# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

## Council OKs a change to vote centers

**Process** will include a study committee, public comment

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review Vote centers are used in more than 70% of Indiana counties.

Jay County may soon join that majority.

Jay County Council approved a resolution Wednesday designating the county as a vote center county. The decision hinges on commissioners' approval Monday as well as a lengthy implementation process that includes forming a study committee, drafting a plan and seeking public comment.

Jay County clerk Missy Elliott explained Jay County Election Board has been looking into using vote centers instead of polling places for each precinct.

According to the Indiana Secretary of State's Office website, vote centers are an alternative to traditional precinct-based voting in which voters are assigned a voting location in their area. Vote centers allow registered voters to cast a ballot at any county location on Election Day.

Indiana began allowing counties the option to use vote centers in 2011. Approximately 65 counties use them, including most of the surrounding

counties, Elliott noted. "The obvious positives are we can save money by having less locations and less poll workers," she said. "Let's be honest – poll workers are hard to find, and (it's) getting harder every day.

Elliott noted that the election board decided to move forward with the change now because it's an off-year for elections. She pointed out Jay County upgraded its polling equipment in recent years, meaning there would be no added cost.

More registered voters have been casting their ballots early as opposed to on Election Day in recent years, continued Elliott.

"This last election, we did have some people ask if they could go anywhere in the county to vote because there's been so much talk about vote centers," she said.

Responding to a question from council member Bryan Alexander, Elliott noted in the 2024 general election, 4,073 voters used in-person early voting, 269 voters sent in their ballots by mail or travel board and 3,874 voters cast their ballots on Election Day.

The first step to begin centers using vote requires council and commissioners to pass a resolution declaring Jay County to be a vote center coun-

See Centers page 2



### Out for a trot

A driver works out her horse Thursday morning along the snowy track in front of the grandstand at Jay County Fairgrounds. No more snow is in the forecast, but lows will be in the teens tonight and Saturday night.

## Infrastructure \$ could go to new AWOS

Funds will be available following

airport apron expansion project

By RAY COONEY The Commercial Review

expand its apron.

The airport will use some of its federal infrastructure bill funding to

What's left over could be used to install a new weather station.

Portland Board of Aviaabout the weather station during its brief meeting

Wednesday. Airport manager Hal Tavzel told the board in December that it is time to consider installing a new automated weather observing system (AWOS). He explained at that time that such systems typically have a life of about 15 years. The current system

port is 23 years old. Jason Clearwaters of engineering firm Butler, Fairman & Seufert said Wednesday that the airport will have funds left over from its infrastructure bill allotment this year after using some of that money to pay for a portion of the apron expansion project. He estimated there would be

vear's allocation. That, combined with an estimated \$137,000 allocation in 2026 and the required state and local matching funds would make about \$200,000 available for another project at the air-

Clearwaters reported that two recent automated weather observing system replacements his firm has

tion heard information at Portland Municipal Air- \$44,000 left from this been involved in have had price tags of \$181,000 and \$225,000. He told board members Faron Parr, Clyde Bray and Caleb Lutes, absent John Ferguson, that the system should be considered for addition to the airport's capital improvement plan when it is updated later this year.

The apron expansion is project is scheduled for

late this summer. Related to that project, the board approved an FAA grant payment request totaling \$10.509.04.

Clearwaters added that ne is in the process of putting together a Federal Aviation Administration grant application for the design of a runway pavement project. Applications are due in late April.

Board members also gave official approval for the purchase of new runway end lights at a cost of \$15,380 from Ludwig Contracting of Brookville. (They had previously approved such a purchase, but had set a limit of

\$15,000.) See AWOS page 2



Tribune News Service/Kansas City Star/Emily Curiel

## Dressed for the cold

Brycandis Clardy, bundled up in a thick scarf and a bright red coat, stands for a portrait as heavy snow falls on Tuesday in Kansas City.

## Republican senators kill election proposals

**By LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ** 

Indiana Capital Chronicle indianacapitalchronicle.com

Republican senators killed two flashy election proposals and significantly scaled back a third after letting the trio languish on the chamber's daily calendar for more than two weeks.

Legislation slashing early inperson voting days and closing primary elections to unaffiliated voters garnered mixed committee testimony in early February before moving to the Senate for consideration. But both died quietly on Wednesday when their authors declined to call them down before a key deadline.

Numerous amendments had been filed on both of the bills.

Hoosier voters can currently cast ballots in person for 28 days

Legislationwould have reduced early in-person voting

ahead of elections. Sen. Gary Byrne's Senate Bill 284 would've cut that timeframe to two weeks.

Spokespeople told the Capital Chronicle that the bill "didn't have enough support" to move forward and that Byrne, R-Byrneville, "is not going to pursue it any further this session."

See **Proposals** page 2

### **Deaths**

Mary Denney, Ridgeville Details on page 2.

98,

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 20 degrees

Wednesday. The low was 13. Tonight's low will be 11. Expect mostly sunny skies Saturday with a high of 30.

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 JCHS boys basketball game at Norwell.

**Tuesday** — Coverage of Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.

Wednesday — Details from Monday's Dunkirk City Council meeting.



## Centers

Continued from page 1 Next a diverse study committee is formed to look into transitioning to vote centers and what it may look like, such as infrastruc-

ture and technology needs, training, early voting specifics, voting center locations and costs, as well as how to prepare voters for the

Implementing vote centers also requires a plan to meet statutory requirements such as deciding the number of vote centers and their locations, gathering the list of active and inactive voters in the county and reviewing other information.

Once a plan is completed, it needs to be presented at a public hearing. A public comment period should also be open for at least 30 days following the hearing. According to documentation from Elliott, public comments should be incorporated into the plan where appropriate.

From there, the election board must vote unanimously to adopt the plan, which is then filed with Indiana Election Division.

Council vice president Cindy Bracy asked what downsides come with a vote center.

"I believe the biggest downside would be people would be upset a part-time position rate to come that they don't have a polling from Jay County Recorder's members Harold Towell, Randy

location in their specific area, and that's going to be one of the things that we would want to look at to see where we would best serve the public, to have the vote center in those areas," said

Answering another question from Bracy, Elliott estimated the county will implement between three and four vote centers, effectively cutting the county's available voting locations in half.

Elliott.

Council approved the resolution with Bracy dissenting.

Council also approved a few amendments to the county's 2025 salary ordinance.

Amendments include formally allowing the county to reimburse employees for their commercial driver's license and up to \$100 every two years for work boots for the Jay County surveyor and highway department employees averaging 20 hours or more a week, both decisions previously approved by commissioners.

Other changes include allowing Jay County Community Corrections' full-time administrative assistant to move to a 35-hour work week, correcting a parttime position pay rate for Jay County Assessor's Office, setting

minor adjustments to Health Reimbursement Arrangements amounts and allowing a one-time reduction of the county portion of the fridge at \$362.90 per employee for this March.

Also Wednesday, council discussed making a \$40,000 additional appropriation for the updated agreement with Ritter Strategic Services.

Commissioners agreed Feb. 10 to change the scope of a contract with the planning firm, which has been preparing the county to purchase new radios. Per the change, the county will be presented with costs and other information to switch to Integrated Public Safety Commission's statewide radio system as well as costs and other details related to installing a stand-alone radio sys-

A few council members voiced their disagreement with the new contract. Minnich suggested council hold off until next month when it can formally vote on whether to grant the additional funding. (Per state law, the appropriation needs to be advertised before it can be officially approved.)

In other business, council

Office perpetuation fund, making May, Michael Brewster, Cindy Bracy, Matt Minnich and Bryan Alexander, absent Faron Parr:

 Decided not to add supplemental distributions to property tax relief credits for the year. County auditor Emily Franks noted the county has approximately \$826,403 in supplemental distributions available for taxpayers but pointed to unknown factors, including proposed legislation impacting tax levies, assessments and deductions, assessed values mav increase or decrease and questions about what the county's local income tax distribution in 2026 will be. (Per state law, supplemental distributions are automatically added to property tax relief credits after three years.)

•Made the following additional appropriations: \$158,440 from an annual state grant for Jay Coun-Community Corrections; \$131,346.91 from the innkeeper's tax funds for Jay County Visitor and Tourism Bureau's annual budget; \$100,000 to Jay County Development Corporation for services to be rendered in its new six-month agreement with the county; \$63,000 to fulfill the contract with East Central Indiana Regional Planning District, which runs through August; \$55,000 to replace a 2005 truck for Jay County Surveyor's Office; \$26,870.12, with Towell opposed, for renovations to the downstairs men's restroom at Jay County Country Living; \$25,000 for water leak repairs at Jay County Courthouse; \$2,475.07, with Bracy and Towell opposed, to Rundell, Ernstberger and Associates for professional services pertaining to the county's housing project on the west side of Portland; \$1,000 in donations for Jay County Country Living; \$990 in probation user fees for Jay County Probation Department to purchase equipment for digital screening of electric devices; and \$500 for the surveyor's office to pay for employees' Commercial Driver's Licenses.

•OK'd transferring \$10,836 from the employer Public Employees' Retirement Fund account to the workers compensation fund in the commissioners' budget and \$1,000 from the unemployment compensation fund to the workers compensation fund in Jay County Highway Department's budget.

 Appointed Liz Lawson to Jay County Public Library board. •OK'd Jay County Country Liv-

ing to have a \$200 petty cash

Jellison and Naomi Sowder; one

## CR almanac

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	
2/22	2/23	2/24	2/25	2/26	
31/22	38/30	45/38	44/33	47/36	
Saturday	Another day	looks to be mostly cloudy	Tuesday's	Mostly	
looks to be	of mostly sunny		forecast	cloudy on	
mostly sunny	skies on Sun-		shows mostly	Wednesday	
with lows at	day, when the		cloudy skies	when there's	
night around	high will be in		with highs in	a 30%	
20 degrees.	the 30s.		the mid 40s.	chance of	

lower 40s.

### **Lotteries**

### **Powerball**

6-21-28-49-60 Power Ball: 20 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$215 million

**Mega Millions** 

Estimated jackpot: \$41.2 million

### Hoosier

Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 4-5-9 Daily Four: 5-9-2-8 Quick Draw: 8-14-16-23-24-25-31-32-33-40-42-44-45-47-55-58-62-63-66-68 Evening

Daily Three: 2-2-8

Daily Four: 1-0-6-2 Quick Draw: 2-6-7-12-14-16-21-32-33-34-38-42-58-61-63-67-68-71-74-80

rain.

Cash 5: 11-14-31-36-38 Estimated jackpot: \$685,500

### Ohio

Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 9-2-7 Pick 4: 5-1-5-1 Pick 5: 0-3-8-3-9 Pick 3: 3-8-5 Pick 4: 8-1-6-4 Pick 5: 9-0-0-1-9 Rolling Cash: 2-14-21-

22-37 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000

## **Obituaries**

### **Mary Denney**

June 22, 1926-Feb. 14, 2025

Mary R. Denney, age 98, a resident of Ridgeville, passed away Friday, Feb. 14, 2025, at The Woodlands Nursing Home in Muncie, Indiana.

Mary was born on June 22, 1926, in Redkey, Indiana, the daughter of Ervin and Grace (Berry) Cummings. Mary worked for Jay County Hospital in Portland and Karr Canning Company in Redkey. She was a member of Randolph Friends Church.

Mary married Francis L. Denney on Oct. 31, 1943, he passed away on March 26, 2002. They celebrated 59 years of marriage.

Survivors include:

Two sons — Francis L. Denney

Jr., Columbus, Indiana, and Loren R. Mitchell, Denney, Indiana

Three daughters -Lavina M. Smith James), (husband: Rural Ridgeville, Indiana, Tonya M. Brown-Ellis (hus-

band: Mike), Rural Ridgeville, Indiana, and Carisa L. Grice (husband: Patrick), Rural Ridgeville, Indiana grandchildren. Twenty-five many great-grandchildren and

Denney

many great-great-grandchildren She was preceded in death by her daughter Linda Hamilton; siblings Dollie Graybill, Robert Cummings, John Cummings, the Rev. Charles

granddaughter; and two greatgrandchildren. Visitation will be held Saturday

from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow the visitation at the funeral home at 1 p.m. burial will be held at Hillcrest Cemetery south of Redkey.

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 funer-Cummings, Ethel Myran, Emma al homes or mortuary services.

Continued from page 1 In other business, the board: •Heard the following from Tavzel:

-Equipment to upgrade the airport's electrical vault is in. It should be installed in the next few weeks.

of fuel in January for \$13,982.19. That's up from 2,742 gallons in January 2024.

-The fuel dispenser's hard drive that allows for automated totaling \$6,371.09.

—The airport sold 3,351 gallons transactions failed, resulting in only manual use for a few days. The hard drive was replaced at a cost of about \$2,500.

Approved the payment of claims

### Felony court news

### **Dealing methamphetamine**

A Portland woman was sentenced to prison for dealing methamphetamine.

Angela K. Timmons, 47, 623 1/2 E. Votaw St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to the Level 4 felony. She was sentenced to six years in Indiana Department of Correction with two years suspended and given credit for time served. Timmons was fined \$1, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.

She was recommended for purposeful incarceration, meaning upon completing a substance abuse treatment program the court would consider modifying her sentence. As part of her plea agreement, two Class A misdemeanors for operating a vehicle while intoxicated and possession of marijuana, as well as a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia, were dismissed.

### Theft

A Dunkirk woman was sentenced to jail for three counts of theft.

Emily E. Schlosser, 22, 216 East Commerce St., Dunkirk, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to three Level 6 felonies. She was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail and given four days credit for time served.

Schlosser was fined \$25 and assessed \$189 in court costs. She was placed on probation for 361 days.

### **Dealing narcotics**

Two Pennville residents were sentenced to more than 15 years in prison for dealing narcotics.

Brian S. Bickel, 29, 445 East Maple St., pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to dealing in a narcotic drug, a Level 2 felony. He was sentenced to 22 years in Indiana Department of Correction with six years suspended and given credit for time served. Bickel was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. He was recommended for purposeful incarceration, meaning upon completing a substance abuse treatment program the court would consider modifying his

sentence. As part of his plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: a Level 2 felony for dealing methamphetamine, two Level 5 felonies for dealing in a narcotic drug and dealing in a Schedule IV controlled substance, and two Level 6 felonies for unlawful possession of a syringe and maintaining a common nuisance.

Michelle Bickel, 445 East Maple St., 46, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to dealing in a narcotic drug, a Level 2 felony. She was sentenced to 17.5 years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. Bickel was fined \$1, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of her plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: a Level 2 felony for dealing methamphetamine, two Level 5 felonies for dealing in a narcotic drug and dealing in a Schedule IV controlled substance, and two Level 6 felonies for unlawful possession of a syringe and maintaining a common nuisance.

### **Cooper Farms Fort Recovery**

**Markets** 

### Corn.....4.93 March corn ......4.99 April corn .....5.10 **POET Biorefining**

### **Portland** Corn.....4.99 March corn ......5.07 April corn ......5.20

The And	arcone
Richland	<b>Township</b>
0	1.00

### Corn .....4.99 March corn ......4.99 Beans .....10.39

### Wheat ..... 5.35 **ADM**

March beans ......10.44

## Montpelier

Corn	4.94
March corn	4.96
Beans	10.35
March beans	10.39
Wheat	5.49
,, ======	
III a a sall a sa al	

### Heartland St. Anthony

Corn	4.87
March corn	4.87
Beans	10.19
March beans	10.24
Wheat	

## **Today in history**

Commissioners agreed to and improve billing effiswitch to AccuMed, a ciency (In January 2022, Michigan firm, for the commissioners agreed to county's emergency med-switch to MedBill of Indiical service billing. The anapolis for the service.) change had been recom-

In 2017, Jay County mended to reduce costs

## Citizen's calendar

### **Monday**

9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium. courthouse. 120 N. Court St., Portland.

3:45 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District board, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.

— Dunkirk cabin, 50 Mooney St. 6 p.m. Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main Wednesday

Recovery School Board, ing, 131 S. Main St.

Community Room. high school, 400 Butler St.

p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main

### Tuesday 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park

6 p.m. — Dunkirk 6:30 p.m. — Fort Park Board, city build-

## Proposals

Continued from page 1 At a Feb. 3 committee hearing, a Secretary of State's Office representative — the only supportive witness — spoke of low participation in the first two-week period and said Indiana should instead grow the number of early voting locations. At the time, Byrne told the Capital Chronicle that he hoped to add provisions redirecting savings toward that effort. Voter-rights advocates and local election officials, meanwhile, worried the change could worsen already-long and slow early voting lines.

Another effort would've ended Indiana's current "open" primary election system. Voters currently can ask

for either a Democratic or

and don't need to "register" with a party to do so. Author Sen. Mike Gaskill, R-Pendleton, indicated he's not done trying to change that practice.

"It's a different concept for people in Indiana," Gaskill told the Capital Chronicle. "It's pretty common around the country. And it's just going to take people some getting used to before they warm up to it."

His Senate 201 would have added text to voter registration forms asking Hoosiers to choose their political parties and warning that affiliation is required to vote in a primary election. It also would've required county election officials to affiliate registered voters with either the Democratic or Republican Party ballot Republican Party based on conventions instead.

their last primary election votes, and would've created a way for voters to change their affiliations.

Legislation moving municipal elections to the same even-numbered years as presidential elections got major edits

Wednesday. Senators accepted Gaskill's amendment limiting Senate Bill 355's changes to towns — minus the 200-person town of Vernon. Legislative bodies for towns of more than 10,000 residents could vote to opt out and keep their elections on odd-numbered years, while city councils could vote to opt

into the change. Gaskill said cities and large towns already hold primary elections, but many smaller towns use

### **SERVICES**

**Today** 

Jackson, Larry: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Saturday Denney, Mary: I p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod

Funeral Home, 208 N. Com-

merce St., Portland.

St., Portland.

Monday Wendel, David: 10 a.m., Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 506 E. Walnut

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

progressiveofficeproducts.com

## Family refuses to help relative

DEAR ABBY: Eight years ago, my wife's nephew needed a car. His parents had poor credit at that time. I took him to a car dealer, where he found a car, and I didn't hesitate to cosign the loan. He paid the loan off on time.

I am now in financial difficulty, and one possibility for me would be to refinance my car loan. When I suggested the nephew could cosign for me, there was an instant and emphatic "NO!" from his parents. Abby, this nephew is an adult and can make his own financial decisions. I feel like I've been stabbed in the heart. Was I wrong to suggest that idea? — REFUSED IN PENN-**SYLVANIA** 

**DEAR REFUSED: Consider**ing that you had cosigned on a car loan to help this nephew, I can understand why you thought he would return the favor. That your wife's family stepped in and nixed it is peculiar. Since your nephew is now an adult, he should have been the one who told you he wasn't comfortable cosigning with you. I don't blame you for feeling

DEAR ABBY: I've been married a long time. My in-laws have been a problem during my entire marriage. I've had serious health issues and a lot of surgeries over the past 10 years. My cancer came back, and I had to have colon surgery just to name

Most recently, I had hand surgery. When my in-laws found out, they couldn't stop laughing at me. When one of them saw me again, she laughed and asked, "Any more planned?" I didn't answer; I just walked away. I want to cut them out of my life.

Dear Abby



Am I wrong? — RECOVERING IN INDIANA

**DEAR RECOVERING: Your** in-laws have a sarcastic sense of humor and no empathy. I can't blame you for wanting to protect yourself, especially since your husband is unwilling to protect you from his family's hurtful reaction. Avoiding people who hurt you is healthy, and you would not be wrong to do it. If you want to take a step back, do so.

DEAR ABBY: I was recently let go from my job at a Christian school. It was heartbreaking, and I'm still crying because of it. The problem is, we attend the church the Christian school is associated with. I'm struggling with going back to church. I don't think I can bring myself to walk through those doors again. I know if I see the school administrators at church, I will cry. I'm not sure how to stop the sadness. How can I move past this? CAN'T MOVE ON IN IDAHO

**DEAR CAN'T MOVE: Were** you told why you were being terminated from your job? I'm sorry you didn't share it. Your reason for not wanting to return to that church is understandable. You don't have to see those administrators again. Contact the school online or by phone and ask for a letter of recommendation to help you find a job elsewhere. Then move past this by

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to a wonderful, intelligent and kind man for many years. We recently retired and are beginning to enjoy our retirement years together. Over the years, we have worked through some tough chapters, but we still share a wonderful bond and respect for each other.

The problem? We drink too much. While I would like to take breaks together or focus instead on healthy activities, my husband adamantly denies he has a problem. He feels I should abstain when I feel like it but, basically, do it by myself, as he has no interest in forgoing alcohol — ever. Nor will I ever be able to drag him into any form of therapy or counseling. His father was a renowned therapist but a horrible father. My husband is wary of therapy in any form. I'm just not sure how to move forward. — MODERATION IN THE WEST

**MODERATION: DEAR** Here's how. Go online and scope out some of the Al-Anon meetings in your area. (I am sure you will find quite a few.) Attend some of those meetings and meet the members who are also involved with alcohol-dependent partners. When you do, you will realize that you are not alone.

Denial is part of the problem with people who have an addiction problem. Because things are not likely to change, you may have to learn to accept your husband as he is and find others who will join you in healthy activities.

DEAR ABBY: I'm fortunate that most of my neighbors are kind and considerate. We've all enjoyed sharing each other's cel-My husband is not supportive. joining another congregation. ebrations. However, there's one

family among the five households that we've never managed to connect with on a personal level. Despite our efforts, such as giving gifts and food, they have always been unresponsive. While there's no animosity, there is also no rapport.

Recently, an issue has arisen that's becoming increasingly troublesome. Their garage is so packed with belongings that they park their car outside. Unfortunately, the car has an extremely sensitive alarm system that goes off multiple times during the night. I have witnessed it being triggered by their cat jumping on the car. The alarm sounds for 15 to 20 seconds, and it's loud enough to interrupt sleep, which has been an ongoing problem for the last six months.

I consider myself a generally easygoing person, but this is frustrating. What's the most respectful way to address this issue with the family, given that we've had limited interaction with them? — SLEEPY IN BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

**DEAR SLEEPY: Write the** couple a note and explain that for the last six months their car alarm has been waking you up. Point out that the cause may be their cat jumping on the vehicle in the wee hours of the morning, and ask if the alarm can be set to be less sensitive or if their furry family member can be kept inside.

They won't know there is a problem if you don't communicate that there is one. (I wonder how the rest of the neighbors feel about this?) If the disturbance continues, you will have to report it as a nuisance to the homeowners association, if there is one, or to the police as a last resort. You have my sympathy.

PING PONG — Will be

played from 11 a.m. to

noon on Wednesdays at

West Jay Community Cen-

PORTLAND ROTARY

CLUB — Will meet at noon

each Wednesday in the

cafe at John Jay Center for

Learning, 101 S. Meridian

ÉUCHRE CLUB — Will

meet at 2 p.m. the fourth

Wednesday of each month

at Chalet Village Health

and Rehabilitation in the

St., Portland.

North Lounge.

# **Escape** the story

Jay County Public Library will be hosting escape rooms next week.

Based on the children's

book, "How to Eat a Book," the **Taking** program intended Note for children

kindergarten grades through sixth grade will be hosted in the Community Room from 3:50 to 6:50 p.m. Thursday. Two escape rooms will be available, one for kindergarteners through third graders and the other for fourth graders through sixth graders. Fifty-five minute time slots are available, with six children to a group. Snacks and prizes will be available for escapists at the end. Space is limited, and registration is required.

Other activities going on this month include:

 Financial Foundations: Prevent Identity Theft — Learn to spot the signs of identity theft and prevent it.

 Adult Puzzle Competition — Teams will complete a 300-piece puzzle in a timed race from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. Registration is required.

### **Comstock photos**

There's a new photo exhibit on display at Arts

Photographs by Jackie Comstock are available to view now through March 28 at Jay County Campus of Arts Place in Portland. The free exhibit, located in the Weaver Community Gallery, is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays.

## **Community Calendar**

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

### **Today**

DUNKIRK HISTORI-CAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry based recovery group for building, 113 S. Main St., all kinds of addictions, Dunkirk.

PAST SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recov-Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. To learn more information, please call (260) 251-

**CINCINNATUS** LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, Feb. 21, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

### **Saturday**

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-MOUS — 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.

### Sunday

A BETTER LIFE – BRI-A faithwill meet from 5 to 6:30 RECOVERY p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church. 289 S. 200 West, Portland. ery support group meets Come early for a meal. For at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each more information, call (260) 766-2006.

### Monday

PORTLAND BREAK-FAST 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.

### 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 pregnancv 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 accept-

BREAD OF LIFE COM-MUNITY 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 wel-

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

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**

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard's Restaurant. COMPASSIONATE

CONNECTIONS RECOV-ERY 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

C, 510 W. Votaw St., Port-BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is wel-

Outpatient Behavioral

Health Center, Entrance

come. 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-

A BETTER LIFE - BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faithbased 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-

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-MOUS — 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 MORN-ING BREAKFAST CLUB - Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend.

## **Births**

### **Shetler**

Esther S.E., a daughter, was born Jan. 30 to Stephen F. and Elizabeth S.C. Shetler.

She weighed 7 pounds and 1/2 ounces.

Her grandparents are Jacob M. and Freida M. Shetler and Christie S. and Elizabeth Schwartz.

Her great-grandmother is Esther U. Schwartz.

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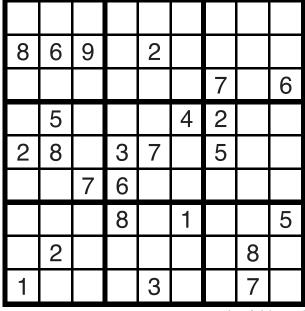


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## Sudoku



### Thursday's Solution

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

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



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## Complexity clouds growth picture

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Ask an economist "How is Indianapolis doing?" and you'll get a whole bunch of questions in

"In what regard?"

"Over what period of time?" "In comparison to where else?"

And this question as well: "Do you want to know about the economy or about the lives of the people?

I might suggest, if you don't want a torrent of data, use an old friend, Gross Domestic Product adjusted for inflation. That's Real GDP from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The time period is a problem. Should we look just at the post-Covid period? And when did that start? Shall we go back to 2009 as we emerged from the 2008 banking crisis which shut down the Eye on the Pie



flow of funds for housing? Or shall we go back further?

And the geographic question.

The 10-county Indianapolis metro area in its Indiana context or just compared to the other 11 Indiana metro areas? Or, should we add in those three metro areas centered on Chicago, Cincinnati and Louisville that include one or more Hoosier counties.

However, as gluttons for stats, we might consider all 384 metropolitan U.S. metro areas. Naturally, objections might be made to including more than the 10 metro in growth rate, just behind place in the next decade. This areas that seem to be "natural" competitors to Indianapolis.

Here is a narrow answer:

As a group, Indianapolis and 10 Midwestern metro areas of comparable size, grew in Real GDP by 1.8% from 2003 to 2023. Nationwide, metro areas had a 2.2% average annual growth rate. The slowest growing peer metros were Cleveland (0.8%, ranked 311 of 384) and Milwaukee (1%, ranked 281).

The fastest growth for these 20 years in this group of 11 areas was the Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin metro area in central Tennessee, growing by 3.8%, ranked 16th nationally. Indianapolis and its surrounding counties advanced by 2.1%, ranked 122nd. That gave Indianapolis third place among peers

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Columbus (Ohio) 2.2% rank 110th.

And there is Buffy Booster's headline, "Indianapolis takes third place in Real GDP growth among competitive cities.

Yes, but wait before going to

Many people are happier with rankings than with the percentage numbers themselves. Boosters love high rankings like 1, 2 or 3. Underdogs relish the lower rankings, like 49th out of 50.

Here's an alternate headline from the same set of data: "Indianapolis second worst in GDP momentum among Midwestern metro areas.'

From 2003 to 2013, the Indianapolis metro area ranked 117th of 385 metro areas in its Real GDP growth rate, but slid to 145th cus@gmail.com.

decline in relative position of 28 places was not a bad as Pittsburgh, which fell by 41 places in the national ranking. The strength among Indianapolis' peers rested with Cincinnati, which rose by 121 places from 255th in 2003-13 to 134th in the 2013-'23 decade.

Many different headlines can be gleaned from the same data. Neither the Booster nor the Underdog is lying or misusing the data. It is, as we often hear, complex.

The headline writer's job is to get eyes on the text.

No one wants to read, "Complexity clouds growth picture."

Marcus is an economist. Email him at mortonjmar-

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## Hoosiers should be encouraged to vote

**Goshen News** 

Tribune News Service

In 2024, only 16% of registered voters voted in the primary, all 19,391 of us. That means that 103,751 registered voters did not participate. We were forced to consult a thesaurus to find a printable word to describe this meager voter turnout, and we "shameful." settled

In the general election, turnout was 56%, with 70,869 voters casting ballots. There are about 151,000 people over the age of 18 who live in Elkhart County; a moment of simple math says that only about 2/3 of age-eligible people are registered, less than half of the eligible people voted, and a disgraceful 13% of us decided who was on the ballot, i.e. voted in the primary election.

In the Nov. 7 Goshen News, Elkhart County First Deputy Clark Carol Smith was quoted as saying, "we did not have enough election workers at election central." Now, we submit that the number of election workers, their (prompt) payment are issues that need to be solved.

Yet our state legislature — those people that we elected to represent us choose to consider bills that address issues where no actual problems exist. Senate Bill 10, co-sponsored by Blake Doriot, includes a provision that "proof of identification may not include a document issued by an educational institution." In our view, should students encouraged to vote, and the process of registration and verification of voter ID at the polls, whether by mail or inperson, should be simple, quick and painless.

An additional mistake, Senate Bill 287, would further politicize school boards, forcing school board candidates to choose a political party than run without any political affiliation, as is currently the case. School boards should not states in voter turnout. be political platforms; they should be composed seem determined to drive of individuals whose us even further down this agenda is to provide an list. Are you happy with outstanding public edu- that? Let your legislator cation to every student in know you oppose these our community, not to two bills. They need to promulgate any political hear your opinion.

### Hoosier **Editorial**

We suggest that our legislators concentrate on issues that matter, solving real problems, rather than trying to run up political points for the next election.

coming new candidates, tion where it has no busi-

these two bills will further discourage potential voters from voting, and candidates potential from running for office.

The Heritage Foundation, (yes, the authors of Project 2025) were able to find only 59 instances of voter fraud in all elections in Indiana from 1982 to 2024. Every case is significant, yet when put into perspective, the total of fraudulent votes is insignificant.

We suggest that our legislators concentrate on issues that matter, solving real problems, rather than trying to run up political points for the next election. They should focus on increasing voter participation and recruiting and training more poll workers.

Indiana is 41st among elected officials

THAT BUKING PEDTUZESSYNDICATE/NAS What's the best way to reveal a secret?

By TYLER COWEN Bloomberg Opinion

House Republicans last week announced their "Task Force on the Declassification viewpoint. The political Secrets." This follows an executive and voter participation process needs to be wel- order issued last month by President Donald Trump ordering the not forcing party affilia- release of records about the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King. It seems to us that The broad idea is to get the federal government to reveal all its information about these assassinations as well as topics like Jeffrey Epstein, the origins of COVID-19 and UAPs (formerly known as

Rather than speculate about whether Trump and Congress will follow through, I would like to focus on the question of how this disclosure process should work.

The first and arguably most important question is who exactly has the authority to order the declassification and publication. Ideally, the head of the congressional task force should be a credible and independent person trusted by the bureaucracy and by the national security establishment. That person should be able to declassify documents requiring approval from the president. On first glance, the current arrangement does not seem to allow that.

The risk is that Trump would hoard the most sensitive information and disclose selectively, to manipulate the news cycle or to distract attention from other events. It also could give him more political weapons to use against what he calls the "deep state." The president himself is hardly a model of transparency, whether the questions concern his tax returns, his medical exams or the possession of The auditors would issue a report of the Marginal Revolution blog.

Tyler Cowen



classified documents after leaving

But again, the issue is governmental disclosure, and so far, Trump's record is 0 for 1. Before assuming office, he suggested that the U.S. military knew more than it was letting on about the drones that had been sighted above New Jersey and other Northeastern states. Then, after Trump took office, his press secretary said only that they were "authorized" by the government "for research and various other reasons." There has

fused than I was a month ago. Perhaps there are good national security reasons for this silence. The point is that it is foolish to expect full and open disclosure from the president, no matter what his executive order says or what he has earlier promised.

been no subsequent attempt to clarify

matters. Personally, I am more con-

One way to improve the process would be to appoint some independent auditors on a bipartisan basis, perhaps selected from Congress. Ex post, those auditors could judge whether disclosure, with transparent explanations, had actually occurred. They could grade the degree of disclosure, but they would not have the power to prevent it. Otherwise, there is a risk that — to choose an example not quite at random — evidence favoring the "two gunmen" hypothesis for JFK's assassination is released, but conflicting evidence for the "lone gunman" hypothesis is suppressed.

saying whether disclosure was unbalanced or unfair.

The Republican heading the task Rep. Anna Paulina Luna of Florida, is well suited for the job in the sense that she has had a strong interest in disclosure and transparency, and she is not building her career by courting establishment approval.

On the other hand, she is not the most credible spokesperson for the cause of disclosure. She has a partisan and contentious political history, recently introducing a bill to have Trump's face carved into Mount Rushmore. The letter she sent soliciting information for disclosure slams President Joe Biden's administration, hardly a move designed to build a consensus in favor of the process or its outcomes. The cause of transparency is best served when it is not partisan.

Another problem with the task force is that it is authorized for only six months. Bureaucracies are by nature slow-moving, and can be even more so when they wish to be. A sixmonth deadline creates incentives to wait things out. Trump could threaten to extend the mandate, and perhaps he will. But then the disclosure campaign would turn out to be just a bargaining chip, rather than a genuine attempt to bring the truth to

Mostly I favor this new policy, if only because so little progress has been made under the status quo. Above all else, I am a curious human being, and if handled properly, this task force could be revelatory. But there are also plenty of ways it could go wrong, so I am also curious to see how it all plays out.

Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist, a professor of economics at George Mason University and host

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# Agrifood opportunities

## Purdue's DIAL Ventures report provides road map

By STEVE KOPPES

Purdue Ag News WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. A new report issued by Purdue Applied Research Institute's Digital Innovation in Agri-Food Systems Laboratory, the research arm of DIAL Ventures, offers multiple strategies to help the agrifood sector navigate climate change-related challenges throughout the agricultural value chain.

"The findings of the Cli-Agrifood mate-Smart Opportunities report provide a road map for stakeholders across the agrifood sector to identify and act on opportunities for sustainability," said DIAL Ventures research manag-Lourival Monaco, research assistant professor in agricultural economics. "By addressing the challenges collaboratively, the sector can build resilience and adapt to the evolving demands of a climate-smart future.'

To improve climate resilience in agriculture, the report emphasizes the need to address increasing climate variability and its effects on food production.

"For example, the unpredictability of extreme weather events and shifting climate patterns create significant challenges for crop production and supply chains," Monaco said. "The development cycles for climate-resistant varieties often span years, which delays adaptation and increases vulnerabili-

would allow for more tar-



Purdue University's Digital Innovation in Agri-Food Systems Laboratory, the research arm of DIAL Ventures, has issued a Climate-Smart Agrifood Opportunities report. The report provides a roadmap for helping the agrifood sector seize sustainability opportunities stemming from climate change-related challenges.

and environmental conditions," he said.

The report also prioritizes the efficient use of natural resources such as water, soil and energy. Practices that improve resource efficiency while reducing greenhouse gas emissions are much need-Examples include adopting precision agriculture technologies and integrating renewable energy.

"These strategies can simultaneously lower production costs and reduce Another critical issue in Monaco said. "The need this category requires a for enhanced, data-driven focus on specific climate resource management is challenges rather than another recurring theme. generalized stress toler- Improved tools for moni-"This approach toring and optimizing water and energy use are geted solutions that key to achieving both oper-

ronmental goals."

The report further stresses the importance of building a data-driven, decision-making culture across the agrifood value chain. Digital platforms and tools are essential for collecting, analyzing and applying data to enhance sustainability.

Real-time data on soil health, crop conditions and weather patterns can empower farms to make more informed decisions, optimize resource use and improve resilience. "This theme underscores the role of education and training in equipping stakeholders with the skills needed to adopt and implement datadriven practices effectively," Monaco said.

Policy alignment and developing

address unique regional ational efficiency and envi-financial support are critical enablers of climatesmart agriculture, according to the report. For example, incentives could help reward sustainable practices and reduce barriers to their adoption.

Funding mechanisms such as grants, subsidies and public-private partnership are among the tools that could speed the transition to sustainability. Innovative financing models that include carbon credits and sustainability-linked loans could further align economic benefits with environmental goals.

Six segments of the agrifood value chain offer the following opportunities,

according to the report: •Agricultural input manufacturing — focusing on

climate-

resilient seeds, sustainable fertilizers and renewable energy solutions

•Input distribution advocating for moving distributors away from a product-centric to a comprehensive approach resilience

·Agricultural production — highlighting how regenerative practices can improve soil health, sequester carbon and enhance biodiversity

·Processing and handling — examining opportunities in logistics, waste reduction and tracking sustainability metrics across supply chains

 Food manufacturing encouraging innovation in sustainable product development to meet evolving consumer demands

·Support services and products — identifying the role of financial services, software platforms and advisory tools in driv-

ing systemic change Purdue DIAL Ventures solution followed its usual venture for crop studio model in the report's findings. The integrates research, collaboration and startup incubation for rapid testing of ideas and alignment with industry

"The report serves as a foundation for continued research, development and innovation in climatesmart agriculture," Mona-co said. For further details, the full report includes in-depth analysis and case studies to guide stakeholders in leveraging these opportunities.

Extension specialists at

see

caution that guessing on the

weights of hay bales can be

problematic. "Time and time

overestimate bale weights.

sometimes by a couple

Kallenbach. "That can lead to

errors of 15% to 20%, which

is a pretty steep tax if you're

buying. Worse yet, it can lead

to thinking you've got enough

hay for the winter when you

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really don't."

## **Producer: Chickens** need a flu vaccine

By JUSTIN P. HICKS

mlive.com Tribune News Service

Michigan's biggest egg producer is advocating for the vaccination of egg-laying hens against the highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Herbruck's Poultry Ranch CEO Greg Herbruck has called on the federal government to take "urgent and critical" measures to address the H5N1 bird flu crisis by implementing an aggressive vaccination strategy.

"If we effectively address bird flu, customers will see relief at the grocery store," Herbruck wrote in a column published Feb. 13 by The Daily Mail, a British tabloid. "And Americans will no longer have to pay the price for this preventable disease.'

Herbruck said he wrote the column, and did subsequent TV interviews, because he thought it important to offer a solution to the high egg prices and general devastation "from the front lines."

Unlike other countries like Mexico, Indonesia, China, Vietnam and Egypt, the U.S. doesn't vaccinate its egg-laying hens against the bird flu. Instead, its response of choice for an outbreak is eradication of the infected flock.

"As this virus has evolved, and we're heading into the fourth year of this outbreak, obviously the old tactics of stamping it out aren't working," said Herbruck. "Biosecurity will still be the centerpiece for controlling spread, but for this virus, we need a vaccine to help fight it and get back real money.' to normal.

The latest outbreak began in January 2022, and has since hit all 50 U.S. states, affecting more than 159 million birds. As the nation contends with the outbreak, egg prices have hit a record high.

Related: US eggs prices hit a record high, are likely to keep

America has for decades vaccinated its poultry populations against a handful of illnesses including Newcastle disease and infectious bronchitis.



University of Missouri

## Estimates can cause big errors

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Ask five farmers how much their hay bales weigh, and you'll probably get five different answers – none of which are backed up by a scale ticket.

"That's because most folks think they know their bale weights, but more often than not, they're guessing," says University of Missouri Extension state forage specialist and associate dean Rob Kallenbach. "And when you're buying hay by the bale instead of by the ton, those guesses can cost you

Kallenbach says MU Extension specialists often ask people to estimate bale weights during events. "Time and time again, we see folks overestimate bale weights, sometimes by a couple hundred pounds," he says. "That can lead to errors of 15% to 20%, which is a pretty steep tax if you're buying. Worse yet, it can lead to thinking you've got enough hay for the winter when you really

es come from what Hamilton Put it on a scale. However,

calls "neighbor talk." If one neighbor says his bales are 1,100 pounds, the next one assumes theirs must be about the same. "That's a risky way to do business," says Hamil-

Errors can

range up to

15% to 20%

Newer balers tend to pack hay tighter than the old ones, and other factors — baler settings, forage species, how dry it was when it got rolled up and storage conditions — can change the final weight. "The reality is your hay bales might be shedding weight faster than a steer on Ozempic," says lbs. DM per cubic foot. Kallenbach.

Many of those wrong guess- way to know what hay weighs.

most buyers and sellers don't spike in. Likely 12 lbs. DM per have a scale big or handy enough to weigh bales. Plus, few sellers allow the buyer to weigh the hay before buying. "So, you have to make an educated guess," says Hamilton.

Dennis Hancock, who directs the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center in Madison, Wis., developed a method to give an idea of what bales weigh based on their size and how tightly they're packed. "The tricky part is bale density — it varies a lot," says Kallenbach. "For instance, aloosely packed 5-by-5 bale would have about 880 pounds of feed; a tightly packed one has nearly 1,200 pounds." He gives a simple way to estimate bale density:

•Loose bales that depress and don't spring back. Probably 9 pounds of dry matter

(DM) per cubic foot or less. •A little firmer but still gives

when you press it. Around 10 Good and solid, but you can

There's only one surefire still dent it with a spike. About 11 lbs. DM per cubic foot. •You can barely get the hay short.'

cubic foot or more.

To know how many cubic feet are in a round hay bale, you need to know its volume. That takes a bit of math. First, divide the diameter (or height) in feet of the bale by two. Square that number. Then multiply that by 3.14 and then multiply that result by the bale width in feet. The result is the volume of the bale in cubic feet.

Loosely packed bales have a density of 9 pounds per cubic foot of hay, which equates to 880 pounds of dry feed. A tightly packed bale at 12 pounds/cubic foot would have almost 1,200 pounds of dry feed. Hancock's figures are rough estimates, but they're better than no estimate at all, says Hamilton.

"It's easy to misjudge bale weights, and those mistakes add up," says Kallenbach. "Whether you're buying hay or figuring out how much you've got stored for winter, a little math and a little common sense can go a long way toward making sure you don't come up

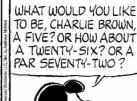
## **SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly** OK, BUT THIS IS THE LAST TIME I'M PAUSING THE MOVIE TO REGURGITATE POPCORN -Mir

# THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane 2-21

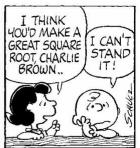
"I wish icicles came in flavors."

### Peanuts









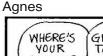






















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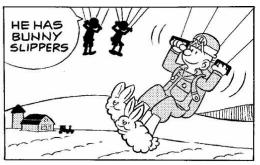
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### Contract By Steve Becker

### Bidding quiz

You are South, both sides vulner-able. The bidding has been: North East South West 1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass Pass

Dble Pass ?
What would you do now with each of the following four hands?
1. ♠ 9764 ♥ 87542 ♦ 86 ♣ 73
2. ♠ 752 ♥ Q86543 ♦ 96 ♣ K9
3. ♠ KJ982 ♥ 762 ♦ K743 ♣ 10
4. ♠ 8 ♥ K964 ♦ K9875 ♣ J106

 Two hearts. Normally when you pick up a hand like this, the best you can do is prepare to meet your Maker, but here you have a reasonable chance to come out alive.
Partner's double of one spade is

for takeout, not penalties. He is asking you politely to bid, and you must respond. Your response does not promise values, because you are simply following orders. Hands where your partner would want to double one spade for penalties are much too rare for the double in this

much too rare for the double in this sequence to be treated as a penalty double. If partner wanted to defend against one spade, he would pass. He would also pass with a minimum opening bid—especially one with three or more spades—having spoken his piece when he said one club. With a one-suited hand he would rebid his clubs, while with a two-suited hand he would bid his a two-suited hand he would bid his other suit. It follows that for his double, he must have support for

all three suits aside from spades, making two hearts a tolerable resting place.

2. Three hearts. This is a much

more promising hand, so it should be bid differently. Three hearts tells partner that, despite your previous partier that, each to you pervious pass, there is a chance for game. Partner might have a hand such as:

♦ 6 ♥ KJ92 ♦ A53 ♣ AQ872, and will happily carry on to four.

3. Pass. Partner has asked you to

bid, but it is your prerogative to convert his intended takeout dou-ble into a penalty double when your hand merits it. In this instance it is hard to imagine a better con-tract for your side than one spade doubled played by East, so you

pass.

4. Two spades. You don't have much in the way of high cards, but your hand may very well produce a game on the bidding. These glad tidings can best be conveyed by cuebidding the opponents' suit, thus asking partner to bid a new suit or rebid his clubs. Partner won't play you for a big hand since you passed one spade on the previous round and thus showed limited values.

If you play "negative" doubles over opposing overcalls, you had just enough to double one spade at your first turn; in that case, partner could then take control of the bid-ding from that point on, depending on the nature of his hand.

Tomorrow: The bidding tells the tale.

### **CRYPTOQUIP** 2-21

LHCCFLD ASEL LVEQK

IDZDAXTVD CFB EL ZFFB DRFHZS.

ASFHZS RFA IDYK YDOXYJXTVD.

EA'L QDBE-FJYX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT CAN YOU CALL A GROUP OF PEOPLE IF THEY ARE WATCHING A POTATO SACK RACE? SPEC-TATERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals V

CROSS	WORD	By Eugen	e Sheffer
ACROSS	34 Takeout order?	DOWN	<b>16</b> Happy
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part	35 See to	2 "Give —	19 Weak
4 Leave an impres-	36 Legal aides,	whirl!" <b>3</b> Small	20 Jason's ship
sion?	briefly	monkey	21 Andean
8 Hardy	37 Colorado	4 —	land
cabbage	ski resort	Lodge	22 Plank
12 Greek	40 Couch	<b>5</b> Ship	23 Small
vowel	41 Perched	wood	pie
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fraction	42 Fuel-	alterna-	26 Emotes
14 Mob	efficient auto-	tive 7 Uplands,	27 Bruins' sch.
15 Auto	mobile	for short	28 "—
buyers'	46 Wheel-	8 Grammy-	chic!"

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## **Spending**

Continued from page 8 noted, this isn't the first time \$70 million. the league has had vast payroll kees have long been heavy spenders under the ownership of the Steinbrenner family. More recently, the New York Mets had a \$376.4 million luxu-

other team surpassed \$300 mil-The legitimacy of worries lion. Two years before that, the over competitive imbalance Dodgers' \$285.6 million luxury remains to be seen. As Clark tax payroll topped all teams by

Despite that, MLB has not disparities. The New York Yan- had a repeat champion since the luxury tax was created in 2003. During that time, only three teams with the league's highest payroll have won the World Series. And even for all ry tax payroll in 2023, when no the anticipation around the from eight to 10 to 12 teams only wait and wonder, hoping the that momentum."

Dodgers, betting lines and com- over the last couple of puter models give them no better than roughly 3-to-1 odds of defending their title.

concerns were assuaged in other ways too, from increases to the league's revenue-sharing model (in which big-market teams share with smaller clubs) to the expansion of the postseason (which has grown

decades).

"There are opportunities to affect change in the system that "Let's have a conversation about that, as opposed to what it appears to be, which is a very purposeful and deliberate focus on the one thing the league has been committed to for decades."

For now, the baseball world can

Dodgers' disproportionate spending won't contribute to another elongated work stoppage.

"That'd be very disappointing Past competitive balance aren't cap-driven," Clark said. for all of us," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "I just hope that we all realize that it's a pretty good game right now. Attendance has shown that. The players are better than they've ever been, in my opinion. So I hope and pray that we don't lose



Maddie Weigel of Fort Recovery sets up on the approach during warm ups for the OHSAA Division II Southwest District championship on Wednesday. The Indians fell to Versailles by only 25 pins, but still earned the second trip to the state tournament in program history

## Second

Continued from page 8 The top four individuals

not on advancing teams earned trips to state as well. Making the cut were Greenon's Autumn Johnston (654), Kaylee Randolph of Bethel-Tate (624), Kenton Ridge's Addie Duncan (607) and Taylor Scott of Northwestern (590).

The Tribe amassed 2,751 pins through the three individual games, as four Indians rolled series above 500, and the final spot split between Kayla Heitkamp and Jadyn Wyerick accounted for another 507.

Two of Fort Recovery's girls bowled well enough to finish in the top eight and make the All-District team.

Lilah Thien opened with a 179 in her first game that had three splits — two of which were converted before taking off in the second. The freshman rolled two strikes and three spares through the first half of the game to sit at 96 pins and counting. While her next ball came up a little light, she got enough back-end action for her third strike of the game. She then threw four more strikes for a five-bagger before leaving a ringing 7pin on her second shot of the 10th frame. Thien picked up the final pin for a clean 245 (the highest of all the Indians on the day).

"I've had that before at a tournament where I just could not get a strike to save my life," Thien said. "Then I flipped it and just came back and struck, struck, struck. It's just a feeling where I know I need to do this for my team. I need to pick up these pins to stack them up. ... I found my spot and

Thien shot a 169 in the third game for a 593 series, placing her sixth in the district. She would have needed another 79 pins to match the district champion, Jazmyn Scott of Urbana.

Ella Schoen also made the first team, claiming the eighth and final spot with a 587 series. The senior also rolled a five-bagger as she finished off the eighth, ninth and 10th frames of the first game with strikes for a clean 227. She stayed clean through the second game as well for a 197 before finishing with 163 pins in the third.

Schoen also put together a strong showing as the anchor in the six Baker games, staying clean outside of one missed 10 pin and rolling 11 strikes.

The senior finished with Fort Recovery's best fill percentage at 90.5% (38-of-42 frames) and strike percentage at 50.9% (27-of-53 full racks).

"I wasn't nervous like I was last time," Schoen said. "I knew that we'd have a spot at state, so I was pretty confident and the pins were falling. ... I just kind of winged it and took my time."

FRHS also got 548 pins out of Emily Lauber (185, 169, 194), who placed 13th, and 516 out of Deanna Brown (172, 165, 179), who finished in 19th. Heiktamp threw a 157 in the first game before Wyerick finished with a 159 and a 191.

(While not bowling in any of the individual games, Saidy DeRoo was in the lineup for the first three Baker games, filling five frames and striking in

Fort Recovery got in the hole by 39 pins after the first Baker game when Versailles shot a 251 to the Indians' 190. The VHS lead grew by 25 pins over the next three games as three opens in each game prevented the Tribe from taking advantage.

Versailles slipped up in the fifth Baker game, shooting a 141, while the Indians put up 161 to close the deficit to 48.

The Tigers again left the door open for Fort Recovery, but Lauber came up light on a lone four pin in the ninth frame and Versailles' Danielle Francis got the 10th-frame pick up to take away Schoen's chance to claim the title.

"Versailles bowled really well and looking at the scores we weren't far behind," Rosegrant said. "Looking at the scores we weren't that far behind it was just a couple of pins and spares here and there. (Both) bowled well and against any other team we would have looked amazing but they just had a really good Baker series.

FRHS filled 77.6% of its frames (163-210) and struck 39.6% (91-230 full racks) overall.

While the Indians couldn't secure their first district championship, they still move on to Columbus on Feb. 28 with the chance for placing at state for the first time in program histo-

"I'm just excited to see Fort Recovery boys and girls make it to state," said Rosegrant, referencing the bovs team clinching a spot on Tuesday. "It's exciting to see this program evolve on

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

Today Jay County — Boys basketball (including freshmen) at Norwell - 6 p.m.

### Saturday

Jay County — Boys swim sectional at Jay County – 1 p.m. (diving preliminaries – 9 a.m.)

Fort Recovery — Girls basketball district championship vs. Arcanum at Monroe - 5:30

### **TV** sports

Today

3 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series:

Atlanta (FS1)
3 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Leicester

## 90 SALE CALENDAR

City at Brentford (USA)

6 p.m. - College hockey: Penn State at Michigan State (BTN) 7 p.m. - NBA: New York Knicks at Cleve-

land Cavaliers (ESPN) 7 p.m. — College basketball: Marquette at

Villanova (FS1) 7 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Lunar Owls

BC at Rose BC (TNT) 8 p.m. — College basketball: Michigan State

at Michigan (FOX)

8:15 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Mist BC

at Vinyl BC (TNT) 9 p.m. -– College Gymnastics: Florida at

Oklahoma (ESPN2)
9:30 p.m. — NBA: Minnesota Timberwolves

at Houston Rockets (ESPN)

### Saturday

7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Everton

Town at Tottenham Hotspur (USA)

TCU at Cincinnati (ESPN2)

12 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Penn

Red Wings (ABC)

12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Aston

Villa vs. Chelsea (NBC)

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Atlanta (FS1)

(CBS) 1:30 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series:

- College basketball: Iowa State at 2 p.m. -Houston (ESPN); Wake Forest at N.C. State (ESPN2); Penn State at Minnesota (BTN)

2 p.m. — Club Friendly women's soccer: San

Diego Wave at Bay (FOX)
2:30 p.m. — College basketball: Rhode Island

at Saint Louis (USA)

2:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball:

Iowa State at Baylor (FOX)

3 p.m. — NHL: Washington Capitals at Pitts-

burgh Penguins (ABC)

4 p.m. — College basketball: Auburn at Georgia (ESPN); Oklahoma State at Kansas (CBS); Virginia at North Carolina (ESPN2); Washington at Iowa (FS1) 6 p.m. — College basketball: Akron at Ohio (ESPN2); Kentucky at Alabama (ESPN); Boise State at Nevada (FS1) 6 p.m. — College hockey: Ohio State at Min-

4:30 p.m. — MLS soccer: Los Angeles FC at

nesota (FOX) 7 p.m. — NHL: Anaheim Ducks at Boston Bruins (FOX)

8 p.m.

College basketball: Duke at Illinois (FOX); Butler at DePaul (FS1)

8:30 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Denver Nuggets (ABC)

10 p.m. — College basketball: BYU at Arizona (ESPN); Cal at Stanford (ESPN2)

To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email

### 90 SALE CALENDAR

**PUBLIC AUCTION** Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN

9:00 A. M. ANTIQUES-OLD & COLLECTORS-HOUSE-**HOLD GOODS** Oak curved glass china cabinet with leaded glass, Oak Sellers kitchen cabinet with carmel slag glass inserts, Oak parlor table

February 22nd, 2025

with carved dog, Coca Cola ice chest cooler, 1960is Shelby Cobra "500" Wheels and hub caps, vintage barberís chair, LIGHTED BEER SIGNS: 30+, Budweiser Clydesdale Team Pool Table Light (in original box), gold handle walking sticks, Quaker State Oil Clock; Aurora Slot Car racing set, and many

**GUNS-MOWERS-**TOOLS Taurus 9 mm, Keltec 380 auto, Colt Agent 38 SPL revolver, Glock 17-9mm, Lawn Boy self propelled push mower, drywall sprayer, McCulloch chain saw and many other items not listed. **AUCTIONEERS NOTE:** 

other items not listed.

Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. day of auction for preview. Please note that we will be running 2 rings a portion of the day.

MARLENE ARMIE RUN-YON AND JAMES FAMILY Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608

Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kayden Khayyata AU12400069

**PUBLIC AUCTION** Saturday March 15th, 2025

TIME 10:00 A.M.

LOCATED: 783 S 600E Portland, IN. OPEN HOUSE Sunday March 2nd & Sunday March 9th 1-3p.m. or for private showing phone auctioneers.

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overhead doors and

### 90 SALE CALENDAR

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OWNER: LARRY BICK-EL ESTATE By Kent Bickel, PR. Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more

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12 p.m. — College basketball: Tennessee at Texas A&M (ESPN); Oregon at Wisconsin (FOX);

State at Michigan (BTN)
12:30 p.m. — College basketball: Richmond at Saint Joseph's (USA)

12:30 p.m. — NHL: Minnesota Wild at Detroit

1 p.m. — PGA Tour: Mexico Open (NBC) 1:30 p.m. — PVF volleyball: All-Star Match

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### Public Notice NOTICE

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Minnesota United (FOX)

### **250 PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public Notice IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT STATE OF INDIANA

CAUSE NO: 38C01-2501-PL-000001 ZACHARY PAUL MILLER REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST Plaintiff

ALL LIVING HEIRS OF TINA UTT, and All Others Who May Claim Any Lien on or Interest in the Real Estate Described Herein, Defendants

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION This summons is to the Defendants above named and to any

other persons who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Jay Circuit Court, Jay County, Indiana, in the case set forth in the caption above, by the person named above as Plaintiff. This summons by publication is specifically directed to the Defendants named above and all others who may claim any lien on or interest in

the Real Estate described below. The named Plaintiff is represented by Joshua A. Atkinson, 940

N. Meridian St., Portland, IN 47371. The nature of this suit against you is to quiet title in Plaintiff to the Real Estate described below against the named Defendants and the world and the Real Estate is located in Jay County Indiana:

LOT TWO (2) AND LOT THREE (3) OF BLOCK TEN (10) IN THE EAST ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF PENNVILLE, IN-DIANA, EXCEPT FORTY-FIVE (45) FEET IN WIDTH OFF OF AND ALONG THE ENTIRE SOUTH SIDE OF LOT THREE (3).

An answer or other response in writing to the complaint must be filed either by you or your attorney within thirty (30) days after the last notice is published and if you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded by the Plaintiff. If you have a claim for relief against the Plaintiff arising from

the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your

written answer or response. Dated: January 10, 2025 Melissa Elliot Clerk of the Jay Circuit Court

CR 2-21-2025-HSPAXLP

**The Commercial Review** Page 8 www.thecr.com

# Second trip secured

Tribe girls clinched their second state berth in as many years with runner-up

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

BEAVERCREEK, Ohio After bringing home some hardware from the sectional tournament, the Indians set themselves up to repeat the result with just the Baker games left to roll.

While the Tribe came up just short of the title, two of the Indians took home some individual accolades and the team will be moving on to the state meet for just the second time ever.

Fort Recovery High School's girls bowling team earned second place at the OHSAA Division II Southwest District tournament at Beaver-Vu Bowl on Wednesday to earn its second consecutive trip to the state finals.

The Indians held a 22 pin advantage over Midwest Athletic Conference rivals Versailles after the three individual games. The Tigers ended up taking home the district crown with 3,849 pins to Fort Recovery's 3,824, just a 25 pin difference. The runner-up finish clinched Fort Recovery its second ever berth to the state tournament and second consecutive trip.

"I think this team well deserves it." said FRHS coach Alison Rosegrant. "We've bowled well all year. I was excited to come in and see what we could do today and I think we crushed it. I'm super excited to go to state again and I think the girls are

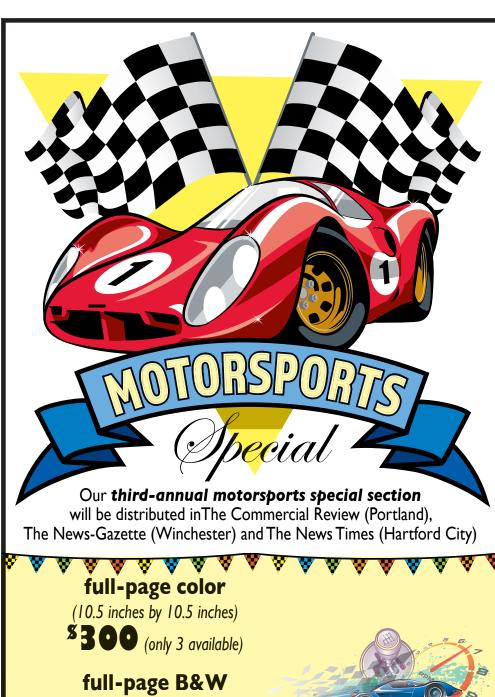
The top four teams advanced to the state tournament held on Feb. 28 at H.P. Lanes in Columbus. Joining Versailles and Fort Recovery at state were Graham Local (3,748) and Urbana (3,592). Greenon missed the cut by 116

See Second page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

The Fort Recovery High School girls bowling team poses with the OHSAA Division II Southwest District runner-up trophy at Beaver-Vu Bowl on Wednesday after clinching their second trip to the state tournament. First row from left to right are Lilah Thien, Deanna Brown, Jadyn Wyerick and Maddie Weigel. Back row are Saidy DeRoo, Kayla Heitkamp, Emily Lauber and Ella Schoen.



(10.5 inches by 10.5 inches)

<sup>8</sup>250

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## Can Dodgers' spending impact future CBA talks?

Los Angeles Times

Tribune News Service
PHOENIX — The last time Major League Baseball and the players association negotiated a collective bargaining agreement, the owners locked out the players before the 2022 season, a work stoppage that nearly resulted in the loss of regular-season games for the first time since 1995.

Now, with that CBA set to expire after the 2026 season, there are growing concerns that another, more destructive labor dispute could be

on the horizon. And though there will be many issues to tackle when negotiations start next year, the Dodgers' staggering spending spree over the last two offseasons could represent some of the most contentious potential stick-

ing points. Payroll disparities. Competitive imbalance. And, most of all, a long-simmering fight over the potential of a hard salary cap.

For decades, some owners have sought to institute a salary cap in MLB, the only of the four major North American leagues without one. The closest the league has come is its luxury tax structure, which taxes teams for surpassing certain payroll thresholds each season.

Introduced in the 2003 season, the luxury tax served as a de facto soft cap. Few teams dared surpass the threshold on a regular basis. The strengthening of tax penalties in the 2022 CBA — particularly for teams willing to blow well past thresholds designed to discourage any club from dominating the sport financially.

The Dodgers and their deep-pocketed Guggenheim ownership group, however,

had other ideas. After following up their billion offseason splurge in 2024 with anoth-

er half-billion or so of guar-

anteed money this winter,

the Dodgers' hefty spend-

payroll of \$402 million, have emerged as a result. according to Cot's Baseball Contracts.

That is roughly \$75 million more than the nexthighest payroll. It is well beyond the most punitive tax thresholds. And it's almost five times greater than teams at the other end of the spectrum, with the league-low \$86 million payrolls of the Chicago White Sox and Miami Marlins likely to cost less than the Dodgers' tax bill alone (projected to be about \$152 mil-

Against that backdrop, one question has dominated the sport this winter: Is the Dodgers' spending bad for baseball?

On that point, at least, commissioner Rob Manfred and MLB Players' Association executive director Tony Clark agree.

"The Dodgers have gone out and done everything possible, always within the rules that currently exist, to put the best possible team on the field," Manfred said at Cactus League media day on Tuesday. "I think that's a great thing for the game. That type of competitive spirit is what people want to see.'

Clark echoed those sentiments Wednesday, speaking to The Los Angeles Times shortly after his annual meeting with Dodgers players at Camelback Ranch.

"The bigger question is, teams that have resources and they do, whether you're a small market, a mid-market or a large market — is why they don't seem to be as interested in signing players that can help them be the last team standing," he said.

Manfred didn't fault the

Dodgers' spending the last two offseasons when they added Shohei Ohtani, Yamamoto. Yoshinobu Tyler Glasnow and Blake Snell on nine-figure contracts — but he did talk at length about the concerns he says he's heard from

ing has them poised to have fans and owners about the an MLB-record luxury tax payroll disparities that

> "It's clear we have fans in some markets that are concerned about the ability of the team in their market to compete with the financial resources of the Dodgers,' Manfred said at a press conference at the Arizona Biltmore Resort. "I think that disparity, as it should be, is certainly at the top of my list of concerns about what's going on in the sport. When I say I can't be critical of the Dodgers, they are doing what the system wants. If I'm going to be critical of something, it's not going to be the Dodgers. It's going to be the

system." Manfred didn't say whether owners would push for a salary cap, noting it's too early to begin staking public positions. But many around the industry expect that issue to resurface next year. And if it does, an already complicated negotiation could become even more fraught.

"It's not new," Clark said of the potential fight over a salary cap, something the union is staunchly against. "The league has been professing doom and gloom for decades."

Clark looks at the Dodgers as an example more teams should follow, especially after an offseason in which the majority of clubs decreased their luxury tax payrolls, despite the league netting a record \$12.1 billion in revenue.

"We've always had a team, or teams, that have found themselves in the same conversation that Dodgers find themselves in here," Clark said. "But in an industry that's growing
— and the reports about how much it's growing are tangible and coming from the league office — why do we have so many teams that aren't as interested in trying to improve their club as some others? That, to me, is the bigger question.

See **Spending** page 7