

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Boyd trial is now set for June

Former officer faces murder charge for 2020 fatal shooting

The trial for a Portland man facing a murder charge has been rescheduled for June.

Jay Circuit Court Judge Brian Hutchison on Tuesday set the new trial for Roger L. Boyd Jr. to begin June 6.

Boyd had previously been scheduled to stand trial beginning Monday for the September 2020 murder of James P. Miller of Montpelier. The trial was postponed last week after Jay County Prosecutor's Office filed a motion for a continuance.

In addition to the murder charge, Boyd also faces a charge of criminal confinement while armed with a deadly weapon, a Level 3 felony.

His trial was originally scheduled for February 2021 but was delayed because of coronavirus pandemic restrictions and has been moved several times since.

Police arrested Boyd, a former police officer, shortly after Miller, 49, was shot early Sept. 5, 2020, outside of the house at 1215 S. Bridge St., Portland. Miller was pronounced dead at the scene.

Court documents filed in connection with the case indicate that, according to police, Boyd admitted to shooting Miller but said it was in self defense because he believed Miller had a weapon. Police did not find any such weapon.

Nicole L. Burke, Miller's girlfriend, was later found in the basement of the house.

See **Trial** page 2

Rylen rides

Eight-year-old Rylen Carpenter sleds down the hill at Hudson Park on Wednesday. After Jay County got more than a foot of snow during last week's winter storm, there is a 30% chance of snow showers beginning at 10 p.m. tonight.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Criticism of transgender bill mounts

By **CASEY SMITH**
Associated Press
and Report for America

INDIANAPOLIS — Opponents are continuing to ramp up pressure against an Indiana bill that would ban transgender women and girls from participating in school sports that match their gender

identity, arguing that the proposal is unconstitutional, sexist and bigoted.

Critics additionally called out Republican lawmakers for partnering on the bill with the Alliance Defending Freedom, referred to as "a national hate group" by Democrat Sen. J.D. Ford of Indianapo-

lis and representatives from the Human Rights Campaign during a news conference on Tuesday.

The nonprofit legal organization that supports conservative Christian causes has provided legal counsel for various efforts to curtail LGBTQ rights and has successfully lob-

bied for anti-transgender legislation — including bans on transgender athletes — in other states.

"(The ADF) wants to do all they can to make transgender kids afraid of themselves, and force them to believe that they're broken. They are being pitted against their neighbors and

their communities solely for political purposes," Ford said. "The supermajority for our General Assembly seem to value extreme culture wars and partnerships with this national hate group over creating a better future for Hoosier families."

See **Criticism** page 5

Envoy seeks to ease crisis

By **JILL LAWLESS**
and **DASHA LITVINOVA**
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Britain's top diplomat flew today to Moscow, seeking to defuse tensions raised by Russia's military buildup near Ukraine and warning that an invasion would bring "massive consequences for all involved."

"Russia has a choice here. We strongly encourage them to engage, de-escalate and choose the path of diplomacy," Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said ahead of departing on the first visit to Moscow by the U.K.'s top envoy in more than four years.

Russia has massed over 100,000 troops near Ukraine's border and has launched military maneuvers in the region, but says it has no plans to invade its neighbor. It wants guarantees from the West that NATO not allow Ukraine and other former Soviet nations as members, that the alliance halt weapon deployments there, and that it roll back its forces from

Eastern Europe. The U.S. and NATO flatly reject these demands.

Western nations say they will impose their toughest-ever sanctions on Russian businesses and individuals if Moscow invades Ukraine.

"Russia should be in no doubt about the strength of our response," said Truss, who will meet Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov during the two-day visit.

Truss urged Moscow to abide by its international agreements that commit it to respecting Ukraine's independence and sovereignty.

Several dozen Ukrainians rallied outside the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, urging Washington to use its international clout to prevent a Russian offensive.

Western leaders in recent weeks have engaged in multiple rounds of high-stakes diplomacy in hopes of de-escalating the crisis.

French President Emmanuel Macron held over five hours of talks Monday with President Vladimir Putin in Moscow before meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv the next day.

See **Ease** page 5



Bloomberg/David Kawai

Under emergency

Trucks from the "Freedom Convoy" block downtown streets Feb. 3 during a demonstration in Ottawa, Canada. Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson, who declared a state of emergency Sunday, said increasingly rowdy demonstrations posed a "serious danger and threat to the safety and security of residents." Hundreds of trucks continue to occupy the downtown area near Canada's parliament with no sign of plans to leave.

Deaths

Karen Dunkirk,	Mettler,	73,
Arnold Fort Recovery	Westgerdes,	88,
Frederick Swayzee	Horn,	58,

Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 41 degrees Tuesday. The low early in the day was 9.

There is a chance of snow showers beginning about 10 p.m. tonight. The low will be 26. Expect mostly cloudy skies Thursday with a high of 29.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Portland Board of Zoning Appeals held its organizational meeting for the year Tuesday. The board elected Lee Newman as president, Aaron Loy as vice president and Larry Petro as secretary. It also reappointed Pati McLaughlin as recording secretary and appointed Wes Schemanour as its attorney.

Coming up

Thursday — Coverage of tonight's Jay County Council meeting.

Saturday — Results from Mara Bader at the IHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving State Finals.



CR almanac

Thursday 2/10	Friday 2/11	Saturday 2/12	Sunday 2/13	Monday 2/14
29/21	41/21	25/9	23/13	28/14
Skies will be mostly cloudy Thursday with wind gusts as high as 20 mph possible.	Snow is likely Friday (60% chance), with freezing rain also possible before 9 a.m. Wind gusts may reach 30 mph.	Mostly cloudy skies are in the forecast for Saturday. The high may get to 25.	Sunday looks to be mostly sunny. The low temperature may reach around 13.	Partly sunny skies are on the horizon for Monday, with a high of 28.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$158 million	Quick Draw: 2-4-6-12-15-16-17-22-34-35-41-46-54-59-61-62-64-71-74-78 Cash 5: 18-30-35-38-43 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Mega Millions 1-17-20-52-54 Mega Ball: 2 Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$42 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 3-6-9 Pick 4: 1-2-8-7 Pick 5: 0-7-3-6-6 Evening Pick 3: 2-3-4 Pick 4: 7-2-3-8 Pick 5: 5-7-4-5-7 Rolling Cash: 3-5-9-10-24 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 9-7-7 Daily Four: 3-7-8-8 Quick Draw: 1-3-15-19-24-28-29-35-40-41-51-54-55-59-63-68-70-77-78-79 Evening Daily Three: 6-8-5 Daily Four: 5-0-8-9	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.49 March corn.....6.51 Wheat.....7.56	Wheat.....7.74 March wheat.....7.74
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.53 March corn.....6.51 April corn.....6.49	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.38 Late Feb. corn.....6.38 Beans.....15.72 Late Feb. beans.....15.75 Feb. wheat.....7.84
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.43 March corn.....6.43 Beans.....15.71 March beans.....15.71	Sunrise St. Anthony Corn.....6.49 March corn.....6.41 Beans.....15.62 March beans.....15.65 Wheat.....7.49

Today in history

On Feb. 9, 1971, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake in California's San Fernando Valley claimed 65 lives. The crew of Apollo 14 returned to Earth after man's third landing on the moon.

In 1825, the House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams president after no candidate received a majority of electoral votes.

In 1942, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff held its first formal meeting to coordinate military strategy during World War II.

In 1943, the World War II battle of Guadalcanal in the southwest Pacific ended with an Allied victory over Japanese forces.

In 1950, in a speech in Wheeling, West Virginia, Republican Sen. Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin charged that the State Department was riddled with Communists.

In 1963, the Boeing 727 went on its first-ever flight as it took off from Renton, Washington.

In 1964, the Beatles made their first live American television appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show," broadcast from New York on CBS. The G.I. Joe action figure was introduced at the American International Toy Fair in New York.

In 1984, Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov, 69, died 15 months after succeeding Leonid Brezhnev; he was followed by Konstantin U. Chernenko.

In 1986, during its latest visit to the solar system, Halley's Comet came closest to the sun (its next return will be in 2061).

In 2002, Britain's Princess Margaret, sister of Queen Elizabeth II, died in London at age 71.

In 2009, New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez admitted to taking performance-enhancing drugs, telling ESPN he'd used banned substances while with the Texas Rangers for three years.

In 2012, the Jay County High School boys basketball team outscored Delta 15-3 in the final period to pull away for a 39-27 victory.

—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.
6 p.m. — Jay County Council, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Thursday
7 p.m. — Jay County Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Monday
9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, commis-

sioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board, Community Room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.
5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland.
6 p.m. — Jay County Regional Sewer District, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Obituaries

Karen Mettler

March 1, 1948-Feb. 3, 2022
Karen J. Mettler, 73, of Dunkirk, Indiana, went to her heavenly home, Thursday, Feb. 3, 2022, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital of Muncie, Indiana.

She was born March 1, 1948, the daughter of Allen and Ilene (Gierhart) Mettler. She was a 1966 graduate of Dunkirk High School. She received her bachelor of arts and masters degrees from Ball State University of Muncie, Indiana.

Karen became a teacher and served the children of Jay County for 42 years. She taught three generations of students. She was a member of ISTA, NEA, NEAR and ISTR teacher's organizations. She was the Jay County Representative to NEA conventions and co-president of Jay County Retired Teachers Association.

Karen was a member of the First American Baptist Church of Dunkirk all her life. The church was the main dream of her life, serving as pianist/organist, treasurer, Sunday school teacher and many other positions.

Karen loved to sing and perform. She was a member of the Songbirds of Muncie, Melody Makers of Indiana and the Berne Mennonite Choral Society. One of the highlights of her life was when she sang the Handel's Messiah at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Karen loved to travel and often said she had "wheels on her butt." She visited all 50 states and 37 different countries. She delighted in going to auctions. She collected over 300 cookie jars and other beautiful pottery. She would frequently buy things at auctions that she knew other people

wanted or needed, often giving it to them and refusing repayment. She would just say, "Pay it forward."

Karen is survived by her brother Stanley Mettler (wife: Linda); two nieces, Janessa (Mettler) Erickson and Katy (Mettler) Faith (husband: Michael); two great-nephews, William Erickson and Brandon Faith; her best friend and companion, Frances "Chip" Young, along with their little dog, Barkley; an aunt, Mona Fairchild; and an uncle, Richard Geirhart (wife: Carolyn).

She considered the Young family hers, helping to raise and being involved in their lives: three children; six grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

A service to celebrate Karen's life will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, at Wilson Shook Funeral Home, Dunkirk Memorial Chapel of Dunkirk, Indiana. Burial will follow at Dunkirk IOOF Cemetery. Family and friends may gather to share and remember from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11, at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First American Baptist Church, 427 S. Main St., Dunkirk, IN 47336.

Condolences may be expressed at wilsonshookfh.com.



Mettler

Arnold Westgerdes

June 2, 1933-Feb. 8, 2022
Arnold "Arnie" R. Westgerdes, 88, of Fort Recovery, Ohio, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022, at The Gardens at St. Henry.

He was born on June 2, 1933, in Fort Recovery to the late Joseph and Mary (Steinbrunner) Westgerdes.

In addition to his parents, Arnie was preceded in death by his wife, Viola R. (Dues) Westgerdes, whom he married on July 20, 1957; his daughter-in-law, Tracy Westgerdes; his great-grandson, Cashton Westgerdes; his siblings, Julianna (Norbert) Well-

man, Clarence Westgerdes, Andrew Westgerdes, Sally (Bob) Muhlenkamp, Naomi (Joe) Maynard, Norbert (Mildred) Westgerdes, Wilbert (Sally) Westgerdes and Irene (Ray) Kahlig; his brother-in-law, Don Muhlenkamp; and his infant siblings, Rolandis, Mary Alice and Mary Agnes.

Arnie worked for Cooper Farms for over 51 years as a feed truck driver, while also tending to his own farm at home. It was not uncommon to find Arnie outside mowing the lawn, or simply sitting in his lawn chair watching the world go by. Arnie loved his family and enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. On the weekends, he and his wife, Viola, liked to go out and socialize with their friends.

He served his country honorably in the United States Army from 1953 until 1955. Arnie was a member of the Veteran of Foreign Wars in Fort Recovery and the American Legion and the Fraternal Order of Eagles, both in Coldwater. He was also a member of Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church in Fort Recovery.

Arnie is survived by his children, Gene (Jane) Westgerdes of Fort Recovery, Chuck (Lisa) Westgerdes of Fort Recovery, Bob (Lisa) Westgerdes of St. Joe, Ohio, Doug (Pam) Westgerdes of St. Joe, Joe (Tracy) Westgerdes of Fort Recovery and Mike (Mary) Westgerdes of North Star, Ohio; his 24 grandchildren; his 20 great-grandchildren, with 3 on the way; his sister, Dorothy Muhlenkamp of Fort Recovery; his sister-in-law, Ruth Westgerdes of Fort Recovery; and his in-laws, Alice Klosterman, Bob (Joan) Dues, Don Dues, Mary Jane Severt, Pat (Greg) Myers and Janet Dues.

See page 5

Trial ...

Continued from page 1
According to court documents, she told police she was standing in the driveway after the shooting when Boyd ordered her to go into the house and to the basement.

Boyd's girlfriend Brittney Shewmake, who owned the 1215 S. Bridge St. property at the time of the incident, is charged with assisting a criminal, a Level 5 felony, and criminal confinement, a Level 3 felony. A final pre-trial hearing in her case is scheduled for Monday. (She has since been charged with possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony, and maintaining a common nuisance, a Level 6 felony, in a separate case.)

According to court documents, Shewmake was inside the house with two children, ages 3 and 5, when Miller was shot. Boyd had previously served with Dunkirk Police Department and Jay County Sheriff's Office. He was fired from his job at the sheriff's office.

He is one of five Jay County residents

who was charged with murder in 2020, with those charges stemming from three different incidents. Each of the others has either been convicted of murder or pleaded guilty to lesser charges.

Portland residents Esther J. Stephen and Shelby Hiestand were convicted by Jay Circuit Court juries last year for the January 2020 death of Shea Briar of Portland and were each sentenced to 55 years in prison. Hannah Knapke of Fort Recovery pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter in connection with Briar's death and was sentenced to 17.5 years in prison.

In January, Cory Jones, 45, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter with a habitual offender enhancement for the Aug. 22, 2020, fatal shooting of 47-year-old Shanna Jones. He was sentenced to 47.5 years in prison.

In Indiana, murder carries a sentence of 45 to 65 years with an advisory sentence of 55 years. A Level 3 felony carries a sentence of 3 to 16 years.

Leader leaves board

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Republican leader of the Indiana House has resigned his executive position with the organization that runs the SAT college admissions test, saying he wants to focus on his legislative duties.

House Speaker Todd Huston said Tuesday he had decided to leave his

position as senior vice president of state and district partnerships at the College Board, the New York-based group also known for administering high school advance placement exams.

Huston worked in that position since 2012, the same year he was first elected to the Legislature and became a leading advocate of expanding the state's private school voucher program.

The nonprofit College Board's 2019 federal tax filings reported that Huston was paid about \$460,000.

SERVICES

Thursday
Wolford, Todd: 1 p.m., Hillcrest Cemetery, 7230 S. Indiana I, Redkey.

Friday
Westgerdes, Arnold: 10:30 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpshurg Road, Fort Recovery.
Zorn, Cathy: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
Horn, Frederick: 5 p.m., Swayzee Church of the Nazarene, 2560 S. 800 West, Swayzee.

Saturday
Mettler, Karen: 11 a.m., Wilson-Shook Funeral Home, Dunkirk Memorial Chapel, 317 N. Main St., Dunkirk.
Myers, Cheryl: 3 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
Smiley, Alice: 3 p.m., 400 Deerfield Road, Union City.

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AUCTION

March 2nd, 8:00 am - 6:00 pm ET

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Tracts 2 and 3: NE corner of 1100 S and SR 1

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Rick Johnloz: 260.827.8181

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Library offering February activities

Jay County Public Library is offering various activities throughout February.

Children are invited to make valentine-themed crafts from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Thursday. There's another crafting event for teens and adults to make paper plate hearth wreaths on Feb. 14.

The library is also hosting two workshops offered by Purdue Extension Office. Heather Caldwell of Fayette County will share information at 6 p.m.

Taking Note

Feb. 24 about the benefit of starting flower and vegetable seeds indoors before the gardening season. Amanda Bullion of Jay County Purdue Extension will teach about heart health, such as heart care and food alternatives as

well as offer a taste of heart-healthy foods, at 6 p.m. Feb. 28.

A winter reading challenge for all ages is also ongoing through Feb. 26. For each book read, adults and teens will receive one entry into a drawing for prizes. For each five hours of reading done by a child, they will receive a prize and be entered into a drawing.

Classes offered

Free adult education classes are available.

John Jay Center for Learning is offering free classes for adults to receive a High School Equivalency diploma. The state has also supplied funding to help students pay for their final High School Equivalency Test in 2022.

Classes are available from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

For more information, call (260) 729-5525.

Deadline extended

The deadline has been extended for Hoosier Homestead farmers to submit their farm history for publication.

Material for "Hoosier Homestead Farms," a book celebrating nearly 6,000 Indiana farms, is now due by March 30. Any farmer with a Hoosier Homestead Award can submit up to 300 words about their farm history, along with a photo of the farm, family, farm sign or anything else of significance.

Information requested includes the year your farm started, how many generations have worked or owned it, types of crops grown, places your crops are sold and the year your farm was inducted as a Hoosier Homestead Farm. The publisher's website at acclaimpress.com has a page for farmers to fill out their history.

Copies of the book can be purchased on the website or by calling (573) 472-9800.

'Crossing' is a history reminder

By KWAME DAWES

There is in Jericho Brown's vast poetic mythology, a series of touchstone terms that are rich with resonance.

The word crossing refers, in part, to the grand crossing of the Atlantic in the "Middle Passage," to the many rivers crossed by those fleeing enslavement, and finally to the great crossing from this mortal territory to the other unknown territory that we must all make.

American Life in Poetry

And in this poem, "Crossing," he reminds us that above everything else, confidence, faith ("more than a conqueror"), courage and reckless optimism ("I am the one who leaps") are good companions on this journey.

Crossing

The water is one thing, and one thing for miles.
The water is one thing, making this bridge
Built over the water another. Walk it
Early, walk it back when the day goes dim, everyone
Rising just to find a way toward rest again.
We work, start on one side of the day
Like a planet's only sun, our eyes straight
Until the flame sinks. The flame sinks. Thank God
I'm different. I've figured and counted. I'm not crossing
To cross back. I'm set
On something vast. It reaches
Long as the sea. I'm more than a conqueror, bigger
Than bravery. I don't march. I'm the one who leaps.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetry-foundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2019 by Jericho Brown, "Crossing" from The Tradition (Copper

Canyon Press, 2019.) Poem reprinted by permission of the author and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2022 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Kwame Dawes, is George W. Holmes Professor of English and Glenna Luschei Editor of Prairie Schooner at the University of Nebraska.

Man's past shocks relative

DEAR ABBY: I recently Googled my brother-in-law to see if I could find his birthdate, which I had forgotten. When his name came up, so did some information I wish I hadn't seen.

He's a convicted sex offender (rape) who has served time. I am assuming my sister knows about his past. But what if she doesn't? I don't want to say anything to her, because if she already knows, she'll be upset that I now know. If she doesn't know and I tell her, I'm afraid she may blame me for messing up a good thing.

Should I talk to him and ask him if he's told her? Or should I leave things alone and let things play out naturally? I was shocked by the revelation because it doesn't fit the man I know. — SHOCKED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR SHOCKED: Are you 100% sure the information you found is about your brother-in-law? If it's true, the revelation that there is a felon in the family (and for rape, yet!) would shock anyone. Talk to your sister. Explain that you forgot the date of her husband's birthday and what you discovered. It's entirely possible that she knows about his past. But if she doesn't, direct her to the site from which you got that information, because she's entitled to know.

DEAR ABBY: My grandson is 30. He lives at home with his mother and father, both of whom are retired. He doesn't have a job, nor is he actively seeking one. The only so-called job he ever had in his life was as a security guard

Dear Abby



sessions from my home that they now expect to have. My late husband's wedding ring was included on the list. What would you say to the demands for items from an adult child with whom you have no relationship? — OUT OF THEIR LIVES IN VIRGINIA

DEAR OUT: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your husband. As to what "I" would say in response to these grasping relatives, I wouldn't dignify their demand with any response at all.

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law is increasingly overbearing and abusive to me. It has always been a problem, but I ignored her nasty comments. Now, I am finally sick of it.

During the last year, she has begun to insist my husband retire. She wants us to close the doors of a business we have operated for 43 years. We are highly successful. We have more than 23 employees who depend on their salaries for their livelihood, and the business is valuable.

I have tried to tell her nicely to butt out, but it has only made her more abusive. I can't draw Social Security yet, so I wouldn't have an income. My husband won't say much about it. Now she's soliciting our friends to call us and harass us about retiring. Help! — STILL WORKING IN VIRGINIA

DEAR STILL WORKING: If anyone tells you to retire and sell your business, an appropriate response would be, "I know you mean well, but when we're ready to retire, we will let you know."

Community Calendar

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

Tuesday

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

BRYANT COMMUNITY

CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday.

THE 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.

JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE — Holds its regular meeting at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the Community

Room at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

Wednesday

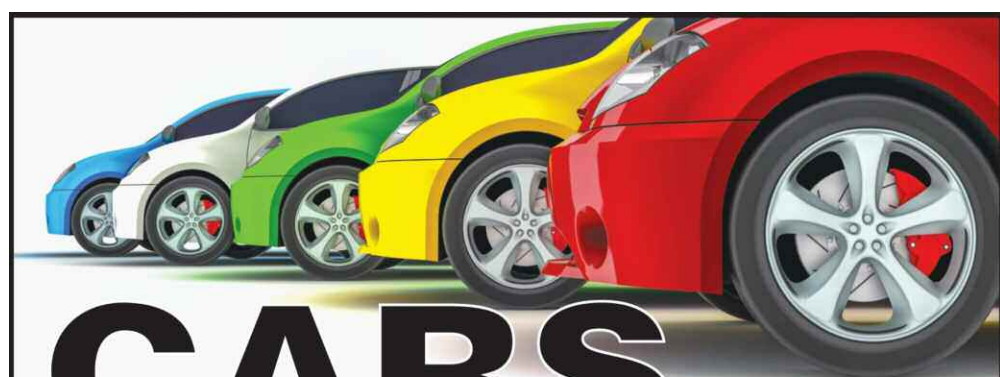
WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend.

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

BRYANT/NEW CORYDON SENIOR CITIZENS — Will meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Bryant Community Center for a carry-in dinner. Meat is provided.

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday at Harmony Cafe, 121 N. Meridian St.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — For caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias, the group will meet at 6 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at Blackford Community Hospital conference room, 410 Pilgrim Boulevard in Hartford City.



CARS

Special Supplement in The Commercial Review

Full-page color

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(regular price - \$136.50)

Supplement runs Feb. 18

(Advertising deadline - Feb. 10)

Contact Lindsey at

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



Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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

Thanking POW was not sufficient

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

A couple of weeks ago, I heard from a good friend whose wife had run into serious complications with international travel in the age of COVID.

She was able to leave a distant country and return home, but my friend described it as reminiscent of the final scenes of "The Great Escape" when Steve McQueen jumps over barbed wire border barriers while riding a stolen German motorcycle.

It got me thinking. I've known two former POWs in my life.

One lived just down the street. The other treated me to undeserved hospitality.

The one who lived on Pleasant Street was Don Schoenlein, who was during my childhood a jeweler and watch repair specialist in Portland. He was also the father of a couple of adorable daughters, whose presence in the neighborhood made things more excit-

Back in the Saddle



ing in those years in and around adolescence.

My parents never talked directly about Don Schoenlein's experiences.

Perhaps that was out of respect for what he had gone through.

Perhaps it was simply out of respect for his privacy.

The bits and pieces I gleaned over the years were minimal. I learned that he had been captured by the Germans in World War II. And I remember being told that at one time he was held at a POW camp that may have been the basis for the fictional tale told in the movie "The Great Escape."

What was striking — then and now — is that he was such an ordinary guy.

He was a dad. He could be found at a shop downtown.

And any myth or glory or Hollywood-style glamour had evaporated long ago.

That was the perspective of a kid.

These days, when I'm at least a little more grown up, I can only marvel at what must have been a bundle of trauma and stories and regrets and dreams and aspirations and grief he carried around with him every day. As an ordinary guy.

My second POW picked me up when I was hitchhiking through Germany in 1969 as a college student.

The first thing he told me was that he didn't usually pick up hitchhikers.

He'd only made an exception, he told me, because he had just taken his daughter back to college to start a new term. Some-

thing about this scrawny, long-haired American with a rucksack prompted him to give me a lift.

His English was excellent, and there was even a bit of an American accent to it.

When I commented, he explained.

That's because of Tennessee, he said.

As a young man, he had been a conscript in the German army in World War II.

And he had been captured by the Americans.

Caught up by the enormous U.S. military/bureaucratic machinery, he soon found himself as a POW in the States, sent to a camp somewhere in Tennessee. Or at least he believed it to have been in Tennessee.

His time there was transformative. His wartime enemies became his friends.

Maybe it was because his English was so good.

Maybe it was because he had interesting stories to tell.

Whatever the reason, we hit it off.

I was headed south toward Switzerland. He lived just on the German side of the Swiss-German border.

Not far from where Steve McQueen would jump the barbed wire in the movie.

Before I knew it, he told me he wanted me to meet his family.

And I did.

I met his wife, his two sons and his mother. They greeted me like a returning prodigal, providing a memorable meal of wienerschnitzel washed down with white wine.

Fed and floored by the hospitality, I was given a lift across the border to Switzerland.

I'm sure that my thanks were insufficient, but I'm also sure that the POW just down Pleasant Street would have appreciated the encounter.

And nobody had to jump over any barbed wire on a motorcycle.

Iran deal may be imperfect, necessary

The Washington Post

Announced in mid-July 2015, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action — commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal — made sense not as a permanent solution to the Islamic republic's drive for atomic weaponry but as an effort to buy time for one.

The Obama administration, in partnership with France, Britain, Germany, China and Russia, agreed Iran would curtail uranium enrichment until 2031 in return for economic sanctions relief — worth tens of billions of dollars to its struggling economy. Given what might happen otherwise — an Israeli preemptive strike on Iran, with wider war to follow — the bargain was, as we noted at the time, "complex and costly" but "preferable, in the short term, to the likely alternative."

Today, President Joe Biden is negotiating a resumed deal with Iran that would undoubtedly call for a similar, difficult, risk-benefit analysis. That evaluation begins by acknowledging that the Biden administration finds itself in such a position because in 2018 his predecessor, Donald Trump, unilaterally pulled the United States out of the JCPOA, branding it "a horrible one-sided deal that should have never, ever been made." Though Iran responded with restraint at first, it has since stepped up uranium enrichment, to the point where it could now have enough weapons-grade material for one or more bombs within weeks — rather than the one-year "breakout time" the JCPOA achieved. Meanwhile, Trump's approach — stepped-up sanctions — damaged the Iranian economy but failed to curb the regime's nuclear development or its support for terrorist proxies throughout the Middle East.

At first, Biden's promise to restore the JCPOA seemed unlikely to bear fruit, given Iran's position — made all too credible by Trump's behavior — that there was no point talking to a country that would not stick to its agreements. However, recent reports from Vienna, where U.S. and Iranian negotiators are dealing through intermediaries, suggest that Tehran might still agree to a modified freeze of its program in return for relief from

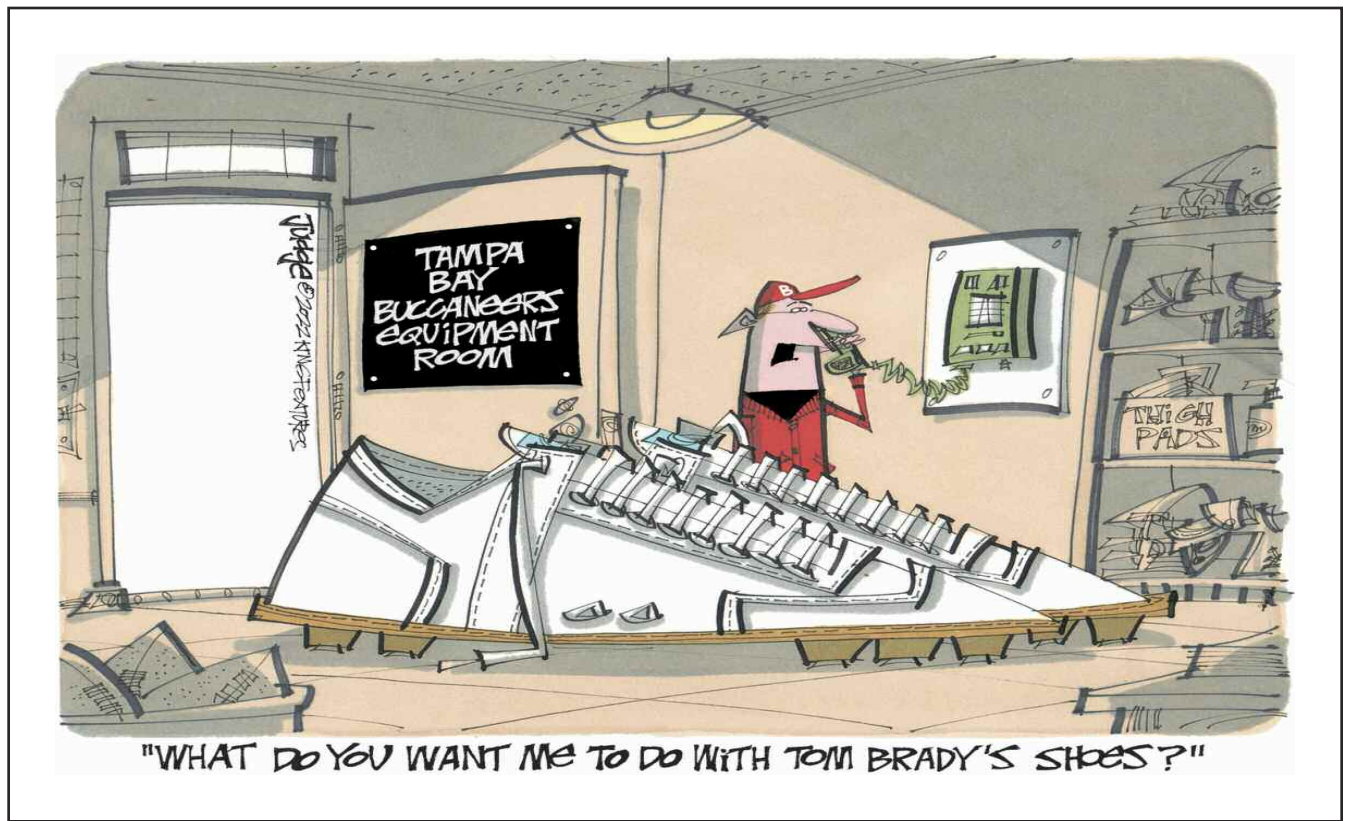
Guest Editorial

... reports from Vienna, where U.S. and Iranian negotiator are dealing through intermediaries, suggest that Tehran might still agree to a modified freeze of its program ...

Trump's sanctions. The deal would end in 2031, as the JCPOA did, with Iran possibly much closer to breakout than it would have been if the United States had not pulled out, triggering Iranian noncompliance.

In other words, if a deal with Iran does get done, the United States could be buying less time than it did in 2015, at a higher price. Iran's neighbors, not only Israel but also Saudi Arabia, would remain nervous. It would not be the "longer and stronger" deal, encompassing Iranian missile development as well, that the Biden team once called for. Whether that is nevertheless acceptable depends on the details, especially how much latitude Iran guarantees international inspectors, including with respect to past nuclear activity, which it has still not satisfactorily explained to the International Atomic Energy Agency. And it depends on the follow-through Biden provides in terms of deterring — and punishing — Iranian aggression throughout the region.

As in 2015, the United States should not let the best be the enemy of the good, provided its negotiators really have done as much good as they possibly could.



Weak apologies are not enough

By MARGARET SULLIVAN
The Washington Post

Under fire for spreading COVID misinformation on his hugely popular podcast, Joe Rogan recently offered something that's being described, in some quarters, as an apology.

In a 10-minute Instagram video, the erstwhile TV comic turned professional provocateur told his employers at Spotify that he was sorry for causing them trouble. And Rogan acknowledged that he gets stuff wrong sometimes and will try to provide more balance in the future.

But to everyone else, he offered the worst kind of non-apology: "If I pissed you off, I'm sorry."

What I didn't hear from Rogan was any remorse that he might have done harm when he held forth about his own bogus belief that healthy young people don't need to get vaccinated.

He didn't address the 270 medical professionals whose powerful open letter warned, about one of Rogan's episodes, that "mass-misinformation events of this scale have extraordinarily dangerous ramifications."

Worse, I heard no apologies to the people who took to heart what they heard, endangering themselves or their loved ones.

To my ears, Rogan sounded glib, narcissistic and clueless. And Spotify — the platform that enables him by insisting it would be wrong to restrain what he does on his podcast — is even worse.

Rogan's non-apology made me furious. Probably because I've been spending a lot of time this week thinking about Miguel Rodriguez, a former colleague of mine, who died of COVID last week.

Miggy, as everyone called him, was only 47 — a beloved and well-respected reporter at the Buffalo News, where he covered high school sports. As one News colleague wrote this week, he was a ubiquitous community presence, with a "booming laugh

Margaret Sullivan



that would fill a room — even when that room was a high school gymnasium."

He was overweight and asthmatic; in other words, very much at risk. And he was unvaccinated.

I don't know for sure whether getting vaccination and booster shots would have saved Miggy's life. And I have no idea whether he had ever listened to Joe Rogan's podcast, or what his precise reasons were for not being vaccinated.

But I have talked to many of his co-workers and friends over the past week, briefly to his mother, and, at some length, to his father. What I've gleaned is that friends had been pushing him to get vaccinated for months but that he and his family hadn't been convinced that it was wise or necessary.

"We were skeptical about the vaccine because it was so new," his father, John Davidson, told me. Now, given all that has happened and particularly because of his son's pre-existing conditions, he believes that was wrong. Miguel had been thinking seriously about getting an initial shot when he got sick in late December, his father said.

Miggy lived with his parents and was devoted to his much younger sister, who is developmentally disabled. Davidson got choked up when he talked about the winter's day when paramedics arrived to take his son to the hospital. In severe distress himself, Miggy was most concerned about not letting the cold air from the open door cause his sister to catch a chill.

What followed was an all-too-familiar chain of events: several weeks in intensive care, intubation, a tracheotomy. Despite some apparent improvement toward the end, Miggy didn't make it.

For Spotify and Joe Rogan, everything seems to have settled down. Their reported \$100 million contract is secure and the company's chief executive sounded unworried about the recent ups and downs of the stock price, speaking comfortingly about "learning opportunities." Rogan's brand, of course, is undoubtedly bigger than ever.

But as of Friday, almost 900,000 Americans had died of COVID, leaving millions of family members and friends bereft. Many of these deaths could have been prevented if it weren't for the rampant misinformation that has discouraged so many from getting vaccines and taking other steps to protect themselves.

Imagine if Rogan were to use his incredibly powerful voice — he has some 11 million listeners per episode — to talk productively about all of this, to counter some of the destructive bilge instead of adding to it.

Imagine if Spotify recognized that a platform is essentially a publisher, and that media organizations of all kinds constantly have to make decisions about what's appropriate to put on the air, in their pages or on their websites.

Imagine if its leadership chose not to shrug off their responsibility about promulgating dangerous and false content while making lofty-sounding noises about avoiding censorship.

One thing that requires no imagination is that Miguel's funeral was Tuesday morning. His younger sister misses him, her father told me, and doesn't yet realize that her big brother is never coming back.

.....
Sullivan is *The Washington Post's* media columnist.

The Commercial Review

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



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Obituaries

Continued from page 2
A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 11, 2022, at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church in Fort Recovery.

Burial, with full military honors, will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery.

For those who would prefer to join remotely, the Mass will be live streamed at fortrecoverycatholics.org/streamspot.

Guests may visit with Arnie's family on Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022, from 3 to 7 p.m. and again on Friday from 9 to 10 a.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery.

Memorial contributions may be given to EverHeart Hospice,

1350 N. Broadway St., Greenville, OH 45331.

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

Frederick Horn

Oct. 20, 1963-Feb. 5, 2022

Frederick E. Horn Jr. age 58, a resident of Swayzee, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022 at his home in Swayzee. He was a former resident of Pennville.

Fred was born on Oct. 20, 1963, in France, the son of Frederick E. and Roberta R. (Johnson) Horn.

He was Pennville's first Eagle Scout and graduated from Jay County High School in 1982.



Horn

Fred was a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Survivors include:

His mother — Roberta Horn, Swayzee

Daughters — Sara Pyle (husband: Jesse) of Monroe and Emily Young (husband: Wylie) of Muncie

Grandchildren — Carter and Madison Pyle

Sisters — Vicki Parks (husband: Terry), Georgia, and Judi Betterton, Kokomo

Nephew and nieces — Levi Parks, Shelley Pfiefer and Michael Betterton

Uncle — Louis Johnson of Portland

Additional extended family in Wisconsin

He was preceded in death by his father Frederick Horn; and his grandparents, Glenn (Flossie) Johnson, Geraldine Reese and Harold and Geraldine Horn.

A time of visiting and sharing memories will be held on Friday, Feb. 11, 2022, from 4 to 7 p.m. with a service at 5 p.m. at Swayzee Church of the Nazarene, 2560 S.

800 West (Highway 13), Swayzee, Indiana.

Memorials may be directed to Indiana Extension Homemakers for Purdue Cancer Research or Swayzee Fire Department. Memorials also may be directed to Wounded Warrior Project or to the family for expenses.

Please, because of allergies, no flowers or perfumes.

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

McConnell rebukes RNC for censure

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell is criticizing the Republican National Committee for censuring two House GOP lawmakers investigating the “violent insurrection” on Jan. 6, 2021, saying it’s not the party’s job to police the views of lawmakers.

As former President Donald Trump has downplayed the attack by his supporters last year — the worst attack against the Capitol in two centuries — the RNC last week took a voice vote to approve censuring Reps. Liz Cheney of Wyoming and Adam Kinzinger of Illinois at the party’s winter meeting in Salt Lake City. The two Republicans sit on a Democrat-led House committee that is aggressively investigating the siege and has subpoenaed many in the former president’s inner circle.

‘It was a violent insurrection for the purpose of trying to prevent the peaceful transfer of power after a legitimately certified election from one administration to the next.’

—Mitch McConnell, Senate Republican Leader

The RNC resolution censuring Cheney and Kinzinger accused the House panel of leading a “persecution of ordinary citizens engaged in legitimate political discourse” — words that drew outrage from Democrats and firm pushback from several GOP senators. The rioters who broke into the Capitol through windows and doors

brutally beat law enforcement officers and interrupted the certification of President Joe Biden’s victory over Trump.

“It was a violent insurrection for the purpose of trying to prevent the peaceful transfer of power after a legitimately certified election from one administration to the next,” McConnell said Tuesday. He said he still

has confidence in RNC Chair Ronna McDaniel, but “the issue is whether or not the RNC should be sort of singling out members of our party who may have different views than the majority. That’s not the job of the RNC.”

The dispute is the latest tug of war within the party over issues that McConnell and others see as politically beneficial and would prefer to talk about in an election year — inflation, for example — versus the discourse over the insurrection and Trump’s election lies.

The rioters who broke in to the Capitol were repeating Trump’s false claims of widespread voter fraud and a stolen win, even after election officials and courts across the country repeatedly dismissed those claims. McConnell and his closest allies have said for months that they want to look forward to November 2022, when they have a chance of taking back

the Senate, and not back to January 2021.

Republican Sen. John Cornyn of Texas said Monday that the RNC has said it wants the party to be unified, “and that was not a unifying action.” Alabama Sen. Richard Shelby said he believes the GOP should be a “big tent.” Republican Sens. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Mitt Romney of Utah both contacted McDaniel to discuss the censure.

Romney, who is McDaniel’s uncle, told reporters that it “could not have been a more inappropriate” message from the party.

“Anything that my party does that comes across as being stupid is not going to help us,” he said.

Maine Sen. Susan Collins said the rioters who “broke windows and breached the Capitol were not engaged in legitimate political discourse, and to say otherwise is absurd.”

Criticism ...

Continued from page 1
Ford continued that the ADF “has no business” and influencing legislation that affects Hoosiers, noting that transgender athlete participation “is not an issue and not a problem that Indiana is facing.”

Legislators in the Senate education committee will weigh the ban on Wednesday after the House advanced the bill in a 66-30 last month, largely along party lines.

Republican Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray said last week that it wasn’t clear if GOP senators would advance the bill out of the committee, but acknowledged its support among social conservatives.

The proposal would prohibit students who were born male but identify as female from participating in a sport or on an athletic team that is designated for women or girls. But it wouldn’t prevent students who identify as female or transgender men from playing on men’s sports teams.

Republican Rep. Michelle Davis of Greenwood, who authored the bill, said its purpose is to “maintain fair competition in girls’ sports.”

Former Indiana Republican Rep. Christy Stutzman proposed similar legislation in 2020, although the bill did not advance from the House education committee.

Democrats have maintained that such bills are “discriminatory” and “harmful to kids.” They also contend that the Indiana High School Athletic Association already has a policy that requires transgender girls who want to play sports to show they’ve completed hormone therapy, and that their muscle mass or bone density is typical of other girls the same age.

If the bill passes the Legislature, Indiana could be the 11th Republican-dominated state to adopt such a ban on transgender women or girls. In two of those states — Idaho and West Virginia — the laws have been halted by federal judges. The U.S. Department of Justice has challenged bans in other states, slamming them as violations of federal law.

At least half a dozen other bills were proposed by conservative lawmakers in both chambers of the General Assembly in the current legislative session to further limit rights for transgender Hoosiers.

That included bills which would have prohibited transgender people from using bathrooms that correspond with their gender identity, banning gender changes on birth certificates, and making gender-affirming medical care for minors illegal. All of those measures have died, however.

Ease ...

Continued from page 1
Macron said that Putin told him he would not initiate an escalation, but also acknowledged that it will take time to find a diplomatic solution to the biggest security crisis between Russia and the West since the Cold War.

He later flew to Berlin to meet with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Polish President Andrzej Duda, and they urged de-escalation by Russia and that it engage in a meaningful dialogue on European security.

On Wednesday, Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares visited Kyiv to meet with his Ukrainian counterpart, Dmytro Kuleba. After-

ward, Albares reiterated that dialogue and de-escalation should be the priorities. Kuleba urged more sanctions against Russia and said “there is a chance to resolve the crisis through diplomatic means.”

Scholz is expected in Kyiv and Moscow on Feb. 14-15. He met Monday with U.S. President Joe Biden, who vowed that the Nord Stream 2 Russia-to-Germany gas pipeline will be blocked in the event of an invasion. Such a move against the pipeline, which has been completed but is not yet operating, would hurt Russia economically but also cause energy supply problems for Germany.



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A delicate deduction

South dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH: ♠KJ86, ♥A4, ♦32, ♣AQJ95. WEST: ♠5, ♥J1096, ♦J1096, ♣7642. EAST: ♠72, ♥Q732, ♦KQ875, ♣K3. SOUTH: ♠AQ10943, ♥K85, ♦A4, ♣108. The bidding: South West North East 1♠ Pass 3♣ Pass 3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass 4NT Pass 5♥ Pass. Opening lead — ? Let's say you're West and South gets to six spades on the bidding shown. You're on lead, and the question is whether to lead the jack of hearts or the jack of diamonds. The suits are exactly the same, and offhand, your choice of which jack to lead would seem to be a tossup. However, as in many similar situations, there is an inference you can draw that should persuade you to lead a diamond, which defeats the slam, rather than a heart, which lets declarer make it. The reason for the diamond lies in East's pass of North's five-heart bid. The pass is significant in a negative way: If East had desired a heart lead against the slam toward which North-South seemed headed, he presumably would have doubled five hearts. East's failure to double suggests lack of interest in a heart lead. To illustrate the point in a different way, let's suppose East held the K-Q-8-7-5 of hearts instead of diamonds. In that case, he surely would have doubled five hearts to induce West to lead a heart. Of course, East might have no preference at all for either red suit, in which case his pass of five hearts would be meaningless. But in the long run, East's silence is more likely to imply preference for a diamond lead, so West would do better to choose that suit if he has no good reason to do otherwise. As for South, it would have been wiser for him to bid six spades directly, without bothering with Blackwood. North was certain to have either one or two aces for his jump-shift to three clubs, so the inquiry for aces had the potential to be more helpful to East-West than to North-South.

Tomorrow: The vanishing trick. ©2022 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

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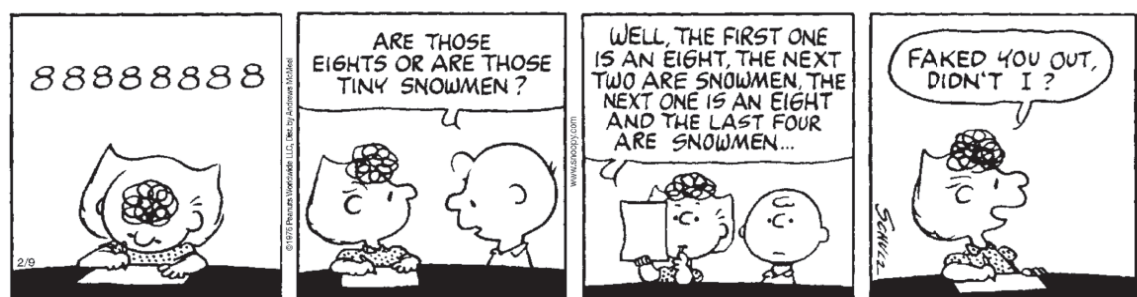
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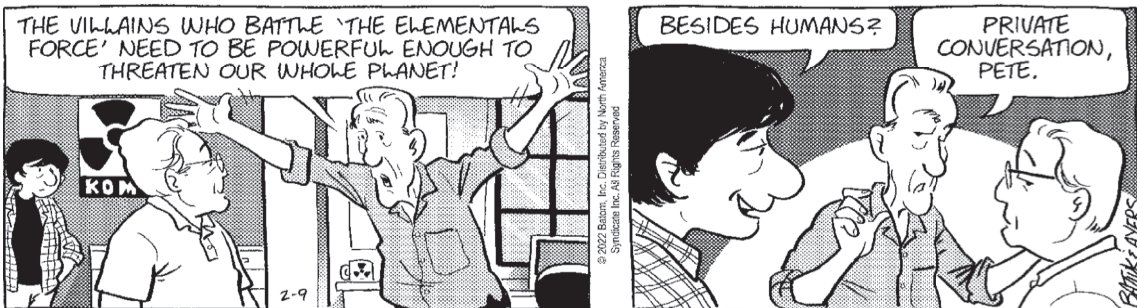
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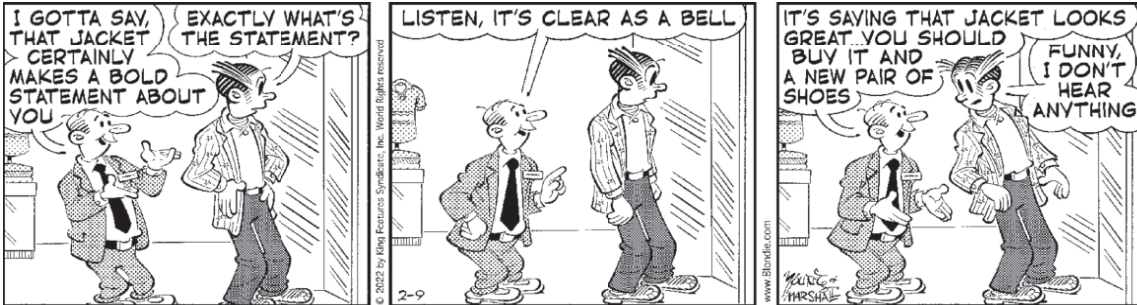
Hi and Lois



Funky Winkerbean



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



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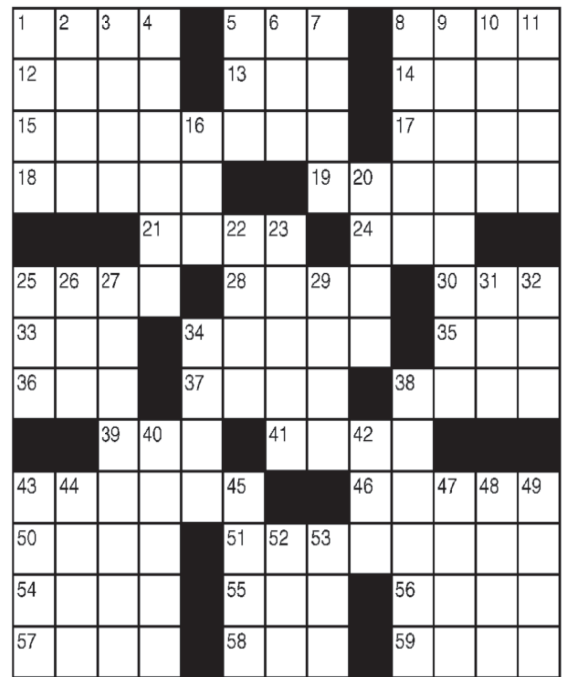
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Thunder god, 5 Pampering, for short, 8 Recipe meas., 12 Donated, 13 N.J. neighbor, 14 Writer Wiesel, 15 Isle of Man locale, 17 Assess, 18 Disgusted, 19 Dadaist Duchamp, 21 Aspiring atty.'s exam, 24 Tibetan bovine, 25 Datum, 28 Flag Day, 30 Knight's address, 33 Fitting rhyme for "spa", 34 Walking sticks, 35 Jargon suffix, 36 - chi. 37 Baby carriage (down), 38 Pack (down), 39 Cagers' gp., 41 Japanese noodles, 43 Laud, 46 Mob scenes, 50 A deadly sin, 51 Great Barrier Reef, 54 Peter Fonda role, 55 Hit hard, 56 "Frozen" snowman, 57 Equipment. 58 Coffee vessel, 59 Apple variety, DOWN 1 End-of-week letters, 2 Tortoise's opponent, 3 "Amores" poet, 4 Outcome, 5 NFL six-pointers, 6 Golfer Trevino, 7 Chowder morsel, 8 - firma, 9 Odessa's shoreline, 10 Venue, 11 Rind, 16 Some printers, 20 Pro votes, 22 Slightly open, 23 Albacore and yellowfin, 25 - Tuesday, 26 Motorist's org., 27 Arm of the Pacific, 29 Jules Verne captain, 31 Doctrine, 32 Workout unit, 34 Book-keepers (Abbr.), 38 Alterations pro, 40 Vampire, by nature, 42 Bikini top, 43 Advertise, 44 Hold sway, 45 Beige, 47 Norway's capital, 48 Squad, 49 Ump's call, 52 Crew tool, 53 LBJ's successor

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Yesterday's answer 2-9



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Ends ...

Continued from page 8
Burris senior Jocelyn Mercier, who was the champion at the Jay County sectional, just missed a state berth by placing ninth.

The regional meet finished a season in which Snow became the first Patriot diver since the 2015-16 season to join the 200-point club for six dives, scoring 204.3 Jan. 27 against Marion.

Jay takes fourth

OSSIAN — Jay County Junior High School's girls swim team finished fourth Tuesday as it opened its season at the Norwell Invitational.

The host Knights scored 337 points to win the title. Jay County finished with 170 points, three behind third-place Bluffton.

Maisey Keller had the best individual finish for the Patriots, placing second in the 100-yard freestyle. She was also sixth in the 50 freestyle.

Lauren Fisher ended third in both the 50 butterfly and 100 breaststroke, while Avery Wentz was fourth in the 100 backstroke and fifth in the 400 freestyle.

Also placing in the top eight individually were Sophia Hoevel (fifth - 100 IM), Kaitlyn Fisher (seventh - 200 freestyle) and Ariel Beiswanger (seventh - 50 free).

Lauren Fisher, Wentz, Hoevel and Keller teamed to take second in the 300 freestyle relay.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Maddy Snow of Jay County High School reaches for the water during the diving competition at the Allen County Athletic Conference Championships on Jan. 21 at JCHS. The freshman closed her season Tuesday with a 19th-place finish at the diving regional at Homestead.

Breaks ...

Continued from page 8
"That brought (us) energy," said Gann. "You could feel it."

"It gave us control because it gave us room. ... It gave us enough room so that if we made some mistakes down the road, which we did ... then it was OK."

In a contest in which points were difficult to come by, the five-point lead proved to be enough. The Indians stayed up by at least three the rest of the way, and Mara Pearson locked up the win with her pair of free throws with 9.5 seconds left.

FRHS dominated the glass, grabbed 19 offensive rebounds and holding a 34-19 advantage overall. Muhlenkamp led that effort with 10 boards while also scoring a team-best 11 points. Rammel followed with eight points and eight rebounds, Pearson had seven points and senior Grace Guggenbiller added four points.

While busting the Bulldog zone, Fort Recovery increased the on-ball pressure with its man-to-man defense. It forced 10 second-half turnovers and limited Celina to just eight points on 3-of-12 shooting over the final 16 minutes.

"The pressure in the half-court is what took us out of what we wanted to do," said CHS coach

Branden Rushton, who got 11 points, six rebounds and two assists from junior Taylor Klingshirn. "We weren't able to get the shots we wanted. And that's been a theme on the year. We're getting better at it every day, but it's probably the area we need to grow most."

Fort Recovery now has more than a week off before opening tournament play at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 17 against Waynesfield-Goshen at Spencerville. If the Indians win they would play the winner of an opening-round game between Minster and Mt. Victory Ridgemoor in the sectional championship at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19.

Junior varsity

Fort Recovery owned the third quarter and stayed strong in the fourth for a 37-26 victory over the Bulldogs.

After the game was tied through one period, the Indians (9-5) pushed to a three-point lead at half-time. They then outscored Celina 14-4 in the third quarter and kept the advantage in the fourth.

Amalia Gimenez Martin led FRHS with 10 points. Saige Leuthold and Karlie Niekamp each had six.

Celina got eight points from Kate Braun. Kenlee Holstad and Alex Kimmel added six points apiece.

Box score

Fort Recovery Indians vs. Celina Bulldogs

Girls varsity summary

Celina (4-14)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Holstad	1-1	0-0	2
Klingshirn	3-7	4-5	11
Dirksen	1-1	0-0	2
Burns	1-3	1-3	4
Bertke	0-3	1-3	1
Lutz	2-4	0-0	4
Billingsley	2-8	0-0	4
Knapke	0-2	0-0	0
Totals	10-29	6-11	28
	.345	.545	
Def. rebound percentage: .387			

Fort Recovery (5-16)

	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Niekamp	1-7	0-0	2
Guggenbiller	2-6	0-0	4
CWendel	1-7	0-0	3
AWendel	0-0	0-0	0
Muhlnkamp	4-9	3-4	11
Pearson	2-8	3-4	7
Rammel	3-7	2-2	8
Totals	13-44	8-10	35
	.295	.800	
Def. rebound percentage: .681			

Score by quarters:
Celina 11 9 4 4 — 28
Fort Rec. 7 7 12 9 — 35

3-point shooting: Celina 2-10 (Klingshirn 1-2, Burns 1-3, Billingsley 0-4, Lutz 0-1). Fort Recovery 1-8 (CWendel 1-4, Muhlenkamp 0-2, Guggenbiller 0-1, Rammel 0-1).

Rebounds: Celina 19 (Klingshirn 7, Dirksen 3, Burns 2, Bertke 2, Knapke 2, Holstad, Billingsley, team). Fort Recovery 34 (Muhlenkamp 10, Rammel 8, CWendel 5, Pearson 5, Niekamp 3, Guggenbiller, AWendel, team).

Assists: Celina 5 (Klingshirn 2, Burns 2, Bertke). Fort Recovery 3 (Muhlenkamp 2, Guggenbiller).

Blocks: Celina 0. Fort Recovery 1 (Pearson).

Personal fouls: Celina 13 (Klingshirn 4, Bertke 3, Dirksen 2, Burns 2, Billingsley 2). Fort Recovery 17 (Guggenbiller 4, Pearson 4, Rammel 4, Niekamp 2, AWendel 2, Muhlenkamp).

Turnovers: Celina 15. Fort Recovery 14.

Patriots keep winning

WINCHESTER — Jay County's junior high wrestling team won its fourth consecutive dual on Tuesday, topping host Driver 76-24.

Hayden Richman (102

pounds), Rhysin Blowers (195), Joaquin Johnson (220) and Alan Ortiz (275) each won their respective matches by pin. Leighton Brown picked up a 13-3 major decision win at 150

Byrum, Jayden Lee, Syllas Wenk, Gavin Thomas, Gabe Ardizzone, Jacob Robinson, Cole Carpenter and Garrett Bennett all received forfeits.

The Patriots improved to 9-2.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Thursday
Jay County — Junior high boys swimming at Norwell Invitational — 5 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Girls swimming state finals preliminaries at IU Natatorium — 6 p.m.; Boys basketball tripeheader vs. Heritage — 6:15 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. Versailles — 6 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Ohio State at Rutgers (BTN); Xavier at Seton Hall (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Chicago Bulls at Charlotte Hornets (ESPN)
p.m. — Men's college basketball: Georgetown at DePaul (FS1); Minnesota at Nebraska (ESPN2/BTN)
9:30 p.m. — 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics: Alpine combined (NBC)
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Golden

State Warriors at Utah Jazz (ESPN)

Local notes

Tickets on sale
Pre-sale tickets for Friday's Home game with Versailles and Saturday's home game with Newton will be on sale Thursday in the high school office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday's ticket sales will be in the high school office from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pre-sale ticket prices are \$7 for students and adults. All tickets at the gate will be \$8.

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OF: NEIL A. KEGERRREIS
(Deceased)
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Dated this 12th day of January, 2022.
Jon Eads
CLERK OF THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
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Sports

FR breaks zone, pulls away

Tribe starts slow against Celina defense, overtakes 'Dogs late for victory on senior night

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review
FORT RECOVERY — Celina was able to do exactly what they wanted to with its zone defense.

It collapsed on the high post, kept the ball out of the middle and held the home team without a field goal for more than six minutes. But the Indians were able to adjust.

Fort Recovery High School's girls basketball team pulled the Bulldogs out of their zone, turned up their own defensive pressure and got a key 3-pointer in the fourth quarter as it bounced back from the slow start for a 35-28 senior night victory Tuesday at Fort Site Fieldhouse.

"It's just nice to come out of here with a win again," said FRHS coach Holly Gann, whose team closed the regular season at 5-16. "It's nice to see that this journey that we talk about and how this is

a long path and there's going to be mistakes in a game, and highs and lows in a game, really panned out in a game like this. It's easy to get down and get worried ... But not once did I feel this girls were getting antsy about it. They were calm, cool and collected and just they just kept grinding ..."

The Indians trailed for the entirety of the first half before finally finding a way to break the Celina zone in the second. Three times in the third quarter they floated lobs from the wing over the zone to a back-door cutter, including a Kennedy Muhlenkamp pass to senior Whitley Rammel for the game-tying hoop with 3:20 on the clock.

After more than three scoreless minutes, Karlie Niekamp put FRHS ahead for good with a short jumper in the waning moments of the period.

The teams traded fouls and turnovers for the first three minutes of the final period before Cali Wendel took a pass from Muhlenkamp on the right wing and buried her team's only 3-pointer of the game.

See **Breaks** page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fort Recovery High School senior Grace Guggenbiller puts up a shot during the first quarter of the Indians' 35-28 victory Tuesday over the visiting Celina Bulldogs. FRHS finished the regular season at 5-16 and will play Waynesfield-Goshen in the opening round of the sectional tournament at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at Spencerville.

Snow's diving season ends

Patriot freshman places 19th at regional

FORT WAYNE — Maddy Snow's diving campaign came to a close Tuesday.

The Jay County High School freshman capped her year with a 19th-place finish at the regional diving meet at Homestead.

Snow totaled 178.05 points through her first five dives, which was not enough to advance to the semifinals.

Local roundup She finished ahead of Norwell's Emerson Meredith (174.95), whom she had also beat at Saturday's sectional meet at JCHS.

Snider freshman Amelia Rinehart ran away with the regional title with 495.15 points for 11 dives, outdistancing runner-up Hannah Justice of Hamilton Southeastern by more than 90 points. Others finishing in the top eight and making the state finals were Gretchen Osmun of Fishers, Hannah Brown and Allison Sullivan of Homestead, Ellie Lee of Westfield, Ella Penny of Hamilton Southeastern and Melaina Munson of Carmel.

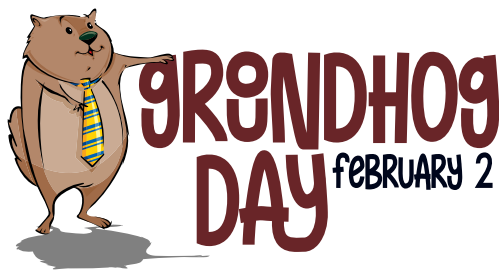
See **Ends** page 7

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