

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Minutes, agendas will be put on website

*County also looking at options for recording, streaming*

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Jay County Commissioners took a step toward making information about their meetings more accessible.

And they are continuing to look at additional options.

Commissioners on Monday approved moving forward with plans to make their agendas and meeting minutes accessible on their website while also getting a first look at options for either live-streaming or recording and posting county meetings.

Craig Frazee of Dynamic Business Solutions of Portland visited commissioners and presented them with answers to questions regarding the county website and two options for systems that would live stream and/or record their meetings in the commissioners' room at Jay County Courthouse.

Commissioners had asked about the ability to post meeting minutes and agendas. Frazee said adding that feature would be simple with an integration fee of \$250 and some basic training for staff that would be responsible for uploading. (Dynamic Business Solutions could also handle the uploading.)

He also reported that the ability to add and change meetings to the calendar on the website already exists. His company can make those changes upon request or train county staff to do so.

Commissioners approved spending the \$250 to allow posting of meeting agendas and minutes.

As for live streaming and recording, one option would involve a hub at the center of the commissioners' table that would be able to pick up anyone speaking within 10 feet. (Additional microphones may be needed for those further away.) It would also pick up a 360-degree view of the room on video with the ability to focus on the individual speaking. The system could live stream or record and automatically post meetings on a schedule. It would cost about \$5,250.

The other option would involve a single speaker and single camera with a wide-angle view of the entire room. It would be operated from a separate laptop computer and would require someone to manually transfer files and post for public viewing. The cost would be about \$3,500.

In both cases, meetings would be stored via Amazon Web Services. Both would also have a \$100 annual service fee.

Commissioners again expressed support for making live streaming and recording of meetings available.

See Website page 2



## Sounds of season

The Jay County High School band and choirs held their Christmas concert Sunday. Pictured above, members of Just Treble perform while director Susan Denney (foreground right) plays the piano accompaniment. At left, senior Thomas Charles plays the French horn during the band portion of the concert.

## Braun announces run for governor

By WHITNEY DOWNARD  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun announced his campaign for governor in downtown Indianapolis Monday at a pricey steakhouse surrounded by supporters and donors, joining Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and Fort Wayne businessman Eric Doden in the 2024 race.

"I'm here today because I truly

believe Indiana's best days are before us," Braun said. "... this state does so many things correct but I think we can get a little better; I've been a believer that there's always room for improvement."

Braun's announcement came the same day as Crouch's campaign launch, and others are rumored to be considering the open seat. Gov. Eric Holcomb is term-limited and cannot run again

in 2024. Doden announced his campaign nearly a year ago and released this cycle's first ad campaign shortly after the November election.

Crouch gave individual reporters one-on-one interviews while Braun gave a ten-minute speech before ushering media out and declining to take questions.

Harvard-educated Braun co-founded Crystal Farms in Jasper

in 1979, which grew to become one of the largest turkey operations in the Midwest, according to his campaign biography. Two years later, Braun started the Meyer Body Company, an auto parts distribution company, which fuels much of his wealth — estimated to be \$136,831,124 in 2018 — making him one of the richest members of Congress.

See Braun page 5

## FTX co-founder accused of fraud

By BOB VAN VORIS  
Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

FTX co-founder Sam Bankman-Fried was accused by U.S. regulators of carrying out a multi-year scheme to defraud investors.

The Securities and Exchange Commission said on Tuesday that Bankman-Fried, who was arrested on Monday in the Bahamas and is facing criminal charges in the U.S., raised more than \$1.8 billion from investors. The SEC also said he concealed risks and FTX's relationship with his trading firm Alameda Research, and used commingled customer funds.

"We allege that Sam

Bankman-Fried built a house of cards on a foundation of deception while telling investors that it was one of the safest buildings in crypto," SEC Chair Gary Gensler said in a statement.

Bankman-Fried diverted billions of dollars of customer funds to help grow his other entities, the SEC said in its complaint filed Tuesday in New York's Southern District court. The SEC complaint alleges that FTX raised more than \$1.8 billion, including \$1.1 billion from about 90 U.S.-based investors, in an "orchestrated scheme to defraud equity investors" who bought in based on the belief that FTX had appropriate controls.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Wrapping helpers

Volunteers wrap gifts for Secret Families Christmas Charity of Jay County on Saturday morning in the commons area at Jay County Junior-Senior High School. The organization served 137 families and 588 individuals this year, providing eight gifts per person.

### Deaths

Mary Smith, 81, rural Portland  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County's high temperature topped out at 41 degrees Monday. The low was 36.

Tonight's low will be 35. Rain is expected to begin early Wednesday and continue until about 1 p.m. with winds gusting to 30 miles per hour. The high will be 46.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

A Republican caucus on Monday selected Dave Haines to fill the Jay County Council at-large seat being vacated by Ray Newton following his election as sheriff. Haines topped former Jay County Commissioner Chuck Huffman on the sixth ballot. Other candidates were Duane Monroe, Dean Jetter, Greg Miller and Chris Swanson.

### Coming up

Wednesday — Results from tonight's JCHS swim meet against Norwell.

Friday — Coverage of Thursday's Redkey Town Council meeting.





# Weekend brought spirit of season

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

One more trip to the store and the Christmas shopping should be done. It was more challenging than usual since I have given up driving out of town. Buying a present for someone who is right next to you spoils the surprise.

Yes, I know that the internet has almost everything a person could want. I go to Amazon and type in the brand name, size and description of what I am seeking. It offers to show me anything except what I asked for.

I am used to clothing sizes not being standardized. Therefore, I don't completely trust the size of things that I can't touch. If I hold up a shirt I am thinking of buying for my husband, it should reach from my shoulders almost to my knees.

## As I See It



Likewise, pants should reach from my shoulders to my feet. I can't do that online. Nor can I tell the weight of anything. Is the shirt thick or thin? Is the texture soft or itchy? I won't know until the item shows up on my doorstep.

The internet has another disadvantage. Delivery estimates are seldom accurate. When I placed the order for a gift for our grandson, the delivery estimates were reasonable. One or two days later I was notified that the item would be shipped in the middle of Janu-

ary. A wave of panic and disappointment smacked me in the chest. Today I got a message that the item would be here tomorrow.

As usual, when I am shopping for others, I can find plenty of things for myself. When someone asks what I want for Christmas, I draw a blank. I have almost everything I need. At this stage of the game, the last thing I need is more stuff.

This is excepting plants and books. I can never have enough of either. Nevermind that I have no place to put them.

Shopping, with all of its challenges, is only a part of Christmas. There was a time when I watched Christmas specials every evening. I still miss listening to Linus tell the Christmas story concluding with, "and that's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown."

I did get to see Frosty the Snow Man. He was in a play. The giant snowman may have been the subject of the play but the cast of mostly children were amazing. Their voices were as pure as only children's can be.

Frosty was followed by "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical." Again, the cast was outstanding. The smallest girl took the show. She was the very definition of spunk and sass. The part of the play where they were making baskets for the poor hit home.

There was a time when we depended on those boxes to help get through the winter. My stepdad didn't get much work in the winter. He laid drainage pipe for a living and that came to a halt in the cold. There were no unemployment benefits. He never got vacation

pay or any other type of compensation.

His boss would enlist him to clean out hog pens in the winter. Let me tell you, that was hard, nasty work but I never heard him complain. He was a good and honorable man.

Back to the play. I did keep an eye on one particular character of the Christmas play. He played Bob. In real life, he is in charge of this newspaper. I knew he was involved in community theater but I hadn't known that he could sing. I thought he made a very good Bob.

It was a nice weekend up until my hubby came down with what we are hoping is just a miserable cold. If you get a chance to attend any of the events at the Arts Place, do not hesitate to attend. You will not be disappointed.

# Widow's mom wears out her only child

DEAR ABBY: I am an only child and I love my mother. My father passed away after a short illness three years ago, leaving my mother a widow. My problem is, she calls me multiple times a day. I'm not one of those women whose mom is my best friend or someone who enjoys talking on the phone. If I don't answer, she keeps calling back. She calls while I'm getting ready for work, on the way to work, while I'm at work or on the way home, etc.

I know I may regret it one day, but I don't have the energy for all her daily calls, which are basically her asking me 50 questions. I don't talk to my own grown children on a daily basis like she calls me. I have reached the point that I dread it and at times ignore her calls.

I have encouraged her to branch out — hang out with other widows, meet new friends or join groups, but because of COVID she's hesitant. I don't want to be ugly to her, but the more she does this, the more anxious I get. I have also asked her to just text me so I can respond when I'm available, but she says

## Dear Abby



she just doesn't think about that as an option.

She's a very sweet woman, but she is stressing me out! Is it me or her? Please help me so I don't ruin this relationship. As an only child, am I being selfish? — INUNDATED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR INUNDATED: It isn't you, it's her. Your mother is doing this because she feels lonely, anxious and vulnerable and may have forgotten how to socialize as an individual without your father. The COVID restrictions added to the problem because people were discouraged from hanging out in groups.

After three years, it is not selfish to create boundaries with her. Tell her you will speak to her once a day. Then

screen your calls and talk with your mom when you aren't stressed and have a few minutes to spend in conversation.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I moved into a new rental house on my best friend's property a year ago. We love living here. We moved to be closer to my friend, "Noah," who is like a brother to me. He and his wife live on the same property.

Noah was diagnosed with heart disease two years ago, and was given a year to live. He has surpassed that estimate. He now wants my husband and me to buy the house we are renting. I'm hesitant because Noah's wife suffers from a mental illness.

She has always been threatened by our close friendship, and if anything goes wrong in her life, she accuses me of sabotaging her. When she's stable, she's a nice and generous person, but recently she has been experiencing hallucinations and severe paranoia.

Noah wants us to stay because he needs our support. I'm afraid that after he's gone, she'll make

our lives miserable and try to contest the ownership of the property. The property is in Noah's name only. He bought it before they got married. What should I do? — TORN TO PIECES

DEAR TORN: Your question is of a legal nature and in no state of the union am I licensed to give legal advice. That is why you, your husband and Noah need to schedule an appointment (ASAP) to discuss this business matter with an attorney who can give you guidance to ensure your interests are protected if this transaction takes place. Because it won't solve the issue of Noah's unstable wife, that question should be up to you and your husband to debate separately.

DEAR ABBY: I have been trying to develop a relationship with my half-sister, and I'm getting very mixed messages. She is mostly polite and distant. But then there are times she'll disinvite me from her child's birthday party or "unfriend" me on Facebook, etc. She explains later that she did it out of anxiety, and she

seems worried about being hurt. She has an excuse every time I ask to get together.

I know she's affected by our father dying of cancer when she was young (she was 10 or 11), so I attribute her behavior to that and try not to take it personally. However, it hurts, and I'm tempted to give up. It is clear she has no interest in spending time with me. Should I stop trying to engage her? She talks warmly with our other shared relatives but not with me. I don't think I've done anything wrong, so I'm baffled. — SLIGHTED IN MINNESOTA

DEAR SLIGHTED: Your half-sister appears to have emotional challenges in addition to her anxiety. That she would disinvite you to a family function after you had accepted the invitation was rude. It's time to take the hint and step back. Having a parent in common does not guarantee siblings will have a close relationship. My advice is to go on with your life and quit pushing for something this woman is apparently unable or unwilling to give.

# Community Calendar

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

## Today

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 MORN- ING 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.

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.

JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE - Holds its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in room 205 on the second floor of John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

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. For more information, call Joni Slentz or Lisa Garrett at (765) 348-1072 or (800) 272-3900.

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.

JAY COUNTY SCOUTS ORGANIZATION - Will meet for its annual meeting at 7 p.m. Dec. 14 at the scout facility, 4684 S. Waste Management Drive, rural Portland.

Thursday

CELEBRATE RECOVERY - A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland.

# Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

## Saturday's Solution

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

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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# Leaders should learn from teachers

The Republic (Columbus)

Lawmakers are vowing to go back to the chalkboard on education. Top Republicans vow to “reinvent” high school to expand work-based learning experiences for Hoosier students.

That’s a healthy discussion to have, and we’re all for education reforms that make the curriculum more relevant to students. But we also hope our representatives and senators will use the upcoming session as a good-faith reset for public education in another way.

Simply put, it’s time they get back to basics. A good start would be paying attention, coming to work ready to learn, and listening to teachers.

It’s no mistake, as columnist Leo Morris points out on this page, that whatever problems lawmakers may see in our state’s

## Hoosier Editorial

education system, blame lies squarely at their feet. After all, they set education laws and standards, and schools in Indiana traditionally consume roughly half of the state’s general fund dollars.

To lawmakers’ credit, they bumped up Indiana’s previously abysmal national ranking in average teacher pay with an increase in 2021. Even so, just before the beginning of this school year, the Indiana Department of Education reported nearly 1,800 open teaching positions statewide. Earlier in the summer, the number of

vacancies topped 2,300.

More and more teachers are leaving the profession and fewer are entering. This should trouble lawmakers, who should study the reasons why and make evidence-based reforms to reverse these harmful trends.

Yet educators earlier this month gave some anecdotal evidence of what could be factors. As the Indianapolis Business Journal reported, “Indiana’s largest teacher unions lobbied for lawmakers to directly address the ongoing, statewide teacher shortage. They also called for increased funding to public schools, and implored legislators to focus less on ‘culture war’ issues.”

We can’t argue with any of that, and serious lawmakers shouldn’t either. Particularly that last part. Last session, a few terri-

ble bills sought to restrict what teachers could say in the classroom, potentially barring instruction of vague “divisive concepts.” A Republican author of one such bill starred on the national stage as the annual embarrassing Hoosier lawmaker after he defended his bill on the Senate floor by saying teachers “need to be impartial” when discussing Nazism and fascism in the classroom.

Teachers responded to such Statehouse shenanigans with earnest, honest demonstrations and testimony that felt as if they were fighting for their professional lives.

Because they were. We were proud to stand with teachers earlier this year and crusade in editorials against bills that targeted them and librarians for doing their jobs. We are prepared to do

so again.

But we’d rather not have to. We urge House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers) and Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray (R-Martinsville) to spare the state from such ugliness and set a positive tone in the upcoming session. They can start by taking a lesson from this year’s session and urge their members to stop filing legislation that targets teachers.

Failing that, Huston and Bray must use the power of their positions to ensure that such bad-faith legislation doesn’t resurface in committee hearings.

Come January, we’ll see if our lawmakers — and their leaders — have learned anything.

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# Legislation is a major win

Bloomberg Opinion  
Tribune News Service

Progress can be painfully slow in the American constitutional system. That makes it all the more important to recognize when the process works as it should.

Last week, the Senate passed a bipartisan bill that will require states and the federal government to recognize same-sex marriages that have been conducted in any state or U.S. territory where such unions are legal. It also affirmed the legitimacy of same-sex marriages for the purpose of federal benefits. It’s now back to the House, where an earlier version passed in July. Should the bill advance as expected, President Joe Biden has said he’ll promptly sign it.

Arguably, the measure is superfluous. Although it would formally repeal the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which had defined marriage as a union of one man and one woman, more recent Supreme Court precedents had effectively invalidated it. Since the 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges ruling, moreover, gay marriage has been established as a constitutional right.

Yet the Respect for Marriage Act, as the new bill is titled, should stand as a landmark nonetheless, for two reasons.

One is that it affirms the value of making policy by legislation as opposed to judicial fiat. Supporters of abortion rights have recently been dismayed to realize that a right invented by a court in one era — as with Roe v. Wade — can be just as easily dismantled in another. Indeed, Justice Clarence Thomas, in his concurring opinion in the case overturning Roe, suggested that the decision invited reconsideration of other high court rulings, including Obergefell.

No one joined Thomas’s opinion, and Obergefell is almost certainly here to stay. But the point stands: An elected legislature, accountable to voters and responsive to shifts in public opinion, is the appropriate venue for negotiating wide-ranging social policies. Same-sex

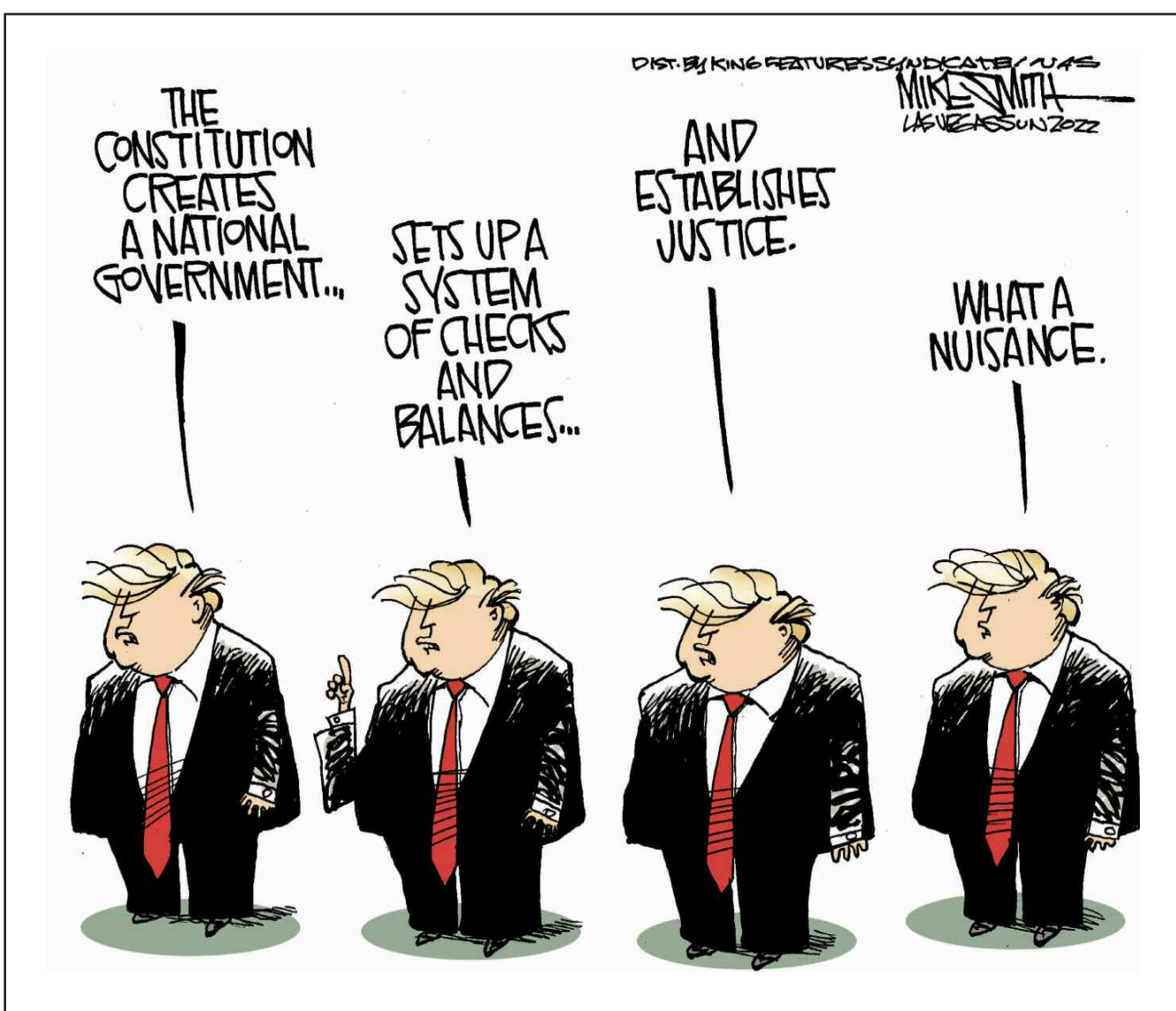
## Guest Editorial

*An elected legislature, accountable to voters and responsive to shifts in public opinion, is the appropriate venue for negotiating wide-ranging social policies.*

marriage now has a firmer basis in federal law, as well it should: Polls show that more than 70% of Americans support such unions.

A second, related virtue of the bill was procedural. After the House passed the original version, Senate Democrats could’ve played politics, dared Republicans to mount a filibuster, and used their opposition as a cudgel during the midterms. Instead, the bill’s cosponsors accepted that genuinely undecided Republicans such as Mitt Romney had good-faith reservations about the bill and held off on voting until after the midterms. That collegial trust paid off: Twelve Republicans — about a quarter of the Senate GOP conference — eventually crossed over and supported a revised version that addressed their concerns about religious liberty.

As recently as 1996, the U.S. was solidly opposed to gay marriage. Today — thanks in large part to decades of hard work and political pressure by advocates for marriage equality — lawmakers in both parties have fashioned a bargain reflecting a new national consensus. That’s how the democratic process is supposed to work.



# Student lost to gun violence

By SOFIA GONZALEZ  
Chicago Tribune  
Tribune News Service

Her name was Ruby. She was one of mine. A sophomore. I offered her one-on-one support in my academic lab as an intervention tier for kids who needed extra pushes in the right direction.

I see her face, and I hear her voice. Long jet black hair and dark frames. Super bubbly and talkative and always beefing with her teachers.

“Mrs. G., I like coming here. You cool, Mrs. G. Like you listen to me and don’t judge, you feel me?”

“Yah, I feel you, Ruby. Show me your essay, show me what you got.”

She would, with pride, whip out her laptop and slide it to me. She’d smile and watch as I read. She wasn’t a bad writer; she had a way with literary devices.

“You likie?” she whispered.

“I likie,” I responded.  
She’d end up talking my ear off most days, and I’d let her. I appreciated her confiding in me. Her attendance was spotty, though, so I’d see her in spurts. But when she came, I felt her presence. She was so sweet and respectful. She always greeted me and would ask how I was doing. She wound up bringing to the lab a friend in trouble. I’d sign him in with positive attendance and help him too. This was last school year.

This school year, I thought she’d stop in, but I didn’t see her.

During Thanksgiving week, staff members received an email informing us that a Morton East student, Ruby Navarrete, had died the prior weekend. My mind froze. I whispered to myself, “Is it her, my Ruby from last year?” A second email confirmed

Sofia Gonzalez



it. I asked how she passed and learned she was killed in a shooting at a party in the city. The wrong place. The wrong time.

I swiftly left my room and waved to security to watch my class. I went to the room of a trusted colleague and friend. A full panic attack commenced.

Several staff members surrounded me and encouraged me to breathe. My colleague Ritz just held me as I wept. Semi-audible words spilled out: “She was just a baby.” “Her mom, her mom, Dios mio.” My eyes were closed tight. My principal touched my shoulder and whispered, “I need you to breathe, kid.”

I was taken in a wheelchair outside, where a crisp breeze and the afternoon sun roused me. I made it home in a colleague’s car.

The evening was a blur. My family rushed to my aid, and texts and calls came in from my school community.

My reaction points to deeper wounds that still need healing. My experiences teaching in struggling parts of Chicago for many years, the panic and angst over gun violence, still rattle my insides like maracas.

I tried to take the message to Washington this summer, to spread awareness about the lives of my students and what it’s like to be a teacher in an

urban setting. Such are the stark realities of living and teaching in environments more susceptible to tragedies like Ruby’s. Will the situation ever change? Can I bang my wooden spoon on pots any louder?

Ruby marks another student of mine lost to gun violence. The shooter isn’t in custody. “Justice for Ruby” goes the beating drum of my heart.

The next day after finding out is always the hardest. I zero in on my student’s favorite seat. My imagination places them there.

I worked in Chicago’s toughest neighborhoods. I’m now a Title 1 teacher in Cicero, but my school isn’t removed from these issues, which are all too familiar to communities of color. As a Latina, a teacher of color, I have a problem with this; these issues shouldn’t be normalized. I’m deeply committed to my school community for its heart and grit. We need more resources, systemic change and support at the state and federal levels.

Ruby’s funeral was excruciating. A sea of students, staff members and her family members gathered. She wore a crown, her hair long and flowing. Catholic chants and songs filled the air. Touching her hand, I whispered that I’d use my voice for change, somehow, in some way. I meant it.

This is what teachers and school communities go through when they lose a student to gun violence. I will continue to tell these stories.

I came back the next day to school and reported for duty. I will be back every time. This, I pray.

Gonzalez is a teacher at Morton East High School in Cicero, Illinois.

# The Commercial Review



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

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Christmas clapping

Members of the Fort Recovery Middle School choir clap Sunday while performing during their Christmas concert. The middle school group — First Edition — performed songs including “Where are you Christmas?” and “Jingle Bell Rock.”

## Braun ...

Continued from page 1  
“I built the American dream in my own hometown over those 30 years from a little business that only had 17 employees for 17 years,” Braun said. “My office was a used mobile home — literally — for those first 17 years. (We now have) hundreds of employees, over 1,000, across the country.”

Braun joined the state legislature as a representative in 2014, jumping into the 2018 race for U.S. Senate and winning over incumbent Democrat Joe Donnelly. Braun emerged from a tough primary in which Luke Messer and Todd Rokita, now attorney general, spent millions attacking each other, allowing Braun and his self-funded war chest to emerge unscathed.

Throughout his time in Congress, Braun has closely aligned himself with former President Donald Trump, consistently approving his agenda.

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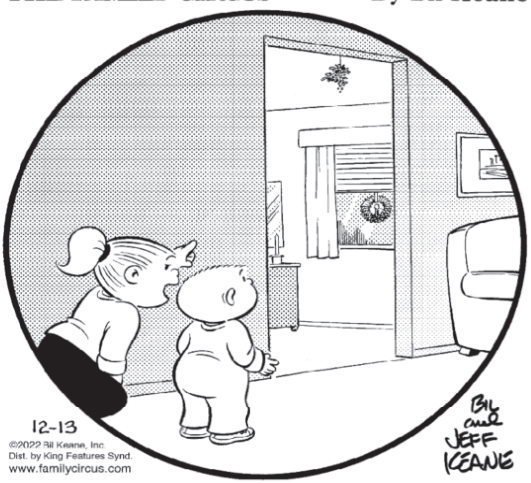
SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



12-13 All you hafta do is go stand under the mistletoe now when you need a kiss.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A different game

North dealer. East-West vulnerable. NORTH: ♠ 10 8 3, ♥ 10 9 7, ♦ K 9, ♣ A K J 2. WEST: ♠ —, ♥ J 6 2, ♦ Q 8 7 3 2, ♣ 9 8 6 4 3. EAST: ♠ K J 2, ♥ A K 5 4 3, ♦ 10 6 4, ♣ Q 5. SOUTH: ♠ A 9 7 6 5 4, ♥ Q 8, ♦ A J 5, ♣ 10 7.

The bidding: North 1♣, East 1♥, South 2♣, West 2♠. Opening lead — two of hearts. Those who play matchpoint duplicate — where a single overtrick can make the difference between a good result and a poor one — sometimes find themselves doing something that would make rubber-bridge players cringe.

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



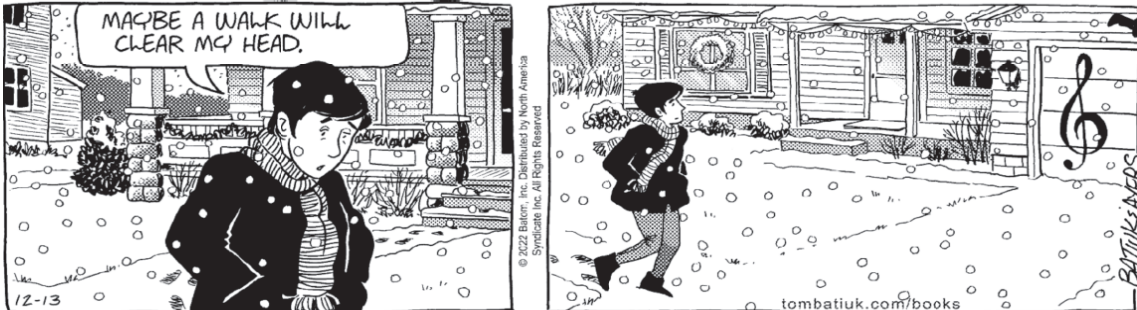
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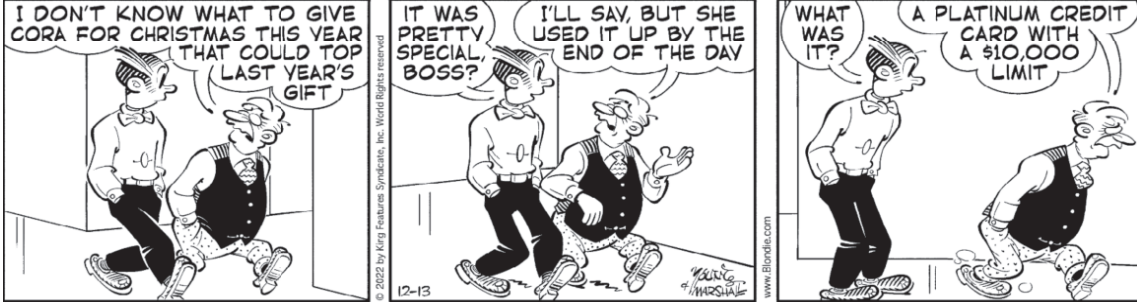
Hi and Lois



Funky Winkerbean



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



12-13

CRYPTOQUIP

MTNV KU N UVQFNOB UKVB IQHVNKHKHO IFNVBU AZWW QA UYNWW KVBYU AQF TQYBU?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IFA CHAIN OF SANDWICH SHOPS WERE TO CLOSE DOWN, PEOPLE COULD SHOUT "IT'S THE END OF PANERA!" Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 22 mins and yesterday's answer.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-51 indicating clue positions.

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# Sports

## ACAC with ease



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School sophomore Christian Wittkamp squeezes a headlock on Woodlan's Brady Garrison while the referee counts a near fall during their 152-pound match in the Allen County Athletic Conference Duals on Saturday at Adams Central. Wittkamp defeated Garrison by an 18-2 technical fall and the Class 2A No. 1 Patriots (16th overall) dominated the tournament, going 6-0 with none of their matches decided by fewer than 30 points.

### Tribe wins at the buzzer

BRADFORD, Ohio — The Indians were on the edge of dropping their second game of the week.

Rex Leverette took care of that.

Leverette grabbed a rebound in the closing seconds Saturday night and scored a put-back hoop as time expired to lift the Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team to a 55-54 victory over the Bradford Railroaders.

The Indians (4-1) were down by seven heading into the final period but locked down on defense to rally. They gave up just five fourth-quarter points to put them in position for Leverette's last-minute hoop — it accounted for his only points of the game — to lift them to victory.

Cale Rammel powered Fort Recovery, scoring 23 of his game-high 26 points in the first three periods. Alex Dues added nine points, including five in the fourth quarter, and Daniel Patch added eight.

FRHS dominated the junior varsity game 76-35.

## Jay County dominates for duals title

MONROE — There are some other highly ranked teams in the ACAC.

None of them came close to challenging the No. 1 Patriots.

The Class 2A No. 1 Jay County High School boys wrestling team dominated the Allen County Athletic Conference Duals on Friday and Saturday at Adams Central, winning every match in the

round-robin event by at least 30 points.

The Patriots, who are ranked 16th in the state overall, essentially put the title away when they dominated Class 1A No. 2 Adams Central 50-19. Their other wins came by scores of 60-15 over Bluffton, which was ranked in the top 10 in Class 1A prior to the season, 78-6 over Heritage, 67-12 over South

Adams, 70-9 over Woodlan and 72-12 over Southern Wells.



Sylas Wenk (106 pounds), Taye Curtis (120), Cody Rowles (126), Ethan Reiley (132), Tony Wood (138), Cameron Clark (145) and AJ Myers (182) all finished undefeated for Jay County. Christian Wittkamp (152), Bryce Wenk (195) and Daniel Moore (113) all went 5-1.

The dominant win over the host

Jets came with a sweep of every weight class from 106 to 145. That stretch included five pins for the Patriots, with Curtis finishing off Oliver Hindenlang in just 19 seconds. Wenk recorded a pin of Myles Kaehr in 4:46, and Reiley, Wood and Clark added consecutive pins in 4:33, 4:00 and 1:47, respectively.

See ACAC page 7

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## Jay tankers top SA

BERNE — The boys got their first victory.

The girls improved to 4-1.

It was a strong evening for the Jay County High School swim teams Monday, with the boys topping the host South Adams Starfires 113-37 and the girls winning 102-79.

The Patriot boys also placed sixth out of nine scoring teams at Saturday's Norwell Invitational.

Josh Monroe led the JCHS boys (1-4) against South Adams, finishing first in the 50-yard freestyle and 100 butterfly. He was the squad's lone double winner.

Adding individual victories for the boys team were Brasen Glassford in diving, Lincoln Clamme in the 100 backstroke, Kolby Baldwin in the 200 freestyle, David Keen in the 200 individual medley, Wyatt Kunkler in the 500 freestyle and Joseph Dow in the 100 freestyle.

The Patriots also swept the relays, with Monroe, Kunkler, Dow and Matthew Fisher taking the 200 medley, Monroe,

Clamme, Baldwin and David Keen winning the 200 freestyle and Kunkler, Dow, Baldwin and Fisher finishing first in the 400 freestyle.

Mara Bader was the only Jay County girl to win two events as she was first in the sprint freestyle races. Maddy Snow took the top spot in diving, Morgan DeHoff won the 100 backstroke and Avery Wentz was first in the 100 butterfly.

Bader also teamed with Zion Beiswanger, Lauren Fisher and DeHoff to take the 200 freestyle relay and Sophia Hoevel,

Beiswanger and DeHoff to win the 400 freestyle relay.

The Patriot boys scored 96 points in the Norwell Invitational to finish 54 behind fifth-place Adams Central and 59 ahead of seventh-place Belmont. Oak Hill scored 290 to win by 13 over the host Knights.

Monroe won the 100 breaststroke in 1:07.63 for Jay County's only victory at the meet. He was also fifth in the 200 individual medley.

Kunkler placed sixth in both the 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle.

### Monroe wins two to lead Patriot boys to their first victory

## Trojans trounce JC

NEW CASTLE — The season hasn't started the way the Patriots had hoped.

Jay County High School's boys basketball team struggled in the opening quarter Saturday and could not fight its way back in a 57-36 loss to the New Castle Trojans.

The game got away from the Patriots (1-3) early as they fell behind 19-4 in the opening quarter. The teams were even in the second period but New Castle extended its lead to 18 after three quarters en route to the 21-point final margin.

Colin Taylor, a sophomore, paced New Castle (4-2) with 17 points. Senior Gavin Welch was right behind him with 16.

Blake Bogenschutz was the only Patriot to reach double figures as he finished with 10 points. Dusty Pearson was next with eight, and Josh Dowlen and Gradin Swoveland each scored five.

JCHS will try to rebound Friday when it visits Delta.

### Basketball roundup

#### JH girls win

Jay County's junior high girls basketball teams picked up a couple of victories Monday with the seventh graders beating Muncie Northside 37-27 while the eighth grade team won 35-28.

Elizabeth Brunswick reached double figures for the seventh grade Patriots, scoring a team-high 10 points. Kylie Shannon followed with seven points and Gabi Petro scored six.

Hallie Schwieterman's 21 points set the pace for the Patriot eighth graders. Natalie May added six points.