

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



2023

The year in photos

It's a tradition for The Commercial Review to share a recap of its top 10 local stories in the final newspaper published each year.

On occasion, we've also reviewed our top 10 photos. This feature is designed not to highlight the most important, impactful or influential events of 2023, but rather to give readers a glimpse of what the year was like through what we consider to be some of our best photos of the year. This year's selection is mostly full of happy times, from athletic elation to fair fun to a variety of other moments that elicited smiles.

Our top photo of the year is this one, featuring 8-year-old Alex Vinson of Pennville laughing while riding the bumper cars on the midway July 11 during the Jay County Fair. It was one of those moments of pure joy.

See Photos page 6

The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

U.S. strikes targets in Iraq

Attack on American personnel injured three

By **BILL FARIES**

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

The U.S. military launched strikes on three installations in Iraq targeting what it said is a terrorist group backed by Iran that Washington has accused of a series of attacks on American personnel, including one Monday which left three people injured.

The back-and-forth underscores the risk of the Israel-Hamas war widening into a broader conflagration. Iran said an Israeli air strike in Damascus on Monday killed a senior commander of its Revolutionary Guard. Meanwhile, the U.S. has assembled a coalition of militaries willing to help protect Red Sea shipping lanes after a number of vessels came under attack by Iran-backed Houthi rebels based in Yemen.

Iran backs Hamas and other regional groups. It has denied that it is helping militants to attack commercial ships.

"At President Biden's direction, U.S. military forces conducted necessary and proportionate strikes on three facilities used by Kataib Hezbollah and affiliated groups in Iraq," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said in a statement late Monday.

In a separate statement, U.S. Central Command said "early assessments indicate that these U.S. airstrikes destroyed the targeted facilities and likely killed a number of Kataib Hezbollah militants." Centcom added there were no indications civilian lives were affected.

Iraq condemned the strikes, with a statement from the prime minister's office saying the U.S. had targeted "Iraqi military sites" and that a member of the country's armed forces was killed.

The Christmas Day strikes followed what the White House described as a drone attack on U.S. forces in northern Iraq that wounded three service members, including one critically.

See Strikes page 2



Miss Jay County Fair Queen Pageant second runner-up Chelsea Frantz tosses candy to the crowd on Meridian Street during the Jay County 4th of July Parade.

The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Covering shortfall means using reserves

By **WHITNEY DOWNARD**

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The state's April Medicaid expenditure forecast missed the mark by roughly \$984 million due to a combination of state budget reversions and unexpected growth of services for aging and disabled Hoosiers, leaving a state agency scrambling for a solution as lawmakers consider how much to cover from the state's reserve funds.

Sen. Ryan Mishler, the key

budget architect for the Senate Republicans, cautioned that Indiana's finances won't be immediately impacted. But the long-term spending plan for the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), which oversees Medicaid, may be.

"I'm concerned about the long haul but, in the short haul ... we'll work with FSSA on some solutions and we do have a pretty positive reserve," said Mishler, R-Mishawaka. "Remember this forecast, this is long-term. Currently we're

in good shape. Fortunately, we have a year before the next budget to work on this."

Cris Johnston, director of the Office of Management and Budget, noted challenges with getting timely forecasting data for Medicaid claims.

"It also happened to be the same time that increased utilization of services, as well as enrollment, was occurring with that expenditure base. All of that together prompted this challenge," Johnston said. "I think part of the long term is

changing those practices (and) looking at more timely information. Also ... challenging assumptions that are going into this forecast with what is really happening on the ground."

The state's two-year budget, passed by lawmakers in April, relies heavily on forecasted expenses and revenues to make appropriations. However, lawmakers noted that the bill isn't immediately due and flagged increasing Medicaid costs for future concerns, while FSSA

committed to increasing scrutiny of ongoing claims for services to try to bring costs down.

State Budget Director Zac Jackson said he'd learned about the calculation mistake roughly two weeks ago: that the rosy April 2023 forecast predicted a \$570 million surplus, prompting a \$525 million reversion to the general fund.

"With this revised forecast, you can see we probably over-reverted," Jackson said.

See Shortfall page 2

Deaths

Terry White, 67, Portland
Hope Teifert, 87, Portland
Barbara Moses, 97, rural Portland
Rosann Schwartz, infant, Rockford, Ohio
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 59 degrees on Christmas Day. The low was 45.

Tonight's low will be in the mid 30s with a 20% chance of rain. There is a 50% chance of rain Thursday with a high in the low 40s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Enrollment is open for 4-H. Those interested in participating in 2024 can enroll online at v2.4honline.com. The deadline is Jan. 15.

For more information, call (260) 726-4707.

Coming up

Thursday — Results from Tuesday's JCHS girls basketball game against Yorktown.

Friday — Coverage of this week's Jay County Commissioners meeting.



Shortfall ...

Continued from page 1
Gov. Eric Holcomb said the Medicaid update reveals "there is work to be done. We have begun a deep dive to understand the factors driving the spending increases and what is causing the unanticipated growth. In the meantime, we will be able to mitigate the fiscal impact while continuing to deliver needed

services thanks to a healthy reserve."
Jackson pointed to the use of data that was months old, saying the April forecast depended upon January Medicaid claims data rather than more current numbers. To correct the above, \$271 million will go back to Medicaid from the General Fund, Jackson said.

But the single-biggest difference in forecasts came from an unanticipated demand for Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and other Long-Term Supports and Services, which includes institutional care like nursing homes and assisted living facilities.
Testimony from FSSA seemed to indicate a reliance on pre-pandemic use rates for such programs, even as demand surged during and after the COVID-19 pandemic even after federal funds expired, leaving the state to shoulder the unanticipated cost.
"... The cost for nursing facilities are largely based on cost-based reimbursement and the rate of change and the costs are not known with certainty at the

time of the forecast," said Jeremy Palmer, an actuary with Milliman presenting on behalf of FSSA. "Additionally, for HCBSs we are continuing to observe cost increases to an unanticipated level."
Smaller factors include increased Medicaid rates for physicians and Applied Behavioral Analysis therapy.

CR almanac

Thursday 12/21	Friday 12/22	Saturday 12/23	Sunday 12/24	Monday 12/25
42/35	41/28	41/29	40/27	38/27
There is a 40% chance for showers with mostly cloudy skies and a high in the lower 40s.	Expect a high in the low 40s with mostly cloudy skies.	The forecast calls for mostly sunny skies with a high of 41.	Skies will be mostly cloudy with a high near 40.	Jay County will ring in the new year with partly sunny skies and a high in the upper 30s.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 5-12-20-24-29 Power Ball: 4 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$685 million	Daily Four: 1-3-5-6 Quick Draw: 1-3-4-15-17-20-21-33-37-38-41-47-53-56-64-66-70-72-76-79 Cash 5: 2-20-37-39-40 Estimated jackpot: \$318,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$73 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 8-9-0 Pick 4: 3-3-7-6 Pick 5: 2-6-7-1-6 Evening Pick 3: 4-5-1 Pick 4: 6-3-5-6 Pick 5: 9-5-0-0-5 Rolling Cash: 7-8-10-12-28 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 0-2-0 Daily Four: 3-3-0-1 Quick Draw: 1-15-16-21-22-24-26-28-41-43-45-46-47-48-54-56-57-64-72-77 Evening Daily Three: 6-8-8	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.63 Jan. corn.....4.65 Wheat.....5.59	Jan. beans.....12.86 Wheat.....5.98
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.63 Jan. corn.....4.63 Feb. corn.....4.66	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.27 Jan. corn.....4.44 Beans.....12.83 Jan. beans.....12.89 Wheat.....5.73
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....4.53 Jan. corn.....4.63 Beans.....12.76	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.33 Jan. corn.....4.50 Beans.....12.75 Jan. beans.....12.79 Wheat.....5.88

Today in history

In 1512, the Laws of Burgos, intended to "regulate the relations" between the Spanish and the indigenous people of its American colonies, was issued by King Ferdinand II.

In 1801, Napoleon established the Republic of Luca after he conquered Italy. The republic lasted less than four years, with Napoleon granting it to his sister Elisa as a principality as part of the new French Empire in 1805.

In 1831, Charles Darwin began his voyage on the HMS Beagle, a trip during which he would formulate his theory of evolution.

In 1932, New York's Radio City Music Hall opened to the public in Rockefeller Center. It has been home to "The Radio City Christmas Spectacular" since 1933 and to the precision dance team known as the Rockettes.

In 2003, senior Tyler Bash was the only Patriot to finish in the top six as the Jay County High School wrestling team hosted the East Central Indiana Classic. Bash placed second at heavyweight, falling to Chuck Robinson of Zionsville in the championship match.

In 2007, Benazir Bhutto was assassinated in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. She was the first woman in modern history to lead a Muslim nation and was killed while campaigning for the upcoming parliamentary elections.

In 2021, Dunkirk City Council approved Mayor Jack Robbins' recommendation to eliminate three police dispatch positions and to use the funds for those jobs to increase pay for the city's police officers.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 11 a.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.	Tuesday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonia Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.
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Obituaries

Terry White

May 18, 1956-Dec. 22, 2023
Terry D. White, age 67, a resident of Portland, passed away on Friday, Dec. 22, 2023, at his home in Portland.
Terry was born on May 18, 1956, in Portland, the son of Ronald and Patsy (Coulson) White. He graduated from Portland High School in 1974 and served in the U.S. Army. Terry worked at Tyson Foods in Portland.
He married Debbie Aker on April 2, 1992.
Survivors include:
His wife — Debbie White, Portland, Indiana
His mother — Patsy White, Portland, Indiana
His children — Amanda Shobe (husband: Dan), Hobart, Indiana, Ameila Newhouse (husband: Derek), Greenwood, Indiana, and Anna Fosnaugh, Portland, Indiana
His stepchildren — Stephanie Harris, Portland, Indiana, Stacy Bennett, Portland, Indiana, Jeff Mast, Portland, Indiana, and Kellie Potter (husband: Jacob), Dunkirk, Indiana
Grandchildren — Michella Shobe, Cody Newhouse, Lexie Newhouse, Melia Fosnaugh, Scarlett Fosnaugh, Alison Harris, Tristan Harris, Derrick Potter, Kaylee Potter and Andy Potter.
Great-grandchildren — Ila Turner and one great-grandchild on the way.
He was preceded in death by his father, Ronald White; and grandparents, Ralph and Ruth Coulson, and William and Erma White.
Private burial will be at Center Cemetery, west of Portland.
Arrangements entrusted to Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.



White

in Persimmon Ridge Healthcare in Portland.

She was born in Fort Wayne on April 22, 1936, the daughter of Minar and Myrtle (Maggart) Merriman. She was married to Helmut Teifert and he passed away in 2003.

Hope was retired LPN having worked in home health care in Fort Wayne. She was a 1954 Portland High School graduate and had attended Trinity United Methodist Church.

Surviving are two sons, Charles Wangler of Houston and Mike Wangler (wife: Katrina) of Portland; one daughter, Theresa Miller (husband: John) of Portland, Oregon; brother Steve Merriman of Thailand; one sister, Sidney Briggs of Brunswick, Maine; and four grandchildren.

Private services will be held in Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with burial in the Prairie Grove Cemetery in Fort Wayne. Memorials can be made to Jay County Humane Society.
Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Barbara Moses

Aug. 12, 1926-Dec. 21, 2023
Barbara J. Moses, age 97, a resident of rural Pennville, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023, at her home.

Barbara was born on Aug. 12, 1926, in rural Bryant, Indiana, the daughter of John P. and Lydia (Sherman) Bailey. She graduated from Bryant High School in 1944.

Barbara married Kenneth Moses on Nov. 23, 1946, and he passed away on Jan. 15, 2006. Barbara and her husband farmed for many years in Penn Township.

Barbara was a 50-year member of Pennville Chapter #202 Order of The



Teifert



Moses

Eastern Star and a current member of the Halfway Chapter #230 Order of the Eastern Star Redkey.

Survivors include:
Her children — Linda Kirkpatrick (husband: Lawrence), Bryant, Indiana, Bonita Foltz, Pennville, Indiana, Kenneth "Kem" Moses, Pennville, Indiana, Ginger Hutchison, Bluffton, Indiana
One brother — John Bailey (wife: Crystal), Marion, Indiana
Seven grandchildren — Chery Smiley, Fishers, Indiana, Michele Sutton, Zionsville, Indiana, Daniel Foltz, Dunkirk, Indiana, Nathan Hutchison, New Jersey, Ryan Hutchison, Bluffton, Indiana, Jalisa Hutchison, Bluffton, Indiana, and Jarod Moses, Huntington, Indiana
Twelve great-grandchildren — Megan Bush, Katelyn and Erin Smiley, Samuel and Kylie Sutton, Devin Lairson, Preston, Paige, Jase and Graham, and Chandler and Colson Hutchison

Two great-great grandchildren — Sophie Bush and Lucy Lairson
She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Lydia Bailey; her husband, Kenneth Moses; a son, Michael Dean Moses; a brother Orval Bailey; and sisters Helen Fidler and Dorothy Bunsold.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, Dec. 30, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pennville Chapel of Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home. An Eastern Star service will start at 2 p.m. at the funeral home with funeral services to follow. Pastor Dave Davidson will officiate and burial will follow at IOOF Twin Hill Cemetery in Pennville.

Memorials may be directed to Corner Stone Church of Pennville, Pennville Volunteer Fire Department or Heartland Hospice of Marion.

Rosann E. Schwartz, Rockford, Ohio, the granddaughter of Geneva residents. Services will be at 9 a.m. Friday at the Enos E.J. Schwartz home, 4362 E. 900 South, Geneva, Indiana.

SERVICES

Today
Long, Harry: 10:30 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpshurg Road, Fort Recovery.

Thursday
Street, Gary: 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Friday
Arnold, Carole: 8 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
Schwartz, Rosann: 9 a.m., Enos E.J. Schwartz home, 4362 E. 900 South, Geneva..

Dec. 30
Moses, Barbara: 2 p.m., Williamson, Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 190 S. Union St., Pennville.

Jan. 14
Williams, Helen: 4 p.m., New Life Ministries, 415 S. Helen St., Portland.

Service listings provided by
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Strikes ...

Continued from page 1
President Joe Biden was briefed on that attack Christmas morning and, in an afternoon call with Austin and other national security officials, ordered the retaliatory response.

Kataib Hezbollah is an Iraqi insurgent group backed by Iran that has been designated as a terrorist organization by the U.S. since 2009, according to the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University. The group, also known as the Hezbollah Brigades, took credit for the attack on U.S. troops, the White House said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pushed back on international criticism of the continuing war in Gaza, saying peace will only be possible when Hamas, which killed 1,200 people when it attacked Israel on Oct. 7, is destroyed. The Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza says Israeli attacks have since killed more than 20,000 people.

In a column late Monday in the Wall Street Journal, Netanyahu also said Gaza needs to be demilitarized and Palestinian society "deradicalized."

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Columnist bids farewell

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

Goodbye, so long, farewell, adieu and thank you, until we meet again.

It has been an adventure these last few years, but everything must end. This is my final column.

I have been struggling to write a column that is relevant for some time now. My goal has always been to provide a brief respite from all the bad news that bombards us everyday. Then when I write something that I think you will find interesting, my laptop disagrees and promptly tosses it out, omits a couple of paragraphs or tells me the column has been sent when it hasn't.

As I have said before, I write this column for many reasons. I write to the girl I used to be to show her that her current reality is not necessarily her future. I want her to know that she can find a spouse who is kind and doesn't yell, fight or do any of the other things that were normal way back when.

I write to tell her that attention is not a bad thing. When I first began this column, I believed that all attention was bad. Posi-

As I See It



if I was the one who wrote for the paper.

There are lots of people who write for the paper. When I would say that I did a weekly column most of them would compliment me or suggest that I write about their favorite subject.

Then there were the cards and letters. They would always arrive when I needed encouragement. Sometimes those short notes were all it took to keep me going. Lastly, I want to thank J.S. for giving me my first hate mail. I was tickled pink at the note telling me to go back where I came from.

Surprised? My words resonated with him enough that he went to all the trouble of getting a card, writing his own words, putting a stamp on it and mailing it to the paper to pass on to me. And by the way, my name is Diana with an A, not Diane with an E.

My readers have gotten me through two bouts of breast cancer, the birth of three grandchildren, my husband's new knees, and the death of my mom.

I appreciate all of you. May you have skies of blue and people who love you. Until we meet again, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

tive attention was just a ruse and would eventually result in something bad happening.

I write to all those whose reality is a bit rocky. I want them to know that their future is not necessarily the same as their past.

I hadn't been writing long when I was sitting on my porch, taking a break from yard work. I heard a car come to a screeching halt, an older woman got out and ran up to me without even shutting her door. I walked out to meet her and she threw her arms around me and asked if I was the one who wrote for the paper. Scared the daylights out of me. She later became a pen pal and would write to me about her cats. She died quite awhile ago but she still lives in my heart.

Then there were the people who would follow me at Walmart. I have had many people look at me and then keep on shopping. At some point they would ask me

Absences have an explanation

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend of three years works six days a week with Sundays off. For the last six weeks, my calls have gone unanswered from Saturday evening through Monday morning. He'd provide a lame excuse, apologize for the "missed" calls, and the next weekend, the same thing would happen. Long story short, he was spending time in a drug house on the weekends. He says it's "no big deal," he isn't doing it anymore and we should move forward as if this never happened.

My issue is, I no longer trust him or his judgment because I never imagined he'd do anything like this. I no longer feel like I know him. What he did was deceitful and extremely selfish. Now he says I'm throwing away our relationship because "he made a mistake." To me, it isn't a mistake if you repeat the behavior over and over. He CHOSE to do drugs, hide it and ignore me, and he didn't care about anything or anyone but himself. Now I know, and I am not accepting the behavior. I believe

Dear Abby



he will do it again, so I'm separating myself from him until he can show me he's no longer doing those things. As for now, we are done. I'm not accepting his guilt trip that I'm ending this over nothing. Am I doing the right thing? — TAKING A BREAK IN TEXAS

DEAR TAKING: Yes! Knowing he spent six weekends in a drug house makes me wonder if he was also involved in sexual activities. (Please have yourself tested.) Your boyfriend lied and disrespected you. He likes getting high and enjoys the company of people who break the law. You are doing yourself a HUGE favor by getting rid of him. Make it permanent. Bravo for you.

Community Calendar

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

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

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

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

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St.

Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

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

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park St., Portland.

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.

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

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

For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

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

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

6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

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Thursday, Jan. 4
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.

GRIEF SHARE — Meets from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursdays from Jan. 4 to March 28 at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. Grief Share is a weekly grief support group for those needing to find hope and healing after the death of a loved one. To register, call (260) 726-8832 or email zionlutheranportland@gmail.com.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 3
WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

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

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

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at

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Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Saturday's Solution

9	5	1	3	8	4	7	6	2
4	7	6	2	9	5	3	1	8
3	2	8	7	1	6	4	9	5
7	3	5	9	6	8	2	4	1
8	9	2	1	4	3	5	7	6
1	6	4	5	7	2	9	8	3
2	8	9	6	3	7	1	5	4
6	1	3	4	5	9	8	2	7
5	4	7	8	2	1	6	3	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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Stigma stands in way of recovery

Stigma. It's something folks who seek to help those who struggle with addiction have been trying to erase for years.

Unfortunately, it remains alive and well.

That much became clear when Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition decided to move forward with plans to purchase a house in Redkey and develop it into a sober-living facility.

Redkey residents flooded the next Jay County Council meeting to rail against the effort. They showed up again at last week's Redkey Town Council meeting.

There was a "we're better than them" tenor to the comments.

Editorial

Keep them out of our town. Keep them off of our street.

Stigma is a difficult thing to overcome.

The reality, whether we choose to see it or not, is that drugs are already in our county. They are already in our town. They are already on our streets. They may well be right next door.

It's difficult to imagine that anyone has not been touched in some way by substance abuse,

whether personally or with a family member or friend.

It's not just "those bad people over there." Anyone can become an addict, regardless of economic status, educational attainment, gender, race or any other characteristic.

It might also be useful to provide some education about addiction.

According to Harvard Medical School, one of the keys to attempting to stop a habit of substance abuse is to "change your environment." That's exactly what a sober-living facility would do — provide a safe place for those trying to overcome addiction to get back on track. We also recommend Indiana Next Level

Recovery (in.gov/recovery) the National Institute on Drug Abuse (nida.nih.gov) and the Mayo Clinic (mayoclinic.org).

Giant capital letters on the Indiana Next Level Recovery website spell out: "See the person. Not just their addiction."

Scroll down and you'll find this disturbing statistic: "Nationwide, 4.2 million people who felt they needed treatment did not seek it because they feared negative attitudes from their community."

Those negative attitudes have been illustrated in Jay County this month.

We clearly have more work to do in order to erase the stigma of substance abuse.

To deal with this problem, we

must live in the real world rather than some fantasy land where substance abuse is something that "bad people" do in other places.

The folks who spoke in opposition to the facility in Redkey are not bad people either. But we do feel their response was misguided, perhaps motivated by fear rather than hope.

So, let's look at this issue another way:

If your spouse, your sibling, your child or your friend was dealing with substance abuse and addiction, would you want there to be a sober-living facility in your community to help them?

We suspect, and hope, the answer is yes. — R.C.

It's not too late to tell the story

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Dec. 28, 2005. Jack had a gift for telling stories, from those written in the newspaper to those he penned just for his children and grandchildren each Christmas. Let this column be a reminder to make sure the stories of those in your life don't slip away.

Back in the Saddle



By JACK RONALD

The Commercial Review

No one likes to learn that a story has slipped through the cracks, even if it slipped away decades ago.

That's what happened with Walter Scholer.

As far as I can tell, during his lifetime Scholer's story was never adequately reported by The Commercial Review or any other news medium.

Oh, there were stories here and there. The alumni publications at Purdue University made a gallant effort late in Scholer's life. But in his home community, Walter Scholer remains a largely unknown figure.

Ralph May would like to change that.

Ralph is a perennial sparkplug at the Jay County Historical Society, and because Scholer grew up in Ralph's Madison Township he's become something of a cause for May. He wants to make sure that Walter Scholer doesn't fade into the mists of local history but continues to be remembered.

Who was Walter Scholer?

Even folks well-grounded enough in Jay County history to fill you in on TV entertainer Jack Imel, pro football player Pete Brewster, or dancer/choreographer Twyla Tharp may draw a blank when you mention the name.

That's probably because Scholer wasn't working in the limelight.

He was an architect.

But he wasn't just any architect.

He was one of the most prolific architects in Indiana history, and he designed countless public buildings.

After growing up in Jay County and attending Columbia University, Scholer first worked for architectural firms in Indianapolis before joining partnership in Lafayette. Soon, he left the partnership and established his own Lafayette-based company.

It was there that he did some of his most remarkable work.

Ever heard of Ross-Ade Stadium at Purdue University? Scholer designed it.

How about Mackey Arena? You guessed it, a Scholer design.

In fact, he was responsi-

ble for designing and building more than 75 structures at Purdue, including Cary Quad, Elliott Hall of Music, McCutcheon Hall, and many more.

Back in 1920, when those buildings didn't exist, Scholer was tapped to develop a 50-year master plan for Purdue, laying out the campus and designing a number of buildings.

It was a visionary move, and when huge amounts of federal funding became available via the Public Works Administration in the Depression, Purdue was able to put in place much of its campus in one frenzy of construction. At one point, six Scholer-designed buildings were under construction simultaneously.

But Scholer's architectural design work wasn't limited to Purdue. His firm designed a number of structures on the Ball State University campus as well. Emens Auditorium was designed by Scholer's firm, though he was in his 70s by then.

And Bracken House, now the home of the president of Ball State, was designed by Scholer for the Bracken family in the 1930s.

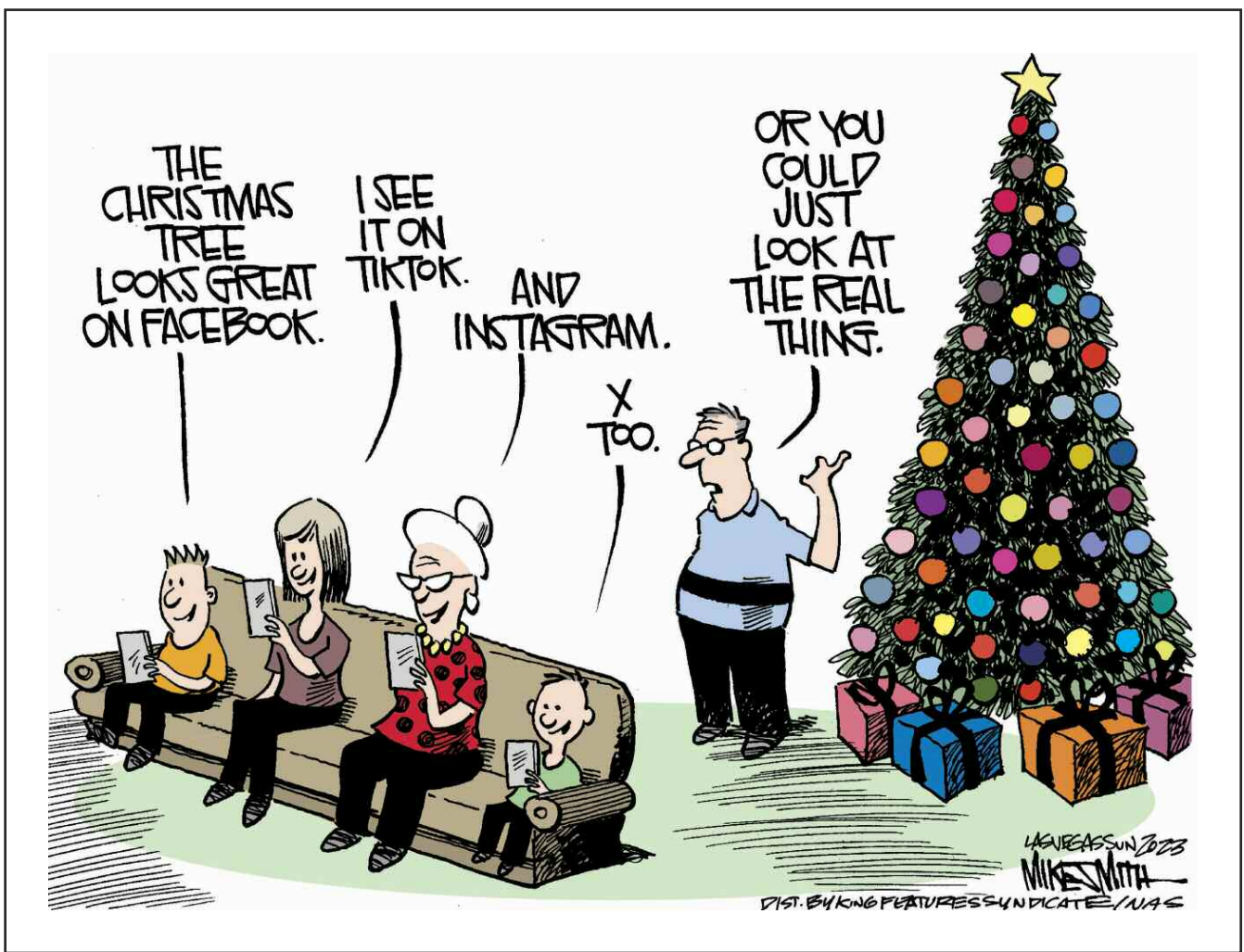
Locally, Scholer designed three buildings, two of which are gone now.

The first was the old Madison School, which met the wrecking ball in the late 1960s or early 1970s. The second was the 1925 Portland High School, which was misguidedly razed a few years ago to make room for a more modern section of East Jay Middle School.

The third? It's the Weiler Building in downtown Portland, and the good news is that it's about to get a new lease on life. Work on cleaning and securing the building will begin early next year, and a capital fund drive will soon be under way to transform the former department store structure into a new home for John Jay Center for Learning.

It's one of Scholer's most beautiful buildings from that period, much less utilitarian than the Purdue structures designed at the same time.

And it's only fitting that the county has a jewel in its crown designed by one of its own.



Peace needs some better PR

By WILLIAM KEISER
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

Recently, in a downtown Los Angeles hipster coffee shop, I was waiting for the bathroom when I spotted a blackboard covered with phrases. One rendered in large mint-green cursive caught my eye: "Free Palestine," it read, with a cartoon heart as punctuation. I picked up chalk, found an adjacent clearing and scrawled, "Two-state solution," followed by the same adolescent heart-shape. It wasn't that I disagreed with the original author's statement; I just think peace needs better PR.

I didn't grow up with the two-state solution. I come from a half-Jewish household, the Jewish half of which is Zionist. I was raised on which candidates would protect Israel, along with stories of how strangers welcomed my dad "home" at Ben Gurion Airport or how he packed chickens in a kibbutz.

In college, I studied Israeli contemporary dance, writing about giants in the field such as Ohad Naharin, and conducted archival research at the Suzanne Dellal Centre in Tel Aviv. In the Lisbon, Portugal, airport, on the way to Israel, I was detained for additional screening. An Israeli transportation officer didn't believe that a 22-year-old man, traveling alone for four days to Israel, was going there to do dance research, whether he was Jewish or not. I brought research books out of my backpack to convince the officer. When I was finally let through and then landed in Israel, my luggage didn't arrive. An Israeli friend's parents generously lent me the underwear and clothes I needed until my bag came. In spite of the hiccup, I loved Israel. Tel Aviv was chic, vibrant and diverse.

Then, one year ago, my cousin on my mom's side, who is Christian, married a Palestinian American. For their wedding, I traveled again to Israel, this time to the West Bank, to a

William Keiser



Christian village called Taybeh. The ceremony was held outside on the ruins of a 4th century Palestinian Orthodox church. I spent four days with my cousin and her betrothed, eating hummus and za'atar crackers and emphasizing my 50% Italian American heritage from my mother to avoid suspicion. I learned how to shrug my shoulders and undulate my hands in the style of Palestinian social dance. I met hundreds of uncles and aunts and cousins. I toured the town's breweries and distilleries: of wine, arak (an ouzo-like spirit) and their specialty, Palestinian beer.

On brewery and distillery tours, which mostly concerned the granular production process, guides also showed the cisterns on their roofs. The large vats collect rainwater; they explained, because it's never clear when the Israeli-run water company will turn off their supply. The guides also described the tricky process of export: Israeli soldiers let cases of wine spoil for hours in hot sunlight, and few shipments reach their U.S. or European destinations.

During the wedding reception with more than 200 guests, the water was shut off. The bride, groom and guests were suddenly unable to wash their hands or flush the toilets. At my table, where big bottles of water were served alongside Coca-Cola, Taybeh beer, wine and arak, the groom's cousin asked what I had studied in school. "Israeli dance," I replied. The cousin furrowed his brow. "I didn't know Israelis danced!" he exclaimed. "I thought they just shot people." I

turned to the dance floor, where, alongside fist-pumping men, the groom's grandmother bounced on her knees, beaming, swinging her arms and mouthing Arabic lyrics. "Yes, Israelis also dance," I replied.

In recent weeks, my social media feeds have become inundated with flags and slogans: condemning Hamas attacks, standing with Israel, showing carnage in Gaza, advocating for a free Palestine. In between are the requisite virtue signalers: My heart goes out to all, both Israeli and Palestinian, affected by this horrible tragedy. I promised myself I wouldn't engage. The ethno-nationalist posturing or obsequious drivel, I felt, was counterproductive. Wouldn't any involvement reducible to a slogan be unhelpful?

Looking at the hipster coffee shop message board, I realized that the problem isn't so much that existing messaging is too simplistic. It's that there isn't a clear and exciting enough symbol for a middle way, a two-state solution. Palestine deserves to be free. Israel also doesn't need to cease existing or protecting itself to make that happen.

Israel could give up a significant piece of its territory, its apartheid policies and any future settler expansion; Palestine could gain a corridor "from the river to the sea" and give up the right to a terrorist government that murders Jews. Both sides could teach their children about the other's very real history of genocidal victimhood.

But compromise doesn't have the resonance that "Free Palestine" or "I stand with Israel" has. It doesn't hijack our limbic systems like the flags and phrases littering our homes, streets and feeds. Still, perhaps it could. Maybe, in an outrage-fueled system, peace and objective truth simply need sexier branding.

.....
Keiser is a Los Angeles-based screenwriter.

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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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Mercer hospital earns honor

Mercer Health's Mercer County Community Hospital was honored recently with the 2024 Women's Choice Award as one of America's Best Hospitals for emergency care and patient safety.

The designation is based on patient satisfaction, patient recommendation rating, clinical performance and accreditations. Mercer County Community Hospital ranked in the top 3% for emergency care and the top 7% for patient safety.

"Our expectations are to deliver the very best care we possibly can for our community. Our team truly does provide some of the best healthcare in the nation, right here," said Mercer Health vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer Susan Miller.

Also last week, Clayton Agler was awarded the 2023 Mercer Health Medical Staff Scholarship to Clayton Agler. The Parkway High School graduate is working toward his medical degree at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. The scholarship provides \$2,000 annually to a medical student.

Purchasing

O'Reilly Automotive last week announced that it

Business roundup

has entered into an agreement to purchase Groupe Del Vasto and its affiliates.

Groupe Del Vasto, which is based in Canada, operates two distribution centers, six warehouses and 23 stores. The purchase is expected to be complete next month.

"From their beginning more than 35 years ago, Vast-Auto has built a very successful business by focusing on the same fundamental culture values of hard work and excellent customer service that have also been key to O'Reilly's success," said O'Reilly CEO Greg Johnson. "This strategic acquisition represents another important milestone in O'Reilly's rich history, as we extend our footprint into Canada and continue our long track record of profitable growth throughout North America."

IBA elects president

The Indiana Builders Association board of directors recently elected

Kenny Reinbrecht to serve as its president in 2024.

Reinbrecht is the founder of Reinbrecht Homes in Haubstadt. He has also served on the boards of Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana and Gibson County Economic Development Corporation.

Awarded for training

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Center for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support, recently awarded a \$114,823 IHOPE grant to Adams Memorial Hospital.

The grant will be used for training and educational outreach focused on sudden cardiac arrest, choking and congestive heart failure. It will focus on providing community members skills and supplies to reduce mortality and morbidity rates for cardiac arrest victims.

Editor hired

Indiana Electric Cooperatives last week announced the hiring of Britt Davis as its editor.

Davis previously served as editor-in-chief of Associated Construction Publications of Indiana connection magazine in her new role.

"We are excited to have Britt as a member of our

team and editor of Indiana Connection magazine," said Indiana Electric Cooperatives vice president of communication Mandy Barth in a press release. "Her depth of magazine and editorial experience and management make her an excellent addition to our magazine and association staff."

Lutheran awarded

Indiana Hospital Association recognized all five Lutheran Health Network hospitals, including Bluffton Regional Medical Center, at the INspire Hospital of Distinction program for their commitment to infant and maternal health.

The recognition is based on implementing best practices for infant safe sleep, breastfeeding, tobacco prevention and cessation, perinatal substance use, obstetric hemorrhage, maternal hypertension and social determinants of health.

"The daily work of our delivering hospitals makes a monumental impact on the lives of so many Hoosier moms and infants in every corner of our state," said Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb in a press release. "These caregivers are much needed and appreciated, and we will continue to partner with

them to support our shared goal of a healthy Hoosier tomorrow."

Company honored

Dollar Tree last week announced that it received a score of 85 out of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's 2023-2024 Corporate Equality Index.

It was one of 1,384 U.S. businesses that were ranked in the 2023-2024 CEI. It rates companies on non-discrimination policies, equitable benefits for LGBTQ+ workers and their families, supporting an inclusive culture and corporate social responsibility.

"This is such a significant milestone for Dollar Tree and Family Dollar," said Dollar Tree chief people officer Jenn Hulett in a press release. "Our score is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our people advocating for LGBTQ+ equity and inclusion within our organization and in the communities we serve. I am encouraged by our score of 85 out of 100 for our inaugural inclusion in the survey, and I am confident we will continue advancing our work in this space."

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
- Keeper 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.

Dinner scheduled

Indiana Chamber of Commerce will hold its Chamber Day Dinner at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, at the Indiana Roof Ballroom.

Richard Haass, author of "Bill of Obligations: 10 Habits of Good Citizens," will be the keynote speaker for the event. He served in the U.S. State Department under Presidents George W. Bush and Ronald Reagan, in the White House under Presidents George H.W. Bush, and at the Pentagon under President Jimmy Carter.

For more information, or to register for the event, contact events@indianachamber.com or (800) 824-6885.

Sale of U.S. Steel causes concerns

By ALEX DALTON

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

The planned sale of the United States Steel Corporation, an industry giant and Northwest Indiana icon for more than a century, has prompted a strong backlash from union leadership and elected officials. Environmental advocates have renewed calls for the company to reduce its carbon emissions in a bid to slow down human-made climate change.

On Monday, the Pittsburgh-based U.S. Steel announced that it had accepted a roughly \$14.1 billion cash acquisition deal from Nippon Steel, the largest steel manufacturer in Japan and one of the largest in the world. The deal is worth nearly twice what U.S. Steel's domestic rival Cleveland-Cliffs offered to pay for the company in August in a cash and stock offer that was rejected. U.S. Steel President and CEO David Burritt wrote at the time that Cleveland-Cliffs' leadership had refused to sign nondisclosure agreements as part of a due diligence process unless his company agreed to the terms of their proposal in advance, an arrangement he said was unacceptable.

At the same time it announced its rejection of Cleveland-Cliffs'

offer, U.S. Steel made known that it was actively reviewing proposals from multiple prospective buyers, fueling four months of conjecture and concern over the century-old company's future. The company was formed in 1901 when a group led by financiers J.P. Morgan and Charles Schwab bought a steel company owned by Andrew Carnegie and merged it with the rival Federal Steel and National Steel companies.

Gary was founded as a company town in 1906, with the city bearing the name of the company's first chairman, Judge Elbert Gary. U.S. Steel's presence in the city has remained an important facet of Gary's identity even as the number of employees at the company's Gary Works facility has declined in recent decades. The facility remains the largest integrated mill in North America. It's the eighth largest employer in Lake County and the third largest in Porter County, according to data from the commercial directory service Data Axle. The company employs more than 4,300 workers at Gary Works, according to its website.

Though Nippon Steel President Eiji Hashimoto wrote that his company is "committed to honoring all of U.S. Steel's exist-



Tribune News Service/Post-Tribune/Kyle Telechan

President and CEO of U.S. Steel David B. Burritt speaks during an event celebrating the construction of a new pig iron caster at the company's Gary facility in 2022.

ing union contracts," the leadership of the United Steelworkers (USW) condemned the deal. In a statement released Monday, USW International President David McCall wrote that the Nippon Steel buyout "demonstrates the same greedy, shortsighted attitude that has guided U.S. Steel for far too long."

"We remained open throughout this process to working

with U.S. Steel to keep this iconic American company domestically owned and operated," McCall wrote, "but instead it chose to push aside the concerns of its dedicated workforce and sell to a foreign-owned company."

Under its contract with U.S. Steel, the USW has the right to counter an acquisition offer with its own bid for assets

covered under the contract. The union threw its weight behind Cleveland-Cliffs' acquisition bid in August after news of the proposal broke, vowing to counter any offer made by a different prospective buyer.

In his statement, McCall wrote that neither U.S. Steel nor Nippon Steel had reached out to the union regarding the deal, which he said was in violation of an agreement requiring U.S. Steel to notify the USW of a change in control or business conditions.

"Based on this alone, the USW does not believe that Nippon understands the full breadth of the obligations of all our agreements, and we do not know whether it has the capacity to live up to our existing contract," McCall wrote. "This includes not just the day-to-day commitments of our labor agreement, but also significant obligations to fund pension and retiree insurance benefits that are the most extensive in the domestic steel industry."

McCall was not the only one upset by U.S. Steel's announcement. News of the Nippon Steel deal was followed by a flurry of statements from steel country elected officials, both Democrats and Republicans, voicing concerns and condemnations.



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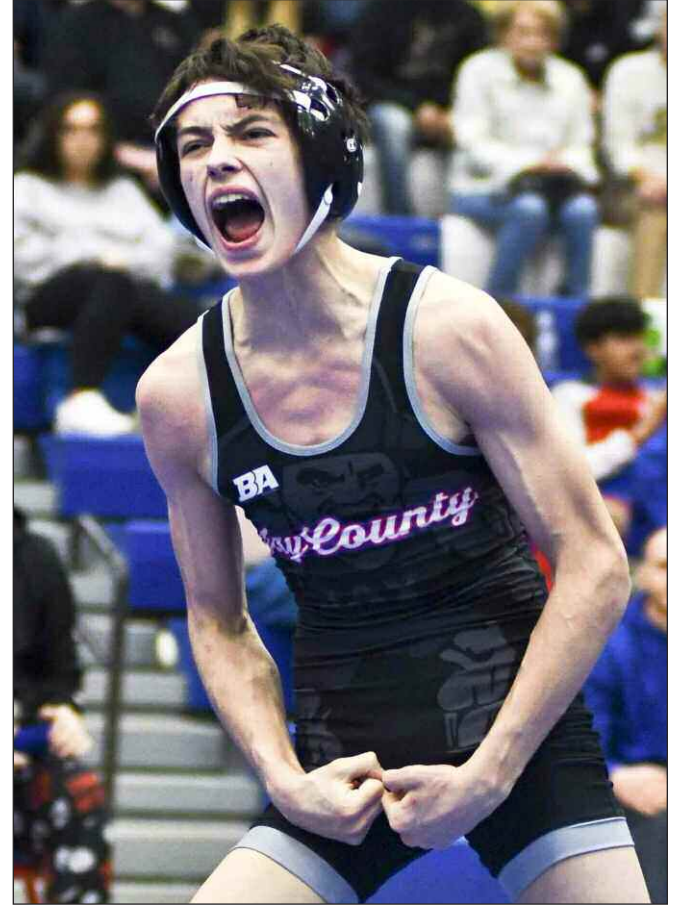
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Photos ...

Pictured clockwise from upper left are:
Isaiah Rogers gets soaked after a festival-goer hits the target on a dunk tank at Redkey Gas Boom Days on Aug. 12.

Dressed as a piglet, 11-month-old Oaklee Hamilton of Bluffton rides in a stroller while attending The Nov. 28 Trunk or Treat at Dunkirk City Park.

Senior Daniel Moore of Jay County High School flexes after winning the 113-pound sectional championship. He and his fellow Patriots won the team sectional title for the first time since 2018.

Seniors Laila Waddell, Brenna Haines, Bella Denton and Sam Myers celebrated their team's victory in the championship volleyball game during Jay County High School's Spirit Night on Sept. 13.

WPGW Radio's Rob Weaver reads a version of "A Christmas Carol" as part of the Jay County High School concert band's Christmas performance Dec. 10.

Dave and Jerry Kaup laugh at jokes presented by Ed Hosbach at the Fort Recovery Chamber of Commerce awards banquet March 12.

Lane Holtzleiter, 12, helps his father Steve turn the wheel Aug. 22 on a Spang and Company engine during the Tri-State Antique Engine and Tractor Show at Jay County Fairgrounds.

Jay County High School cheerleaders, including seniors Karci Hopkins and Cash Hollowell (center), cheer and celebrate as they leave the mat Aug. 5 during the Indiana State Fair cheerleading competition. Also pictured, from left, are Hina Ohba, Emmarie Barton and Moa Sakamoto.



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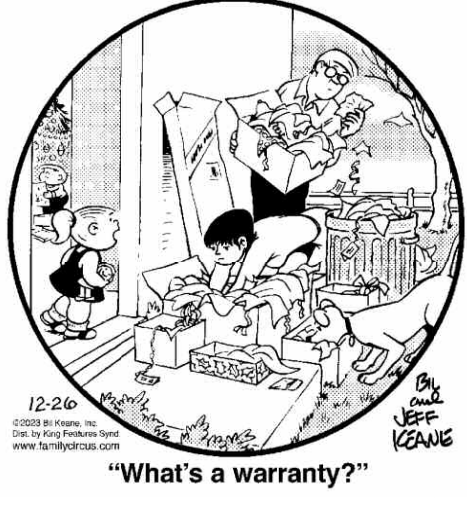
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Peanuts



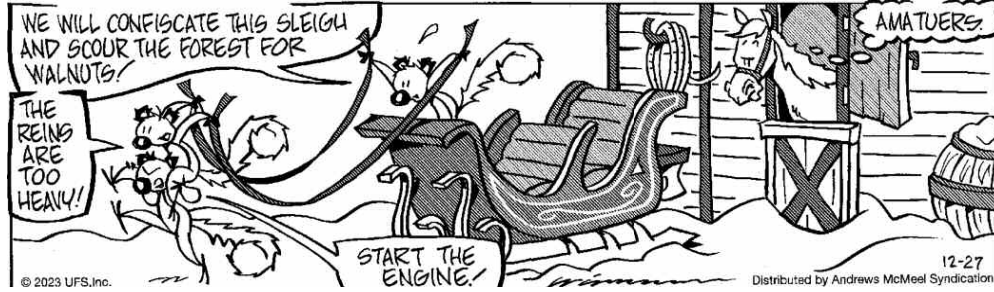
Peanuts



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*

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A precautionary measure

East dealer. East-West vulnerable. NORTH: K 8 5 2, A J 9, Q 6 3, 9 7 4. WEST: 9, Q 10 7 5 4 3 2, 7 4 2, 6 3. EAST: Q J 10 7 6 3, K 8 6, A 8 5, A. SOUTH: A 4, K J 10 9, K Q J 10 8 5 2.

contract! The opening lead invariably was the nine of spades. At most tables, South won with the ace and played a trump. East took the ace and returned a spade, which West ruffed. Declarer still had to lose a trick to the diamond ace and so went down one. This outcome was avoided at the two tables where South made the contract. Both successful declarers took the spade lead with dummy's king, cashed the ace of hearts and discarded the ace of spades on it! When South next led a trump, East took the ace and returned a spade, but declarer ruffed high, drew West's last trump and conceded a diamond to finish with 11 tricks.

The bidding: East 1 Pass, South 5, West 2, North 2 NT. Opening lead — nine of spades. There are easy hands to play, and there are also difficult ones. Fortunately, the easy hands far outnumber those that are difficult. Because of this, a player's success depends not so much on his ability to execute the occasional squeeze, coup or endplay, but on how well he handles the run-of-the-mill hands. There is nothing complicated in the play of today's hand, yet it would be easy to go astray and fail to make five clubs. The deal actually occurred in a duplicate tournament, and of the 12 Souths who got to five clubs, only two made the

There is no doubt that the situation faced by declarer demands that he win the spade lead in dummy and dispose of his ace of spades, which is a millstone around his neck. But, judging by the 10 declarers who failed, making this play is much easier said than done, since it is highly unusual for a player to discard an ace on an ace. As always, declarer should ask himself at the start of play of every deal: "What can defeat me?" Since the answer in this case is that only a spade ruff can defeat the contract, declarer should immediately seek a means to counter that possibility.

Tomorrow: Civil war. ©2023 King Features Syndicate Inc.

12-26 CRYPTOQUIP KN P J L S J U A F L Z N X J J L J L L D L E H U B J L T O C P G L J H O G I X Y X S, U V Y F O O G V F R P J L W L R M D B P H W G D Y V H F N Y T Q B L T H F R F X J Y S P A V G F X L L J R Z F G J L Q L D Q R Y C H V U B Q. L N B T ' Q

"ZJXL KJ NVIG UPJFGU." Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT GREETING MIGHT SHEEP DWELLING IN SPAIN GIVE EACH OTHER FOR CHRISTMAS? "FLEECE NAVIDAD!" Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals D

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 33 Fodder for a film editor, 36 Respect, slangily, 5 "Didn't I tell you?", 8 Teen homa city hangout, 12 Ms. Rowlands, 13 Like aspirin, briefly, 14 "Dies —" (Latin hymn), 15 World-wide (Abbr.), 16 Term paper feature, 18 "Downton Abbey" servant, 20 Ancient letters, 21 Tax-collecting org., 22 Key lime —, 23 Autumn pears, 26 Relief for tired tootsies, 30 To and —, 31 Pioneering ISP, 32 911 responder.

Crossword grid with clues and solution time: 22 mins. Includes grid with letters filled in for clues.

Grid for yesterday's crossword answer 12-26.

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Civil war

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable. NORTH: Q J 9 5, 10 9 8 7 2, J, 10 7 4. WEST: A K 10 6 4, 6, K 9 6 2, 8 6 3. EAST: 8 7 3 2, A Q 10 8 7 4 3, 5 2. SOUTH: A K Q J 5 4 3, 5, A K Q J 9.

his considerable wrath — without four or, preferably, five-card or better support. When it was Cohn's turn to bid on this deal — after two passes — he asked his left-hand opponent, Mike Moss, which of his teammates would be holding the South hand at the other table. This was more than a casual question, since Cohn — faced with a wide choice of actions — was hoping to gain a psychological advantage by knowing who his opposite number at the other table would be. But Moss didn't know, or pretended not to know, who was sitting South at the other table. Furthermore, he contended that Cohn was not entitled to this information, and that Cohn could call the tournament director if he wanted to settle the issue. But Cohn, unwilling to pursue the matter further, instead replied, "In that case, I'll open the bidding with seven hearts."

The bidding: North 7♥(!), South West Pass. Opening lead — ace of spades. Many years ago, the late Marty Cohn was playing in a national team-of-four championship and held the South hand. Cohn was well-known for his psychic bids. On top of that, he was the foremost (and possibly only) advocate of opening the bidding with a three-card major suit, even with good hands. His partners were barred from raising his opening major-suit bids — unless they were willing to incur

Everyone passed, and Moss led the ace of spades. Cohn ruffed, drew the missing trump, cashed four club tricks, discarding dummy's only diamond, and so made the grand slam. Said Cohn when the hand was over, "The next time I ask a civil question, I'll expect a civil answer!"

Tomorrow: Do something!

12-27 CRYPTOQUIP E H H M B R Q F B L O U Q J B R H. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY HEDGES BADLY NEEDED PRUNING, SO I APPROACHED A NEIGHBOR AND DECLARED "LEND ME YOUR SHEARS." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals V

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 28 Broad-caster, 30 Festive, 33 "Shout", 7 Lake of Lombardy, 8 Borders on, 10 Meat shunner, 11 River formations, 13 Ranking used in boxing, 16 Compass dir., 17 Major artery, 18 Train unit, 19 Burning heap, 20 Chest muscles, briefly, 21 Brewer Frederick, 23 Ignite, 25 Taverns, 26 Sword fight, 27 Mandela's org., 2 One-named super-model, 3 Work week starters, for many, 4 Critic Roger, 5 Mea — sheets, 6 Director Premieringer, 7 Corp. kingpins, 8 Worship, 9 Cup holder, 10 They may report to a CEO, 12 Nosh at mid-night, 14 Garrison, 15 ER workers, 19 "Nova" channel, 20 Bud, 21 Glazier's sheets, 22 Esoteric, 23 Litigant, 24 Dior product, 25 Cave mammal, 26 Metal waste, 28 Colorado music festival town, 29 "— Pretty", 30 Paces, 31 Man of war?, 32 Designer monogram, 34 Splits, 35 Eventful periods.

Crossword grid with clues and solution time: 23 mins. Includes grid with letters filled in for clues.

Grid for yesterday's crossword answer 12-27.

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING. Public Hearing on Application for Determination of Economic Revitalization Area and Preliminary (Declaratory) Resolution; Proposed Adoption of Confirmatory Resolution. The County Council of Jay County, Indiana, meeting in the Jay County Courthouse Auditorium located at 120 North Court Street, #11, Portland, Indiana 47371, has scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. (EST), a public hearing concerning the Final (Confirmatory) Resolution, confirming the designation of an Economic Revitalization Area and the grant of Real and Personal Property Tax Abatement, filed by Hodson Greendefine Jay Desoto LLC, with said Council. The Council, on December 13, 2023, adopted a Preliminary (Declaratory) Resolution pursuant to Indiana Code § 6-1.1-12.1-1 et. seq. declaring certain real estate located in Richland Township in Jay County, Indiana as an Economic Revitalization Area for purposes of permitting real and personal property tax deductions. A description of the affected area is available and can be inspected in the offices of the Assessor of Jay County, Indiana. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Council may take final action on this designation by Final (Confirmatory) Resolution. All interested parties are welcome to attend and make their concerns, remonstrances, or objections known to the members of the Council before the Council takes final action.

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice: PUBLIC HEARING FOR SECOND PUBLIC HEARING. On or about January 16, 2024 the Jay County intends to apply to the Indiana Office of Community Rural Affairs for a grant from the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program. This program is funded by Title I of the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. These funds are to be used for an owner-occupied rehabilitation project that will include the following activities: owner occupied rehabilitation activities. The total amount of CDBG funds to be requested is \$1,000,000. The amount of CDBG funds proposed to be used for activities that will benefit low- and moderate-income persons is \$1,000,000. The Applicant also proposes to expend an estimated \$88,000 in non-CDBG funds on the project. These non-CDBG funds will be derived from the following sources \$88,000 in ARPA Funds. Jay County will hold a public hearing on January 8, 2024, at 9:00 am, at 120 North Court Street, Portland, IN 47374 to provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views on the proposed federally funded CDBG project. Persons with disabilities or non-English speaking persons who wish to attend the public hearing and need assistance should contact Kleinpeter Consulting Group, LLC at P.O. Box 37, Whiteland, IN 46184 or 812-525-7080 not later than January 4, 2024. Every effort will be made to make reasonable accommodations for these persons. Information related to this project will be available for review prior to the public hearing as of January 4, 2024. Interested citizens are invited to provide comments regarding these issues either at the public hearing or by prior written statement. Written comments should be submitted to Kleinpeter Consulting Group, LLC at P.O. Box 37, Whiteland, IN 46184 no later than January 6, 2024, in order to ensure placement of such comments in the official record of the public hearing proceedings. A plan to minimize displacement and provide assistance to those displaced has been prepared by the County and is also available to the public. This project will not result in the displacement of any persons or businesses. For additional information concerning the proposed project, please contact Mike Kleinpeter at (812) 525-7080 during normal business hours Monday through Friday 9am - 4pm or write to Kleinpeter Consulting Group, LLC, P.O. Box 37, Whiteland, IN 46184. CR 12-27-2023-HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Legal Notice: Notice is hereby given that the following is a list of approved deduction applications that were allowed in the County Jay, Indiana, for 2023 pay 2024

Table with columns: Name & Address, Deduction Amount, Years, Approving Body. Lists various property owners and their abatement amounts and durations.

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READ THE CR THEN RECYCLE

JCHS girls place 20th at Findlay Invitational, see story below

Jay girls basketball travel to Pendleton Heights today, see Sports on tap

Sports

Hard to stop

Patriots can't slow down Isaac Andrews, who drops 25 in 35-point loss

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

The Patriots were set to go against the highest individual scorer they've faced so far this season in Isaac Andrews, who averages 25.1 points per game.

The senior proved that statistic was no fluke, matching his season average in a dominant victory.

Andrews delivered Raiders fans a gift of 25 points for Class 2A No. 1 Wapahani as it smoked the Jay County High School boys basketball team 59-24 Saturday.

"We cut it to (11) at the beginning of the second half, and I thought we needed about two more stops and scores but then (Andrews) went crazy," JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt said. "He's a good player. He can shoot it off the dribble, he can do a lot of things."

"He's not the best athlete we've played against, but he's probably the best basketball player we've played against."

Jay County (2-5) opened the third quarter with Gradin Swoveland splitting a pair of free throws to cap off its longest run of the game of six straight points.

Wapahani (9-0) completely took over the game from there, scoring 16 points in a row as the Patriots went dry for four and a half minutes.

During that stretch, Andrews scored nine points, all on 3-pointers,

and assisted on the final bucket by Camden Bell.

"We're moving the ball and we're very unselfish," Wapahani coach Matt Luce said. "We have great leadership and great kids."

"When those guys make threes like that, especially Andrews ... it's not surprising."

The Raiders shot a 41.4% clip from beyond the arc, hitting 12 of 29 threes. Andrews led the way with six triples while Nate Luce and Bell hit two apiece.

Eight of the buckets came from assists, but four of the Raiders threes, including three from Isaacs, were shots that were taken at the top of the key off the dribble while the Patriots 1-2-2 zone was inside of the arc.

Both teams struggled with turnovers early in the game. In the first quarter, the Raiders turned over the ball five times, but the Raiders settled down after the rough start, only committing five turnovers over the final three periods.

"We don't turn the ball over," Luce said. "We've actually had a game where we had zero turnovers, so five in a quarter is a lot. Our guys are smart and very mature. They found a way at halftime to gather themselves and just improve and that was obvious."

See **Hard** page 9
Continued from page 10



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

JCHS junior Levi Muhlenkamp floats up a shot during the Patriots' 59-24 loss Saturday to the top-ranked Raiders of Wapahani. Jay County kept it close in the first quarter but lost control as 3-point shots started to fall.

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Winner, Rowles place at Findlay Invitational

FINDLAY, Ohio — A little over a year ago, on Dec. 17, 2022, Mallory Winner won the Findlay Invitational.

Winner repeated as a champion and another Patriot placed as well.

Top-ranked Winner and No. 9 Katie Rowles both made the podium to drive the Jay County High School girls wrestling team to a 20th-place finish at the Findlay Invitational on Friday at the Koehler Fitness and Recreation Complex.

The meet was a national event, including teams from all across the country. Jay County collected 65 points to secure the 20th placement out of 59 teams. Cumberland Valley High School out of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, won the event with 194 points.

Winner pinned her next three consecutive opponents following a first-round bye. In the second round, she only needed 27 seconds to beat Danica Arnett of Liberty (Arizona). She took down Isabella Johnson of Mason (Ohio) 1 minute, 44

seconds, into the third-round match and Paige Ward of Canon-McMillan (Pennsylvania) 23 seconds into the second period of the quarterfinal.

Winner advanced past the semifinal on an injury forfeit. In the championship, she worked a 5-0 decision against Liberty's Claire Avery, earning her second Findlay Invitational championship.

Rowles won the first two matches of the 100-pound bracket by fall, but lost to Urbana's Libertie Nigh in 1:03.

Moving to the consolation bracket, Rowles opened with a 7-0 decision victory against Malaya Hughes of Fremont Ross. The JCHS sophomore fell in a 5-0 decision to be put in the seventh-place match, in which she was taken down by Lilly Zwieffel of Gibsonburg in 53 seconds.

Also winning matches were Willow Hardy in the 130-pound bracket (1-2), Lina Lingo at 135 pounds (2-2) and Maleah Parsons in the 145-pound weight class (2-2).

Steelers roll over Bengals

By **BRIAN BATKO**
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Tribune News Service

PITTSBURGH — It's entirely possible that Acrisure Stadium security guards were ordered to check the ID of every Steelers player as the team returned to the postgame locker room. Were those the same guys who lost three games in a row to the rebuilding Cardinals, crumbling Patriots and beleaguered Colts by three scores?

Mystifying as it may be, the Steelers ended their slide by ending the Bengals' three-game winning streak, rolling to a 34-11 rout Saturday two days before Christmas. Miracle on Art Rooney Avenue would be a stretch, but it was a wonderful night for the Steelers (8-7) and quarterback Mason Rudolph, making his first start since a 16-16 tie against the winless Lions in November 2021.

The third-stringer who leapfrogged Mitch Trubisky to fill in for the

injured Kenny Pickett threw an 86-yard touchdown pass to George Pickens on his first dropback of the game, and the Steelers pulled away with Rudolph leading their sleigh. They swept the Bengals for the first time since 2019 and sprinkled a bit of hope back onto their playoff chances with two away games left.

It also was their most lopsided victory since a 27-3 win at the Jaguars in 2020, their highest point total since a 41-37 loss to the Chargers in 2021 and the first time they won a game by more than one possession all season. Rudolph finished with 290 yards, two touchdowns and zero turnovers on 17-of-27 passing, with Pickens snagging four receptions for 195 yards and both scores.

'Twas over when

The Bengals turned it over on downs after going for it on fourth-and-5 with 6:38 left in the third quarter. It was that much of a

laughter for the Steelers, whose 24-0 lead was their largest at halftime since Week 4 of 2016 (29-0 vs. pre-Patrick Mahomes Chiefs).

Player of the game

Mason Rudolph. The crowd was chanting his name in full — well, not "Brett Mason Rudolph III," although that would've been impressive — as the clock wound down in the fourth quarter. And it was richly deserved, beyond just the stats, much of which could be attributed to otherworldly plays by a receiver. But give the utmost credit to Rudolph for even putting the ball in a place where those plays could be made and doing it in a circumstance that was most unusual. He took a week of practice reps as the No. 1 quarterback for the first time in three years, and that 2020 regular-season finale was a meaningless game at Cleveland. See **Steelers** page 9