

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

School toured



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Commissioners Chad Aker and Rex Journey enter a classroom Thursday at Judge Haynes Elementary School. The Portland Foundation has proposed Jay County and Portland contribute \$1.3 million — \$975,000 from the county, \$325,000 from the city — in order to renovate the building into a child care facility. Commissioners requested a tour of the building before making a decision. Other county, city and school officials joined them Thursday.

Local officials on Thursday got a first-hand look at a building being considered for a child care facility

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Empty classrooms, a few cobwebs and stained ceiling tiles greeted local officials Thursday during their tour of a former school building.

Some of those on the tour remembered their time as children at Judge Haynes Elementary School. Jay County Commissioner Chad Aker recollected performing a play on the stage in the cafeteria.

But the tour served a larger purpose than just a trip down memory lane.

County and Portland city officials are debating whether to invest in renovating the former

Judge Haynes Elementary School into a countywide child care facility. Part of that process included a tour through the building Thursday.

Renovations to the 70-year-old building are estimated at about \$1.3 million, which includes putting in a new sprinkler system and tearing down the west wing where the roof is failing.

Doug Inman, executive director of The Portland Foundation, requested \$975,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds from the county in November and \$325,000 from Portland City Council in December to cover renovation costs. (Inman said the foundation would cover up

to \$500,000 in architectural and engineering costs as well as equipment and supplies.) Jay School Corporation has offered to donate the building as its contribution to the project.

County officials have been discussing potential uses of its nearly \$4 million in American Rescue Plan Act monies since June. Other projects on the table include infrastructure for housing and a new facility for Jay Emergency Medical Service, Jay County Health Department and Jay County Coroner's Office.

Judge Haynes Elementary School closed its doors to students in 2018 as part of a consol-

idation effort. Reminders of its active days — dated computers, wall art and boxes of supplies — sat untouched Thursday.

Trent Paxson, assistant superintendent of Jay Schools Corporation, recalled his time as a principal of the former school. (He preceded principal Erica Tomano, who is now at East Jay Elementary.) During his nine years at the school, classrooms for kindergarteners through second graders were spread through the east wing. Third, fourth and fifth graders occupied the west wing, and fine arts classes took most of the south wing.

See **Toured** page 2

Award finalists named today

Coldren, Frantz, Franklin, Bubp are up for Lifetime Achievement

And the finalists are ... Jay County Chamber of Commerce today announced the list of finalists for the Jay County Community Awards, with a couple of law partners, an electrician and a former business owner and longtime local volunteer making the list for The Spirit of Vicki Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Jay County Community Awards Banquet is scheduled for May 21.

Finalists for the Lifetime Achievement Award, which was renamed last year in honor of former chamber director Vicki Tague, are John Coldren and Phil Frantz, Greg Franklin and Sandy Bubp. Coldren and Frantz owned an operated a law firm of the same name (now Coldren, Frantz and Sprunger) before both retired last year. Franklin is the owner and operator of Franklin Electric. Sandy Bubp is the former owner of Designing Lady Shoppe and has been involved in a variety of local organizations and events including the Parade of Lights, Jay County Historical Society and Cincinnatus League.

Citizen of the Year finalists are Debi Gillespie of Strohl Appliance and Electronics and the leader of the Cruis'n the HoliJay Lights at the Fairgrounds, Kimbra Reynolds of Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition and Reda Theurer-Miller, former director of Youth Service Bureau of Jay County and chair of Portland Main Street Connect.

Finalists in other categories are as follows:

- Business of the Year — Display Craft, El Camino Real and Key Diner

See **Award** page 6

Water changes tabled

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

REDKEY — Council is considering an amendment to the town's water ordinance.

Redkey Town Council tabled a vote Thursday on amending the ordinance after discussion.

In December, council member Gary Gardner proposed an addition to loosen restrictions set in place November 2020. (Another addition to the ordinance — it would give new homeowners a 60-day period to install a shutoff valve and make any other necessary repairs to their plumbing — was preliminarily approved July 22, although it has not been signed into effect yet.)

Gardner suggested giving council the authority to review requests for adjustments in special cases, such as when a leak cannot be found. Currently, adjustments are only given for underground or under-home leaks.

Redkey continues to discuss modifying its ordinance

Council split 2-2 on the issue Dec. 17 and then chose to table it. Council member John Pierce was absent from the meeting in December.

Redkey resident Nick Simos on Thursday brought up a more than \$600 water bill for Redkey Baptist Church last year. (Council decided Oct. 21 not to grant an adjustment on the bill, with town employee Randy Young saying he could not find a leak on the property. The church's water bill originally prompted Gardner's proposed amendment to the water ordinance.)

Simos asked if the church would be reimbursed — it paid the bill — if the amendment was passed.

"Once a bill's been paid, it's paid, you cannot go back and change (that)," Quakenbush said.

Simos said the church didn't want to accrue interest on the bill, so it paid the amount owed.

"We've never added a delinquent charge to the bill while it was under litigation," noted town clerk-treasurer Mary Eley.

See **Water** page 2



Washington Post/Demetrius Freeman

Breyer retiring

Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, seen Thursday at the White House, announced he will retire at the end of the court's term, expected to be this summer. President Joe Biden called Breyer a "model public servant in a time of great division in this country." For more on his retirement, see page 6.

Deaths

Joseph Steinbrunner, 29, Fort Recovery
Elaine Ann Grube, 69, Fort Recovery
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature was 30 degrees Thursday. The low was 10, with wind chills reaching as low as negative 4.

Tonight's low will be negative 1. Expect a high of 19 Saturday under sunny skies. Wind chill values will reach negative 10. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Two new candidates filed Thursday to run for office in the May primary.

Incumbent Republican Faron Parr filed to run for reelection to Jay County Council. Republican Kathy Mosser filed to run for Jackson Township Advisory Board.

Coming up

Saturday — Coverage of today's Portland Redevelopment Commission meeting.

Tuesday — Results from Saturday's sectional wrestling tournament at JCHS.



Obituaries

Joseph Steinbrunner

Dec. 8, 1992-Jan. 27, 2022
Joseph Allen Steinbrunner, 29, of Fort Recovery, Ohio, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022, at the Piqua Manor in Piqua, Ohio.

He was born on Dec. 8, 1992, in Coldwater, Ohio, to Theresa (Steinbrunner) Wycuff of Fort Recovery, and the late Phillip "Brent" Cremeans.

In addition to his father, Joe was preceded in death by his brother, Cody Wehnes; his grandparents, Richard (Hazel) Wycuff,

and his great-grandparents, Walter (Anna) Steinbrunner and Louis (Marie) Schmidt.

Joe was a 2012 graduate of Fort Recovery High School.

He enjoyed riding four-wheelers and listening to music. Joe's pride and joy was his daughter, Sophia.

In addition to his mother, Joe is survived by his stepfather, John Wycuff of Fort Recovery; his daughter, Sophia Steinbrun-



Steinbrunner

ner and her mother, Anna Dameron of Coldwater, Ohio; his brothers, Alex (Paige Hemmert) Wehnes of Payne, Ohio, Jay Wycuff of Coldwater and Jared (Kim) Wycuff of Coldwater; his sisters, Jodi (Frank) Harns of Brooklyn, Michigan, Jeannie Klaczynski of Jackson, Michigan, Jamie Cremeans of Jackson and Jessica (Jeremy) Cook of New Weston, Ohio; his maternal grandparents, Walter (Karen) Steinbrunner of West Union, Ohio; his paternal grandmother, Jean Gray of Portland, Indiana; and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022, at St. Joe Catholic Church in St. Joe, with Father Ned Brown officiating.

Guests may visit with Joe's family on Monday, Jan. 31, 2022, from 2 to 7 p.m. and again on Tuesday from 9 to 9:45 a.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery.

Memorial contributions may be given to Friends of St. Joe Church or Hospice of Miami County.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockmanboeckman.com.

Elaine Ann Grube, Fort Recovery, Oct. 23, 1952-Jan. 26, 2022. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday at St. Paul Catholic Church in Sharpsburg.

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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Saturday 1/29	Sunday 1/30	Monday 1/31	Tuesday 2/1	Wednesday 2/2
19/12	29/15	34/27	44/33	38/24
Wind chill values may dip to as low as -10 degrees. The high may reach 19.	Skies will be mostly cloudy Sunday, and there will be a 10 mph wind in the afternoon.	Monday will be mostly sunny, with a high around 34 degrees.	There's a 40% chance of rain in the afternoon Tuesday, with rain likely late.	Wednesday has a 70% chance of snow and rain under cloudy skies.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$104 million	Cash 5: 2-6-17-28-34 Estimated jackpot: \$221,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$421 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 9-2-1 Pick 4: 8-9-7-4 Pick 5: 0-6-3-6-3 Evening Pick 3: 8-0-8 Pick 4: 0-7-9-7 Pick 5: 6-7-4-3-8 Rolling Cash: 9-11-16-22-31
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 7-2-2 Daily Four: 2-4-5-2 Evening Daily Three: 5-1-2 Daily Four: 1-3-0-3 Quick Draw: 10-17-19-25-29-31-36-40-46-51-52-53-54-58-62-63-66-70-73-74	Estimated jackpot: \$110,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.41 Feb. corn6.43 Wheat7.70	Wheat 7.75 Feb. wheat 7.75
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.44 Feb. corn6.46 March corn6.44	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.29 Feb. corn6.29 Beans14.63 Feb. beans14.63 Jan. wheat 7.83
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.28 Feb. corn6.33 Beans14.63 Feb. beans14.63	Sunrise St. Anthony Corn.....6.28 Feb. corn6.28 Beans14.52 Feb. beans14.52 Wheat7.50

Today in history

On Jan. 28, 1973, a cease-fire officially went into effect in the Vietnam War, a day after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords by the United States, North Vietnam and South Vietnam.

In 1547, England's King Henry VIII died; he was succeeded by his 9-year-old son, Edward VI.

In 1813, the novel "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen was first published anonymously in London.

In 1915, the United States Coast Guard was created as President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill merging the Life-Saving Service and Revenue Cutter Service.

In 1916, Louis D. Brandeis was nominated by President Woodrow Wilson to the Supreme Court; Brandeis became the court's first Jewish member.

In 1922, 98 people were killed when the roof of the Knicker-

bocker Theatre in Washington, D.C., collapsed under the weight of nearly two feet of snow.

In 1945, during World War II, Allied supplies began reaching China over the newly reopened Burma Road.

In 1956, Elvis Presley made his first national TV appearance on "Stage Show," a CBS program hosted by Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey.

In 1972, 31-year-old South Adams High School football coach Jerry G. Sekerak died at Jay County Hospital from complications following surgery for a bleeding ulcer.

In 1977, actor-comedian Freddie Prinze, 22, co-star of the NBC-TV show "Chico and the Man," shot and mortally wounded himself at the Beverly Comstock Hotel (he died the following day).

—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Wednesday 6 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council joint session, auditorium, Jay County Courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	Monday, Feb. 7 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
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Toured ...

Continued from page 1
The west wing is now slated to be torn down. Ceiling tiles throughout that wing were dotted with stains or holes Thursday. Dust also covered the floors, with some portions discolored from possible water damage.

"We haven't done a lot down here — we've maintained heat, kept the moisture and stuff out, but that's basically it," said Mark Myers, Jay Schools maintenance director. "Overall, the building has done really well, as old as it is."

On Jan. 13, Jay County Council rescinded a decision made Dec. 6 to fund up to \$700,000 in coronavirus relief funds toward the project. Council members cited a need for more information — as well as a full board present — before committing money toward the renovations.

Jay County Commissioners decided Dec. 14 to take a tour of the facility before voting on allocating funds. Portland City Council also tabled the issue Dec. 6.

John Hemmelgarn, director of Jay/Portland Building and Planning, voiced his concerns about the county's involvement in child care.

"My personal opinion (is) you're creating a 'Walmart' daycare," he said, noting the size of the building. "If you close all the other daycares down, then nobody has any other options."

Water ...

Continued from page 1
Town attorney Wes Schemenaur said he did not remember any retroactive language in the proposed ordinance, and Gardner said he would add wording that would make the proposed ordinance retroactive to the church's bill before council takes another vote on the matter at its February meeting.

Council member Randy May reintroduced the idea of Redkey implementing a COVID-19 policy. Currently, there is no coronavirus-related sick leave policy for the town. (Council discussed the idea in October.) Gardner brought up American Rescue Plan Act monies as a potential resource — Redkey will be receiving just over \$289,444 in funding.

There are conflicting opinions on what is and isn't allowed under the guidelines, Schemenaur noted. He said he is not



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Rows of computers collect dust Thursday in a classroom on the east wing of Judge Haynes Elementary School. Renovation plans to the 70-year-old building include tearing down the west wing, where the roof is failing, and installing a new sprinkler system.

Its age and lack of insulation also could result in higher utility bills, he added.

"(It's) an old building that's still going to have a flat roof with zero insulation in the walls, and it's a utility nightmare," he said.

After the tour, Aker looked at the facility with a different perspective. He challenged Hemmelgarn's viewpoint.

"Personally, I didn't think it was as bad as I was expecting," he said. "I think it's going to fulfill a need we've got, but I (also) think a lot of these places are still going to stay in business ... I think we've

got a greater need that just can't be met by individual daycares."

Council member Matt Minnich acknowledged he would like to have more information. He pointed out that the group didn't launch into an in-depth analysis about the school's current state, such as the possibility of asbestos in the walls, like originally discussed.

"I feel like maybe I had as many questions as I had maybe before I went in there," he said. "Structurally, the building, it looks to be sound ... but there are a lot of other pieces to that puzzle ..."

He noted the possibility of higher annual utility costs as compared to using an updated or new building.

"I think there are other questions to ask ourselves to know if we're making an informed decision on that building," he added.

Commissioners Rex Journey and Aker, council members Harold Towell and Minnich and city council member Janet Powers were in attendance Thursday. Hemmelgarn noted he may coordinate another tour with local officials at the beginning of February.

SERVICES

Today Saxman , Clela: 1 p.m., Holy Trinity Lutheran church, 900 W. White River Blvd., Muncie.
Monday Grube , Elaine: 10:30 a.m., St. Paul Catholic Church, 517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery Dotson , Dustin: 2 p.m., Antioch Cemetery, rural Portland.
Tuesday Steinbrunner , Joseph: 10:30 a.m., St. Joe Catholic Church, 1689 St. Joe Road.

Service listings provided by
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Photo provided

Eagle Scout

Ezekiel Corwin last month became the 30th Eagle Scout from Scouts BSA Troop 202 of Portland. Corwin is the youngest of three brothers to earn the rank, following Elijah in 2018 and Ethan in 2019. He was the fourth in Troop 202 to achieve the honor this year. His Eagle Scout project involved removing and replacing deteriorating footings for headstones at Pennville IOOF Cemetery.

High school honor students announced

Fort Recovery High School students named to the second quarter honor roll were announced recently.

Making the honor roll for receiving all A's are:

•Seniors Paige Bihn, Miley Briner, Ashlyn Dilworth, Abbie Francis, Emma Fullenkamp, Marissa Gaerke, Grace Guggenbiller, Olivia Hawk, Alyssa Heinrichs, Abigail Lauber, Devin Schoenlein

•Juniors Megan Diller, Maddie Guggenbiller, Paul Homan, Chase Kaiser, Abigail Knapke, Megan Knapke, Alayna Laux, Isaac LeFevre, Megan Metzger, Miranda Metzger, Alexis Wendel, Faith Wendel and Alaina Will

•Sophomores Natalie Brunswick, Chloe Bubb, Alex Dues, Megan Evers, Teigen Fortkamp, Carson Grube, Paige Guggenbiller, Trevor Heitkamp, Troy Homan, Abby Keller, Allison Knapke, Ella Kremer, Saige Leuthold, Mara Pearson, Marissa Schoen, Cole Shoemaker, Brynn Stammen and Ellie Will

•Freshmen Drew Backs, Nicole Braun, Cassidy Dues, Ava Englehardt, Marlee Fiely, Ava Grisez, Kayla Heitkamp, Kyle Huntsman, Eva Kahlig, Joelle Kaup, Bailie Muhlenkamp, Kennedy Muhlenkamp, Karlie Niekamp, Ben Reinhard, Anna Roessner, Ella Schoen, Eowyn Vela, Mara Wenning and Emma Will

Students named to the honor roll for getting all A's and B's are:

•Seniors Shelby Acheson, James Adsit, Bailey Bergman, Jalyn Bruns, Matthew Bruns, Macy Brunswick, Ben Dues, Makena Ellenberger, Caleb Evers, Marcus Gaerke, Ben Grieshop, Chloey Grisez, Faith Grube, Kim Hart, Bruce Heitkamp, Isaiah Heitkamp, Jackie Homan, Ellie Hummel, Owen Jutte, Makayla Kaffenberger, Emma Kahlig, Aubrey Knapke, Isaac Knapke, Logan Knapke, Madelyn Knapke, Lyvia Kunk, Zander Kunkler, MaKenna Laux, Melissa Laux, Lilie Leuthold, Summer Lofton, Alissa O'Connor, Aiden O'Dell, Kalib Post, Mitchell Post, Whitley Rammel, Hailey Stammen, Chloe Sutton, Ben Wellman, Kendrik Wendel and Owen Wenning

•Juniors Elizabeth Alig, Danielle Braun, Lydia Brunswick, Audra Bubb, Ethan Evers, Mia Fisher, Allysen Fullenkamp, Wyatt Grover, Jacob Hartke, Jacob Heitkamp, Makensie Kaffenberger, Grace Klingshirn, Parker Klingshirn, Derek Lennartz, Sophie Pearson, Landon Post, Caleb Rammel, Ava Schoen, Zane Shauver, Amy Stammen, MacKenzie Steinbruner, Bo Thien, Caitlin Weitzel, Lindsey Wendel and Taylor Will

Underclassmen names will be published in The CR at a later date.

New couple needs to adjust

DEAR ABBY: I'm in a new relationship with a man I have known for 30 years. We had our own lives, married others, had kids and then split with our spouses. After all this time, we have finally gotten together and discovered we were made for each other. Neither of us has experienced this intense kind of love before.

My problem is that although he tells me often that he loves me and cannot see his life without me, he never compliments me — whether I'm dressed up, or just putting on makeup and looking special. I compliment him all the time.

I have low self-esteem and insecurities due to previous abusive relationships. It's not like I want to hear it constantly, but it would be nice to hear it at least once in a blue moon. Also, there are times I don't think he finds me sexy or attractive. How can I express this without embarrassing us both? — NEEDS VALIDATION IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR NEEDS: Have you told this man what you have expressed to me — that it's hurtful that when you make an extra effort to look nice for him, he seems to ignore

Dear Abby



it? Is he aware that you suffer from low self-esteem because of previous emotionally abusive relationships?

Honest communication is important, particularly in new relationships, as well as those between partners who have known each other for a long time although not on an intimate level. While the two of you are basking in the flowering of this unexpected passion, you still have to get to KNOW each other.

How he reacts to the conversation and whether he's willing to put forth some extra effort will tell you everything you need to know about a future with him.

DEAR ABBY: My husband

passed away three years ago. We were together for one month shy of 32 years, married for the last 16 of them. I was so happy and proud to be "Mrs. P." Since his passing, people have started calling me Miss P., and I'm very upset about it. Abby, my husband died. I am a widow! I'm NOT divorced, and I'm NOT single. I'm still married — at least in my heart and mind I am.

Why do people think it's OK to call a widow "Miss" just because her husband is gone? Thank you for letting me vent. What do you think about this? — MRS. P. FOR LIFE

DEAR MRS. P.: The term "Miss" applies to a woman who has never married. You have earned your "stripes." If you prefer to be called Mrs. P., that is your privilege. Those who are considerate of your feelings will respect your wishes and extend that courtesy. Give anyone who chooses to ignore your wishes a final warning and, if the person continues to address you as "Miss," give them a wide berth.

Community Calendar

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

Saturday
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. upstairs at True Value Hardware, Meridian Street, Portland. For more information, call (260) 729-2532.

Monday
PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

BRYANT AREA COMMUNITY CENTER — Walking from 9 to 10 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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.

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.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 5:30 p.m., with the meeting at 6 p.m., in the fellowship hall at Evangelical Methodist Church, 930 W. Main St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5312.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6 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
BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

THE LANDING — A 12-step program for those in sixth through 12th grade will meet at 5:55 p.m. each

Tuesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 703-0777 or (260) 726-5273.

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Wednesday's Solution

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

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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Civic theatre says thanks for 'Elf'

To the editor:
We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Jay County community (and beyond) for its amazing support of Jay County Civic Theatre's recent production of "Elf: The Musical." It was that community support that made this musical one of Civic's most successful theatrical productions in its 40-plus-year history, with a total of six sold-out shows.

Special thanks to the Gamma Alpha chapter of Psi Iota Xi for supporting "Elf: The Musical" by providing the financial means necessary to underwrite a portion of the royalty fees, the single largest cost of producing live theater. Our thanks also to the members for providing intermission refreshments and acting as ushers and refreshment hosts all six shows. There are not enough

Letters to the Editor

words to express our appreciation for Psi Iota Xi's commitment to and support of the arts in our community.

To our major corporate sponsors, many of whom have supported previous productions, we say thank-you. Without your financial assistance, this show would not have been possible. Thank you to Buffalo Wings & Rings, Williamson, Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, The Topsy Glass, F.C.C. (Indiana), Progressive Office Products, First Bank of Berne, Crossroads Financial

Federal Credit Union and Strohl Appliance and Electronics.

Thanks also to our many costume sponsors Adams Physical Therapy, Bollenbacher & Associates, Loy Auction and Real Estate, Fort Recovery Radio, Jacks and Associates, Display Craft, Bizzy Dips, Blessings Photography, Cascio Family Dental Care, Fort Fitness and More, The Twisted Gourd, Marv Kahlig and Sons Farm Drainage, Walnut Creek fabrications, Dunn Family Dental Care, Sunshine Boutique, Be You Boutique, Jeff and Sue Bailey, and Greg and Jan Rittenhouse.

The Commercial Review and WPGW both provided promotion beyond Civic's paid advertising. Their support was immeasurable.

While Civic rents Arts Place for its productions, Arts Place and its staff always go above and

beyond. Rehearsals are numerous and lengthy, requiring extra hours being open and late evenings for its staff. It also managed all of the ticket sales for this production.

Thanks also to West Walnut Church of Christ and Asbury United Methodist Church for allowing us the use of its fellowship hall, sanctuary and additional rooms for the early weeks of rehearsal.

To the parents and guardians who drove, waited, supported and encouraged our younger cast members, and then drove and waited some more, thank you. Many also assisted in making costumes, building and painting sets and providing food.

Our huge cast of both adults and kids ranged in age from 8 to 66 years old and included many who were performing on stage

for the first time. All willingly committed their time, talent and passion to make "Elf: The Musical" successful. They enthusiastically agreed to add a Tuesday night show to perform a total of six shows in five days. New friendships were made as they developed into a family, which was evident backstage, in the green room and life beyond rehearsals and performances.

Once again, thank you to the greater Jay County community for attending our show in record-setting numbers during the busy Christmas season.

Board of Directors and advisors for Jay County Civic Theatre

Ray Cooney, Lee Osteen, Reid Knuth, Greg Rittenhouse, Bev Wolford, Casi Avery, Sarah Lingo, Pete Vogler, Greg Ashley, Jason McGraw and JB Goodrich

Gun measure is a recipe for disaster

Herald Bulletin
(Anderson)

On Wednesday, the Indiana Senate signaled support for a bill that would eliminate gun licensing laws in Indiana, in spite of concerns from the Indiana State Police and the Fraternal Order of Police.

ISP Superintendent Doug Carter said this bill would bring additional danger to police officers, who already work in a dangerous profession.

The bill's author, Wadesville Republican Sen. Jim Tomes argued that criminals already carry handguns while law abiding people must pay for permits.

When deconstructed, this argument boils down to saying, simply, that criminals break the law. If the fact that some people breaking the law renders the law meaningless, then this same argument could be used to abolish every law on the books.

Stop signs and speed limits do not prevent individuals from driving recklessly if they so choose.

However, it seems ludicrous to argue that removing all stop signs and speed limits would make our roads safer. After all, why should law-abiding citizens have to follow traffic rules when criminals do not?

Our Second Amendment rights are important, but a careful look at all of our constitutional rights will reveal that they aren't absolute and certain common sense regulations are in place. Free speech is tempered with libel and slander laws and with restric-

Hoosier Editorial

tions on time, place and manner.

A little-known fact about our Statue of Liberty is that about 75 years after its inauguration, a second statue was proposed by Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl. The proposed statue would be called the Statue of Responsibility and would sit on America's West Coast to symbolize twin values of liberty and responsibility.

"Freedom is in danger of degenerating into mere arbitrariness unless it is lived in terms of responsibility," Frankl wrote in "Man's Search for Meaning."

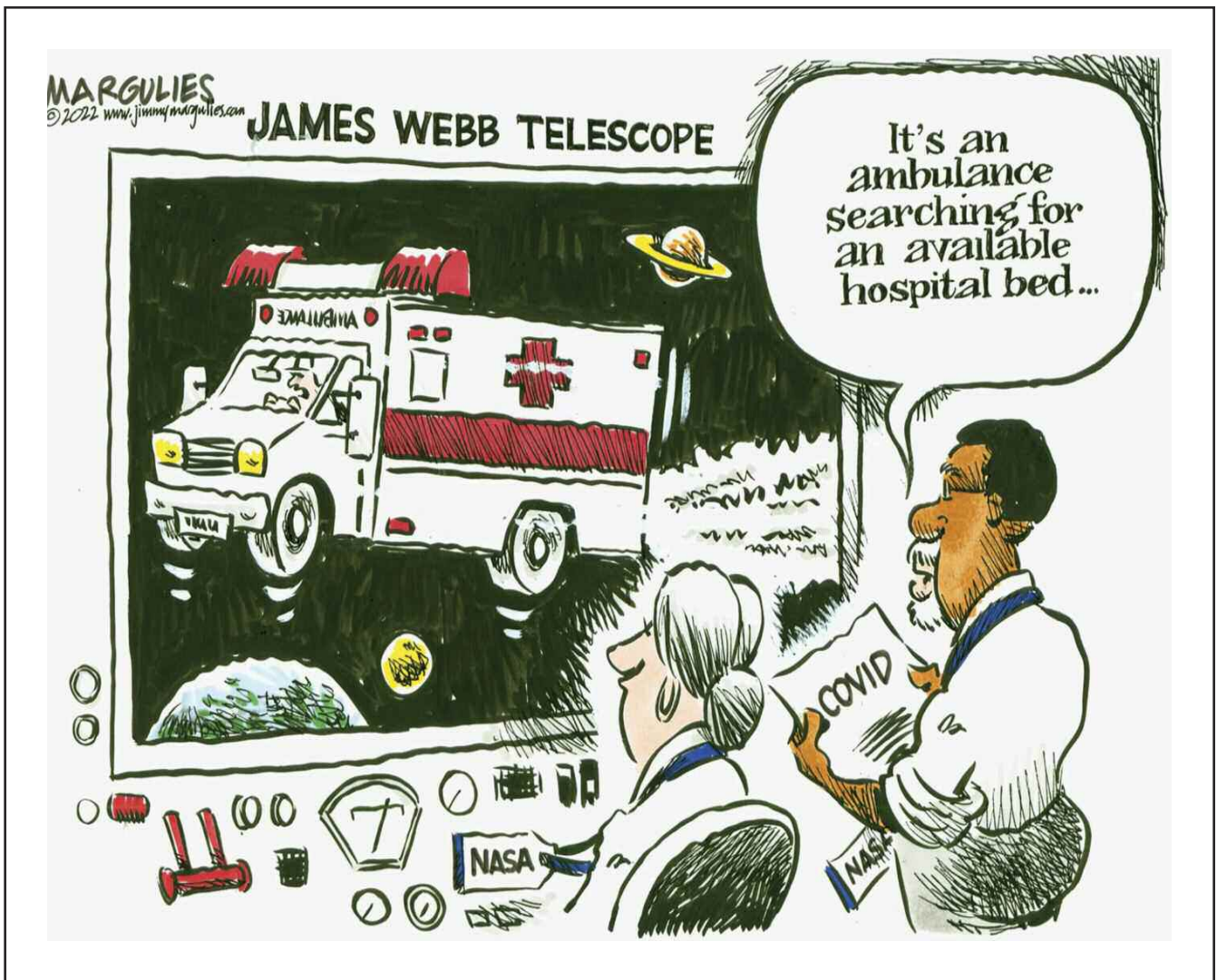
Our lawmakers have the duty of finding that balance between liberty and responsibility. To eliminate licensing laws on sheer principle without considering the consequences falls into the realm of what Frankl called arbitrariness.

Gun licensing requirements provide society a means by which to preserve freedom in a responsible manner.

No, it is not a perfect system, and it doesn't eliminate gun violence, but it may reduce the frequency of shootings.

How much gun violence does licensing prevent?

Well, if this bill becomes law, we may very well find out the hard way.



Afghanistan needs education aid

By SHAMAN BASIJ-RASIKH

Special To The Washington Post

As a girl in Afghanistan in the 1990s, I learned to count by adding assault rifles together, the way the West wanted me to.

The rifles were black ink drawings in the pages of a textbook. No color at all, just black AK-47s on tan paper. Count the rifles, Shabana.

Somewhere, packed away, I still have my math textbook; I've never thrown my school things out. I can see the pages so clearly in my mind, and thanks to various online image repositories, you can see them, too.

My textbook was part of a curriculum funded and guided by the U.S. government and produced by the University of Nebraska at Omaha in the 1980s. The Soviet Union had invaded Afghanistan, and this curriculum formed part of the United States' Cold War fight against communism. Its aim was to educate a generation of Afghan freedom fighters and to encourage the mentality of jihad in Afghan children.

The Taliban, those anti-Soviet jihadists who came to power in the '90s, outlawed girls' education and kept these textbooks in circulation for male students. And I, a girl attending an underground school in Kabul with so many other girls, studied from these books, too — because at that time, what else was there for us?

I'm not breaking any news by saying this. The Post has even reported on these books, and how they remained in use in Taliban-controlled areas long after the Taliban's regime fell in 2001.

Over the past 40 years, millions of Afghan children learned from these books. Millions of us.

Shaman Basij-Rasikh



It's remarkable, when I tell this story to American friends, to watch them respond. It's always the same. There's shock, upon hearing these books exist. There's a sense of disbelief that these books were published not by the Taliban, but by the United States. And then, upon hearing the books' purpose was to train anti-Soviet warriors, there's a sense of "Oh, yes. That's understandable."

But no. It's not. I hope you'll believe me when I say that I don't find it helpful to look back in anger, or to self-righteously indulge in any sort of blaming and shaming.

I do think, though, that William Faulkner was right. "The past is never dead," he wrote. "It's not even past."

I want you to know about these textbooks and this curriculum because the lives of 40 million Afghans depend in part upon a global willingness to examine, and learn from, 40 years of policy mistakes — and successes — in Afghanistan.

I learned mathematics by counting rifles in an American-made textbook. I earned a bachelor's degree from an American liberal arts college. In the years between, I studied freely and openly in schools in Kabul, just like so many other Afghan girls following the U.S.-led military intervention and the Tal-

iban's fall.

We studied, and now in 2022 we are women who have invested so much of ourselves in our homeland and have seen so much of what we loved come to dust. We are watching those boys who counted black ink rifles walk with real ones in their hands: boys grown to manhood in a Taliban regime that, since August, has closed girls' schools and limited women's freedom of movement and has sentenced the entire population of our nation to a winter of utter ruin.

More than half our country faces potentially life-threatening levels of food insecurity — and 97% of the Afghan people could be living below the poverty line in the next 18 months.

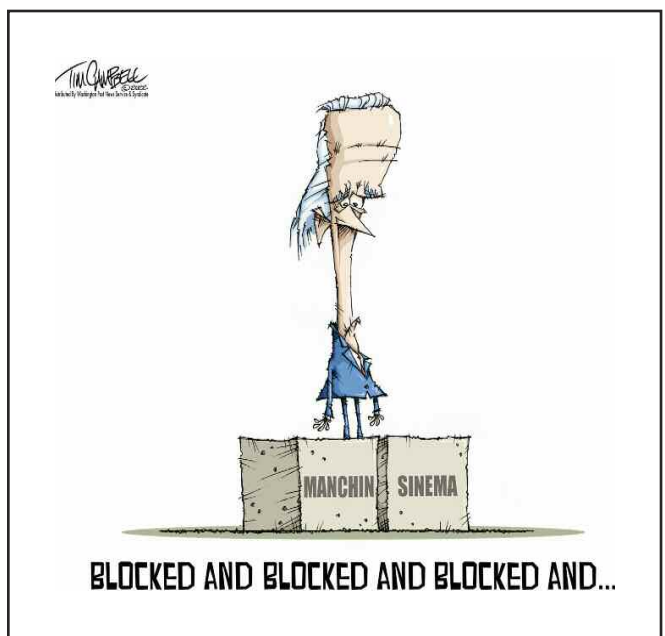
This is not crisis. This is catastrophe.

International aid is a necessary bandage on a weeping wound, but education, especially girls' education, is what allows the wound to heal, helping to eradicate poverty and laying the foundation for societal change. Let the world make this the central pillar of investment in Afghanistan for the next 40 years.

Education matters. I know I'm not alone in thinking this. I have an old math textbook to prove it.

And much like the United States in the 1980s, I, too, want to educate Afghan freedom fighters. But my students are Afghan girls. I have a different curriculum in mind. I have a country with a future worth fighting for.

Basij-Rasikh, a Washington Post Global Opinions contributing columnist, is co-founder and president of the School of Leadership, Afghanistan.



The Commercial Review

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus



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We welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be 700 words or fewer, signed and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for content and clarity. Email letters to news@thecr.com.

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"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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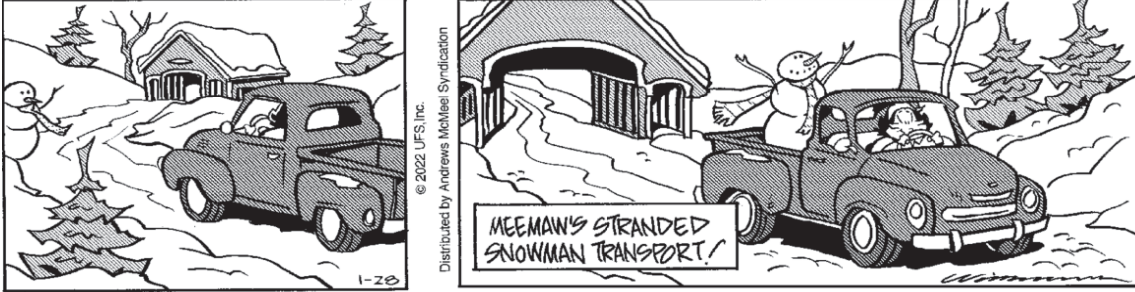
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



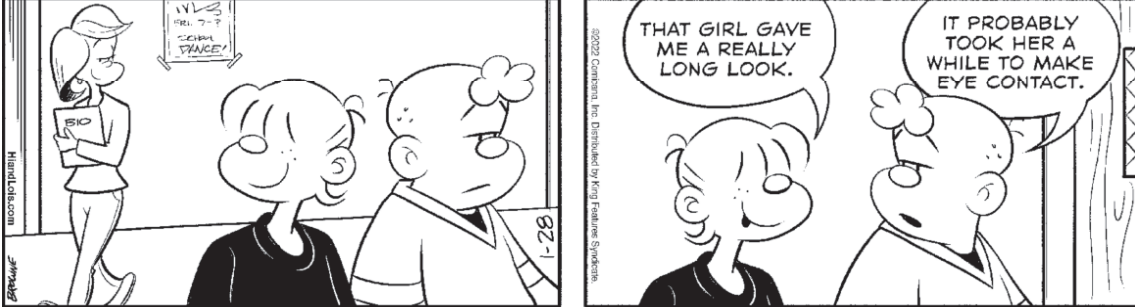
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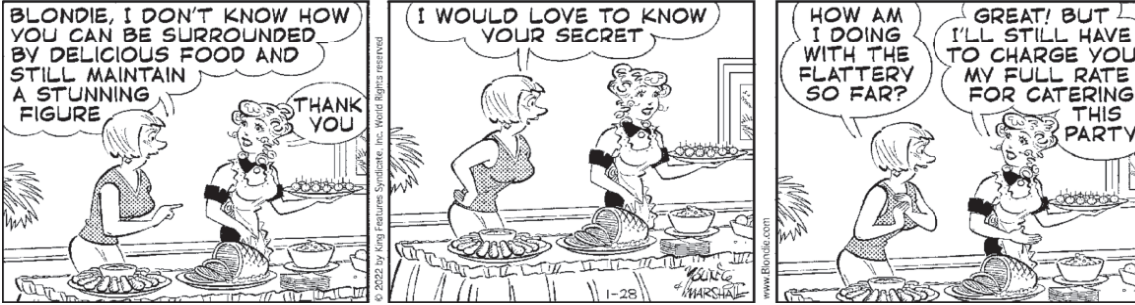
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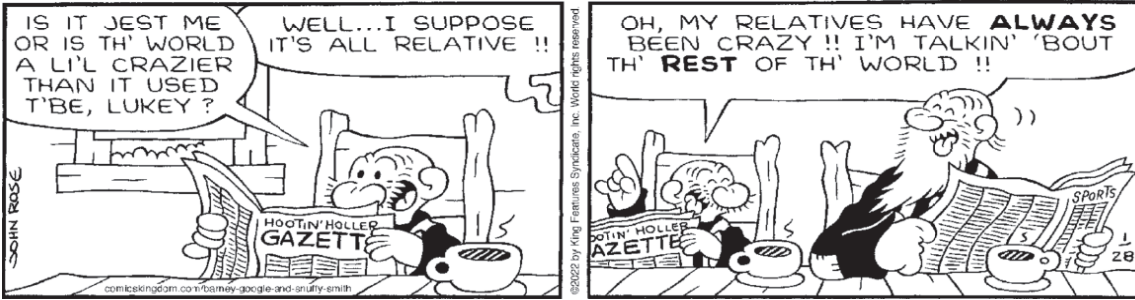
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Snuffy Smith



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word
12 insertions. \$1.52/
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word
Includes
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words.... \$13.00
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jobs wanted, boats and
sporting equipment,
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ized vehicles, real estate
and mobile homes.

30 LOST, STRAYED OR FOUND

ATTENTION! LOST A PET Or found one? The jay county humane society can serve as an information center. 260-726-6339

40 NOTICES

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90 SALE CALENDAR

LAND AUCTION
Saturday, January 29th, 2022
TIME 10:00 A.M.
AUCTION LOCATION:
Bryant Community Center
(107 South Malin Street, Bryant, IN)
REAL ESTATE
This auction consists of two land offerings; one offering in Adams County, and the other within Jay County. Both offerings are a part of the WRP Program and are excellent hunting and recreational areas! All land will be auctioned from the Bryant Community Building at the address above, but for inquiries or to see the land, contact the auctioneers!
JAY COUNTY OFFERING
This offering consists of 43 +/- acres, located within Section 3 of Wabash Township in Jay County, Indiana.
OWNER(S): William & Janet Knapke, and Martin Collins
ADAMS COUNTY OFFERING
128 total acreage located within Section 17 of Wabash Township in Adams County, Indiana. The land is non-tillable and will be offered as one of three tracts:
OWNER(S): William & Janet Knapke
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More Photos available at
www.auctionzip.com &
www.auctionsoft.com

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located : 112 N Wayne Street
Fort Recovery, OH,
Saturday Morning
JANUARY 29, 2022
10:00 A.M.
COMPLETE DISPERSAL OF MAYS TV
Pyramid 70V PA amplifier with mic talk over; Eclipse Sound Mixing Board; amplifiers; Sen-core Oscilloscope; Whirlpool refrigerator; FRS Base Station radio; speakers; fire alarms; headsets; CB microphones; TV parts and pieces; New Britain stacked metal tool chest; S & K wrenches; Crescent wrenches; pipe wrenches; lots of cable and wire; ; METAL SIGNS: Red Goose Shoes, Black Hawk, Red Man, Clarks, Ariel Motors, Grape Nuts, and Remington; and many other items not listed.
PAT MAYS
Loy Auction
AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Ben Lyons
AU10700085
Travis Theurer
AU11200131
Troy Foust AU1980006

SMITH AND OTHERS PERSONAL
Property Auction
January 29th @ 2:00 PM
414 N Meridian St. Portland, IN
Live/Simulcast
Coca-Cola diner table & chairs, Antique Royal Crown soda chest - works, large selection of ammo, 2 Winchester 30-30 lever action rifles, Marlin 44 mag. lever action rifle, Savage 350 Legend Rifle, Savage 243 Rifle, Puma 45 long colt lever action rifle, M1911 45 cal. pistol, large amount of ammo, 32" x 17" vintage coffee grinder, 5 gal crock, water crock, cast iron skillets & Dutch ovens, Kohler Engine sign, antique Victorian dresser, roll top Lane liquor cabinet, antique dresser with mirror, Ashley dresser, vintage oil cans, and much more!
Preview will be held Friday, Jan. 28th from 12-5.
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Bricker Auction Company
Chad Bricker-Auctioneer
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Canine greeting
4 Family
8 Head, to Henri
12 Poetic tribute
13 Pudding variety
14 — Bator
15 Excoriate
17 Picked up the tab
18 Speck
19 Pablo Casals' instrument
20 Tightly packed
22 Actor Julia
24 Showy flower
25 Spoofs
29 Early hrs.
30 Heroic tales
31 "Cock-a-doodle—!"
32 Bewailed
34 "Don't ask" initials

DOWN
19 Coffee servings
20 Use an old phone
21 Gospel singer
Lorde's Franklin
22 Stormed
23 Make — dash for
25 Overdue
26 Epic journeys
27 Cranny
28 Weeps
30 Peevish fit
33 Decreases
34 Bryn —
36 Blue Grotto isle
37 Corleone patriarch
38 "Let's do it"
39 Logical
40 Urban haze
42 Myrna of film
43 Commotion
44 "— -hoo!"
45 Dine

Solution time: 25 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 1-28

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Capsule Reports

Turning accident

Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000 after an Ohio woman crashed her car into the back of a Redkey man's vehicle on Indiana 67 about 5:05 p.m. Wednesday.

Collin Horner, 22, was driving his 2007 Ford Expedition northeast on the highway just east of county road 300 West. Sherry Noggler, 54, Fort Recovery, was following behind Horner in her Chevrolet Equinox. Horner slowed his vehicle to turn into a driveway, and Noggler's vehicle struck the back of his Ford.

Deer hit

A Hartford City woman crashed her vehicle into a deer on county road 200 West about 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

Donna L. Durham, 38, was driving north on the road just south of county road 200 North when a deer entered the road. She wasn't able to avoid hitting the animal with the 2014 Honda Civic she was driving.

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

The vehicle Durham was driving is registered to Tony L. Richards of Ridgeville.

Award ...

Continued from page 1
•Industry of the Year — Fisher Packing, Priority Plastics and U.S. Aggregates

•Not-for-profit of the Year — Be Your Best — Always Be Evolving, Jay County Civic Theatre, Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition, Midwest Pet Refuge

•Young Professional of the Year — Chris Schanz, Jerod Clark and Josh Atkinson

•Dunkirk Community Commitment — George Lopez, Arnold Clevenger and Jack Ronald, Scott and Amy Manwaring and Tom Fett

•Small Community Commitment — John Corwin, Mark Leavell and Pennville Community Center

•Innovator of the Year — Cruis'n the HoliJay Lights at the Fairgrounds, Freedom Flyers and IU Health Jay's Healthy Beginnings

Nominations for the awards were accepted from members of the community through Nov. 30, with the chamber of commerce board voting for finalists at its December meeting.



For The Washington Post/Oksana Parafeniuk

Ukraine preparing

Oleksiy Bida, a graphic designer, joined the 130th battalion of the Ukrainian Territorial Defense Forces as a volunteer reservist two years ago. On a recent Saturday, their training took place in an old factory building and the surrounding forest. Every weekend for the past three years, the reservists of Ukraine's 130th territorial defense battalion have gathered in forests and parks on the edge of Kyiv to train for the worst: a possible full-scale invasion from Russia.

Breyer announces retirement

By SEAN SULLIVAN, SEUNG MIN KIM, ROBERT BARNES and ANN E. MARIMOW
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The White House is planning a fast, aggressive effort to nominate the first Black woman to the Supreme Court by the end of February and confirm her swiftly thereafter, reflecting the high stakes of the campaign and the pressure to move quickly in today's polarized environment.

Appearing with retiring Justice Stephen Breyer at the White House, President Joe Biden on Thursday renewed his pledge to put a Black woman on the high court, saying, "It's long overdue" and adding, "I will nominate a historic candidate, someone who is worthy of Justice Breyer's legacy."

Breyer's retirement was expected, though the timing was uncertain, and officials said the search for a replacement was already underway. Biden has been reviewing the biographies of potential

White House plans to move fast to nominate replacement

nominees for at least a month, and aides have been in touch with outside groups that are assembling lists of prospective picks.

Vice President Kamala Harris — the first woman of color to occupy her position — will be central to the process of selecting the nominee, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said. A small group, including White House chief of staff Ron Klain and counsel Dana Remus, will also give the president guidance, and outside advisers are likely to be brought in before the nomination to help shepherd it through the Senate.

Breyer said he will continue to sit on the bench through the end of the Supreme Court term this

summer. The administration's rapid action underlines Democrats' anxiety about filling his seat, fueled in large part by the party's concern that their tenuous majority in the Senate could disappear at any given moment due to illness or death, as well as lingering anger about how Senate Republicans rapidly installed Amy Coney Barrett on the Supreme Court.

The quick mobilization also suggests the White House sees the historic nomination of an African American woman as a way for Biden to regain political momentum after a difficult stretch, and it reflects Biden's personal engagement with judicial nominations since his long

service on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"I've made no decisions except one: The person I will nominate will be someone with extraordinary qualifications, character, experience, and integrity, and that person will be the first Black woman ever nominated to the United States Supreme Court," Biden said.

After the president spoke, Breyer touched on themes he often presents to students. "Of course people don't agree, but we have a country that is based on human rights, democracy and so forth," Breyer said in the elliptical, professorial style familiar to lawyers who come before the court.

He quoted one of the most famous passages in President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, adding his own twist. "And we are now 'engaged in a great civil war' to determine 'whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure,'" Breyer said. He added: "Of course, I am an optimist. And I'm pretty sure it will."

State Senate supports ending emergency

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana Senate has approved a bill taking administrative steps that Gov. Eric Holcomb has said are needed in order for him to end the statewide COVID-19 public health emergency.

Senators voted 34-11 in favor of the bill Thursday. The Republican-dom-

inated Senate's proposal is limited to those administrative actions, while House Republicans have pushed through a bill that would also severely limit workplace COVID-19 vaccination requirements.

The actions sought by Holcomb would allow the state to keep receiving

about \$40 million a month in enhanced federal funding for Medicaid and for about 200,000 households to continue receiving an additional \$95 a month in federal food assistance. The bill would also let the state health commissioner continue issuing a standing doctor's order for the administration of

COVID-19 vaccinations to children ages 5 to 11.

Health experts object to the move to end the public health emergency that Holcomb first declared in March 2020. They point to the state's ongoing high levels of COVID-19 illnesses and hospitalizations.

State health depart-

ment tracking shows that Indiana's hospitals were treating about 3,000 COVID-19 patients as of Wednesday — seven times higher than last summer.

The state has averaged more than 50 COVID-19 deaths a day since mid-December, and the pandemic death total has topped 21,000 people.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Test your play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Spades, and North leads the jack of clubs. How would you play the hand? (Assume the missing trumps divide 2-2 or 3-1.)

West: ♠A Q 5 2, ♥K 8 4 3, ♦A J, ♣7 5
East: ♠K J 10 8, ♥A 10 5 2, ♦K Q 9, ♣A Q

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump, and North leads the king of clubs, South discarding a heart. How would you play the hand to guarantee a favorable outcome?

West: ♠A K Q 2, ♥—, ♦A K Q 2, ♣J 10 9 8 6
East: ♠10 9, ♥A K Q 4 3, ♦10 9, ♣5 4 3 2

1. This is a case where you can assure the contract regardless of how the opposing cards are divided. Win the club lead with the ace, draw trump and cash the A-K-Q of diamonds, discarding your club loser. Then ruff dummy's queen of clubs and lead the three of hearts. You can't fail to make the slam if the opposing hearts are divided 3-2, so all your attention should be focused on protecting against a 4-1 (or 5-0) split. Accordingly, you proceed as follows:
If North follows low or shows out on the three, play the heart ten

from dummy. If South wins with the jack or queen, he cannot avoid making a losing return. Whatever his holding, he must hand you a ruff-and-discard or lead a heart. If he started with, say, Q-J-9-6 and he returns the six, you play your eight to assure the contract. If he returns the nine, jack or queen of hearts, you play low, win with dummy's ace and again make the contract by leading toward your K-8.

If, on your lead of the three of hearts, North plays the jack or queen, you can assure the slam by letting him hold the trick or by winning the jack or queen with the ace and returning the heart deuce from dummy, planning to finesse the eight if South follows low.

2. Play your eight of clubs on the king. If North shifts to any other suit, you automatically acquire an entry to dummy that assures the contract.

If North continues with the A-Q of clubs, you play your 10-9! North still can't lead another suit or you'd make four notrump, so he's forced to lead his seven of clubs — on which you play your carefully preserved six! North is then at the end of his rope; whatever he leads, you win the remaining tricks.

If you were to play your six of clubs on the ace, king or queen, you could not be sure of making more than eight tricks and might go down one against best defense.

Tomorrow: Thrust and counterthrust.
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1-28 CRYPTOQUIP

QAO BF R DUQDOJ SNHJA HY

JFZX YUHZ IFZDIFXJ IF DBB

IF ZO PDIAQDIXN? PXSDHJX

RI'J NFZD-IXNDYO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EYE-COVERING GAME YOU MIGHT PLAY WITH YOUR BABY WHEN YOU LIVE IN KANSAS' CAPITAL: TOPEKA-BOO.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals A

90 SALE CALENDAR

UPCOMING AUCTIONS
Bricker Auction Company
414 N Meridian St.
Portland, IN

Jan. 29th - Smith and Others Personal Property Auction Online Only Auction - First item closes @ 7:00 PM

Feb. 5th - Joyce Tipton Auction Online Only Auction-

First item will be closing @ 7:00 PM Pick-up Address: 710 W Main St Portland, IN 47371 There are several great pieces of furniture, chicken themed decor, and many other great items!

Previews are held on Fridays from 12:00 - 5:00

Download our app (Bricker Auction Company) from your Apple or Google Play Store to view our current and upcoming auctions! Cell: 260-703-0839 Bricker Auction Company Chad Bricker-Auctioneer AU11600027

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110 HELP WANTED

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130 MISC. FOR SALE

ALUMINUM SHEETS 23"x30", .007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side..35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.

PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.

160 WANTED TO BUY

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Randolph County Coroner Darin James is seeking the public's help in finding family members of a Parker City Man who died this month.

John A Hassen, 65, died Jan. 7 2022 at Parker Health Care.

Anyone with information on Hassen's surviving family members is asked to call Randolph County dispatch center at 765-584-1721.

CR 1-14,21,28-2022-HSPAXLP

Public Notice

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION Notice is hereby given that the Board of School Trustees of The Jay School Corporation (Corporation) has determined to sell real estate owned by the Corporation (234 W Pearl St, Dunkirk, IN 47336) and to hire a real estate broker to assist in said sales. The hiring of the broker is planned for the regular Board meeting which is scheduled for February 14th, at 5:00 PM or any Board meeting thereafter.

Notice dated January 25, 2022. Board of School Trustees of The Jay School Corporation CR 1-28, NS 2-2-HSPAXLP

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ACAC champs again

Patriots add regular-season conference title to tourney crown

By DAVID VANTRESS

MONROEVILLE — With one game left in the 2021-22 regular season, a major preseason goal for the Jay County High School girls basketball was within its grasp Thursday night on the road at Heritage — the regular season Allen County Athletic Conference championship.

Jay County added that crown to the ACAC tournament title it won Jan. 15 with a 62-30 win over Heritage.

Jay County showed from the opening tip that it was focused and ready to close the regular season on a winning note with momentum headed into the sectional tournament, sprinting out of the gate with an 8-0 run.

Senior Madison Dirksen led the way for Jay County on this night with 27 points, including five 3-pointers.

Dirksen said she's been struggling with her outside shooting, so she was happy to hit so many 3s.

"I've been spending a lot of time working on my 3-pointers in practice," Dirksen said.

Dirksen added that she and her teammates wanted to come out strong in Thursday night's season finale and set the tone for the contest.

Indeed, after scoring the first eight points of the contest, Jay County outscored Heritage 13-9 over the remainder of the first stanza and led comfortably, 38-15 at halftime.

The Jay County reserves played most of the fourth quarter. Jay County limited Heritage to just six points in the final eight minutes.

Renna Schwieterman had 15 point for Jay County. Senior Izzy



The Commercial Review/David Vantress

Jay County's Madison Dirksen looks to pass the ball inside as Heritage's Lydia Schultz defends during Patriots' 62-30 win Thursday night at Heritage. Dirksen made five 3-pointers and scored a game-high 27 points to lead JCHS.

Rodgers chipped in with — all on 3-pointers.

Claire Bickel, Ella Bickel and Abby Zelt had eight points apiece to lead Heritage.

Jay County coach Kirk Comer was pleased to see his team start fast and maintain that energy for the entire contest.

"The girls knew this was for the conference championship, so they came out and took care of business," Comer said.

Jay County now turns its attention to the Class 3A Sectional 24 at Yorktown. The Patriots face 15-5 Hamilton Heights in the first game Tuesday night. Tip-off is slated for 6 p.m.

The winner of that opening round game will face 3-18 Delta on Feb. 4, in the first of two semifinal contests slated for that night.

The championship game is slated for Saturday night.

Junior varsity

Jay County wrapped up the 2021-22 season with a 36-22 win over Heritage.

Jay County took control of the contest by outscoring Heritage 15-7 in the second quarter.

Cassie Petro paced Jay County with 13 points. Meredith Dirksen added nine and Daisy Muhlenkamp chipped in with eight points.

The Jay County finished at 14-5.

Box score

Class 3A No. 6 Jay County Patriots at Heritage Patriots				
Girls varsity summary				
Jay County (20-3)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
MMuhlnkmp	0-0	0-0	0	
Saxman	3-4	0-1	6	
DMuhlnkmp	0-0	0-0	0	
May	0-0	0-0	0	
Bilbry	1-1	0-0	2	
Rodgers	4-6	0-0	12	
Schwrtman	3-6	7-11	15	
B. Dirksen	0-0	0-0	0	
MaDirksen	11-15	0-0	27	
MeDirksen	0-0	0-0	0	
Petro	0-0	0-0	0	
Denton	0-0	0-0	0	
Totals	22-32	7-11	62	
	.688	.636		
Heritage (11-11)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
C. Bickel	4-7	0-0	8	
Schone	1-2	0-0	3	
E. Bickel	3-6	0-0	8	
Pilon	0-0	0-0	0	
Schultz	1-2	1-2	3	
Gerardot	0-0	0-0	0	
Otte	0-0	0-0	0	
Zelt	4-6	0-0	8	
Mullins	0-0	0-0	0	
Scheumann	0-0	0-0	0	
Fuller	0-0	0-0	0	
Buuck	0-0	0-0	0	
Totals	13-23	1-2	30	
	.565	.500		
Score by quarter				
Jay Cty	21	17	17	7— 62
Heritage	9	6	9	6—30

3-point shooting: Jay County 11 (Madison Dirksen 5, Rodgers 4, Schwieterman 2, Heritage 3 (E. Bidel 2, Schone).

Rebounds: Jay County 22, Heritage 10.

Assists: Jay County 15, Heritage 4.

Blocks: Jay County 1.

Personal fouls: Jay County 4, Heritage 8.

Turnovers: Jay County 11, Heritage 13.

Snow breaks 200

Tuesday night, a senior hit a milestone.

On Thursday, it was a freshman who earned the spotlight.

Jay County High School's Maddy Snow joined the 200-point club as she took first place in diving to help the Patriot girls swim team to a 199-93 victory over Marion in its final meet of the regular season.

The boys team earned a 124-57 victory.

Snow scored 204.3 points to take first place in diving — JCHS was uncontested to sweep the top four spots — as she broke the 200-point mark for six dives for the first time in her career. (Her effort came two days after senior Konner Sommers joined the 50-second club in the 100-yard freestyle.) She became the 12th girls diver in school history to achieve that feat and the first to do so since Heather Stinson in 2015-16.

Senior Emily Dues was the lone Patriot girl to earn a pair of victories, taking the top spot in the 50 freestyle in 28.9 seconds and the 100 freestyle in 1 minute, 5.87 seconds.

Josh Monroe and Kyle Sanders each won a couple of events to pace the Jay County boys. Monroe's wins came in the 200-yard

Local roundup

freestyle in 2:10.71 and the 100 freestyle in 57.06. Sanders handled the 50 freestyle and 100 backstroke with times of 23.19 and 1:02.19, respectively.

Adding victories for the girls team, which hosts the sectional meet next week with preliminaries beginning at 5:30 p.m. Thursday and finals to follow on Feb. 5, were Morgan Dehoff (2:27.1) in the 200 freestyle, Mara Bader (1:09.53) in the 100 backstroke and Zion Beiswanger (1:21.64) in the 100 breaststroke.

Nick Lyons picked up a win in the 200 individual medley for the Patriot boys in 2:33. Joe Dow was uncontested in the 500 freestyle and posted a time of 6:46.41.

Ring leads Jay

HUNTINGTON — Erin Ring led the Jay County's gymnastics team as it opened its season Thursday with a loss to the Huntington North Vikings. The Patriots scored 61.95 points.

(Huntington North's total was not provided.)

Ring posted the top all-around score for the Patriots, finishing fourth with 26.85 points. She was fourth on the vault with an 8.3 while adding an 8.0 on the floor exercise for fifth place. She had the team's top score on the uneven parallel bars with a 4.6 for sixth place.

Coryn Blalock turned in the other fourth-place finish for JCHS with an 8.05 on the balance beam. Mattie Ardizonne posted an 8.0 on the vault for fifth place. Adriene Denney's top score on the evening was a 7.275 on the floor.

Jay 8th advances

Jay County Junior High School's seventh grade girls basketball team advanced to the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament championship game with a 36-14 win in Wednesday's semifinal.

The eighth grade team advanced because Southern Wells did not field a team.

Hallie Schwieterman racked up 21 points to lead the Patriot seventh graders to their win. Lizzy Brunswick added six points, and Natalie May scored four.

Purdue tops Hawkeyes

By JOHN BOHNENKAMP

Associated Press
IOWA CITY, Iowa — Purdue guard Isaiah Thompson said he had to get "back to the basics" with his shot.

Sometimes the simple fixes are the best. Thompson scored a career-high 18 points and Jaden Ivey had 15 in his return from a hip injury as the No. 6 Boilermakers defeated Iowa 83-73 on Thursday night.

"When you put your time and preparation in, eventually it will pay off," Thompson said. "I'm glad it paid off tonight."

Thompson came in averaging just 5.7 points and had shot 7 of 29 in his last six games. But he went 6 of 8 in this one — including 4 for 6 on 3-pointers.

"He looked like he was having fun out there," Ivey said. "It was good to see he had his confidence back."

Thompson was concerned enough with

his shot to talk to his father, LaSalle, a couple of weeks ago to see if he could find something wrong.

"I was struggling shooting," Thompson said. "It wasn't anything out of the ordinary I was doing. I was getting open looks that didn't go down. I just wanted to get back to the basics of what my dad taught me all my life, and I think I did a good job of that."

Purdue coach Matt Painter thought Thompson was "opportunistic."

"He stepped up and made some plays," Painter said.

Ivey, the team's leading scorer at 16.7 points per game, missed Sunday's 80-60 win at Northwestern. He didn't start this one either, but played 21 minutes off the bench.

"I felt good," Ivey said. "Didn't tweak it at all."

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There's nothing we wouldn't do for the health and well being of our fellow Hoosiers. But sadly, COVID-19 has tested the limits of what health systems can accomplish on their own. And now, almost two years into the pandemic — desire, expertise and modern medicine are simply not enough.

We need help. Your help.

The situation is dire. We have more patients in our hospitals than we have beds. We're converting available units into critical care wards, just to make room. And as you know, the entire healthcare industry is operating on a short staff, which means our caregivers are running out of steam. It's a daily challenge to treat incoming COVID-19 patients, as well as those who suffer from strokes, heart attacks, car accidents, cancer and appendicitis.

We need action. Right now.

Communities rally together. And the moment we're in requires all of us to do our part to regain control before the situation grows even worse. Here's what you can do:

- 1. Get vaccinated.** Join the millions of Hoosiers, five and older, who have rolled up their sleeves over the past year.
- 2. Get boosted.** It will strengthen your immunity and provide further protection from all variants of COVID-19, including Omicron.
- 3. Get tested.** If you have symptoms, please get tested. Should the result come back positive, inform those whom you've been in contact with.
- 4. Get masked.** Face coverings are a simple and effective way to reduce the spread.

And please remember, if you have a mild case of COVID-19, call your doctor or go to a MedCheck/Urgent Care facility. Do not go to an emergency room, as we'd strongly prefer to save those beds for the very sickest and most in need of immediate attention.

Our strength is in our ability to come **together**. And it is **together**, that we will finally see our way out of this.

