

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Policy in place



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Jay County Commissioners on Monday approved a new admission policy and resident code of conduct for Jay County Country Living (pictured above). The facility has been under scrutiny recently, with an advisory board created to oversee its operations.

Commissioners approve admissions guidelines, code of conduct for Jay County Country Living

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

First a new director, now a new admission policy and code of conduct. Changes are happening at Jay County Country Living. Jay County Commissioners approved an admission policy and resident code of conduct Monday for the living facility formerly known as Jay County Retirement Center.

According to the policy, residents applying to live at the facility must: be able to walk or transfer to and from a wheelchair independently, take care of personal bathroom needs, dress and bathe independently; be cooperative and non-combative; sign in and out as they enter and leave the premises; bathe at least twice a week; change

clothes every day; and adhere to the meal schedule. Among other items, the policy requires potential residents to complete a full assessment prior to the application process to ensure they are physically capable of living at the facility — the assessment will be scored by the director. If denied, the applicant may appeal the director's decision

in writing to Jay County Country Living's advisory board of directors. Rent must be paid by the 20th day of each month, either privately or with help from Indiana Residential Care Assistance Program, and residents must have health insurance and provide emergency contact information. See Policy page 5

Board OKs raises, contract

Teachers will see an average 7% increase

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Teachers have a new contract in place. Raises were approved for administrators, support staff and substitutes as well.

During an eight-minute meeting Monday, Jay School Board approved a collective bargaining agreement with Jay Classroom Teachers Association that calls for average raises of 7% and OK'd increases for other staff.

The teachers' association had previously approved the agreement. Jay School Corporation superintendent Jeremy Gulley recommended the agreement, explaining that the average 7% increase is about the same as what was approved last year. It will be taking the minimum starting salary for teachers to \$46,003 from the previous \$43,003. The agreement also includes a 2% raise for all employees for extra-curricular activities.

"We're very happy with the contract and with the negotiation process in general," said JCTA president Abby Homan following the meeting. "Everybody comes to the table with the same attitude of wanting to do what's best for everyone involved."

"It's hard when our enrollment is down this far. We could have gotten a lot less, so we're very happy with what we did get and that the board was very willing and wanted to give us raises."

(Since 2015, the Jay Schools student count has dropped by 485 to 2,820.) There was no public comment or discussion on the proposed agreement. See Contract page 2

ARPA \$\$ approved

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK —The city needs to have its federal coronavirus relief funds committed by the end of the year.

It got started on that process Monday.

Dunkirk City Council approved two expenditures using American Rescue Plan Act funds, both related to its parks.

City attorney Wes Schemenaur explained to council at its last meeting that all American Rescue Plan Act funds must be committed by the end of the year and spent by the end of 2026.

The city has about \$360,000 remaining.

Since then, Mayor Jack Robbins asked the city's department heads to consider their needs and present requests that could be paid for using the federal funding.

Donna Revolt, who acts as council's liaison with the parks department, brought two such requests forward

Dunkirk will use some federal funding for park equipment, project

Monday. She suggested spending \$11,350 to purchase a new mower from Sutter Brothers of Coldwater, Ohio, for the parks department and \$10,064.10 to contract with Mustard Seed Remodeling of Portland for the installation of new playground equipment at Dunkirk City Park.

She noted that the quote from Sutter Brothers was the lowest received. Meanwhile, Mustard Seed was the only firm to provide a quote for the playground equipment installation after months of seeking options to complete the project.

Council members Jesse Bivens, Dan Watson,

Christy Curts, Randy Murphy and Revolt unanimously approved both requests.

They discussed other possibilities for the American Rescue Plan Act funds, including installing new fire hydrants, but did not have quotes for additional projects yet.

Council approved the city's 2025 budget at just over \$2.7 million, down slightly from \$2.74 million for this year. (A chunk of the budget in both years involves spending of American Rescue Plan Act funds. With that money removed, the budget increased by 5.1% over 2024.)

See ARPA page 5



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Singin' Serjern

Liam Serjern performs Sunday during the Jay County Junior-Senior High School fall choral concert. Junior high selections included "Choose Your Fighter," "Ripple" and "We Are Warriors."

Deaths

Timothy Wells, 73, Albany
Elmer Wendel, 89, Fort Recovery
Geraldine Kuhn, 88, Berne
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 68 degrees Monday. The low was 37. The forecast calls for a low in the lower 60s tonight with winds gusting to 30 miles per hour. Expect rain Thursday with a high in the lower 70s and continued windy conditions. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Trick-or-treat hours for Halloween on Thursday are as follows: Jay County Merchants - 5 to 7 p.m.; Bryant - 5 to 7 p.m.; Portland - 5 to 7:30 p.m.; Salamonina - 6 to 7 p.m.; Redkey - 6 to 8 p.m. Jay County Public Library will host a variety of activities from 5 to 7 p.m. with children receiving a book, bookmark and candy.

Coming up

Thursday — Coverage of tonight's Redkey Town Council meeting.

Saturday — Results from the JCHS football team's sectional semifinal game.



Contract ...

Continued from page 1
Board members Ron Laux, Phil Ford, Jason Phillips, Vickie Reitz, Chip Phillips and Marcie Vormohr, absent Donna Gesaman, voted unanimously in favor of its approval.
“I think compensation is moving in the right direction for sure,” said Gulley. “I’m looking around at other schools near us and seeing how are we stacking up, and it looks like we’re hanging right in there. ...
“Very smooth. Two sessions and done. A lot of trust.”
The 7% increases the last two years are the largest teachers

had seen recently, surpassing the 5.5% average from 2022. Previous raises for teachers averaged 2% in 2018, 3.5% in 2019, 4% in 2020 and 4.3% in 2021.
Also Monday, the board approved memorandums of understanding for administrators and support staff.
Administrators will receive 5% raises, taking pay to \$150,411 for the superintendent, \$124,635 for the junior-senior high principal, about \$99,000 for most junior-senior high assistant principals and elementary school principals, \$86,100 for elementary school assistant principals and

\$79,336 for the director of transportation. The director of e-learning’s contract was pushed to 260 days, with Gulley including a note that “her current compensation is undervalued” and noting that she would take the lead role if the pilot program for Jay Virtual Academy is approved.
Support staff will receive a minimum raise of \$1 or 5%, whichever is larger. Other changes include a minimum four hours pay for bus drivers for extra-curricular trips and a \$3 premium for the East Jay Elementary School head custodian

because of the size of the building and number of events held there.
The school corporation is increasing its contribution to health insurance to \$7,000 for individuals and to \$16,400 for families for both teachers and support staff.
Board members also approved a \$5.50 increase to \$116.50 per hour for certified substitute teachers and a \$3 increase to \$98 per hour for non-certified substitutes. Rates for substitutes for other positions also went up, with the lowest rate coming in at \$13.50 per hour.

Obituaries

Timothy Wells, Albany, a former Dunkirk resident, Oct. 10, 1951-Oct. 27, 2024. There are no services scheduled at this time.
Elmer F. Wendel, Fort Recovery, Sept. 10, 1935-Oct. 28, 2024. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, Fort Recovery.
Geraldine M. Kuhn, Berne, a relative of Geneva residents, Jan. 30, 1936-Oct. 28, 2024. Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 N. Washington St., Geneva.

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

CR almanac

Thursday 10/31	Friday 11/1	Saturday 11/2	Sunday 11/3	Monday 11/4
71/40	56/35	60/44	66/58	70/59
Thursday's forecast shows a 90% chance of thunderstorms throughout the day.	Another day of mostly sunny skies with a high near 57 degrees.	Mostly sunny on Saturday, when the high will be around 63 degrees.	There's a chance of showers. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	Mostly cloudy skies on Monday, when there's a 70% chance of rain early.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 21-27-32-48-67 Power Ball: 17 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$39 million	Daily Four: 9-0-9-1 Quick Draw: 1-6-7-8-18-28-31-36-44-46-47-48-51-55-57-58-61-63-64-68 Cash 5: 3-4-27-29-32 Estimated jackpot: \$451,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$250 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 7-0-0 Pick 4: 1-9-1-2 Pick 5: 7-7-5-6-0 Evening Pick 3: 0-5-8 Pick 4: 5-0-2-0 Pick 5: 8-2-4-7-4 Rolling Cash: 7-8-24-29-38 Estimated jackpot: \$140,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 6-7-6 Daily Four: 3-6-8-4 Quick Draw: 6-11-15-21-24-26-34-40-44-50-54-57-60-63-67-68-69-74-78-79 Evening Daily Three: 9-8-0	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....3.89 Dec. corn.....3.94 Wheat4.72	Nov. beans9.28 Wheat 5.22
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....3.99 Dec. corn.....4.14 Jan. corn4.22	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.84 Nov. corn.....3.84 Beans.....9.30 Nov. beans.....9.30 Wheat5.12
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.89 Nov. corn.....3.89 Beans9.28	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....3.84 Nov. corn.....3.84 Beans.....9.13 Nov. beans.....9.13 Wheat5.02

Today in history

In 1485, Henry Tudor (Henry VII) took over as king of England. His reign accolades included ending the Wars of the Roses between the Lancaster and York houses.
In 1735, John Adams was born in Braintree, Massachusetts. Among other accomplishments, Adams served as the first vice president and second president of the United States.
In 1895, Gerhard Domagk was born in Germany. Domagk was the 1939 recipient of the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for discovering antibacterial effects in Prontosil.
In 1938, Orson Welles

and his Mercury Theatre on the Air group performed a radio adaptation of H.G. Wells’ “The War of the Worlds.” Some listeners mistook the broadcast for an actual Martian invasion of New Jersey, leading to the act making nationwide news by the next day.
In 1974, Muhammad Ali defeated George Foreman in the “Rumble in the Jungle” match in Zaire, securing the world heavyweight boxing title.
In 2003, LeBron James debuted in the National Basketball Association with the Cleveland Cavaliers. He was drafted directly out of high school.
— The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Today 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council special meeting, park cabin, 50 Mooney St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council public hearing and meeting, Pennville Town Hall, 105 N. Washington St.	Monday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St., Portland. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
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Felony court news

Common nuisance
Two people were sentenced to serve time for maintaining a common nuisance in Jay County.
Noah W. Teeter, 57, 914 W Race St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to maintaining a common nuisance, a Level 6 felony. Teeter was sentenced to 18 months in Jay County Jail with one year of his sentence suspended. He was given eight days credit for time served. Teeter was assessed \$185 in court costs. As part of his plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: a Level 4 felony for dealing in a schedule I controlled substance, a Level 6 felony for dealing marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.
Christopher M. Grady, 48, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to maintaining a common nuisance, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 545 days in Jay County Jail with all but 180 days suspended and given 80 days credit for time served. Grady was assessed \$189 in court costs. As part of his plea agreement, a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia was dismissed.

Dealing drugs
A Portland woman was sentenced to prison for dealing drugs.
Mindy Weaver, 33, 4337 N. U.S. 27, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to dealing methamphetamine, a Level 3 felony. She was sentenced to nine years in Indiana Department of Correction with six years suspended and given credit for time served. Weaver was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. She was recommended for purposeful incarceration, meaning upon completing a sub-

stance abuse treatment program, the court would consider modifying her sentence. As part of her plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: a Level 4 felony for dealing narcotic drugs, a Level 6 felony for possession of a narcotic drug, a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.

Drugs and resisting
A Dunkirk man was sentenced to jail for possession of drugs and resisting police.
Andrew Z. Bishop, 31, 4490 County Road 21 E, Dunkirk, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine and resisting law enforcement, both Level 6 felonies. He was sentenced to 180 days in Jay County Jail and given 30 days credit for time served. Bishop was fined \$25, assessed \$189.50 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.

Methamphetamine
Several people were sentenced to serve time after pleading guilty to possession of methamphetamine.
Jacob R. Nelson, 22, 1511 S Clark St, Muncie, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to one year in Indiana Department of Correction and given four days credit for time served. Nelson was fined \$25, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of his plea agreement, a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia were dismissed.
See page 5

SERVICES

Today
Holley, Robert: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Friday
Wagner, Beverly: 10:30 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1010 W. Monroe St., Decatur.

Monday
Wendel, Elmer: 10:30 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpshurg Road, Fort Recovery.

Service listings provided by
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Capsule Reports

Lost control
A Portland woman complained of head pain after she lost control of the vehicle she was driving, causing it to flip alongside county road 575 South about 6:40 a.m. Tuesday.
Mackenzie N. Richardson, 28, Portland, was driving a 2021 Jeep Compass east on county road 575 South. She told police she hit some stone on the road, causing her to lose control of the vehicle. Richardson’s vehicle left the north side of the road and flipped onto its top.
The vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Intersection crash
A Portland teen drove into oncoming traffic at the intersection of county road 400 South and Indiana 1 about 12:25 p.m. Wednesday.
Chloe D. Cook, 17, was driving her 2011 Dodge Caliber east on county road 400 South as she approached its intersection with Indiana 1. She told police she didn’t see a southbound 2003 Honda Odyssey driven by 77-year-old Patricia L. Anderson of Pennville before continuing into the intersection. Cook’s vehicle struck Anderson’s vehicle, causing Cook’s car to roll onto its side.
Anderson complained of chest pain. Her passenger, 37-year-old Joshua D. Troxel of Pennville, sustained a minor injury to his head.
The vehicles were towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.



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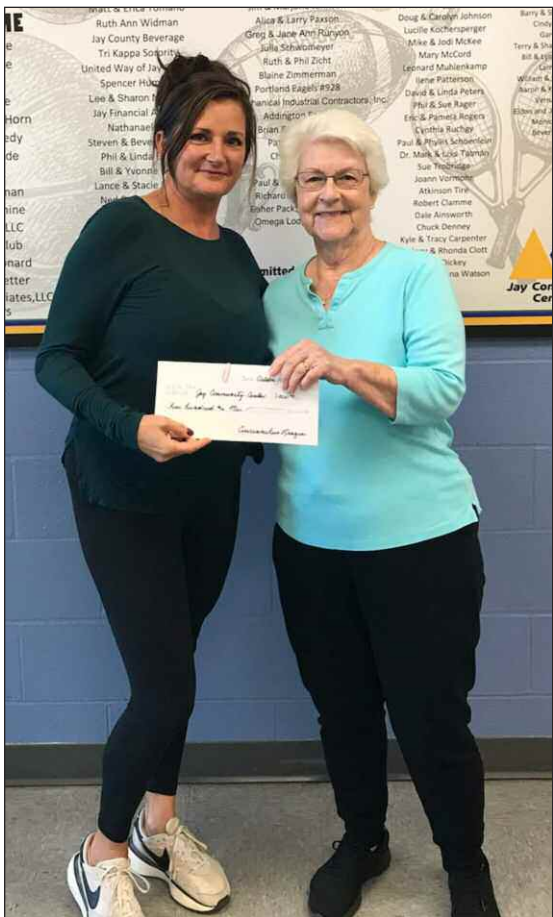
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Photos provided

Cincinnatus donations

Cincinnatus League recently presented checks to three organizations — Jayland Partners, Secret Families of Jay County and Jay Community Center — for their Family Fun Event. Pictured above are Amy Barrett of Jayland Partners, president Drew Houck of Cincinnatus League, Conny Knight of Secret Families of Jay County and Julia Schwomeyer of Cincinnatus League. At left are Anna Muhlenkamp of Jay Community Center and Schwomeyer.

Varying sex drive levels cause issue

DEAR ABBY: I'm a woman in my early 20s, and I have been dating my man for two years. I love him dearly and want to spend the rest of my life with him. He plans to propose before the end of the year, and we plan to be married next year.

Sex with him is fabulous. However, I have a very active libido (probably similar to that of a teenage boy), and I'd be good with having sex every morning, day and night. He, on the other hand, is good with once a week, if that. I feel deprived and sad. We have discussed this, and he claims he knows he needs to improve, but there has been no change.

I don't know if I want to say "I do" if this is what marriage to him will be like. I am afraid of him proposing now because I'm not sure I can marry him if he's not into sex as much as I am. Sex is an extremely important activity in my life. I had amazing sex with a previous boyfriend and have actually contemplated reaching out to him. (I wouldn't cheat.)

Must I settle? I don't want to miss out on having sex as often as I want it. It doesn't feel fair to me. I don't want to end the relationship because he's everything else I want. He's a good man, loving, generous, kind, thoughtful, funny, intelligent, a great conversationalist, fun, adventurous, but with almost no sex drive. Can you offer any insight? — MISERABLE IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR MISERABLE: You are young and, I assume, there isn't a great age difference between you and your boyfriend. When this otherwise ideal man pops the question, your response should be that before you accept his proposal, you want the two of you to have premarital counseling. During some of those sessions, bring up the disparity in your sex drives. There

Dear Abby



may be more than one way to solve your problem. Discuss this with a licensed sex therapist who can help you explore how you can be more satisfied without your boyfriend feeling "forced to perform."

DEAR ABBY: I became a grandmother 20 years ago. My first grandchild was biracial, and I suspect that's the reason my best friend, "Dori," never acknowledged her. When I sent her photos by mail a few times, they went unacknowledged.

Now, 20 years later, Dori has finally become a grandmother through adoption. Although I am happy for her, it stings that my four grandchildren were ignored. I have sent generous baby gifts. How do I move past my resentment without making a fuss? I don't want my grandchildren to ever meet her, as I feel any interest would be idle curiosity and not sincere. Dori has never even asked me their names. — BITTER IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR BITTER: Why do you refer to this woman as a "best friend"? From what you have written, Dori stopped being your friend 20 years ago. You were thoughtful to have sent her grandchild "generous gifts" (or any gift at all). As I see it, there is more than one way to deal with this situation. The first would be to air your feelings to Dori. The second is to continue living your life without her in a starring role.

Community Calendar

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

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention

for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw 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

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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.

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.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

Saturday

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

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

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

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The Commercial Review

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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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Will stories have a happy ending?

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Oct. 27, 2004. Jack and his wife Connie attended the naturalization ceremony in 2017 for Svetlana, who is the subject of this piece. She is now a professor at Thiel College in northwestern Pennsylvania and her son Ilya will graduate from Kenesaw State University in May. "As for the happy ending," she said, "I'm still working on that."

Back in the Saddle



By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

The road home wound through the Indiana countryside as Svetlana unwound stories from her life on the other side of the world.

We'd first met in Kyrgyzstan, the land of her birth, in 2002. And now she was in the Midwest to take part in a panel discussion at a scholarly conference at Indiana University. It seemed the perfect opportunity to offer a little hometown hospitality and bring her back here for the weekend.

Though we'd worked together and I'd spoken to her journalism

students at the American University of Central Asia, it struck me that I didn't know much about her personal background. A couple of questions was all it took to get the tales flowing as we made our way back through an October afternoon.

She told me about her mother's grandfather, the leader of a Cossack village in Russia. When the tsar decided that the eastern edge of his empire needed better security, he ordered Svetlana's great-grandfather to uproot his life and his village and relocate them all in what is now Kyrgyzstan so the Cossacks could patrol the border with China.

She told me about her father's father, a Chechen who had been

exiled to Central Asia by a suspicious Stalin in 1940 along with about 200,000 other Chechens. Chechnya and Mother Russia have had a contentious relationship for generations; many of the headlines we read today have roots going back centuries. The Chechens, exiled internally in the Soviet Union because Stalin feared a "fifth column" while the country fought Hitler, traveled by foot and by horseback over hundreds of miles.

Svetlana's grandfather's wife died along the way, leaving him with half a dozen children. He later formed a marriage of convenience with a Ukrainian widow — also in exile — who had about half a dozen kids of her own.

Svetlana's father was the offspring of that loveless marriage which ended after the war.

Her grandfather abandoned his new wife and son and returned to Chechnya.

She told me of her parents' bitter marriage and her own struggles.

She told of the time in 1986, soon after the Chernobyl disaster, that she and other teenage students taking courses in Kiev to become military translators had traveled by train into the "forbidden zone" around the site of the nuclear accident. They somehow made their way to an evacuated town and walked its streets and peered into its empty houses for an afternoon's lark.

Svetlana was the only one — so far — to experience any effects from the radiation. Soon after her return to Kiev, her hair began to fall out and she was plagued by headaches. It would be months before she returned to normal, and the reality is that she doesn't know what long-term damage may have been done.

She talked of her young son, Ilya, the product of what was apparently a brief love affair. She won't talk about the father at all, saying only that there are "legal impossibilities," which means that he's either married or politically powerful or both.

It was a long, fascinating trip home.

But there was one consistent thread to Svetlana's stories. They never had a happy ending.

That's what she's trying to build today.

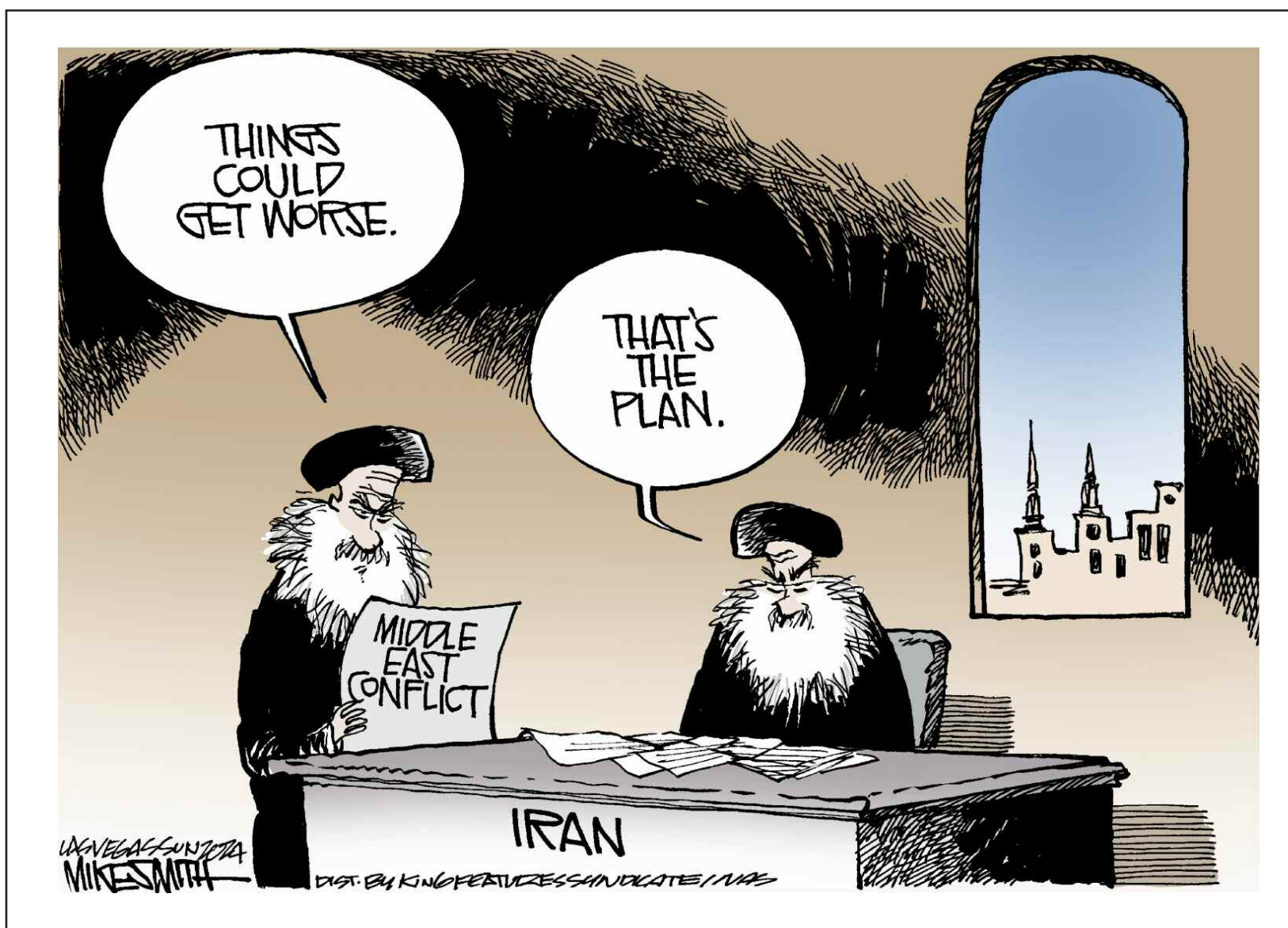
An outstanding student as a young woman, she later earned a Muskie Fellowship which brought her to the U.S., where she studied at Kansas State University and received her master's degree in journalism.

Now she's back in the States, working on her Ph.D. in mass communication at Louisiana State University. There's no fellowship this time. She's doing it on her savings from her university job at home and a teaching assistantship from the university.

And it's going well.

In December, she'll return to Bishkek for a visit. And when she flies back to Baton Rouge in January, Ilya will be with her.

They'll be together, looking for that elusive happy ending.



Misinformation comes at a dangerous time

By ANDRA GARNER
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

Andra Garner



With about six weeks remaining in this year's Atlantic hurricane season, we've already experienced multiple historic storms, vividly illustrating that as humans have warmed the planet, we have also made it more dangerous.

Beryl became a Category 5 hurricane in July, the earliest in the calendar year that any Atlantic hurricane on record has reached that magnitude; Helene yielded catastrophic flooding and damage from Florida to western North Carolina; Kirk traversed the Atlantic to bring damaging rain and winds to France; Milton — one of the fastest-intensifying storms on record — caused damage across Florida; and Oscar surprised forecasters this weekend by quickly becoming a hurricane and dumping flooding rains in the Caribbean. The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season has made it abundantly clear that the consequences of climate change are here.

This hurricane season has also amplified another disturbing trend: misinformation about catastrophic weather extremes. For example, social media users have falsely claimed that Hurri-

canes Helene and Milton were created or steered by human technology. Such lies generate mistrust and anger, which are too often directed at meteorologists who work to save lives by providing accurate scientific forecasts warning those in harm's way to evacuate.

Technology capable of creating or steering hurricanes does not exist outside of science fiction, or perhaps the lairs of cartoon villains. Humans shape extreme weather in another way: When we burn fossil fuels such as oil and gas, we release heat-trapping greenhouse gasses that act as a blanket abnormally warming our planet. Scientists know that this human-caused warming is the real reason hurricanes such as Helene and Milton have become more dangerous.

This is where we need to focus our conversation — on understanding how climate change is making these extremes more dan-

gerous, learning what we can do to limit further warming, and identifying ways to solve this human-caused crisis.

Climate change makes hurricanes more dangerous in several ways. For example, as we heat the planet, sea levels rise because glaciers and ice caps melt and water expands at warmer temperatures. This raises typical coastal water levels and gives a head start to storm surge flooding, as was the case along Florida's coasts with Helene and Milton. Because of sea-level rise, flooding becomes more damaging than it would have been in the past.

A warmer planet also increases the potential for extreme rainfall from hurricanes. A warmer atmosphere can hold more moisture, which can in turn intensify both the rates and amounts of rainfall. As we saw with Hurricane Helene, the resulting moisture can be not just damaging, but deadly.

A warmer planet also means warmer oceans that in effect provide fuel to hurricanes, enabling them to reach greater strengths faster than would have otherwise been possible. My own research shows that, compared to 50 years ago, today's storms are two to three times more likely to strengthen from

Category 1 or less into a major hurricane (meaning Category 3 or greater) within 12 to 24 hours.

We've seen that play out in real time this year. Beryl, Helene and Milton all strengthened from weak hurricanes into major ones within 12 hours as they traveled over unnaturally warm ocean waters. Hurricane Milton strengthened especially fast, intensifying at rates across both a 12-hour and a 24-hour window that ranked above the 99th percentile compared with Atlantic hurricanes recorded from 1851 to 2023.

So the bad news is that we are making hurricanes worse. But the good news is, since we created this problem, we can also solve it. Generating fantastical lies about weather manipulation technology won't prevent these growing coastal hazards, much as threatening meteorologists won't make these storms less damaging. Actual solutions include developing better coastal defenses and emergency action plans and working to eliminate fossil fuel use across our economies.

A recent survey from the United Nations Development Program shows that this is precisely what people all over the world, including the U.S., want. According to the study, two-thirds

of Americans — and 80% of people around the world — think schools should teach more about climate change and its impacts. Two-thirds of Americans also want our country to strengthen commitments to address climate change, and more than half agree that we should quickly replace fossil fuels with renewable energy. A vast majority of Americans (80%) agree that we should work with other countries to combat climate change even if we disagree with them on other issues.

Although extreme weather has become more common, so too has the desire for meaningful climate action, which is the only viable option for sustaining our coastal communities. The task is difficult but not impossible. By understanding the impacts of climate change, sharing that information with each other and voting for leaders who will invest in successful solutions, we can secure a better future and prevent misinformation from defining our new reality.

.....

Garner is an associate professor and climate scientist in the department of environmental science at Rowan University in New Jersey.

The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to letters@thecr.com. They should be 700 words or fewer; signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

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Voting early

Voters arrive and depart at the Coral Gables Library during early voting Oct. 21 in Coral Gables, Florida. Election Day is Tuesday.



Tribune News Service/Miami Herald/Carl Juste

Policy ...

Continued from page 1
Residents are also expected to follow several rules of conduct:

- Being mentally and physically capable of providing self-care
- Providing their own clothing, toiletries, medication and supplemental supplies
- Being responsible for or having another party to pay for their physician's fees, other professional fees and charges and ambulance fees for transportation to the hospital
- Taking medications if prescribed and keeping scheduled appointments with doctors, therapists and case managers if applicable
- Being polite and considerate of others
- Observing quiet times
- Behaving in a manner that is not threatening or disturbing to others

Cindy Bracy, president of Jay County Country Living's advisory board, noted the policy has been approved by the group. Residents will be asked to sign the policy once in effect, with Bracy pointing out board members asked for residents' input on a draft of the code of conduct at a past board meeting and that residents seemed receptive to it.

Commissioners Rex Journey and Chad Aker, absent Brian McGalliard, approved the new admission policy.

In related news, Bracy noted the facility's new director, Stacey Johnson, started working Monday. Johnson is training under interim director Melissa Blankley for the next few weeks.

Commissioners also heard from three insurance brokers Monday regarding fully funded and partially self-funded health insurance plans for next year.

Jessica Clayton with OneDigital

shared a renewal offer for the county with its current provider, Physicians Health Plan, and offers from a few other providers for a fully funded plan.

Physicians Health Plan's renewal includes an 8% increase — it initially came in at 18% — for a total annual premium of \$1.536 million, along with a 40% refund agreement mirroring the current year. Clayton noted the county's loss ratio came in at 102% amid the renewal process and now sits at 116%.

Anthem offered a plan with a 4% increase from the current year — a \$1.48 million annual premium — with a 25% refund agreement. (Clayton noted employees currently using a Health Reimbursement Arrangement would require a third-party administrator for the plan through Anthem.)

United Healthcare offered a plan with a 19% increase.

Addressing the county potentially seeking a partially self-funded plan, she pointed to a claimant who has been marked as a \$2 million "laser" — a higher individual deductible for a single claimant within a stop-loss insurance policy — and suggested it may not be the right time to try self-funding.

Forrest Williamson of Unified Group Services — Steve Stockton of Portland's Bixler Insurance proposed earlier this month switching the county to a partially self-funded plan through the provider — referenced the same issue, suggesting if they moved forward finding that claimant another healthcare plan. Their proposed options for annual expected costs came in around \$1.5 million.

Representatives from Understand, Service and Innovate (USI) Insurance said they believed the last few years of claims from the county showed potential for a par-

tially self-funded plan and asked for time to input new data into their proposal.

Commissioners took offers from One Digital and Bixler Insurance under advisement. Aker asked representatives from USI Insurance to share their proposal within a week.

Also Monday, commissioners heard from Mike McCool, an engineer with consulting firm Egis, formerly Beam, Longest and Neff. McCool shared potential temporary solutions for repairs to some of the county's timber bridges but later noted the fixes may only give the county an additional four to 10 years before they need more attention. He explained the average life expectancy for a timber bridge is generally between 25 to 40 years. (Many of the county's timber bridges were installed in the 1980s.)

The county recently closed two roads because of unsafe bridges, which likely won't be fully repaired or replaced until Jay County can secure grant funding in the coming years.

In other business, commissioners:

- Signed a letter of support for internet service provider Mainstream Fiber Networks to pursue funding through Indiana's Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program for a broadband project in Jay County, East Central Indiana Regional Planning District's regional coordinator for broadband, Autumn Marshall, noted she's been coordinating with Jay County Emergency Management Agency, Ritter Strategic Services and Mainstream Fiber Networks to look into offering a cost effective countywide broadband project. Marshall shared hopes to have estimates for the project by the end of the year.
- Approved the following: a \$20,720.24 contract with Hays +

Sons Complete Restoration of Muncie for restoring parts of Jay County Recorder's Office and Jay County Prosecutor's Office in Jay County Courthouse damaged from a water leak in September; replacing carpet in Jay Circuit Court's bailiff's office and Jay County Assessor's Office for \$5,240.02 and \$7,063.97, respectively, with Medler's Furniture; a \$1,720 contract with Clemens Home Solutions of Muncie for repairing gutters at Dunkirk Emergency Medical Service base, which also serves as Dunkirk Fire Department. The cost will be split with the City of Dunkirk.

•OK'd decommissioning a 2009 truck from Jay County Highway Department's fleet and selling it in the near future.

•Gave permission for county clerk Jon Eads to switch companies used for court collections. (Jay County Circuit Court sends court attendees a 30-day notice alerting them to pay their bill before it is forwarded onto the collection agency.) The county will be switching from Capital Recovery to PayCourt of Taylorville, Illinois.

•Heard 2,485 Jay County residents — approximately 22.5% of registered voters — had voted early in-person at the courthouse as of Monday, with 213 of those residents voting on Monday. "Well, these are contentious times," commented Aker. "So there's no excuse for someone to not vote. Go out and vote, everyone."

•Paid nearly \$1.96 million in claims, approximately \$816,000 of which accounts for road resurfacing completed by Brooks Construction. (The amount is covered by an Indiana Department of Transportation Community Crossings grant.)

ARPA ...

Continued from page 1
The budget includes \$1.71 million in the general fund, \$319,010 in motor vehicle highway, \$135,000 in local option income tax (LOIT) public safety and \$100,000 in economic development income tax (EDIT).

Schemenaur also shared information regarding a request from Jonathon and Natalie Cassel to combine four lots along High Street and vacate and alley. He explained that because one of the lots is in a different subdivision than the other three, it can't be combined. (The other three could be combined, leaving the Cassels with two parcels.) He then walked through the process of vacating an alley, telling the Cassels he could likely have the paperwork done and be ready for a vote at council's Nov. 25 meeting.

In other business, council:

•Heard from Robbins about a \$378,000 grant The Portland Foundation received, \$211,000 of which will go toward the construction of a new early learning center planned to be added on to West Jay Community Center. "This is a good shot in Dunkirk's arm to have our own daycare," he said.

•Was reminded that the city's Feel the Warmth of Christmas celebration will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2. Santa will be at Gas Capital Chrysler during the event.

•Learned from Robbins that leaf pick-up will be on Thursdays throughout November. Residents are asked to bag their leaves and place them along the side of the street.

•Approved the following: a \$15,200 payment to Culy Contracting of Winchester for work on a water leak; \$1,450 for well head inspections at the city's water treatment plant; a \$100 sponsorship for Youth Service Bureau; and payment of claims totaling \$656,306.06.

•OK'd water bill adjustments to \$1,731.76 for 206 Pearl St. and \$183.08 for 407 Meridian St. because of leaks.

Felony court news

Continued from page 2
Austin M. George, 21, 1212 North Franklin St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 450 days in Jay County Jail and given 98 days credit for time served. George was fined \$1, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.

Steven L. Rowles, 30, 805 E. Votaw St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of

methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to three years in Indiana Department of Corrections with 2.5 years suspended and placed on home detention for six months. Rowles was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of his plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: a Level 4 felony for dealing in a narcotic drug, a Level 5 felony for neglect of a dependent, a Level 6 felony for unlawful posses-

sion of a syringe, a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance, a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.

Abby M. Romine, 34, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony. She was sentenced to four years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. Romine was fined \$1, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse,

prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of her plea agreement, two Level 6 felony charges for maintaining a common nuisance and unlawful possession of a syringe were dismissed.

Nathan L. Scott, 35, 6769 West 400 South, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to three years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. Scott was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a

\$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. He was recommended for purposeful incarceration, meaning upon completing a substance abuse treatment program the court would consider modifying his sentence. As part of his plea agreement, a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia was dismissed.

Alan W. Shawver, 41, 1003 W North St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He

was sentenced to 910 days in Jay County Jail with all but one year suspended and given eight days credit for time served. Shawver was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. He was also ordered to submit to an evaluation within 30 days of his sentencing for substance abuse counseling.

As part of his plea agreement, a Class B misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia was dismissed.

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Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Even if we add all our ages together we're still not old enough to vote."

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A double-barreled endplay

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

far from a rosy prospect considering West's one-spade overall. But when you study the hand more closely, you realize that you have an excellent chance to bring the contract home by means of an elimination play.

Accordingly, you win the club with the ace, draw three rounds of trump and cash the A-K-Q of hearts. Cashing the hearts is in keeping with the standard procedure of removing all the cards with which the opponents might later exit safely.

Next, you make the key play of cashing the king of spades. You do this in order to extract East's probable singleton in that suit. Having completed these preliminaries, you then lead a club from dummy, not caring at all which opponent wins the trick.

In the actual case, if East wins the club, he must return a heart or a club, allowing you to discard the jack of spades as you ruff in dummy. And if West wins the club, he must either yield a ruff-and-discard or lead a spade into your A-J. Whichever he chooses, the slam is home.

The bidding: South West North East 1 1 1 3 Pass 6 6

*forcing to game Opening lead - king of clubs. The goal of an elimination play is to create a situation where, when declarer puts one of the opponents on lead, any return will cost the defense a trick. Here is a typical case.

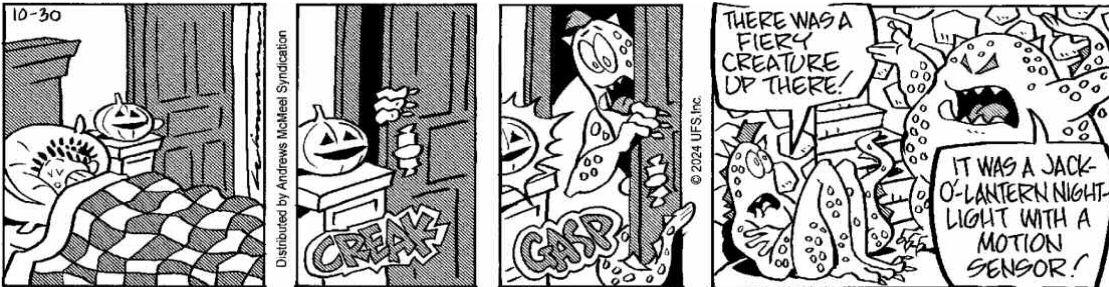
Let's say you get to six diamonds on the bidding shown and West leads the king of clubs. At first blush, making the slam seems to depend on a spade finesse, which is

Tomorrow: Two heads are better than one. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Peanuts



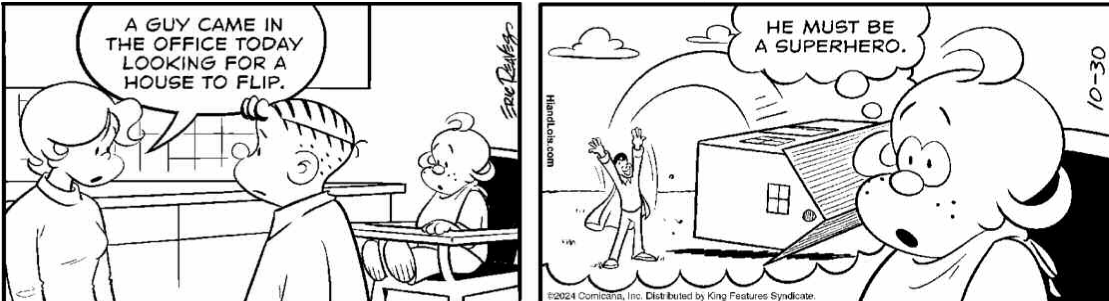
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



10-30

CRYPTOQUIP

F NVVGS L DOND MOEVDV SGVD UEXL MEFBM GZ DE OFMOLT RUEETV FB LULXNDETV. FD UFRDV DOLFT VZFTFDV.

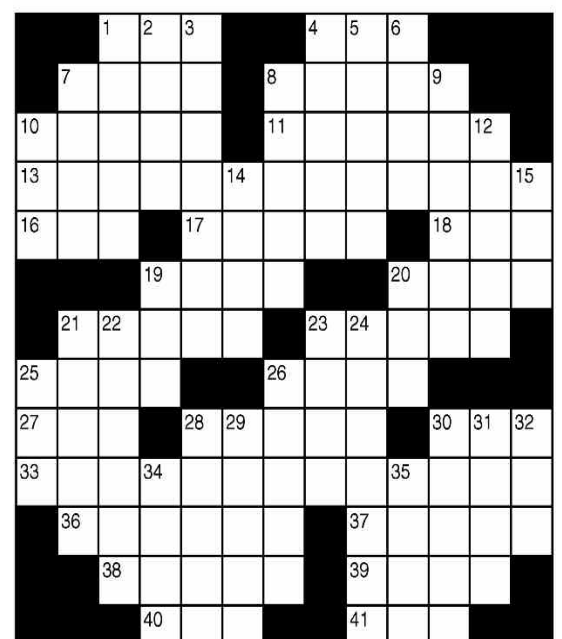
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT MIGHT BE A FITTING DESCRIPTION OF A COSTUMED HALLOWEEN BASH? A COME-AS-YOU-AREN'T PARTY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 27 Ornate vase, 28 Claw, 4 "Don't - stranger!", 7 Utah city, 8 Trattoria offering, 10 Young bird's cry, 11 Playful cove critters, 13 Make unrea-sonable demands, 16 Uno + uno, 17 Locations, 18 Coffee holder, 19 Own (up), 20 Roman censor, 21 Trom- bone part, 23 Huge success, 25 Attempt, 26 Animated Betty. DOWN 12 "-", 1 Long Park", 14 Get up, 15 Private aid gp., 19 Little lie, 20 Baseball fan's headwear, 21 Vegas actor Rob area, 22 Jousting needs, 23 Anon, 24 Dr. Franken-stein's creation, 25 Bottom line, 26 Ecstasy, 28 - Haute, 29 Dole out, 30 Impairs, 31 "The Haj" author, 32 ISP choice, 34 Toppers, 35 Inventor Jethro. Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-30



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Road to the final



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Bridget Homan, a sophomore at Fort Recovery High School, prepares to attack the ball during the district championship against Miami Valley Christian Academy on Saturday. The Indians will take on Anna Thursday in their fourth regional appearance.

Tribe spikers look to make it back to championship for first time in 33 years

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

The Indians set three goals for themselves coming into the season:

- Finish top four in the Midwest Athletic Conference

- Win 75% of their matches

- Make it back to the regional for the first time since 2020

The Tribe spikers came up short on the first two goals. They accomplished their third on Saturday.

Now, they have a chance to reach a point in the post-season that the Indians haven't seen in over three decades.

Fort Recovery High School's volleyball team will square off with the Anna Rockets in the OHSAA Division VI Regional 24 semifinal at 7 p.m. on Thursday at Northmont for a chance to make its first regional final match since 1991.

This will be Fort Recovery's fourth trip to the regional and second under coach Travis Guggenbiller. It first made the regional in 1990, when it went on to win state. Since then, the Indians returned in 1991 and 2020. The Indians made the final in the former before losing to West

Unity Hilltop and lost in the semifinal in the latter appearance to Calvert.

To make it back to the regional championship, the Indians will have to go through Anna, which finished second in the Shelby County Athletic League. A win on Thursday would earn them a spot in Saturday's championship against the winner of No. 1 Coldwater and Centerville.

"We know we're going to face a team that's a solid defensive team that likes to run a quicker offense," said Guggenbiller. "So, today we just discussed the game plan of how to defend a quicker offense and how do we attack that as well. ..."

"I told the girls, 'What's great to see is we have this regional week of practice and we're getting better yet. And that's beautiful to see growth this late in the season.'"

Prior to the playoffs, the Indians (13-13) dropped seven of its final eight regular-season matches. During that stretch, FRHS only won five of 24 sets and gave up an average of 24.4 points per set.

Since opening the sectional on Oct. 16, FRHS has swept all four of its oppo-

nents, including an Arcanum team that beat it in five sets in the first month of the year. (The other victories came against Yellow Springs, Twin Valley South and Miami Valley Christian Academy.) During the 12 sets the Indians have won, the Indians' defense has taken a jump, only giving up an average of 13.2 points per set.

"I think we've gone in the tournament with a tougher mindset to really just not let any ball touch the ground," said senior setter Kayla Heitkamp.

"A lot of it has to do with our energy," added outside hitter Cameron Muhlenkamp. "The atmosphere of each gym we've played in has been amazing, so it makes it easier to make those scrappy plays."

While the Indians and Rockets (16-7) never met during the regular season, the two have seen each other in a preseason scrimmage. While Fort Recovery's track record against AHS isn't the strongest - FRHS is 0-5 against Anna dating back to the 2008 season - the Indians are coming into the match with confidence in the momentum they've built.

See Road page 7

Banchero leads Orlando past Pacers

By **JASON BEEDE**
Orlando Sentinel
Tribune News Service

ORLANDO, Fla. — After Paolo Banchero became the first Magic player to score at least 30 points on opening night since Tracy McGrady (2002) last week at Miami, the third-year pro said it meant a lot to him to be mentioned in the same sentence as the franchise great.

Banchero didn't wait long to be once again mentioned next to McGrady.

The Orlando forward tied McGrady's team record for most points in a single half with 37 before the break Monday night against the Pacers before he finished with a new career-high 50 points to go with 13 rebounds and nine assists.

And the Magic needed nearly all 50 points from

Banchero in order to capture the 119-115 victory at Kia Center.

While Banchero did the heavy lifting, it was second-year guard Anthony Black who nailed a go-ahead 3-pointer with 33 seconds left in the contest. A free throw from Banchero put the result on ice.

Orlando begins a five-game road trip Wednesday at Chicago.

While Banchero did most of the scoring for Orlando, Jalen Suggs contributed with a strong start from 3-point range.

The fourth-year pro started 5 of 5 from beyond the arc to total 15 points at the break. Suggs went onto make one more triple on the night and finished with 25 points.

He added seven assists, five rebounds, a steal and a block in 35 minutes.

Regional run

Paityn Wendel works her way through the course at Huntington University on Saturday at the IHSAA Regional 2 cross country meet. Wendel finished the race with a time of 22 minutes, 54.9 seconds.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

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- LIFE INSURANCE
- PROPERTY INSURANCE
- HEALTH INSURANCE
- AUTO INSURANCE
- TRAVEL