

The Commercial Review

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\$1

GOP hopefuls address issues

Candidates speak on public safety, taxes, schools

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana's Republican gubernatorial candidates continued to carve out their own policy paths while speaking at an Indianapolis legislative conference Wednesday, where they fielded questions about public safety, school choice and taxes.

The five hopefuls, who took a few shots at each other, are vying for the GOP nomination in the race for the state's top elected seat in 2024.

The candidates did not debate against one another during the forum, instead individually introducing themselves and responding to four questions from a moderator.

Participating candidates included former Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Fort Wayne businessman Eric Doden and former Attorney General Curtis Hill. U.S. Sen. Mike Braun was missing from the group — away in Washington, D.C. alongside other federal lawmakers — but his pre-recorded video responses were played for each question.

The GOP contenders were first asked about their plans to improve public safety and where they stood, specifically, on qualified immunity — a controversial standard that protects police officers and other government officials from being sued for alleged misconduct.

Hill cited his career spent as a local prosecutor and maintained that, if elected governor, he would ensure law enforcement has the “resources, training and protection” they need “to protect our public and our safety.” He did not, however, address qualified immunity head-on.

Crouch said there would be “no discussion” or action limiting qualified immunity at the state level.

See **Issues** page 2

More solar



The Commercial Review graphic/Ray Cooney

Jay County Council on Wednesday approved Hodson Energy for a 10-year tax abatement for its planned New Jay Solar facility. The footprint for New Jay Solar sits between county roads 400 South, 1000 West, 1150 West and 500 South. Hodson is the fourth company pursuing solar in Jay County, joining Scout Clean Energy, Invenergy and Leeward Energy.

Hodson Energy is fourth company pursuing a solar facility in Jay County

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Another solar farm is on Jay County's horizon.

Jay County Council approved a 10-year abatement Wednesday with Hodson Energy for development of New Jay Solar, a renewable energy farm planned just east of Dunkirk's city limits.

The company is planning a solar farm on approximately 220 acres in Richland Township, including the area around The Andersons Grain Elevator. It's the fourth renewable energy firm to formally pursue constructing a solar farm in Jay County. Other prospective solar farms planned for the future are Skycrest Solar from Invenergy,

Rose Gold Solar from Leeward Renewable Energy and Sun Chief Solar from Scout Clean Energy.

According to its website, Hodson Energy was established in 2019. Since then, the company has reached into 10 different states and currently has 40 projects in development for a total of 3.5 gigawatts of power-generating facilities. The company has offices in Ohio, New York and Virginia.

County attorney Wes Schemenaur explained the company had met in executive session with council and Jay County Commissioners in November to propose a tax abatement for the project.

Originally, Hodson Energy

asked for a 10-year declining property tax abatement, which would deduct taxes at a decreasing rate starting with 100% in the first year and decreasing by 10 percentage points each year over the decade. Schemenaur said the corresponding economic development payments made to the county with that abatement would have been about \$500,000 over four years after construction is completed.

Instead, county representatives negotiated a different abatement in which the company would have 100% of property taxes abated over the entirety of the 10-year period. (Hodson Energy will save \$4.4 million in property taxes with the abate-

ment, which is about a \$1.9 million difference from the declining abatement's figures.) As part of the negotiation, the company agreed to provide \$2.156 million in economic development funds to the county over four years — about \$629,000 each year.

“Depending on how this all shakes out, those are the broad numbers right now,” explained Schemenaur. “Instead of a declining abatement like we've approved in the past, we had that discussion about how do we get more bang for the buck, so to speak, and so, bigger incentive means bigger potentially economic development payment.”

See **Solar** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Powers performs

Lukes Powers plays the saxophone Sunday during the Jay County High School music department's Christmas concert. The concert band's selections included “Do You Hear What I Hear,” “Blue Christmas” and “A Christmas Carol.”

Netanyahu vows to continue war

By LAURA KING and TRACY WILKINSON
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

JERUSALEM — When President Joe Biden touched down in Israel 10 days after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Cabinet formally declared war on the Palestinian militant group Hamas, the two leaders shared a warm embrace.

That tight bear hug eight weeks ago is now entwined with some of the most hellish aspects of this war.

Those include the immense suffering of Palestinian civilians trapped in the Gaza Strip and the unresolved fate of dozens of hostages seized during Hamas' bloody Oct. 7 rampage in Israel — and increasing

world isolation faced not only by Israel, but also by its closest ally, the United States.

By declaring unwavering support for Israel, Biden hoped to rally international backing in the face of the worst mass killing of Jews since the Holocaust — but also to maintain some U.S. influence over the course of action chosen by the embattled prime minister.

Both those efforts have faltered.

Israel is confronting some of the fiercest worldwide blowback in decades. It faces outrage over its relentless bombardment and ground attacks in Gaza, which have killed more than 18,000 Palestinians.

See **War** page 2

Deaths

Betty DeRome, 91, Portland

Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 41 degrees Wednesday. The low was 28.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the lower 30s. Expect mostly cloudy skies Saturday with a high of 50. There is a chance of rain Saturday night.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday across from Pennville Fire Station and 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot at 220 Lincoln St., Portland.

Coming up

Saturday — New Jay County Humane Society is now open for business.

Tuesday — Results from Saturday's JCHS girls basketball game against South Adams.



Solar ...

Continued from page 1
Brandon Dickinson, a legal representative for the company, noted council was solely approving the abatement Wednesday, with the corresponding economic development agreement to be approved by commissioners later.

Council approved a resolution to move forward with the abatement, with council member Randy May opposing. The next steps in the process will include a public hearing and final resolution approval, along with economic development, road use and decommissioning agreements.

In related news, Schemenaur also updated council on Rose Gold Solar, a \$150 million, 150-megawatt Leeward Renewable Energy project planned on about 1,430 acres just north of Dunkirk. The company signed a property tax abatement with the county in 2021, anticipating to begin construction as early as 2022.

Because of delays with the PJM Interconnection — it's a regional transmission organization coordinating wholesale electricity movement across 13 states

and the District of Columbia — construction start dates were pushed back to fall of this year, and now could be as late as spring 2025. (PJM Interconnection has revamped its analysis process for new services joining the power grid, leading to delays across the country for ongoing energy projects.)

Schemenaur explained legislation regarding the electricity wholesale has been constantly changing, making the process a waiting game for companies waiting to tie into the grid. He said Leeward will be attending a meeting in January to seek revisions to its agreements specifically relating to the construction timeline.

Delays are also expected for Scout Clean Energy's Sun Chief Solar, which had planned to finish construction on the 1,200-acre facility near Redkey by 2025 but now may not be completed until 2026.

Invenergy's Skycrest Solar, however, was "grandfathered" into the old analysis process with PJM Interconnection. As of September, project developer Han-

nah Pawelczyk said the company had signed its final interconnection agreement with PJM Interconnection, and its next steps included engineering studies and project design for the 2,500-acre facility in Penn and Jackson townships. Construction on Skycrest Solar could begin sometime in 2024.

Also Wednesday, council tabled a decision to release \$35,000 in opioid settlement dollars to Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition, which is working toward creating a sober living facility. (Commissioners approved the request Monday.) Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition recently placed an offer on a home in Redkey. Its purchase is contingent on conducting a feasibility study — plans are to pay RQAW for the procedure — and pursuing other grants to help pay for the building and renovations.

Nearly 20 Redkey residents attended the meeting Wednesday to speak on the matter, and council president Jeanne Houchins suggested council take more time to consider the decision. She also told the Redkey residents if they

would like to speak at the next meeting in January about the facility, they would need to request to be placed on the agenda.

Council also approved a \$76,400 contract with Ritter Strategic Services to provide a study on radio needs for local emergency responders. Approved Monday by commissioners, the study will include looking at what kind of equipment would meet the county's needs and a land survey to determine whether the county needs more radio towers to deal with dead zones.

In other business, council members Faron Parr, Harold Towell, Matt Minnich, Dave Haines, Cindy Bracy, May and Houchins:

- Heard meeting recordings are now available to view at jaycounty.net. Council and commissioners meetings are live streamed on the website — an icon to view the videos is located on the homepage and under both council and commissioners' corresponding webpages — and archived online.
- Made the following addi-

tional appropriations: \$13,000 for part-time wages, \$4,000 for meals and \$1,800 for gas, lube and oil at Jay County Country Living, with Towell opposing; \$10,000 for over-time pay at Jay County Sheriff's Office; \$5,000 for court-appointed doctors and \$2,000 for transcripts at Jay Circuit Court; \$3,500 for repairs to equipment for Jay County Surveyor's Office; \$2,000 for part-time custodians at Jay County Courthouse; \$386.28 for fees associated with the annual state grant awarded to Jay Emergency Management Agency; and \$140 for pauper counsel in Jay courts.

• OK'd several transfers, including \$59,257.22 for wages at Jay Emergency Medical Service, which has been down two paramedics this year; \$47,769.29 for wages at Jay County Jail, which is also looking for more employees; and \$19,500 from commissioners' group health insurance fund to the juvenile detention fund.

• Approved the 2024 salary ordinance.

CR almanac

Saturday 12/16	Sunday 12/17	Monday 12/18	Tuesday 12/19	Wednesday 12/20
50/39	47/34	42/22	39/25	44/29
There's a 40% chance of rain Saturday under cloudy skies. Temperatures will be in the 50s during the day.	Another day of mostly cloudy skies is expected Sunday, when the high will be in the upper 40s.	Monday looks to be mostly cloudy, with the temperature dropping to the low 20s at night.	Tuesday's weather will be sunny. The high will be around 39 degrees.	Mostly sunny skies are expected Wednesday, when the high will be in the mid 40s.

Lotteries

Powerball 3-8-41-56-64 Power Ball: 18 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$535 million	Daily Four: 1-2-4-4 Quick Draw: 5-8-12-15-18-25-26-28-32-33-35-45-50-60-62-63-67-77-78-80 Cash 5: 2-3-10-11-35 Estimated jackpot: \$151,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$28 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 9-2-4 Pick 4: 1-5-6-8 Pick 5: 9-6-6-8-2 Evening Pick 3: 8-0-2 Pick 4: 4-3-3-1 Pick 5: 9-2-6-6-7 Rolling Cash: 11-15-21-28-29 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 7-6-1 Daily Four: 7-5-5-0 Quick Draw: 1-17-21-36-37-40-41-45-52-56-58-59-63-67-69-70-73-74-77-78 Evening Daily Three: 5-4-2	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.50 Jan. corn.....4.70 Wheat.....5.27	Jan. beans.....12.97 Wheat.....5.72
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.60 Late Dec. corn.....4.60 Jan. corn.....4.70	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.34 Jan. corn.....4.51 Beans.....12.84 Jan. beans.....12.90 Wheat.....5.68
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....4.55 Jan. corn.....4.65 Beans.....12.87	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.45 Jan. corn.....4.50 Beans.....12.63 Jan. beans.....12.71 Wheat.....5.13

Today in history

In 1791, the U.S. Bill of Rights became law after Virginia ratified the first 10 amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

In 1864, under the direction of General George Thomas, Union soldiers defeated General John Bell Hood's Confederate forces in the Battle of Nashville, Tennessee.

In 2020, Indiana Supreme Court suspended jury trials statewide through March 1 because of the potential spread of COVID-19. Jay County Circuit Court judge Brian Hutchison estimated his court would need to reschedule about 15 jury trials set for January and February. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5 p.m. — Portland Economic Development Income Tax Advisory Committee, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council port, 661 W. 100 North.	chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.	

Obituaries

Betty DeRome

Nov. 10, 1932-Dec. 14, 2023
Betty Joan DeRome, age 91, of Portland, passed away Thursday morning, Dec. 14, 2023, at her residence.

She was born in Portland on Nov. 10, 1932, the daughter of James L. and Sarah Alice (Wade) Boyd. She was married on Nov. 2, 1952, to William LeRoy DeRome and he passed away on June 27, 2000.

She was retired as office manager for Community Care West and in the 1950s worked at WPGW radio for Glen West. Betty was a member of West Walnut Street Church of Christ and was a 1951 Portland High School graduate.

Surviving are two sons, Bradley T. DeRome (wife: Lori) of Portland and Clifton J. DeRome (wife: Susan) of Portland; one daughter, LaSandra Wall (husband: Kraig) of Franklin, Tennessee; one sister, Barbara Hudson of Portland; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by nine siblings.

Funeral services will be Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023, at 2 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Gil Alicea presiding.



DeRome

Burial will be in the Green Park Cemetery.

Visitation will be Tuesday from noon to 2 p.m.

Memorials can be made to the West Walnut Street Church of Christ Memorial Fund.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

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.

War ...

Continued from page 1
Hunger and disease stalk the devastated and blockaded enclave; 4 in every 5 of its 2.3 million people are displaced, according to the United Nations.

After weeks of defending Israel to the world, Biden on Tuesday issued his sharpest rebuke yet of Netanyahu

and the way he is conducting the war. Biden said that the far-right Israeli government needed to undergo major changes, and that Israel is losing what had been wide international support over "indiscriminate bombing" in Gaza.

Biden used the term "indiscriminate bombing" once before to refer

to the massive destruction Israeli airstrikes inflicted on northern Gaza, with entire districts reduced to rubble. U.S. officials have repeatedly told the Netanyahu government that its attacks in Gaza's south, which began late last month, had to be more surgical and less devastating.

Issues ...

Continued from page 1
She also emphasized the importance of addressing mental illness and addiction — as well as providing regular mental health checkups for first responders.

Doden, on the other hand, vowed to protect qualified immunity: "You should not be able to be sued, personally, for doing your job."

"We have to make sure we support those who protect us," he continued, adding that Indiana's governor should play an active role in recruiting young people to join law enforcement.

Chambers agreed, saying police officers "don't do it for the money — they do it to serve." He said qualified immunity "needs to be codified in state law."

Braun said he wants it codified, too. Doing so will help "get rid of frivolous lawsuits" filed against law enforcement officers.

Although Braun said he prefers to see such a policy enacted at the national level, that's a change from his previous statements in 2020, when the senator said the interpretation of the qualified immunity standard was "overly broad" and "allows law enforcement in many of the high-profile excessive force and abuse of power cases to avoid civil suits."

A previous bill he introduced in the U.S. Senate would have allowed qualified immunity to be used as a defense only if the officer's conduct is already protected by law or a previous court ruling.

At the time, Braun said "... it straddles that balance between eliminating frivolous lawsuits" while allowing people whose rights have been violated to make a case.

He later backed away from the proposal.

A bold proposal from Crouch to eliminate Indiana's personal income

tax was also discussed — and critiqued — by the gubernatorial slate.

Crouch's mantra holds that the tax can be "axed" completely without raising any other taxes on Hoosiers.

Crouch's plan calls for a "reasonably necessary" reserve fund, along with identifying and eliminating "wasteful government spending," but other specific details remain scant.

Even so, she doubled down Wednesday that tax dollars saved by Hoosiers would go back into the state economy. The move would also incentivize workers and companies to move to Indiana, Crouch said.

Chambers said he agreed with a plan to reduce taxes over time, but not in a single, extreme swoop. He said at least some personal income tax proceeds should be invested into "needs of the state," like health care and education.

Chambers additionally said reducing income taxes could cause property taxes to go "too high."

SERVICES

Saturday
Kirby, Kaylee: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Monday
Lightner, William: 4 p.m., Union Chapel Church, 4622 N. Broadway Ave., Muncie.

Tuesday
DeRome, Betty: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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Fishing pal turns out to be a catch

DEAR ABBY: I have been involved with a man I met online. We texted and talked for months before we met. He told me he had a lady friend he goes fishing with. He said she was just a friend. On our first Valentine's Day, he gave me a teddy bear that said, "I love you." I started developing deep feelings for him, but he then informed me that he loves her.

I tried several times to walk away, but he kept pulling me back. I don't know if he doesn't want to hurt her or if he just loves having two women in his life. I know about her, but she doesn't know about me. Should I contact her and let her know? What is the right thing to do? — TWO-TIMED IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR TWO-TIMED: The right thing to do is to walk away from this person — and stay away. He lied to you when he told you his fishing buddy was just a friend. Now that you know their relationship is more than that, run!

DEAR ABBY: My parents announced during their recent visit that they are planning to move here. Because of a laundry list of complaints, including them being snippy to serving staff in restaurants, my wife has decided she never wants to visit with them again.

My inheritance from my parents is my only hope of being

Dear Abby



able to retire. What do I do? — CORNERED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR CORNERED: That the reason you won't tell your parents not to move closer is the inheritance you expect to get from them is sad, not only for them, but also for you and your wife.

Explain the facts of life to your missus and make clear that you expect her to show your parents the same respect you have shown to hers. She probably won't have to see them as often as you will, but she can't write them off entirely because of the financial impact it will have on you. Then cross everything you have two of that at the last moment they don't donate their money elsewhere.

DEAR ABBY: My neighbor "Doris" runs our neighborhood group that has in-person meetings once a year. She didn't have any meetings in person or even on Zoom for three years during COVID. Two weeks ago, she contacted me and asked me to come to the next meeting. I told her I

didn't want to because at the last meeting I wasn't able to ask all the questions I wanted of city hall officials. Doris apologized several times and assured me it would not happen again.

Last week, I attended the meeting, and they had a sheriff's deputy speak. We were told we could ask questions, so when it was my turn, I began asking questions — and Doris cut me off and censored me! I saw later that evening that she tried to call me, but I feel it would be redundant to have the same conversation with her. What do I do now that I have been burned twice by her behavior? — BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

DEAR BEEN THERE: You have two choices. Either stop attending those meetings or, because you feel Doris is too controlling, oppose her leadership, run for that position (if you have the time to devote to it) and ask your neighbors for their votes. It may be time for the "winds of change" to blow through your neighborhood.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is married with two kids. They live a few hours away. I love seeing them, but I have just one issue. She constantly corrects the way I pronounce words. No one ever mentioned it before she did. A lot of the pronunciations are how my family members and people in my state pronounce them.

She started criticizing me after she lived in three different states.

It has reached a point where I dread seeing her. I feel self-conscious, and my self-esteem gets shot down every time I do. When I tell her it hurts me, she says I'm being "too sensitive." I don't know what I should do. — HURTING OVER THIS

DEAR HURTING: People who make comments that hurt other people's feelings and then tell them they are "too sensitive" are rude and passive-aggressive. What you should do is tell your arrogant daughter to knock it off because you have had it.

DEAR ABBY: I am an active, retired man who has a serious problem with my slightly younger sister. She's a loud and aggressive back-seat driver. When she rides in my car, she feels compelled to loudly tell me what lane to drive in and to freak out over how close I am to the car in front and a variety of other issues she imagines.

I am a competent and safe driver, but her loud exclamations are not only annoying, they distract me at times, which I'm afraid could lead to an accident. "Get in the left lane!" she shouts, but she doesn't see the cars behind us that I see in my mirror.

She knows how much this bothers me but seems not to care. I have lost my temper at her for doing it. Any advice on how to get her to refrain from these outbursts while I'm driving? — ANGRY BIG BROTHER

DEAR BROTHER: Your sister may not be able to control herself, which is why she does this. Because you find the back-seat driving not only annoying but potentially dangerous, stop letting her ride with you and your problem will be solved.

DEAR ABBY: I was invited to my nephew's wedding out of state and accepted the invitation. It's a four-hour drive. My son wasn't interested in attending, and my boyfriend wasn't sure he could attend due to work travel. The mother of the bride informed me that she had decided to "put" an elderly relative in my room with me, claiming they were now out of rooms. (She's known to be miserly and dishonest.)

There was no offer to share costs, and it was assumed that I'd transport, dress and monitor the relative. I ended up declining the invitation, and I regret not being at my nephew's wedding. My boyfriend was able to attend but, by then, I couldn't make an appropriate room arrangement. Thoughts? — SKIPPED IT IN THE EAST

DEAR SKIPPED IT: Just this: Because you felt the mother of the bride should have asked your permission rather than "tell" you her plan was for you to babysit the relative, you were within your rights to refuse to do anything that made you uncomfortable.

Learn how to stay close from afar

By JANN BLACKSTONE
Tribune News Service

Q. I am very close to my 11-year-old daughter, but the truth is, she has a more conventional home with her mother and bonus dad. And when he was transferred for business six months ago, I decided not to protest thinking it was really best for her not to be in the middle of a custody battle. Thing is, now that she lives five hours away, I rarely see her. Nothing like the two or three times a week and every other weekend that we used to share. Now the holidays are coming around and I feel like I just don't know her anymore. I miss her terribly and I have no idea what to get her for Christmas. What do I do? What's good ex-etiquette?

A. Knowing that you probably want to surprise your daughter, that eliminates the obvious, which is to simply ask her. My second suggestion seems just as obvious and I'm wondering why you didn't think of it. Unfortunately, because you didn't, that's a red flag. Co-parents talk to each other. They reach out when they need help. (Good Ex-etiquette rule No. 2, "Ask for help if you need it.") Just because you moved away doesn't mean you stop co-parenting with your daughter's mother. So, ask her mom! You can bet she knows and would probably love the help with buying presents.

Ex-Etiquette



Now that your daughter has moved away, it's especially important that you have a working relationship with her mother. Stop feeling sorry for yourself; you did the right thing. Now get in there and keep doing the right thing by being an active dad even though you don't live nearby.

You're concerned about staying close. There are quite a few presents that long-distance parents can offer this holiday season that will help promote better communication. The clearest choice is a cell phone. Although I occasionally run into parents who think adolescents shouldn't carry cell phones, it's still a great way to stay in touch. Texting actually enhances eye-hand coordination and typing—don't laugh, it's true—unless your child develops carpal tunnel and that's a dead giveaway, she's abusing her phone privileges. FaceTime or video chat bring parent and child up-close so that you can do homework together, read a book together, send

memes or photographs, or just chat. Most custodial parents will not mind, especially if you pick up the bill. Always coordinate this type of present with the other parent prior to purchasing it because cell phones are often used as behavioral leverage—"You're grounded, no cell phone!" If you are perceived as interfering with your co-parent's parenting strategy from miles away, that will cause more harm than good. I must add that buying a phone can also raise some issues among the ranks and I would like to alert you to some common problems: parental controls—need I say more—and very clear rules about phone usage. I have seen some terrible arguments between co-parents over their children's phones, so make sure you and your co-parent have the same expectations and never, ever ground your child from talking to their other parent. They may be grounded from every other person in the world, but that should not include parents—especially if they live five hours away. That's good ex-etiquette.

Jann Blackstone is the author of "Ex-etiquette for Parents: Good Behavior After Divorce or Separation," and the founder of Bonus Families, bonus-families.com. Email her at the Ex-Etiquette website exetiquette.com at drjann@exetiquette.com.

Community Calendar

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

Today
DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former WE.

Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.
PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery 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.

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.
DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former WE. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland.

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.

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 at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. at Richards Restaurant.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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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IN THE COMMERCIAL REVIEW

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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

Banks-Vance idea worries Santa

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Regular readers of this weekly homily will recall my visits each December with Elvin Elfenhousen at Santa's North Pole workshop. This year, I found Elvin befuddled by politics.

"I worry," Elvin said, "about the sanity of the extreme right-wingers."

"Sanity is not a characteristic of any extremists," I said. "But why does that effect you?"

"The Big Guy," Elvin motioned with his head toward Santa's office. "He's concerned that our workshop may come under supervision because these nutcakes in power will seek to regulate us."

"Unlikely," I said. "You're exempt from all sorts of federal and state regulation because you do good, are pan-national and are fictitious."

Eye on the Pie



"None of that applies," he said. "Your Congressman Jim Banks (R-Indiana 3rd District) and Sen. J.D. Vance (R-Ohio) are proposing the College Admissions Accountability Act. To quote the Indianapolis Star, it 'would create an office to investigate reports of so-called discrimination in higher education departments and establish a process for people to file allegations against admissions offices.'"

"Elvin," I said, "Hoosiers don't

take those legislators seriously. They're sources of entertainment at the bottom of the GOP totem pole."

"What?" Elvin was angry. "Vance wants Ukraine to surrender some of its territory, but he's not up for re-election in 2024. Banks, however, desires to move up. He's the 2024 anointed candidate of his party for the U.S. Senate! That's pretty serious!!"

"Their bill would expand the federal bureaucracy to go beyond the ruling of the Supreme Court banning affirmative action admissions to college. The Banks-Vance bill would build a new federal agency to accept any crackpot complaint from a disappointed applicant which would then expand the academic bureaucracy to respond to the agency's investigations.

"This would further bloat two bloated parts of our economy and end up costing the government and the colleges untold millions of dollars."

"Yes," I admitted, "that's wacky. But what's it mean for Santa and your fellow elves?"

"Look," Elvin commanded, "colleges and our workshop have gotten along for close to two centuries as idealized out-growths of religious institutions. Together we've held mythological status as sanctified entities.

"The colleges, through NCAA rules allowing athletes to be paid, are on the verge of admitting they are nothing more than subsidized businesses engaged in revenue maximizing activities.

"If rabid right-wingers like Banks and Vance can establish unnecessary government agen-

cies, they will inevitably turn their attention to Santa's workshop."

"I see," I said. "A momentary merger of maniacs on the left and right. Mandated rooftop landing pads to protect the reindeer, leading to housing codes requiring roof top retrofitting. This increases demand for reconstruction of virtually all residential structures, raising the price of housing as well as wages of construction workers and profits for construction firms."

"Absolutely," Elvin said. "What seems like frolicsome fantasy is in line with the costly proposal put forth by illogical Banks and Vance."

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MARCUS is an economist. Email him at mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com.

Rivals need to answer question

Chicago Tribune

The fourth Republican presidential debate thankfully featured just four candidates rather than the cattle call we saw in previous sessions. But, whether there are four or 14 running, the same problem persists.

There's only one — former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie — willing to tell primary voters what too many of them apparently don't want to hear.

Donald Trump is unfit to be president and presents an unacceptable threat to our democracy.

To our ears, the key moment in the debate was when Christie answered that question directly and then challenged the other three to say whether or not they considered Trump fit to return to the White House. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis danced around the issue, saying he thought a younger person than Trump ought to be the one.

That, of course, wasn't the question. Nikki Haley, the former U.N. ambassador and South Carolina governor who increasingly is viewed as the best chance within the GOP of defeating Trump, stood stone silent.

"This is the problem with my three colleagues," Christie then intoned. "They're afraid to offend."

And therein lies the problem: In the words of Founding Father Thomas Paine: "He who dares not offend cannot be honest."

These candidates can — and obviously do — talk about Joe Biden's age and policies, immigration, the disgraceful cowardice of university presidents in confronting antisemitism on campus, and the various other issues animating the race. But there really is just one pressing concern for the GOP. Will the party excise the foul stain of Trump, now under indictment and charged with multiple crimes, including inciting an insurrection against the United States?

The strategy behind not "offending" is understandable. Trump, with a daunting lead in the polls, is viewed favorably by a substantial segment of the GOP base. Criticiz-

Guest Editorial

... so long as Haley and DeSantis, the two candidates perceived as having any realistic chance at beating Trump to the nomination, shrink from the overarching issue, there's little point to their candidacies.

ing him forcefully risks turning off those voters.

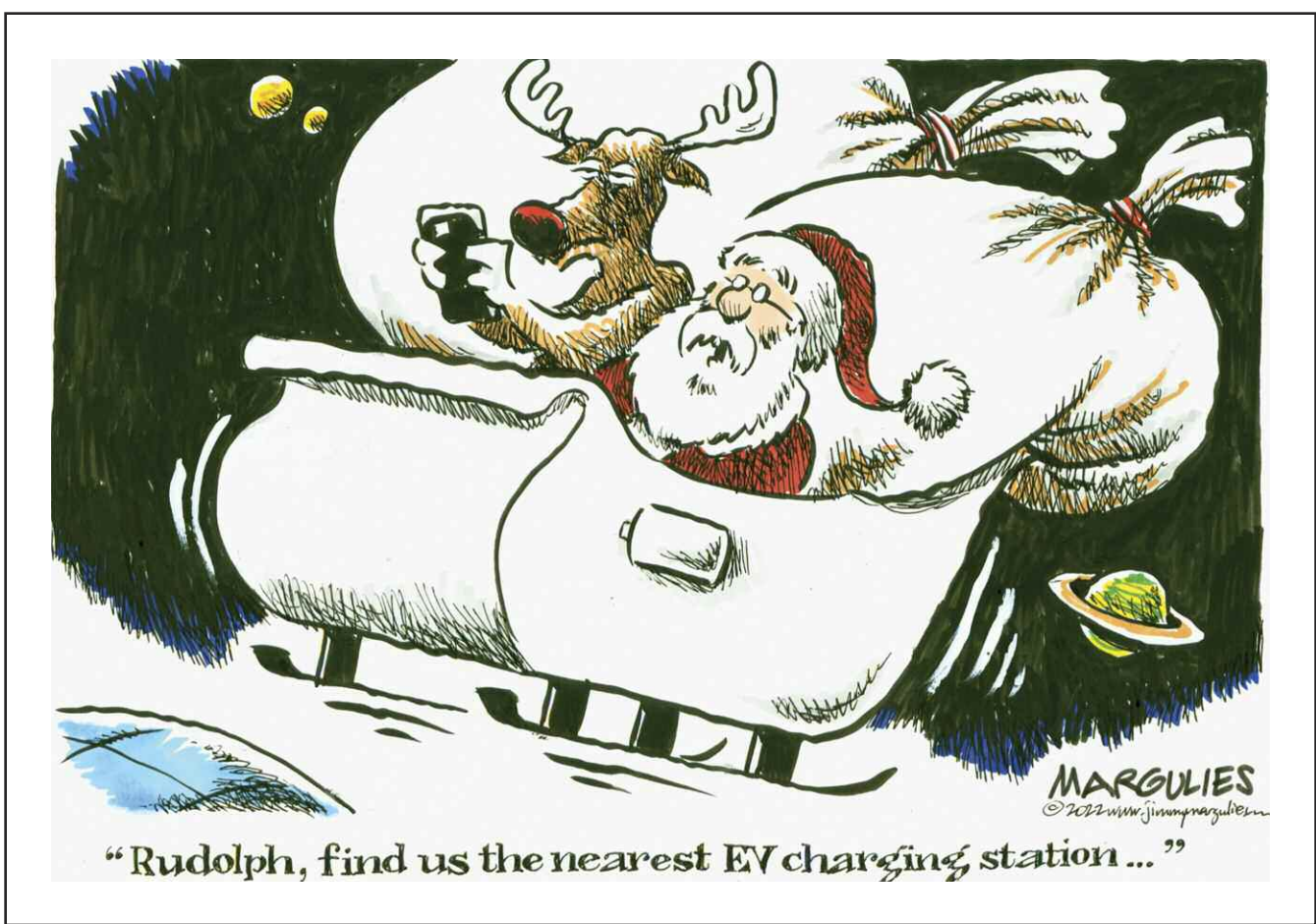
Christie, of course, has nothing to lose. His reason for still being in the race is to compel GOP voters to confront the elephant in the room; he clearly isn't expecting to be nominated. In holding feet to the flame, he is providing a valuable service to his party and to the country.

But so long as Haley and DeSantis, the two candidates perceived as having any realistic chance at beating Trump to the nomination, shrink from the overarching issue, there's little point to their candidacies.

What makes Trump problematic? Why would they give the party a better chance at victory in November?

Continuing to cower in this way surely will mean eventual defeat anyway.

At this point, there's nothing to lose. Tell GOP primary voters the truth.



Breakthrough has challenges

By LISA JARVIS

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

The approval of Casgevy, Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Crispr Therapeutics Inc.'s gene therapy for sickle cell disease, is a transformative moment in medicine. Not only is it the first Crispr-based drug to reach the market — it's a potentially life-altering advance for a patient population that has been for too long ignored and underserved by the medical establishment. Lyfgenia, a second gene therapy from Bluebird Bio that uses different technology, was also given the Food and Drug Administration's green light.

Now comes the hard work of treating patients.

That's no easy task. It starts with ensuring the one-time potentially curative treatment is made available to the patients who would benefit from it most — and doing so in an equitable way. But, as I've explained in the past, the clunky U.S. health care system has no good mechanism for paying for what is certain to be a wildly expensive drug. That could put it out of reach for many, at least in the early stages of its launch.

And the health care system needs to build the infrastructure to support patients throughout treatment and beyond. That means not only helping patients navigate the process of receiving the highly-personalized drug — a months-long ordeal that includes a lengthy hospital stay — but ensuring people continue to be supported in the months and years after treatment.

Several issues can't fall off the map. One is the effect on a patient's fertility. To prepare their bodies for the infusion of edited cells, patients must undergo several days of harsh chemotherapy, a process that can destroy eggs and potentially permanently damage sperm. "The biggest hesitation for a lot of our families is the infertility," says Benjamin Watkins, director of stem cell trans-

Lisa Jarvis



plant and cellular therapies at Children's Hospital New Orleans. Often, when describing the gene therapy process to families, the moment the topic of fertility comes up, "the conversation is over," he says.

Although insurance companies typically cover fertility preservation (which involves freezing and storing eggs, sperm or reproductive tissue) for cancer patients, that benefit is not typically covered for people with sickle cell disease. Given the steep cost — egg retrieval starts at around \$20,000 — that needs to change. The need is particularly acute for the roughly two-thirds of sickle cell patients insured by Medicaid. One bill pending in Massachusetts would open the door to that coverage and, if passed, could be a template for other states to follow.

The fertility question ties into another critical need for people who receive gene therapy: survivorship support. That means offering ongoing medical treatment to ensure any potential short- and long-term side effects are monitored.

Some of the challenge comes from understanding a body no longer tethered to a chronic disease. That could mean learning how to distinguish between garden-variety pain, residual pain related to organ damage from the disease, and an actual sickle cell crisis.

And many patients will need further mental-health support to deal with the profound emotional experience of being emotionally cured. Coming to terms with the new normal, no matter how badly it was wanted, is a process. As Jimi Olaghère,

who received the Vertex drug as part of a clinical trial, noted recently in a poignant op-ed in the MIT Technology Review, "... some people become enmeshed with their chronic disease. In many ways, your disease becomes part of your identity and way of life."

"So many of our patients have been told they'll die by their 30s or 40s," says Sharl Azar, medical director of Massachusetts General Hospital's Comprehensive Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Center. With gene therapy offering them a different future, they must now imagine a life well into their 50s and 60s or beyond. And they will need support as they learn to "balance the new responsibility that comes from being able to live a more 'normal' life," Azar says. That could mean potentially having their first steady job or finishing school.

The handful of sickle cell centers that will initially offer Casgevy and Lyfgenia seem prepared to provide the kind of long-term psychosocial support that patients will need. That component can't be lost if these treatments start to be administered by doctors without the same deep understanding of the disease.

It's also fair to worry about society's commitment to a patient population that has been sidelined for so long. After the excitement over the medical breakthrough fades, will the support still be there for these patients in a decade or two? Not everyone will be eligible for or even want gene therapy, and there needs to be continued funding to ensure everyone is supported, no matter the severity of their disease or their chosen treatment course.

The arrival of this Crispr-based gene therapy for sickle cell disease could be a profound moment in medicine. Let's ensure everything is done right to ensure it takes its rightful place in history.

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Jarvis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering biotech, health care and the pharmaceutical industry.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Vulnerability found in corn

By LAURA QUINN

University of Illinois Ag News

When a sweet corn breeder reached out in 2021 to report severe injury from the herbicide tolypyralate, Marty Williams hoped it was a fluke isolated to a single inbred line. But two years later, after methodical field, greenhouse, and genetic testing, his new Pest Management Science study not only confirms sensitivity to tolypyralate in 49 sweet corn and field corn lines, but also reveals a new genetic vulnerability that may affect corn more generally.

Tolpyralate is a relatively new HPPD-inhibiting herbicide labeled for all types of corn. Typically, corn detoxifies HPPD-inhibitors before they can cause injury, through expression of the Nsf1 gene. Corn lines with mutant nsf1 alleles can show sensitivity to HPPD-inhibitors, but that wasn't the case with tolypyralate in the lines Williams tested. Instead, his study showed tolypyralate sensitivity is related to a different gene entirely, explaining why sensitivity was neither expected nor caught during the breeding process.

"Cross-sensitivity to multiple postemergence herbicides, all linked to mutant nsf1 alleles, has been understood for years. Breeders typically screen with a product like nicosulfuron, an ALS-inhibitor, because it'll identify (i.e., kill) any inbreds that aren't tolerant to a wide variety of herbicides, including most HPPD-inhibitors," said Williams, an ecologist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service and affiliate professor in the Department of Crop Sciences, part of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

The original sweet corn line from 2021 had been screened with nicosulfuron, showing no injury and indicating the Nsf1 gene was doing its job. Expecting the same result with tolypyralate was reasonable, since no one had reported major crop injury from the new herbicide. So, when tolypyralate injury reared its head, the breeder was baffled.

The unusual case led Williams' team to start hunting for bleached-white corn — the telltale sign of HPPD-inhibitor injury — around the U. of I. farms.



University of Illinois/Pavle Pavlovic

Researchers from USDA Agricultural Research Service, University of Illinois, and the private sector discuss the first public report of severe tolypyralate sensitivity in corn.

They didn't have to hunt long. Here and there, among strapping green corn rows, were stunted, white stragglers. The team contacted the researchers running trials around the farms to find out what had been sprayed. Tolpyralate, every time.

Faced with a phenomenon that looked less and less like a fluke, Williams' crew embarked on field and greenhouse trials to determine just how widespread tolypyralate sensitivity was. Having easy access to a sweet corn diversity panel, they focused mostly on that group. But they also tested a narrow panel of field corn genotypes.

From the modest screening, the team documented 49 sweet corn (43) and field corn (six) inbreds that suffered moderate to severe injury from tolypyralate. Importantly, the source of the sugary enhancer gene in sweet corn, a parent line for many sweet corn hybrids, was among the most sensitive genotypes, suggesting sensitivity could be even more widespread.

Interestingly, injury was far worse with the addition of atrazine and herbicide adju-

vants commonly co-applied with HPPD-inhibitors.

"When we applied pure tolypyralate to the sensitive sweet corn inbred, the crop looked fine," Williams said. "But when we added adjuvants recommended by the herbicide label — crop oil or methylated seed oil — we got a severe bleaching response. And when we also included atrazine, which is common with HPPD-inhibitors, plant mortality was rapid."

Williams clarified it's not feasible to just remove the adjuvants from the tank. They improve herbicide uptake by weeds and are essential for successful weed control.

"Tolpyralate has agronomic advantages, but obviously it will have limited utility if it harms the crop," Williams said.

With mounting evidence suggesting nsf1 wasn't to blame for tolypyralate sensitivity, the team then mapped the genome to find the culprit.

"Using the original sensitive sweet corn line to map the trait, we narrowed it down to the region on chromosome 5 near Nsf1. But it's not Nsf1, and there's nothing obvious in the

genomic region we identified that easily explains tolypyralate sensitivity. So, while we've mapped the trait, the physiological mechanism remains elusive."

Williams notes that more research is needed to get to the bottom of tolypyralate sensitivity, both in terms of the physiological mechanism and how widespread the trait might be in all types of corn. He said there's potential to develop molecular markers that can identify sensitive corn lines, which would be useful in improving tolerance to tolypyralate.

For now, he wants to raise awareness among corn breeders, growers, and chemical companies working on the next generation of HPPD-inhibitors, especially since this is the first incidence of a genetic vulnerability to a corn herbicide documented in over three decades.

"What we have learned from this research may be helpful beyond tolypyralate itself, since several new HPPD-inhibitors derived from the same chemical structure are being developed," Williams said. "If we can avoid additional problems in the future, let's do it now."

In review

To host

Jay County's Purdue Extension office is partnering with local fire departments to offer emergency preparedness training sessions in March.

Dunkirk Fire Department will host a farm emergency management program March 5. A first aid session will follow March 7.

Portland Fire Department will host a fire protection program March 12. A HAZMAT session will follow March 14.

All sessions will run from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

USDA launches

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has launched an online application for Direct Loan customers.

The loan application is available at farmers.gov.

"Online services are commonplace in commercial lending, and with USDA Farm Service Agency's new online loan application feature, it is now easier for producers to get the financing they need to start, expand, or maintain their farming and ranching operations," said USDA deputy secretary Xochitl Torres Small.

Hunt returns

Indiana Department of Natural Resources is continuing this year.

The program allows Hoosier hunters to take their field-dressed deer to one of more than 50 meat processing sites in the state. The processor then butcher's the meat and donates it to area food banks.

Participating meat processors in the area include Fisher Packing in Pennville and Wright Brothers Buckstop in Redkey. For more information, visit on.IN.gov/hunt-for-hunger or contact jquillen@dnr.IN.gov or (317) 232-0658.

Team explores genetic options

By STEVE KOPPES

Purdue Ag News

Beekeepers lose between 30% and 40% of their colonies annually, mostly to parasites and pathogens. Losses during one bad year in Indiana reached 60%.

"The traditional methods of bee breeding have been around for nearly 100 years," said Purdue University's Brock Harpur, assistant professor of entomology. Although breeders have made progress, many of their methods remain unchanged even with the recent availability of affordable gene sequencing. "The honeybee genome was sequenced in 2006. There really hasn't been a lot of bee breeding in this country that's been empowered by that resource."

Harpur aims to change that with Purdue's Luiz Brito, associate professor of animal sciences, and Gregor Gorjanc of the Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. They seek to validate genomic breeding tools while designing a system that bee breeders can implement themselves.

Their work is among the projects supported by \$11.6 million in grants allocated from the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture earlier this year to promote healthy pollinator populations.

"That excludes honey production, which is another huge industry," Harpur said. "Bee breeding is central to that. Beekeepers historically have responded to industry threats with breeding. The goal here is to help them do that better with genomics resources."

Five years ago, with genetic samples priced at \$400 each, that prospect

would have been costly. But the price has dropped to about \$50 per sample.

Harpur's lab, which operates a gene sequencing service for beekeepers, has sequenced nearly 2,000 samples from across the country. He can use the genotypes from that same database to see how effectively they predict breeding values under ideal conditions. He also uses simulated datasets to explore the statistical validity of his approach on supercomputers at Purdue's Rosen Center for Advanced Computing.

The simulations allow the researchers to assess how many samples are enough to statistically validate their goals.

The computer simulations also enable the scientists to analyze thousands or millions of honeybee genomes with many different histories and from many different situations to see how well their genomic predictions fit reality. The simulations can even help identify which of the many available genome sequencing methods might work best, Harpur noted.

As an evolutionary biologist, Harpur sees the project as a way to answer questions both for bee breeding and for basic science. How does the artificial selection of bee breeding affect bee colonies, which consist of tens of thousands of highly social individuals?

"They're all genetically related, and they all collectively manifest these traits that we're interested in," he said. "When I talk about honey production, that's not the action of one bee. That's the action of thousands of related bees."

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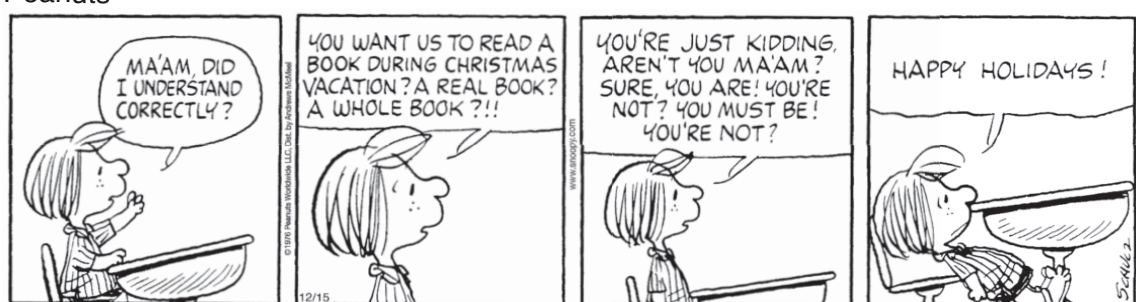
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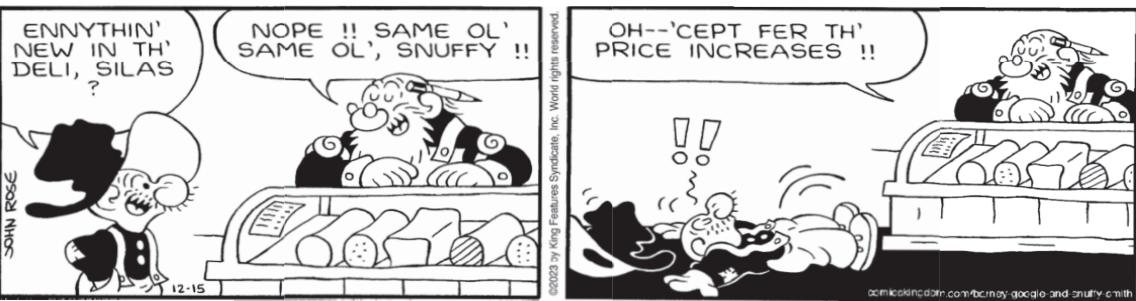
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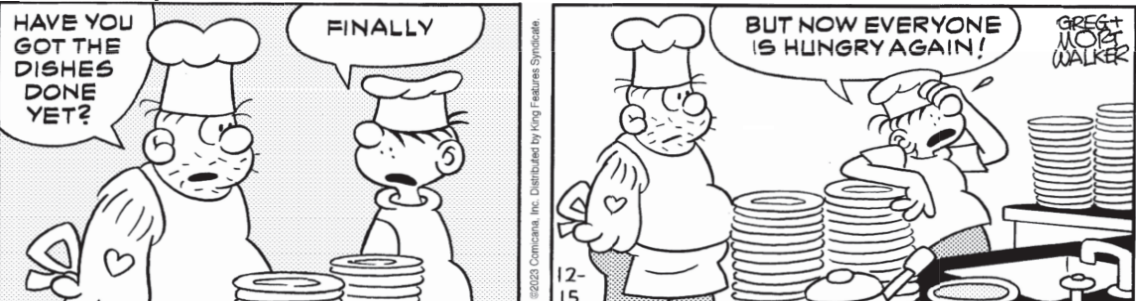
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

Partner opens the bidding with One Diamond. What would you respond with each of the following four hands?

- 1. ♠983 ♥AQJ6 ♦J ♣AJ853
2. ♠Q9762 ♥10 ♦K5 ♣AK864
3. ♠954 ♥K976 ♦8 ♣AJ982
4. ♠AK98 ♥J8652 ♦KQ4 ♣10

1. Two clubs. It is better to bid two clubs than one heart. A one-heart bid followed by two (or three) clubs would give partner the wrong picture of the length of your suits.

rally assume that you had only four spades and would not raise them with three-card support. You could thus miss the best contract.

3. One heart. Two clubs would be an incorrect response in this case because going into the two-level in a new suit promises at least 10 points, which you don't have, while bidding one heart indicates only six or more points.

4. One heart. Here you go back to naming the five-card suit before the four-carder. Again, the length of the suit takes precedence over the strength, even though the spades contain seven high-card points and the hearts only one.

In a nutshell, what it amounts to is this: With strong hands, you follow the principle of bidding the longer suit first, the purpose being to describe your distribution as accurately as possible in order to give your side the maximum chance of winding up in the best game or slam.

2. One spade. Here, for the reason just stated, spades are bid first. The fact that your clubs are of better quality is not a good reason for naming them first.

Spades are playable as trump if partner has three of them. If you were to bid clubs first, and spades secondarily, partner would natu-

Tomorrow: Kerchoo! ©2023 King Features Syndicate Inc.

12-15

CRYPTOQUIP

D'W QTFAFDQLB EVT WLQQLB
TA ISOI CORJ-MTIIDJP MSVFL
QV ZOBCE. EVT QSVTCB WVR
ZLIILF ISOJ ISOI!

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HOW COULD YOU DESCRIBE SOMEBODY WHO HAS LEFT TO GO DESTROY SOMETHING? OFF AND RUINING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals S

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 43 Writer's block? 3 "Babes in ..." 21 Mess up picnic
1 Early Mongolian 44 Jai — 4 Bailiwick 22 dessert
6 Hot tub 45 Mexican liquor 5 "Don't You Know" singer 24 Ball club VIP
9 Dallas sch. 47 Floral wreath 6 Circumvents 26 Fine point
12 Emporium 49 Emulate Frederick Douglass 28 Bridge call
13 Crucial 52 Texas tea 7 Chest muscles, briefly 30 " — here!"
14 Atlas page 53 Decay 8 Sailor's "yes" composer Aaron
15 Check recipient 54 Major exam "yes" 33 Ms. Thurman
16 Reykjavik's country 55 Rds. 9 Brainy 34 TV's Danson
18 Surgical beams 56 Wall St. debut 10 Parson's home 36 Deceived
20 Approximately 57 Loses color 11 High hairstyles 38 Palm starches
21 Ecol. watchdog DOWN 17 Temporary car 39 Braid of hair
23 Dig in 1 Recipe abbr. 19 They hang around houses? 40 British nobles
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Jay County Winter Swim Team's Addisyn Champ swims to victory Saturday in the 200-yard individual medley during the Jay Winter Invite. Champ was also first in the 50 freestyle, 50 backstroke and 100 freestyle.

Kraft will part with Belichick: Report

By GEOFFREY C. ARNOLD
oregonlive.com
Tribune News Service

The New England Patriots are one of just two teams that have already been eliminated from the playoff race and the repercussions could consume head coach Bill Belichick. A decision has already been made that Belichick's 24-year run in New England will end after the season, according to a report from Tom Curran of NBC Sports Boston. Curran said owner Robert Kraft has decided to part ways with Belichick after the Patriots' 10-6 Week 10 loss to the Indianapolis Colts.

"When they came out of Germany, conversations I had that week made it very clear that a decision was made," Curran said Monday on NBC Sports Boston's "Arbella Early Edition." "They were going to play

out the string, and at the end of the year there would be a parting of the ways, for a variety of reasons."

The Patriots (3-10) lost to the New York Giants and the Los Angeles Chargers before upsetting the Steelers in the following games. Curran said he doesn't think the win over the Steelers will be enough to save Belichick's job in New England.

The Patriots have the worst record in the AFC and are tied for the second-worst record in the NFL this year. The Patriots could string together wins to close out the season, but that would only give them a 7-10 record. Belichick's record since quarterback Tom Brady left the team is very mediocre. Since Brady left in 2020, the Patriots have reached the playoffs once and have compiled an overall record of 28-35.

Native ...

Continued from page 8
She has created works in the public realm ranging from monumental murals on two-story buildings, to large-scale photography pieces printed on metal, as well as three-dimensional wall art and painted fiberglass sculptures.

Hoosier Historia is a partnership with the Indy Arts Council and the Marion County Capital

Improvement Board to celebrate and promote Indiana artists, engage Hoosiers across all counties in the All-Star effort, and celebrate Indiana's love affair with Hoosier Hysteria and high school basketball.

Artist bios, descriptions of each piece, and more information about Hoosier Historia and NBA All-Star 2024 is available at pacers.com/24artists.

Transfer ...

Continued from page 8
After a bitter back-and-forth between UNC and the NCAA, one that played out in scathing public statements, the NCAA reversed course in early October granted Walker his immediate eligibility, citing "new information" that Walker's legal team had offered. After missing the first month of the season, Walker played in UNC's final eight games.

Stein, though, was not done. He, along with his counterparts from six other states, filed a lawsuit earlier this month against the NCAA, alleging that its rule concerning multi-time transfers violated federal antitrust law in that it precludes college athletes from competing in an open market for their services. Bailey, the federal judge in West Virginia, agreed.

'I will keep fighting to protect student athletes to ensure that they are free to make their own decisions about what's best for their futures just like coaches, administrators and other students can,'

—Josh Stein, North Carolina attorney general

In his order, Bailey wrote:

"Within the relevant markets, the Transfer Eligibility Rule harms student-athletes by discouraging them from freely seeking the most beneficial institution for their well-being, limiting their options after the decision to transfer is made, and denying them the benefits of NCAA competition for an entire academic year."

"Moreover, the Transfer Eligibility Rule harms consumers by decreasing the competitiveness of

teams whose transfer players are ineligible under the Rule and by stifling increased parity in college athletics. These negative and uncompetitive effects of the Transfer Eligibility Rule are apparent to this Court in the 'twinkling of an eye.'"

"Simply put, a rule of reason analysis of the Transfer Eligibility Rule reveals that it is the exact kind of unreasonable restraint of trade within labor markets that the relevant antitrust laws prohibit. Accordingly, Plaintiff States have a

strong likelihood of success on the merits of their Sherman Act claim."

The other states that joined North Carolina in filing the lawsuit were Colorado, Illinois, Ohio, New York, Tennessee and West Virginia. The case was filed in federal court in West Virginia, where a University of West Virginia basketball player, RaeQuan Battle, had been sitting out after transferring for a second time.

"I'm in the gym every single day with the team,

with the blood, sweat and tears with them," Battle said in a story published by the Associated Press. "When the ball is thrown up and that tipoff starts, I'm not suited up. That's what hurts me the most." Stein, a Democrat who earlier this week officially filed to run for North Carolina governor in the 2024 election, said in a statement that he was "pleased that the Court has recognized that the NCAA's transfer rule is unlawful."

"I will keep fighting to protect student athletes to ensure that they are free to make their own decisions about what's best for their futures, just like coaches, administrators and other students can," Stein said.

Indeed, Bailey's order referenced the freedom college coaches have in switching jobs – a freedom college athletes

don't have, at least not without sitting out for an academic year or seeking waiver after transferring multiple times.

"The NCAA argues that the Transfer Eligibility Rule serves to promote the stability of a team's roster," Bailey wrote. "However, nothing in the NCAA Bylaws prevents coaches from leaving or being fired mid-season. And, notably, the NCAA does not prevent first-time transfers in the NCAA."

"There is no meaningful distinction between a first-time transfer and second-time transfer in terms of a team's stability. Each time, the transfer student-athlete is joining a brand new roster. In sum, this Court finds the NCAA's stability argument to be without merit given that there are currently no restrictions on first-time transfers or coaches leaving."

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys basketball vs. Delta — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. Parkway — 6 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Boys wrestling at Coldwater — 9 a.m.; Girls basketball vs. South Adams — 7 p.m.; JV boys wrestling at Carroll — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Swimming at Northwest Ohio Classic at Bowling Green — 9 a.m.; Boys bowling vs. St. Henry — 1 p.m.; Boys basketball at Ansonia — 6 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball vs. Mississinawa Valley — 10 a.m.

TV sports

Today
7 p.m. — College football: Albany at South

Dakota State (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Washington Wizards (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Saginaw Valley at Butler (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at San Antonio Spurs (ESPN)
10 p.m. — Men's college basketball: UConn at Gonzaga (ESPN2)

Saturday
10 a.m. — Premier League: Crystal Palace at Manchester City (USA)
11 a.m. — College football: Georgia Southern vs. Ohio (ESPN)
12 p.m. — College football: Howard vs. Florida A&M (ABC)
12 p.m. — Men's college basketball: LSU at Texas (ESPN2); Georgia Tech at Penn State (BTN)
12 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Louisville at UConn (FOX)

12:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Kansas at Indiana (CBS)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League: Everton at Burnley (NBC)
1:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Sacred Heart at Providence (FS1)
2 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Baylor at Michigan State (FOX)
2:15 p.m. — College football: Jacksonville State vs. Louisiana (ESPN)
2:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Texas A&M at Houston (ESPN2); Eastern Michigan at Michigan (BTN)
2:30 p.m. — PGA Tour Champions: PNC Championship (NBC)
3 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Ohio State at UCLA (CBS)
3:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Fordham at St. John's (FS1)
3:30 p.m. — College football: Miami (OH) vs. Appalachian State (ABC)

4:30 p.m. — College football: North Dakota State vs. Montana (ESPN2)
4:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Florida A&M at Iowa (BTN)
5:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: North Carolina at Kentucky (CBS); Northwestern at DePaul (FS1)
5:45 p.m. — College football: New Mexico State vs. Fresno State (ESPN)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Cleveland State at Iowa (BTN)
7:30 p.m. — College football: UCLA vs. Boise State (ABC)
7:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Winthrop at Xavier (FS1)
8 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Alabama at Creighton (FOX)
8 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Minnesota Timberwolves (Bally Indiana)
8:15 p.m. — NFL: Denver Broncos at Detroit Lions (FOX)

9:15 p.m. — College football: Cal vs. Texas Tech (ESPN)
10 p.m. — Men's college basketball: N.C. State at Tennessee (ESPN2)

Local notes

Tryouts scheduled
Tryouts for A League of Our Own Independent Baseball League is hosting a tryout at the Mojo-Up Sports Indoor Complex in Noblesville on Jan. 30. Anyone 19-years-old or older that is looking for the opportunity to continue playing baseball can try out.
The league begins play on Aug. 31 and runs through Oct. 19, playing 50 games in 50 days.
To sign up or for more information on the league, visit www.aloo0247.com, call (205) 264-1468 or email 411@aloo0247.com.

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

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110 HELP WANTED

THE TOWN OF REDKEY WILL be accepting applications for a Town Marshal position. Requirement, must have training. Applications may be picked up at Redkey Town Hall by calling 765-369-2711 during business hours to make an appointment for pick up. Office Hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 8 am to 4 pm and Wednesday 8 am to 12 noon.

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Winter Wendel

Kenzie Wendel of the Jay County Winter Swim Team competes in the freestyle Saturday during the Jay Winter Invite at the Jay County Junior-Senior High School pool.

Jay grad quiet in loss to Tommies

Renna Schwieterman took a backseat as the Purdue Fort Wayne women's basketball team dropped its game against the St. Thomas Tommies 64-59 on Dec. 9.

The 2023 Jay County graduate only made one field goal in the game, shooting 1-for-4. She opened up the scoring for Purdue Fort Wayne (7-3) by hitting a jumper in the paint 1 minute, 41 seconds into the contest. She was fouled by St. Thomas' Jo Langbehn on the play and sank the free throw to convert the 3-point play.

She only took one 3-point jump shot that she missed early in the game. Schwieterman is still third on the team with a 44.1% shooting clip from distance.

She added two rebounds to go along with the basket.

The freshman only

played 16 minutes in the contest, only committing two turnovers and picking up two fouls during that time.

Schwieterman dropped below 10 points per game after only scoring six in her last outing and now three. Her new average is 9.4 points per game. She has also started the last six games for Purdue Fort Wayne.

The Mastodons have two more non-conference games left on their schedule before they open up Horizon League play. The girls will travel to Kalamazoo to take on Western Michigan on Sunday and host Aquinas Dec. 21 to close out the front half of the season.

Conference play will begin on Dec. 30 for Purdue Fort Wayne, when it travels to play the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Transfer rule on hold after order

By ANDREW CARTER
The News & Observer
Tribune News Service

A federal judge dealt another legal blow to the NCAA on Wednesday, and in a blistering order described an NCAA rule limiting athletes' ability to transfer as "draconian, heavy-handed (and) 'my way or the highway.'" The description was part of a temporary restraining order Judge John Preston Bailey issued, banning the NCAA for two weeks from enforcing the controversial rule.

Bailey's ruling, issued in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia, granted immediate eligibility to athletes who have been sitting out after transferring multiple times. An NCAA rule has required those athletes to sit out an academic year before becoming eligible, or to seek a special-circumstances waiver to compete immediately.

Less than two hours after Bailey's ruling, the NCAA announced in a statement that "as a result of today's decision impacting Division I student-athletes, the Association will not enforce the year in residency requirement for multiple-time transfers and will begin notifying member schools." An NCAA spokesperson later clarified that the Association's decision wasn't necessarily permanent.

"We are complying with the decision today," Michelle Hosick, the spokesperson, wrote in an email. "The membership would have to make a permanent change to Division I rules."

NCAA rules allow athletes transferring for the first time to compete immediately. But its rule concerning multi-time transfers has become especially controversial in recent months, with several high-profile cases gaining national attention.

One of those cases was at North Carolina, where Tez Walker, a wide receiver on the Tar Heels football team, was for months denied his eligibility after transferring to UNC from Kent State, and to Kent State from N.C. Central. Walker sought a waiver to compete immediately, claiming in part that sitting out a year would endanger his mental health.

In early September, an NCAA committee charged with reviewing transfer waiver requests issued Walker one final denial. His quest to play this season appeared over, until a team of five Triangle-area attorneys fought on his behalf. Josh Stein, the North Carolina attorney general, also became involved in Walker's case and advocated for his eligibility.

See **Transfer** page 7

Indiana native chosen for project

The Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)
Tribune News Service

Terre Haute artist Becky Hochhalter is among 24 artists selected by the NBA to bring to life the 24 most iconic moments in Indiana basketball history.

The selected artists, chosen in a competitive application process led by the Indy Arts Council, will paint their interpretations on 6-foot basketball sculptures, which will be on display throughout the Downtown Home Court during NBA All-Star 2024, according to a news release from the NBA All-Star 2024 Host Committee.

The program is a component of NBA All-Star 2024, highlighting the integration of arts and sports while celebrating Indiana's unique basketball history and tradition.

"Indiana has immense artistic talent that will be

on display during NBA All-Star 2024, and Hoosier Historia is a way to showcase that talent while celebrating what makes Indiana's basketball tradition so special and unique," said Mel Raines, president of the NBA All-Star 2024 Host Committee and president and CEO for Pacers Sports & Entertainment.

Hochhalter's piece will be on "The Milan Miracle." In 1954, Milan was the smallest Indiana school ever to win a single-class state basketball title. The "Milan Miracle" ultimately became one of the most recognizable sports tributes in Hollywood history through the film "Hoosiers."

Born and raised in Terre Haute, Hochhalter is a self-taught and award-winning artist and has been engaged in art-related fields for 37 years.

See **Native** page 7



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The Musical



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