

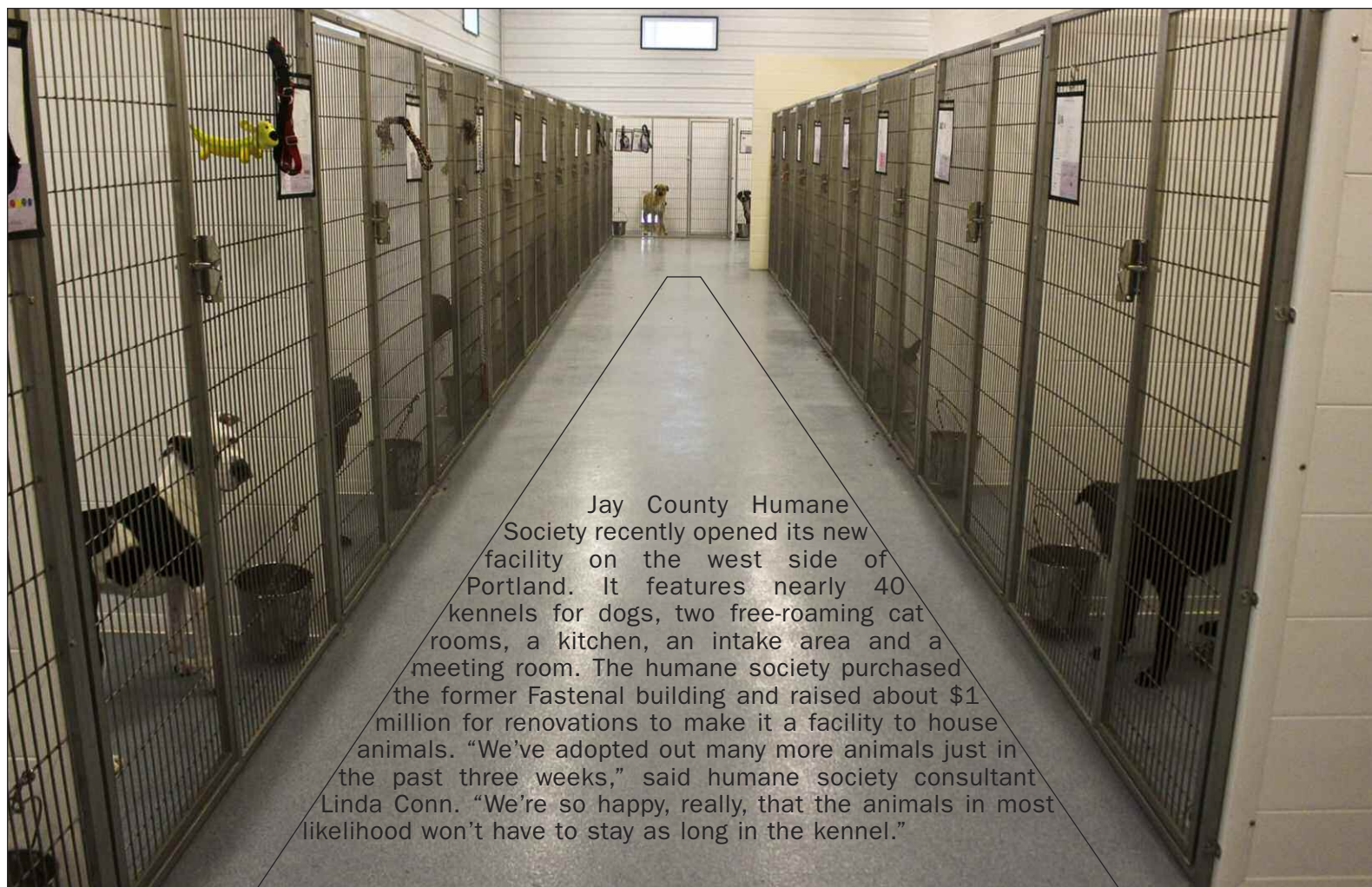
# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Humane home



Jay County Humane Society recently opened its new facility on the west side of Portland. It features nearly 40 kennels for dogs, two free-roaming cat rooms, a kitchen, an intake area and a meeting room. The humane society purchased the former Fastenal building and raised about \$1 million for renovations to make it a facility to house animals. "We've adopted out many more animals just in the past three weeks," said humane society consultant Linda Conn. "We're so happy, really, that the animals in most likelihood won't have to stay as long in the kennel."

The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Organization's new facility open

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Jay County Humane Society has opened its new facility's doors to the public.

The organization recently started welcoming community members into its new building at 1376 W. Votaw St., Portland.

So far, the new location has helped to spur more adoptions than the organization had seen in a long time. In the first few days of December alone, seven animals found new homes. In another recent week, nine animals moved in with new families.

"We've adopted out many more animals just in the past three weeks," said Jay County Humane Society consultant Linda Conn. "We're so happy, really, that the animals in most likelihood won't have to stay as long in the kennel."

Jay County Humane Society bought the former Fastenal building along Indiana 67 on the western edge of Portland in 2022, raising at least \$1 million toward its purchase and renovation costs. Jay County officials also

contributed \$275,000 toward the project originally priced at about \$1.2 million for land acquisition, construction and other fees.

It's a step up from the former site on Shadeland Avenue, which featured 12 dog kennels and a small area for cat cages in a 1,000-square-foot space with less than 600 square feet of exterior kennel space. Overcrowding as well as safety concerns — visitors entering the building immediately walked through a hallway attached to the kennels — led the organization to pursue a new space.

The facility on Votaw Street is sectioned into spaces for humans, dogs and cats, per the current standard for animal shelters. It boasts two free-roaming cat rooms as well as a large room for cat cages, nearly 40 kennels with additional inside and outside space for dogs, a kitchen to prepare animals' meals, a sally port for transporting and receiving animals, two intake rooms for new animals before their veterinarian checks, a medical room for sick animals or those recovering from surgery, a lobby



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Hank, a Jack Russell terrier mix available at Jay County Humane Society, greets folks walking by his kennel last week.

area, a meet and greet room, a break room for staff and another room that will likely be used for board meetings.

There's also about 3 acres of land north of the facility that is regularly used by volunteers

while walking dogs. Jay County Humane Society treasurer Mindy Weaver noted plans to periodically put in more fencing outside, with a goal to eventually fence in the whole lot.

See **Humane** page 2

## Giuliani will pay \$148 million

By SARAH WIRE  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — A jury in Washington, D.C., has ordered former Trump campaign lawyer Rudolph W. Giuliani to pay \$148 million to two former Georgia election workers who became the targets of violent threats after he accused them of manipulating ballots in the 2020 election.

After Giuliani refused to participate in the pretrial discovery process, U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell determined without a trial in August that Giuliani was liable for defamation and that he had engaged in a conspiracy with former President Donald Trump, the Trump campaign, the television network OAN and an OAN personality to defame Ruby Freeman and her daughter, Shaye Moss. Earlier this year Giuliani conceded in a court filing that he made false statements about Freeman and Moss.

The sole issue for the eight-person jury to decide was the amount of damages; Freeman and Moss' lawyer asked for at least \$24 million each.

Over four days jurors heard emotional testimony from Moss and Freeman about how Giuliani's repeated false, defamatory statements about them after the 2020 election upended their lives, causing them to change their appearances, homes and jobs in an effort to avoid the onslaught of graphic and racist messages they received.

Giuliani repeatedly claimed the women tampered with ballots to change the election results and amplified misleading security video that he falsely claimed showed them counting ballots after the process had officially concluded. He also accused both women of passing a USB drive like "vials of cocaine or heroin." The women told jurors that the item in question was a ginger mint.

See **Giuliani** page 2

## Storage bill revived

By WHITNEY DOWNARD  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Trusted adults left firearms in their purses, between couch cushions, in their dressers or otherwise unsecured and loaded. Curious teenagers and toddlers alike found the weapons, killing or injuring themselves and others.

Recent reports found that Indiana had the third-highest number of unintentional shootings by children so far in 2023, with nine children dead and another 18 injured — according to data collected by gun safety advocate Everytown.

The unprecedented surge in youth gun violence has left leaders scrambling for answers but one particular common factor prompted a Democratic lawmaker to revive a failed attempt to

### Reports: Indiana has third-highest number of unintentional shootings by children so far in 2023

promote safe firearm storage and penalize adults who fail to do so with children at home.

Rep. Mitch Gore, D-Indianapolis, said the bill's details aren't yet finalized but "the crux of it ... would make it unlawful, specifically, to leave a firearm unattended when it's likely that a child could gain access to it."

Ways to secure a firearm

could include disassembling or removing a critical component so it can't fire or locking it up — either in a safe or lockbox or using a cable lock.

"The idea, of course, is to prevent these tragedies that we're seeing more and more where children access an unsecured firearm and then use it to injure themselves or another," Gore said.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Holiday hollering

West Jay Elementary third graders sing "Rap It Up to Go" during their annual Christmas concert Thursday in the school's gymnasium.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 54 degrees Friday.

Today's forecast calls for mostly cloudy skies with a high around 50 and a slight chance of rain in the afternoon. Rain is

expected tonight with a low of 41 and winds gusting to 25 miles per hour. There's a 50% chance of rain throughout Sunday.

See page 2 for an extended forecast.

### In review

Fort Recovery Local Schools will hold its junior high and high school band Christmas concert at 7 p.m. Sunday. The concert is free and open to the public.

### Coming up

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

**Thursday** — Coverage of Monday's Portland City Council and Fort Recovery Village Council meetings.



Retrospect

# Muhlenkamp leads JCHS over Indians



The Commercial Review/Dan Gelston

Jay County High School's Amy Huelskamp strips the ball away from Angie Staugler of Fort Recovery during the Patriots' 55-48 win over the Indians on Dec. 15, 1998. At left is Jay County's Stacie Muhlenkamp.

Twenty-five years ago this week, Stacie Muhlenkamp came up big in the fourth quarter to lift the Patriots over their state line rival.

The Dec. 16, 1998, edition of The Commercial Review featured coverage of the Jay County High School girls basketball team's 55-48 victory over the host Fort Recovery Indians.

Muhlenkamp broke a 41-41 tie to start a run of three consecutive baskets that put the Patriots in the lead for good with just over two minutes left in the game. The hoops accounted for six of her season-high 17 points.

"I always look forward to

playing Fort Recovery," said Muhlenkamp. "A lot of my family lives here. I know a lot of people here. We know a lot of players on their team."

She stepped up in the game she relished, making every shot she attempted — seven from inside the arc and one 3-pointer. Teammate Cassie Golden added 15 points.

It was a rough-and-tumble game, with the teams combining for almost 50 turnovers. FRHS coach Lynn Bihn said she felt her team's inability to handle the Patriots' full-court press cost it the game.

"I think they got flustered," she said. "It didn't (bother) us until the last three or four

minutes. We started forcing passes. We were only down two points with three minutes left. We shouldn't have lost by seven."

Jay County coach Lea Selvey credited his team's poise under pressure.

"We've got two kind of young teams out there and I think our kids had a little bit more composure out there," he said. "I think we've been helped by our competition. When you play Richmond and Anderson Highland, those are the games that help you win these kind of games."

Jullie Keller and Angie Staugler each had 13 points to lead Fort Recovery.

## CR almanac

Sunday 12/17	Monday 12/18	Tuesday 12/19	Wednesday 12/20	Thursday 12/21
<b>48/32</b>	<b>36/20</b>	<b>33/24</b>	<b>41/31</b>	<b>45/35</b>
There's a 50% chance of showers on Sunday under cloudy skies. The high may hit 48 during the day.	Monday has a 60% chance of snow mixed with rain throughout the day. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	Tuesday's weather will be sunny. The high will be around 33 degrees.	Mostly sunny skies are expected Wednesday, when the high will be in the low 40s.	Thursday's forecast shows mostly cloudy skies with a high of 45 degrees.

## Lotteries

<b>Hoosier</b> Midday Daily Three: 3-8-8 Daily Four: 8-9-9-2 Quick Draw: 1-7-11-14-21-31-33-35-37-39-45-51-53-55-57-62-65-67-69-79	Pick 5: 9-6-5-7-6 Evening Rolling Cash 5: 22-24-28-29-35 Jackpot: \$130,000
<b>Ohio</b> Midday Pick 3: 1-9-1 Pick 4: 0-6-8-9	<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$535 million
	<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$28 million

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.63 Late Dec. corn.....4.73 Wheat .....5.49	Jan. beans .....13.01 Wheat .....5.89
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.63 Jan. corn .....4.73 Feb. corn .....4.74	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.38 Jan. corn .....4.55 Beans .....12.87 Jan. beans .....12.93 Wheat .....5.79
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.58 Jan. corn .....4.68 Beans .....12.91	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.48 Jan. corn .....4.53 Beans .....12.66 Jan. beans .....12.74 Wheat .....5.29

## Today in history

In 1431, King Henry IV of England was crowned King of France. He's the only English monarch to have served in both roles.

In 1707, Mount Fuji erupted for the last recorded time. The volcano, known as the highest in Japan, erupted for 17 days.

In 1773, protestors in Boston dumped taxed British East India Company tea into the harbor. Colonists tossed more than 300 chests of tea into the water.

In 1775, Richard Arkwright patented his carding machine, a mechanism used in cotton mills.

In 1777, Virginia ratified the Articles of Confederation. Full ratification by all 13 states didn't occur until several years later in March 1781.

In 1893, "New Work Symphony," created by Antonín Dvořák, premiered at Carnegie Hall in New York.

In 1913, Charlie Chaplin began his film career at Keystone. The comedian went on to win several Academy Awards, including a special award for his impact in bringing motion pictures the fame they have today.

In 1944, the Battle of the Bulge began with Nazi Germany launching a counteroffensive against the Allies in Belgium.

— The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Monday</b> 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 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.
<b>Wednesday</b> 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.	

## Humane ...

Continued from page 1  
With construction on the building completed, volunteers relocated all cats to the new building in October. They've been slowly moving dogs — about two or three each trip — as they've transitioned into the new facility and plan to have all animals at the Votaw Street location within the next month. (Currently, volunteers visit the Shadeland Avenue building each day to take care of the remaining handful of dogs.)

As for the former building, Jay County Humane Society will work with the City of Portland and its adjacent wastewater treatment plant to figure out what comes next.

The new, larger facility will help with the organization's animal control duties. Jay County Humane Society started providing animal control to the county and Portland in January 2021 following the retirement of Bill and Kathy Fields, former animal control officers. (Midwest Pet Refuge also provided animal control services alongside the organization for a period of time.)

In October, Jay County officials signed a formal one-year service agreement with the organization for \$66,325. (Previously, the organization had been acting on a verbal agreement with the county, and upon securing the new building it began seeking animal control contracts

with the county and local municipalities. Per the contract that starts Jan. 1, the county's portion covers unincorporated, rural parts of Jay County.)

Other agreements starting in January have been signed with Portland (\$42,525) and Salamonica. Conn said the organization is open to pro-rating costs in agreements with other municipalities if the need arises next year.

"We have so much more variety of animals (now) than I ever remember," Weaver pointed out, noting the size and breed differences of animals currently in the shelter.

One of those future pets is Magnum, a 1-year-old labrador retriever who loves giving hugs. Others dogs available as of Tuesday included a variety of breeds, such as Jack Russell terrier Sweet Pea, pit bull terrier Angel and chihuahua and pomeranian mix Neal. There are also currently a variety of domestic short-haired cats, including Heidi, a senior cat with a gray coat, and Meatball, an orange-striped kitten.

To learn more about the animals available at Jay County Humane Society, check their pages on Facebook or Petfinder.com, call the shelter or visit in-person.

Business hours for the public are from noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon to 2 p.m. Saturday.

(For animal control services, they are available as needed through contact with local police.) Jay County Humane Society can be reached at (260) 726-6339.

Although it's now open to the public, the new facility still has a few odds and ends to finish up before its official ribbon-cutting. Some of those projects include putting on a new roof — pending weather conditions, it's expected to be finished within the next few weeks — and installing a new sign on the front of the building.

Weaver and Conn said as they were moving in, folks started stopping by.

"We've had a lot of people from out of town," said Weaver.

Conn noted incoming animals are regularly checked by veterinarians, and medical bills vary greatly. Donations can be made at the facility or at various businesses across Portland. Volunteers are also always welcome.

Despite operating as the county's contracted animal control service and working out of a new building, Jay County Humane Society is still dedicated to its original goals, noted Weaver.

"We still have our core values, we are a no-kill shelter," Weaver said. "Even though we're doing animal control, people I think feel like we've changed who we are, but we're just the same organization doing more."

## Giuliani ...

Continued from page 1  
Moss and Freeman's attorney Von DuBose aired for jurors hundreds of the threats Freeman and Moss received.

DuBose showed jurors a "strategic communications plan" from Giuliani that called for Trump and his surrogates to use the claims about Freeman and Moss to support their unsuccessful efforts to overturn the 2020 election.

On Tuesday, Moss testified for hours about living with fear and panic from the flood of threats, including pushing away the people around her because she didn't want to cause them harm and changing her hair color. She said she felt like "the worst mom in the world" when her son failed his classes after receiving hundreds of racist text messages.

She recounted how people broke into her grandmother's home and attempted to perform a citizen's arrest and said her greatest fear was that her son would come home one day to find his mother and grandmother hanging from a tree in the front yard.

"How can someone with so much power go public and talk about things he obviously has no clue about. It's obvious lies," Moss said of Giuliani's false claims about her and her mother. "Nothing he said was true."

On the courthouse steps Monday, Giuliani told reporters that he didn't

regret his actions and again falsely claimed Moss and Freeman rigged votes. The judge scolded him the next day, saying the comments could support another defamation claim by the former election workers.

Giuliani did not testify on Thursday. Giuliani's lawyer, Joe Sibley, told the jury that he decided against his client testifying because "these women have been through enough."

Instead, he urged jurors to have sympathy for Giuliani and remember the 80-year-old former New York City mayor as a unifying figure after 9/11.

### SERVICES

**Today**  
**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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# Use caution with Christmas trees

By HENRY SAVAGE

The Philadelphia Inquirer  
Tribune News Service

PHILADELPHIA — As the trend of buying Christmas trees earlier becomes more common, whether because of post-Thanksgiving holiday spirit or tree supply shortages rewarding the early bird, taking better care of your home Christmas tree becomes more crucial.

This year, local farmers said that Thanksgiving weekend was the busiest sales time of the season, with some growers even closing up shop before December.

National trade associations have again urged shoppers to buy trees earlier for the best options due to the persistent stunting of tree growth and supply since 2016. This means for many households, Christmas trees are residing indoors for longer periods, which can lead to

headaches and health hazards.

Joshua Malik, owner of Lehigh Valley-based Joshua Tree Experts, works to educate people on tree care and safety, especially around winter holidays. He said that there are simple steps to take each day that protect your tree and avoid fire risks.

“I wouldn’t keep a tree indoors more than four to six weeks. That’s when you’re going to start seeing a lot of needles drop, and that’s a clear indication that the tree is drying out and becoming more of a hazard,” Malik said. “Christmas is all about fireplaces, candles, holiday parties, and those are stressors when it comes to tree safety. After that six-week period, it’s time to get it out of the house.”

According to the National Fire Protection Association, a little more than 150 house fires are attributed to

Christmas trees each year. Two years ago, a Christmas tree caused the Fairmount house fire that claimed the lives of 12 people.

Here are some helpful Christmas tree care and safety tips to follow this holiday season.

## Tree care

The most important thing your Christmas tree needs is water. According to Malik, a 6-foot Christmas tree can absorb a half gallon of water per day.

Pro tip: Get a tree stand that is capable of holding water. Malik sets up his 9-foot tree with a tree stand that can hold two gallons of water, using a Christmas tree watering funnel for easy water refills.

“If you put a Christmas tree on something like a wooden peg stand with a drilled hole in the bottom of the tree, that tree’s going to dry out really quick,”

Malik said. “It’s going to be a pain in the butt because you’re gonna be picking up needles maybe two or three times a day.”

It’s also very important to make sure the tree stand fits the tree. Malik said coming home to a tree crashed over in the living room can put a damper on the Christmas spirit.

Check and replenish your Christmas tree’s water each day.

Pro tip: Cut an extra half-inch to an inch off the trunk; the fresh cut will help the tree better absorb water.

If the tree is well-watered, the next crucial step is to make sure it’s not in direct sunlight or near heat sources. Malik said that a Christmas tree cools off through its needles. “The closer the tree is to fireplaces, heating vents, radiator heaters, the more moisture it will lose and need more water,” he said.

Pro tip: Keep your Christmas tree at least 3 feet away from windows with lots of light shining in.

## Tree fire safety

A Christmas tree can engulf in flames in mere seconds from being ignited, according to Pennsylvania-based Erie Insurance. An experiment found that after one minute, a Christmas tree fire can burn down an entire room.

Pro tip: Keep your Christmas tree at a minimum of 5 feet away from candles, fireplaces, heating vents, radiators, and sources of electricity. The farther away from these heat and electricity sources the better; even go 10 feet for more safety, said Malik. There should never be loose branches touching electrical outlets, cords, or appliances.

Decorate safely. Another huge hazard are the decora-

tions and lighting used on an indoor Christmas tree. Malik said to make sure that you’re hanging lights that are intended for indoor use (look for low-power LED lights over incandescent lights that burn hotter), that no cords or wires are frayed, and to never overload an outlet with multiple plugs, extension cords, or power strips.

Pro tip: Turn off electrical decorations and lighting at night when you’re sleeping or away from the house during the day.

Malik said regardless of Christmas tree mishaps, every home should already have a fire extinguisher on hand. When the holiday is all said and done, don’t hesitate to dispose of your tree. Malik said there’s no right or wrong way to do it, whether you put it out with curbside garbage or find a tree-recycling program, but it needs to be out of the house after six weeks.

# Wife’s different lifestyle bothers her spouse

DEAR ABBY: Is it normal to be disgusted by your wife’s lack of concern about her appearance and her belongings? My wife drives a \$50,000 car that never gets washed and is so filled with “stuff” that seldom can she take even one passenger.

Her side of the bedroom is just as bad. She never makes the bed and can no longer get to her dresser because there are so many clothes piled in front of it. It’s the same down the hall. In addition to plowing things aside or piling them in a spare room, her messes take over the house.

She also doesn’t take care of herself. She often doesn’t shower for days. Her clothes are frumpy, and I can no longer count how many pounds she keeps adding. It

Dear Abby



righteous religious rabbit hole, she has no other perspective. She can’t work. She believes she’s some sort of activist because she forwards memes on Facebook. It amazes me that she can see neighbors who are older than she is, have full-time careers and take care of themselves and their things and yet still believe she’s normal and even judge others.

She does a few things for the church, where she can portray an upstanding image, and it’s important to her they see her that way. I think she has a chemical imbalance of some sort and needs help, but how do you even start? If it wasn’t so complicated, I’d move out. By not doing so, is my complacency making things worse? — AT MY LIMIT IN TEXAS

DEAR LIMIT: Was your wife like this when you were dating? In the year or two after your marriage? If the answer is no, it is important that she be evaluated by a doctor because what you describe could be symptoms of depression or a mental or emotional problem.

The way I would handle this if I were in your place would be to tell her you love her, but you can no longer live the way things have become. Then offer her a choice: Get help, or you are leaving.

DEAR ABBY: I have been struggling with the loss of my mother, who passed away 10 months ago. She was my best friend and was

always there for me when I came out as gay. When I married my husband in October 2020, she was so happy — she actually gave me away. We lost her suddenly, and since then my life has felt dark and sad. I’m currently in therapy, and I have made progress. But I am stuck wondering, is it normal almost a year later to still feel hurt and sad that my mother is gone? — SAD SON IN INDIANA

DEAR SON: I am glad you are in therapy. Everyone grieves differently, and it is not unusual for someone to continue to grieve the loss of a loved one after a year. Please accept my deepest sympathy for the loss of your dear mother. There are brighter days ahead.

# 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.

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 W.E. 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. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

## 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.

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.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

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.

## Tuesday

BRYANT COMMUNITY

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

FRIENDS OF JAY COUNTY LIBRARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the library.

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.

FRIENDS OF JAY COUNTY LIBRARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the library.

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

# Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

## Friday’s Solution

7	6	2	3	4	8	9	1	5
1	8	5	2	7	9	6	3	4
9	4	3	6	1	5	7	8	2
6	3	9	1	2	7	4	5	8
4	5	7	8	9	3	2	6	1
8	2	1	5	6	4	3	9	7
2	9	8	7	5	6	1	4	3
3	7	4	9	8	1	5	2	6
5	1	6	4	3	2	8	7	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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## WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

### For Jay County Schools December 18-22

**Monday: Main Entrees:** Classic cheeseburger in bun  
**Alternate Entrees:** PB&J and cheese fun lunch, ham & cheese salad, breadstick **Sides for all meals:** BBQ baked beans

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

**Wednesday: No School**

**Thursday: No School**

**Friday: No School**

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# Hanukkah is a celebration of freedom

The Whittier Daily News  
(California)  
Tribune News Service

## Guest Opinion

Ending at sundown yesterday, observant Jews around the world celebrated Hanukkah, a festival of lights. It was instituted to celebrate the liberation of Israel from domination by the Syrian Seleucid empire, which sought to suppress the traditional Hebrew religion by law and violence.

It is thus a celebration of religious freedom, as well as the triumph of light over darkness, of spirituality over materialism. These concepts are symbolized by the lighting of the traditional Menorah, the eating of special foods and giving gifts to children.

The Syrian Seleucid emperor Antiochus III established his rule over Israel after winning a war with Egypt. His policies were fairly tolerant of local religions, but when Antiochus IV began his reign in 174 BCE things changed. After a small-scale rebellion in Israel he responded with a vengeance, killing Israelites and outlawing certain traditional religious practices, including circumcision. He favored a faction called Hellenized Jews, who sought to incorporate Greek concepts of beauty, art and culture into the Hebrew culture.

As Syrian soldiers sought to enforce the new laws in smaller villages, they encountered resistance in Modin, where the priest Mattityahu resisted their orders and ended up leading the villagers to kill the Syrians. He and his sons, led by Judah Maccabee, fled to the hills, where they conducted a guerrilla campaign against the Syrian overlords. After they won three battles against progressively larger Syrian armies, the Syrians retreated, leaving Israel to the Israelites. The Maccabees then

sought to cleanse the temple the Syrians had desecrated. One of the rituals was to burn an oil light for eight days, but they found only one cruse of purified oil, enough for a single day, and it would take eight days to create a new supply of purified oil. According to custom, the light miraculously burned for eight days.

This miracle is celebrated by the lighting of the branched Menorah, one additional light per day until all eight lights are burning. Foods cooked in oil, like potato pancakes and doughnuts, are eaten, and gifts of money — Hanukkah gelt — are given to children. The children play with the dreidl, a spinning top with a spiritual message.

Concepts like freedom of religion evolve over time (and are generally accompanied by spirited debate as to whether this particular change is real progress).

Freedom from having a government-established religion, for example, is of fairly recent origin, historically speaking, and still not practiced in much of Europe.

But the idea that it is wrong to suppress religion and religious practices through violence and the force of law, as Hanukkah reminds us, is of relatively ancient and honorable origin, and has influenced those religions influenced by Judaism, mainly Christianity and Islam.

It is spiritually and culturally healthy, not just for Jews but for all of us, to have that concept embedded in our way of life.



# Corporations want to save fees

By JIM HIGHTOWER  
OtherWords

According to an old saying, “You can’t squeeze blood from a turnip.” True. But that raises this question: Who would even try squeezing blood from a turnip?

Well, metaphorically speaking, if “blood” means profit, and “turnips” are customers, airlines are eager to apply the squeeze. As are banks, credit card outfits, cable TV and Internet hucksters, car rental companies, and concert promoters.

And can anyone decipher their insurance policies?

I’m not talking about fair profit, but junk fees, hidden charges, undisclosed add-ons, and other “gotchas” that brand-name giants sneak into the fine print of their price tags. It’s pure corporate larceny, adding up to a stunning level of unearned profit for the perpetrators.

Airlines picked our pockets for

Jim Hightower



nearly \$7 billion last year in baggage fees alone. Credit card dealers plucked \$14 billion from us in punitive late fees. The overall corporate haul from this secretive squeeze on consumers now tops \$64 billion a year.

Shouldn’t companies have to tell you — in plain language — what they’re actually charging you and for what? “Yes!” says President Biden, who’s pressuring the gougers to come clean. “Hooray!” exult consumers who are tired of being played for suckers.

Of course, as another saying notes, “Where there’s a will, there’s a thousand won’ts.” So a flock of corporate lobbyists are now swarming the Capitol crying: “Save junk fees!”

Their arguments are hilariously absurd: They assert that price disclosure will “confuse consumers,” that government should not “interfere” in the free market, that it’s “technically infeasible” to tell consumers the real price. One group actually quibbled, “What exactly is a fee?”

To help raise common sense and plain fairness to high places, check out the work of the Public Interest Research Group at [www.pirg.org](http://www.pirg.org).

Hightower is a radio commentator, writer, and public speaker.

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# Manufacturing matters, but not for creating jobs

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

We are coming up on election season quickly, so it is again time to evaluate claims about economic policy. This isn’t a partisan process; candidates across the board tend to make claims that might trouble a close observer of the economy. I will focus on claims that might plausibly lead to counterproductive policies. I begin with the many claims about manufacturing, and its role in our economy.

Indiana is the most manufacturing-intensive state in the Union. This seems important, but we have fewer factory jobs and a smaller manufacturing GDP than California. Still, manufacturing is important here, and will remain important for the foreseeable future. But, the importance of manufacturing isn’t what most political leaders claim. It isn’t about jobs.

Manufacturing is important because it is the source of a significant share of regional productivity growth. It is also a source of patents and innovation, which leads to higher incomes. The best way to understand this is that wages in a nation are affected by overall productivity, not just productivity in one sector. By productivity I mean simply how much each worker produces each year. The United States has a very productive economy, with an extraordinarily productive manufacturing sector. This boosts wages for us all, but that isn’t the only effect.

Productivity growth in factories also means fewer factory workers. What took 1,000 workers in 1970 to produce can be done

Michael J. Hicks



with fewer than 230 workers today. One result is that 2024 is likely to be the record year of factory production in U.S. history, in inflation-adjusted dollars. We’ll hit that milestone with near record low number of workers.

When I was a boy, factory jobs provided for a large, vibrant middle class. About one in three American workers toiled in factories and another third of jobs depended on the income of factory workers. Today fewer than one in 10 jobs depend upon manufacturing. The effect of manufacturing in local labor markets has never been more modest. It will be smaller still in 2030, even if manufacturing production remains strong, as I expect it will.

This is a happy story. American manufacturing, like American agriculture, employs very few workers because these industries are so very productive—each worker produces a lot of value. This comes from the use of machinery (or land and machinery in the case of farming). Improvements in productivity come from workers on the shop floor, but also from technology and innovation produced by universities and laboratories in businesses.

Part of the growth of produc-

tivity means outsourcing some of the work. The biggest source of factory outsourcing has been to other American businesses. About a third of the 4.5 million factory jobs lost since 1990 were simply a reclassification of workers from factories to professional services. These run the gamut from security services to robotics maintenance, illustrating why American manufacturing remains important.

Outsourcing also means sending the low-value production to less-productive countries. The average American factory worker today has two years of college experience, which means their education from kindergarten to the factory floor probably cost \$300,000. We need workers like this to make expensive, high-tech items. The average Chinese or Vietnamese factory worker has a \$15,000 education. We should unapologetically pay them to make the cheap stuff.

Maybe a third of lost factory jobs went overseas, a third disappeared due to robotics or automation and another third shifted to other American businesses. Again, this is a happy story about a thriving economic sector about which we should be very proud. But, that does not mean that factories will boost Indiana’s lagging regions. And that brings us to politics.

A surprising number of American politicians make the claim that factory employment will rescue lagging regions. The implicit promise is that manufacturing jobs will revitalize cities that have lost factory jobs over the past half century. These claims

are irresponsible. Worse still, they show a deep lack of respect for voters. Even worse, a policy focus on manufacturing jobs weakens the long-term economic prospects of Indiana. This manifests itself in three ways.

First, a monolithic focus on factory jobs has resulted in a policy focus away from higher education. The result has been so damaging that Mississippi now sends almost a third more of its high school grads to college than Indiana sends. Yet, job creation in manufacturing is heaviest among Hoosiers who haven’t graduated from high school. We are in the midst of the first ‘deskilling’ of the Indiana workforce in history. It is all driven by a wistful desire for more factory jobs.

Second, our focus on manufacturing jobs as an implicit political metric has been disastrous in terms of the mix of actual factory jobs. There’s a lot of highfalutin talk about advanced manufacturing, but data on job growth by educational attainment since January 2000 is just stunningly bad. We’ve lost 7,852 factory jobs held by college graduates and 39,651 who have an associate degree or some college under their belt. We’ve lost a whopping 86,263 jobs for high school graduates. But, we’ve actually gained 2,428 jobs for high school dropouts.

It is worth restating that the only factory job growth Indiana has seen in 23 years is, after almost a quarter century of focus on advanced manufacturing, and more than \$10 Billion in tax

incentives, we have a less well-educated factory job force than we had in 2000. Advanced manufacturing jobs require a better, not less well-educated workforce. We have squandered that chance.

The third problem is that the focus on manufacturing is actually backfiring on efforts to boost the Hoosier economy. By tailoring our K-12 educational sector to the training needs of a declining sector, we fail to prepare for emerging jobs. At the same time, the huge tax incentives to factories appear to be accelerating the automation of jobs. Of course, economists would expect this. By abating business personal property taxes, the cost of new equipment declines. This accelerates automation and reduces the demand for labor. We teach this in our 100-level economics classes.

It is worth noting that these job losses occur in the very places we think we are trying to boost. And that is the real rub of our misplaced and myopic focus on factory jobs. There is some evidence Indiana’s manufacturing policies made factories more profitable, after all their taxes dropped from the 34th lowest to the 4th lowest in fifteen years. But, there is just no evidence the policies we pursue to boost manufacturing have helped Indiana’s lagging regions. Manufacturing is an important industry in our state for many, many reasons. But, creating jobs isn’t one of them.

Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University. Email him at [mhicks@bsu.edu](mailto:mhicks@bsu.edu).

# The Commercial Review



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

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## 12-16 CRYPTOQUIP

RW O VATV NW KOHTRZ RX  
VCZNYRPK UCHS NUHLCOECF,  
FN SNA ELRPM RE XLNATF

EOMC NWW REX ZTNUCX?  
**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** I'M SURPRISED YOU MESSED UP THAT LAWN-CUTTING CHORE SO BADLY. YOU SHOULD MOW BETTER THAN THAT!  
**Today's Cryptoquip Clue:** V equals B

### Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

#### Game winners

- Who hit the shot that clinched the 1993 NBA Championship for the Chicago Bulls?
- What UCLA point guard went coast-to-coast for the game-winning layup against Missouri in the 1995 NCAA Tournament?

(2) Tyus Edney  
(1) John Paxson

## 12-18 CRYPTOQUIP

KUO PIJW MEKCOQK NCKU E  
JOSOBO MECQ NOQK TM KI  
UCJ HIDKIB EQH DBCOH, "WIT  
POKKOB BOXCOSO CK!"

**Saturday's Cryptoquip:** IF A BULB OF GARLIC IS BECOMING VERY OVERHEATED, DO YOU THINK IT SHOULD TAKE OFF ITS CLOVES?  
**Today's Cryptoquip Clue:** W equals Y

### CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to entertaining. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 21 = S)

**A. 3 10 21 26 6 21 21**  
Clue: One who entertains

**B. 6 12 26 6 9 26 16 17 12**  
Clue: Have people over

**C. 15 11 6 21 26 21**  
Clue: Company

**D. 25 6 12 11**  
Clue: Planned foods

Answers: A. hostess B. entertain C. guests D. menu

### WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to entertaining.

**T F E B U F**

Answer: Buffet

### Guess Who?

I am a magician and escape artist born in New York on December 19, 1967. Despite objections from my parents, I chose being a professional magician over going to college. I broke the record for being on TV more hours than any other magician.

Answer: Criss Angel

### kids' corner

### ANIMAL FACT:

THE 'RIGHTING REFLEX' IS A BALANCING SYSTEM THAT THIS ANIMAL HAS THAT ENABLES IT TO LAND THE RIGHT WAY UP.

ANSWER: CAT

### How they SAY that in...

**ENGLISH:** Arch  
**SPANISH:** Arco  
**ITALIAN:** Arco  
**FRENCH:** Arche  
**GERMAN:** Bogen

### Crossword Puzzle

1			2						
4					5				
6									

**ACROSS**  
1. Afraid  
4. One who mimics  
6. Jump on

**DOWN**  
1. Cat  
2. Hold back  
3. Vibrating sound  
5. Test flavor

### THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

**DEC 20**

- 1946: "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE" PREMIERES TO MIXED REVIEWS AT THE GLOBE THEATRE IN NEW YORK.
- 1951: THE EBR-1 IN ARCO, IDAHO, IS THE FIRST NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY.
- 1965: POPE JOHN PAUL II ANNOUNCES THE INSTITUTION OF WORLD YOUTH DAY.

### New Word

**HAIRBALL**  
a ball of hair that collects in an animal's stomach

### ENTERTAINING WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

**WORDS**

ACTIVITIES  
ARRIVAL  
BARTENDER  
BEVERAGES  
CHAFING DISHES  
CHARGERS  
ENTERTAIN  
FOOD  
GIFT  
GUEST LIST  
HOME  
HOSTING  
INVITE  
ITINERARY  
MENU  
MUSIC  
OVERNIGHT  
PARTY  
PLANNING  
PLAYLIST  
RECEPTION  
RSVP  
VALET

### Did You Know?

DESPITE CATS APPEARING TO BE LONERS WHO REQUIRE LITTLE INTERACTION WITH THEIR OWNERS, THEY STILL NEED VETERINARY CARE.

### GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CAT'S FACE

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Early block? Mongo-  
lian  
6 Hot tub  
9 Dallas sch.  
12 Emporium  
13 Crucial  
14 Atlas page  
15 Check recipient  
16 Reyjavik's country  
18 Surgical beams  
20 Approximately  
21 Ecol.  
23 Dig in  
24 Partners  
25 Peel  
27 Winner's gesture  
29 Night flight  
31 Already sliced  
35 Inventor Nikola  
37 Apple variety  
38 Asparagus unit  
41 Mag. edition

**DOWN**  
3 "Babes in —"  
4 Bailiwick  
5 "Don't You Know" singer  
6 Circumvents  
7 Chest muscles, briefly  
8 Sailor's "yes"  
9 Brainy  
10 Parson's home  
11 High hairstyles  
17 Temporary car  
19 They hang around houses?  
22 Picnic dessert  
24 Ball club VIP  
26 Fine point  
28 Bridge call  
30 " — outta here!"  
32 "Rodeo" composer  
33 Ms. Thurman  
34 TV's Danson  
36 Deceived  
38 Palm starches  
39 Braid of hair  
40 British nobles  
42 Ridicule  
45 L-Q bridge  
46 "Carmen" solo  
48 Shapiro of NPR  
50 Inventor's monogram  
51 Overhead trains

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

A	D	A	M	V	I	P	A	V	O	N	
S	I	L	O	E	M	U	N	E	R	O	
E	V	E	L	R	A	M	A	R	C	O	
G	A	S	A	B	A	P	A	C	M	A	N
			R	E	C	B	L	O			
M	A	V	S	R	E	V	E	N	U	E	S
D	R	E	U	K	E	T	R	I			
S	P	R	I	T	Z	E	R	S	H	E	D
			O	R	A	B	R	A			
D	E	N	I	R	O	I	N	T	E	N	T
O	T	I	S	P	E	A	U	S	E	R	
R	A	C	E	E	R	G	R	A	R	E	
A	L	A	S	N	A	E	N	U	D	E	

**Yesterday's answer 12-15**

### 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?

- 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. But if you respond two clubs and then bid hearts at your next turn, partner will realize that you have more clubs than hearts and that in all likelihood you have only four hearts. Had the suits been of equal length, you would, of course, bid the higher-ranking one, hearts, first.

**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. The aim is to land in the longest trump suit, not necessarily the strongest, and also to wind up in a major rather than a minor, if possible.

Spades are playable as trump if partner has three of them. If you were to bid clubs first, and spades secondarily, partner would naturally 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. In such situations, it's better to suspend the rule of bidding the longer suit first than to misrepresent your high-card strength.

**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. With weak hands, where your initial plan may be to make only one bid and quit, you exercise extreme care in choosing the suit to name, the principal concern being to avoid bidding weak hands strongly.

**Tomorrow: Kerchoo!**  
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### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Winter warmer  
6 Implore  
11 Arctic jackets  
12 Painter's tool  
14 Elite groups  
15 Change gradually  
16 Fix illegally  
17 Barrel strip  
19 Fragrant tree  
20 Roman 202  
22 Reggae relative  
23 Part of N.B.  
24 Accord maker  
26 Wing part  
28 TV's Longoria  
30 Rest-room, for short  
31 Spiced holiday drink  
35 Shrill barks  
39 Date with an MD

**DOWN**  
2 Starting point  
3 Many  
4 ATM deposits  
5 Stable diet  
7 Zero, in tennis  
8 "Evil Woman" gp.  
9 Totally supporting  
10 Danny of "Taxi"  
11 Shrivel with heat  
13 Showed again on TV

**Solution time: 26 mins.**

T	A	T	A	R	S	P	A	S	M	U		
S	T	O	R	E	K	E	Y	M	A	P		
P	A	Y	E	E	I	C	E	L	A	N	D	
		L	A	S	E	R	S	O	R	S	O	
E	P	A		E	A	T		M	A	T	E	S
R	I	N	D		V	S	I	G	N			
R	E	D	E	Y	E	P	R	E	C	U	T	
			T	E	S	L	A	R	O	M	E	
S	P	E	A	R		I	S	S	P	A	D	
A	L	A	I		M	E	S	S	C	A	L	
G	A	R	L	A	N	D		O	R	A	T	E
O	I	L		R	O	T		F	I	N	A	L
S	T	S		I	P	O		F	A	D	E	S

**Yesterday's answer 12-16**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13				14	
15					16				17	
		18			19			20		
21	22		23				24			
25		26		27		28				
29			30			31		32	33	34
			35		36		37			
38	39	40			41		42		43	
44				45			46			
47			48				49		50	51
52			53				54			
55			56				57			

### Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

#### Kerchoo!

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 6 2  
♥ K 5 3  
♦ K Q 9 7  
♣ 8 4 3 2

**EAST**  
♠ J 8 5 3  
♥ A 8 4 2  
♦ —  
♣ K J 9 7 6

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K Q 10 9 7 4  
♥ —  
♦ A J 10 8 3  
♣ 5

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ 2 ♥ Pass 4 ♥  
4 ♠ 5 ♥ 5 ♠ 6 ♥  
6 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Dble

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

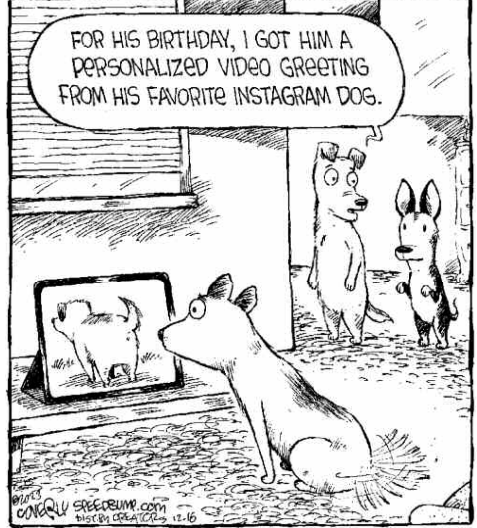
There are 30-point tricks and there are 300-point tricks. To lose 30 points is of little consequence, but to lose 300 is a matter of more serious consequence.

This deal occurred in a team-of-four match. At the first table, South wound up in six spades doubled following the sequence shown, and West led a heart.

Declarer ruffed and cashed the ace of spades, on which West showed out. The 4-0 trump break appeared

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11							12				13
14							15				
16				17		18				19	
20		21		22					23		
24			25		26		27				
			28		29		30				
31	32	33			34		35		36	37	38
39				40		41		42			
43				44			45		46		
47			48				49		50		
51							52				
	53						54				

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



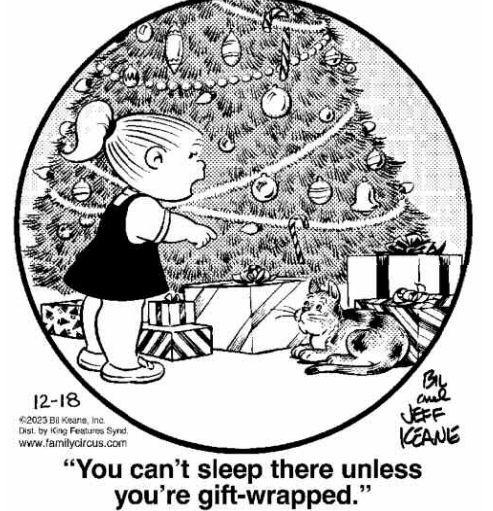
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



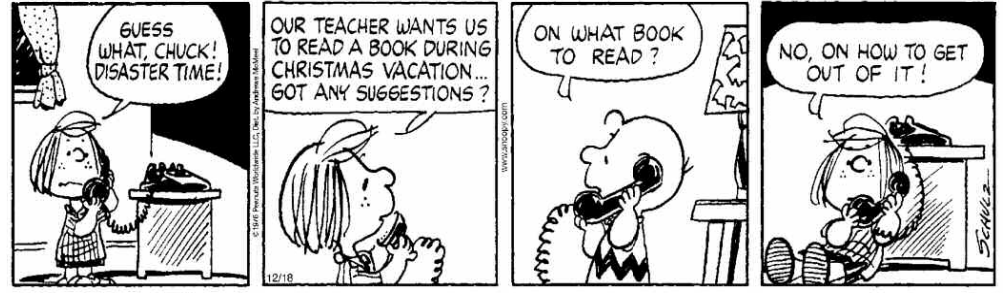
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



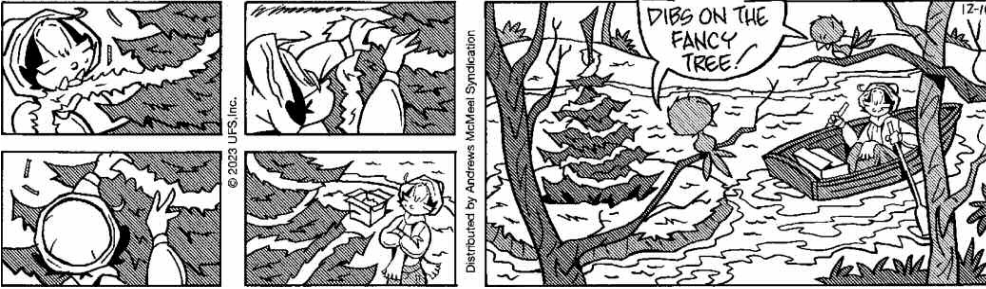
Peanuts



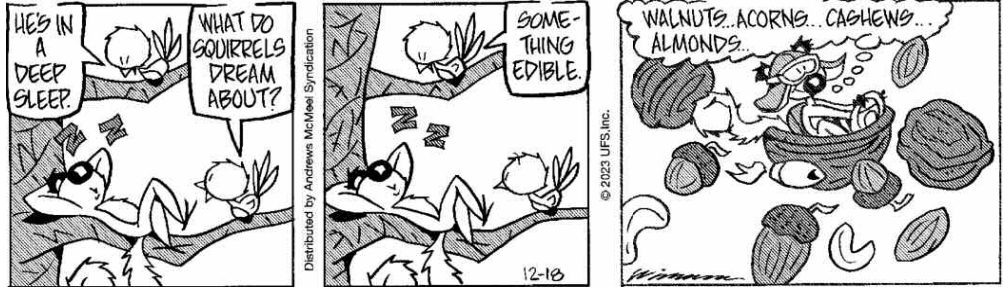
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



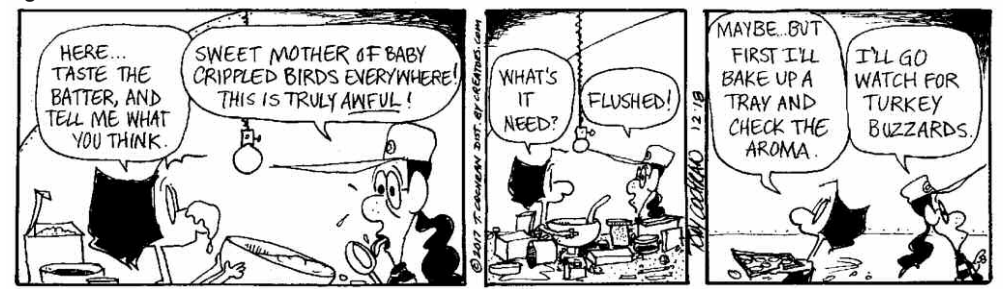
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Between Friends



Blondie



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



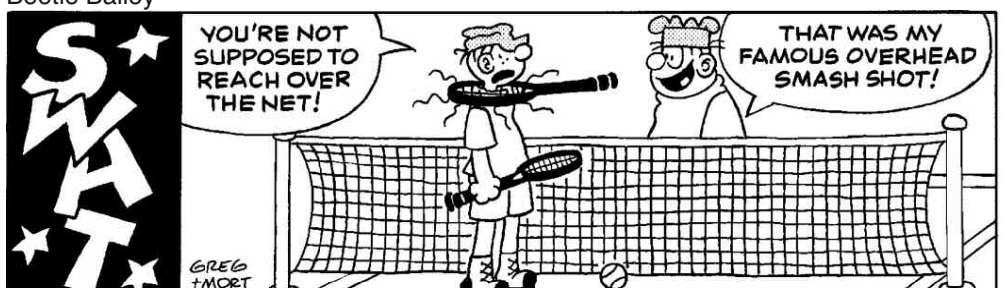
Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Beetle Bailey



**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*

**A  
D  
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**00 CLASSIFIEDS**  
**CLASSIFIED ADS**  
260-726-8141  
**ADVERTISING RATES**  
20 Word Minimum  
Effective 07/01/2018:  
Minimum charge....  
\$12.40  
1 insertion.....62¢/  
word  
2 insertions.....81¢/  
word  
3 insertions.....96¢/  
word  
6 insertions.... \$1.14/  
word  
12 insertions. \$1.52/  
word  
26 insertions. \$1.77/  
word  
Includes  
Online.....FREE  
Classified Display \$6.95/  
per column inch  
No borders or logos  
allowed on Classified  
Page  
Card of Thanks Up to  
100 words.... \$13.00  
In Memory Up to 100  
words.... \$13.00  
Advertising Deadline is  
12:00 p.m. the day prior  
to publication. The  
deadline for Mondays  
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12-6-2023  
CR 12-16.23.30-2023-HSPAXLP

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times as shall be duly autho-  
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Samantha Rhodehamel, LEPC  
Community Emergency Coordi-  
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# Eight in a row

## JC closes first on 12-point run in blowout

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The Patriots scored off the opening tip as they have so often this season and were rolling on offense from the start.

A couple of 3-pointers helped New Castle keep pace, but only for the first four minutes.

Jay County High School's girls basketball team extended its winning streak to eight games Thursday, closing the first quarter with 12 consecutive points and rolling to a 63-24 victory over the visiting New Castle Trojans.

"I was real pleased that we had three kids in double digits," said JCHS coach Sherri McIntire, whose team's last loss came Nov. 17 at Bellmont. "I was pleased with Bella Denton. She's been working really hard in practice on her post moves. I felt like tonight she played with a lot of confidence. ...

"Sophie Saxman, second game in a row with double digits. We need her to do that."

Alana Orr's 3-pointer had the Trojans (2-11) trailing just 12-8 midway through the first quarter, but a hoop from Hallie Schwieterman started a 16-0 run for Jay County (10-2). Breanna Dirksen assisted on a 3-pointer from Danielle May and a basket by Bella Denton, and then May dished to Meredith Dirksen for a bucket. Sophie Saxman hit a put-back off of a Bella Denton miss to make it 24-8 at the quarter break. (The home team shot 69% from the field in the first eight minutes.)

Consecutive Breanna Dirksen baskets — one off of a steal and another on an assist by Saxman — pushed the run to 16 points as the Patriots held New Castle scoreless for more than five minutes.

"Our intensity at the beginning was a little bit low," said Denton. "I feel like we picked that up a little bit."

JCHS scored the final six points of the first half for a 36-13 advantage at the break and opened the second with nine in a row to put the game out of reach. It was a running clock for a chunk of the second half as everyone available on



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School senior Sophie Saxman dribbles past Kaidyn Minyard of New Castle during the Patriots' 63-24 victory Thursday. Saxman led JCHS with 13 points, shooting 4-of-5 from the field and 5-of-6 from the foul line with five rebounds and three assists.

the Patriots' roster saw minutes.

Saxman and Denton were efficient in leading the way for Jay County. The former was 4-of-5 from the field and 5-of-6 from the line for a team-high 13 points. The latter went 6-of-7 — her only miss led to Saxman's put-back at the end of the first quarter — en route to a 12-point effort

"I just feel like we were having really good passes," said Denton, who came into the game averaging 2.8 points. "We were getting

really good looks down low. That was working well."

Hallie Schwieterman joined Saxman and Denton in double figures with 11 points.

Jay County was dominant across the board, out-rebounding the Trojans 39-19, including 17 on the offensive end, forcing 19 turnovers while committing only eight and dishing out 14 assists. Breanna Dirksen led the effort in pulling down rebounds (seven) and passing (five assists). Meredith Dirksen

and Muhlenkamp each grabbed six rebounds. Saxman and May recorded three assists apiece.

"That's just the character of this team," said McIntire. "They're very unselfish. They'll make that extra pass a lot of times instead of taking that shot for themselves. That's just the kind of kids they are. They're an unselfish group."

New Castle's Emma Hart led all scorers with 15 points but needed 18 field-goal attempts to reach that

total. No one else on the team had more than five.

The Patriots, who are in the midst of a four-game home stand, will return to Allen County Athletic Conference play Saturday when they host South Adams and then will have 10 days off.

### Junior varsity

Jay County took a brief lead in the final period but came up short in a 38-26 loss to the Trojans in three quarters.

The Patriots fell behind as they gave up 13 first-

Box score				
Jay County Patriots vs. New Castle Trojans				
Girls varsity summary				
New Castle (2-11)		FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Ayers	1-5	0-0	2	
Hart	6-18	0-0	15	
Blessinger	0-0	0-0	0	
Coulibaly	0-0	0-0	0	
Tyner	0-5	0-0	0	
Morehouse	1-4	0-0	2	
Owens	0-0	0-2	0	
Minyard	2-3	0-0	0	
Orr	2-3	0-0	5	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10-38</b>	<b>0-2</b>	<b>24</b>	
	<b>.263</b>	<b>.000</b>		
Def. rebound percentage: .452				
Jay County (10-2)		FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Muhlenkamp	2-8	2-2	6	
Saxman	4-5	5-6	13	
Schwieterman	5-14	1-2	11	
MDirksen	2-7	0-0	4	
Sibray	2-6	0-0	5	
Denton	6-7	0-0	12	
BDirksen	3-6	0-0	6	
May	2-6	0-0	6	
Newton	0-0	0-0	0	
Luzzi	0-0	0-0	0	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26-59</b>	<b>8-10</b>	<b>63</b>	
	<b>.441</b>	<b>.800</b>		
Def. rebound percentage: .815				
Score by quarters:				
N. Castle	8	5	4	7 — 24
Jay Co.	24	12	16	11 — 63
<b>3-point shooting:</b> New Castle 4-16 (Hart 3-11, Orr 1-1, Ayers 0-2, Morehouse 0-2). Jay County 3-14 (May 2-5, Sibray 1-1, Schwieterman 0-5, MDirksen 0-2, BDirksen 0-1).				
<b>Rebounds:</b> New Castle 19 (Owens 4, team 4, Hart 2, Tyner 2, Minyard 2, Ayers, Coulibaly, Morehouse, Orr). Jay County 39 (BDirksen 7, Muhlenkamp 6, MDirksen 6, Saxman 5, Schwieterman 4, Sibray 4, team 3, May 2, Denton, Newton).				
<b>Assists:</b> New Castle 2 (Tyner 2). Jay County 14 (BDirksen 5, Saxman 3, May 3, Muhlenkamp 2, Schwieterman).				
<b>Blocks:</b> New Castle 1 (Minyard). Jay County 2 (Muhlenkamp, MDirksen, Newton).				
<b>Personal fouls:</b> New Castle 7 (Owens 2, Ayers, Hart, Coulibaly, Tyner, Morehouse). Jay County 4 (Muhlenkamp, Saxman, Schwieterman, BDirksen).				
<b>Turnovers:</b> New Castle 19. Jay County 7.				

## FRHS outlasts Panthers

ROCKFORD, Ohio — Cali Wendel was quiet in the Midwest Athletic conference opener on Dec. 7.

Against the Panthers, Wendel made sure to get an early start to help the Indians secure their first conference win.

Wendel and Kennedy Muhlenkamp both scored in double figures as the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team took down the Parkway Panthers 38-30 Thursday to pull its record to .500 in the MAC.

Wendel got off to a good start from distance, hitting two threes in the first quarter and adding another in the second. She led the Indians (2-4, 1-1 MAC) in the first quarter to finish with 11 points.

Muhlenkamp put up a bulk of her points in the second quarter, when she

converted four shots. The junior led all scorers with 13.

Adria Miller led the Panthers (2-2, 1-1 MAC) with 11 points, but it wasn't enough to push them ahead.

Makenna Huelskamp scored six big points for Fort Recovery in the fourth quarter by hitting a three and 3-of-4 free throws to help it maintain the lead

### Wendel sets record

HUBER HEIGHTS, Ohio — Sage Wendel broke his own school record as the Fort Recovery boys swim team scored 38 points to finish eighth out of 12 teams at the Wayne High School Warrior Invite on Thursday.

The girls team scored 144 points to tie for second place with Bellbrook while Wayne earned the top spot with 139.

Despite finishing second in the 200-yard freestyle, Wendel's time of 2 minutes, 1.29 seconds was good enough to break his own school record.

The boys also had a second-place finish from Caleb Smith in the 100 backstroke.

The girls team was powered by four first-place finishes to tie with the Golden Eagles.

Teigen Fortkamp had two of the victories, coming in the 200 freestyle and the 100 backstroke. She was also a part of the 200 medley relay team that took first place. She was joined by Paige Guggenbiller, Joelle Kaup and Allison Knapke in the victory.

Guggenbiller also had an individual victory in the 100 breaststroke.

## Patriots dominate Raiders

Not many teams have been able to score in double digits against the Patriots this season.

The Southern Wells Raiders were no exception, as the Jay County Junior High School girls basketball teams dominated its opponent with the seventh Grade team beating the Raiders 29-6 while the eighth graders edged past 36-32.

Karsyn Schwieterman led both teams in scoring after being called up to play on the eighth grade team as well. She scored 11 with the seventh graders (11-0) and 14 with the eighth graders (10-1).

Charlee Peters was one point way from double figures, scoring nine for the younger team.

Kylie Shannon also scored nine points for the older team.

### Boys dominate

PONETO — The Jay County boys basketball teams had no trouble taking down the Southern Wells Raiders as the eighth grade team won 38-29 while the seventh grade team won 55-10.

Raif Beiswanger was the leading scorer for the older Patriots team (9-1), dropping 17 points.

It got out to an early 14-6 lead in the first quarter and held it until the end.

Nick Snow added eight points in a supporting role.

The seventh graders (9-1) were led by Carter and Caison Lloyd with 10 and nine points respectively.

The Patriots' defense choked the Raiders out, only allowing four points in the first quarter and two each in the remaining three periods.

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# Struggles ...

Continued from page 10  
Despite turning things up in the final period, the Patriots couldn't keep up, as Delta scored 18 with Hood adding nine more on a three, and three transition baskets that included a break-away slam dunk.

Other scores came off of solid ball movement, and sneaking behind Jay County's half-court trapping zone.

"D'Mare really got going for us," Detweiler said. "Our ball movement was better as the game went on. We found some layups and got behind the zone a little bit more. We got touches along the baseline, which the first half we just didn't, so we just cleaned some things up."

Jay County's best quarter of the night came in the opening frame, when they held Delta to only four points on 2-for-12 shooting.

Turning the ball over on the first four possessions, Jay County didn't get a shot up until there was 3 minutes, 53 seconds remaining in the quarter when Garringer converted a layup on a fake dribble hand off. It got three more buckets to close the quarter a pair of jumpers in the lane by Trevin Dunnington and a three-point play scored by Ben Crouch.

"The hard part is, the first quarter was 9-4, but if we don't turn it over, we could get it to be 15-4," Bomholt said. "That makes it a lot different."

"I tried to make them understand that (Delta) is better than us at every

position. So in order to beat them, you have to frustrate them. The first quarter we did that. We played really slow."

After the frustrating start to the season, Bomholt is starting to consider giving some younger players opportunities to work into the rotation.

To finish off the game, Bomholt subbed in sophomores Carter Fugiett and Cole Forthofer and freshman Jayden Comer who saw his first varsity minutes of his career.

"When you give a team five chances – and then basically these guys have had five chances – well, I think then we got to try to go with some younger kids," Bomholt said. "We looked at some of them there at the end and we're not going to seriously take a better look at who's playing. is getting minutes and then we'll kind of go from there."

## Junior varsity

The Patriots got lit up from distance as they fell to the Eagles 49-44 on Friday.

Jay County (4-2) had no answers for Lucas Bragg in the first half, who scored all 18 of Delta's first quarter points and six of 10 in the second. Bragg finished the game with 10 threes. A pair of fourth-quarter free throws helped him to his final tally of 32 points.

The offense slowed down for Delta

in the third quarter, allowing Jay County to cut the deficit to single digits going into the final period.

Carter Fugiett – one of the Patriots' leading scorers with 10 points – scored eight points in the fourth quarter, including two late threes from the right wing.

Jay County had 19 points in the final period, but Delta hit 13-of-16 free throws to maintain control and thwart the comeback effort.

Cole Forthofer matched Fugiett with 10 points, while Eli Dirksen (nine), Kade Sommers (eight) and Jayden Comer (seven) put up points as well.

## Freshmen

The Jay County freshman team was the only team to prevail against Delta, winning 45-37.

The Patriots (1-1) got off to a six-point first-half lead by only allowing the Eagles to score twice in the second quarter.

Delta made a fourth-quarter comeback by scoring 16 points in the final period. Chase Phillips 11 of his game-high 19 points in the period, but was forced out of the game after picking up his fifth foul in the quarter, ending the comeback effort.

Ben Barnett led Jay County with 13 points, nine of which came from 3-pointers.

Boston Barnett and Brock Wasson added 10 points each as well.

## Box score

Jay County Patriots vs.  
Class 3A No. 6 Delta Eagles

Score by quarters:  
Delta 4 14 11 18—47  
Jay Co. 9 2 4 11—26

### Boys varsity summary

	Delta (5-1)	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Hood	11-17	0-0	25	
Bond	1-3	0-0	3	
BEwards	0-2	0-0	0	
JoFurney	2-5	0-0	5	
Manor	0-4	0-0	0	
Bragg	0-2	0-0	0	
Bratton	0-0	0-0	0	
JaFurney	1-4	0-0	2	
Wood	1-1	0-0	3	
Wors	4-6	2-3	9	
Jones	0-1	0-0	0	
Ritchie	0-1	0-0	0	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20-46</b>	<b>2-3</b>	<b>45</b>	
	<b>.435</b>	<b>.667</b>		

Def. rebound percentage: .727

### Jay County (2-4)

	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Comer	0-0	0-0	0
Nichols	0-1	0-0	0
Muhlnkmp	0-0	0-0	0
JEdwards	0-0	0-0	0
Fugiett	0-1	0-0	0
Garringer	2-7	0-0	4
Dunnington	2-6	0-0	4
Crouch	2-6	3-5	7
Forthofer	0-0	0-0	0
Phillips	0-0	0-0	0
Bihn	3-5	3-3	9
Swoveland	1-6	0-0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10-32</b>	<b>6-8</b>	<b>26</b>
	<b>.313</b>	<b>.750</b>	

Def. rebound percentage: .615

**3-point shooting:** Delta 6-28 (Hood 3-8, Wood 1-1, Bond 1-2, JoFurney 1-4, Jones 0-1, Ritchie 0-1, BEwards 0-2, Bragg 0-2). Jay County 0-6 (Nichols 0-1, Dunnington 0-1, Crouch 0-1, Garringer 0-3).

**Rebounds:** Delta 24 (Hood 9, JaFurney 4, Jones 4, Manor 2, Bond, JoFurney, Bratton, Wors, team). Jay County 23 (Bihn 4, Swoveland 4, JEdwards 3, Garringer 3, Dunnington 3, Crouch 3, team 2, Muhlenkamp).

**Assists:** Delta 14 (JaFurney 5, Manor 4, JoFurney 2, Hood, Wors, Jones). Jay County 3 (Muhlenkamp, Edwards, Swoveland).

**Blocks:** Delta 1 (Wors). Jay County 2 (Crouch, Bihn).

**Personal fouls:** Delta 16 (Jones 4, Bond 3, Hood 2, JoFurney 2, Wors 2, Manor, JaFurney, Ritchie). Jay County 10 (Bihn 3, Nichols 2, Muhlenkamp 2, Garringer 2, Dunnington).

**Turnovers:** Delta 14. Jay County 18.

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

**Today**  
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.

**Monday**  
Jay County — Swimming at Adams Central — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Freshman boys basketball vs. Versailles — 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball at St. Marys Memorial — 5:30 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball vs. St. Marys Memorial — 5:30 p.m.

**Tuesday**  
Jay County — Junior high boys basketball vs. Delta — 6 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. St. Marys Memorial — 6 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball vs. Versailles — 5 p.m.

## TV sports

**Today**  
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)

**Sunday**  
9 a.m. — Premier League: Brighton & Hove Albion at Arsenal (USA)

11:30 a.m. — Premier League: Manchester United at Liverpool (NBC)

1 p.m. — NFL: Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Green Bay Packers (CBS); Chicago Bears at Cleveland Browns (FOX)

1 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Colgate at Illinois (BTN); USC at Auburn (ESPN)

4 p.m. — NFL: Washington Commanders at Los Angeles Rams (CBS)

4 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Missouri at Illinois (BTN)

4:25 p.m. — NFL: Dallas Cowboys at Buffalo Bills (FOX)

5:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Virginia Tech at Rutgers (FS1)

8:20 p.m. — NFL: Baltimore Ravens at Jacksonville Jaguars (NBC)

**Monday**  
2:30 p.m. — Famous Toastery Bowl college football: Western Kentucky vs. Old Dominion (ESPN)

6:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: UCLA at Ohio State (FS1)

7 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Clippers at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)

7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Oakland at Michigan State (BTN)

8:15 p.m. — NFL: Philadelphia Eagles at Seattle Seahawks (ABC)

**Tuesday**  
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Georgetown at Butler (FS1); Morehead State at Indiana (BTN)

7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Virginia at Memphis (ESPN2); Florida at Michigan (ESPN)

7 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Tampa Bay Lightning (Bally Indiana)

7:30 p.m. — NBA: Memphis Grizzlies at New Orleans Pelicans (TNT)

8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Marquette at Providence (FS1); Nicholls State at Maryland (BTN)

9 p.m. — Scooter's Coffee Frisco Bowl college football: UTSA at Marshall (ESPN)

9:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: North Carolina at Oklahoma (FS1)

10 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at Golden State Warriors (TNT)

**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.alooo247.com](http://www.alooo247.com), call (205) 264-1468 or email [411@alooo247.com](mailto:411@alooo247.com).

To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to [sports@thecr.com](mailto:sports@thecr.com).

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## Second quarter struggles

*Patriots turnover the ball eight times as Eagles go on 14-2 run*

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review

There are stories like those of Achilles or Superman, where the main character has a sole weakness. For the former it was his heel, while the latter's weakness is kryptonite.

The Patriots have had different "kryptonites" depending on the day.

On Dec. 9, it was the 3-point shot.

This time it was turnovers.

After a strong start against the Class 3A No. 6 Delta Eagles, the Jay County High School basketball team was plagued by turnovers as it couldn't keep control of the game that it lost 47-26 on Friday.

"When you turn it over out front, you don't have any way to defend it," JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt said. "We just don't understand the possession of a basketball, and how important that is."

"We can't play again like we did, and dig ourselves a hole, so we've got work to do."

The Patriots (2-4) ended up turning the ball over 18 times in the game. Six of those came in the second quarter, when Jay County went on another quarter-long scoring drought.

JCHS only managed to get off four shots in the period, and none of them found the basket until Gradin Swoveland hit his only shot of the game on a pull-up, fade-away jumper with seconds left to go in the half.

This is the third time in as many games where Jay County was held to three-or-less points in the second quarter. It was

blanked against Fort Recovery on Dec. 2, and only had three points — all of them scored by Liam Garringer — against New Castle on Dec. 9.

During the drought, the Eagles (5-1) took full advantage of Jay County being unable to effectively get back and set its defense.

"We got deflections, got some live ball turnovers and got in the open floor some," said Delta coach Mark Detweiler about how the Eagles turned this up in the second quarter. "(Jay County) needed a half-court game and we didn't want that. So at some point, you need to find a stretch in the game where you can play how you want to play."

"So we finally got the tempo where we needed at times."

Delta scored 14-straight points in the quarter, nine of which came from D'Amare Hood.

The Delta senior led all scorers with 25 in the game, and went on his own seven-point run to cap off the Eagles' hot second quarter. It started with a turnaround jump shot from the elbow on an assist from Jonny Manor, a three from the wing that was also assisted by Manor and a transition layup when he stole the ball, taking it coast to coast.

Once the Patriots got down, they never were able to find the spark needed to catch back up, scoring four points in the third and 11 in the fourth. The Patriots' leading scorer, Westly Bihn, had all nine of his points in the fourth after finally getting some paint touches and knocking down 3-of-3 free throws.

See **Struggles** page 9



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School's Gradin Swoveland (35) fades away while shooting a jump shot near the end of the second quarter of the Patriots' 47-26 loss to the sixth-ranked Delta Eagles on Friday. Swoveland's shot was his only make of the game and snapped a 14-0 scoring drought.

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## Tribe falls in nailbiter to open up MAC play

FORT RECOVERY — The Indians dropped their first game of the season on Tuesday.

On Friday, a slow third quarter ended up being the difference in their second loss of the season.

The Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team was held to only three points in the third quarter as it lost the Midwest Athletic Conference opener against the Parkway Panthers 33-30.

The Indians (2-2, 0-1 MAC) led 20-19 at halftime because of a 14-point second quarter. Alex Dues fueled the scoring for Fort Recovery, hitting two threes and a pair of twos to score 10 of his game-high 13 points.

The game took a turn in Parkway's (3-2, 1-0 MAC) in the third quarter, only allowing Reece Guggenbiller to hit one 3-

point jump shot to hold the Indians to three points from the field.

The Panthers scored seven points of their own on a three from Trent Rollins and a basket by both Wyatt Carpenter and Douglass Hughs.

Parkway knocked down just enough of its fourth-quarter free throws to keep the lead, thwarting the Indians' comeback effort. The Panthers went 5-for-11 from the charity stripe while Fletcher Smith added a hoop.

No one on Parkway scored in double-figures, but it didn't matter as eight players contributed offensively. Rollins and Brayden Bruns led the way with eight apiece.

Gavin Faller was the only Indian outside of Dues to hit more than one shot, putting in one in the first and two in the fourth to tally seven points.

## Steelers at Colts will be an important game

By **GEORGE BREMER**

The Herald Bulletin (Anderson) Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — DeForest Buckner is not prone to hyperbole.

The Indianapolis Colts defensive tackle is a level-headed locker-room leader whose words almost always are chosen carefully and with specific intent.

As a result, those words carry additional weight with his teammates and other interested observers.

So, when Buckner talks about the urgency of Saturday's matchup against the Pittsburgh Steelers, ears are certain to perk up.

"We've got the opportunity to control our own destiny," Buckner said of Indianapolis' playoff fate. "It's a playoff game, you know what I mean? That's how you've got to approach this week. Each and every week on out is critical to if we are going to make the playoffs or not."

"I'm treating this week as a playoff week. I feel like everybody is on the same page."

Pittsburgh cornerback Joey Porter Jr. shared an almost identical sentiment in the opposing locker room. And with good reason.

Both teams enter the weekend among six teams tied for the final two AFC postseason positions with identical 7-6 records. By virtue of matching 5-4 marks against conference opponents, the Steelers and Colts currently hold the sixth and seventh playoff seeds.

But with a group so tightly bunched, the standings can undergo wild shifts from one week to the next.

The tiebreaker scenarios change based on the number — and identity — of the teams involved, and keeping track of all the moving pieces can quickly cause mental fatigue.

In the simplest terms, the winner Saturday at

Lucas Oil Stadium has a much clearer path to the postseason over the final three weeks. The loser could be looking at a long and treacherous climb back to playoff contention.

"It's a great opportunity," Indianapolis linebacker Zaire Franklin said. "It's one that you look forward to all season, all offseason, back at home in Lucas Oil against a great opponent, a great coach. I know they'll be disciplined. I know they'll be physical. (It's the) type of battle you're always looking forward to, so I'm thankful for the challenge."

Pittsburgh has had plenty of punch against the Colts historically.

The Steelers lead the all-time series 26-6 counting the postseason, and they've won the last eight meetings dating back to 2008. Indianapolis' last home win in the series came Nov. 28, 2005, nearly three years before Lucas Oil Stadium opened.