

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Woman died in fire on Christmas

Name is being withheld pending autopsy

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

A woman died after the structure she was in at Oakwood Manufactured Home Community caught on fire Christmas Day.

Authorities are withholding the name of the deceased until they can positively identify her.

Portland Fire Department responded about 4:40 a.m. Wednesday to a fire at 1237 N. U.S. 27, Portland. The structure was completely engulfed in flames when responders arrived, said Portland Fire Chief Mike Weitzel.

According to a release from Portland Fire Department, firefighters entered the burning structure to fight the fire from inside. While attempting to suppress the flames, they noticed most of the flooring had been burned away.

The deceased woman was found in the main living area of the structure. Jay County coroner Michael Brewster said an autopsy on the woman's remains has been scheduled for Monday.

The structure was destroyed in the fire.

Weitzel said Thursday morning the cause of the fire remains under investigation, pointing out it may be difficult to pinpoint the cause because of the amount of damage sustained.

Fifteen Portland firefighters responded with three fire trucks. Bryant Volunteer Fire Department also helped fight the flames. Jay County Sheriff's Office, Jay Emergency Medical Service, Jay County Coroner's Office and Portland Police Department responded, with representatives from Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office and Indiana Department of Homeland Security arriving later Christmas morning.

Emergency personnel stayed on scene for nearly five hours, with the last responders leaving just after 9:30 a.m. Wednesday.



Tribune News Service/San Diego Union-Tribune/Hayne Palmour IV

'Silent' in candlelight

Shane Ballew, right, sits next to Baylee Baker as they and other members of the congregation hold candles Tuesday while singing Silent Night during First United Methodist Church of San Diego's Christmas Eve Pageant at the in San Diego, California.

Ordinance updates proposed

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — The city is considering some changes to its water ordinance.

City attorney Wes Schemenaur presented a proposed update to the water ordinance to Dunkirk City Council during its final meeting of 2024 on Monday.

Schemenaur explained that the proposed ordinance updates were put together in consultation with the city's water department and clerk-treasurer Kara Lowe.

"Some of these haven't been changed in a long time," he said. "Some of these fees are pretty old." He reviewed the key

additions and changes, which include:

- Adding a \$20 fee for those who fail to meet for a scheduled appointment with water department staff
- Instituting a meter antennae replacement of \$8 for those that are lost or damaged.
- Increasing the after-hours service call fee to \$50 from the current \$35

Changes would add new fees, increase some existing charges

- Creating a \$100 tampering fee in addition to the cost of repairs and any water usage for anyone who accesses water pits without authorization.
- Adding a temporary user fee of \$50 plus the cost of water
- Changing to a \$50 disconnection fee for late payment
- Implementing a \$1,500

fee for fire hydrant tampering. The section regarding fire hydrants would also include a requirement for a fire hydrant use agreement. There would be a \$1,000 fee for anyone who doesn't use an approved air-gap back-flow device.

Schemenaur explained that there was a situation that came up with a resi-

dent who accessed a fire hydrant without authorization.

"That's what brought a lot of this on," said council president Jesse Bivens. "That one is really important."

Schemenaur asked council members Dan Watson, Christy Curts, Randy Murphy and Bivens, absent Donna Revolt, to review the ordinance and follow up with any questions or concerns. Council members can then discuss the proposed updates at their Jan. 13 meeting and potentially vote on the ordinance changes at their Jan. 27 meeting.

See **Updates** page 2



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/AFP/Issa Tazhenbayev

Emergency specialists work at the crash site of an Azerbaijan Airlines passenger jet near the western Kazakh city of Aktau on Wednesday. Thirty-eight people died when the aircraft crashed, Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister Qanat Aldabergenuly Bozymbaev said.

Plane crash kills 38

By FRIEDEMANN KOHLER
and GUNTHER CHALUPA

MOSCOW — Thirty-eight people died when an Azerbaijani aircraft crashed near Aktau in Kazakhstan, Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister Qanat Aldabergenuly Bozymbaev said on Wednesday.

Bozymbaev was speaking in an interview with the Kazakh news agency Tengrinews during a meeting with representatives of the investigation commission at the accident site.

A total of 29 occupants of the ill-fated Azerbaijan Airlines aircraft survived, some with serious injuries, he said.

Azerbaijani aircraft came down along coast of Caspian Sea

Videos showed how the plane from Azerbaijan, almost out of control, crashed from a low altitude along the coast of the Caspian Sea, failing to reach the nearby airport of Aktau.

Tengrinews published a video from the cabin of the ill-fated aircraft, showing fallen oxygen masks, frantic cries from passen-

gers, and a bearded man repeatedly shouting "Allahu Akbar" (God is greatest).

The Embraer 190 aircraft took off in the morning from the Azerbaijan capital Baku and was supposed to fly to Grozny, capital of the Russian republic of Chechnya, just over an hour later.

See **Crash** page 2

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 45 degrees on Christmas Day. The low was 36. There was less than a tenth of an inch of rain.

Rain is expected tonight with a low in the upper 40s and winds

gusting to 25 miles per hour. The high will climb into the upper 50s Saturday with a 40% chance of rain and winds gusting to 20 miles per hour.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available today. Trailers will be open from 9 a.m. to noon in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, and Dunkirk City Park.

Coming up

Saturday — Results from the FRHS boys basketball game against South Adams.

Tuesday — Our annual review of the top 10 local stories of the year.



Updates ...

Continued from page 1
Also Monday, council approved the purchase of a John Deere Gator utility vehicle from Reynolds Farm Equipment of Muncie at a total cost of \$12,600 for the city's parks department using federal coronavirus relief funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).
It also approved purchasing new electric heaters for the city building at a cost of \$5,331.58 and spending the city's remaining \$3,714.95 in ARPA funds on the purchase of water meters. (All

ARPA funds were required to be allocated by the end of this year and spent by the end of 2026.)
In other business, council:
•Approved the purchase of a John Deere Gator utility vehicle from Reynolds Farm Equipment of Muncie at a total cost of \$12,600 for the city's parks department using federal coronavirus relief funds through the ARPA. It also approved purchasing new electric heaters for the city building at a cost of \$5,331.58 and spending the city's remaining \$3,714.95 in ARPA funds on

the purchase of water meters. (All ARPA funds were required to be allocated by the end of this year and spent by the end of 2026.)
•Learned from Robbins that the city plans to apply for Community Crossings grant funding through Indiana Department of Transportation. The application will be for paving Pleasant Street on the west side of the city, Fourth Street, D Street and Lincoln Avenue between Main and Angle streets. Choice One Engineering will handle the applica-

tion. The city also plans to pave some alleys in the downtown area.
•Heard Robbins explain that the city's five-year master utility plan called for looping current dead-end lines on Elm, Hickory and Main streets as well as installing a new line along Blackford Avenue. He has reached out to Kenna Consulting regarding the project.
•Discussed vacating an east-west alley between Hoover and Indiana streets. Schemenaur said it was thought that the alley had

been vacated decades ago but it was not recorded at the courthouse.
•Heard from Robbins that the city has a position open for a full-time firefighter.
•Approved the transfer of funds as needed to avoid having negative fund balances at the end of the year.
•OK'd the transfer of \$5,000 back to the sewage department to fix an overcorrection made earlier this year.
•Approved the payment of claims totaling \$164,979.08.

CR almanac

Saturday 12/28	Sunday 12/29	Monday 12/30	Tuesday 12/31	Wednesday 1/1
57/48	51/39	49/41	47/30	34/24
Saturday looks to be mostly cloudy with a 40% chance of rain and up to 20 mph winds.	Mostly cloudy on Sunday, when there's a 60% chance of showers.	Monday's forecast shows more mostly sunny skies with a chance for rain.	Tuesday has a 70% chance of showers with winds of 10 to 20 mph.	New Year's Day looks to be mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain.

Lotteries

Powerball 6-15-18-33-49 Power Ball: 7 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$88 million	Daily Four: 8-4-8-7 Quick Draw: 3-12-14-15-18-27-28-30-36-38-45-54-56-60-62-65-73-75-76-77 Cash 5: 20-22-26-31-36 Estimated jackpot: \$115,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$825 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 2-9-6 Pick 4: 1-6-3-5 Pick 5: 0-9-1-4-9 Evening Pick 3: 3-2-1 Pick 4: 9-5-7-9 Pick 5: 4-7-1-3-8 Rolling Cash: 9-24-26-32-34 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 6-3-4 Daily Four: 8-4-8-5 Quick Draw: 5-11-16-23-26-37-43-44-46-49-51-53-56-60-63-67-70-76-79 Evening Daily Three: 4-9-2	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.57 Jan. corn.....4.56 Feb. corn.....4.59	Jan. beans.....9.90 Wheat.....4.94
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.57 Jan. corn.....4.57 Feb. corn.....4.60	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.46 Jan. corn.....4.46 Beans.....9.81 Jan. beans.....9.81 Wheat.....4.88
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....4.49 Jan. corn.....4.49 Beans.....9.90	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.56 Jan. corn.....4.56 Beans.....9.56 Jan. beans.....9.61 Wheat.....4.84

Today in history

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

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

In 1822, Louis Pasteur was born in Dole, France. He developed the process of pasteurization, a heat-treatment process that destroys pathogens in foods and beverages, and developed vaccines

against anthrax and rabies.

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

In 1900, Carrie Nation destroyed a bar in Carey Hotel in Wichita, Kansas, as part of her campaign against alcohol. Nation was the leader of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

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

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Thursday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Jan. 6 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council	Jan. 7 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.

Project targets Dunes gateways

By JOSEPH S. PETE

The Times (Munster)
Tribune News Service
A \$20 million Lilly Endowment grant aims to make Gary and Michigan City gateways to the Indiana Dunes National Park as a part of a broader effort to improve Northwest Indiana's connection to its lakefront.

The funding will launch NWI Thrive, a multi-faceted project that will include new trails, trail improvements, educational campaigns, Indiana Dunes National Park programs and Discover Hubs at South Shore Line train stations.
Visitation to the Indiana Dunes skyrocketed to a record 3.17 million people in 2021 after it was elevated from a National Lakeshore to the National Park. The project aims to attract more visitors to the Miller Woods, Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education and Gary's Miller neighborhood on the west end of the park and the Mount Baldy Beach and Michigan City on the east end of the National Park that stretches along 15 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and encompasses more than two dozen distinct sites.

A new cultural trail in Michigan City for instance will allow visitors from Chicago to come in via the South Shore Line train and get to the Lake Michigan lakefront or

the Marquette Trail that will eventually run along the South Shore from Chicago to New Buffalo.

"The trail will seamlessly link our new downtown train station — we've all seen the cranes in Michigan City — and two innovative mixed-use developments to the Marquette Greenway," Michigan City Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch said. "Along the way, visitors and residents will enjoy custom trailheads and interpretative signage that will guide to our city's treasures, positioning Michigan City as the eastern gateway to the National Park. Imagine a hub where everyone, residents and visitors alike, can access our stunning lakefront, our shopping and dining options, our arts district, our world-class casino and beyond and our outlet mall."

New Discovery Hubs will elevate Michigan City's appeal, she said.

"These hubs at the new and updated train stations will become symbols of community pride, showcasing our art installations and providing informative signage about our local wildlife and plant life," she said. "Wayfinding tools will guide visitors to our city's attractions. Each hub will reflect the distinct culture of Michigan City, fostering a sense of place and belonging for both residents and travelers."

It also will connect to the Singing

Sands Trail, which expands access for walkers, cyclists and outdoor enthusiasts.

"The benefits of these projects extend far and wide," she said. "They enhance our economic growth, elevate our tourism appeal, support local businesses and deepen our community pride. By weaving together our city's natural beauty, cultural assets and vibrant infrastructure, we are not only connecting a more vibrant Michigan City but also one that welcomes the world to experience all that makes all of Northwest Indiana extraordinary. Together, we are building a stronger Northwest Indiana and a more vibrant Michigan City for generations to come."

Gary Chief of Staff Ellis Dumas said the NWI Thrive project will create vibrant spaces in the city.

"These hubs will not only serve as gateways to the Indiana Dunes National Park but also Marquette Park," Dumas said. "They're invitations for visitors to explore our neighborhoods, our businesses and our people. The city also will see a number of improvements thanks to this project. It will help connect visitors and residents to the Marquette Greenway, the Indiana Dunes National Park, Marquette Park on the lakefront, downtown Miller Beach and the new train station."

Capsule Reports

Surveys open

With the next Indiana legislative session about to begin, Hoosiers have the opportunity to voice their opinions on some key issues.

State Rep. J.D. Prescott (R-Union City), who represents the southern two-thirds of Jay County in District 33, and State Rep. Matt Lehman (R-Berne), who represents the northern third of Jay County in District 79, announced this

week that their 2025 legislative surveys are open.

To take the surveys, go to in.gov/h33 or in.gov/h79 and click "Take My Survey." Prescott's survey includes questions regarding taxes, social media age restrictions and school choice, among other issues. Lehman's survey has questions regarding health care, the gas tax and energy, among other issues.

Surveys should be completed by Tuesday, Dec. 31.

Crash ...

Continued from page 1
There were no official statements regarding the cause of the crash.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said that the aircraft could not land in Grozny due to poor weather conditions and therefore headed toward an alternative airport.

Although many videos of the incident circulated on social media, he said, "The reasons for the crash are still unknown to us."

He noted that there are various theories, adding, "The matter must be thoroughly investigated," according to the state news agency Azertag.

Azerbaijan Airlines initially attributed the suspected damage to the aircraft to a possible collision with a flock of birds.

Russian military bloggers did not rule out another explanation: The aircraft might have entered zones over the

North Caucasus where Ukrainian drones were being intercepted on Wednesday morning.

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Interested candidates may see a full job description or learn more at www.jaycountydevelopment.org or by calling 260-726-9311.
Resumes may be mailed to 118 S Meridian St, Ste B, Portland, IN 47371 or emailed to jhayes@jaycodev.org.

Brews can have multiple benefits

By BARBARA INTERMILL
Tribune News Service

I visited our local library last week and was surprised to see a cheerful sign at the door that invited patrons in for “Books and Brews!” Not brews that may first come to mind. These were various teas and coffees lovingly prepared by librarians (another reason why I love our small town) for those of us who like to nestle with our computers in quiet corners.

When I asked for a chai spice tea sweetened with a small stick of honey (25 cents extra) the young

lady behind the desk asked, ““Are you a tea drinker?”

“Yes, but I love coffee as well,” I admitted.

“Me, too!” she continued. “But this time of year, I really enjoy a nice cup of tea.”

Same. Especially when sniffles or sneezing come my way, I gravitate toward tea over my beloved coffee. And probably for good reason.

According to the Global Tea Institute at the University of California Davis, before tea was a common beverage, it was considered a medicine. In

fact, these experts say that “tea plays a healthy role in maintaining the human body, mind, and spirit.”

A 2020 article in Frontiers in Immunology credits various substances in green and black teas (same plant, just different processing methods) with their role in boosting the body’s ability to ward off diseases and infections. Those include nutrients like zinc, copper and manganese as well as “bioactive” ingredients that enhance the immune system.

And the relaxation we feel when sipping tea? It’s real, due to substances such as theanine, an amino acid that can have a calming effect on the body and mind.

Coffee, too, has real benefits, according to a recent study published in Nature Biology involving almost 23,000 participants from the U.S. and the U.K. These scientists tracked how three different levels of coffee drinking—less than 3 cups a year, up to 3 cups a day or more than 3 cups a day—correlated with the type or amount of certain bac-

teria in the gut (home to our microbiome).

They found that coffee intake stimulated the growth of 100-plus types of good bugs in the gut—especially one called *L. asaccharolyticus*. This beneficial gut bacteria was up to eight times more abundant in high coffee drinkers compared to those who rarely drank coffee.

And good news, these effects held true with both caffeinated and decaffeinated coffees. These researchers attributed this change in microbes to the presences

of polyphenols—antioxidant substances known for their role in stimulating a healthier mix of good gut bacteria.

So, take some time, if you choose, for a nice cup of tea or coffee. It just might bring you some peace and good will.

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Barbara Intermill is a registered dietitian nutritionist and syndicated columnist. She is the author of “Quinn-Essential Nutrition: The Uncomplicated Science of Eating.” Email her at barbara@quinnessentialnutrition.com.

Wife’s birthday gifts don’t go as hoped

DEAR ABBY: My husband took me on a trip for my birthday this year, only he didn’t prepare for anything other than some sightseeing events. He didn’t help plan for camping, didn’t financially plan well for souvenirs or if we wanted to eat out, and had a crappy attitude the entire time. We got into an argument at almost every event we went to because he either disagreed with my preferences or pushed back at my calling him out for pouting.

I’m upset because this was supposed to have been a “make-up” trip from him for ruining my birthday years prior, and for pretty awful fights we were having leading up to my birthday. I had tried to back out, but he convinced me to go. My actual birthday was the day after we got home. He ignored me the entire day, and we got into another argument. We had a few friends over, but overall, I was pretty upset and felt unloved by him.

When I addressed it the next

Dear Abby



ask your doctor (or health insurance company) to recommend some licensed marriage and family counselors. There are healthier ways to manage conflict in relationships than the way you two are doing it.

.....

DEAR ABBY: I have a problem with my daughter-in-law. I know she loves me, but I don’t think she likes me. An example: Yesterday, I met her and my son at my granddaughter’s dance recital. When I entered and sat down next to them, she barely looked up from her phone, yet when another mother arrived, she leapt up and chatted for minutes.

This kind of thing happens often. When we are alone together, she chats with me, but if someone else is in the group, it’s like I’m not even there. I have no other complaints about her. She is a terrific mom and partner to my son. Should I talk to her about this? How do I bring it up without making her

defensive? — IGNORED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR IGNORED: I don’t doubt that your daughter-in-law loves you. However, she may be so comfortable around you that she’s treating you like family ... in other words, taking you for granted. She jumps up when she sees her contemporaries because she doesn’t see them as often as she sees you, and they may have fresh news to talk about. Be grateful that when you are alone you communicate well. I don’t think there is anything positive to be gained by approaching her with this.

.....

DEAR ABBY: My sister passed away 11 months ago, just one month after a diagnosis of ovarian cancer. I loved her and miss her dearly. She told her husband and me that she wanted me to have specific belongings and her annuity that was in her name, but she did not have a will. My brother-in-law has not

given me anything that she requested be given to me. I haven’t asked why, but I feel if I don’t ask, he’ll never give me an explanation. I realize that since she didn’t have a will, he’s not legally obligated to give me anything. It’s really about trust, honesty and fulfilling her spoken wishes, but I guess he doesn’t view it that way. I feel totally disrespected. Should I never ask him why and distance myself from him? — DISAPPOINTED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR DISAPPOINTED: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your sister. By ignoring her wishes, her husband isn’t disrespecting you, he is disrespecting HER. It’s a shame your sister didn’t have her wishes in writing, but she didn’t, and you will have to accept it. Since you feel you need answers, ask him why he hasn’t followed through on what your sister wanted. Depending upon his answer, decide whether to distance yourself then.

Community Calendar

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

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

JAY COUNTY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in conference room C at Indiana University

Health Jay Hospital. Open discussion for cancer patients, survivors, family members or anyone interested in helping with the group. For more information, contact Linda Metzger at (260) 726-1844.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA’S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

Friday

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday’s Solution

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

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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Here Comes the Bridal Season!

Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Deadline for ads is Monday, Jan. 20

Our brides special section will be distributed in The Commercial Review (Portland), The News-Gazette (Winchester) and The News Times (Hartford City)

- full-page color — \$625
- full-page B&W — \$525
- 1/2-page color — \$425
- 1/2-page B&W — \$325
- 1/4-page color — \$275
- 1/4-page B&W — \$225
- Big business card (3x3.5) — \$105
- Business card (2x2) — \$52

Contact Lindsey at L.Cochran@thecr.com or (260) 726-8141

GRAPHIC PRINTING

NEWSPAPERS

Even for Mr. Claus, times change

By MORTON J. MARCUS

With all the post-election distractions, I was late for my annual visit with Elvin Elfenhousen, Santa's lead helper and public relations representative.

"How's things?" I asked, as we sipped mulled wine in the newly installed Amabuck's North Pole shop.

"Oh," Elvin sighed. "Change, change, change."

"This certainly is a welcomed change," I said, referring to the bright, dust free surroundings.

"Yeah," he agreed. "It beats the workroom where we used to meet, but it's soulless. No sound from the woodcrafters, no aromas from the paint and lacquers, too many LED lights, too many ads urging us to try this or that mixture of fattening refreshments."

Eye on the Pie



"Well, Santa's big business these days," I said.

"Yeah," Elvin sighed again. "The place is overrun with B-School consultants focused on finances rather than the production of toys. What kind of kid wants a 529 college savings account from Grinch Bros.?"

To change the subject, I asked, "What's this I hear about Santa having to relocate because of climate change?"

"Oh, that too!" Elvin suppressed a tear. "The ice is melt-

ing. The reindeer are molting all the time. The Association of Polar Proprietors has become a tourist agency. Chinese and Finnish excursion vessels are plowing through what's left of the ice flows. Thousands of chilled passengers chatter as they throw rice cakes to the seals."

"Where will Santa's workshop move?" I asked.

"Who knows?" Elvin's desperation trembled through his cry. "They're here all the time."

"Who are they?" I wanted to know.

"The economic developers from every small and large town between here and the Antarctic," he replied. "They come with their pamphlets and Power Points showing exactly why relocating to Sweet Gulch (Arkansas, Kentucky or West

Virginia) is the optimal choice for the New Santa's Workshop and Family Resort."

"Have you had representations from Indiana?" I asked.

"Have we ever?" Elvin said. "The folks from Santa Claus in Spencer County believe they have first rights for a relocated facility. Purdue and Musk offered to build Santa a fleet of electric sleighs, displacing our beloved but polluting reindeer. Indiana University and Indiana Wesleyan University promised year-round seminars on Symbolism and Sacrifice on each of their vassal campuses."

"I hesitate to say this," I said, "you're opposed to change of every sort."

"Darn right!" Elvin was emphatic. "Santa, the sleigh, the reindeer, the single family home, the stockings on the fire-

place, gifts for children, these are traditional and are under the constant threat of accelerating commercialism."

"Does Santa deny the blessings of unrestrained entrepreneurship?" I queried.

"Santa's a traditional fellow," Elvin responded. "He's benevolent, but not stupid. He feels the disrespect of scantily dressed cheerleaders wearing Santa-like costumes. He disapproves of the bell-ringers, stuffed with pillows, appealing for good causes in his likeness. He finds no joy in being tracked by intrusive NORAD."

"Well," I concluded, "he'll get used to monetizing his celebrity. The times, they have changed."

Marcus is an economist. Email him at mortonjmarcus@gmail.com.

Cuts to IRS are bad budget policy

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

No one loves the Internal Revenue Service, but we need the much-maligned agency having enough resources to make sure that everyone pays their fair share of taxes to support Uncle Sam and Republicans should not slash that funding.

For a brief moment, the IRS had the full breadth of resources it needed to investigate wealthy tax cheats, courtesy of President Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act.

Now, most of this funding, exceeding \$40 billion, is at risk in a proposed continuing resolution to keep the government open. This is a loss for fiscal responsibility.

Republicans describe these cuts as "savings," but every analysis shows a significant revenue drop for the federal government.

Every serious study of the effect IRS funding levels have on receipts shows that the increased tax revenues they generate far outstrip the initial spend, i.e. spending more on the IRS always brings in more money.

It's also not money that's coming out of already-stretched families' pockets, as the fear mongers would have you believe. If anything, the opposite is true, as the IRS has used a chunk of the additional cash to improve services for taxpayers, hiring additional customer service personnel and modernizing systems to help people navigate the sometimes byzantine agency.

The additional enforcement capacity this funding allows was never intended to and has not targeted the vast majority of U.S. taxpayers, with the agency having said from the get-go that audits would not increase for people earning under \$400,000 annually.

Instead, the agency has specifically focused on very high net worth individuals and large companies, with an emphasis on those who've not been timely filing taxes or otherwise draw particular scrutiny in ways the agency simply hasn't had the resources to fully investigate.

Even just this past fiscal year, the agency secured some \$25 billion in additional revenue from audits as compared to the year before, and it estimated it could collect up to \$561 billion more over the next 10 years. This isn't some abstraction, this is real money that can be used to

Guest Editorial

... this is real money that can be used to fix bridges, keep Medicare solvent, support housing development and financing ... and so on.

fix bridges, keep Medicare solvent, support housing development and financing, respond to health emergencies and natural disasters and so on.

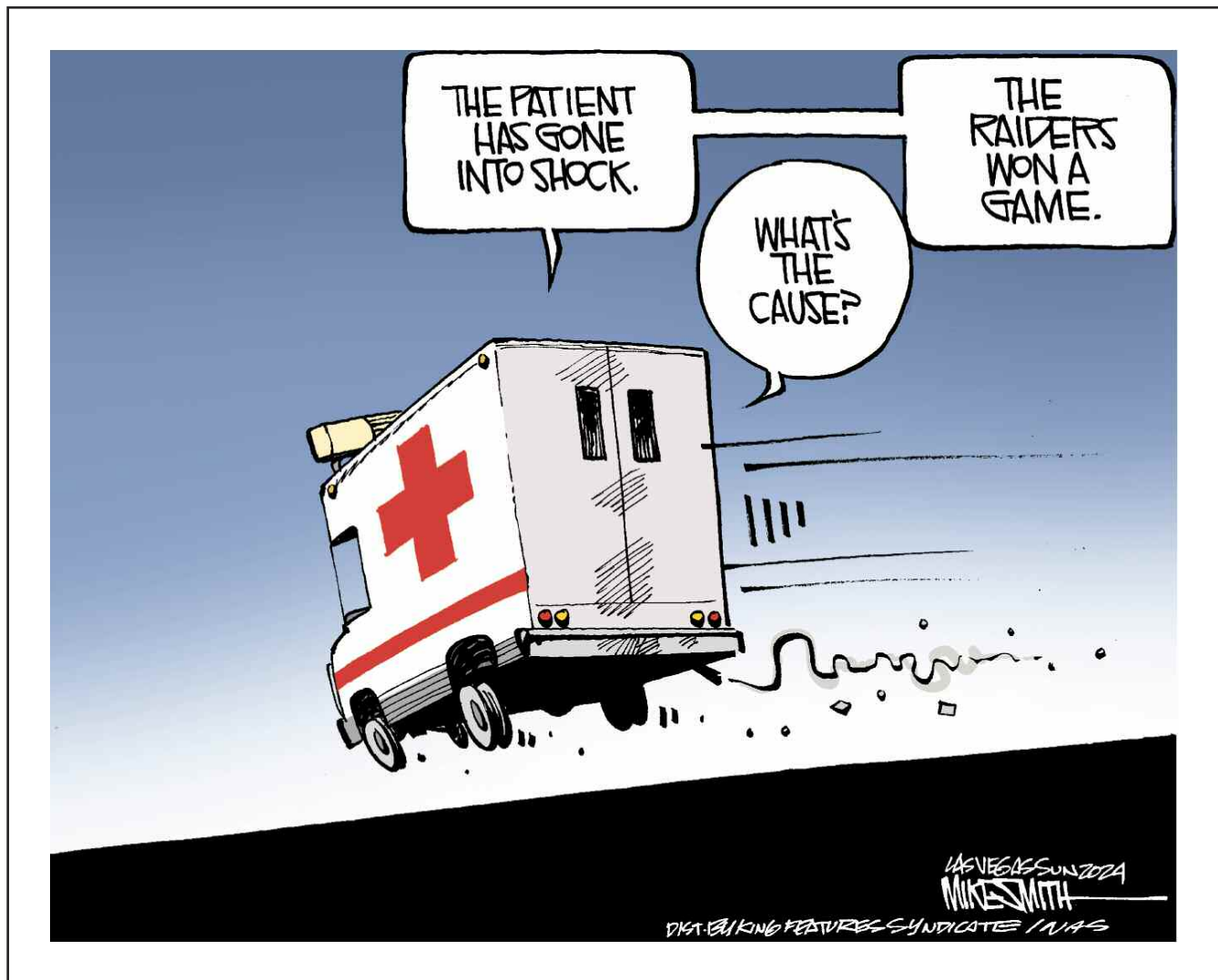
The fantasy that some political actors painted of armed IRS agents going door-to-door clawing away families' hard-earned cash obviously never materialized, yet Republicans are coming after the funding anyway, because ultimately they have a powerful constituency of moneyed interests to protect.

They're getting this goal in part due to their own inability to negotiate a budget, as these are concessions that Democrats made in order to avoid a government shutdown.

For their part, Democrats might have considered this kind of a moot issue with the incoming Trump administration and a GOP-controlled House and Senate — why fight for something that the Republicans are just going to take out in a month?

Perhaps, but we wouldn't be so sure; Speaker Mike Johnson will be heading into the next session with about as slim of a majority as is possible.

The defection of just a handful in his ranks will tank the chance of a controversial bill passing, and we have to imagine there are at least a few Republican lawmakers who understand this to be pure form over substance in a way that will ultimately hurt and not help taxpayers.



Make saving time permanent

By ALLISON SCHRAGER
Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

President-elect Donald Trump's latest promise is to eliminate Daylight Saving Time, which would mean putting the U.S. on Standard Time year-round.

Billionaire DOGE bosses Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, meanwhile, seem to want to make Daylight Saving Time permanent. Is this just a miscommunication? Or is the incoming administration as divided on this issue as the rest of America?

Regardless, we all must take a stand. Here is mine: Daylight Saving Time is superior to Standard Time, and it should be adopted year-round.

The purpose of time-keeping is to facilitate economic coordination, and DST better suits our modern economy. If the goal were simply to maximize sleep and physical well-being, we'd all be on our own solar time — with the sun directly overhead at noon. But that would be chaos. If the goal were simply to maximize economic coordination, we'd have just one (or maybe two) time zones. But that would be especially hard on people living near the borders.

America's current system is already a compromise between our corporal and economic needs. Until the General Time Convention of 1883, which established time zones, the U.S. had hundreds of time zones, with each city keeping its own time. The new arrangement brought order and helped budding industries like the telegraph and the railroad coordinate time across geography.

But America's timekeeping took a few steps backward — I speak strictly metaphorically — in the 20th century, when states started requiring people

Allison Schrager



to change their clocks twice a year in a misguided effort to save energy. There has also been political meddling for less high-minded reasons. Meanwhile, two states don't observe DST at all.

On a global level, countries change time on different days, which causes weeks of confusion and lost economic output when it comes to international travel and commerce. There is also something imperial about time-changing, since it is developed countries that tend to change their clocks, putting them further out of sync with developing countries.

Finally, there is the evidence that changing clocks, either forward or back, is bad for our health and our productivity.

But ending this practice raises the question of which time to adopt. America actually did adopt permanent DST during the energy crisis of 1974 — and it was unpopular in part because people didn't like sending their kids to school in the dark. The experiment, which was supposed to last two years, was canceled after 10 months.

Things have changed a lot since then. There has been a significant migration to the South in the last half century, meaning there are fewer people who would have to deal with the dark mornings and more businesses

that would benefit from lighter evenings. (1) It's not surprising that it is a senator from Florida, Marco Rubio, who has led a years-long crusade to adopt year-round DST.

True, children in the North still would have to go to school in the dark on year-round DST. But unlike the feral children of the 1970s, kids today are more engaged in after-school activities. A lot of them already come home in the dark, to little outcry. At any rate, almost all of today's schoolchildren are equipped with a flashlight — it's on their phones.

For their part, the American Society of Sleep Medicine (located in the far northern state of Illinois) would prefer Standard Time because it is closer to solar time. But unlike the 1970s, when it comes to sleep schedules, more people are better able to keep their own time. Working from home is more common, as are more flexible work (and nap?) schedules.

A couple decades ago, a research paper suggested that one of the main ways Americans kept time was through TV schedules. Nowadays people stream on their TVs or phones. My point is not that we all need to get off Netflix; it's that, while our sleep may not be as sensitive as we once thought to what the clock says, our economic activity is. And our economy would be better off with year-round Daylight Saving Time.

(1) It is also worth noting that some northern states (such as Maine) have already passed resolutions to go on permanent DST.

Schrager is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering economics and a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Electric truck boosts profits

By Reasons to be Cheerful

Fast Company
Esperance Dushakimana looks at her field of potato in Musanze district in North Rwanda.

"It is hard," she says. "We till the land, sow the seeds, reap the harvest and then watch helplessly while at least a fifth of it perishes before it reaches the market."

Barely 30 miles away in Rubavu, mushroom farmer Vincent Ngamiye is forced to sell his harvest on the cheap across the border in Congo, instead of in Kigali, Rwanda's capital, where he can get a better price.

"The market in DRC is barely 40 minutes away, and in contrast, my mushrooms can reach Kigali only after spending five hours in a warm truck," he says. "Barely 40% will survive."

In Rwanda's agrarian, undulating landscape, farmers pedaling up or madly careening down hills, on bicycles piled four feet high with bananas, potatoes and other produce, are a common sight. Like Dushakimana and Ngamiye, most farmers here either watch their harvest spoil, or grow only as much as they can get to market. The issue is global: About 25% to 30% of food produced worldwide is wasted. The Food and Agricultural Organization estimates that every year, about \$400 billion worth of food is lost before it ever reaches the market. But in Rwanda, where over 4.8 million people (41% of the population) are undernourished and approximately one-fifth of the population is food insecure, food waste seems even more wasteful.

Better logistics is an obvious solution, but it is not as simple as that. Long-haul diesel trucks have a massive carbon footprint; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that in 2022 more than 3% of all carbon dioxide emissions came from them.

"Traditional car manufacturers have failed to produce vehicles that suit a third of the world's population, predominantly those in the Global South," says Simon Davis.

He is the founder and CEO of the UK-based Ox Delivers, which has developed, according to the company website, "the world's first purpose-designed electric truck" for Africa. It was launched in Rwanda in 2021 and is almost 10 times cheaper to run compared to existing alternatives. And it offers farmers the cost-effective choice of renting the space they need for as little as a dollar depending on weight and distance, instead of the entire truck (for about \$500), to transport their agricultural produce from farm to market. Refrigeration capacity can



Ox Delivers

An Ox truck delivers to a Rwandan market. Ox Delivers has developed, according to the company website, "the world's first purpose-designed electric truck" for Africa. It was launched in Rwanda in 2021 and is almost 10 times cheaper to run compared to existing alternatives. It offers farmers the choice of renting the space for as little as a dollar to transport their agricultural produce from farm to market. Refrigeration capacity can be added to all of the trucks and the company has also developed a mountable cool box for non-refrigerated trucks.

be added to all these trucks (in fact "cold" trucks service Rwanda's dairy farmers in Kivu, Western Rwanda) and the company has also developed a mountable cool box for non-refrigerated trucks.

The story of Ox began in 2013, when Sir Torquil Norman, the British pilot and toy entrepreneur famous for creating the Polly Pocket line of dolls, tasked the Formula 1 race car designer Gordon Murray to design a vehicle to transport goods in low-income countries. Murray's design — a somewhat squat truck made of interchangeable and easy-to-maintain parts that could be shipped in easy-to-assemble flat-packs — was practical, even if unlikely to win any auto beauty contests. In the next few years, Ox transformed into a logistics company, offering farmers "ride shares" for their produce for less than a dollar.

These ride shares, which Davis claims have been used to transport everything from "cows to coffins," have positively boosted farmers' bottom lines and supercharged African trade.

"My observation of the market is that actually the biggest problem isn't food waste," Davis says. "There is food that [farmers] never bother to grow, because it's just not going to get to the end."

Thus far, the company has serviced over 4,000 cus-

tomers, ranging from smallholder farmers and traders to large tea companies.

With its recognizable branding and fleet of drivers — some of them, unusually for Rwanda, young women — the truck has been attracting attention, especially when it drops its payload in local markets.

"People see our truck, the Ox truck, they always crowd around and ask where has this truck come from?" Muhoracyeye Lea, an Ox truck driver as well as manager of Ox Delivers' Kigali Depot, says. "They are even more interested when they see how we look after the cargo, keep it at the correct temperature. We talk to them, and this helps us to get new, different customers."

The reduced spoilage of harvests and the convenient logistics have encouraged some of their customers to grow more and sell more.

In Kyazo, a fertile agricultural area in Rwanda's Western Province, Jean Paul grows chili peppers. Until a couple of years ago, reaching Kigali was a logistical nightmare: He would load 100-kilo sacks of peppers onto three bicycles, push them to the nearest town, then haul them to the roof of a bus for a seven-hour journey to Kigali bus station. From here, he transferred the peppers to three motor-

bikes for delivery to the warehouse. This entire backbreaking process took two days. In 2021, when he began renting space in an Ox truck, the improved access to the market encouraged him to grow more. Today, he has gone from selling 400 to 4,000 kilograms of peppers a week to an exporter in Kigali, about 105 miles away.

Claudine Uwiragiye has a similar story. Initially she joined with four other farmers to send their combined cassava harvest of two metric tons to the market in a single Ox truck. The financial benefits of directly accessing the market without middlemen made her confident of growing more.

"Now I can order up to two trucks of 1.5 [metric tons] twice a week on Monday and Thursday, which means that I can sell up to 3 [metric tons] of cassava a week," she says.

Eighty percent of their orders come from existing clients, Lea says, adding that once they have experienced the benefits of good logistics, "the customers call again and again!" While this is great news for Ox, which is consolidating its business in Rwanda, researchers point out that a lot more needs to be done before sustainable logistics companies can become a holistic solution to Rwanda's food waste problem.

At the Africa Centre of

Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chain (ACES) campus in Kigali, food systems expert and senior lecturer Jean Baptiste Ndahetuye talks about the pitfalls of narrowly focusing on sustainable logistics, instead of seeing it as part of a system of best practices that optimize food production.

"Sustainable cold transport is important," he points out, "but only one link in this chain." Davis says that for their present roster of 2,000-plus clients in Rwanda, "the cold chain is not something that's even halfway there."

Climate change-linked erratic weather conditions aren't helping. In Rubavu, Ngamiye returns from Goma, the market in Congo where he sells his mushroom crop.

"It has been unusually hot here and without a cool chamber, my harvest starts losing color and texture immediately," he says. "And by the time I reached Goma in a non-AC vehicle, the mushrooms were in bad shape." The young farmer has been experimenting with designs for a zero-input cool chamber in his spare time, which would, he hopes, keep his mushrooms fresh for at least a couple of days extra. "But transport to bigger markets in Kigali remains an issue," he says.

With a fleet of two-dozen trucks and 47 drivers (12

of them being women), Ox Delivers has not yet managed to reach the length and breadth of Rwanda, which is barely the size of the state of Massachusetts. One reason for this is the inadequacy of public charging infrastructure beyond Kigali. While these EVs have a range of 170 kilometers, at present they need to return to the company's docking stations to recharge.

In early 2024, Ox Delivers won a £1.2 million grant from the UK's Energy Catalyst to develop and expand sustainable energy infrastructure in Rwanda, which could add extra buzz to their expansion plans. Spreading awareness about the benefits of using sustainable cold chain technologies could help, and this is exactly what Ndahetuye and his colleagues are doing at the ACES campus in Kigali. They have trained over 1,000 students, farmers, engineers and technicians in cold chain technologies and explored how the creation of cold chain infrastructure can generate new jobs and businesses.

"My dream is for Rwanda to develop a series of cold rooms, and for Ox trucks to connect them all," Ferdinand Munezero, Ox Delivers' training and development lead and alumnus of ACES, says. "It will be good for business, but also for the country."

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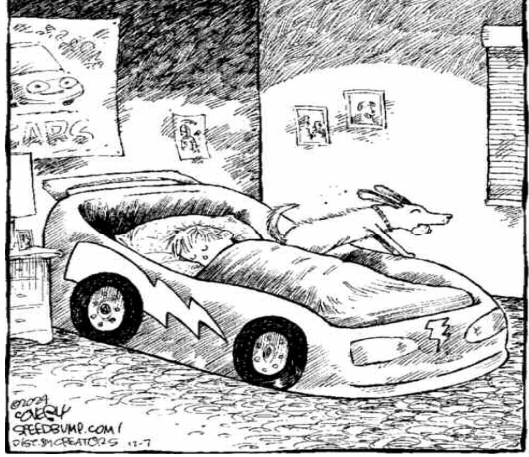
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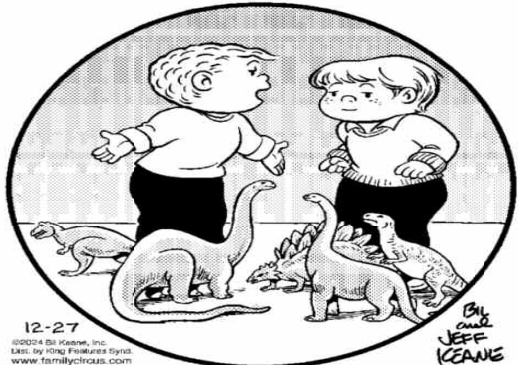
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East: ♠ K 7, ♥ Q 6 3, ♦ 10 9 8, ♣ A K 8 6 3

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1. In notrump, you usually try to develop tricks in your longest suit (in the present case, clubs), but that doesn't make it the right play in all cases. In this instance, the correct suit to play is diamonds, not clubs.

Tomorrow: A tough problem to solve. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

12-27 CRYPTOQUIP

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ZWYRG-UHSQU?
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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals D

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Patch target, 4 Karate blow, 8 Sacred chests, 12 Flying saucer, 13 River to the Rhine, 14 Cowboy's footwear, 15 Pastry store, 17 - fide (genuine), 18 Prior nights, 19 Up to now, 20 Sugar units, 22 Dalmatian feature, 24 "East of Eden" son, 25 Workers' jargon, 29 Australian state (Abbr.), 30 Hilton heiress, 31 Maui souvenir, 32 Discuss, 34 Latin 101 word.
DOWN: 2 "- tree falls ...", 3 Hawaiian raw fish dish, 4 Attorney's horse, 5 Scoffing laughs, 6 Spanish long, 7 Zing, 8 "- Ele-mentary" (TV sitcom), 9 Santa's runway, 10 Coffee-growing area of Hawaii, 11 Luminary, 16 Squared, 19 Soaks (up), 20 Quitter's word, 21 Celestial bear, 22 Mouselike mammal, 23 Fruit in a French tart, 25 Goalie's goal, 26 Annual fact books, 27 Meadows, 28 Toy with a tail, 30 Frogs' hangout, 33 Type of roll, 34 Melville's captain, 36 Dessert wines, 37 Bummer, 38 Oscar winner Moreno, 39 Taxi alternative, 40 Flat fee?, 42 Have, 43 Churchill gesture, 44 Japanese carp, 45 Day-break goddess.

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Olympic snowboarder killed in avalanche

By JAMI GANZ
New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

Olympic snowboarder Sophie Hediger was killed Monday in an avalanche in her native Switzerland, just days after her 26th birthday.

The country's winter sports federation, Swiss-Ski, announced Tuesday that the young athlete died in the resort town of Arosa,

on the heels of her Dec. 14 birthday.

Local authorities said Hediger was practicing off-piste, or away from prepared ski runs, with someone else and leaving a closed track when she was caught in the avalanche, according to Le Parisien.

Emergency services located Hediger after a two-hour search and failed to resuscitate her. An investi-

gation is now underway.

"We are stunned and in our thoughts with Sophie's family, to whom we express our deepest condolences," Walter Reusser, CEO Sport of Swiss-Ski, said Tuesday. "For the Swiss Ski family, the tragic death of Sophie Hediger has a dark shadow over the Christmas days. We are immeasurably sad. We will keep an honorable memory of Sophie."

The organization noted that Hediger grew up in Zurich-area Horgen but spent a lot of time in Arosa.

There had been a great deal of snowfall in the days leading up to the avalanche, according to Le Parisien.

An estimated 2,300 landslide avalanches were reported to the WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research (SLF) last winter, up from 293 the pre-

vious winter.

"There, her life has now found a tragic, abrupt, much too early end at freeriding, a beloved hobby," the federation said.

Freeride snowboarding, also known as backcountry or sidecountry snowboarding, generally involves foregoing established trails for unmarked mountain routes.

Swiss-Ski said that, after

conferring with Hediger's family and life partner, it would not further detail the circumstances surrounding her death.

Hediger also accomplished her first two World Cup podiums in the 2023-24 season, according to the federation.

She also hoped to win a medal at the world championship in March in Switzerland's Engadin.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Up and under

Stella Skirvin of the Jay County High School girls basketball team makes a post move during the Patriots' 65-36 win at South Adams Saturday.

Carroll ...

Continued from page 8
Asked in August if he wanted to return to coaching Carroll said:

"I get asked (that) a lot so I'm pretty familiar with answering that," Carroll said then in his first extended interview since the week he was dismissed. "I could coach tomorrow. I'm physically in the best shape I've been in a long time. I'm ready to do all the activities that I'm doing and feeling really good about it. I could (coach) but I'm not desiring it at this point. This isn't the coaching season — we'll see what happens (then). (But) I'm not waiting on it at all. I'm going ahead. I've got other things that I want to do that I'm excited about and I want to see how all that goes. I'm not thinking that I'm holding my breath (to coach), that sort of thing. If it's been 40-something years, 48 years or whatever coaching and that's it, I feel OK about that."

Carroll revealed during that interview the teaching job at USC, where he

coached from 2001-09 before coming to Seattle, a job that is set to begin in the spring. Carroll did not give specifics, but a few days later, the school confirmed the news stating: "We are excited to welcome Pete Carroll home to USC in a new capacity in which he can, as a legendary coach and leader, share his knowledge and experience with our students. We are working on the details and hope to share more specifics later."

In October, the school released more details stating: "This spring, legendary USC football coach Pete Carroll is returning to campus — not on the field, but in the classroom — to teach graduating seniors his winning philosophy. Carroll will join USC Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life Varun Soni to co-teach BUAD 498: The Game Is Life, a new Marshall School of Business course designed to help students develop their personal gameplan for life after graduation, while

using their USC education to conquer challenges along the way."

If Carroll were to return to the NFL next season he would become the oldest coach in league history.

That distinction is currently held by Romeo Crennel, who was 73 years and 115 days when he was promoted to become interim coach of the Houston Texans in 2020 (Crennel was not retained following the 2020 season).

Carroll turned 73 on Sept. 15. He is tied for the 16th-most wins in NFL history with 170, going 170-120-1 in 18 seasons. That includes a mark of 137-89-1 with the Seahawks from 2010-23.

The Seahawks decided to make a change after Seattle went 9-8 each of the past two seasons, missing the postseason in 2023 for the second time in three years.

Seattle is currently 8-7 as it heads to Chicago and has scant playoff hopes that rest mostly on Arizona's ability to beat the Rams on Saturday night.

Record ...

Continued from page 8

It's all been evident in his campaign for a third career MVP honor. And it has made the magic he can spark with his legs all the more valuable. Harder to defend, too.

The record comes two weeks after Jackson revealed his mother, Felicia Jones, gave him grief for what she deemed a passive rushing performance. Jones cussed out her son after a 24-19 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles in which Jackson rushed for 79 yards. She thought he should have had more.

Now, no quarterback has more.

Not all former players are willing to pass down their records with such grace.

Even fewer empower their successors. Vick has done both, cheering on Jackson with a smile.

"We knew it was coming, man. Like I said, you was the guy for the job," Vick said, in a 2019 video message when Jackson broke his single-season rushing record (1,206). "Appreciate everything you do for the game."

Then on a FanDuel show in 2022, Vick was introduced as the all-time record holder. He cut off the interview: "That's temporary," he said. "Lamar Jackson is on my trail!"

Two years later, Vick's once unthinkable rushing total is squarely in Jackson's rearview mirror.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Swim home tri-meet — 8 a.m.; JV boys wrestling at Monroe Central — 8:30 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Swim at Lima YMCA — 10 a.m.; Boys basketball vs. South Adams — 6 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Boys basketball at Wapahani — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys bowling vs. St. Henry at Minster — 9:15 a.m.; Girls basketball at Marion Local — 6 p.m.; Boys basketball at Marion Local — 7:30 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball at Mar-

ion Local — 9 a.m.; Middle school girls basketball at Marion Local — 9 a.m.

TV sports

Today
12 p.m. — College football Armed Forces Bowl: Oklahoma vs. Navy (ESPN)
3:15 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Ipswich Town at Arsenal (USA)
3:30 p.m. — College football Birmingham Bowl: Georgia Tech vs. Vanderbilt (ESPN)
7 p.m. — College football Liberty Bowl: Texas Tech vs. Arkansas (ESPN)
7 p.m. — NHL: Chicago Blackhawks at Buffa-

lo Sabers (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Boston Celtics (FDSN Indiana)
8 p.m. — College football Holiday Bowl: Syracuse vs. Washington State (FOX)
9:30 p.m. — NHL: Colorado Avalanche at Utah Hockey Club (ESPN2)
10:30 p.m. — College football Las Vegas Bowl: USC vs. Texas A&M (ESPN)

Saturday
11 a.m. — College football Fenway Bowl: UConn vs. North Carolina (ESPN)
12 p.m. — College football Pinstripe Bowl: Boston College vs. Nebraska (ABC)

12 p.m. — College basketball: Coppin State at Georgetown (FS1); Maryland Eastern Shore at Maryland (BTN)
1:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Creighton at St. John's (FOX)
2 p.m. — College basketball: Ole Miss at Memphis (ESPN2); Loyola Maryland at DePaul (FS1)
2 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Wisconsin at Indiana (BTN)
2:15 p.m. — College football New Mexico Bowl: Louisiana vs. TCU (ESPN)
3:30 p.m. — College football Pop-Tarts Bowl: Iowa State vs. Miami (ABC)
4 p.m. — College basketball: Howard at

Hampton (CBS); UCLA at Gonzaga (FOX)
4 p.m. — NHL: Seattle Kraken at Vancouver Canucks (NBC)
4 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Penn State at Minnesota (BTN); Oregon State at Gonzaga (ESPN2)
5:45 p.m. — College football Military Bowl: East Carolina vs. N.C. State (ESPN)
6 p.m. — College basketball: Utah State at San Diego State (FOX); Delaware at St. John's (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — College football Alamo Bowl: BYU vs. Colorado (ABC)
9:15 p.m. — College football Independence Bowl: Louisiana Tech vs. Army (ESPN)

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION

Located: Bearcreek Farms, 8341 N 400 E, Bryant, IN
January 6th, 2025
6:00 P.M.
75 Acres-Bearcreek Township
Jay County, IN
Parcel 1-55 acres with 53 acres of tillable ground. Soil types include Blount-Glywood, Pewamo and Glywood clay.
Parcel 2-20 acres of woods.
Parcel 3-Combination of Parcels 1 and 2.
Acreages are subject to pending survey. Farm has access off Highway 27.
For more information contact Gary Loy, Auctioneer (260) 726-5160 or Kim Loy, Real Estate Broker at (260) 726-2700
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Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

90 SALE CALENDAR

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

Saturday, January 11, 2025
10:00 AM
Location of Sale: Bearcreek Farms
8341 N 400 E, Bryant, IN
Real Estate:
56.54 acres-Sec. 4
Bearcreek Twp. Property located East of 27 on Jay & Adams Co. Line. Selling 2 parcels & combinations.
Marilyn Hough, Owner
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Sports



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Ortiz to the title

Alan Ortiz of Jay County High School twists up Central Noble's Park Boots during the 285-pound championship match during Monday's East Central Indiana Classic. Ortiz, who is ranked ninth in the state, shut out Boots 6-0 to win his first ECIC title. His three wins on the way to the championship match all came via first-period pins.

Lamar Jackson breaks QB rushing record

By SAM COHN

Baltimore Sun
Tribune News Service

The record Lamar Jackson has long seemed destined for is now his.

With a masterful outing Wednesday against the Houston Texans, the Ravens quarterback became the NFL's all-time rushing leader among quarterbacks. He dashed past legendary dual-threat quarterback Michael Vick's mark of 6,109 yards. Jackson reached the threshold in 41 fewer games and six fewer seasons than Vick.

In the Ravens' third game in 11 days, this one played on Christmas, Jackson tied his second best

Ravens' quarterback eclipsed Michael Vick's 6,109 rushing yards

single-game rushing total this season and best since Week 3. Jackson entered Wednesday needing 86 yards to tie Vick. He was pulled early in the fourth quarter after notching 87 yards on four carries, complementing 168 yards and two passing touchdowns. Early in the third quarter,

he faked a handoff to Derrick Henry and took off toward his right for a 48-yard rushing touchdown. He eclipsed Vick on his final carry of the day, an 8-yard run on the following drive, which ended with him throwing his second of two touchdown passes to tight end Mark Andrews.

It likely bolstered his resume for a third NFL Most Valuable Player Award. It definitely cements his legacy as the league's best-rushing quarterback ever.

Jackson entered the league shouldering mountainous amounts of criticism. Some (wrongly) thought he was better suited to play running back. Every milestone achievement — rushing, passing or elsewhere — has been met with the years-old tagline, "Not bad for a running back." After finally beating the archrival Steelers last week, there was an early Christmas gift sitting in the locker room for Jackson: a painted canvas with those six words.

Jackson earned the record in what is unmistakably his best season as a passer.

"I think as a passer he's taken leaps and bounds from where we started in the offseason last year [around] spring training camp last season and then picking up where he left off," quarterbacks coach Tee Martin said earlier this month. "Pass technique-wise, being more accurate at all of the throws at all field zones. We made a key point to work on throws outside the numbers, into deeper field zones, outside the numbers, post routes, go routes [and] things of that nature [as well as] on the run [and] scramble throws."

See Record page 7

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Pete Carroll interested in Bears' coaching job

By BOB CONDOTTA

The Seattle Times
Tribune News Service

SEATTLE — In August, former Seahawks coach Pete Carroll said he was "not desiring" being an NFL coach again, instead expressing his enthusiasm for a planned teaching job at USC this spring.

But during that interview with Sports Radio 93.3-KJR, he held open the idea that he could change his mind.

A report from ESPN's Adam Schefter Wednesday indicates Carroll has done just that, stating he "would like to return to the sideline next season" and has expressed interest in the Chicago Bears' opening.

The report stated Carroll has had no talks with the Bears or any other teams but that he is "interested" in pursuing the Chicago opening, and potentially others, and "would welcome that chance" to talk to the Bears.

Will the Bears show the same interest?

That wasn't immediately clear.

The Bears — who, interestingly enough, host the Seahawks Thursday night at 5:15 p.m. on Amazon Prime — are looking for a new coach after firing Matt Eberflus last month.

Offensive coordinator Thomas Brown took over as the interim coach and the Bears are 0-3 since then, having lost nine in a row to fall to 4-11.

The New York Jets and New Orleans Saints also have head-coaching openings, but ESPN's story did not link Carroll to either of those two. Carroll coached the Jets for one year, in 1994, going 6-10 before being fired.

Former Seattle Seahawks coach stepped down in 2023 after leading team for 13 seasons

Other teams could also have openings once the regular season ends next weekend.

Many have speculated the Bears will target Detroit offensive coordinator Ben Johnson, who has helped reshape the Lions into one of the best offenses in the NFL.

Johnson has been thought by some a perfect candidate for Chicago to groom rookie quarterback Caleb Williams, the first overall pick in the 2024 draft. The Bears also have former UW standout Rome Odunze at receiver.

Johnson was a hot candidate last year and interviewed with Seattle before the Seahawks hired Mike Macdonald and figures to have suitors other than the Bears in this coaching cycle.

But Carroll's NFL success and USC ties with Williams could make him an intriguing name for the Bears.

Carroll has given a few interviews since his coaching tenure ended with Seattle last January but has largely stayed out of the spotlight. He was

seen a couple times at University of Washington practices; his son, Brennan, is UW's offensive coordinator.

When Carroll was removed as Seattle's head coach in January, the Seahawks announced he would remain in the organization as an adviser.

Carroll, though, is not thought to have had any real contact in an official capacity with the team since his removal as head coach.

Carroll said in the August Sports Radio 93.3 interview, which was co-hosted by former Seahawks receiver Doug Baldwin along with Dave "Softy" Mahler, that he'd had no real interactions with the team since departing.

"I really haven't," Carroll said. "I haven't talked to those guys at all."

Carroll remained under contract with Seattle through the 2024 season as part of a deal thought to pay him \$15 million per season.

See Carroll page 7