

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Shop with a badge

Jay County Sheriff's Office deputy Chance Retter listens as 8-year-old Phoenix Ashley and 9-year-old Odin Ashley of Portland explain their Christmas wish list plans Saturday at Walmart. Jay County emergency personnel hosted Shop With a Badge Saturday afternoon, purchasing gifts for more than 40 families with donations from the community.

## No deal yet on funding measure

*Without a resolution funding would end Friday*

By NIELS LESNIEWSKI  
CQ-Roll Call  
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — Law-makers return for what's expected to be the last workweek of the year with no continuing resolution yet in sight.

The text of a stopgap spending bill that would continue funding until at least March 14 was not released over the weekend, though it had been expected to be. Late hiccups this time include a dispute over how to extend farm programs and provide relief to those in the agriculture sector.

Absent congressional action, funding would lapse at the end of the night on Friday, when the current stopgap funding law expires.

The Republican and Democratic leaders of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees each issued weekend statements criticizing the other party's handling of the farm bill provisions.

"Their eleventh-hour offer fell short of what farmers need, short-changed critical farm bill programs, and steals from critically needed assistance to address recent natural disasters. We can and should do both economic and disaster assistance, not pit one against the other." Senate Agriculture Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, D-Michigan, and House Agriculture Committee ranking member David Scott, D-Georgia, said in a joint statement.

"The failure to include economic assistance will have devastating and lasting consequences on our farm families, the rural communities in which they live and American agriculture. For that reason, we intend to oppose any supplemental spending package that does not provide meaningful assistance to our farmers," House Agriculture Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson, R-Pennsylvania, and Senate Agriculture ranking member John Boozman, R-Arkansas, said in their own statement.

While the funding sparring and talks continue, the Senate is moving toward clearing the fiscal 2025 National Defense Authorization Act, which already passed the House. Senators vote Monday evening on a motion to limit debate on the bill, setting up a vote on final passage likely on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Also on the docket is the final agreement on the bipartisan water resources reauthorization bill, which has been named for retiring Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman Thomas R. Carper, D-Delaware.

See Funding page 2

## BlackRock removed for violations

By NIKI KELLY  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The board of trustees for the Indiana Public Retirement System voted unanimously Friday to dismiss global investment firm BlackRock from handling the state's portfolio.

The move came after Indiana Treasurer Daniel Elliott accused BlackRock of making illegal environmental, social or governance (ESG) commitments.

"Today, I and other INPRS board members voted to put Hoosier public servants first by

### State pension board voted unanimously

rejecting BlackRock and woke corporate policies," said Treasurer Daniel Elliott. "As Treasurer of State, I led the charge against ESG and other non-fiduciary policies that harm work-

ers force that put Hoosier public employee pensions at risk."

Friday's vote was to determine that there are service providers comparable to BlackRock for custom, passive invest-

ment management services of global inflation-linked bonds within the INPRS Defined Benefit Plan.

"Today's decision by the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS) clearly showed the culture-war politics of outside influences – not their fiduciary duty – was the driving motivation behind a board vote that arbitrarily put political winds ahead of the pension's financial performance," Elliott said.

Choosing a new provider comes next.

See Removed page 2



Special to The Commercial Review/Kim Wendel

## Christmas choir

Fort Recovery Local Schools held its choir Christmas concert Sunday evening in the elementary/middle school auditoria. Pictured, members of the choir, including brothers Caden and Matthew Marchal, center, perform during the event.

## Court begins review of Yoon impeachment

### Investigators plan to question regarding martial law

By SAM KIM  
Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

South Korea's Constitutional Court has started reviewing President Yoon Suk Yeol's impeachment case, while investigators reportedly plan to question him this week over his shock martial law declaration.

Judges began their deliberations on Monday and the first preparatory hearing will be held on Dec. 27, according to court officials. Meanwhile, South Korea's joint investigation team will ask Yoon to appear on

Wednesday for questioning over alleged insurrection and power abuse, Yonhap News reported.

The parliament voted on Saturday to impeach Yoon, suspending him from his duties after his brief martial law declaration on Dec. 3 plunged the country into political turmoil. The motion passed after the opposition secured enough support from members of the ruling party. Prime Minister Han Duck-soo became the acting president.

Yoon is now awaiting a court ruling on whether he will be removed or restored to office, a decision that can take up to 180 days from the passage of the impeachment. In previous cases, the process typically took two to three months. It's optional for the parties involved in the case to attend the preparatory hearing later this month, according to court spokeswoman Lee Jean.

### Deaths

Carolyn Boughman, 82, Portland  
Aaron Fennig, 43, Portland  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 47 degrees Sunday. The low was 39.  
Skies will be partly cloudy tonight with a chance of show and rain showers after midnight and a low in the lower 30s. Expect cloudy skies Wednesday with a high around 40. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

The Great Stocking Stuffer Scavenger Hunt organized by State Farm's Karmen Ward begins Thursday. Children can pick up a stocking at 108 N. Ship St., Portland, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Thursday. They can then visit a list of local merchants to receive small gifts from each.

### Coming up

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

Thursday — Results from the JCHS girls basketball game at Blackford.

Friday — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.



# Removed ...

Continued from page 1  
A statement from BlackRock said “We’re proud of having helped hundreds of thousands of Hoosiers invest and retire with dignity. Despite this decision, we remain committed to Indiana and the \$102 billion we have invested in the state on behalf of our clients.”  
An INPRS presentation on the topic said the system issued a request for proposal

to conduct comparable provider research.  
The BlackRock portfolio eligible had total assets of \$969 million in October 2024.  
Five firms responded to the RFP. After finalist interviews, three were found to be able to provide comparable service to the state, which means materially equivalent or materially better financially for the system.  
Next, the board will decide

who to hire instead. The contenders are State Street, UBS and Northern Trust.  
All three are on other states’ ESG boycott lists – Northern Trust in West Virginia, UBS in Texas and State Street in Oklahoma. All of the alternatives also are members of the Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative, which commits to net zero emissions.  
BlackRock manages \$10.5 trillion in assets, and the clos-

est to that of those providers is \$4.4 trillion for State Street.  
State Comptroller Elise Nieshalla — one of the nine board members — voted to hire an alternate asset manager.  
“State retirees and employees deserve to benefit from investment managers who focus solely on fiduciary duty,” she said.  
Her news release said members were presented with solid evidence based on documents

BlackRock filed with the SEC that demonstrate its engagement with an ESG focused agenda.”  
“I do commend BlackRock’s recent action to discontinue its affiliation with Climate Action 100+, but more needs to be done including ending its support of Net Zero and similar initiatives to demonstrate a refocused commitment of prioritizing beneficiaries over a political agenda.”

## CR almanac

Wednesday 12/18	Thursday 12/19	Friday 12/20	Saturday 12/21	Sunday 12/22
<b>41/27</b>	<b>37/30</b>	<b>33/19</b>	<b>29/15</b>	<b>28/20</b>

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$55 million	17-18-20-22-28-34-40-45-46-50-54-72-74-76-77-78 Cash 5: 15-17-26-27-29 Estimated jackpot: \$757,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$740 million	
<b>Hoosier</b> Sunday Midday Daily Three: 5-3-5 Daily Four: 7-2-0-7 Quick Draw: 1-4-9-11-13-25-27-29-40-42-45-48-50-52-53-71-73-74-76-79 Evening Daily Three: 2-2-3 Daily Four: 4-7-2-3 Quick Draw: 3-6-7-11-	<b>Ohio</b> Sunday Midday Pick 3: 8-0-2 Pick 4: 7-5-5-6 Pick 5: 0-0-5-5-0 Evening Pick 3: 8-7-1 Pick 4: 3-5-3-4 Pick 5: 6-9-2-7-9 Rolling Cash 5: 1-4-19-36-39 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.50 Jan. corn .....4.49 Feb. corn .....4.52	Jan. beans .....9.92 Wheat ..... 5.03
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.48 Jan. corn .....4.52 Feb. corn .....4.54	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.38 Jan. corn .....4.38 Beans .....9.78 Jan. beans .....9.80 Wheat .....4.97
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.42 Jan. corn .....4.42 Beans .....9.82	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.49 Jan. corn .....4.49 Beans .....9.57 Jan. beans .....9.62 Wheat .....4.93

## Today in history

In 1760, Deborah Sampson was born. Sampson assumed a man's identity to join as a soldier in the American Revolutionary War.  
In 1790, the Aztec calendar stone, also known as the Stone of the Five Eras, was discovered in Mexico City.  
In 1807, the Milan Decree was issued by Napoleon of France. The measure, part of Napoleon's plan to wage economic warfare against the British, forbid all neutral countries and allies of France from trading with Britain.  
In 1862, General Ulysses S. Grant issued an order expelling Jews from his military district, which included parts of Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky,

after relating the folks in the religious sect to the black market for cotton. Word quickly reached President Abraham Lincoln, who ordered Grant to rescind the order.  
In 2016, the University of Saint Francis' football team won the NAIA Football National Championship with a 38-17 victory over Baker University in Daytona Beach, Florida. Eric Hemmelgarn, a 2014 Jay County High School graduate and member of the Cougars' defense, recorded three tackles and 1.5 sacks. “You don't have to be from a big high school to be a good athlete,” he said the following evening after returning to Fort Wayne. “Just work hard and you'll get far.”  
—The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Monday</b> 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Federal Ave., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Local Schools, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St. 7:15 p.m. — Fort Recovery Records Commission, village hall, 201 S. Main St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort	Recovery Village council, village hall, 201 S. Main St. <b>Tuesday</b> 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St. <b>Wednesday</b> 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North. <b>Thursday</b> 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.
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## Obituaries

### Carolyn Boughman

March 19, 1942-Dec. 12, 2024  
Carolyn Sue Boughman, age 82, a resident of Portland, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024, at Muncie Estates in Muncie, Indiana.  
Sue was born March 19, 1942, in Anderson, Indiana, the daughter of Edward “Bud” and Marjorie (White) Cottingham. She graduated from Portland High School and worked at Createc in Portland for 22 years.  
Sue attended New Beginnings Holiness Church in rural Portland.  
She married William “Bill” Boughman on Feb. 23, 1962, and he passed away on Aug. 2, 2012. Bill and Sue celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2012 with a big surprise party.  
Sue loved to garden, keep her flower beds pristine, cook and bake. Everything had to be made from scratch, no boxes. She loved spending time with family more than anything else. She loved playing cards, board games, and the occasional girl's trip to the Anderson casino. Sue's orneriness, smile and laugh will forever be missed.  
Survivors include:  
Her son — Wade Boughman (wife: Kerri), Yorktown, Indiana  
Two grandsons — Eli and Thadd Boughman  
Visitation will be held on Wednesday from 3 to 5 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 5 p.m. on Wednesday at the funeral home. Pastor Randy Smith will officiate and private burial will be held on Thursday at Green Park Cemetery in Portland.



Boughman

Condolences may be sent to williamsonspencer.com.

### Aaron Fennig

Sept. 23, 1981-Dec. 1, 2024  
Aaron W. Fennig, 43, of Portland, Indiana, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024, in Indianapolis, Indiana.  
He was born on Sept. 23, 1981, in Coldwater, Ohio. He was raised in Portland, Indiana, by his loving parents, Joseph and Kathleen (Wolf) Fennig.  
In addition to his parents, Aaron is survived by his son, Caleb Wilken (mother: Lara Wilken); his sister, Claire (Mitch) Neal of Indianapolis; his nephew, Braxton Neal; his aunts and uncles, Mary Jane (Henry) Faller of Aurora, Illinois, Cindy (Tony) Hoying of Waynesville, Ohio, and Beth (Jay) Frilling of Coldwater; John (Kathy) Wolf of Fort Recovery, Chuck (Beck) Wolf of Coldwater, Dave (Ginny) Wolf of Grass Valley, California, Steve (Megan) Wolf of Cincinnati, Karl (Jody) Fennig of Portland, Mike (Brenda) Fennig of Union City, Indiana, Mary (Rick) Gluff of Muncie, Madeline Hayes Lewis of College Station, Texas, Liz Gatewood of Madison, Indiana, and Virginia Fennig of Redkey, Indiana; and many cousins and friends.  
Aaron was preceded in death by his grandparents, Herman and Marybelle Fennig and William “Bill” and Margaret “Peg” Wolf; and his uncles, Bill Wolf Jr. and John Fennig.  
During Aaron's younger years, he attended Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and went to Jay County High School. He then attend-



Fennig

ed Ball State University. In 1999, Aaron enlisted in the United States Army National Guard. During his enlistment, Aaron was deployed to serve as a peacekeeper in Bosnia and then served in Iraq. In 2007, Aaron was honorably discharged. In recent years, Aaron worked for the Stagehand Union in Indianapolis, where he helped set up and coordinate major events in town. In his free time, Aaron enjoyed tending to his gardens and playing his bass guitar. He loved music and it was something he shared with his nephew, Braxton.  
A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, 2024, at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, Fort Recovery, with Father Ethan Moore officiating. A private family burial will take place at a later date in St. Mary's Cemetery, Fort Recovery.  
Guests may visit with Aaron's family on Friday, Dec. 20, 2024, from 3 to 7 p.m. and again on Saturday from 9 to 10 a.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery.  
Memorial contributions may be given to HVAF of Indiana, 964 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46204. HVAF of Indiana houses, supports and advocates for all veterans and their families to help them achieve the best possible quality of life.  
Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockman-boeckmanfh.com.

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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.

## Funding ...

Continued from page 1  
Under a unanimous consent agreement announced last week, Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, D-New York, can call up the House-passed agreement on that bill for a brief debate and vote notwithstanding the restrictions normally imposed by cloture, so it could be on the floor Tuesday while the Senate is still processing the defense authorization bill.

Schumer has also filed the cloture motion on proceeding to a bipartisan bill that would eliminate reductions in Social Security benefits for people who held jobs that did not require them to pay into the system.  
That includes firefighters, teachers and police officers — who may have had multiple jobs, including some for which they did pay Social Security taxes.

## Felony arrests

**Child molestation**  
A Dunkirk man was arrested Saturday for child molestation.  
Sydney C. Nixon, 21, 370 W. Washington St., was preliminarily

charged with three Level 3 felonies for three counts of child molestation.  
Nixon was being held on a \$40,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

## Capsule Reports

**Pole hit**  
A Portland man lost control of the car he was driving, causing it to strike a pole along county road 300 North about 7:24 p.m. Thursday.  
Andrew J. Lessing, 35, was driving a 2005 Chrysler Pacifica east on the road near county road 750 West when he came to a curve in the road.  
He drove off the road and into a pole registered to Jay County REMC, breaking it.  
Lessing was cited for driving with a suspended license.  
The vehicle he was driving was towed, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

### SERVICES

**Wednesday**  
**Boughman**, Carolyn: 5 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

**Friday**  
**McDaniel**, Esther: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.  
**Moore**, Jerry: 2 p.m., Sapphires Reception Center, 1100 Votaw St., Portland.

**Saturday**  
**Fennig**, Aaron: 10:30 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpshurg Road, Fort Recovery.

Service listings provided by  
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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

# Holiday tears are a rite of passage

By **CHRIS SCHANZ**  
The Commercial Review

I'm pleased to know my daughter is not alone.

Now that I have a child, I want to take all of the seasonal photographs; Halloween, harvest, Christmas, spring, Easter, summer, etc. Part of her newborn photos were her in an Easter basket wearing a knitted bunny costume.

They were, as the kids say, "adorbs."

Her harvest/Halloween photo session didn't go so well though. I bought mini bales of straw, mini pumpkins and other seasonal decor for the session. As with having an infant, Chrissy and I got busy and once we got around to making the photos we sort

## Parental Ponderings



of rushed through it. Baby Schanz was not happy.

For the holiday photos, I wanted to get ahead and bought the props early, including a themed backdrop. I didn't want to wait until after the holiday again to get the session handled. Plus, we wanted to use the photo(s) for our Christmas cards.

My daughter's day care caught wind that I was a photographer and asked

me if I wanted to set up a session for the families. I jumped at the opportunity, as I've wanted to branch out my side gig into doing mini sessions because they're all the rage these days.

The center's director, Hailey, helped me set up the whole thing. She reached out to the families to gauge interest, gathered information of those who eventually took me up on the offer and kept the schedule organized.

She was a big help in handling it all.

Hailey knew someone who could portray Santa, and some of the families wanted to include him with their children.

I wasn't entirely prepared for the outcome of having Saint Nick there.

Most of the children were ecstatic to see Kris Kringle. A handful, my daughter included, were absolutely not pleased.

The first girl, one of my daughter's classmates, wanted nothing to do with the Big Red Guy. She cried immediately upon seeing him, and did nothing but reach for her mother in hopes of getting as far away from the bearded man as soon as possible.

And the photos were priceless.

We didn't have Baby Schanz on the schedule, we were just going to squeeze her in one of the

breaks. (Our 6-hour schedule wasn't fully booked.)

When it came time for our photos, I took my spot behind my camera, Santa took a seat on the blanket-covered bench and my wife gave him my daughter.

Instant tears.

Donning a white onesie with glitter snowflakes and a red dress with a reindeer on the chest, Baby Schanz was crying so hard her face started to match her dress.

She was not happy.

And like they were with her classmate, the photos were priceless.

Our daughter eventually warmed up to him — she even cracked a smile — and we were able to get some

quality images of the two of them for her first Christmas.

But the photos where she's crying are the absolute best.

It's almost a rite of passage for a child to cry around Santa when seeing him at a young age.

I'm just glad to know Baby Schanz isn't alone having cried around Jolly Ol' Saint Nick.

.....  
Chris Schanz is a former CR Sports Editor who will be embarrassing his daughter when she's older with photographs of her crying with Santa. You can reach him at christopher.schanz@gmail.com.

# Reader suggests a supportive approach

DEAR ABBY: "Looking Out for Mom in Chicago" (Aug. 16) was concerned that 69-year-old Mom wasn't getting out and socializing now that she has moved closer to them, and worried they'll be her only support as she ages. They also said she's always been shy.

As a nearly 70-year-old introvert, I understand how their mom feels. Moving to a new place with no friends isn't exactly a bad thing when you're introverted. I get all the socializing I need when I go to town to shop and talk with familiar clerks.

To force an introvert into situations they aren't familiar with is stressful on the person.

## Dear Abby



It's a terribly uncomfortable situation. People need to realize that there are folks out there who really ARE fine in their own company. — CATHY IN WISCONSIN

DEAR CATHY: Thank you for lending your insight. Other readers who have "been there" also shared their experiences. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: As a social worker who has worked with elders for years, I guarantee that "Looking's" mom will not respond well to, nor comply with, being told she "must" make friends and interact with others. She may be grieving the loss of her friends back home, her previous faith community and more. She may need time to reconcile all of this. If she's active, staying healthy and taking care of herself, let her decide when she's ready to reach out and broaden her circle.

Friendships and social activities can't be forced. They occur organically. Rather than her son and daughter-in-law dictating

what she should do, how about sitting down with her and gently exploring how she is adjusting, and how they can help her in a more supportive way? — SILVER-HAIRED IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR ABBY: You were on the right track to suggest that "Mom" become a volunteer. Volunteering allows the person to get involved to whatever degree they wish in their areas of interest. I joined a dog therapy group in my hometown. It provides casual, short-term visits in hospitals, rehab centers, nursing homes, school campuses, businesses and manufacturing facilities. The focus of dog therapy is primarily on the per-

son being visited — but EVERYONE benefits. — DON IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR ABBY: May I suggest they have Mom's hearing tested? Not being able to hear what is going on discourages people from joining in and getting involved in group settings. — MARGO IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ABBY: You might add, on behalf of Shy Mom, that taking an adult education class or two in the local community, in subjects that interest her, will give her access to potential friends. Better yet, she can be in the class but not required to interact with "strangers" unless she wants to. — JOHN J. IN CALIFORNIA

# Community Calendar

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

## Today

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.

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

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'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.

## Wednesday

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

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

PORTLAND ROTARY

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

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

Thursday STITCH AND CHAT-

TER QUILT CLUB and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

# Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

## Saturday's Solution

6	4	8	7	9	5	2	1	3
3	9	5	8	2	1	7	4	6
1	2	7	3	6	4	9	8	5
5	8	4	9	3	2	6	7	1
9	6	1	5	8	7	3	2	4
7	3	2	4	1	6	5	9	8
4	1	6	2	5	9	8	3	7
8	7	9	6	4	3	1	5	2
2	5	3	1	7	8	4	6	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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**GRAPHIC PRINTING**  
NEWSPAPERS

The Commercial Review

# The process lacks accountability

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Public access and transparency have taken a beating during the process to resume executions in the state of Indiana. And that hurts public confidence in the system.

The Indiana Department of Correction won't hold any press briefings or information sessions for the state's first execution in 15 years. It will send two updates via email to reporters on the day of the death.

Only Wyoming and Indiana don't allow media witnesses out of the 27 states and the federal government that have the death penalty. In several states, it's a discretionary choice for correction officials but the vast majority authorize a set number of media witnesses from three to 12.

Indiana is a clear outlier. In some executions, reporters have provided factual information on mistakes or botched results. The agency has also denied

**Niki Kelly**



virtually every information request related to the execution, including any information about the drug that will be used to kill Joseph Corcoran before sunrise on Wednesday.

They won't say how many vials were bought, what it cost, the expiration date. Nothing.

They are hiding behind a law that protects the identity of the company that the state bought the pentobarbital from. That law exists because manufacturers and distributors were getting bad press when they supplied states with drugs to perform executions. And that's fine.

But as a taxpayer, we should be able to know what the state is spending on executions and the

cost of the drug is a key part. Without knowing how many vials were bought, it's impossible to know how many executions the state intends to carry out. And the expiration date of the drugs is also important for the integrity of the process.

## Seeking clarification

That's why I filed a complaint with the Public Access Counselor to get the cost. The law shields "information reasonably calculated to lead to the identity" of the supplier. IDOC considers the cost alone enough to give a foothold to reverse engineer online financial records to identify the identity of the supplier, according to their response.

How, I have no idea. And all this leads to my other major transparency issue — my fear that public records and access would be decidedly chilled by last-minute legislative changes last April.

You see, lawmakers neutered the Public Access Counselor position because they didn't like

some of his rulings. They first changed the post from a term of years to serving at the pleasure of the governor. The point of that is so he or she can be fired at any time if a ruling ticks the right people off.

But another key change said the public access counselor shall consider only: (1) the public access laws, as plainly written; and (2) valid opinions of Indiana courts.

## Counselor backs off

I was concerned immediately that this would mean the counselor would avoid making rulings and instead force everyone to go to court. I was right.

The current counselor, Luke Britt, sent a letter Friday to me and a public defender who had also sought various records related to the execution. I have always respected Britt's decisions, even ones that didn't go my way. But it's clear from the letter that his powers have been muted. "The General Assembly has

issued new marching orders to the public access counselor to limit my interpretation of statutes of the access laws to their plain reading when crafting advisory opinions. The statute in question does not contain an exhaustive list of the public records that may lead to the reasonable calculation of an identity or a vendor. Toward that end, the legislature has not defined the term "reasonably calculated". The public access counselor must pass on any inference regarding ambiguous statutes either way. Likewise, case law does not exist either addressing these matters."

So, basically, the legislature tied the access counselor's hands behind his back and Hoosiers have to instead file a lawsuit to get an answer.

We are evaluating our next options as litigation can be lengthy and expensive. But it's clear Hoosiers won't know what the state of Indiana spent when Corcoran takes his last breath next week.

# Older Americans can't afford basics

By SHERLEA DONY

OtherWords

I worked hard my whole career and retired feeling secure. Then I lost every last dime in a scam. I was left with \$1,300 a month in Social Security benefits to live on in an area where monthly expenses run about \$3,700.

I'm a smart woman, but scams against older Americans

are increasing in number and sophistication. Whether through scams, strained savings, or costs of living going up, half of older Americans — that's 27 million households — can't afford their basic needs.

And suddenly I became one of them. The experience has taught me a lot about the value of a strong social safety net — and why we'll need to protect it from the coming administration.

I was ashamed and frightened after what happened, but I scraped myself up off the floor and tried to make the best of it.

I'd worked with aging people earlier in my career, so I was familiar with at least some of the groups who could help. I reached out to a local non-profit and they came through with flying colors, connecting me to life-saving federal assistance programs.

I was assigned a case-worker, who guided me through applying for public programs like the Medical Savings Plan (MSP), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), subsidized housing, Medicare Part D, and Medicaid.

It's hard to describe my relief at getting this help.

Before receiving the MSP, I'd been paying for medications and health insurance — which cost about \$200 — out of my monthly Social Security check. With MSP, that cost is covered. I also found an apartment I liked through subsidized housing, and I have more money for groceries through SNAP. Now it's easier to afford other necessities, like hearing aid batteries and my asthma inhaler.

But I'm worried about the incoming administration's plans to cut pro-

**Sherlea Dony**



grams like these, which have helped me so much. They're proposing slashing funding and imposing overly burdensome work and reporting requirements. Studies show that requirements like these can cause millions of otherwise eligible people to lose critical assistance.

President-elect Trump has also indicated that he favors increased privatization of Medicare, which would result in higher costs and less care. And his tax promises are projected to move up the insolvency date of Social Security.

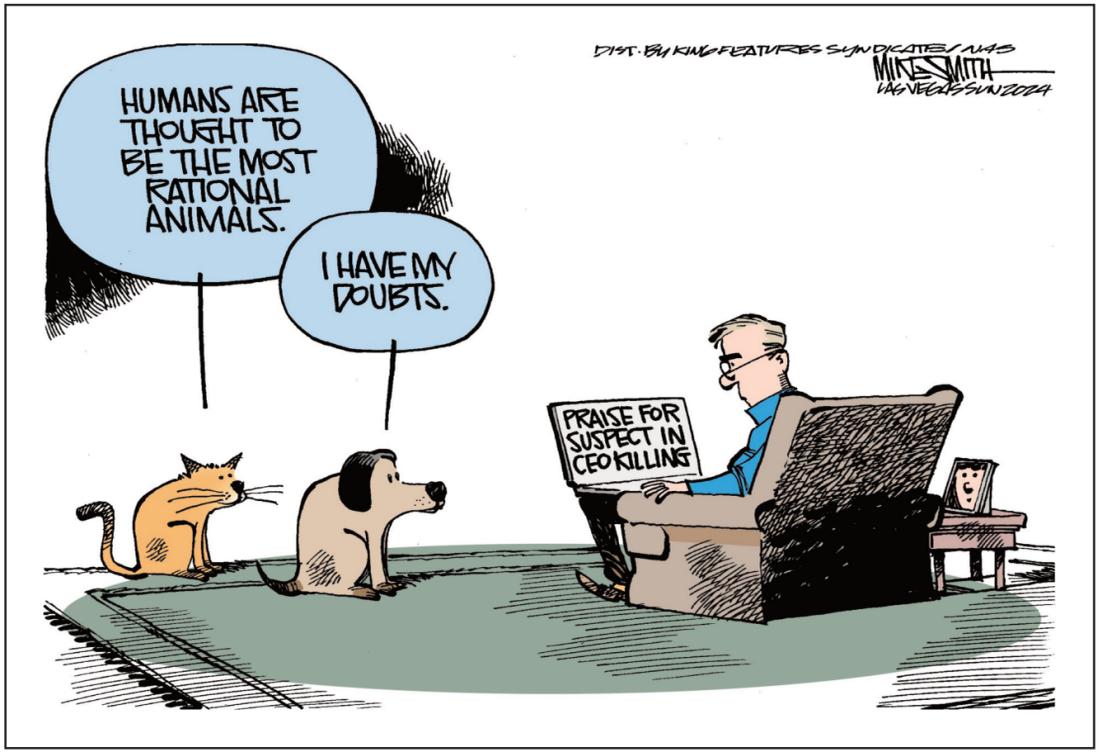
All told, the federal budget cuts the incoming Republican majority in Congress has put forward would slash health care, food, and housing by trillions over the next 10 years, resulting in at least a 50% reduction in these services. And they plan to divert those investments in us into more tax cuts for the nation's very wealthiest.

I want lawmakers of each party to know how important these social investments are for seniors and families. Older Americans — who've worked hard all our lives — shouldn't be pushed out onto the streets, forced to go without sufficient food or health care due to unfortunate circumstances.

We have the tax dollars — the question is whether we have the political will to invest in seniors, workers, and families, or only for tax cuts for the very rich. If we do the latter, that's the real scam.

*Dony is a retired American Sign Language interpreter, consultant on access services for students who are deaf and hard of hearing, and copy editor currently living in Rochester, New York.*

*OtherWords is a free editorial service published by the Institute for Policy Studies.*



# Don't erode norms in response

St. Louis Post-Dispatch  
Tribune News Service

President-elect Donald Trump has spouted off about his various authoritarian fantasies so often and for so long that it's easy to overlook it when he breaks dangerous new rhetorical ground. Such a moment came Sunday when, during his first formal televised interview since winning the Nov. 5 presidential election, Trump said he believes members of Congress should be jailed for investigating his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

As always, it's important that responsible leaders resist the urge to counter Trump's norm-shattering inclinations by shattering them further. That's why President Joe Biden should reject calls to preemptively pardon members of Congress and others who might face persecution under the coming Trump administration. Instead, they must place their faith in the ability of the American justice system to block those and other unconstitutional Trumpian stunts that may lie ahead.

On NBC's "Meet the Press" Sunday, interviewer Kristen Welker asked Trump about past indications that he would seek retribution against critics like former Republican Rep. Liz Cheney, who was a member of a House select committee that investigated the events of Jan. 6.

Trump responded with a familiar litany of false and thoroughly debunked claims — that the committee destroyed evidence, that then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi turned down an offer of National Guard troops to quell the violence.

Then he added: "I think those people committed a major crime. ... Cheney was behind it ... and everybody on that committee ... For what

## Guest Editorial

they did, honestly, they should go to jail."

When Welker pressed him on whether he thinks "everyone on the committee ... should go to jail," Trump responded: "Anybody that voted in favor" — meaning, presumably, voted in a favor of the final committee report recommending that Trump be criminally charged for trying to overturn the 2020 election.

When pressed further, Trump said he wouldn't order his Justice Department to criminally charge committee members, but that officials under him "will have to look at that. ... They can do whatever they want."

Trump's pick to lead the FBI, Kash Patel, has already made clear what he wants: criminal prosecutions of scores of Trump critics, many in connection with the Jan. 6 House committee's actions. If Patel needed a greener light for that malignant route, Trump clearly provided it Sunday.

Spare us any whataboutisms regarding the unprecedented criminal prosecutions of Trump as an ex-president. Those prosecutions were the results of his unprecedented crimes — most atrociously, his calculated attempts to illegally overturn a valid election before Jan. 6, and his active role that day in fostering the violence.

Reasonable people can argue about the solidity of the now-abandoned criminal charges against Trump

related to that day, but in no rational universe is there justification to even talk about jailing members of Congress for how they voted on a committee report. That's beyond bananarepublic stuff. That Trump would give voice to it is obscene if not especially surprising.

Yet preemptive pardons for Cheney or anyone else is exactly the wrong remedy for Trump's cancerous brand of strong-man politics.

Pardons are meant to give presidents a way to counter miscarriages of justice — an instrument of mercy for when the justice system has in some way failed. Nothing in the constitutional construct of the pardon imagines using them preemptively on the expectation (however justified in this case) that an incoming president will abuse that system.

Trump, who egregiously abused the pardon process during his first term, reiterated in Sunday's interview that he plans to pardon many if not most of the Jan. 6 rioters on the grotesque claim that they're wrongly prosecuted patriots. Biden has already lent credence to those dark plans with his outrageous decision to pardon his own son.

At this rate, it's not difficult to imagine the entire concept of the pardon becoming just another once-valid norm brought low by the relentlessly cynical politics of our era; just another partisan weapon to be misused and abused by whoever happens to be in power.

That Trump's very ethos would embrace such a terrible development isn't justification for Biden to go there first. Quite the opposite. When norms are under attack is when they must be most strenuously upheld. And they're in for a lot of attacks over the next four years.

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# Assistance program is introduced

CenterPoint energy recently announced that it is introducing a Customer Assistance Fund.

The fund will be used to assist customers in need with their energy costs. It will replace the Share the Warmth weatherization program.

“CenterPoint is committed to supporting programs that meet the evolving needs of our customers,” said Mike Roeder, CenterPoint’s senior vice president for external affairs, in a press release. “This new fund gives our customers another option to better manage their energy bills.”

Customers can apply to the program once per calendar year.

The company also appointed Dean Seavers to its board of directors. He is the former president of National Grid U.S.

## Firm awarded

DENA recently honored Ardagh Glass Packaging – Europe with its Think Big! Award.

The German Energy Agency honors projects “committed to climate protection and sustainability.” Ardagh received

## Business roundup

its award for complex energy transition projects, including its NextGen Furnace hybrid technology that natural gas with renewable electricity to significantly reduce the carbon impact of glass packaging.

“The furnace’s ability to melt glass at commercial scale using high levels of renewable electricity, while incorporating up to 70% recycled glass content, is a game-changer in energy efficiency,” said Ardagh project manager Joris Goossens in a press release. “To date, these innovations have enabled us to reduce carbon emissions by 64% for every glass bottle produced. We are proud to win the DENA Think Big! award, which reflects Ardagh’s leadership in driving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions within the glass manufacturing industry.”

Ardagh operates glass

manufacturing facilities in Dunkirk and Winchester.

## Directors added

Indiana Chamber of Commerce on Monday announced new members of its board of directors.

The board will have 24 new directors who will serve three-year terms. New directors include Ball State University president Geoffrey Mearns, Reid Foundation president Jason Troutwine and First Bank Richmond president Paul Witte.

“We’re adding many talented professionals from around the state as we head into a pivotal year,” said chamber president and CEO Vanessa Green Sinders in a press release. “We will call on our board members to apply their specific knowledge and talents to get engaged and help shape not only the Chamber’s future, but the state’s as well.”

“These new leaders come from key sectors of the state’s economy and will also help us bolster efforts toward initiating action that aligns with the goals in our Indiana Prosperity 2035 economic vision plan,” she added.

## Bank honored

Mid-States Minority Supplier Development Council awarded Old National Bancorp as its Local Corporate Member of the Year during its annual awards luncheon in Indianapolis.

The council seeks to accelerate economic growth by driving opportunities and collaboration between corporations and minority businesses. During the award year, Old National spent \$19.1 million with diverse suppliers out of a total of \$27.3 million spent with small businesses.

“Old National Bank recognizes the importance of being intentional about fostering diversity, equity and inclusion in all of our business practices,” said Roland Shelton, Old National chief strategic business partnerships officer, in a press release. “Our ever-evolving supplier diversity program is a collaboration that has resulted in a forward-leaning vision, strategy and delivery focused on sustainability and positive community and environmental impact.”

## Supporting literacy

Scooter’s Coffee CEO

Joe Thornton visited Carroll Elementary School in Frisco, Texas, last week as part of the company’s support for Reading is Fundamental.

Thornton read to students, each of whom received three new books. Scooter’s was also set to present a \$40,000 donation to Reading is Fundamental today during the Scooter’s Coffee Frisco Bowl.

“It’s not just a name. Reading truly is fundamental for children to not only succeed in the classroom, but to succeed in life. Improving literacy empowers students to advance in their academic careers and be prepared for opportunities beyond school,” Thornton said in a press release. “Scooter’s Coffee is proud to support Reading Is Fundamental’s mission to advance childhood literacy and disrupt the national literacy crisis.”

## Collecting

Pak-a-Sak has launched its five week Paper Kettle Drive at 31 locations in Indiana.

The campaign will benefit The Salvation Army’s Christmas assistance and emergency assistance pro-

grams. Paper kettles can be purchased for \$1 at Pak-a-Sak stores.

## Hosting drive

Menards stores are serving as Toy Drive drop sites this year.

Sites will be near the exits of each Menards store. Shoppers can donate unwrapped gifts for children in need through the end of November.

Menards stores in the region include sites in Muncie, Richmond, Anderson and Celina, Ohio.

## Offering boxes

Indiana Grown is offering a 2024 Indiana Grown Holiday Box for purchase as a holiday gift.

The boxes feature items from Indiana Grown members. The initiative seeks to highlight local products. This year’s boxes include a variety of items including travel-sized scented lotions from The Lotion Company of Muncie.

For more information, visit indianagrown.org.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Does your business have news to share? Email us at news@thecr.com to be included in our weekly business roundup.

# Ag industry talks tariffs, immigration

By ILENA PENG, GERSON FREITAS JR. and ISIS ALMEIDA

Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

The U.S. agriculture industry has started talks with Donald Trump’s transition team in a bid to advocate for the food business as the president-elect pledges tariffs and mass deportations.

Groups including the National Grain and Feed Association, which represents agriculture powerhouses such as Archer-Daniels-Midland Co. and Cargill Inc., and the International Fresh Produce Association, were among those involved in the discussions, according to people familiar with the matter. The National Council of Agricultural Employers also has a meeting on the books.

The groups are prioritizing topics such as Trump’s promised tariffs, which could upend trade with key commodity buyers like China and Mexico, as well as immigration, with U.S. agriculture becoming more reliant on foreign labor. Some industry advocates are lobbying for the expansion of a visa program for temporary workers, and others want China to stick to crop purchases pledged during the “Phase One” trade deal negotiated by Trump in his previous term, said the people who asked not to be named citing private talks.

While many farmers make up



Tribune News Service

Farmworkers walk into an apple orchard in Washington state’s Yakima Valley. Agriculture industry leaders have started talks with President-elect Donald Trump’s transition team regarding tariffs and immigration.

key blocs of Trump’s supporters, his policies sometimes run counter to the agriculture industry’s economic interests. Take soybeans, for example. The commodity became the poster child of Trump’s first-term trade war with China. Retaliatory tariffs from the Asian nation dried up demand for U.S. cargoes, with American shipments to the world’s top buyer of the commod-

ity tumbling 79% in the first two years of the administration. That hurt farmers to the tune of \$11 billion.

At the same time, some industry leaders are also worried about Trump’s plans for mass deportations. If the president-elect follows through with his plan to send millions of undocumented workers out of the country, it would have repercussions across

the farming world, exacerbating a decades-long labor-shortage problem. The situation could be especially acute for growers of fresh produce including tomatoes and lettuce.

“The American people reelected President Trump by a resounding margin giving him a mandate to implement the promises he made on the campaign trail, like deporting migrant criminals and restoring our economic greatness. He will deliver,” Karoline Leavitt, a spokeswoman for the Trump-Vance transition team, said in an emailed statement. “In his first term, President Trump instituted tariffs against China that created jobs, spurred investment, and resulted in no inflation.”

Many migrants enter the U.S. through the federal H-2A visa program, which has allowed the numbers of documented temporary workers to surge in the past decade. Even then, the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that nearly half of hired crop farmworkers lack legal immigration status.

The International Fresh Produce Association, which represents companies including berry producer Driscoll’s and tomato supplier NatureSweet, is lobbying to have the H-2A visa program expanded within the first six months of the administration, the people said.

“H-2A use has become more

widespread, turning the program into an essential solution for meeting producers’ labor needs,” the IFPA said in a statement to Bloomberg News. “IFPA will continue to push to roll back unnecessary regulations put in place by the Biden administration, and work with Congress and the Trump administration to modernize this important tool for American farmers.”

The National Council of Agricultural Employers also wants the program to be expanded, according to President Michael Marsh. In addition, the group is pushing for a lower minimum wage rate as higher costs have prompted American farmers to exit the business or move food production to Mexico and Canada, he said.

The number of H-2A visas issued surged nearly 60% in the 2023 fiscal year from five years earlier. Growth in the program is “one of the clearest indicators of the scarcity of farm labor,” according to the USDA. Employers who hire through the program are required to show they were unable to find enough domestic workers.

Trump’s popularity with agricultural communities has stood the test of time even as tariffs on China left soybeans piling up on U.S. farms. After all, the former president threw \$28 billion in aid at growers to cushion the blow of his trade war.

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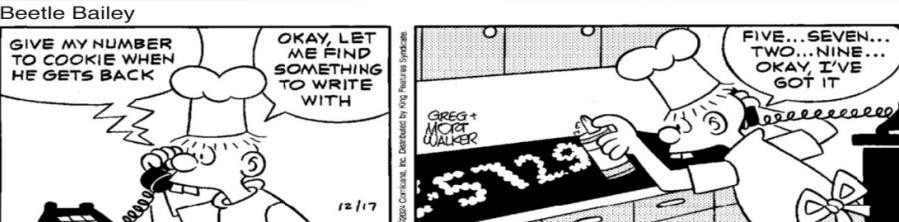
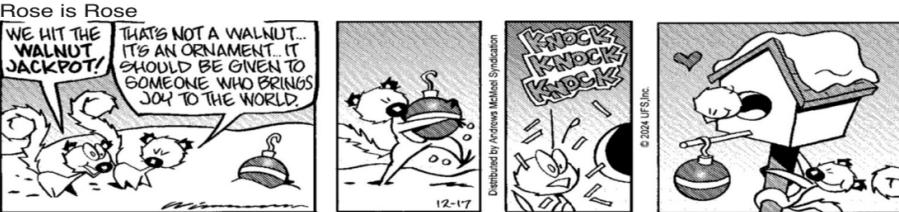
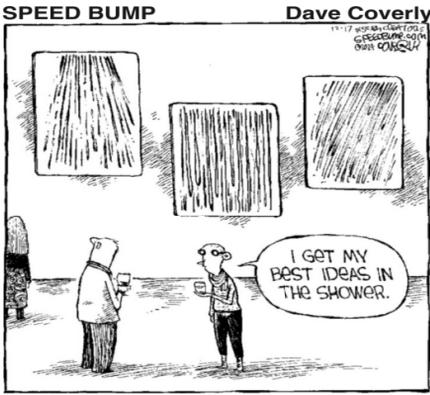
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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Anticipating the unexpected

North dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH: A K Q 4, A, K 7 2, A J 10 6 2. WEST: J 10 9 8 2, Q 10 4 3, 5, 8 7 4. EAST: 7, K 7 6 5, J 10 8 6, K Q 9 3. SOUTH: 6 5 3, J 9 8 2, A Q 9 4 3, 5. The bidding: North 1♣, East Pass, South 1♦, West Pass, North 2♣, East Pass, North 3♦, East Pass, South 3NT. Opening lead — jack of spades. To be a competent declarer, one must also be a worrier. Optimism is unquestionably a great asset at the bridge table — as in everyday life — but its value is dubious when carried to the point where a clear and present danger is ignored. Consider today's case where South is in three notrump and West leads a spade. Ten tricks — three spades, a heart, five diamonds and a club — seem likely when dummy comes down. But declarer should not blithely proceed on the assumption that the diamonds are divided normally — that is, 3-2. He should allow for — and, if possible, protect against — the possibility that the diamonds might be divided 4-1 (or even 5-0). South should therefore start by cashing dummy's king of diamonds at trick two. As soon as both opponents follow suit, the contract becomes certain, regardless of how the remaining diamonds are divided. When declarer leads another diamond from dummy and East produces the eight (it doesn't help him to play the 10), South plays the nine. He doesn't expect the nine to win — the odds are greatly against it — but win or lose, the deep finesse assures scoring four diamond tricks and nine tricks in all. In the actual deal, the safety play produces 10 tricks. But note that if declarer fails to play the diamonds as suggested, he winds up down one.

Tomorrow: Play now, pay later. ©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc. 12-17 CRYPTOQUIP KD Z ROKPPKCM QTGZNI7G'R KCGNVVKMGCQG OGTG DZT ZYHEG NLG ZEGTZMG, OHIVX KN YG RH-DKRL-NKQZNGX?

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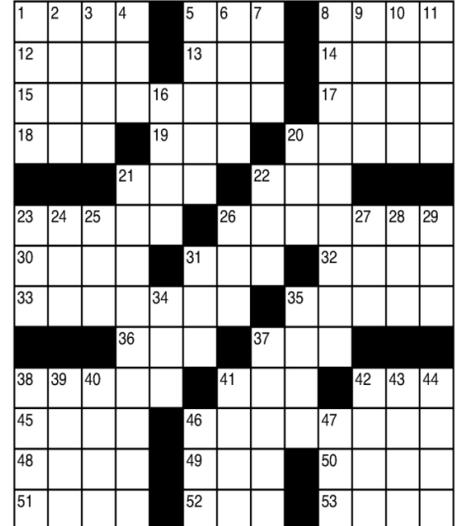
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Vatican VIP, 5 Watch chain, 8 Dandies, 12 Unshightly, 13 Bath-, 14 Classic theaters, 15 No-cost perk from a publisher, 17 Sty cry, 18 Nourished goddess, 20 Concepts, 21 Gift tag word, 22 PC key, 23 Some surreal paintings, 26 Busybody, 30 Fashion's Cassini, 31 Scoundrel, 32 — Major, 33 Redeem one's chips, 35 Top of a wave, 36 Italian "three". 37 Cave flier, 38 Flinch, say, 41 Luau bowlful, 42 "Adorbs!", 45 Towering, 46 Specialized drag racer, 48 Birthright barterer, 49 Raw rock, 50 Formerly resident, 51 Belgrade, 52 Ballot markings, 53 Super-bright, as sneaker colors, DOWN: 1 Magic dragon, 2 Monster, 3 Begged, 4 Storm center, 5 Ocean bottom, 6 "I dropped the fruit-cake!", 7 Lad, 8 Mall eatery, 9 "Garfield" dog, 10 Michael of "The Martian", 11 Fifth Avenue store, 16 Corp. kingpins, 20 Equal (Pref.), 21 1999, 22 Brad Pitt film, 23 Conclusion, 24 — carte, 25 French article, 26 Posed for a portrait, 27 Season opener?, 28 Twisty turn, 29 Snitch, 31 Maestro's signal, 34 Scrap, 35 First son, 37 Dog biscuit shapes, 38 GPS suggestions, 39 Lighten, 40 Winged, 41 Chaste, 42 Unwanted breakout, 43 Texas city, 44 Wee songbird, 46 Sly one, 47 Thither.

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 12-17



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# For(thofer) ...

Continued from page 8  
“It’s just a game,” Bomholt said. “I wasn’t real happy with how we got behind. We didn’t do a very good job of what we set out to do, so we had to go to plan B and I wasn’t too happy about doing that either. We just missed so many opportunities. I’m certain they probably felt like they did too, but it just feels like we missed so many more easy shots around the basket than they did.”

“But we hung in there. Everybody made a play for us somewhere down the line that was important, whether it was a rebound or a basket.”

Forthofer made one of the biggest of those plays late in the second overtime period.

With 59.5 seconds left, Bomholt called a timeout to set up a play for the final shot. After the Patriots burned the clock down to 10 seconds, Comer turned to the left side of the floor where Swoveland curled a staggered screen to get downhill to the bucket.

Swoveland got a good look at the rim, but his layup fell off the side with seconds remaining. Off of the staggered screen, Forthofer sealed Braylen Bennett, allowing the Patriot 6 foot, 9 inch center to tip the ball back in with just 2.5 seconds remaining.

“I had Gradin’s man caught with my arm and another guy on my butt,” Forthofer said. “I knew if he’s missing that shot, I’m getting the rebound and putting it back. ... Coach was kind of mad because I lost my mind. I was running already past half court and we’re supposed to get in last-second defense and I’m on ball, so



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Eli Dirksen of the Jay County boys basketball team puts up a reverse layup during the Patriots’ 58-56 double-overtime victory. Dirksen’s shot capped a 7-0 run that kept JCHS within striking distance in the second quarter.

I got my butt rippled a little after it, but I was pretty excited.”

Forthofer put together a strong second half for the Patriots. After scoring just four points and pulling down one rebound in the second half, the junior finished with a team-high 18 points and nine rebounds.

Beyond hitting the game winner, Forthofer played a key role in overtime, scoring seven points.

Swoveland accounted for the other three points, and assisted two of Forthofer’s baskets. The center also made a key defensive play with two minutes left in the second overtime,

altering a pair of shots to keep the game tied at 55.

New Castle was led by guard Mason Miller, who made his second appearance after being injured to start the year. The NCHS junior finished with 27 points on 8-of-15 (53.3%) shooting and 6-of-7 (85.7%) free throws.

“He’s a pretty hard person to guard,” said Griffin who guarded Miller in man-to-man in the second half. “Just got to get in his head and play as solid defense as I can and I had my teammates to help me through it all.”

At the break, Miller had nine points, all from beyond the arc. As a whole, the Trojans made

six 3-pointers over the first 16 minutes, while only attempting three 2-point shots.

Early in the third quarter, Jay County switched to a man-to-man defense that kept NCHS off the three point line. Griffin, a former Trojan, only allowed Miller to get two more quality looks from deep off of a ball screen and a deep pull up in the fourth quarter.

While the Patriots slowed New Castle down from 3-point range they went on a run of their own. Baskets from Eli Petro, Swoveland, Aiden Phillips and Comer made for a 9-0 run to get Jay County within one point.

Box score			
<b>Jay County Patriots vs. New Castle Trojans</b>			
<b>Boys varsity summary</b>			
<b>New Castle (1-5)</b>			
	<b>FG-FGA</b>	<b>FT-FTA</b>	<b>PTS</b>
Melton	0-0	0-0	0
Miller	8-15	6-7	27
Logston	2-4	0-0	4
Turner	3-7	2-4	8
Hancock	1-3	2-2	5
Thompson	2-8	1-4	6
Bennett	2-6	0-0	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18-43</b>	<b>11-17</b>	<b>56</b>
	<b>.419</b>	<b>.647</b>	
<b>Def. rebound percentage: .654</b>			
<b>Jay County (3-2)</b>			
	<b>FG-FGA</b>	<b>FT-FTA</b>	<b>PTS</b>
Comer	3-9	0-0	8
Fugiett	1-1	0-0	2
Petro	1-2	0-0	2
Dirksen	1-2	0-0	2
Forthofer	7-11	4-6	18
Phillips	3-6	1-2	7
Griffin	2-9	0-0	5
Swoveland	6-13	1-2	14
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24-53</b>	<b>6-10</b>	<b>58</b>
	<b>.452</b>	<b>.600</b>	
<b>Def. rebound percentage: .714</b>			
<b>Score by quarters:</b>			
<b>NC</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>JC</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>56</b>		
	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>
	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>3-point shooting:</b> New Castle 9-21 (Miller 5-11, Bennett 2-6, Hancock 1-2, Thompson 1-2). Jay County 4-17 (Comer 2-6, Griffin 1-5, Swoveland 1-5, Dirksen 0-1).			
<b>Rebounds:</b> New Castle 25 (Turner 6, Thompson 5, Logston 4, Team 4, Bennett 3, Hancock 2, Miller). Jay County 29 (Forthofer 9, Swoveland 7, Griffin 5, Comer 2, Petro 2, Phillips 2, Fugiett, Team).			
<b>Assists:</b> New Castle 9 (Logston 4, Miller, Turner, Hancock, Thompson, Bennett). Jay County 15 (Swoveland 7, Griffin 4, Comer 2, Fugiett, Forthofer).			
<b>Blocks:</b> New Castle 1 (Thompson). Jay County 3 (Forthofer, Griffin, Swoveland).			
<b>Personal fouls:</b> New Castle 13 (Thompson 5, Logston 3, Turner 2, Hancock 2, Miller). Jay County 15 (Petro 5, Forthofer 4, Comer 3, Phillips, Griffin, Swoveland).			
<b>Turnovers:</b> New Castle 13. Jay County 8.			

A 3-point play by Miller broke a 4-minute scoring drought, but Forthofer and Phillips made two more layups to finish the quarter 13-5.

“Honestly we see (man-to-man) defense every week, but I thought it was more for their players,” said NCHS coach Daniel Cox. “I thought it got their motors going. Them getting after us and getting out of that zone that kind of gets stagnant sometimes. I thought it helped them on the offensive end, not even necessarily off of live ball turnovers but just emotionally they were more in the game playing with more urgency.”

“I was surprised to see it, but we weren’t surprised by what happened.”

After coming back in the third quarter, the Patriots worked a 48-46

lead off of a Griffin three with 49 seconds left. New Castle managed to send the game into overtime off of a baseline-out-of-bounds play that had Landon Thompson scoring near the rim.

JCHS nearly ended the game in the first overtime as well, but after holding for the last shot, Comer snaked his way to the rim but missed the finger roll as time expired.

Despite coming up short the first two times, the Patriots found a way to pull out the win against a potential sectional opponent.

“We’ll take it,” Bomholt said. “We’ve got a pretty good mixture of athletes we can at least make some sort of basketball team out of. If they’ll all continue to buy in and do what they’re capable of doing, I think it could be a fun year.”

# Roundup ...

Continued from page 8

Schoen opened her day by knocking down 211 pins, and improved in the second for a match-high 236.

Emily Lauber and Deanna Brown also broke the 200-pin mark in the first game. Lauber rolled a 230, while Brown had a 207. They slowed down in the

second game, finishing with a 182 and 161, respectively.

Kayla Heitkamp and Saidy DeRoo added 327 and 256 total pins to round out the individual games.

The Tribe (2-1, 1-0 MAC) added another 854 pins in the baker games.

Maggie Frey finished as the top bowler for the Flyers (0-3, 0-1

MAC) with 283 pins between the two individual games.

### Tribe rolls

**FORT RECOVERY** — The Fort Recovery boys bowling team had no trouble picking up its first MAC win of the season Saturday, as it beat the Marion Local Flyers 2,836-2,439.

A.J. Siefiring eclipsed 200 pins in both individual games for 409 total and a 204.5 average.

Anthony Roessner rolled the high game of the day of 232. Gabe Acheson had the next-best game at 226, before finishing the second game with a 164.

Riley Greishop added 359 pins for Fort Recovery (2-4, 1-0

MAC). Bowling in one game each were Reece LeFevre (168), Eli Lennartz (159) and Drew Backs (144).

The Tribe averaged 195 pins over the five baker games, with the high coming in the fourth game at 212 pins.

Isaac Bruns put together the strongest day for Marion Local (0-3, 0-1 MAC) with 339 pins.

# Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Swim vs. Delta — 6 p.m.; Boys wrestling vs. Norwell — 6 p.m.; Girls wrestling vs. South Side — 6 p.m.; Girls basketball (varsity only) at

Blackford — 6:30 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball at Memorial — 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball at Memorial — 5 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball vs. Parkway — 5 p.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
6 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Seton Hall at LSU (FS1)  
7 p.m. — College basketball: North Carolina at Florida (ESPN); Michigan

State at Oakland (ESPN2)  
7:30 p.m. — College basketball: St. Francis at Maryland (BTN)  
8 p.m. — NHL: New Jersey Devils at St. Louis Blues (FDSN Indiana)  
8:30 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Iowa State at UConn (FS1)

9 p.m. — College football: Memphis at West Virginia (ESPN)  
9:30 p.m. — College basketball: Prairie View at UCLA (BTN)  
8:30 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Oklahoma at Michigan (ESPN2)

**Wednesday**  
5:30 p.m. — College football: West-ern Kentucky vs James Madison (ESPN)  
7 p.m. — NHL: Philadelphia Flyers at Detroit Red Wings (TNT)  
9 p.m. — College football: Cal at UNLV (ESPN)

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George McGinnis, District Superintendent  
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# For(thofer) the win

JCHS junior tips in game winner to beat New Castle in 2OT

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

The Patriots haven't beat the Trojans in their last three tries, and have only taken two of the past 25 matchups.

They had a chance to take them down in regulation, but up two points, the Patriots gave up a layup to Landon Thompson on a baseline-out-of-bounds play with seconds left.

Then in the first overtime period, they could have taken home the victory, but Jayden Comer's finger roll bounced around the rim before falling off.

The Patriots had a third opportunity to take home the win in the second overtime period, but Gradin Swoveland couldn't get the shot to fall, making it look like a third overtime was imminent.

Cole Forthofer made sure that the third time was the charm.

Forthofer put back Swoveland's miss to lift the Jay County High School boys basketball team to victory over the New Castle Trojans 58-56 in double overtime on Saturday.

The Trojans (1-5) beat Jay County (3-2) twice last year and bounced it from the sectional tournament. The victory both got revenge for last year's playoff loss and was the first victory since the 2021-22 sectional opener. The game also pushed JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt to 597 career wins and it pitted transfer Tucker Griffin against his former school. Despite pulling off a win that was meaningful in a variety of ways, Bomholt didn't let it cover up the focus of the season.

See For(thofer) page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Cole Forthofer, a junior at Jay County High School, puts up a layup during the Patriots' 58-56 double-overtime victory against New Castle on Saturday. Forthofer scored a team-high 18 points, including seven points in OT and the game-winning put back with just over two seconds remaining. The win was just the third for Jay County in the last 25 matchups against the Trojans.

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# Tribe basketball falls in second half

BRADFORD, Ohio — Staunch defense gave the Indians a 9-point lead going into the intermission.

A rocky third quarter got the Railroaders back into it and a slippery fourth gave it away.

Despite nearly a double-digit lead at half time, the Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team couldn't hold on to beat the Bradford Railroaders on Saturday, falling 53-48.

The Indians (0-3) controlled the first two quarters, scoring 13 and 9 respectively with six points from Grant Fortkamp and Gavin Evers. On the other end of the floor, FRHS only gave

## Local roundup

up 13 first-half points on four made field goals and five free throws.

Things turned in the third quarter, when the Railroaders (2-2) dropped 17 points with strong efforts from Owen Canan and Rallie Wirrig. Both finished with a game-high 16 points. Fort Recovery only managed eight points in the period, leaving the teams tied at 30 heading into the fourth.

Bradford put FRHS

away with 23 points scored, including eight from Canan. The Tribe scored 17 in the fourth quarter, including six from Briggs Overman, but the damage was done on the other end of the floor.

Evers' 12 points led the Indians, while Fortkamp and Overman followed with 11 and 10, respectively.

## Schoen shines

FORT RECOVERY — Ella Schoen rolled a pair of strong games as the Fort Recovery girls bowling team won its Midwest Athletic Conference opener 2,664-1,846 at Miracle Lanes on Saturday.

See Roundup page 7

# JC falls to Jets, claims second in ACAC Duals at 5-1

MONROE — The Patriots got matched up with the highest ranked team in the conference to start off the duals.

The lower weight classes gave the Patriots a chance, but they couldn't pull out enough victories in the middle and upper weight classes to secure the victory.

The Class 2A Jay County High School boys wrestling team fell to the Class 1A No. 4 Adams Central Jets in the opening round of the Allen County Athletic Conference Duals 47-30 on Saturday, but followed up with five consecutive victories to claim second place.

The Patriots (10-4) beat Class 1A South Adams 47-36, Southern Wells 75-6, Woodlan 78-5, Bluffton 45-30 and Heritage 73-6 en route to claiming the runner-up spot.

Jay County struggled in the upper weight classes against the Jets, only managing to secure points in one weight class above 144 pounds. Those six points came from No. 10 Alan Ortiz pinning Gavin Rumble 5 minutes, 15 seconds into the 285 match.

The other four Patriot victories came

via fall as well. Those wins came from No. 12 Griffin Byrum in the 113-pound contest, Syllas Wenk in the 120 match, Jason Landers in the 132 weight class and A.J. Heskett in the 138 contest.

Against the Starfires, another ranked team, JCHS fared much better. Seven of the eight victories came by pin, supplemented by one technical fall. Joining Byrum, Heskett and Ortiz with wins were Corbin Lothridge (106), Dylan Bolt (144), Bryce Coy (190) Freddie Lingo (215) and Jacob Robinson with the 16-0 technical fall (150).

The only other close dual came against Bluffton, in which the Patriots took eight of 14 weight classes. Byrum, Heskett and Ortiz all pinned their opponents in the first period to finish 6-0 on the day.

Caleb Sibray took the 165-pound match 10-7 to claim the only decision in the match. Lothridge, Wenk, Robinson and Gabe Ardizzone (157) all added six points as well.

The Patriots nearly swept Heritage, Southern Wells and Woodlan, claiming 13 of 14 matches in each dual.