

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

One week, two titles

Jay County High School wrestling team capped a stellar Christmas week on Friday by winning the Battle in the Bear Den at Monroe Central. The Patriots were a perfect 5-0 Friday with key wins coming against North Central and Whiteland after winning their East Central Indiana Classic on Monday. For more on the tournament, see page 8.

Trump asks to pause possible ban on TikTok

By GREG STOHR
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump thrust himself into the high-stakes fight over the fate of TikTok in the U.S. by urging the Supreme Court to pause a law that would ban the social media platform if it isn't sold by its Chinese parent company.

Trump said the court should give him time after his Jan. 20 inauguration to "seek a negotiated resolution" of the dispute. He didn't take a firm position on the constitutionality of the law that's set to take effect Jan. 19, though he said it raised "sweeping and troubling" free speech concerns.

Trump told the justices that only he "possesses the consummate dealmaking expertise, the electoral mandate, and the political will to negotiate a resolution to save the platform while addressing the national security concerns expressed by the government."

He didn't give specifics about what kind of deal he would seek or say how long a delay he needed.

The court is hearing the case on a highly expedited timeline, with arguments scheduled for a special session Jan. 10.

Jay's rate was 4.3% in November

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Unemployment in Jay County was up again last month.

According to estimates Indiana Department of Workforce Development released this week, Jay County posted an unemployment rate of 4.3% in November.

The rate was up 0.4 percentage points from the previous month. It also marked an increase of 1.4 percentage points from the same month last year.

Jay County's unemployment rate has been up and down through 2024, starting at 3.7% in January, climbing to 4.7% in July, dropping back to 3.8% in September

and climbing each of the last two months to reach 4.3%. July's rate was the highest since the spike during the 2020 coronavirus pandemic shutdown.

Unemployment was up throughout the region last month, with every county seeing their mark climb by at least 0.2

percentage points. Adams and Blackford counties matched Jay County with increases of 0.4 percentage points.

The state's unemployment rate went up 0.2 percentage points to 4.2%.

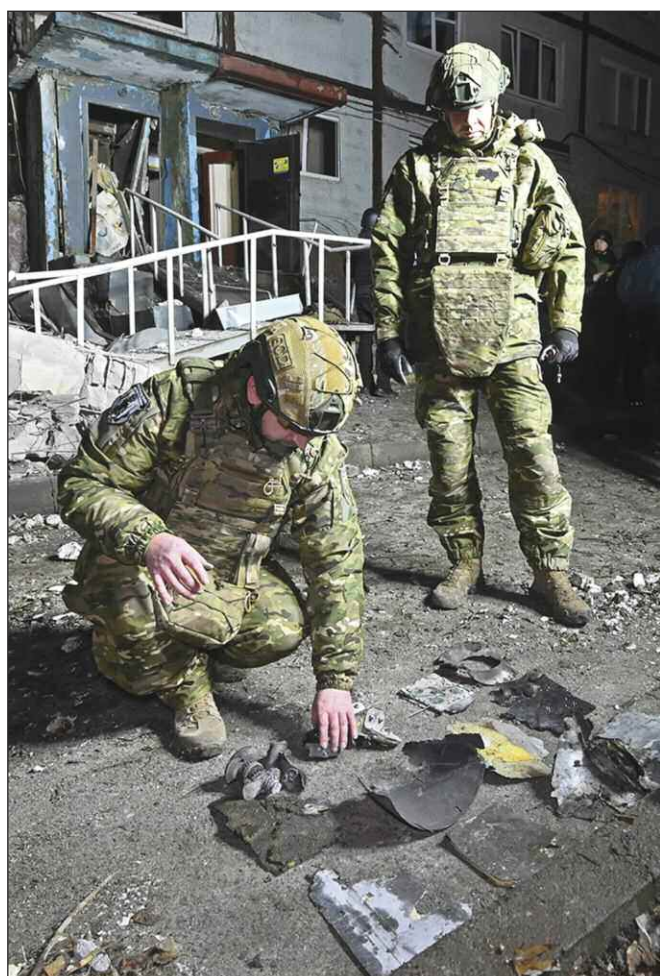
Howard County again had far and away the highest unemploy-

ment rate in Indiana at 9.3%. Fayette County was next at 6.6%, with Miami County at 6.5%.

Martin County joined Gibson and Daviess counties in a three-way tie for the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 3.2%.

See Rate page 2

The local number was tied for 29th-highest among state's 92 counties



Tribune News Service/AFP via Getty Images/Sergey Bobok

Ukrainian law enforcement officers inspect the remains of a drone in the courtyard of a damaged residential building following an attack in Kharkiv late on Dec. 20. Ukraine's forces have lost about half the territory they seized in Russia's Kursk region and may lose the rest in a matter of months, according to U.S. officials.

Ukraine losing territory

By NATALIA DROZDIAK
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

After a surprise offensive earlier this year, Ukraine's forces have lost about half the territory seized in Russia's Kursk region and may lose the rest in a matter of months, according to U.S. officials, potentially depriving Kyiv of important leverage for ceasefire talks with Russia.

Ukraine's military is already grappling with a lack of manpower and uncertainty about the future flow of supplies from the U.S. and other allies, even as it struggles to fend off Russian advances in its east. In Kursk, the region in western Russia where Ukrainian forces seized a swath of land, Ukrainian troops are also facing off against about 12,000 North Korean troops reinforcing the Russians.

With a more concerted effort by Moscow to push Ukrainian troops out of Kursk, possibly as soon as next month, Kyiv's forces may only be able to hold the land until spring before they are forced to retreat — or risk being encircled — the U.S. offi-

U.S. officials say all gains in Russia could be gone quickly

cials said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss their confidential assessments.

The timing is significant because Ukrainian officials have said they hoped to use territory seized in Kursk as a bargaining chip in any negotiations. While president-elect Donald Trump, who takes office on Jan. 20, has said he wants to bring the war to a rapid end, it may take months for the two sides to agree to a ceasefire, given the complexity of both Ukrainian and Russian demands.

The Ukraine president's office didn't respond to a request for comment.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that he isn't familiar with a reported proposal from the incoming Trump administration to freeze the war in place if Russia is given guarantees that Ukraine won't

join the NATO military alliance in the next decade or two. Such a deal definitely wouldn't work for Russia, Putin said.

With Russia currently enjoying the upper hand on the battlefield, it may have an incentive to stall talks as it seeks to claw back as much terrain as possible from Ukraine before negotiations and a possible truce freeze the front lines.

At the same time, Ukraine's forces have already managed to hold on to land in Kursk longer than some initial predictions, aided in part by the U.S. decision to allow Kyiv to fire its long-range missiles into Russia, one of the officials said.

Another official cautioned that Ukraine's intent in Kursk was never to keep it but rather for the shock value of its counter-invasion and to further reduce Russia's forces.

Deaths

Vernon Dull, 86, Portland
Larry Day, 85, Fort Recovery
Danny McLaughlin, 70, Portland
Joslyn Burk, 73, Markle
Jacqueline Whitcomb, 76, rural Pennville
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 52 degrees Friday. Expect cloudy skies today with a high in the upper 50s. Rain is expected tonight with a low in the lower 40s. Rainy conditions, with winds gusting up to 25 mph, will continue Sunday.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

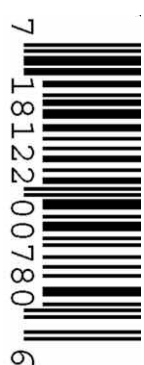
In review

Applications are open for grants and scholarships through The Portland Foundation. Organizations and individuals can apply for foundation grants, Pennville Endowment grants, teacher creativity mini grants and scholarships. Applications are available at portlandfoundation.org.

Coming up

Tuesday — Results from the JCHS boys basketball team's game against Wapahani.

Thursday — CR Recommends provides tips on music, books, food and more.



Felony arrests

Domestic battery
A Dunkirk man was arrested Saturday for domestic battery. Caden M. Green, 21, 7354 E. 400 South, was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony

and Level 6 felony for two counts of domestic battery, as well as a Class B misdemeanor for public intoxication. Green was being held on a \$14,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

CR almanac

Sunday 12/29	Monday 12/30	Tuesday 12/31	Wednesday 1/1	Thursday 1/2
55/38	48/40	44/31	34/22	26/18
Mostly cloudy on Sunday, when there's a 90% chance of showers.	Monday's forecast shows more mostly sunny skies with a 60% chance of showers.	Tuesday has an 80% chance of rain with a chance of snow late.	New Year's Day looks to be mostly cloudy with a slight chance of snow.	Mostly sunny skies on Thursday, when the high will be in the upper 20s.

Lotteries

Hoosier
Midday
Daily Three: 5-7-9
Daily Four: 9-9-9-8
Quick Draw: 9-12-16-17-20-24-25-28-33-36-47-48-50-59-61-69-73-77-78-80

Pick 3: 6-1-2
Pick 4: 3-2-8-7
Pick 5: 7-9-9-1-9

Powerball
Estimated jackpot: \$145 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$1.22 billion

Ohio
Midday

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery
Corn.....4.58
Feb. corn4.60
March corn4.62

POET Biorefining Portland
Corn.....4.59
Jan. corn4.59
Feb. corn4.62

The Andersons Richland Township
Corn.....4.51
Jan. corn4.51
Beans9.86

Jan. beans9.86
Wheat4.96

ADM Montpelier
Corn.....4.58
Feb. corn4.58
Beans9.61
Feb. beans9.61
Wheat4.86

Heartland St. Anthony
Corn.....4.58
Jan. corn4.58
Beans9.61
Jan. beans9.61
Wheat4.86

Today in history

In 1832, John C. Calhoun became the first vice president of the United States to resign the office after he was elected to the U.S. Senate. The vice presidency was vacant until Martin Van Buren took over the role in 1833.

In 1856, President Woodrow Wilson was born Thomas Woodrow Wilson, in Staunton, Virginia. The son of a Presbyterian minister, "Tommy" Wilson would go on to serve as president from 1913 through 1921, seeing the United States through World War I.

In 1895, brothers Auguste and Louis Lumière held their first public demonstration of their Cinématographe, an early motion-picture device, at the Grand Cafe in Paris. In part, it was based on the Kinetoscope/Kinetograph system Thomas Edison and W.K.L. Dickson created.

In 1922, Stan Lee was born in New York City. Lee went on to a career as a comic book writer, most notably for Marvel Comics, creating characters including Spider-Man, the X-Men, the Avengers and the Fantastic Four.

In 1972, Portland Mayor Robert Ford announced his appointments for 1973, retaining Chuck Privett as police chief, Ray "Bud" Williams as fire chief and Ernie Gillett as superintendent of the water and sewage departments.

In 2021, Teigen Fortkamp earned the only win for the Fort Recovery High School swim team as it competed in the Holiday Invitational at Lima YMCA. Fortkamp was first in the 50-yard freestyle.

In 2022, the Jay County High School wrestling team won the East Central Indiana Classic, which had been delayed because of weather. Daniel Moore, Taye Curtis, Cody Rowles, Ethan Reiley, Tony Wood and Christian Wittkamp won championships for the host Patriots.

—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.

Jan. 6
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.

7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

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.
7 p.m. — Salamonica Town Council, School-house Community Center.

Obituaries

Vernon Dull

Feb. 13, 1938-Dec. 24, 2024
Vernon Leon Dull, age 86, of Portland passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024, at his residence.

He was born in Winchester on Feb. 13, 1938, the son of Carroll and Marjorie (Day) Dull. He was married to Jean Hinshaw who survives.

Vernon was a retired mold maker, having worked for Overmeyer Mold, Armstrong Mold and Ross Mold. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran, Winchester High School graduate and member of Moose Lodge and American Legion. He was an avid bowler and enjoyed fishing and golf.

Surviving are his wife Jean; three sons, Scott Dull (wife: Diana) of Winchester, Dallas Taylor of Portland and Darrin Taylor of Texas; three daughters, Debbie Byrd (husband: Dave) of Elwood, Brenda Fetty of Winchester and Bobi Sullivan of Portland; sister Barbara Mills of Winchester; 12 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents Carroll Dull and Marjorie Detro; son Dean Taylor; and sister Shirley Byrne.

Funeral services will be Monday, Dec. 30, at 2 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with visitation from noon to 2 p.m. Burial with military graveside rites will follow in the Green Park Cemetery.

Memorials can be made to the funeral home to help with expenses. Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.



Dull

Robert E. (Carol) Hart of Fort Recovery.

In addition to his parents, Larry was preceded in death by his son, Mike Day; a great-grandchild; his brothers, Glenn Day Jr., and Richard Day; and his in-law, Phyllis (Melvin) Reier.

Larry worked for the Union City Body Company for 33 years until he retired. Along with his wife, Mary Jo, they owned and managed several rental properties in Union City, Indiana, for over 30 years. Larry was a member of Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, where he spent many years serving as an usher and Eucharistic minister. If you knew Larry, you knew his love and passion for antique tractors. He owned and restored many tractors that have been passed down to his family. He was a member of the Fort Recovery Antique Tractor Club, the Randolph County Antique Tractor Club, Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Association, the Darke County Steam Threshers and the Greenville Power of the Past.

As the "ultimate handyman," Larry loved tinkering with just about anything and there wasn't much he couldn't fix. In his early years, he liked going fishing and was always on the lookout for a good walleye. In his free time, Larry enjoyed spending time with his family and enjoying the simple things while driving through the countryside.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024, at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, Fort Recovery. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Guests may visit with the family on Monday, Dec. 30, 2024, from 4 to 7 p.m. and again on Tuesday from 9 to 10 a.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Fort Recovery Community Foundation or EverHeart Hospice.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockman-boeckmanfh.com.

Danny McLaughlin

Sept. 26, 1954-Dec. 26, 2024
Danny C. McLaughlin, age 70, of Portland passed away on Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024, in Albany Healthcare and Rehabilitation.

He was born in Portland on Sept. 26, 1954 the son of Carl and Leona (Scheibler) McLaughlin. He was retired from Amcast in Geneva and was a 1972 Portland High School graduate. Danny enjoyed hunting and fishing.

Surviving are his son Andy McLaughlin (wife: Liana) of Portland; brother Charles McLaughlin of Winter Haven, Florida; sister Carolyn Hammond (husband: Roger) of Yorktown; and two grand-

children, Madison and Lucas. He was preceded in death by two sisters Barbara McLaughlin and Sandra Laux.

There will be no funeral services. Baird-Freeman Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Memorials can be made to the choice of the donor.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Joslyn Burk

Dec. 12, 1951-Dec. 26, 2024
Joslyn Ann Burk, 73, twin sister of Jerry L. Burk, passed away at 2:10 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024, at her home at Markle Health & Rehab in Markle, Indiana.

She was born on Wednesday, Dec. 12, 1951, in Portland, Indiana. She lived most of her life in Wabash Township, Adams County.

Joslyn attended school in Vera Cruz. She worked at Bi-County Services in Bluffton, Indiana. Joslyn enjoyed bowling, swinging, riding her bike and listening to music. She loved animals and playing with her dog Brownie.

She will be sadly missed by her twin brother Jerry L. (Judy) Burk, Geneva, Indiana; nephew Jeff Burk, Cincinnati; niece Julie (Eric) Beer, Decatur, Indiana; and great-nieces Alexis Beer, Berne, Indiana, Lacie Burk, Cincinnati, Ohio, Viola Burk, Cincinnati, and Sylvia Burk, Cincinnati.

She was preceded in death by her father Warren L. Burk; and mother Velma Maxine (Rittenhouse) Harsha.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, located at 100 N. Washington St., Geneva, on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025, from 10 a.m. to noon.

A service to celebrate her life will follow at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home at noon on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025. Interment will follow in the Gravel Hill Cemetery in Portland.

Memorials can be sent to Bi-County Service.

Arrangements are being handled by Downing & Glancy Funeral Home in Geneva.

Condolences may be expressed at glancyfuneralhomes.com.

Jacqueline L. "Jackie" Whitcomb, rural Pennville, Sept. 4, 1948-Dec. 25, 2024. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

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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.

Larry Day

July 21, 1939-Dec. 27, 2024
Larry E. Day, age 85, of Fort Recovery, Ohio, passed away peacefully on Friday, Dec. 27, 2024, at the Gardens at St. Henry.

He was born on July 21, 1939, in Fort Recovery, to the late Glenn, Sr. and Doris (Potter) Day.

Larry is survived by his wife of 68 years, Mary Jo (Hart) Day, whom he married on Oct. 20, 1956; his children, Cindy (Ivan) Kaffenberger of Fort Recovery, Gary Day of Union City, Indiana, and Linda (Jim) Weitzel of Fort Recovery; his grandchildren, Kelly (Jason) Menchhofer of Versailles, John (Carla) Kaffenberger of Fort Recovery, Mike Day, Chris Day, Dawn Day and Ashley Day, all of Texas, Josh Weitzel, Jesse (Denise) Weitzel and Lori (Jason) Shaffer; all of Fort Recovery; his 24 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren with one on the way; his sisters-in-law, Ardith Day of Fort Recovery and Norma Fredricks of Fort Wayne; and his in-law,



Day



McLaughlin

SERVICES

Today
White, Patsy: 1 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Monday
Dull, Vernon: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Tuesday
Day, Larry: 10:30 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery.

Service listings provided by
PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS
120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

Rate ...

Continued from page 1
Boone and Hamilton counties each came in at 3.3%.

Area unemployment rates are as follows:

Adams County: 3.9%, up 0.4 percentage points, tied for 41st-lowest

Blackford County: 5.7%, up 0.4 percentage points, tied for fourth-highest

Delaware County: 4.7%, up 0.2 percentage points, tied for 16th-highest

Jay County: 4.3%, up 0.4 percentage points, tied for 29th-highest

Randolph County: 4.3%, up 0.3 percentage points, tied for 29th-highest

Wells County: 3.6%, up 0.2 percentage points, tied for 16th-lowest

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\$120

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GRAPHIC PRINTING
NEWSPAPERS



Photo provided

Five generations

Pictured are five generations of the Maddox, Miller, Snyder, Foreman and Kindig families. In the front row are mother Saphyre Foreman of Shipshewana and great great-grandmother Mary Lou Maddox of Portland holding Ophelia Kindig. In the back row are grandmother Juanette Snyder of Shipshewana and great-grandmother Joni Miller of Goshen.

Weight loss prompts discussion

Dear Abby



DEAR ABBY: After several months of weight loss, our preteen daughter was hospitalized after a trip to the ER. She was diagnosed with ARFID. It's an eating disorder we had never heard of but one in which the patient is NOT deliberately losing weight or attempting to change their body.

We canceled a vacation and have taken time off work to circle the wagons and care for her. This has caused questions from our friends, acquaintances, co-workers and extended family, which we have been ducking.

As a former sufferer of an eating disorder, my wife is reluctant to let anyone outside our inner circle know what is going on and risk our daughter beginning middle school with the stigma of an eating disorder. But we need to say something to the people in our lives who know something is wrong and ask what's going on and where we've been.

What should we tell people to preserve our daughter's privacy while acknowledging that not everything is OK? I thought something like, "My daughter is having stomach problems (true) and lost a bunch of weight (true), and the doctors are trying to figure out what's

going on," but my wife is concerned that even mentioning weight is going to be stigmatizing.

She is advocating telling people our daughter is malnourished (also true), but to me, this will lead people to draw conclusions that are both too close to home and inaccurate. Please advise. — NAVIGATING THIS IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR NAVIGATING: I wish your daughter a complete recovery. Her weight loss will be obvious to anyone who sees her. If I were doing the explaining, I'd shorten the message, eliminating the "lost a bunch of weight" to something like, "Our daughter is having stomach issues. She's under a doctor's care, and her team is figuring out what's going on." Period.

DEAR ABBY: I have a neighbor who gossips about our other neighbors. She tells me if a man comes to visit our neighbor

across the street and if he spends the night. She's always asking me where they are going and what they are doing. I told her I don't know because I don't pay attention to what other people are doing.

This neighbor has now started calling me if I go out and wants to know where I went. If I go to the doctor, she asks me why. If I have work being done at my home, she asks how much I paid for it. If I'm out more than a few hours, she asks where I was for so long.

I am a private person, and I will tell someone if I want them to know. She even comes outside and starts pulling weeds if I have company. I don't know how to deal with her. — PRIVATE IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR PRIVATE: Deal with this nosy woman by telling her if it was any of her business, she would already know the answer to her incessant, intrusive questions. Avoid her as much as possible. If your across-the-street neighbor doesn't already know, warn her that this person is invading her privacy and repeating every detail she observes to anyone who will listen.

'Name-A-Snowplow' becomes tradition

By TIM HARLOW
The Minnesota Star Tribune
Tribune News Service

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Department of Transportation's Name-A-Snowplow contest is back, and the public continues to eat it up.

"Five years and still going strong," said MnDOT spokes-

woman Anne Meyer. "We hear about it all year long. We know there is interest out there. People enjoy the contest."

The agency started the naming contest as a way to bring levity to winter after seeing an article in "Roadshow" explaining how Scotland names its entire snowplow fleet and posts maps show-

ing their locations. Scotland calls the vehicles "gritters," the article said, which led to witty handles such as "Gritney Spears" and "Gritty Gritty Bang Bang."

Over the first four years, Minnesotans and even those from afar with access to a computer have submitted thousands of winter-themed monikers with

references to sports teams, pop culture and clever puns specific to the North Star state. A MnDOT committee takes the ideas and winnows the list down to about 50, which then appear on a ballot for the public to vote on. That will happen in January, Meyer said. Names that get the most

votes then are applied to one of MnDOT's plows in each of its eight districts. This year's submission period began Tuesday and runs through Dec. 20.

Don't be surprised if the contest returns for a sixth year, Meyer said.

"We have 800 plows, so we still have a lot to name," she said.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on

the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

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

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will

meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONY-

MOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

Tuesday

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.

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

The objective is to fill a nine-by-nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

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Anti-hazing law would save lives

The Seattle Times
Tribune News Service

Jolayne Houtz and Hector Martinez lost their 19-year-old son in 2019. And like many parents who have had that experience, they vowed to keep his memory alive. The Bellevue couple used the enormous personal tragedy of their son's death to help thousands of others.

Samuel Martinez died after being hazed as a Washington State University freshman while pledging Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. He was coerced into drinking large amounts of alcohol and died of alcohol poisoning.

That set his parents on a mis-

Guest Editorial

sion to seek justice for Sam and to make sure other students and families don't suffer the same fate. Their diligence paid off in 2021 when Washington's Legislature passed the Sam Martinez Stop Hazing Act. The law made hazing a gross misdemeanor, rather than a simple misdemeanor. It also made hazing a felony if it results in substantial bodily harm. Washington was the

15th state to elevate hazing under those circumstances to a felony.

The law also ups the penalties for hazing from a maximum of 90 days to a year — and up to five years for a felony conviction.

The couple's lobbying efforts, along with those of other parents nationwide who have lost children to hazing, have made an impact nationally. After years of advocacy and research, a bipartisan bill that addresses hazing and creates accountability has passed the U.S. House and Senate and awaits President Joe Biden's signature.

The Stop Campus Hazing Act

would require public and private colleges to publicly release information and statistics on hazing incidents, much like the current law requires colleges to make public on their websites reports on campus crimes such as sexual assault and burglary. Houtz twice went to D.C. to lobby for the bill.

The pending law also requires colleges to create anti-hazing education and hazing-prevention programs.

Secrecy is the shield that protects hazing. Both of these requirements will help students and their parents make informed decisions about which organizations are safe to

join. It also emphasizes the seriousness of hazing and puts all campus organizations on alert that there will be consequences for their members' actions.

"I think the most compelling thing about this bill is that it impels colleges and universities to share what they know about these groups ... so that students and parents have access to that information," said Houtz, a former Seattle Times reporter and founder of the website hazinginfo.org.

Students should feel safe while participating in college activities and parents deserve the tools to make sure they will be.

Separating science, humanities hurts us

By SHADI BARTSCH
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

Remember the story about the elephant seen from different perspectives? Here's a twist.

A biologist with a telescope peered at the animal and said, I see a hairy gray-ness horizon to horizon.

A toenail fungus specialist examined its feet, and prescribed antibiotics.

A climate change specialist didn't see the elephant because he was fixated on plucking the dry grass.

A physicist looked at the elephant and had nothing to say.

Elon Musk was there, and he told them not to waste their time standing around an elephant. We need results in quantum mechanics, he explained; we need superconductivity at room temperature, we need research piped straight to technology. We need science to serve technology, which as you know improves man's condition.

This may not be the story as you remember it, but I assure you that a few things about it are true.

Shadi Bartsch



ing the love object caused a wound in your eyes. It worked well with the theory that eyes emitted rays. You cannot, it turns out, take the human out of the science.

Third, in separating the humanities and science, we are voting to blind ourselves for the future and to deplete the richness of multiple perspectives on reality. Worse, our now-isolated sciences are in danger of being kidnapped and reared as technology's handmaiden.

It wasn't always so: the Aristotles, Leonardos and al-Haythams — even the Turings — had an intellectual background that incorporated the humanities, the social sciences, and the sciences, and their discoveries came out of that multifaceted approach.

Now we have teams of specialists working for market-minded research that is not about truth, or even the search for truth, but for profit. Science is done at scale, and that is making a huge difference to its relationship to other fields of knowledge.

There's a place where we can intervene, but no one seems to be doing it. That place is higher education. We could teach our students that there is no hard boundary between science and humanistic learning. We could teach them how these fields influence each other. We could take down the hard walls around different fields, both bureaucratically and literally. Instead, we reproduce these unhealthy gulfs in our university's outdated departments and divisions, which generate the kind of specialist knowledge without context that is our growing problem.

If we want education to be relevant to the bigger problems we all face, this has to change. Perhaps the public feels this already, or our colleges wouldn't be in a crisis of irrelevance. We need to put these forms of knowledge back together so that they can work with each other.

.....

Bartsch is a professor in humanities at the University of Chicago and former director of the Institute on the Formation of Knowledge.



What matters doesn't change

By JOHN KRULL
TheStatehouseFile.com

NEW YORK — Years ago, when our children were small, we often traveled east for the holidays.

My wife grew up in New York and Connecticut and most of her birth family still lived here. Her siblings started their families about the time we started ours. That meant there were lots of cousins for our kids to play with.

Both life and work had brought my sister, her husband and her children — who were just slightly older than mine — to upstate New York. That meant still more cousins for our daughter and son. The plethora of grandchildren and nieces and nephews was a draw for my now departed parents and brother and often brought them east, too.

Those were good days.

I remember arriving at the home of my in-laws — also now departed — and unloading the car while crowds of small children scurried around, so excited to see each other they couldn't stop moving, even for a moment.

On one Christmas visit, I went in to collect my daughter, who had awakened more than an hour ahead of schedule.

As I reached down to lift her out of bed and give her a good morning hug, she looked at me, her face bright with expectations.

"Cousins awake?" she asked.

Years pass.

Things change.

My children both are grown and live now far from where they grew up. Our daughter lives in Boston, our son here in New York.

Their cousins, too, have scattered, settling — at least for now — in places all over the globe.

A new routine developed.

As they grew into their teen years, our children said they

John Krull



didn't want to leave home for the holidays. During their college years, they loved coming home, sleeping in their childhood beds and spending endless hours with our dog, Dewey, on their laps.

This year, though, we had to break the routine.

Our son's job requires him to work the day before and the day after Christmas, making it difficult for him to fly home for even a brief visit.

That still was the plan, though, until Dewey died. His departure from this life a little more than a month ago made the house seem emptier and prompted us to think again.

It was our daughter who suggested that we move our family holiday celebration east. She said we should gather in New York and get together around our son's — her brother's — work schedule.

That's what we've done.

My wife and I drove out here from Indiana, bringing our car so, before traveling home, we could see my sister and her family in upstate New York and my wife's sister and her family in Vermont. We'll find out about all our kids' cousins — the children who scrambled around on Christmases past — on those visits.

For now, though, we gather together, father, mother, daughter and son, sharing stories and laughs over meals and drinks. We make arrangements to see the city around my son's work.

My son and daughter make plans to see the Indiana Pacers play the Boston Celtics in Boston just before the new year. They joke about how the Celtics fans will react to having two Pacers fans — my son plans to arrive at the game decked out in blue and gold — in their midst. They talk about how they'll juggle the visit with each other around their work schedules.

As they laugh with each other, I marvel — not for the first time and likely not for the last — that two beings I used to carry around on my shoulders when they weren't scrambling around my feet have grown into such confident, capable adults.

Earlier, we all drank a toast to departed loved ones. We told stories about the grandparents, uncle and dog who accompany us now only in spirit.

In those moments, it was possible to recall — no, to feel — those kind souls among us once again, their laughter and their embraces settling upon us like a warm blanket.

I often feel that time moves faster than it should. I almost always want moments to linger longer than they do.

That is the nature of life. Moments come and go. Years pass. Things change.

But the things that matter most do not.

They are eternal.

Happy holidays to you and yours.

.....

Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism and publisher of TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

The Commercial Review



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

"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
—Thomas Jefferson

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12-28 CRYPTOQUIP

GQEKZ OJQPJ FMNGQES UJS
 PXMSSMZ NG GNETZ EQTS FJQE
 RNCXJIS XCR NFMXJ OQCGMSV:
 UXET-1KSCUXMQSZ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SEMI DRIVERS
 NEEDED TO ATTEND FORMAL EVENTS, DO YOU
 THINK THEY WOULD WEAR TRUCK-SEDOS?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals H

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to Christmas.
 Each number corresponds to a letter.
 (Hint: 16 = E)

A. 15 22 5 5 8
 Clue: Happy

B. 23 22 5 20 9 12 8
 Clue: Special occasion

C. 9 16 11 16 18 7 16 26
 Clue: Twelfth month

D. 1 26 16 24 16 19 3 24
 Clue: Gifts

Answers: A. Jolly B. holiday C. December D. presents

Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

Q & A

1) In addition to Cairo in Egypt, what other capital city does the Nile River run through?

2) What actor, comedian and host became famous for his role as Jodie Dallas on "Soap"?

1) Khartoum, Sudan
 2) Billy Crystal

12-30 CRYPTOQUIP

FYXD JYX CMETGRJ DEJGZXH
 SMM YXT LGDQ CMEFXTR YSH
 HTEELXH, RYX RYTGXQXH

"FYSJ GD ZSTDSJGED?!"

Saturday's Cryptoquip: FILMS WHICH PROFILE
 THE CAREERS OF FOLKS LIKE PHIL DONAHUE
 AND OPRAH WINFREY: TALK-UMENTARIES.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals L

MERRY CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

ANGEL BIRTH CAROLS CHRISTMAS CHURCH COMPANY DECEMBER DINING EVERGREEN FRIENDS GARLAND GIFTS GREETING CARD HOLLY MAGICAL MANGER MERRIMENT MISTLETOE REMINISCE ROAST STAR TRAVEL TREE SKIRT WREATHS

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Christmas.

ERTE

Answer: Tree

GUESS WHO?

I am an actor born in New York on December 27, 1995. I made my acting debut in 2008 and studied at Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School. I received an Academy Award nomination for my first leading role in 2017. Soon I'm starring in a Bob Dylan biopic.

Answer: Timothee Chalamet

What's the Difference?

Find the four difference between the pictures.

A

B

Answers: 1. Garland on mantel 2. Missing candle 3. Dog bed under fireplace 4. Missing present under tree

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

DECEMBER 28

1795: Construction of Yonge Street begins in York, Upper Canada.

1846: Iowa is admitted as the 29th U.S. state.

1944: Maurice Richard becomes the first player to score 8 points in an NHL game.

NEW WORD

YULE
 an archaic word for "Christmas"

Did You Know?

Travelers usually travel 50 miles or more from home over the 10-day, year-end holiday season to spend time with family and friends.

Get the PICTURE?
 Can you guess what the bigger picture is?
 Answer: KWAZOO CANDLES

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Nitwit phonetically
 5 Urban fleet
 9 Efron of "Neighbors"
 12 Mideast gulf
 13 Cruising
 14 "Evil Woman" band
 15 Monthly payment
 16 Endure
 17 Bldg. divisions
 18 "Candy is dandy" poet
 19 Likely
 20 Capricorn
 21 Brit. record label
 23 Sound of surprise
 25 Curtain fabric
 28 Dudes
 32 "War and Peace" director
 33 Skilled
 34 Summary

DOWN

36 Omitted approval
 56 Bunker fill
 37 Mauna
 38 Broad-band
 39 Binges
 42 Blue
 44 Aware of
 48 Swiss canton
 49 Mystique
 50 Bivouac
 51 Two, in Acapulco
 52 Luminary
 53 Swiss-born painter
 54 Tolkien creature

22 Madame Curie
 24 Gets better
 25 Super Bowl VIP
 26 Vacuum's lack
 27 HST follower
 29 Guided
 30 Gorilla
 31 Norm (Abbr.)
 35 Greet, as a soldier
 36 Painter
 39 Laffer
 40 "East of Eden" son
 41 Essence
 43 Algerian port
 45 "The Lion King" lion
 46 Fed. agents
 47 Pundit's piece
 49 Nile reptile

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 12-28

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A tough problem to solve

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ Q J 7 4
 ♥ —
 ♦ A 9 8 6 5 2
 ♣ 10 5 4

WEST
 ♠ A 10 9 8
 ♥ Q J 6 2
 ♦ 4
 ♣ A J 9 7

EAST
 ♠ 6 3
 ♥ A K 9 7 4 3
 ♦ 7
 ♣ Q 8 6 2

SOUTH
 ♠ K 5 2
 ♥ 10 8 5
 ♦ K Q J 10 3
 ♣ K 3

The bidding:
 South: 1♦ Pass
 West: 1♥ Pass
 North: 3♦ Pass
 East: 4♥ Pass

Opening lead: queen of hearts.

There are some hands where even if you can see all 52 cards, it is not easy to succeed. For example, take this case where declarer can make five diamonds doubled if he plays his cards correctly. However, it is not an easy task, even with all the cards in view. Anyone who'd like to undertake the job is welcome to it but should stop reading right here.

Declarer ruffs the heart lead in dummy and concludes from the bidding and opening lead that West must have both black aces. He is therefore in danger of going down one, losing two clubs and a spade, unless the spades divide 3-3, which is unlikely given the bidding.

To cater to this possibility, South leads a trump to the king at trick two, ruffs a heart in dummy and plays a low spade to his king. West wins with the ace and presumably returns the ten of spades to dummy's jack. South enters his hand with a trump, ruffs his last heart high and cashes two more trumps, producing this position:

North
 ♠ Q 7
 ♥ 10 5

West
 ♠ 9 8
 ♥ A J

South
 ♠ 5
 ♥ 3
 ♦ K 3

Declarer leads his last trump, and West, who cannot afford to part with a spade, discards the jack of clubs. South thereupon discards the seven of spades from dummy and leads the three of clubs to make the contract.

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

North dealer. North-South vulnerable. East-West partscore of 90.

NORTH
 ♠ J 10 2
 ♥ 7 4
 ♦ A K 10 5 4
 ♣ A Q 8

WEST
 ♠ 9 7 5
 ♥ 8 5
 ♦ J 8 7 6 2
 ♣ J 10 3

EAST
 ♠ K 3
 ♥ A K Q J 10 3 2
 ♦ 9 6 4 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q 8 6 4
 ♥ 9 6
 ♦ Q 9 3
 ♣ K 7 5

The bidding:
 North: 1♦ Pass
 East: 1♥ Pass
 South: 1♠ Pass
 West: 2♦ Pass!!
 North: 3♠ Pass!!
 South: 4♥ Pass

Opening lead — six of diamonds.

This deal occurred in a rubber-bridge game many years ago. The hero was Milton M. Miller of Toronto, who held the East hand.

The bidding progressed smoothly until Miller bid four diamonds, the opponents' suit. His intent was clear: He wanted West to lead a diamond if South became declarer in a spade contract.

But West, for reasons known only to himself, passed four diamonds!

Perhaps he had made up his mind never to bid with such a dreadful hand, or perhaps the pass was strategic, since he would not have minded going down a few tricks undoubled.

With good prospects for a vulnerable game, North was unwilling to settle for a small penalty, so he doubled. This gave Miller a chance to rescue himself, after which North bid four spades.

Apparently, West did have some idea as to the meaning of East's four-diamond bid, because he led a diamond. Miller ruffed and, desperate to put West back on lead, returned the deuce of hearts!

Without giving the matter any thought, declarer played low, and West, to his astonishment, won the trick with the eight! When he had sufficiently recovered, he returned another diamond, ruffed with the king. Miller then cashed a heart, the defense's fourth trick, to set the contract.

There is no point in dwelling on the fact that South should have played the nine on East's heart return at trick two — it would have cost him nothing to do so. Rather, we would like to give full credit to Miller, who had the presence of mind to bid four diamonds and then the intestinal fortitude to underlead his heart honors in a valiant attempt to defeat the contract.

Tomorrow: Look before you leap!
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

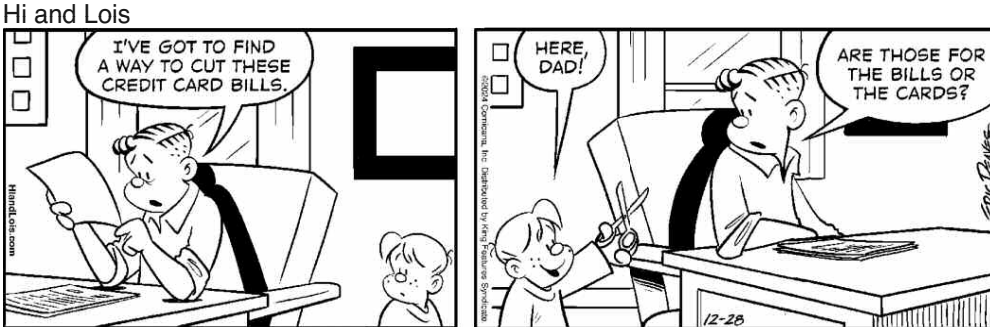
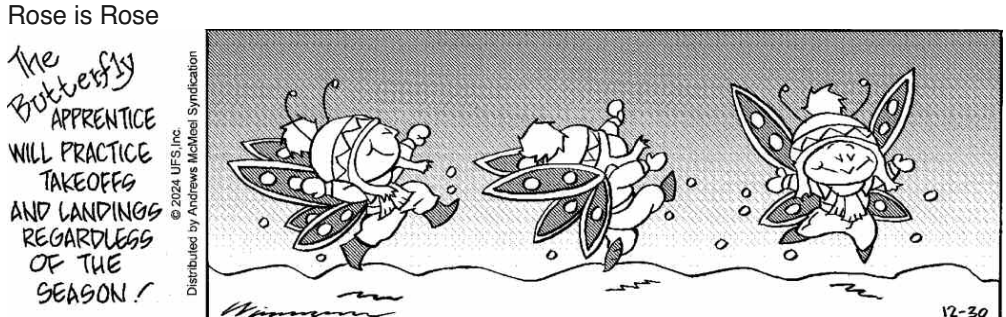
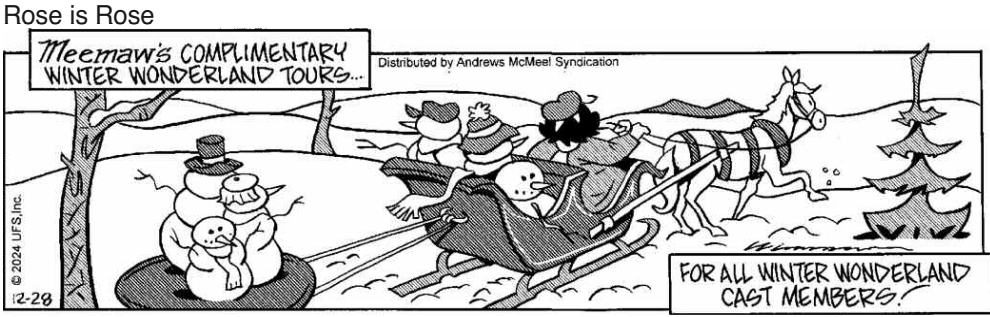
1 Jolly laugh
 5 Resort
 8 Lugosi of film
 12 Semisoft cheese
 14 Corp. bigwig
 15 Gas station store, often
 16 Lovers' quarrel
 17 "Shoo!"
 18 Camera settings
 20 Emulate Monet
 23 Metric weight
 24 Bloodline sharers
 25 Permitted
 28 "How — you doing?"
 29 Crabby type
 30 White wine cocktail
 32 Caribbean island

DOWN

2 Parisian "yes" right
 3 Layer
 4 Burger toppings
 5 Sports figure?
 6 Part of MPH
 7 Some indie movies
 8 Give for short
 9 Big fair, bound
 10 Bound
 11 Play parts
 13 Lewd material
 19 Sty chow
 20 Unpaid TV ad
 21 Broadcasts
 22 "Yeah, right"
 23 1971 Jane Fonda film
 25 Items
 26 Scratched (out)
 27 Tragic
 29 Arizona river
 31 Scepter
 33 Perfumery compound
 34 Brennan in "Clue"
 36 Take the bait
 37 Street-car
 38 Teeny bit
 39 "Let's go!"
 40 "Beetle Bailey" dog
 43 Simile words
 44 I love (Lat.)
 45 Scarlet
 46 NFL six-pointers

Solution time: 21 mins.

Saturday's answer 12-30



We Deliver

Laughter

Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

The Commercial Review We Deliver

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90 SALE CALENDAR

48TH ANNUAL COLDWATER YOUNG FARMERS CONSIGNMENT AUCTION
Saturday February 8, 2025
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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
LANA NINDE, JULIE HUMMEL, CORBY BUBP AND CHRISTOPHER BUBP
Loy Auction AC31600027 Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

PUBLIC AUCTION

Located: Bulp Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN
January 4th, 2025 9:30 A. M.
HOUSEHOLD GOODS-OLD & COLLECTORS
3 pc queen size bedroom suit; 3 cushion Berne sofa; (4) twisted wire ice chairs; Frigidaire refrigerator; Hummels; crocks; Vera Bradley; Sellers cabinet jars; ladies Victorian hitop shoes; Pfaltzgraff "Naturewood" set of dishes with accessories; Haviland Bavaria Germany set of dishes; barn door track; FRAMED POSTERS: Clint Eastwood, Face Off, Butch Cassidy and Indiana Jones; Hull Ware; Fenton basket; advertising tins; pottery wheel; Black & Decker sander; and other items not listed.
AUCTIONEERS NOTE:
Doors will open at 8 a.m. day of auction for preview
CAMPBELL FAMILY AND ARNOLD FAMILY
Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kayden Khayyata AU12400069

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 Sale conducted by Green Auction n 260-589-8474.
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Rob Green AU19500011

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Notice of Self Storage Sale Please take notice Portland Storage Units located at 217 E Pearl St/1000 N Wayne St Portland IN 47371intends to hold a sale to sell the property stored at the facility by the below occupants whom are in default at an auction. The sale will occur or otherwise disposed as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 1/9/2025 at 10:00AM. Kyle S May unit #BD; Chevella Ruhl unit #E072; Shanon Riley unit #J177; Allison Hernandez unit #K208; Kevin Lehman unit #K211; Kevin Wible unit #L233; Debra Crump unit #0251. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details. CR 12-28-2024 -HSPAXLP

Public Notice

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION NO. 38C01-2412-EU-000035 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JAY COUNTY, INDIANA Notice is hereby given that Patricia A. Starr was, on the 12th day of December, 2024 appointed personal representative of the estate of Duane Lee Starr deceased, who died on the 18th day of November, 2024, leaving a will. The estate will be administered without court supervision. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 12th day of December, 2024.
JON EADS Clerk of the Circuit Court for Jay County, Indiana
COCKERILL & COCKERILL 235 South Meridian Street P. O. Box 247 Winchester, IN 47394 (765) 584-3241 Attorneys for Estate CR 12-21.28-2024 -HSPAXLP

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AUCTIONEERS NOTE: This auction offers a nice variety of clean items.

Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. day of auction for preview.

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Sports

Six missed, six made

Tribe ices game against SAHS at free throw line after six straight misses

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review
FORT RECOVERY — With the Starfires trailing by only two possessions and 3 minutes and 36 seconds left, the game was far from over for the Indians.

Six missed free throws didn't help the Tribe's cause either, as a Nolan Colpaert field goal narrowed its lead to just four points.

The following six foul shots found the bottom of the net to secure the Indians' win.

Fort Recovery High School's boys basketball team followed six missed free throws with six makes to grind out a 52-42 victory over the South Adams Starfires on Friday.

"It's a gritty win ... we had a battle with them last year the same way," said FRHS coach Bob Leverette, noting the game in which it won at the buzzer in 2023 on a Briggs Overman pull up. "They play the 2-3 zone, and control the pace. It was hard for us to push it when we did get a rebound. ..."

"We did a pretty good job down the stretch. We missed six free throws in a row, but then we made six in a row to finish it out. We (were) mentally tough and finished."

The Indians (3-3) came into the fourth quarter with a 40-36 advantage, which quickly shrunk on a jump shot by Tytus Lehman. FRHS quickly got to the charity stripe, knocking down a pair of shots by Grant Fortkamp to regain the 4-point lead.

Lehman — the game's top scorer with 16 points — got another bucket off of a ball screen before Fort Recovery hit its only field goal of the period off of a high-low action between Brody Barga and Breaker Jutte.

Both South Adams (1-5) and the Tribe missed a pair of shots at the foul line to hold the score at 44-40. Colson Post made it



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Gavin Evers of the Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team drives past South Adams' Tytus Lehman in Friday's 52-42 victory. Evers was fouled on the play and hit down the final two of six consecutive free throws to seal the game.

to the foul line at the 3:36 mark to extend the Indians' lead to six points.

That's when Fort Recovery's free-throw shooting woes began as Jutte missed a pair 14 seconds later. A hoop by Colpaert, assisted by Derek McKean on a baseline-out-of-bounds play, brought the Starfires back within two possessions.

The Tribe missed four

more free throws from Jutte and Barga, but the latter broke the string of misses after getting hacked off the ball with 1:10 remaining in the game. Briggs Overman iced the game away as two more free throws pushed the lead to three possessions with less than a minute left. Gavin Evers followed with his own pair of makes to reach the final.

"You've just gotta clear your head and don't think about anything while you're on the line and knock them down," Overman said. The senior led FRHS with 15 points, most of which came in the first quarter, including a transition dunk off of a hustle play to track down a loose ball in the SAHS back court. "Plays like that just makes the

Box score			
Fort Recovery Indians vs. South Adams Starfires			
Boys varsity summary			
South Adams (1-5)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
McKean	4-13	1-2	11
Scott	0-0	0-0	0
Wanner	2-8	0-0	5
Colpaert	1-3	2-4	4
Fields	1-4	0-2	2
Lehman	5-13	6-7	16
Roe	0-0	0-0	0
Herring	2-4	0-0	4
Totals	15-45	9-15	42
	.333	.600	
Def. rebound percentage: .564			
Fort Recovery (3-3)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Overman	6-18	2-2	15
Post	0-4	2-2	2
Jutte	6-12	1-8	13
Barga	3-5	2-4	8
Dilworth	0-0	0-0	0
Evers	1-6	4-4	7
Fortkamp	2-8	2-2	7
Totals	18-53	13-22	52
	.340	.591	
Def. rebound percentage: .815			
Score by quarters:			
S. Adams	12	11	6 — 42
Ft. Rec.	17	8	15 12 — 52
3-point shooting: South Adams 3-16 (McKean 2-9, Colpaert 0-1, Herring 0-2, Lehman 0-3). Fort Recovery 3-17 (Overman 1-6, Fortkamp 1-6, Jutte 0-1, Barga 0-1, Post 0-2).			
Rebounds: South Adams 27 (Team 6, McKean 5, Colpaert 5, Fields 5, Lehman 3, Scott 2, Herring). Fort Recovery 39 (Barga 9, Evers 7, Fortkamp 7, Jutte 6, Team 5, Overman 4, Dilworth).			
Assists: South Adams 5 (Wanner 3, McKean, Scott). Fort Recovery 10 (Barga 5, Jutte 3, Post, Fortkamp).			
Blocks: South Adams 0. Fort Recovery 8 (Jutte 2, Barga 2, Fortkamp 2, Overman, Evers).			
Personal fouls: South Adams 17 (Fields 4, Colpaert 3, McKean 2, Wanner 2, Roe 2, Herring 2, Scott, Lehman. Fort Recovery 14 (Barga 4, Overman 2, Post 2, Jutte 2, Evers 2, Dilworth, Fortkamp).			
Turnovers: South Adams 13. Fort Recovery 6.			

team more energized to see a big play happen. There's nothing you can do but get hype about it."

The Indians' biggest lead of 10 points came early in the second quarter after going on a 6-1 run.

South Adams responded with a 10-2 run to finish off the first half and stay in the game. McKean — who finished with 11 — scored five of the 10 points, while Jutte held Lehman scoreless.

"I think we were getting to the basket and we were attacking," said first-year SAHS coach Kyle Roe. "We have a drill called DKS, drive, kick, swing, and I think we were really driving it, kicking it and swinging it and we got some open looks."

"I think if we would have hit some shots in the second half, it would have been a much different game. We struggled from three."

Jutte held Lehman in check through after get-

ting switched onto him midway through the first quarter. The freshman only allowed Lehman to score four times in the second half, including off a press break and the early fourth-quarter bucket, each time Jutte switched off of the SAHS senior due to a ball screen.

Fort Recovery got 13 points out of Jutte as well, 10 of which came off of passes from Barga, who led all players with five assists and nine rebounds. Three more Indians scored seven or more points to support Overman and Jutte.

FRHS will jump directly into the Ohio 119 Classic today against Marion Local before getting one day of rest and then hosting St. Henry.

"We told them, there are going to be some grinders the rest of the year," Leverette said. "So enjoy it until tomorrow at 11:30, until our shoot around. Then we've got Marion Local."

Happy holidays

JCHS gets second holiday break championship at Battle in the Bear Den

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review
PARKER CITY — The Patriots were hoping to be preparing to compete in next weekend's team state duals.

Having fallen short in the voting for the at-large berths, they headed instead to Friday's Battle in the Bear Den.

They have now wrapped Christmas in championships.

After winning as hosts of the East Central Indiana Classic on Monday, the Jay County High School boys wrestling team capped the holiday week with another title Friday with a perfect 5-0 record in the tournament at Monroe Central.

The Patriots beat Whiteland 36-28 in the championship match after advancing out of their pool thanks to squeaking out a 36-31 win over North Central. Their other wins in pool competition came by scores of 51-27 over Wabash, 62-10 over Taylor and 84-0 over Wapahani.

"Our guys are pretty bummed, not getting into team state, so they made it their mission to prove some people wrong," said JCHS coach Eric Myers. "I feel like it's always good for our guys to wrestle with a little bit of a chip on their shoulder."

Eighth-ranked Alan Ortiz came up with key turning-point victories in both the Patriots' final pool match against North Central and the championship match against Whiteland.

Jay County trailed 24-18 in the



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Sylas Wenk of Jay County High School puts pressure on North Central's Ethan Smith during the second period of their match Friday in the Battle in the Bear Den hosted by Monroe Central. Wenk attacked Smith with ankle picks for a pin in 2 minutes, 32 seconds, and finished 3-0 in his contested matches.

championship match when Ortiz took the mat against Jason Guevara at 285 pounds. The wrestlers were both cautious, each only scoring an escape in regulation. But Ortiz hit a throw and was able to drag his feet to stay in bounds, getting a take-down in overtime for a 4-1 victory.

"We would have been fighting an uphill battle if Alan hadn't gotten that win," said Myers of Ortiz, who went 4-0 in contested matches. "He toughed one out. ... That was an exciting match. Alan did a great job for us all day."

While the Patriots dropped the next match to fall behind by

six again, Griffin Byrum (pin), Sylas Wenk (major decision) and Cooper Glassford (technical fall) scored victories to secure the championship.

"A lot of things went right," said Glassford, who finished off Whiteland's Dane Holadat with five seconds left in the opening period. "I scored pretty early. I

was getting to my turns early. Once I got there, I just kept that aggressive mindset, kept breaking him down ... and I got the job done."

With JCHS (16-4) trailing by 10 points with only four matches to go against North Central, Ortiz came up with a third-period pin of Elijah Watkins. It set up Corbin Lothridge, who ignored a 7-0 deficit and got a third-period pin of his own over Treveon Elmore to push the Patriots into the lead.

Jay County fell behind again when Chris Arnold beat 19th-ranked 113-pounder Griffin Byrum 4-2, but an aggressive Wenk pinned Ethan Smith to finish off a perfect run through pool competition.

"I was trying to be more aggressive. I haven't been doing too good. I needed to set my record straight," said Wenk, who attacked by Smith and Whiteland's Drake DeWitt with ankle picks. "I'm going to keep doing that because it's going to work way better than what I've been doing, playing defensive. ..."

"It felt good. I was really happy with it, how it was working."

A.J. Heskett joined Ortiz with a 4-0 record in contested matches at 138 pounds while Wenk went 3-0 at 120.

Finishing with just one loss in contested matches for JCHS were Jacob Robinson (4-1 at 150), A.J. Myers (3-1 at 190) and Jason Landers (144). Lothridge, Byrum and Glassford all at 2-1.