting for about half that margin. When the board was first played, the Dutch pair of Bauke Muller, North, and Simon de Wijs, South, wound up in five spades doubled on the auction shown.
After South's weak two opening,

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 "Levitating" singer, 4 Spiral shell, 9 Monk's title, 12 Curved letter, 13 Blazing, 14 Fine, to NASA, 15 "We'll play by the rules, okay?", 17 MLB stat, 18 UFO crew, 19 Pulpit delivery, 21 Perplex, 24 Chan-treuse Edith, 25 Actress MacGraw, 26 Giverny summer, 28 Drink slowly, 31 Vocal quality, 33 Blue, 35 Author Uris, 36 Got wind of
38 Phone bug, 40 Turf, 41 Rock drummer Ulrich, 43 Dark periods, 45 Beach robe, 47 Conditions, 48 Acapulco gold, 49 Get real, 54 Lucy of "Kill Bill", 55 Blogger's dread, 56 Ages and ages, 57 Lobed organ, 58 Feel, 59 Hogwarts messenger
DOWN 1 Dict. info, 2 "Suits" network, 3 "Do — say!", 4 Rook, 5 Balances, 6 "Empire" actress, 7 Like fresh apples, 8 Below, in contracts, 9 Sign at a rural vegetable stand, 10 Sci-fi prefix, 11 Related, 16 Ump, 20 Actor Julia, 21 Tub session, 22 Skin soother, 23 March Madness elite group, 27 Snack on, 29 Chimney buildup, 30 Concludes, 32 Part of Q.E.D., 34 "The News-room" actor, 37 Pub orders, 39 "Non-sense!", 42 Entrap, 44 Fed. property manager, 45 Composer Porter, 46 La Scala solo, 50 Inmate, 51 Corp. boss, 52 AAA job, 53 NBC weekend show
Solution time: 21 mins.

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54 55 56
57 58 59



We Deliver

Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

Laughter

The Commercial Review *We Deliver*

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By the dozen

Box score

Fort Recovery Indians vs.
New Bremen Cardinals

Girls varsity summary

New Bremen (1-2, 1-0 MAC)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Nelson	3-12	2-4	9	
Hirschfeld	0-2	0-2	0	
Rindler	0-5	1-2	1	
Firks	6-13	2-5	15	
CHoman	4-8	2-2	10	
Burden	1-6	0-0	3	
Bornhorst	1-1	0-0	2	
Lochtefeld	0-0	0-0	0	
Totals	15-47	7-15	40	
	.319	.467		
Def. rebound percentage:	.735			

Fort Recovery (1-4, 0-1 MAC)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Niekamp	5-7	2-5	13	
Guggenbiller	0-0	0-0	0	
Wendel	2-11	0-0	6	
Leuthold	2-9	0-4	4	
CMuhlnkamp	0-1	0-0	0	
BHoman	0-0	0-0	0	
KMuhlnkamp	1-8	0-0	2	
Huelskamp	2-10	0-0	4	
Totals	12-46	2-9	29	
	.261	.222		
Def. rebound percentage:	.813			

Score by quarters:
New Bre. 9 10 9 12—40
Ft. Rec. 6 6 5 12—29

3-point shooting: New Bremen 3-19 (Firks 1-5, Nelson 1-6, Burden 1-6, Hirschfeld 0-1, Homan 0-1). Fort Recovery 3-17 (Wendel 2-9, Niekamp 1-1, Leuthold 0-1, Huelskamp 0-1).

Rebounds: New Bremen 34 (CHoman 12, Team 7, Hirschfeld 6, Rindler 6, Firks 2, Burden). Fort Recovery 36 (Niekamp 8, Leuthold 7, Team 6, Wendel 5, KMuhlnkamp 5, Huelskamp 3, Guggenbiller 2).

Assists: New Bremen 6 (Nelson 2, Hirschfeld 2, Firks, CHoman). Fort Recovery 3 (Wendel 2, KMuhlnkamp).

Blocks: New Bremen 6 (CHoman 4, Hirschfeld, Rindler). Fort Recovery 4 (Leuthold 2, Niekamp, KMuhlnkamp).

Personal fouls: New Bremen 11 (CHoman 4, Firks 2, Nelson, Rindler, Burden, Bornhorst, Lochtefeld). Fort Recovery 16 (Niekamp 4, Wendel 4, Huelskamp 4, Leuthold 2, CMuhlnkamp, KMuhlnkamp).

Turnovers: New Bremen 12. Fort Recovery 17.

12-0 run puts down Indians in MAC opener

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Late in the third quarter, the Indians ran a set play where Cali Wendel received a flare screen to get open on the left wing. Kennedy Muhlenkamp delivered a perfect skip pass to hit Wendel in her shooting pocket, who in turn knocked down her first three of the night, and cut the Cardinals' lead to five with 2 minutes, 30 seconds left in the third quarter.

In turn, the Cardinals responded with 12 straight points.

The New Bremen Cardinals went on a 12-0 run the final minutes of the third until half-way through the fourth to power past the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team 40-29 in Thursday's Midwest Athletic Conference opener.

"The girls played hard like they always do," FRHS coach Tyler Deitsch said. "Had trouble finding the basket tonight. We couldn't get it from close, or far out."

"But, whenever it comes down to it, we get into crunch time, and we really have to put the pressure on and don't have to worry about foul trouble like we do in the first half, we can really get after things and cut big deficits down."

"But with our numbers and fouling issues, it's tough to be able to play like that for a full game."

The Indians (1-4, 0-1 MAC) were scoreless through the first half of the third quarter, before Karlie Niekamp got the ball with her back to the basket. She turned to make a move over her right shoulder and pump faked to get Chloe Homan —



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Fort Recovery High School's Karlie Niekamp finishes an up-and-under move when she got New Bremen's Chloe Homan off the ground in the first half of the Indians' 40-29 loss Thursday.

who blocked four shots in the game — off her feet to complete and up-and-under play to break the scoring.

After a free throw from Marina Nelson, Wendel hit her shot to cut the lead to five.

The Cardinals (1-2, 1-0 MAC) ended the period on a 6-0 run with a bucket from Homan on an offensive rebound, a fast break by Michaela Firks and a drive where Firks was fouled but couldn't complete the 3-point play.

"I think we attacked more offen-

sively is the first thing," New Bremen coach Andy Timmerman said. "We didn't force anything. We were patient ... just we offensively had a lot more fluency."

The run continued to start the fourth on a drive from Nelson, a free throw by Mary Rindler and a Firks' three.

The run ended when Niekamp put back an offensive rebound at the 4:30 mark.

Niekamp sparked the offense in the fourth quarter for the Indians, scoring nine points, including a

transition 3-point shot and a late-game steal in the back court.

"I was just trying to keep working hard, keep chipping away at the deficit," Niekamp said. "I just kept working hard to keep my teammates going and see what we could get."

The Indians got off to a slow start offensively, scoring six points in both the first and second quarter and five in the third. The best period for Fort Recovery was the fourth, putting 12 on the board.

Against Jay County on Dec. 2, the Indians had a slow start as well, scoring nine combined before dropping 19 in the fourth quarter.

"We're very good situationally," Deitsch said. "Whenever we struggle to get into that flow, because we have girls out with foul trouble and we're just missing shots, it's tough."

"When you put this team's feet to the fire, that's when they stop thinking about things and they just start reacting and playing and relying on what they know instead of (overthinking it)."

New Bremen's leader was Firks with 15 on 6-of-13 from the floor and 2-for-5 from the free throw line.

Homan also made a large impact, netting a double-double with 10 points and 12 rebounds to go along with her four rejections.

Despite being forced in and out of the game due to foul trouble, Niekamp led the Tribe with 13 points and eight rebounds.

The next step for Fort Recovery will be finding a way to spread out its efficiency in the first three quarters as well, rather than playing from behind in the fourth. A big key to that will be having Niekamp out on the floor.

"No. 3 is a motor for us, and we need her on the floor," Deitsch said. "Whenever she is, she does great things, ..."

"So we need to be able to keep her going (and keep) our girls from being getting frustrated, especially dropping a few games in a row here. But she's someone that has definitely been a bright spot in our team."

Jay wrestlers clean up at NHHS

NEW HAVEN — The Patriots were without their top wrestler, Mallory Winner, who was out with an illness.

It didn't matter, as their depth propelled them to a pair of victories anyway.

During a trip to New Haven High School, the Jay County girls wrestling team stayed undefeated on the season with a pair of wins against the East Noble Knights (33-18) and the New Haven Bulldogs (42-12).

The Patriots (5-0) won five of the 10 contested matches, going 3-3 against East Noble and 2-2 versus the Bulldogs.

Katie Rowels and Maleah Parsons had the fastest pins of the day. Rowels took down New Haven's Amilia Spillers 45 seconds into the 100-pound match, while Parsons won the 145 contest 43 seconds in by a defensive pin.

Against East Noble, Lina Lingo (130) and Emily Manor (135) earned victories by fall for JCHS. Manor pinned Natalie Spidel 1 minute, 11 seconds in while Lingo took Hadleigh Ealing to the second round before coming out on top at 2:37.

Jay County roundup

Willow Hardy claimed the final victory for Jay County by taking down Emma Raatz in a 4-1 decision in the 125 weight class.

Swimmers struggle

OSSIAN — The Jay County High School swim team got swept by the Norwell Knights on Thursday. The boys fell 107-64 while the girls fell by a wider margin of 141-42.

The only individual victory for the Patriots came in the 1-meter diving competitions. Brasen Glassford had 139.9 points in an uncontested competition, while Maddy Snow took the top spot of three with 207.7 points.

Six second-place finishes helped Jay County (0-4) to its best finish of the season, including the 200-yard

medley relay and the 200 freestyle relay.

Joseph Dow was the leader for the Patriots, placing second in the butterfly and the 500 freestyle. Other second-place finishes came from David Keen in the 200 freestyle and Lincoln Clamme in the breaststroke.

While the girls team (2-2) didn't have any second-place finishes, it took third in eight events. Aubrey Millspaugh had two of the finishes in the 200 freestyle and the 500 freestyle.

Five undefeated

NEW HAVEN — Nine boys wrestled for the Jay County junior varsity wrestling team at New Haven on Thursday.

Five Patriots went undefeated on the day, four of which were 2-0. Alejandro Ruiz won his only match, while Hayden Ison, Joaquin Johnson, Jason Landers and Hayden Richmond all earned two victories.

Gabe Ardizzone, Mario Ardizzone and Bryce Coy all split their matches to go 1-1 on the day, while Gavin Hambrick lost his only match.

Eighth graders escape

The Patriots haven't had too much trouble on the season.

The Tigers pushed them to their limit, but the Patriots still came out on top.

The Jay County Junior High School basketball teams pulled out a pair of victories against the Bluffton-Harrison Tigers on Thursday with the eighth graders edging past 29-24 while the seventh graders won 40-4.

Natalie May led the way for the eighth grade team (8-1) with 11 points.

Other scores came from Kylie Shannon (eight), Elizabeth Brunswick (five), Gabi Petro (three) and Amelia Heath (two).

Karsyn Schwieterman and Charlee Peters powered the Patriots' (9-0) offense with 16 and 12 points respectively.

Claudia Dirksen and Alivya Schwieterman had four while Kendall Schemanaur and Avery Snow with one bucket each.

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Back ...

Continued from page 10
"I'm ready for tomorrow," Wenk said. "Heritage ain't too bad, but we really need some more competition to make us good."

Jay County opens up today with Class 1A No. 5 South Adams at 9 a.m., who fell to Adams Central before getting a bye in the second round. After that they will face Woodlan who suffered a pair of losses to Bluffton and Adams Central. They follow-up with Bluffton, then Adams Central and close things out against Southern Wells.

Jay County will look to try and ride off of the initial win and carry their success into tomorrow's opener against a strong Stafires team.

"I think the two best teams are probably South Adams and Adam Central, and that they faced off in the first round and Adams Central won, that one, so that'll be a pretty tough one for us," Myers said. "It was good to get a win against Heritage to start off. We just need to get everybody going and every point counts."

Falling in the match were Hay-

den Ison (150) and Leighton Brown (175). Ison took Preston Moore into the third set, but couldn't hang on, as he was pinned with 1:06 remaining.

Brown was taken down 30 seconds in by C'Jay Barnett and quickly pinned 14 seconds later.

Connor Specht and Logan Teichman started a match in the 285 weight class, but it was cut short with six seconds left in the first period. Specht had to medically forfeit after hitting his head on a single-leg takedown by Teichman.

The injury adds an extra challenge for Myers' squad as they aim for a title today, making them one less player close to full strength.

"It's just things that we're going to have to overcome not having our lineup at full strength," Myers said. "That's what we try to tell the kids all the time. 'You have to overcome adversity.'"

"The greatest thing that you can take out of high school sports is learning life lessons. That's definitely one that we're gonna have to contend with (Saturday)."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Cody Rowles controls Max Mirelez in the 132-pound match between Jay County and Heritage at the ACAC Duels on Friday. Rowles won the match and hopes it will help lead into a good day Saturday.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys wrestling ACAC Duels at Jay County — 9 a.m.; Girls wrestling at Lebanon — 9 a.m.; Boys basketball at New Castle — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Swimming at Trotwood — 6 a.m.; Girls bowling vs. Parkway at Pla-Mor Lanes — 9:15 a.m.; Boys bowling vs. Parkway at Pla-Mor Lanes — 1 p.m.; Boys basketball vs. Bradford — 6 p.m.

Monday
Jay County — Swimming vs. South Adams — 6 p.m.; Junior high girls bas-

ketball at Northside — 5 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball vs. Blackford — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Freshman boys basketball vs. Parkway — 6 p.m.

Tuesday
Jay County — Girls basketball vs. Blackford — 6 p.m.; Swimming at Delta — 6 p.m.; Boys wrestling at Norwell — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. Fort Loramie — 6 p.m.; Swimming vs. Minster and Marion Local at South Adams — 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball at South Adams — 5 p.m.;

Middle school girls basketball vs. Parkway — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Saturday
10 a.m. — Premier League: Burnley at Brighton & Hove Albion (USA)
11:30 a.m. — Men's college basketball: Syracuse at Georgetown (FOX)
12 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Illinois at Tennessee (CBS); Kentucky at Penn (ESPN2); Florida Gulf Coast at Minnesota (BTN); Cal at Butler (FS1)
12:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Troy at Dayton (USA)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League: Arsenal at Aston Villa (NBC)
12:30 p.m. — Bundesliga soccer: RB Leipzig at Borussia Dortmund (ABC)
1:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Alabama at Purdue (FOX)
2 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Louisville at DePaul (FS1); Auburn at Indiana (ESPN2)
2:30 p.m. — College football: North Dakota State at South Dakota (ABC)
3 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Hofstra at Saint Louis (Bally Indiana)
3 p.m. — College football: Army at Navy (CBS)
3:15 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Wisconsin at Arizona (ESPN)
4 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Arkansas at Oklahoma (ESPN2); Clemson at TCU (FS1)
4 p.m. — MLS: Los Angeles FC at

Columbus Crew (FOX)
5:15 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Missouri at Kansas (ESPN)
6 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Ohio State at Penn State (BTN)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: UCLA at Villanova (FOX)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Rutgers at Seton Hall (FS1)
8 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Chicago Blackhawks (Bally Indiana)
8 p.m. — Men's college hockey: Ohio State at Minnesota (BTN)
8:30 p.m. — NBA in-season tournament (ABC)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Notre Dame at Marquette (FOX)
10 p.m. — Boxing: Robeisy Ramirez - Rafael Espinoza (ESPN)
10:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: UC Irvine at San Diego State (FS1)
11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Gonzaga at Washington (ESPN2)

Sunday
9 a.m. — Premier League: Chelsea at Everton (USA)
11:30 a.m. — Premier League: Newcastle United at Tottenham Hotspur (USA)
12 p.m. — Women's college basketball: UCLA at Florida State (ESPN2)
1 p.m. — NFL: Indianapolis Colts at Cincinnati Bengals (CBS); Detroit Lions at Chicago Bears (FOX)
1 p.m. — PGA Tour: World Champions Cup (ABC); Grant Thornton Invita-

tional (NBC)
2 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Colorado at Miami (ESPN2)
2:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Utah at South Carolina (ESPN); Iowa at Wisconsin (BTN)
4 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Memphis at Texas A&M (ESPN2)
4 p.m. — NFL: Minnesota Vikings at Las Vegas Raiders (FOX)
4:25 p.m. — NFL: Buffalo Bills at Kansas City Chiefs (CBS)
4:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Michigan at Iowa (BTN)
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Tulsa at Oklahoma State (ESPN2);

Michigan State at Nebraska (BTN)
8:20 p.m. — NFL: Philadelphia Eagles at Dallas Cowboys (NBC)

Monday
7 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Detroit Pistons (Bally Indiana)
8:15 p.m. — NFL: Tennessee Titans at Miami Dolphins (ESPN); Green Bay Packers at New York Giants (ABC)

Tuesday
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Monmouth at Seton Hall (FS1)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Hofstra at Duke (ESPN2); Alcorn State at Maryland (BTN)

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Back on track



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Bryce Wenk of the Jay County High School boys wrestling team gets an arm bar across Hunter Deconick's back before pinning him with a hammerlock in the 215-pound match on Friday night. Jay County beat Heritage 66-18 to open up the Allen County Athletic Conference Duels with wins from Wenk, Cody Rowles and Jacob Robinson.

someone who hasn't been wrestling up to his full potential yet this year. Coming into Friday's match, he was a prime example of someone who was looking to be more aggressive on the mat.

"I just haven't been wrestling like me," Rowles said. "I just haven't gotten in my groove, but I'm starting to get there."

"I think this tournament is when I'm gonna come alive and start actually wrestling, instead of doing whatever I was doing."

The 132-pound match was the

final contest between the teams, where Rowles faced off against Max Mirelez.

The Heritage wrestler quickly made a move on Rowles going for a double-leg takedown, but Rowles avoided it and turned it into a go-behind takedown for early points 15 seconds in. From there, Rowles had total control, eventually pinning Mirelez with 40 seconds remaining.

"I feel good about it," Rowles said. "I've really been struggling on top, so I wanted to get a quick takedown and work on top. I was

able to do that and it just felt good to be able to work on that."

Other victories for Jay County (8-1) came from Jacob Robinson in the 157 weight class and Bryce Wenk out of the 215.

Myers was particularly impressed with Robinson, who took down Heritage's Aaron Baeumler in five seconds and then only needed 29 more seconds for the pin.

After a delay getting to the mat, Wenk squared off with Hunter Deconick. Wenk was able to take Deconick down with

ease and racked up points by allowing escapes before getting a near fall for a 14-4 lead. The match was stopped to clean up some blood.

During that break, he looked to his coaches who told him to go for the pin. He did that by putting Deconick into a hammerlock for the victory with 41 seconds remaining.

Wenk is looking forward to seeing some more competition today as Jay County faces the rest of the ACAC teams.

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Jay County opens ACAC Duels with 66-18 win over Heritage

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

Cody Rowles hasn't had the start to the season he was hoping for.

He was sitting under .500 with three wins and four between the opening dual meet with Centerville, the Western Super 6 and a tri-meet with Delta and Yorktown.

The senior wants to get that turned around and has gotten his start.

Rowles won his match as the Class 2A No. 1 Jay County High School boys wrestling team opened up the Allen County Athletic Conference Duels on Friday night with a first-round bye and a 66-18 victory over the Heritage Patriots in the second.

After the first day of duels, three teams remain undefeated. Joining Jay County are Southern Wells who took down Heritage 60-18 and Woodlan 48-32 and Class 1A No. 2 Adams Central who beat South Adams 42-36 and Bluffton 72-11.

"We wrestled alright," JCHS coach Eric Myers said. "We're just working on a few things to improve on after last Tuesday. We're not quite there yet, but we're working to get a little bit more aggressive and wrestle through some situations. Not quite at full strength yet but we're working on it."

Rowles, who qualified for the state tournament last year, is

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Muhlenkamp explodes against Adams Central

MONROE — Coach Sherri McItinire hasn't been too impressed with the Patriots' offensive production over the past few games.

Against an Allen County Athletic Conference opponent, Molly Muhlenkamp took it into her hands to see that improve.

Muhlenkamp exploded for 21 points on 9-for-13 shooting to fuel the Jay County High School girls basketball team's 62-26 clobbering of the Adams Central Jets on Friday night.

Jay County (8-2, 2-0 ACAC) held a 21-8 led after only the first quarter. Muhlenkamp scored 14 points in the period on a pair of 3-pointers, and four more buckets from inside the arc to outscore the Jets (3-7, 1-2 ACAC) all by herself.

Meredith Dirksen added a three while Sophie Saxman and Bella Denton each had a basket to hit the total mark for the first quarter.

On the other end of the floor, Jay County only allowed a pair of threes to go through, scored by Athena Schwartz and Ava Stafford as well as a pair of free throws by Alexa Brotherton.

The Patriots scored 16 in the second quarter, 19 in the third and six in the fourth to cruise to victory. Hallie Schwieterman was also in double figures with 10 points. Schwartz led Adams Central with nine.

Saxman pulled down a team-high nine rebounds, with Muhlenkamp next in line with six and Schwieterman grabbing five.

The Patriots did a great job sharing the ball, racking up 14 assists in the game. Breanna Dirksen had the most, dishing out four, while Danielle May added three.

While the Jay County defense didn't need to force too many steals to keep the Jets at bay, they still forced 12 turnovers. Muhlenkamp and Breanna Dirksen led the way

with three steals each.

The Patriots also received scoring from Saxman (seven points), Breanna Dirksen (seven), Meredith Dirksen (five), Denton (four), May (three), Alexis Sibray (three) and Natalie Careno (two).

Junior varsity

The Patriots took down the Jets 37-26 in the JV game as well in a two-quarter contest.

Natalie Carreno and Raylah Newton had big games for the Patriots (4-5) with 17 and 11 points respectively.

Jay County finished the first quarter up five points on the back of Carreno who scored 10 of her 17.

Newton led the second quarter with nine to combine with the other seven of Carreno's points to outscore the Jets 20-14.

Also scoring for Jay County were Alexis Sibray (four points), Meredith Dirksen (three) and Chaylee Melton (two).

Nine set career bests

The Jay County High School swim team hosted the Bluffton Tigers boys Friday for an exhibition.

The event had both the boys and girls competing together while mixing up for relay events.

Nine Patriots posted career bests during the meet.

Boys that posted career bests were Lincoln Clamme, Joseph Dow, Matthew Fisher, David Keen, Joey Nichols and Grason Swoveland.

The girls were Kelsey Huey, Aubrey Millsbaugh and Emma Ransom.

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