

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Council approves sewer increases

*Residents will see bills go up in January and April*

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

In six weeks, sewer rates will go up.

Three months later, they'll go up again.

Portland City Council on Monday gave its final approval to the two-tiered sewer rate increase from which funds will be used for upgrades at the city's wastewater treatment plant.

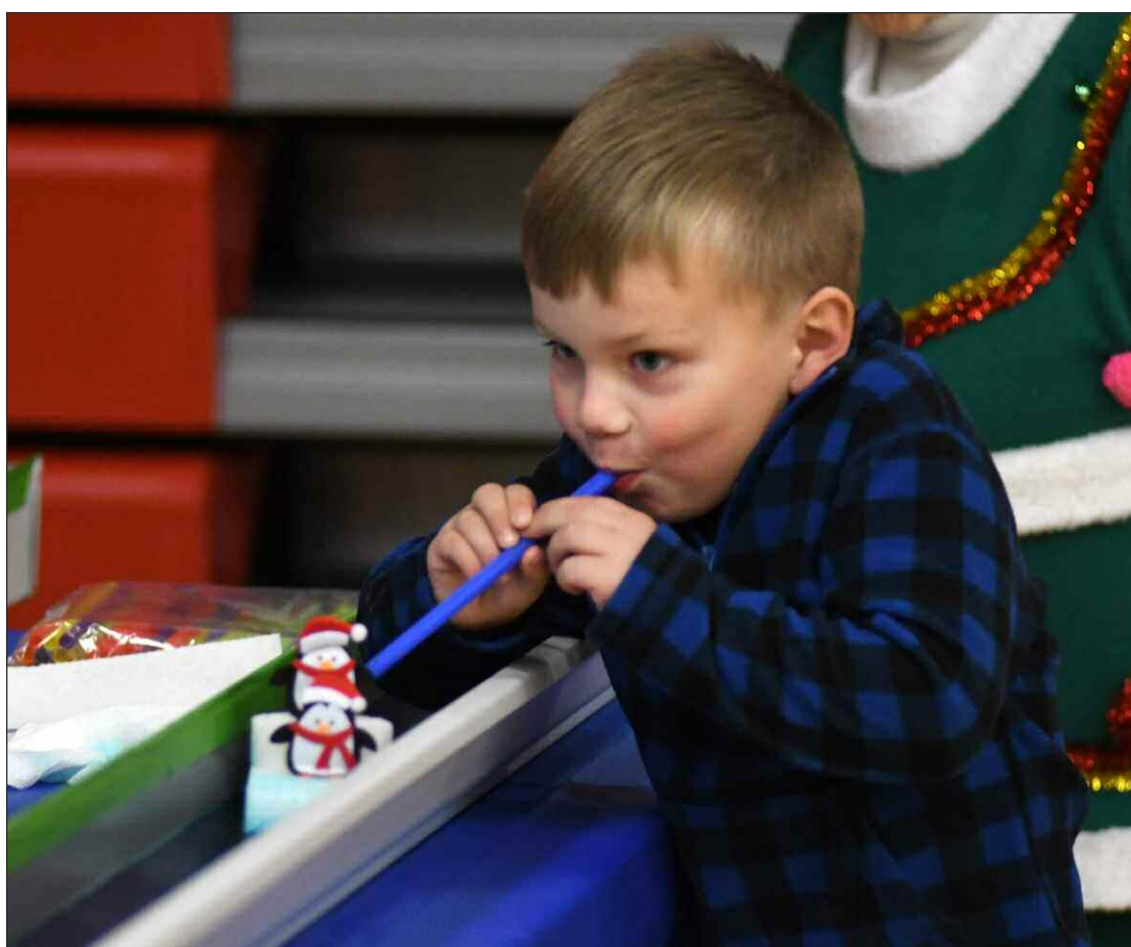
The potential rate hikes have been discussed since August, when consulting firm Baker Tilly of Indianapolis presented council with a sewer rate study. It indicated that increases would be needed to pay for planned wastewater plant upgrades that are required through the city's agreed order with Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

That project includes a new raw pump station, equalizing basin and other changes at an estimated cost of \$10.8 million. (The funding will be provided via bonds through the State Revolving Loan Fund with the money from the rate increases going to repay those bonds.)

See **Increases** page 2

## Festive weekend

Winterfest activities got into full swing Saturday with the Little Miss Winterfest Pageant, Kids Karnival and Breakfast and Parade of Lights. Pictured above, Kenzlea Bentz answers an impromptu question during the pageant at Fellowship Baptist Church. At right, 5-year-old Jackson Abels focuses while blowing through a straw to make his penguins go during a race as part of the karnival.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Finances are still strong despite challenges

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

**FORT RECOVERY** — Lingering effects from the COVID-19 pandemic and inflation are still impacting the school's financial future.

But exactly what impact those factors will have is still unknown.

Fort Recovery School Board reviewed its five-year financial forecast Monday.

Treasurer Deanna Knapke noted inflation hit a 40-year high of 9.1% in June before falling to 8.3% in August.

"There are areas impacted by COVID, such as fuel for the buses and our utilities, materials for the building, supplies," she said. "And it remains to be seen if this inflation, how it will affect the forecast in the future."

Fort Recovery Local Schools finished fiscal year 2022, which ended June 30, with a budget surplus of \$613,632. Its year-end cash balance before encumbrances came to more than \$8 million.

The district is expected to finish the current fiscal year with a budget surplus of more than \$839,000, making its year-end cash balance just shy of \$8.9 million.

Following its pattern of budget surpluses in recent years, the school is expected to have a surplus around \$300,000 in fiscal year 2024 and more than \$156,000 in fiscal year 2025.

See **Finances** page 5

## Plans for Butler Street in limbo

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

**FORT RECOVERY** — Plans for a reconstruction project are up in the air.

Fort Recovery Village Council on Monday discussed its options moving forward with the reconstruction of Butler Street (Ohio 119), which was anticipated to begin in 2024.

Village administrator Randy Diller explained he and mayor Dave Kaup met with Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) officials last week.

Earlier this month, Diller noted at a council meeting the village and ODOT have been back and forth on their right-of-way approach for the project.

### ODOT regulations would require the village to obtain easements

ODOT recently told the village it needs to have a right-of-way plan following specific guidelines, which in total would tack several hundred thousand dollars onto the project.

Inflation has also impacted the projected construction costs, jumping from \$3.1 million to about \$4.6 million.

Reconstruction of Butler Street would include putting in a new water line, sidewalks, curbs and street, as well as replacing the traffic light at Wayne Street.

Diller explained this morning in order to meet requirements for ODOT grants, road construction projects need to stay 4 feet off the right-of-way

with adjoining land owners. (The village was awarded more than \$1 million for the project through ODOT's Transportation Alternatives Program.) If construction passes the 4-foot limit, the village would need to acquire temporary right-of-way easements. Diller said current plans will not cross that threshold but ODOT is still requiring them to get the easements.

He noted Monday one official had previously said they could not acquire the easements and instead include right-of-way specifics in the first phase plan, which has been already submitted.

See **Limbo** page 2

### Deaths

**Janet McCollum**, 62, Bluffton  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 50 degrees Monday. The low was 27 early in the day.

Tonight's low will be 30. Expect sunny skies Wednesday with the high climbing into the mid 50s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Jay County Republicans will hold a caucus at 7 p.m. Dec. 12 at The ROCK Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland, to fill the seat of Jay County council member Ray Newton. (Newton is resigning from the seat after his election as sheriff.) Those interested in applying must file at least 72 hours prior to the caucus.

### Coming up

**Wednesday** — Our annual Thanksgiving issue will feature the JCHS wrestling and boys basketball preview.

**Friday** — Photos from the Community Thanksgiving Dinner.



Limbo ...

Continued from page 1
'As I told their attorney, you know, the way I look at this is that at a minimum, we were misinformed. At worst, we were misled,' said Diller, referring to his meeting with officials last week.
In order to get the easements, the village would need to pursue the acquisition of 53 parcels for temporary right-of-way access, Diller explained, meaning the village would need to hire a consultant to meet with property owners and negotiate a price. Fort Recovery would spend between \$5,000 to \$7,000 per parcel for the work, with local property owners on average receiving \$300 out of that amount.
Diller noted ODOT officials will

not budge on the matter. The village's options, he said, are to either drop the grant, secure more funds or adjust the scope of its project in order to meet grant guidelines. (If the village decreases the amount of road reconstruction, ODOT will likely also decrease the dollar amount from its grant, noted Mitch Thobe of Choice One Engineering.)
The project needs to be started — defined by at least having opened bids and selected a contractor — by July 2024, per ODOT guidelines. The process for acquiring easements takes about 18 months, pointed out Thobe. He advised council to make a decision within one month.
Council discussed cutting the

extent of the project along Butler Street but made no decisions. Diller said he would speak with ODOT on the matter.
Also Monday, council approved a first reading of two amended ordinances to adopt new rates and fees for the water, wastewater and stormwater systems.
Base rates will rise slowly, with the village implementing a \$3 increase in 2023, a \$2 increase in 2025 and a \$2.50 increase in 2027. Other changes will include raising the tap fee to \$500 from the current \$450, raising the sewer improvement fee from \$2 from the current \$1.50, eliminating the discounted rate for using more than 50,000 gallons per month, increasing the sewer rate by

about a dollar and introducing an industrial rate for sewage from industrial facilities, charging about \$4 per thousand gallons.
Village council will review the ordinances for a second and third reading in future meetings. They will take effect in January.
Council also approved its 2023 wage ordinance on a first reading. Per the ordinance, all village employees will be receiving about 6% raises next year.
Also, council members Greg Schmitz, Scott Pearson, Al Post, Luke Knapke, Erik Fiely and Cliff Wendel agreed to pay \$103,883 to M&T Evacuating for completing reconstruction of Milligan Street. The total cost came in about \$5,700 less than anticipated.

Obituaries

Janet K. McCollum, Bluffton, a former Geneva resident, Nov. 10, 1960-Nov. 17, 2022. Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home in Geneva.

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

Table with 5 columns: Wednesday 11/22, Thursday 11/23, Friday 11/24, Saturday 11/25, Sunday 11/26. Includes weather icons and temperature forecasts (e.g., 56/32, 51/33).

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 1-6-40-51-67 Powerball: 2 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$30 million
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$259 million
Hoosier Monday MIDDAY Daily Three: 6-5-7 Daily Four: 9-7-2-6 Quick Draw: 4-5-6-18-21-27-30-32-34-39-40-43-46-50-54-63-71-77-78-79 Evening Daily Three: 1-7-1 Daily Four: 9-9-1-9 Quick Draw: 1-10-12-18-23-26-28-38-41-50-55-56-59-60-63-65-67-70-71-74 Cash 5: 12-19-31-40-41 Estimated jackpot: \$243,000
Ohio Monday MIDDAY Pick 3: 0-1-9 Pick 4: 3-5-5-2 Pick 5: 5-5-3-4-9 Evening Pick 3: 9-1-6 Pick 4: 5-0-5-6 Pick 5: 0-4-0-7-2 Rolling Cash 5: 1-9-15-32-38 Estimated jackpot: \$481,000 Classic Lotto: 3-20-29-40-48-49 Kicker: 9-3-2-8-7-7 Jackpot: \$1.7 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.76 Dec. corn.....6.77 Wheat .....6.44
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.80 Dec. corn.....6.80 Jan. corn.....6.69
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.59 Dec. corn.....6.64 Beans .....14.25 Dec. beans .....14.25
Wheat ..... 7.54 Dec. wheat ..... 7.54
Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.49 Jan. corn .....6.54 Beans .....14.19 Jan. beans .....14.21 July wheat.....7.99
Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....6.18 Dec. corn .....6.28 Beans .....14.04 Dec. beans .....14.07 Wheat .....7.53

Today in history

In 1718, Blackbeard was killed off the North Carolina coast. The pirate who was born Edward Teach captained the Queen Anne's Revenge, sailing the ship to the Caribbean and capturing multiple others before scuttling it and moving to a smaller boat.
In 1963, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated as he was shot while riding in a motorcade in Dallas. He was 46 years old and had served less than three years in office.
In 1972, Portland City Council agreed to move forward with the process of seeking a \$120,000 bond for the purchase of a new firetruck and other improvements, including \$30,000 in upgrades to the fire station to house the new truck.
In 1975, Juan Carlos became king of Spain. Francisco Franco had died two days earlier.
In 2021, Dunkirk City Council approved a contract with Kenna Consulting of Greenwood for assistance with seeking a \$600,000 Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs grant to create two detention basins on the east side of the city. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 2:15 p.m. — Jay County Personnel Committee, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
Wednesday 2 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Increases ...

Continued from page 1
Council had approved the ordinance for the rate increase on first reading on Nov. 7, with an increase of \$7.44 per month on Jan. 1 to be followed by an increase of \$8.47 on April 1. The total \$15.91 increase comes out to 34.5%. It will take the average 4,000-gallon-per-month user to a \$61.57 monthly charge.

There was no additional discussion about the project or the rate increases prior to council members Kent McClung, Janet Powers, Don Gillespie, Matt Goldsworthy, Mike Aker, Michele Brewster and Dave Golden approving the ordinance on second and final reading.
Local residents Jenny Bricker and Jennifer Hartley also addressed council about the pending removal of the steel truss bridge on Water Street (Indiana 26) over the Salamonie River on the east side of the city. Indiana Department of Transportation is scheduled to remove the bridge and construct a new one in 2023.
Bricker told council she gathered more than 1,200 signatures on a petition online and in person in an effort to save the bridge, saying residents see it as a landmark and source of pride.

'We feel INDOT at least owes our citizens the opportunity to make our voices heard,' said Bricker. 'Though we realize contracts have been signed, we just wonder why we can't at least ask for a meeting with INDOT and Milestone (Contractors) and our state rep to have a heart-to-heart discussion about what this bridge means to our community and to see if we can work together to find a solution.'
Hartley and Bricker both indicated that while there were public

Residents share effort to save Water Street bridge

notices published regarding the bridge, there was not a public notice regarding the time and date of a public hearing on the issue of its replacement. Hartley noted that several of the notices that were published came around the start of coronavirus shutdowns in 2020.

'It's pretty easy to see how that got missed,' she said. 'There was just too much attention on an international crisis to be focused on a bridge. It just falls under the radar.'

They asked for support from council members on the issue.

Boggs advised Bricker to send a copy of the petition to INDOT, but also said state officials have told him the project planning is already in the rearview mirror.

Council also heard a request from Priority Plastics for a tax abatement on a \$1.2 million project to install a new chilled water system at its facility. It is eligible for a three-year abatement that would save the company \$29,960 in taxes. (Over a 10-year period, the project is expected to generate about \$96,000 in additional tax revenue for the city while also reducing water consumption.) Council referred the request to the city's tax abatement advisory committee.
In other business:
•Council approved the following:
•Boggs noted that there will be a

change to the city's COVID-19 policy for 2023. Currently, employees get five days of paid leave if they are diagnosed with COVID-19. Beginning Jan. 1, that paid leave would only be available if a public health emergency is declared. Otherwise, COVID-19 will be treated like any other illness, with vacation or sick time used to cover days off.

Golden asked about health insurance premiums for the coming year. Clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips said she is awaiting more information.

The mayor noted the start of Jay County Chamber of Commerce's Winterfest activities over the weekend and encouraged local residents to attend upcoming events including a visit with Santa in the Santa House on Main Street from 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 2, home tours Dec. 4 and Winterfest at the Fairgrounds on Dec. 11. He also noted Cruis'n the HoliJay Lights at the Fairgrounds, which is now open from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

Powers asked about any updates regarding The Greazy Pickle in regard to the potential demolition of the adjacent Bailey Building. Boggs said there were no updates.

Golden thanked city employees for putting up Christmas decorations in the downtown area.

Committee chairs reflective of changes

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com
The new Senate committee chair assignments for the upcoming legislative session include seven new committee chairs in 2023,

and reflect a bit of a shakeup after the Senate Republican caucus fractured during a special legislative session on abortion earlier this year.

'I've long believed that some of the most important work in the legislature happens at the committee level,' said Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray, R-Martinsville. 'We have a group of very talented committee chairs set for the upcoming session, and I look forward to working with these talented members as they help craft good policy for the people of Indiana.'

One previous change — Sen. Aaron Freeman's appointment as the chair of the Corrections and Criminal Law committee — was announced in October.

See Changes page 5

SERVICES
Wednesday
McCollum, Janet: 1 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.
Service listings provided by PROGRESSIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS 120 N. Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201 progressiveofficeproducts.com

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# Be thankful for holiday

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

There is much to be thankful for this year. Personally, I am grateful that we live in a place where snowfall is measured in inches and not feet. The pictures from western New York are stunning. They got over 6 feet of snow recently. I can't even imagine what it would be like to wake up to that much snow.

They are expecting even more snow to fall before it is over. The snowstorm in western New York state has closed roads, banned traveling and canceled plane flights.

I can't imagine how the homeless community keeps itself alive under those conditions. Plus, with that kind of snowfall there have got to be frozen pipes and furnaces that think this is the perfect time for them to die.

On the other hand, a snow covered world is quiet and peaceful. There are no vehicles out and about that are trying to share their obnoxious music with the world. There are no cars and trucks that rattle our windows.

I do wonder how bad things will be when all that snow begins to melt. The rule of thumb is that 10 to 12 inches of snow will melt down to an inch

## As I See It



of water, depending on which chart you consult. So, it might not be as bad as I imagine.

Meanwhile, in my part of the woods, there are lingering blobs of white clutching the few plants that haven't succumbed to the low temperatures. It is supposed to get above freezing later this week. I expect that will take care of any lingering snow until the next time.

The holiday known as Thanksgiving, or the day before an all out shopping spree, is fast approaching. The grocery store was packed with carts trying not to run into each other and failing to maintain social distancing. It is by a sheer miracle that I didn't crash into anyone else.

We have already bought the car a present. It demanded a new battery and refused to move until it got one. The helpful people at the car service place came down and coaxed the car to go

down to the shop where it received a spa treatment to make sure nothing else was wrong. It happily navigated the streets on the way to and from the grocery store later the next day.

I don't know if it was part of the service or not but when we went to the store and back and the radio did not play "Layla." It had become a game. Almost every time we went anywhere the radio played "Layla" sung by Eric Clapton. Usually they played both the acoustic version and the hard rock version. We listen to two different stations and one or the other would play the song.

Thanksgiving may come once every year but there is much to be thankful for all year long. Sometimes we are blessed with an abundance of things to be thankful for. Other years it seems that the only thing to be thankful for is that you made it through another day.

No matter what you are thankful for, I am thankful for you who read these words. I hope they let you know that you are not alone and that somewhere there is a car radio playing "Layla."

# Know food rules if going on flights

By AMANDA YEAGER

The Baltimore Sun  
Tribune News Service

Thanksgiving travelers getting ready for another round of holiday flights may find themselves wondering: can you stow any part of the upcoming feast into a suitcase?

There are plenty of foods you can bring through the security checkpoint, according to the Transportation Security Administration, or TSA.

When in doubt, the agency has a handy rule of thumb for travelers. Ask yourself: can I spill it, spread it, pump it or pour it? If so, it goes into a checked bag (hopefully in sturdy spill-proof packaging). The rule applies to Thanksgiving staples like cranberry sauce, gravy and canned green beans. Liquids in containers that measure 3.4 ounces or less are allowed, though, so you can still pack a few of those mini liquor bottles into your carry-on if you

need some extra help making it through awkward Thanksgiving dinner political debates with the in-laws.

If the food is solid, it can also go into a carry-on tote. That means you can, indeed, stuff a turkey — fresh or frozen — into the overhead compartment. Pies, stuffing, macaroni and cheese and fresh fruits and vegetables can all head through security and onto the plane.

One important consideration when dealing with meats and other perishable foods, of course, is refrigeration. With 4.5 million Americans planning to take a flight this Thanksgiving, according to AAA, there's bound to be a wait at the security checkpoint. Plan ahead by packing anything that could spoil into a bag with an ice pack. The TSA allows those, as long as they are frozen while passing through security.

# Relationship becomes nightmare

DEAR ABBY: I am in a relationship I can't get out of. I was told by my "boyfriend" that what he's doing is normal. He says it's what people who love each other do, and he loves me more than anyone has ever loved me. I have told him repeatedly that I don't love him.

He drives by my house and follows me to work. He has also watched to make sure I'm going where I said, like to the gym and the store. He tells me that every man wants to have sex with me, and that I dress too sexy (I mostly wear leggings and tank tops). He has monitored Zoom meetings that I go to.

All of the watching and following is without my permission or knowledge. He usually tells me about it later, saying he only does it "out of love." This has been going on for a few years. Why do I put up with it? I have tried to break up. It started after a few months together. But he guilted me into staying, saying he'd be all alone. Or he'd kill himself. Then I found out he filmed us having sex a few times, and he's threatening that if I don't stay, people will see it.

Please tell me what to do. I have no self-esteem left, and yes, I feel like the slut that I am made out to be. I'm not

## Dear Abby



sure what you can do to help me. I have no one to talk to. — ANONYMOUS PRISONER

DEAR PRISONER: This person doesn't "love" you. Your boyfriend is an abuser, a stalker and an extortionist. You are right that you need someone to talk to. Actually, I can think of more than one. Pick up the phone and call 800-799-7233. It's the toll-free number of the National Domestic Violence Hotline. A counselor there will be happy to offer suggestions on how to deal with your abuser. During the conversation, ask whether his threat to make the sex tape public should be reported to the police. (I think it SHOULD be.)

P.S. And PLEASE stop feeling guilty. If you are worried that he might kill himself if you end the relationship, don't be. He has no intention of following through.

DEAR ABBY: Our son died suddenly a month ago. It was a terrible shock. That same day, his mother (my wife) announced, "We are done!" as a couple. We've been married 41 years, but our relationship has always been rocky. She hasn't spoken to me since then. I have two areas of deep grief and no one to talk with to share the agony of losing a son and a marriage simultaneously. Family members and close friends have been sympathetic, but most don't know what to say. Any advice would be welcomed. — MOURNING IN TENNESSEE

DEAR MOURNING: Please accept my deepest sympathy for the death of your son. Because you have no one to confide in, it's important you start talking with a grief counselor about the double loss you have experienced. It will take time to work through the sadness you are feeling in the aftermath of your son's passing. While no one can blame you for your anger at your wife for her poor timing, once your sadness lessens, you may realize how fortunate you are to finally be freed from a 41-year unhappy marriage.

# Community Calendar

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

## Today

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.

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

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. Includes activities and devotional time.

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

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

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth

Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

STRESS AND ANXIETY CLASS — Meets each Wednesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland.

**The Pregnancy Care Center of Jay County, a Christian, pro-life ministry is seeking an Executive Director.**

Strong communication, leadership, and people skills is a must. Candidate should be comfortable working with women regarding reproductive issues, also dealing with crisis and personal situations that may include domestic violence. Duties include managing volunteer and paid staff, overseeing budget, fund raising and public relations. It is preferred that candidates should possess 3-year management/supervisory experience.

The Pregnancy Care Center is a 501 (c)3non-profit. Application packets are available for pick up Monday - Friday between the hours of 1-5pm. Applications and Resume should be returned by December 12th. Stop by the Pregnancy Care Center of Jay County located in downtown Portland Indiana at 216 South Meridian Street.

**Questions - phone 260-726-8636**

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# Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

## Saturday's Solution

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

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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# Competition is key for healthcare

News and Tribune  
(Jeffersonville & New Albany)

Indiana patients are paying more for medical care than their midwestern neighbors, according to researchers with the University of California-Berkley.

According to detailed coverage by the Indiana Capital Chronicle of an October joint meeting of interim study committees, Cal-Berkley researchers found Hoosiers endured an increase of 48% per capita for healthcare spending from 2011 to 2020. Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin saw an increase of 35% over that same period.

While some physicians and the Indiana Hospital Association questioned the findings and the reasons for the higher costs, there's no denying that Hoosiers

## Guest Editorial

are paying more for medical care.

The study commissioned by the Indiana General Assembly in 2021 found that the state's top three insurers hold almost 68% of the market share, with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Indiana controlling almost 45% by itself.

Likewise, researchers found large hospital systems dominating most of the Indiana market.

"The healthcare sector in Indiana is a microcosm of the health-

care system in the United States, consisting of dominant health insurers and a delivery system that has evolved into a patchwork of hospital systems that have grown in size and geographic scope via mergers and acquisitions, including vertical acquisitions of physician organizations," researchers wrote.

The study can be viewed online at [iga.in.gov](http://iga.in.gov). For those of us who don't speak market restructuring, vertical acquisitions, or vertical integration, is a fancy way to define controlling multiple facets of production and sales.

Streaming services are an example of vertical integration. Netflix is no longer a conduit between filmmaker and viewer. Instead, Netflix produces its own

shows and movies. There was a time when a customer may have purchased a Netflix subscription to watch a movie they could have rented elsewhere. Much of the programming is now produced by the company, and thus a customer has to pay for a subscription to view it.

While such a strategy makes sense for profitability, it can be problematic for public health. If a healthcare system owns the hospital as well as most of the physicians' offices and pharmacies and a large insurance company dominates the same market, competition goes out the window, and costs are hard to control.

Healthcare isn't a sector where profit should be the dominating factor. A person shouldn't be

forced to choose between going to the doctor and buying groceries, or between filling a prescriptions and paying the electric bill.

As such as GOP candidates touted taming inflation in the recent election, Indiana's Republican supermajority should make a priority of addressing this problem when the Legislature convenes in January.

As the Cal-Berkley researchers noted in their findings, Indiana isn't the only state facing these issues, but other states have acted by establishing review processes for healthcare mergers and acquisitions.

Indiana should follow their lead. Competition is healthy for a free market, and manageable medical prices are paramount for a healthy Indiana.

## Republicans can't move on from Trump

By JOSH GOHLKE  
The Sacramento Bee  
Tribune News Service

Now that Donald Trump has authored Republicans' third national electoral rebuke in four years, the party that collectively surrendered to his dangerous buffoonery has devised an equally brilliant strategy for emerging from its resulting marginalization: They're simply going to "move on."

"Republicans are ready to move on without Donald Trump," said a Fox News column declaring the resoundingly reelected governor of Florida, Ron DeSantis, "the new Republican Party leader." Virginia Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears, who campaigned for Trump in 2020, warned that "a true leader understands when they have become a liability." And Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, a member of the party's vestigial rational wing, told CNN that the midterm election was Trump's third strike and he was therefore out.

But politics ain't baseball any more than it's beanbag. Republican elites planning to "move on" to a glimmering post-Trump future should ask Atlantic City and Mike Pence how that turned out.

For all the party's fond hopes of declaring the end of a disastrous era by op-ed or executive order, it has yet to secure the cooperation of at least one prominent Republican: Donald Trump.

A week after the election embarrassment was widely pinned on him, Trump showed precisely how much respect he had for his fellow partisans' determination to leave him behind by traipsing into the political wreckage to announce his next presidential campaign. Underscoring the sense of shamelessness, the announcement coincided with the publication of a memoir by Pence, the vice president threatened with hanging at the hands of Trump's supporters, and took place at Mar-a-Lago, the Florida compound where he could be federally charged with hoarding classified documents.

All the party's talk of page-turning fails to account for Trump's invariable refusal to accept responsibility for any defeat or disgrace. It also ignores countless previous paroxysms of futile Republican exasperation with him, beginning with his original hostile takeover of the party in 2016. Trump's outright ownership of the GOP never had anything to do with the preferences of

Josh Gohlke



its ostensible intelligentsia, and it doesn't have anything to do with them now.

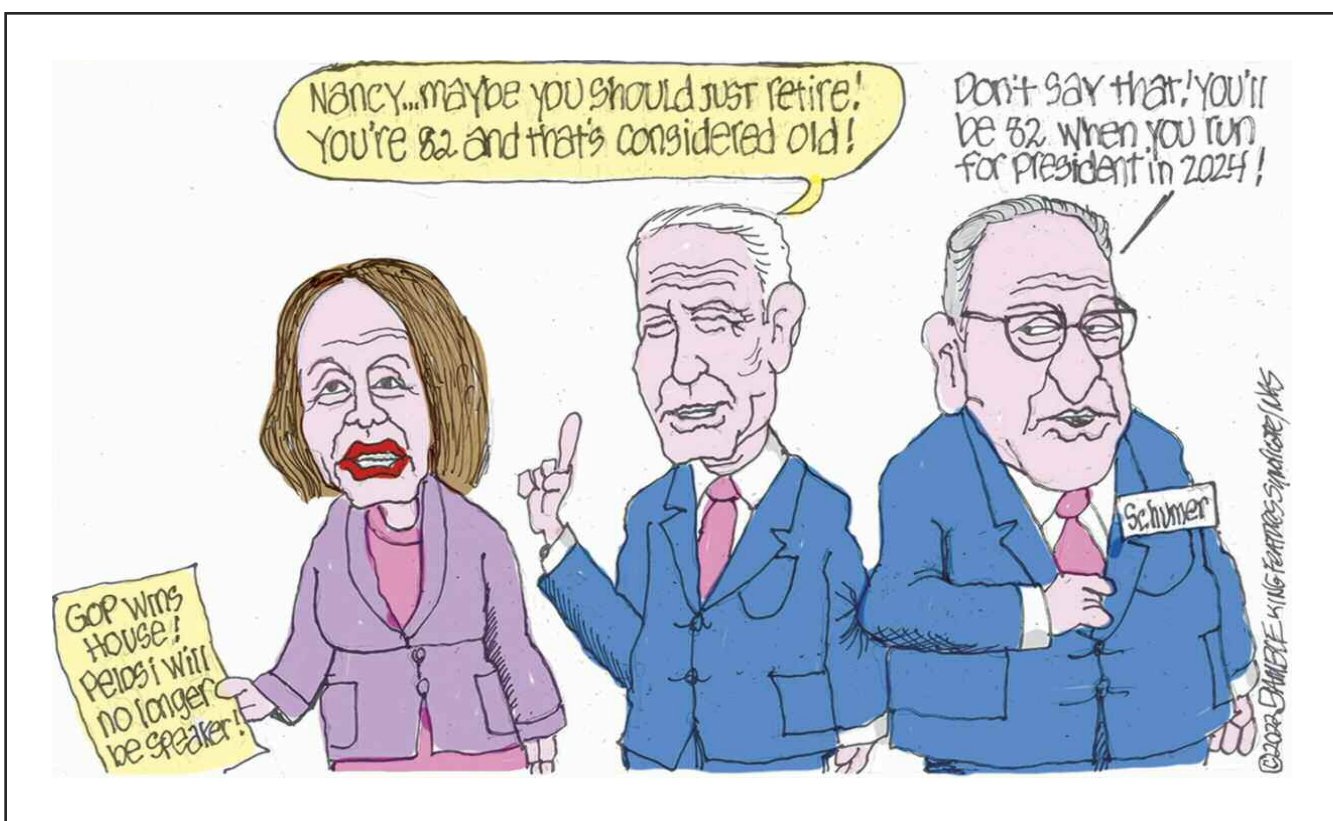
In an attempt to suggest otherwise, the anti-tax Club for Growth released a polling memo this week purporting to show that likely Republican voters in early-voting Iowa and New Hampshire prefer DeSantis to Trump. Other surveys showed DeSantis surging after his strong showing last week, but they also underscored the persistence of Trump's base. A recent YouGov poll put the ex-president and the Florida governor in a statistical tie among Republicans nationwide, while a Politico-MorningConsult poll showed Trump maintaining a lead among registered Republicans.

Besides being in the shadow of the midterm results and over a year ahead of any presidential voting, the polls put DeSantis in the sort of head-to-head matchup with Trump that he is unlikely to enjoy. They also uniformly show that Trump still has the level of Republican support that propelled him past a fractured field six years ago.

Sure, DeSantis had a good election night. But he is also a petulant bigot with a penchant for bullying the vulnerable and presiding over mass fatalities — a brand Trump seems to have mastered with considerably more charisma and showmanship. Moreover, DeSantis went into the election as a Republican incumbent in a state that has been drifting right for years and, overrun as it is by alligators and theme parks, isn't a lot like the rest of the country.

As Trump has emphasized lately, it was his own endorsement that played no small part in catapulting DeSantis into the governorship four years ago. It's another reminder that even if the former president's nearest rival could somehow exorcise Trump from the party, it will still be the party of Trumpism. Try as Republicans might to move on from the man, they can't run away from his miserable legacy.

Gohlke is deputy California opinion editor for McClatchy and The Sacramento Bee.



## We must think bigger, bolder

By DAN GOLDBER, THOMAS J. KANE, ANDREW MCEACHIN and EMILY MORTON  
Special to The Washington Post

American students have experienced a historic decline in academic achievement. The only possible response — the only rational response — is a historic collective investment in children and young adults.

The results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress reveal plummeting test scores nationwide, setting students back to where they were two decades ago. At the same time, we witnessed a sharp increase in educational inequity, with much larger losses in high poverty districts. Yet there's a troubling disconnect between the scale of catch-up efforts in the last school year and the magnitude of the declines.

These losses won't be fixed by few hours of tutoring or a helpful computer program. Schools and families need to take a hard look at where every student stands. And their communities need to step up to help in any way they can.

The best metaphor for this moment comes not from the history of education, but from the space program.

When President John F. Kennedy issued his moon challenge, NASA's rocket designers calculated the thrust they would need to send a spacecraft to the moon and soon realized that they would need something far larger than anything they'd built before. The result was the Saturn V rocket.

Today, school district leaders are responsible for reversing learning loss of a magnitude none of them have ever experienced. And they have been given little guidance about what an adequate response might look like. No wonder many system leaders have been launching the equivalents of bottle rockets: an increase in summer school enrollment or tutors for a few more students.

Communities will need to think bigger and bolder to plan a package of interventions sized to the challenge.

To a certain extent, it's hard to blame them for not aiming higher in

## Guest Opinion

the last school year. Continued COVID-19 surges and significant challenges with staffing, scheduling and competing priorities in schools made it hard enough to implement the plans that do exist. But, even if the interventions had gone as planned, they wouldn't have been enough to catch students up in many districts.

The first step is to more clearly define the task in front of educators and families.

States need to help everyone see the loss in terms of what it's going to take to get students back on track. Telling educators that proficiency rates have declined isn't enough. Explaining that students lost several months or a year of math instruction provides a more solid basis for planning an ambitious recovery agenda.

Second, states and districts should be transparent about what different solutions can accomplish.

Research suggests that districts might be able to get a year's worth of additional growth by providing students with three hours of tutoring, with three or fewer students per teacher — each week. A summer school session provides an academic quarter's-worth of learning. An additional period of algebra instruction can teach students the material they would learn in one semester.

Once districts and parents know how much learning their students have lost, and what it will cost to make it up, they can launch efforts that are adequate to the challenge. Thanks to the president and Congress, schools have an unprecedented infusion of federal funds to work with. They will also need staff, time and space. For that, they will need community buy-in.

Take staffing: Given shortages in the teaching profession, schools

might not be able to do their recruiting alone, or do it through existing channels. Expanding partnerships between schools and teacher education programs is a promising strategy several states and districts are using to recruit intervention providers. But in areas where student need is the greatest, states could mobilize (and pay) local undergraduate students, parents and other community members to provide tutoring.

Schools and education leaders should also be frank about what this effort requires from families. Expanding learning opportunities, such as after-school programs or Saturday academies, will require students and families to sacrifice time they might ordinarily spend on extracurriculars, family responsibilities, or even vacations. Year-round school will require broader adjustments to family routines — though it might be a benefit for parents scrambling for summer child care.

To get consensus from families that these changes are worthwhile, districts and states must be crystal clear about where individual children stand.

A June survey found that more than 90 percent of parents believed their children to be at or above grade level. In another survey, nearly 50 percent of parents of teens were worried that their own child had fallen behind because of the pandemic. These figures simply do not line up with what we know about where students are academically today. Being transparent about students' academic standing with families might be painful, but it's vital.

Districts cannot do this alone, nor should they. Our children deserve more than getting back to where they were two years ago. They deserve a Saturn V to shoot for the moon — and beyond.

Goldhaber is the director of the Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research. Kane is the director of the Center for Education Policy Research. McEachin is the director of NWEA's Collaborative for Student Growth. Morton is a research scientist at NWEA.

# The Commercial Review

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—Thomas Jefferson

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# Votes could lead to strike

*Railway unions split on labor agreement*

By IAN KULLGREN  
Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

Members of the nation's two largest railway unions held conflicting votes on a key labor pact, muddying efforts by the Biden administration to avoid a strike when the labor peace agreement ends next month.

The SMART Transportation division, the largest railway union under the tentative agreement with more than 37,000 members, narrowly rejected the deal while members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen voted to approve it. Four unions have now voted down the tentative deal while seven have approved it—though a strike could follow if even one of them walks off the job.

BLET approved the contract with 53.5% of the member vote. But the results revealed deep divisions at SMART-TD, with less than 51% of train and engine service workers voting to reject the agreement and 62% of yardmasters voting to ratify it.

While the results don't necessarily mean there will be a strike, it does put pressure on union leaders to reach a better deal before a cooling-off period expires Dec. 9. It could also motivate Congress to step in to impose a labor agreement against unions' will—a move that would be politically unpopular for Democrats, but perhaps less so than a supply chain disruption before Christmas.

It was not immediately clear whether the Biden administration would step in as it did in September, when Labor Secretary Marty Walsh brokered a deal through an all-night negotiating session at the US Department of Labor headquarters.

SMART-TD President Jeremy Ferguson said in a statement Monday he believes the dispute can be settled without a strike, even as he lay blame squarely on railroad companies for the escalating standoff.

"The ball is now in the railroads' court. Let's see what they do," Ferguson said in a statement. "They can settle this at the bargaining table."

Freight rail companies urged lawmakers to intervene if a deal can't be reached.

"Let's be clear, if the remaining unions do not accept an agreement, Congress should be prepared to act and avoid a disastrous \$2 billion a day hit to our economy," Ian Jeffries, president and CEO of the Association of American Railroads, said in a statement.

# Finances ...

Continued from page 1

Knapke pointed out inflation has impacted the United States' central banking system.

"The Federal Reserve Bank has been fighting inflation, and that's a number one concern," she said. "Many economists anticipate a recession in the first half of the calendar year 2023. If that does occur, the recession will happen as the state legislature considers the next financing budget for fiscal year 2024 and 2025. So it could have an impact on us."

Also Monday, school board recognized Megan Knapke, who was recently named a commended student in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program. She placed in the top 50,000 in the country on the Preliminary SAT.

In other business, school board members Anne Guggenbiller, Sean Kahlig, Nick Wehrkamp, Don Wendel and Jake Knapke:

- Heard from members of National



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Scott Olson

## Keeping vigil

People hold a vigil at a makeshift memorial near the Club Q nightclub Sunday in Colorado Springs, Colorado, after a 22-year-old gunman entered the LGBTQ nightclub on Saturday, and opened fire, killing at least five people and injuring 25 others before being stopped by club patrons.

# Ukraine dreams of retaking Crimea

By LAURA KING  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

ODESA, Ukraine — Beneath a chill, low-lying fog, the Black Sea has gone winter-gray. The craggy coast of Crimea, illegally seized from Ukraine by Russia nearly nine years ago, lies far from this southern stretch of seashore — yet, to many here, the strategic peninsula suddenly seems tantalizingly close.

Ukraine's recapture this month of Kherson, a provincial capital to the north of Crimea, has revived hopes of regaining control of the Massachusetts-sized peninsula, which the government in Kyiv — and most of the world — still considers part of Ukraine.

Long-range weaponry that Ukraine does not possess would be crucial to such an effort, and Moscow has tried to make clear that attacks on its forces in Crimea, including the key warm-water port of Sevastopol, amount to crossing an explosive tripwire. Even so, the fate of the peninsula, home to 2.4 million people, is increasingly part of the wartime discourse.

"Kherson changed things," said Alexander Babich, a Ukrainian local historian in the Black Sea port of Odesa. "Now people say: 'On to Crimea!'"

Even prior to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which is about to enter a 10th grinding month, Crimea — a coveted prize

for centuries, changing hands again and again — has been a lodestar for both sides in this war.

Russian President Vladimir Putin often harks back to the peninsula's imperial history, painting it as an integral part of Russkii mir — the Russian world. That construct, supposedly based on shared Slavic culture, is in turn presented by the Kremlin as an overarching pretext for trying to subdue all Ukraine, a one-time Soviet republic that has been a sovereign nation for more than three decades.

As the war drags on, Ukrainians have scant patience for Russian nostalgia over symbols of empire.

They shrugged when Moscow-backed officials in then-occupied

Kherson made off with the bones of the 18th century princely Russian general Grigory Potemkin — revered by Russians for his role in annexing Crimea from Ottoman Turks in 1783. In Odesa, a statue of Potemkin's lover, Empress Catherine II, is boarded over and set for removal.

In a sense, Crimea is at the heart of the current conflict. Many here argue that a less-than-resolute world reaction to Russia's seizure of the peninsula in 2014 helped set the stage for Putin's invasion this year. Western nations, including the United States, imposed sanctions and denounced Crimea's annexation at the time, but ruled out a military response.

# Changes ...

Continued from page 2  
Freeman, of Indianapolis, gained the chairmanship after Young, also of Indianapolis, decided to leave the caucus following the inclusion of exceptions for rape and incest in the state's near-total abortion ban.

Additionally, following the retirement of Sen. Phil Boots last year, Granger Sen. Linda Rogers will serve as the new chair of Pensions and Labor and no longer heads the Family and Children Services committee.

That movement set off a ripple effect in committee chair assignments for Family and Children Services and Ethics, with Columbus Sen. Greg Walker and Washington Sen. Eric Bassler stepping up as chairs for those committees, respectively.

Notably, Sens. Mark Messmer, of Jasper, and Andy Zay, of Huntington — who recently challenged Bray's leadership — lost their chairmanships.

Messmer's Senate Republican profile, not yet updated with Friday's leadership changes, listed him as the chair for Environmental Affairs and Joint Rules while Zay's profile lists him

as the chair for Insurance & Financial Institutions.

Following the fallout of the abortion debate, Charlestown Sen. Chris Garten was named as the majority floor leader over Messmer, who had served in the role since 2018.

New chairs for the 2023 legislative session include:

- Sen. Aaron Freeman, who succeeds Sen. Mike Young, in Corrections and Criminal Law
- Sen. Rich Niemeyer, who succeeds Sen. Mark Messmer, in Environmental Affairs

- Sen. Eric Bassler, who succeeds Sen. Greg Walker, in Ethics

- Sen. Greg Walker, who succeeds Sen. Linda Rogers, in Family and Children Services

- Sen. Scott Baldwin, who succeeds Sen. Andy Zay, in Insurance and Financial Institutions

- Sen. Chris Garten, who succeeds Sen. Mark Messmer, in Joint Rules

- Sen. Linda Rogers, who succeeds Sen. Phil Boots, in Pensions and Labor

.....  
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# November

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Honor Society. The group inducted 25 new members Nov. 8, and members shared plans to volunteer in the coming year at Fort Recovery Elementary School and local nursing homes.

- Learned from principal Kelli Thobe that the student council at the elementary school raised \$8,400 for its Cents for Sawyer fundraiser.

- Hired substitutes Janet Roessner and Tanya Storie and volunteer assistant cheer coach Bailee Tebbe.

- Accepted several donations, including \$5,000 from Kaup Pharmacy for a scoreboard and \$2,000 from Fort Recovery Community Foundation to the Adopt-A-Family program.

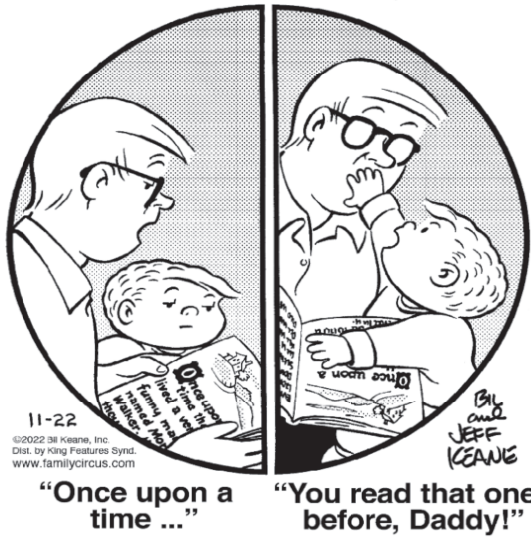
- Established compensation for board members at \$80 per meeting for 20 meetings per year. (It did not change from the current rate.)

- Approved an overnight field trip for Fort Recovery Middle School band to Mason, Ohio, from May 12 to May 13.

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

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South dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH A J 9 7 3 ... EAST 5 7 6 5 ... SOUTH K Q 8 6 4 2 ...

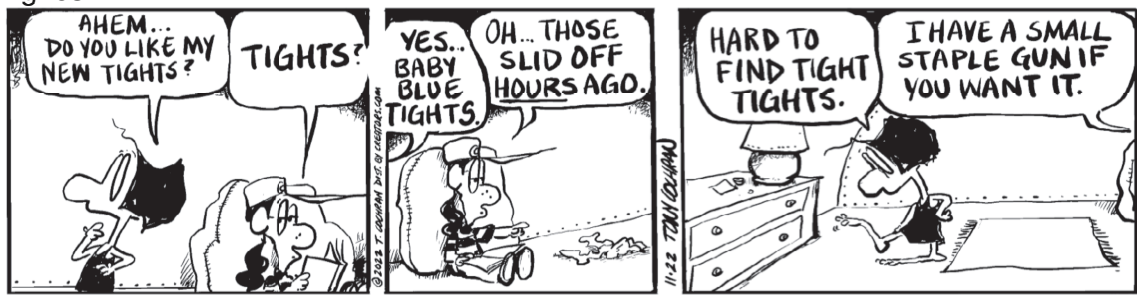
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Funky Winkerbean



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Assume you're in four spades doubled and West leads the queen of clubs. East wins with the ace and returns the nine...

Tomorrow: The case of the missing damsel. ©2022 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

11-22 CRYPTOQUIP

BRYVU YRSTX Y GDXGKYM KGUIU FIDWUIA YIU XDWUT ASHU VSHBRDHUTOYIM EYTYTYA: Y FSRU ESSOG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF FILM STAR GENE HAD SPONSORED SPORTS COMPETITIONS, YOU MIGHT CALL THEM TIERNEY'S TOURNEYS.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Towering shade 5 Fan's cry 8 Magic dragon 12 Balm ingredient 13 Chopper 14 "Got it" 15 Ale, e.g. 17 Favorites 18 Ambulance letters 19 Peanut product 20 Big buttes 21 Expert 22 Life story 23 Humorist Dave 26 Ties the knot 30 Popular Asian cuisine 31 Director Howard 32 Actress Gershon 33 Cider apple 35 Belted area 36 Pérignon (French bubbly) 37 London's Big 38 Mob bosses

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 11-22

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40 NOTICES

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Breanna Dirksen of Jay County tries to knock the ball away from Winchester's Caitlyn Campbell during the first half of the Patriots' win Friday night. Campbell scored 21 points, but JCHS dominated the second half en route to its second win over a state-ranked team in as many nights.

Box score	
<b>Class 3A No. 8</b>	
<b>Jay County Patriots</b>	
<b>vs. Class 2A No. 2</b>	
<b>Winchester Golden Falcons</b>	
<b>Girls varsity summary</b>	
<b>Winchester (4-1)</b>	
<b>FG-FGA</b>	<b>FT-FTA</b> <b>PTS</b>
Friend 0-3	0-0 0
Lawrence 0-2	3-4 3
Campbell 8-17	4-7 21
Craw 1-6	1-2 4
McCoy 0-0	0-0 0
Rigglin 0-8	0-0 0
Harris 0-0	1-2 1
Hummel 1-1	0-0 2
Mote 1-4	0-0 2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11-41 9-15 33</b>
	<b>.268 .600</b>
<b>Def. rebound percentage: .600</b>	
<b>Jay County (4-1)</b>	
<b>FG-FGA</b>	<b>FT-FTA</b> <b>PTS</b>
Muhlenkamp 2-7	2-5 6
Saxman 1-5	2-8 4
McIntire 2-3	0-0 4
MDirksen 1-1	0-0 3
Bilbrey 5-5	3-4 13
Denot 0-0	0-0 0
Schwtrmn 11-20	0-1 26
BDirksen 2-9	0-0 6
May 0-0	0-0 0
Petro 0-1	0-0 0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24-51 7-18 62</b>
	<b>.471 .389</b>
<b>Def. rebound percentage: .567</b>	
<b>Score by quarters:</b>	
<b>WCHS</b>	<b>10 13 7 3 — 33</b>
<b>Jay Co.</b>	<b>13 10 22 17 — 62</b>
<b>3-point shooting:</b> Winchester 2-19 (Campbell 1-3, Craw 1-6, Rigglin 0-6, Friend 0-2, Mote 0-2). Jay County 7-13 (Schwieterman 4-6, BDirksen 2-6, MDirksen 1-1).	
<b>Rebounds:</b> Winchester 31 (Lawrence 8, Campbell 7, Rigglin 7, McCoy 3, team 3, Craw 2, Mote 2). Jay County 29 (Schwieterman 7, Bilbrey 6, team 5, McIntire 3, Muhlenkamp 2, Saxman 2, BDirksen 2, Denton, Petro).	
<b>Assists:</b> Winchester 8 (Lawrence 5, Campbell, Craw, Hummel). Jay County 9 (BDirksen 3, Saxman 2, Schwieterman 2, Muhlenkamp, McIntire).	
<b>Blocks:</b> Winchester 3. Jay County 1 (Schwieterman).	
<b>Personal fouls:</b> Winchester 15 (Lawrence 3, Campbell 3, Craw 3, Rigglin 3, Hummel 2, Mote). Jay County 12 (Saxman 4, Muhlenkamp 3, Bilbrey 2, McIntire, Schwieterman, Petro).	
<b>Turnovers:</b> Winchester 18. Jay County 9.	

## Triangle ...

Continued from page 8  
The Patriots (4-1) went to her in the post on the opening possession of the second half. She drew a foul and knocked down both free throws. She was fouled again on the next possession and split her foul shots, and at the 5:10 mark she scored a put-back bucket for a 30-25 JCHS lead.  
She went on to score eight consecutive points for Jay County in the fourth quarter

as the game turned into a blowout.  
"We went right in to her," said Comer. "She hit a couple free throws. ... The rest of the game her confidence just continued to grow."  
Following Bilbrey's put-back, the Patriots got a 3-pointer from Breanna Dirksen and then two in a row from Renna Schwieterman to extend the lead to double digits. They had a 15-point advantage after three quarters and

recorded runs of 8-0 and 9-0 in the fourth to bury the Golden Falcons.  
Schwieterman hit four 3-pointers in all for a game-high 26 points while also leading JCHS with seven rebounds.  
"The Schwieterman girl is just a fantastic player," said Younts. "Her size and length and to be able to handle the ball the way she does. ... When she can go out and shoot like that, it makes it tough."

Campbell scored 21 points to lead Winchester, though she was limited to just four in the second half. No other Golden Falcon had more than four in the game.  
**Junior varsity**  
Jay County dominated the first quarter as it defeated the Golden Falcons 23-10 in a game that was limited to one half of play.  
Natalie Carreno scored eight points to lead the Patriots, who outscored Winchester 16-4 in the

opening quarter. Danielle May added six points, and Bella Denot had five.  
Brenna Barker's four points paced the Golden Falcons.  
JCHS also defeated Belmont 32-25 Friday behind a dozen points from Denton. Mya Kunkler added five points for the home team, which had a 20-10 lead at the half.  
Kamryn Jarvis (12 points) and Ella Franze (11) handled almost all of the scoring for the Braves.

## Roundup ...

Continued from page 8  
Trace Smith (145) split his four matches for JCHS.  
**JH girls roll**  
Jay County's junior high girls basketball

teams dominated Union City, with the eighth graders winning 35-4 Monday while the seventh graders got a 47-4 victory.  
Hallie Schwieterman's 16 points led the way for the Patriot eighth graders.

Amelia Heath followed with five points and Elizabeth Brunswick and Stella Skirvin each had four.  
Nine different players scored for the Jay County seventh grade team with Natalie May totaling a

team-high 11 points. Kylie Shannon had seven points, and Skirvin, Brunswick and Lyla Kunkler each had six.  
**Elementary wins**  
Jay County Wrestling

Club won the medium school division Sunday as it hosted the Duals on the Border.  
The Patriots finished first ahead of runner-up East Noble and third-place New Castle.  
Khoden Bentz and Varen Ridgway led Jay County to the title as they each finished 4-0. Blake Wood, Max Myers, Bryce VanSkyock, Eli Shannon and Jackson Bonifas were all 3-1.

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Fort Recovery — Middle school girls basketball at Minster — 4 p.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
5 a.m. — Soccer: World Cup — Saudi Arabia vs. Argentina (FS1)  
8 a.m. — Soccer: World Cup — Tunisia vs. Denmark (FS1)

11 a.m. — Soccer: World Cup — Poland vs. Mexico (FOX)  
2 p.m. — Soccer: World Cup — Australia vs. France (FOX)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Brooklyn Nets at Philadelphia 76ers (TNT)  
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Los Angeles Lakers at Phoenix Suns (TNT)

**Wednesday**  
Noon — Men's college basketball: North Carolina State at Kansas (ESPN)

5 p.m. — Men's college basketball: BYU at USC (ESPN2)  
7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Minnesota Timberwolves at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)  
7:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Butler at Tennessee (ESPN2)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Dallas Mavericks at Boston Celtics (ESPN)  
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: South Carolina State at Wake Forest (FS1)  
9:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball:

Fresno State at Washington (BTN)  
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Los Angeles Clippers at Golden State Warriors (ESPN)  
10 p.m. — Men's college basketball: North Alabama at University of California — Santa Barbara (ESPN2)

### Local notes

**FR tickets available**  
Season tickets for Fort Recovery boys and girls basketball are available now.

Tickets can be purchased from 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays in the high school office. They are \$55 for adults and \$35 for students.

All-sport passes are also available for \$150 for adults and \$50 for students. Senior citizen passes are \$30, junior high adult passes are \$25 and junior high student passes are \$10.

**Wrestling registration set**  
A sign-up session is scheduled for

kindergarten through second graders who would like to be part of Jay County Wrestling Club.

The club's Little Patriots Program is for those in kindergarten through second grade and focuses on wrestling basics. The registration fee is \$80.  
Sign ups will be at 6 p.m. tonight and Nov. 29.

To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.com.

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Patriot sophomore ties for first place in diving, see Local roundup

Opener postponed, first game for JCHS boys will be Saturday

# Sports

## Triangle and through

### Defensive shift leads to second half dominance for No. 8 Jay in blowout victory over the second-ranked Golden Falcons

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

Two things changed in the second half.

1 — The Patriots shifted to a triangle-and-two defense.

2 — They got Gabi Billbrey back on the court.

Billbrey scored all of her 13 points in the second half and the Class 3A No. 8 Jay County High School girls basketball team limited Class 2A No. 2 Winchester to 3-of-22 shooting in the second half as the Patriots ran away with a 62-33 victory.

It gave them wins over ranked teams on consecutive nights following Friday's 56-47 triumph over Class 3A No. 9 Bellmont.

"If we get out of here with one win for the weekend, that's pretty good," said JCHS coach Kirk Comer. "But to get them both, back-to-back nights ... that's two big wins."

"I think we're better," he added, referencing the way his team played this weekend in comparison to its overtime loss Nov. 12 to Hamilton Heights. "We're definitely better. We're tougher mentally. We're not near where we need to be, but we're better. We're heading in the right direction."

It was the defensive change that turned Saturday's game in the Patriots' favor; as the triangle-and-two defense put a focus on keeping the ball out of the hands of Caitlyn Campbell and Morgan Lawrence. (Campbell had 17 of her team's 23 first half points.)

After shooting 8-of-19 from the field in the first half, Winchester (4-1) dropped to 13.7% in the second half. The Golden Fal-

cons made just three field goals after the intermission.

"We couldn't drop it in the ocean tonight," said Joe Younts, one of the Winchester assistants filling in for head coach Holly Gutierrez who missed the game because of an illness. "Jay County went to a ... triangle-and-two on Morgan Lawrence and Caitlyn Campbell. That's where we were really hoping to get some scoring from some of the other girls. We just didn't have it. It wasn't our night. Credit to Jay County for making the change."

Billbrey wasted no time in making an impact when she returned from spending more than 10 minutes on the bench after she picked up her second foul with 2:24 left in the second quarter.

See Triangle page 7

### Countdown to the record

# 130

Renna Schwieterman is 130 points away from breaking Jay County High School's all-time scoring record of 1,458 points held by 1986 graduate Shannon Freeman. At her current scoring pace, she would break the record Dec. 17 at South Adams.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School junior Molly Muhlenkamp goes up for a layup during the first half of the Class 3A No. 8 Patriots' 62-33 victory Saturday over Class 2A No. 2 Winchester. JCHS limited the Golden Falcons to 10 points in the second half.

## Patriots take title

BRAZIL — The Patriots were a close third in their first tournament of the season.

They've won both since then.

Mallory Winner earned the Jay County High School girls wrestling team's lone title and Katie Rowles and Dakota Chowning added runner-up en route to the team championship at the Northview Invitational.

The Patriots, who won the East Noble Invitational on Nov. 12, totaled 180 points to top runner-up Lafayette Jefferson by 24. Lake Central was a distant third among the 22 scoring teams with 109.

Winner (160 pounds), who made her return from a broken leg in Jay County's win Thursday over Columbia City, had a bye to the semifinals where she finished off Grace McDowell of Terre Haute South in just 46 seconds. The championship match took her a bit longer, but she ended it with a pin as well in 5 minutes, 28 seconds, over Sadie Osburn of Terre Haute North.

Chowning (126)

### Local roundup

advanced to the championship match with wins by pin and decision before falling 10-6 to Lafayette Jefferson's Michelle Perez. Rowles went 2-1 in the round robin 160A bracket with the lone loss coming by pin to champion Kirsten Cortez of Lake Central.

### Snow, Bader lead

WESTFIELD — Sophomore Maddy Snow and senior Mara Bader each earned a win Saturday as the Jay County girls swim team finished second to the host Shamrocks.

The Patriots scored 537.5 points, well behind Westfield's 796.5 in the five-team field Yorktown was third with 465.

Snow shared the diving title at the meet as she and Westfield's Ally Doyle each finished with 186.2 points.

Bader's win came with

a time of 1 minute, 13.49 seconds, in the 100 breaststroke. She was also the runner-up in the 200 individual medley in 2:25.49.

Jay County also won the 200 freestyle relay, with Morgan DeHoff, Lauren Fisher and Zion Beiswanger joining Bader for a time of 1:53.31.

Adding fifth-place finishes were Aubrey Millsbaugh in the 500 freestyle, Fisher in the 200 IM and DeHoff in the 50 freestyle.

### Three go undefeated

MONROE — Three members of the Jay County junior varsity boys wrestling team were perfect Saturday as the Patriots competed in a four-team event at Adams Central.

AJ Heskett (132 pounds), Jacob Robinson (152) and Joaquin Johnson (182) all finished at 4-0. Adding 3-1 records were Syllas Wenk (106), Cole Carpenter (145) and Daidrick Retz (152) while Tyler Cummings (HWT) finished 2-1.

See Roundup page 7

## Trojans edge FR in OT

### Tribe rallied from nine-point deficit before falling short in extra session

After a two-point third quarter, the Indians (0-1) were trailing 28-19. They rallied to force overtime with a 3-point barrage in the final period with Maddie Guggenbiller hitting three triples and Cali Wendel adding a fourth.

But then the Trojans' Lexy Gibbons took over. The sophomore scored all of her team's seven points in the extra session as it fought off Fort Recovery for the one-point win.

Guggenbiller, who also had a 3-pointer in the second quarter, led Fort Recovery with 17 points. Kennedy Muhlenkamp joined her in double figures with 11, and Wendel finished with six.

The overtime scoring from Gibbons gave her a team-high dozen points for Arcanum (1-0). Brooke Anderson, also a sophomore, added 10 points while Kaitlyn Toy and Faith Wooten each chipped in six.

ARCANUM, Ohio — The Indians struggled mightily in the first and third quarters.

They fought back. They forced overtime. They just didn't have quite enough in the extra session.

The Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team came up just short in its season opener Saturday, falling 41-40 in overtime to the Arcanum Trojans.

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