

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Growing generation

FR health and fitness business has continued to expand

By **BAILEY CLINE**
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Learning and maintaining a better lifestyle is Jen Thompson's goal for her clients.

She's hoping to see that through with various additions she's made to her fitness center, Jeneration Fitness.

In May, Thompson opened Jenfit and Fresh Cafe and Wellness at 1100 Commerce St., moving just a few doors down from where her original facility opened about eight years ago. Teamed with other coaches and holistic practitioners, the business now offers fresh food alongside its open gym complete with exercise classes, therapy treatments and infrared saunas.

Thompson, a Fort Recovery native, has been teaching fitness classes for 30 years. About a decade back, she had a health scare delivering her daughter, prompting her to take more steps toward a better lifestyle.

"I (was) active, but I never really zoned too much into the nutrition," said Thompson, who has a master's degree in exercise physiology from Ball State University. "I started dabbling in meal preparation, because that helped me so much to stay on track, and to eat clean, and really understand ingredients that are in our food sources. So it just kind of started snowballing into helping others with their meal preparation and teaching some basic, realistic approach to eating better."

Thompson became certified in holistic nutrition, allowing her to open her own cafe and prepare fresh meals for her community.

"I just had this mission, wouldn't it be great before I would die to see the day that there would be a fresh food choice in every town? So I wanted to start with my community," Thompson said. "Hopefully down the road I do see this dream come true with neighboring communities coming on



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Jen Thompson's Jeneration Fitness of Fort Recovery has seen continued expansion this year with the opening of a new location and the offering of prepared meals at other locations in Fort Recovery, Portland, Coldwater and Greenville.

board with the nutrition aspect."

Her fresh, home-cooked meals, she explained, are mostly organic and don't contain artificial ingredients or other additives. She offers a wide array of "family friendly" foods, including "guiltless desserts" such as sweet potato brownies and drinks such as collagen coffee, detox lemonade or smoothies. Meals on the menu this week include aloha chicken, stuffed pepper soup, Italian sub salads and buffalo chicken or wraps.

Single portions and family sized portions are available, with

folks having the option to order ahead or pop by the cafe during regular business hours Monday through Saturday. Thompson's prepared meals are also available at Clear Choice Chiropractic in Portland and Wayne IGA in Fort Recovery, as well as locations in Coldwater and Greenville in Ohio.

"It's fresh, but it's good-tasting, and I want people to understand that," Thompson said. "I'm just not a lady that makes salads. There's all kinds of foods that come out of here in combinations that help your gut health, your taste buds, to understand what real food tastes like."

Clients may take advantage of the facility's infrared saunas, which use light to make heat. They're also able to undergo one of the various therapy treatments available, such as red-light therapy, lymphatic therapy or nutrition response therapy, the latter of which allows folks to discover food sensitivities, bacteria, parasites or heavy metals affecting them.

Now located in the same building, Katie Diller's Faithful Hands Therapeutic Massage provides therapy treatments alongside Thompson. Diller has been a massage therapist for 18 years.

See **Growing** page 2

Asbent students create a challenge

Education depends on showing up for classes

Editor's note: This is the first in a multi-part story about chronic absenteeism from school in Indiana.

By **CASEY SMITH**
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana lawmakers are adamant that moving bills to help improve student literacy and bolster career readiness is high-priority in the upcoming legislative session. But their efforts could end up fruitless if the state can't solve another issue plaguing schools: Hoosier kids aren't showing up to the classroom.

The latest Indiana data shows that about 40% of students statewide missed 10 or more school days last year, and nearly one in five were "chronically absent" for at least 18 days.

Student absences have been on the rise since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in Indiana and across the nation. Although Indiana's latest numbers show slight improvements, absentee rates during the 2022-23 school year were still 8% higher than before the pandemic.

Educators around the state say the reasons for absences vary, but family challenges some students face at home, along with hard-to-break tendencies to keep kids home when even mildly unwell — a habit borne out of the pandemic — are key factors. And schools are getting creative to try to combat the growing problem.

Education experts note that being absent as few as three days out of the school year affects test scores and overall academic performance. Getting to school every day also helps kids develop a routine and increases their influential engagement time with adults.

The student demographic groups with the largest gaps in state language arts and math testing since the pandemic are more likely to be chronically absent.

See **Absent** page 2

Aid opened to Gaza

By **CHRISTINA STORZ**
and **CINDY RIECHAU**

dpa
Tribune News Service

TEL AVIV — Israel opened the Kerem Shalom border crossing for aid deliveries to the Gaza Strip on Sunday, while telecommunications services in some areas of the embattled territory were gradually being restored after several days of outage.

"Starting today, U.N. aid trucks will undergo security checks and be transferred directly to Gaza via Kerem Shalom, to abide by our agreement with the U.S.," the Israeli authority COGAT, which is responsible for coordinating activities with the Palestinian territories, wrote on X.

The opening is intended to increase the daily amount of humanitarian

Israel had come under increasing pressure, including from the U.S.

aid reaching the Gaza Strip.

Given the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the sealed-off coastal area, Israel has recently come under increasing international pressure — including from the United States, its closest ally.

Kerem Shalom was used as a goods crossing into Gaza before the war and its reopening will reduce the strain on the Rafah border crossing with Egypt.

In Gaza, telecommunications services in several regions of the embattled area were gradually being restored after the most recent outage began on Thursday.

The networks in the sealed-off coastal area have failed several times since the beginning of the Gaza war on October 7, however, this was the longest interruption so far.

See **Aid** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Christmas tunes

Maddie Schoenlein, a freshman, plays the flute Sunday evening during the Fort Recovery Local Schools band concert. The high school band's selection of songs included a version of "Ave Maria" by German composer Franz Biebl.

Deaths

Tonia Moore, 70, Dunkirk
Ruth Rogers, 92, Pennville
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 46 degrees Sunday. The low was 39.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the mid 20s with winds gusting to 20 miles per hour. Skies will be partly cloudy Wednesday with a high in the lower 40s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

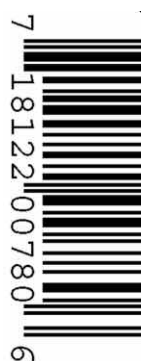
In review

Portland Board of Works will hold a special meeting at 4 p.m. Thursday in council chambers at Portland Fire Station, 1616 N. Franklin St. The agenda includes bid opening for an equalization basin and wet weather pump station for the city's wastewater treatment plant.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of this week's Jay School Board meeting.

Thursday — Results from the FRHS girls basketball game against Memorial.



Growing ...

Continued from page 1
“Our goal is to make this a wellness center for everybody of all ages to be able to come,” said Diller. “(We) want this to be a place that you can de-stress, relax ... we’re learning that stress causes the biggest inflammation in the body, and we want to be that place that you can come and try to get rid of that.”

As for the gym, it’s open to anyone, Thompson explained. She and her coaches offer about 15 classes throughout the week, including specialty barre classes, suspension training, kickboxing and other workouts. Classes are available as early as 5:45 a.m. and as late as 6 p.m. Cheryl Schoen has been utilizing Thompson’s services for nearly eight years.

“When you come to a workout and you have someone in front of you, it makes you do it, it gives you more incentive to do it, rather than do it all on your own,” she said. “You can get a really good workout and also get something to eat after that’s healthy for your body.” Alongside the gym and cafe, Thompson also manages her Fresh Start Program, an

accountability program that involves working with an individual for 90 days to keep in check with their nutrition and wellness journey. She considers herself a 24-hour, seven days a week coach for those in the program, who she checks in with daily. “People say, ‘Why do you do all this?’” Thompson said. “Because not everybody needs

the same thing. And I certainly continue working on my health, it’s a journey you’re always going to be on ...” “I encourage people to try it one time for free,” she said. “Just take a class, see if I’m your style. See what you think. It’s a pretty non-intimidating, non-judgmental zone here full of like-minded people that just want to get better.”

CR almanac

Wednesday 12/20	Thursday 12/21	Friday 12/22	Saturday 12/23	Sunday 12/24
43/28 Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast for Wednesday, when the high will be around 43.	46/33 Thursday looks to be mostly cloudy, with a low around freezing at night.	47/36 There’s a chance of rain on Friday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy. The high won’t surpass 50.	49/39 Another day of mostly cloudy skies on Saturday, when the high will be around 49 degrees.	52/44 Rain is also possible on Christmas Eve under mostly cloudy skies.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$543 million	47-52-53-59-63-68-73-76 Cash 5: 4-7-11-28-32 Estimated jackpot: \$199,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$41 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 7-8-5 Pick 4: 3-9-7-9 Pick 5: 5-3-8-3-3 Evening Pick 3: 8-7-0 Pick 4: 4-8-2-6 Pick 5: 1-3-4-6-0 Rolling Cash 5: 1-13-23-35-37 Estimated jackpot: \$140,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 1-3-1 Daily Four: 4-6-1-6 Evening Daily Three: 3-1-7 Daily Four: 6-3-7-2 Quick Draw: 6-11-13-20-24-26-32-34-36-39-42-46	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.57 Jan. corn4.67 Wheat5.43	Jan. beans13.09 Wheat 5.78
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.57 Jan. corn4.67 Feb. corn4.68	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.32 Jan. corn4.49 Beans12.96 Jan. beans13.02 Wheat5.70
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.52 Jan. corn4.62 Beans12.99	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.52 March corn4.59 Beans12.80 Feb. beans12.81 Wheat5.33

Today in history

In 1154, Henry II was crowned King of England. He ruled for 34 years, regaining control of areas in England, Wales and France over the course of his reign.

In 1776, Thomas Paine published the first installment in “The American Crisis,” a pamphlet series published during the American Revolution in order to boost morale among soldiers.

In 1843, Charles Dickens published “A Christmas Carol,” selling 6,000 copies at the time. The classic story about a curmudgeonly old man, Ebenezer Scrooge, finding a new perspective on life has been retold countless times with various movie and theatre adaptations.

In 1924, the last Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost was sold in London.

In 1932, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) started transmitting frequencies overseas.

In 1941, Adolf Hitler took control of the German Army.

In 1955, Carl Perkins recorded “Blue Suede Shoes” at Memphis Recording Service studio. Other popular artists, including Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash, performed their own renditions of the song.

In 1980, “9 to 5” was released. The comedy film starred Dolly Parton, Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin.

In 1997, “Titanic” premiered for the first time. Directed by James Cameron and starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet, the movie about the doomed ship and two lovers became one of the highest-grossing films of all time at \$2.2 billion.

In 1998, the United States House of Representatives impeached President Bill Clinton. He had been charged with perjury and obstruction of justice. Clinton was acquitted by the United States Senate the next month.

— The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.	Board of Works, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.
Thursday 4 p.m. — Portland	

Obituaries

Tonia Moore

Nov. 19, 1953-Dec. 9, 2023
Tonia Moore, age 70, a resident of Dunkirk, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, at The Waters of Dunkirk. Tonia was born Nov. 19, 1953, Portland, Indiana, the daughter of Leroy and Eulalia (Slusser) Binegar. Tonia graduated from Dunkirk High School in 1974. She worked at Tyson and the Jay County Retirement Home in Portland. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Dunkirk. Tonia married Rick Moore on Sept. 3, 1983.

Survivors include:
Husband — Rick Moore, Dunkirk, Indiana

Daughter — Michelle Moore, Dunkirk, Indiana
Sister — Donna Mannix (fiancé: Jim Stephenson), Hartford City, Indiana

Four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren
Visitation will be held Thursday, from 5 to 6 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. A memorial service will follow at 6 p.m. at the funeral home.



Moore

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

Ruth E. Rogers, Pennville, Aug. 3, 1931-Dec. 16, 2023 Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

Absent ...

Continued from page 1
To that end, Indiana Secretary of Education Katie Jenner, along with Republican state legislative leaders, have said that high rates of absenteeism are likely contributing to the state’s dismal literacy rates. One in five third-graders currently lacks foundational reading skills, which Jenner and others are calling “a crisis.”

Lawmakers and local officials are in tandem that part of the response needs to include more targeted efforts to get kids showing up to school consistently.

But agreeing on new policies could prove more challenging. Some ideas emphasize increased relationship-building between schools and parents, and directing more resources at schools to help hire additional support staff, for example. Other possible solutions are more punitive, however, and could see local courts get more involved in compelling students to go to school.

“Schools are working really hard to improve attendance, and we’re struggling,” said Lee Ann Kwiatkowski, director of public education, CEO at Muncie Community Schools. “We’re trying hard, but we still have a lot of work yet to do — this is something we all have to combat together.”

Aid ...

Continued from page 1
On the political front, the Palestinian extremist group Hamas said earlier on Sunday it won’t enter into negotiations on further prisoner exchanges without an Israeli ceasefire.

“Hamas reaffirms its stance not to conduct any negotiations to exchange prisoners unless the Zionist aggression against our people stops once and for all,” Hamas said, adding that this message had been passed on to all mediators involved.

It comes as Qatar says it is currently in talks to mediate between Israel and Hamas over another humanitarian pause in fighting in Gaza.

High-ranking Israeli and Qatari officials have reportedly met in Norway in recent days to discuss the release of the remaining hostages held by Hamas for Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails. Neither side has officially confirmed the reports.

Last month, Israel and Hamas agreed to a ceasefire mediated by Egypt and Qatar that lasted about one week and facilitated the release of 105 hostages.

In return, Israel released 240 Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails. According to Israeli estimates, 112 hostages are still being held in Gaza.

Israel is increasingly coming under mounting calls from the international community to reduce civilian casualties in Gaza but so far seems to be unfazed by them.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock and British Foreign Secretary David Cameron on Sunday called for a “sustainable ceasefire.”

In a joint article for the Sunday Times, the two top diplomats warned that “too many civilians

have been killed,” in what was considered a significant shift in tone. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin is due in Israel this week.

Meanwhile, following allegations of a deadly bulldozer operation by Israel’s army in Gaza, Palestinian Health Minister Mai al-Kaila has called for an investigation, the Al Jazeera news channel reported on Sunday.

Al Jazeera, which is owned by the government of Qatar, cited doctors and eyewitnesses who reportedly said that Israel’s army had used a bulldozer to destroy the tents of displaced people in the courtyard of the Kamal Adwan Hospital, killing 20 in the process.

The Palestinian health minister called for an international investigation. According to eyewitnesses and medical teams, Palestinians have been “buried alive.”

Israel’s army did not comment on the allegations, which could not be independently verified.

SERVICES

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

Wednesday
Rogers, Ruth: 2 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Thursday
Moore, Tonia: 6 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

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Christmas cards are becoming outdated

By DIANA DOLECKI
Special to The Commercial Review

That's done. The Christmas cards are in the mail. I usually like sending Christmas cards. It is a way for me to touch base with people I don't see often. I am one of the few people who actually like getting those over the top letters telling me that their lives are perfect. I know better than to believe that.

As I See It



I have listened to them tell me the story that lurks between the lines. I hear about petty disagreements and hurt feelings as well as the joy. In most cases the happiness outweighs the bad. Other times, I listen. Just listen.

By the time they call again, days or weeks

later, the problems that caused so much pain have dissipated, and they are reasonably happy once again.

I think this is the last year that I am going to send out real cards. My handwriting is getting worse. I half expect the post office to sign me up for a writing class.

When my hubby delivered the local newspaper we received enough cards to go around the door twice. I tape them to the

walls around the door. This year there are three so far.

Social media seems to have eclipsed the post office in the greeting business. After all, electronic greetings appear instantly and don't clutter up the outside of the fridge. Another plus is that they don't require one to stand in front of the selection in the store. There are religious cards, cards with Santa or the Grinch and dozens more. Do you get the funny one or the serious one? Do you go for cheap or expensive?

At some point you need stamps. Once again you have to decide on the design. It is enough to make the reindeer irrita-

ble. Wait a minute, reindeer aren't allowed in the building. Maybe that was Mrs. Claus I saw.

Anyway, this year's cards are in the hands of the postal service.

The post office is also delivering two boxes of gifts to our daughter and her family. I didn't get everything I intended to buy, but everyone has at least one present. Granddaughter Emma is getting cash. Anything else will have to wait for her birthday in the first week of the year.

Apparently she is starting on her prom dress already. She wants cash so she can buy fabric and thread. That girl never ceases to amaze me.

Greeting cards and presents are just two of the ways we celebrate. We have two big plastic boxes full of decorations. Most of it will stay right where it is. It seems that buying a live tree, decorating it with handmade ornaments then taking them back off after the needles have turned vicious and homicidal has become more work than it is worth.

I read that somewhere there is a place that rents Christmas trees. After the holiday they take the tree back. They do this until the tree reaches a set height then they plant it so it can live out its life in tree heaven. What a terrific idea. I would love to do

that. I am beginning to understand my mom's tree preference. She always had the iconic silver tree. Sadly, none of us wanted the bedraggled tree, and it was set out to the curb with her other possessions none of us wanted.

Trees, cards and handmade decorations are all parts of the grand birthday party we throw every year.

For many, it is a religious holiday to celebrate the birth of a child who changed the world. For others, it is an exercise in spending without going broke.

However, and whatever you celebrate, I hope it is the best ever.

Hearing issues lead to awkward outings

DEAR ABBY: We live in a retirement community. Many of our friends have hearing loss that ranges from slight to profound. While most of them have the money to travel the globe, they don't invest in hearing aids, which confounds us.

In restaurants, they keep bending their ears toward us and saying "Eh?" to just about every word. We are careful to enunciate clearly for their benefit, but it doesn't help much. Our natural inclination is to speak louder, which has embarrassed us several times as other diners grew quiet and turned to look at us.

On the most recent occasion, I brought a little notebook and pen

Dear Abby



in my purse, and when I wrote out a couple of responses, the wife looked offended. It didn't feel comfortable, but I thought it would be better than yelling or avoiding conversation altogether.

We find ourselves declining invitations with them more often in favor of electronic communication. These are delightful peo-

ple otherwise. We're just not sure how to handle this. Do you have any suggestions? — WORKING EARS IN FLORIDA

DEAR WORKING EARS: Yes, I do. Tell these people privately that they may need to get their hearing checked because you are having to shout when you go out in public. Hearing loss happens to many seniors, and those who have the problem can find themselves increasingly isolated.

This is why it's so important to consult an audiologist when you start noticing a need to raise the volume on the television, or you often have to ask

people to repeat what they have said to you.

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DEAR ABBY: For years, my sister has been planning to retire and move in with my husband and me. She lives out of state, so this is a major move for her. She is a strong anti-vax advocate and refuses to get vaccinated for COVID. My husband said she can't move in with us unless she is. How can I tell her diplomatically that she's no longer welcome to live with us? This is really upsetting for me, and I would appreciate your advice. — DISTRAUGHT IN MICHIGAN

DEAR DISTRAUGHT: Whether to get vaccinated is a personal choice. You have made yours, and she has made hers. Quit being "diplomatic," and don't debate this with her. TELL her the terms under which she is welcome to move in. If she cannot meet those terms, she will have to make other living arrangements. PERIOD.

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Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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.

Wednesday
WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

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

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group

for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday
STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and teal is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

ORGAN TRANS-PLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

JAY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY — Will meet at 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Jay County Public Library. The public is welcome.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vin-

cent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

Friday
PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

Saturday
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

Sunday
A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Dec. 26
JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard's Restaurant.

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

7	9	8	2	4	5	1	6	3
2	6	5	1	3	9	4	7	8
4	1	3	6	8	7	5	9	2
1	5	9	3	2	6	7	8	4
8	3	4	9	7	1	2	5	6
6	7	2	8	5	4	9	3	1
3	4	6	5	9	2	8	1	7
9	8	7	4	1	3	6	2	5
5	2	1	7	6	8	3	4	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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The Dallas Morning News
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According to a recent report from The Washington Post, the Biden administration has stopped warning social media companies about possible foreign meddling on their platforms, which means the government is starting to treat those platforms like what they are: publishers. It's a logical move, but one that accelerates national security threats.

Foreign misinformation is a serious problem and a real threat to democracy. According to a 2018 bipartisan Senate report, Russia flooded every major social media platform with disinformation during the 2016 election season, and may

Guest Editorial

have swayed the outcome. To state the obvious: American elections should be decided by informed American voters, not misinformed voters or Russian bots.

By stepping back from efforts to cooperate with these platforms, the government isn't saying the project isn't important, it's saying regulating speech is not its job. And, it must be acknowledged, it's

responding to a crush of lawsuits by Republicans claiming government censorship of conservative views. That campaign has extended beyond the federal national security apparatus to public health agencies and even universities. Counterproductively, it has also encompassed government policies censoring some social media companies, showing that those efforts aren't really about free and open debate so much as they are about promoting one party's viewpoint.

Regardless of motive, the lawsuits have worked. This summer, a federal judge ruled the executive branch can't meet with tech platforms about removing falsehoods from

their sites. That decision, now before the U.S. Supreme Court, included exemptions for national security threats, especially election interference. But now even that has apparently stopped.

There are other concerns here, as well. The feds have long worked with social media companies to combat criminal activity, including child sexual abuse and terrorism. It's not clear whether the recent changes will affect those efforts.

The upshot of all this is easy to predict. The tasks of fact-checking and vetting the sources of information will fall to the platforms themselves, and we have little confidence

they'll do it well. Content published on social media platforms is about to become even less trustworthy and more perilous than before.

The regulatory system for internet platforms, governed by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and popularly referred to as Section 230, has never been sustainable. It allows social media companies to operate without responsibility or accountability. But publishers must answer for what they publish, whether they do it with professional journalists or amateur influencers.

Social media news is about to get more dangerous. Hopefully, that's the first step toward it becoming more accountable.

Groups have been silent for too long

By SHOSHANAH CONOVER and WENDI GEFFEN

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

The events of Oct. 7 and the war that has followed, at an incomprehensible scale of civilian violence and death, is devastating. This war so far away feels palpably close to us all and has shaken our community to its core.

For us as women, there has been an additional aspect of the attacks on Oct. 7 that has felt like a double assault: the systemic rape of women and girls by Hamas terrorists and the lack of response from the world.

Sexual and gender-based violence is horrific, with emotional wounds that linger well beyond the physical wounds. The healing process for the survivors of the Oct. 7 assaults begins with being heard and believed. We cannot overstate the importance of supporting these women, like we would all survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

We recoiled when reading about Shani Louk, a 23-year-old German Israeli, who can be seen in a Hamas-made video, semiconscious and half-naked, being taken to Gaza in the back of a pickup truck with men sitting astride her. Another video shows a woman being led out of a vehicle by heavily armed men, her wrists and ankles sliced open and her jeans bloodied at the crotch. First responders have recounted finding dead Israeli women with unmistakable evidence of rape and mutilation.

Our heartbreak is not only that these brutal sexual assaults were perpetrated against these women and girls, but that so many international women's organizations and leaders remained silent about it for too long. That is why this has felt like a double assault.

We ask that all people of goodwill acknowledge this assault, horror and heartbreak. Your bearing witness matters. Speaking in solidarity supports survivors to describe the horrors they endured without fear. When survivors believe they will not be believed or that the crime will be minimized, many will not speak up for fear of retraumatization.

Guest Opinion

Speaking in solidarity, we bring attention to the urgent need to release all hostages still being held in Gaza, including those who endured or witnessed sexual and gender-based crimes — enabling them to receive the vital physical and emotional medical care that they are currently being denied.

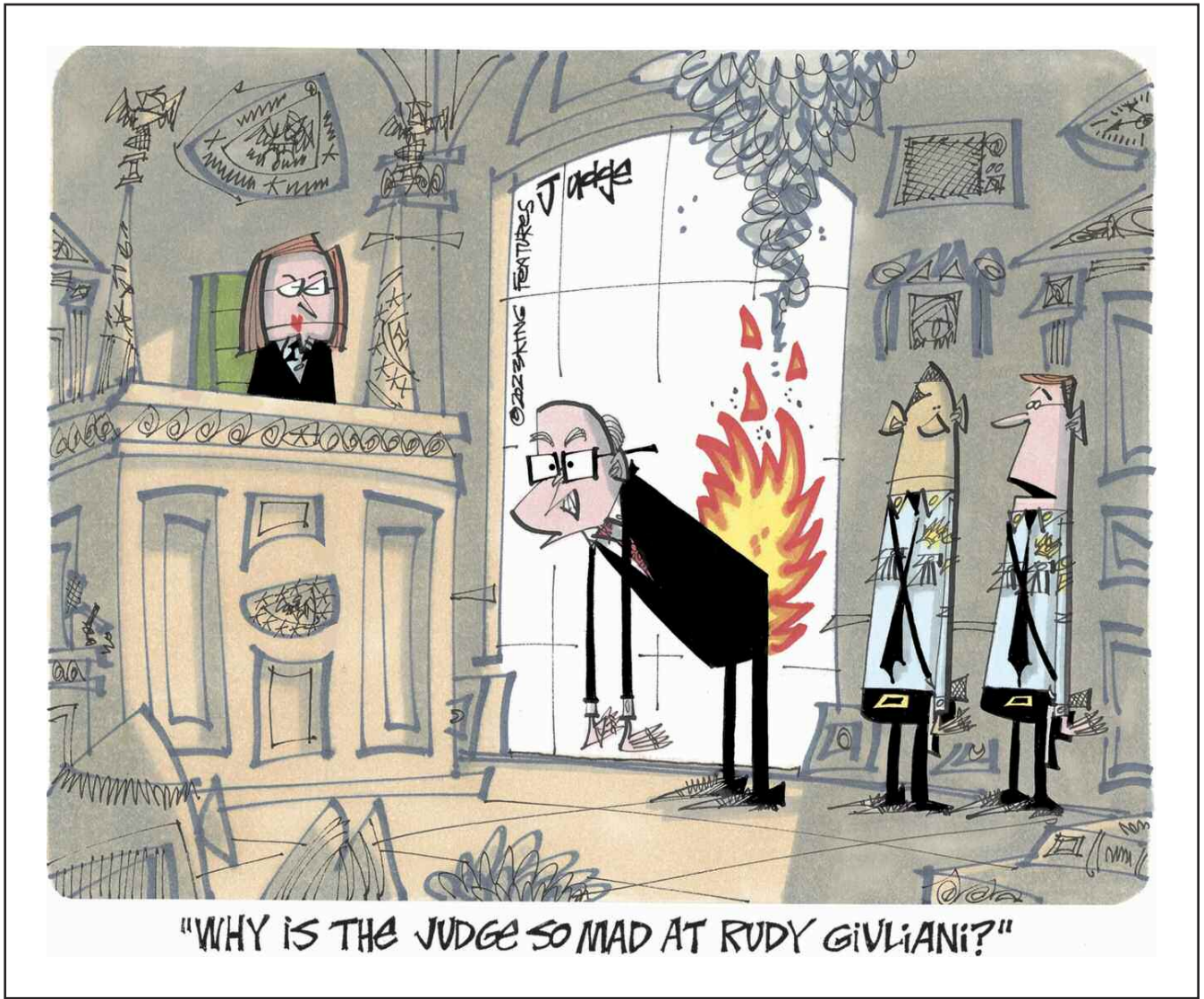
Speaking in solidarity, we increase pressure on organizations to condemn and sanction the perpetrators, which helps prevent the recurrence of these severe violations of international law and fundamental morality.

As so many know firsthand, sexual and gender-based violence can be devastating, and the shame lingers well beyond the physical wounds. By speaking in solidarity, we enable the survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and their families — and the families of the victims who did not survive, like Louk — to feel the support they need to help them begin to heal.

We can join with grassroots efforts in Israel and elsewhere, such as the Deborah Institute, which has launched the Civil Commission on Oct. 7 Crimes by Hamas against Women and Children. This unique and all-too-rare collaboration of international human rights experts and women's rights organizations was created to gather Oct. 7 testimony, evidence and advocacy and to provide expert advice.

This week, the Jewish community celebrates Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights. We are reminded that even a small flame can dispel the darkness. In that spirit, may we come together to kindle flames of hope for the world we all share, and the type of world we hope to create, together.

.....
Conover is senior rabbi at Temple Shelom in Chicago and Geffen is the senior rabbi at North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe.



"WHY IS THE JUDGE SO MAD AT RUDY GIULIANI?"

Worker shortage plagues us all

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

I can't be the only person wondering where all the workers went.

Immediately following the pandemic, it made sense that the economy would take time to stabilize and settle again. But it's almost 2024, and everywhere I look there are shortages in virtually every industry.

Here are just a few:
Indiana has a lawyer shortage that is hurting some Hoosiers.

Parents can attest to a shortage of bus drivers, with routes combined and often canceled.

And Indiana's teacher shortage continues.

Nurses, doctors and virtually all other medical professionals are at a premium.

School counselors are sorely in need.
Child care is virtually impossible to find, especially in rural areas. And it is set to worsen.

There is an overall labor shortage in Indiana and the United States. So, how is it possible to have so many shortages with an ever-growing population?

I am not an economist, so I reached out to the experts to try to break it down. Both Matt Will at the University of Indianapolis and Michael Hicks at Ball State University cautioned, though, that there isn't one answer.

Partisans want to latch onto one reason that fits their narrative. But it's a more complicated picture than that.

Will said the direct answer is a smaller share of people are participating in the workforce. Before the



Niki Kelly

pandemic, 63.4% of people in the U.S. were participating. That is now down to 62.7%, which equates to about 2.4 million people who are no longer working.

So why aren't they working? Will said one factor is child care. A lack of access, whether that's not finding any open seats or not being able to afford them, has kept some parents at home — preventing them from working.

Another issue is that many people have simply decided to accept a lower standard of living. Perhaps during COVID-19, they lost their job and spent more time at home with their children and families. They realized they could live on less, and are now choosing a lower standard of living with a higher quality of life, Will said.

Hicks focused more on wages driving workforce availability and said Indiana's average weekly wages for all employees is substantially lower than the national average by about a quarter. And that isn't made up in the cost-of-living differential.

He said in the private sector businesses have had to increase wages to meet or exceed inflation. This is causing a recent national rebound, as evidenced by a decline in help wanted ads.

But Indiana's wages have remained low: "Most businesses are

not psychologically prepared for the wages they need to pay," Hicks said.

Similarly, in the public sector, wages are the primary reason for a shortage. He said teachers are making less than they were in 2000 in inflation-adjusted terms. This is despite lawmakers putting more and more money into the system.

"Plenty of people want to teach but it pays so poorly it's one of the least viable occupations today," Hicks said.

So, with the 2024 legislature coming in January, is there anything that state officials can do?

Hicks said they could reduce some impediments in the area of child care by subsidizing it but that's not a long-term solution.

Will argues that anything they would do would make it worse.

"Government spending doesn't help. I think they should be hands off. That is my philosophic belief," he said.

Honestly, after doing research and interviews I feel like I understand more what is happening and why. But it doesn't make it any easier for Hoosiers who are waiting three months for doctor appointments, who are unable to afford day care or who consistently experience poor retail service.

And it doesn't help the workers who are showing up in dealing with the immense pressure and long hours.

Maybe one day we will see this as a growing pain, but right now it's just painful.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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FTC taking more time

By MARIA HALKIAS
The Dallas Morning News
Tribune News Service

Federal regulators have more time to decide on Kroger's pending \$26.4 billion takeover of Albertsons.

The companies and the Federal Trade Commission agreed to move a key decision date from December to Jan. 17, according to a filing in a lawsuit pending in California that seeks to block one of the largest retail takeovers in U.S. history.

The FTC and Kroger both declined to comment on the timing of regulators' plan to disclose their assessment of the deal. The agency could allow Kroger to move ahead or force it to divest more than the 413 stores it has proposed to sell to clear antitrust concerns. It also could sue to stop the merger.

The California lawsuit was filed in February by San Francisco attorney Joseph Alioto on behalf of consumers there and in other states. It claims the merger of the two largest supermarket chains "may substantially lessen competition and tend to create a monopoly" in several areas of the U.S.

Last month, Kroger gave the FTC its plan to sell 413 stores, including 26 in Texas and two in Louisiana, to C&S Wholesale Grocers.

The FTC review will take the planned divestiture into account. The Teamsters and progressive members of Congress have been critical of the sale to C&S as part of their overall opposition to Kroger's acquisition of its largest competitor. Critics cite the 2015 acquisition of Safeway by Albertsons as a warning that divestiture cures haven't achieved the desired outcomes.

Scott Moses, an investment banker advising Albertsons in the pending transaction, said in a statement issued late Thursday that it's not correct to compare the prospects of C&S as a buyer to Haggen, a grocer that failed after buying stores as part of the Albertsons purchase of Safeway.

Haggen was an 18-store chain operating in Oregon and Washington when it swallowed 146 stores in Southern California, Arizona and Nevada and converted them to its brand. Those stores were "over 1,000 miles away from where most anyone had ever heard of Haggen," Moses said.

"C&S is a radically stronger buyer than Haggen in several critical ways," he said.

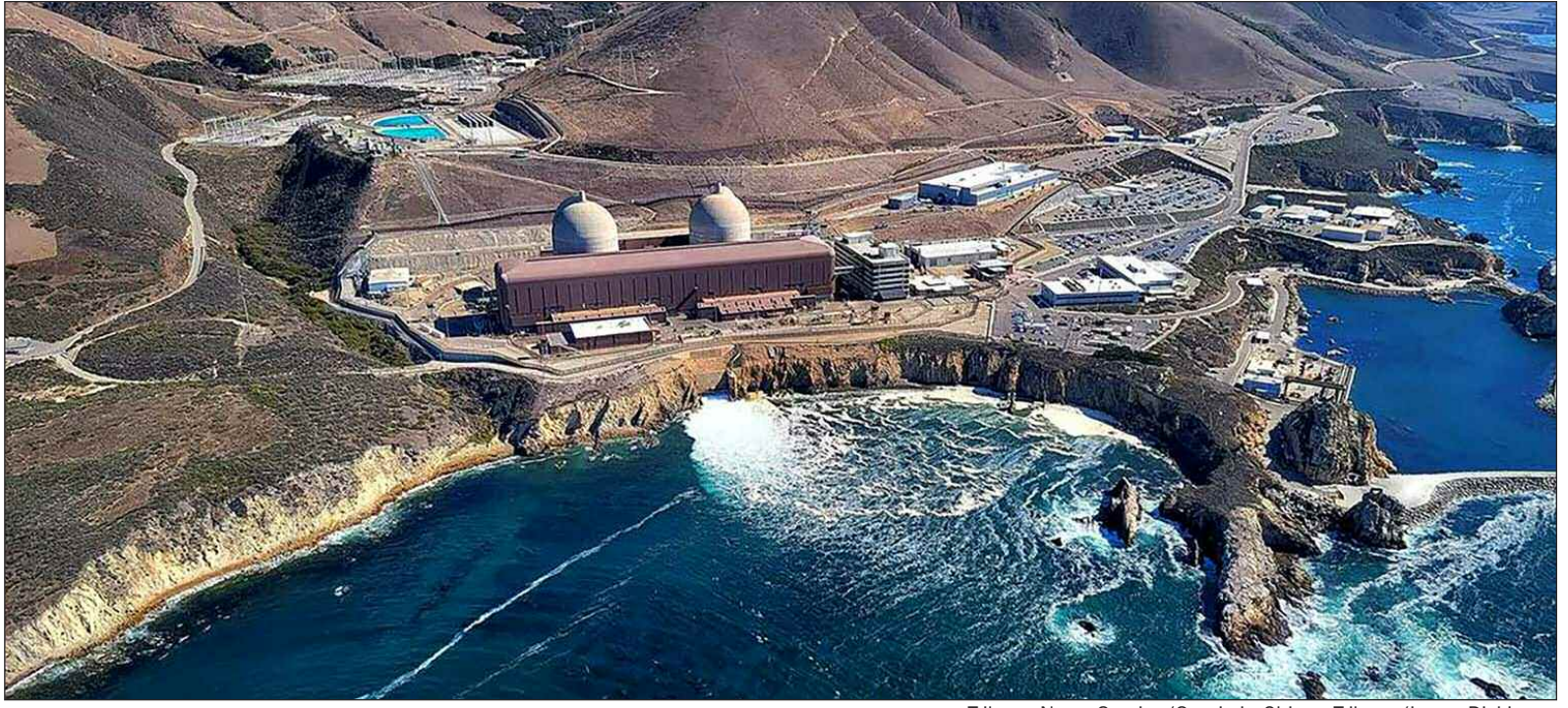
It's a family-owned grocery wholesale business with \$30 billion in annual revenue and operates stores in multiple regions, he said. It's also pro-union and will assume collective bargaining agreements, he added.

Most divested stores won't be abruptly changing brand names above the door. The sale to C&S includes three banners — QFC in Washington and Oregon, Mariano's in Illinois and Carrs in Alaska. C&S also will be able to use the Albertsons banner in four states: Arizona, California, Colorado and Wyoming.

It's not clear what would happen to the 26 divested stores in Texas, but C&S could turn them into Piggly Wiggly stores, a brand it controls.

"The C&S transaction clearly avoids Haggen's mistakes," Moses said.

The Kroger-Albertsons merger will create "another strong grocery competitor" to compete with national chains Walmart, Target, Amazon, Whole Foods Market, Costco, Aldi and Dollar General, Moses said. Those retailers for the most part have grown organically.



Tribune News Service/San Luis Obispo Tribune/Laura Dickinson

Staying open

Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant is the last of its kind in California. California energy officials have voted to extend the operation of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant through 2030, extending the lifespan of the state's last nuclear plant an additional five years. The California Public Utilities Commission approved a proposal to keep Diablo Canyon's twin reactors online, overturning an earlier agreement to close the plant in 2025.

Chamber hosting seminar

Jay County Chamber of Commerce will host an assertive communication seminar next month.

Portland's Bonnie Maitlen will lead "Assertive Communication: The Pathway to Getting What You Want and Need" from 9 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, at John Jay Center for Learning. Joining her will be Kevin D. Logeman and Roberta Fiore-Kittell of Optimum Impact Coaching.

The presenters will discuss topics including what keeps people from behaving assertively, four dimensions of assertive communication, comparing communication styles and creating an action plan.

Registration for the event is \$49.

For more information, or to sign up, visit optimumimpactcoaching.com.

Campus opens

Mercer Health last week announced the opening of its new campus in Maria Stein, Ohio.

The Mercer Health Marion Campus, 8106 Booster Drive, opened its doors to patients Dec. 11. Its service include family practice, OB/GYN and women's health, occupational health and laboratory.

For more information, visit mercerv-health.com or call (419) 925-7175.

To unionize?

Nurses at Indiana University Health facilities in Indianapolis are reportedly planning to unionize.

"I think people are just kind of done with the care they have had to give the past couple of years, and we want to make a better change for Indiana," Addie Armes, a nurse at University Hospital in Indianapolis, told WFYI TV.

She said she is hoping to unionize almost 1,000 nurses, of which

Business roundup

300 at that time had expressed interest.

IU Health responded to the issue, telling Becker's Hospital Review it is against unionization.

"IU Health respects team members' right to explore joining a union, but IU Health desires to remain a non-union work environment and does not feel a union is in the best interest of our nurses or patients," a spokesperson for the health system told Becker's. "IU Health is committed to safe, high-quality care and clinical outcomes, and providing nurses with a voice in decision-making through a shared governance model."

Tips offered

Indiana Michigan Power has offered tips for energy efficiency during the winter months.

Ideas for saving energy include:

- Making sure windows are properly sealed
- Insulating the home
- Keeping curtains/blinds closed at night and open during the day
- Keeping furniture away from baseboard heaters

Local and federal assistance for paying bills is available by calling 211 or visiting 211.org.

For more information, visit electricideas.com/home.

Grants awarded

Ball State University recently announced two grants it has been awarded through the Lilly Endowment.

Through its College and Community Collaboration initiative, Lilly Endowment has awarded Ball State \$35 million. The funding

will go toward supporting the university's long-term plan to revitalize the adjacent commercial business district known as The Village.

"With the support of Lilly Endowment, we can now accelerate the implementation of our transformational plan for The Village," said Ball State board of trustees chair Renae Conley in a press release. "I look forward to the coming changes to this commercial district and to the positive, long-term impact this project will have on Muncie and East Central Indiana."

Ball State also received a \$1.5 million grant through the Advancing the Science of Reading in Indiana. It will go toward continuing to integrate science of reading principles into its teacher preparation programs.

Scooter's partnering

Scooter's Coffee on Wednesday announced a partnership with Reading is Fundamental.

The coffee chain is working with the organization to support efforts to encourage fourth-grade students in North Texas to read. The partnership is aligned with the Scooter's Coffee Frisco Bowl, which is being played tonight.

"Every child deserves the chance to succeed," said Scooter's CEO Joe Thornton. "Learning to read at a young age can disrupt the literacy crisis and bridge an inability gap by sparking imaginations and possibilities."

Record donation

Reid Health Auxiliary last week donated \$404,347 to the Reid Health Foundation.

It was the largest donation in the auxiliary's history.

Funding this year will go toward purchasing a fetal monitor, infant incubator and motorized parallel bars for physical therapy, and providing support for the AED program, Pediatric Cheer

Fund and Choose Well at Home program.

The auxiliary raises money through its gift shop at the hospital and other annual fundraisers.

"We appreciate your willingness to volunteer, hard work, and generosity. Your contributions of your time and talent at Reid are valuable to our patients and staff, and we need you here," said Reid Health vice president Jason Troutwine in a press release. "Each of these programs funded reaches back to our communities and are available to patients on the main campus as well as at our regional facilities."

NextEra selected

PJM last week announced the selection of NextEra Energy Transmission's MidAtlantic Resiliency Link proposal to address electricity reliability needs.

The project involves building a 130-mile transmission line and a new substation. It is intended to improve local and regional transmission in the Mid-Atlantic region and support growth for renewable energy.

"We are pleased that our proposal was selected by PJM as it will bring increased reliability and resiliency to the electric grid given the critical energy needs of the region," said Matt Valle, president of NextEra Energy Transmission, in a press release. "We look forward to collaborating with all communities and stakeholders to successfully develop and execute on this project for PJM customers."

NextEra Energy Resources owns and operates Bluff Point Wind Energy Center in southern Jay County and northern Randolph County.

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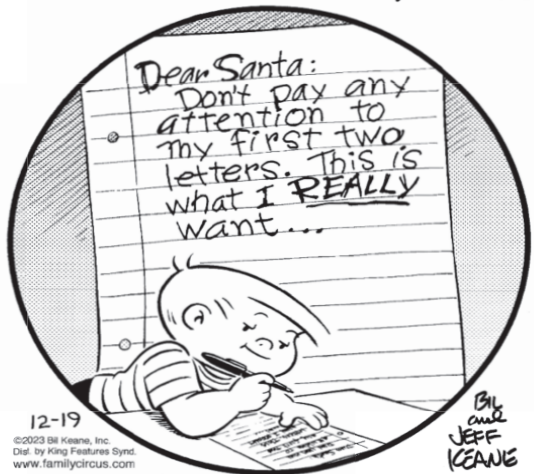
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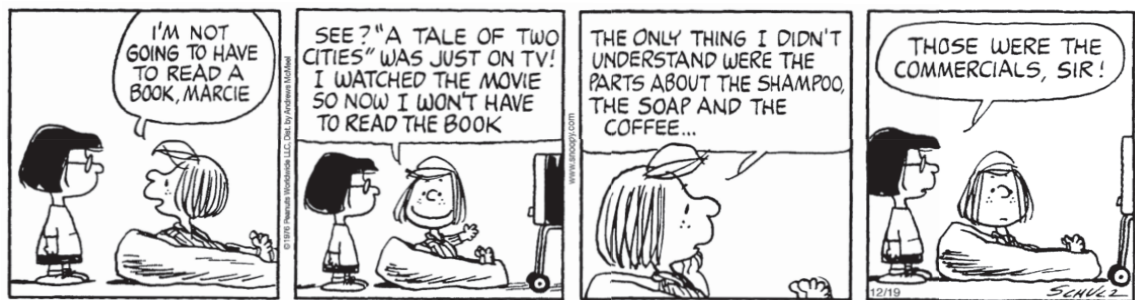
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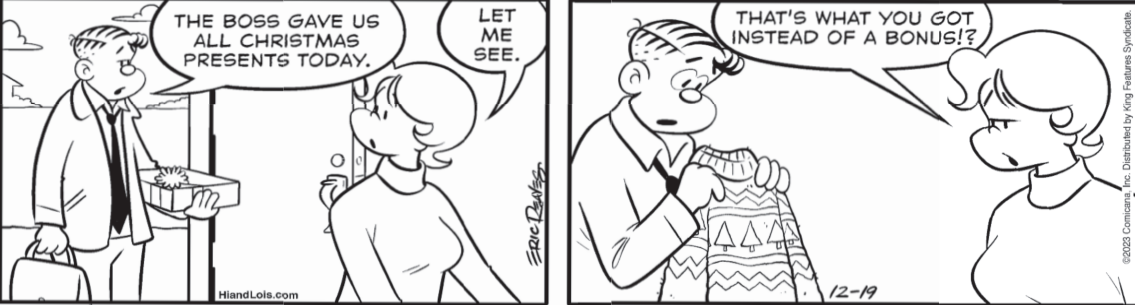
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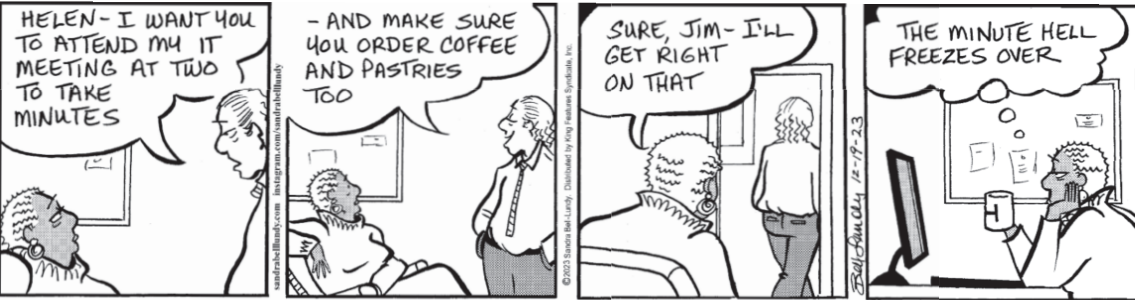
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Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The disappearing trick

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH... WEST... EAST... SOUTH... The bidding: South West North East... Opening lead — jack of clubs.

Tomorrow: The art of slam bidding. ©2023 King Features Syndicate Inc.

12-19 CRYPTOQUIP

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IMXGF: TFDUDZB UFGDZBKF. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE BOSSY PATIENT WITH A SEVERE PAIN WENT UP TO HIS DOCTOR AND CRIED, "YOU BETTER RELIEVE IT!" Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals G

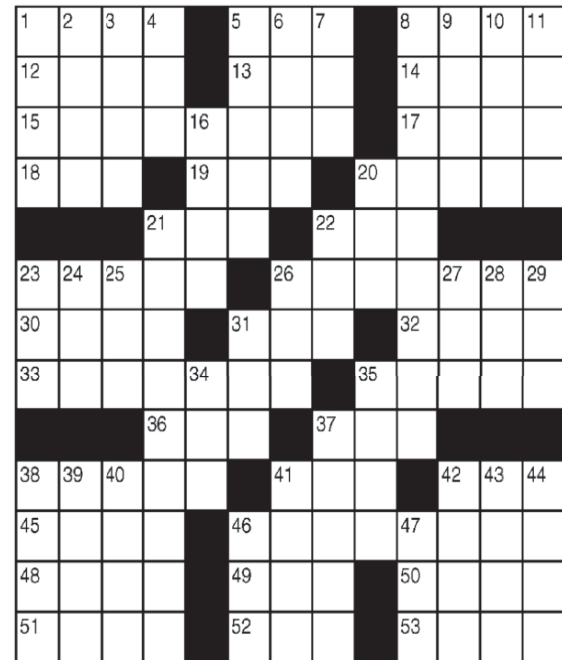
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 35 Nepal's neighbor 53 Annoys 21 Hit sci-fi film with Keanu Reeves 1 Incubator noise 36 "Adorbs!" 37 Prom 1 Favorites 2 Messes 22 Bagel topper 8 Scat queen 38 "Swell!" up 23 Bit of advice 12 Thus 41 Poetic contraction 4 Jennifer 4 Luau bowlful 24 Leb. neighbor 13 Flamenco cheer sheet 5 Kieran's role on "Succession" 26 Cookie holder 14 13, to abbr. 45 Actor El-Masry 27 Science room 15 Hiker's snack 46 Spellbind 6 Landed 7 Bewitch 28 Scrape (out) 17 Harrow rival 48 Conn of "Grease" 8 Will VIP 9 Low-calorie 29 Filming site 18 Nine-digit ID 49 Golfer Ernie 10 King of the jungle 31 Stitch 26 Nudges roughly 50 Give a hoot 11 "— She Sweet" 37 Rib 38 Zilch 30 "Understood" 52 Sailor's assent 16 Booty 39 Actor Jannings 31 Kenny G's instrument 47 Biol. or chem. 32 Yard tool 33 Chinese leader

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Tony Wood and Bryce Wenk are champions at Coldwater, see story below

Tribe girls basketball hosts Memorial tonight, see Sports on tap

Sports

Unstoppable at home

Jay scores 28 in first quarter to pick up 17th-straight home win

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

Over the last decade, when teams saw the Patriots on their schedule, they knew they were in for a fight. If they had to travel to Portland, the game would be all the tougher. The South Adams Starfires had the displeasure of traveling to take on the Jay County High School basketball team that notched its 17th-straight win at home as it stomped SAHS 67-39 on Saturday.

Jay County already had 16 points by the time South Adams got on the board. When the buzzer sounded, signaling the end of the quarter, the scoreboard read 28-4 in favor of the Patriots.

Hallie Schwieterman and Sophie Saxman had the most points in the quarter with eight. All of Schwieterman's points came on transition layups, while Saxman had one transition bucket, two that came off of offensive rebounds and a final score that came off of a baseline out of bounds play.

Danielle May had six on a 3-pointer, a long-two and a free throw, Breanna Dirksen scored twice and Meredith Dirksen ended the run with a bucket off an offensive rebound in transition.

Schwieterman finished with 17 points, which was the highest total for the freshman since Jay County played at Winchester on Nov. 18. She shot 8-for-13 from the field (61.5%) which was the most efficient game she's had all season - the next best game was 5-for-10 against Oak Hill on Nov. 14.

"I think it's kind of been a little bit mental," McIntire said. "She's a perfectionist and wants to do well, which is good, but sometimes she's pretty hard on herself. It's good for her to come out and have a good game."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

JCHS senior Sophie Saxman puts up a second-chance bucket on Saturday during the Patriots' 67-39 blowout of South Adams. Saxman scored a career-high 19 points and was busy on the glass with nine offensive rebounds.

Saxman and Meredith Dirksen both scored career-highs with 19 and 13 points respectively.

Meredith Dirksen had a strong shooting day,

draining three 3-point shots on five attempts.

This was Saxman's third game in a row where she had double-figures, and the senior is

now averaging 9.8 points per game, which is third on the team behind Schwieterman (13.8) and Muhlenkamp (11.6).

"It's fun to score, but

it's not all that matters," Saxman said. "We did a really good job sharing the ball tonight. It was fun. Right off the start, we were finding each other, just making good passes."

Saxman finished with a double-double shooting 9-for-13 (69.2%), while ripping down 12 rebounds which led the Patriots. Of those 12 boards, nine came on the offensive glass. She also had a team-high six assists.

The lead gave Jay County the opportunity to put in different combinations of personnel to play different positions and practice man-to-man defense.

"We had a lead, so we worked on some things that we need to get better at," McIntire said. "(Our man defense) isn't where it needs to be by any means, but I feel like we're probably better than what we played tonight."

Once in the man defense, the Patriots struggled to stop Pries who was able to find seams in the defense. The SAHS senior scored a game-high 28 points on 10-for-16 (62.5%) from the field.

Of her 28 points, only eight came against the man defense, as she scored seven from the free throw line, six in transition, four against the 1-2-2 zone and three on a buzzer beater from near the volleyball line.

See **Home** page 7

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Jay wrestling takes top spot at Coldwater

COLDWATER, Ohio — The Patriots have faced adversity early in the season.

Between dealing with injuries and facing strong competition, they haven't always walked away with the top spot this season.

That wasn't a problem this weekend as the Patriots pulled in their second win at an invitational.

The Jay County High School boys wrestling team had eight out of 12 wrestlers placed, including two individual champions, as it earned 206 points to win the Coldwater Invitational on Saturday.

The Patriots earned the top spot over 21 other teams at the meet. Benjamin Logan was the closest team to JCHS with 197 points.

Jay County had the best wrestlers in the 138-pound and 215 weight classes in Tony Wood and Bryce Wenk.

In the sixth (semifinal) round, Wood wracked up enough points on Coldwater's Austin Hamilton to win by technical

fall 15-0. All five of Wood's other wins came via fall, including a second-period pin (2 minutes, 22 seconds) against Gavin Ridenour of Wapakoneta in the Championship round.

Wenk pinned all five of his opponents to take the 215 bracket. His final match went down to the wire, as he pinned Milan's Zane Richardson with just six seconds remaining.

Five Patriots only lost one match. Griffin Byrum (113), Cody Rowles (126) and Juaquin Flores (190) all fell in the semifinal round, sending them to the third place game.

All three pulled off the victory in their final matches. Bryum (0:48) and Rowles (2:33) both won by fall, while Flores came out on top of Catholic Central's Brody Adams with an 11-1 major decision.

Jacob Robinson (150) and Alan Ortiz (285) both dropped their opening matches, but won out to earn fifth-place finishes.

A.J. Heskett went 4-2 on the day to earn seventh place in the 132 weight class.

FRHS boys bounce back against Ansonia

ANSONIA, Ohio — One quarter can make or break a basketball game.

The third quarter was the defining one for the Indians.

The Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team exploded for 17 points while holding the Ansonia Tigers to zero in the third quarter on Saturday as the Indians won the game 41-29.

The Indians (3-2) were trailing the Tigers 21-16 at the halftime break. Fort Recovery took over from there as five Indians scored to swing back into the lead.

Alex Dues, Gavin Fall-er and Rex Leverette all had four points in the quarter on a bucket and a pair of free throws. Adding to the offensive effort were Reece Guggenbiller with a 3-pointer and Eli Lennartz with a two. Leverette was the lead-

FRHS roundup

ing scorer with 11 points. Guggenbiller had nine while the other 21 points were distributed among five players.

Matt Barga and Ethan Reichert scored 10 each for Ansonia (1-3).

The Tigers shot better from outside the arc, hitting five threes to Fort Recovery's two, but the Indians got the line at a higher clip, hitting 13 free throws to two. FRHS also shot better inside the arc, hitting 10 2-point shots to six for the Tigers.

Fortkamp in top-10
BOWLING GREEN, Ohio — The Fort Recov-

ery swim teams competed in the Northwest Ohio Classic at Bowling Green State University on Saturday.

A pair of individuals made it to the finals in four total events, and one relay team as well.

The best finish came from Teigen Fortkamp, who finished ninth in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1 minute, 3.19 seconds. She also competed individually in the 200 individual medley, finishing in 2:22.47 which was good for 11th place.

She also anchored the 200 freestyle relay that also included Makenna Huelskamp, Joelle Kaup and Paige Guggenbiller. They placed 14th with a time of 1:49.17.

Sage Wendel was the only boy to make it to the finals, doing so in the 100 butterfly and the 100 freestyle.

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