

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Hospitals filling with flu patients

By **LESLIE BONITA MUNIZ**

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
With The Commercial Review staff reports

Hoosier health and hospital officials on Monday urged residents to get the flu vaccine as hospitals strain under the weight of a fast-growing caseload and rising death toll. The flu has killed 24 people as of a December 3 report; the next such update will include the state's first child flu fatality.

"Like many states, Indiana is experiencing very high levels of flu activity right now," said State Health Commissioner Dr. Kris

### State health chief pushes for vaccination

Box in a news release. As residents prepare to travel and gather with family for the holidays, she encouraged vaccination for anyone six months and older.

"This year's flu vaccine continues to be a good match for the cir-

culating strains, and it is your best protection against a severe, and possibly tragic, outcome," Box said. It takes two weeks for the antibodies triggered by the vaccine to develop.

Indiana hospitals are tackling

triple the trouble this winter, as the flu, respiratory syncytial virus — known for its deadly potential for infants — and COVID-19 circulate. The flu is different, and more severe, than the common cold.

More than 11,000 people are in inpatient care as of this week, Indiana Hospital Association President Brian Tabor said in a news release. And he warned that the state could break records for inpatient capacity set during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the stated depart-

ment of health's influenza dashboard, 5.9% of all emergency room patients in Jay County are displaying an "influenza-like illness." That's below the state average of 7.3%.

Randolph County is the highest in the area at 11.1%, and Delaware County is at 7.3%. Wells County is at 4.7%, with Adams County at 3.6% and Blackford County at 2.9%.

The highest levels are in the south central portion of the state, with Washington County coming in at 21.1%.

See **Flu** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney



### Holiday story

Bloomfield Elementary School held its Christmas program, based on the book "The Bear Stays up for Christmas," on Tuesday at East Jay Elementary School. Pictured above, Jackson Westgerdes, a second grader, performs during the show that included "O Christmas Tree," "Rock the Holly" and "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." Below, first grader Vicki Suman smacks a drum.

## Biden signs bill on marriage

### Measure protects same-sex partnerships

By **MICHAEL MACAGNONE**

CQ-Roll Call  
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden signed into law Tuesday a bill to protect same-sex marriages, at a White House ceremony resembling a victory lap set to a soundtrack of pop music stars Sam Smith and Cyndi Lauper.

The South Lawn ceremony featured performances from the two artists, as well as speeches from Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer and the couple that brought the lawsuit that prompted a Massachusetts court to legalize same-sex marriage in that state.

Accompanied by an acoustic guitar, Lauper performed her song "True Colors," which also shares the name of a group to fight LGBTQ homelessness she co-founded in 2008. Smith, who performed the hit song "Stay With Me," came out as gay in 2014 and nonbinary in 2019.

Biden, in a speech, emphasized the importance of congressional action to formally repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and codify federal recognition of same-sex marriages. Supporters said the law in part would be a backstop in case the Supreme Court ever reversed its 2015 ruling that legalized same-sex marriages nationwide.

"It is one thing for the Supreme Court to rule on a case, but it is another thing entirely for elected representatives of the people to take a vote on the floor of the United States Congress and say loudly and clearly, 'Love is love,'" Biden said.

The bill, which passed both chambers of Congress with bipartisan support, is one of the last major pieces of legislation that Democrats will pass before handing control of the House over to Republicans next Congress.

Pelosi noted that the law served as a bookend to her own time as House speaker. She had prioritized LGBTQ issues such as funding to fight HIV and AIDS from her first term as Congress.

See **Marriage** page 5

#### Deaths

**Michael McBeth**, 77, Albany  
**Christopher Morgan**, 34, Portland  
Details on page 2.

#### Weather

The temperature in Jay County hovered between 34 and 39 degrees Tuesday. Tonight's low will be 39 with rain expected after midnight and winds gusting to 30 miles per hour. More rain is possible Thursday with a high of 46.  
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

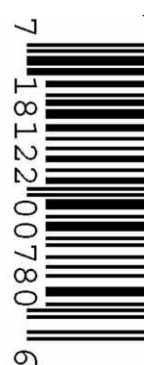
#### In review

Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday at Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. The agenda includes a variance for a setback for turkey confined feeding operation.

#### Coming up

**Thursday** — A look at local athletes who are competing at the college level.

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



# ISTA pushes for better pay, benefits

By WILLIAM SKIPWORTH

The Times (Munster)  
Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana State Teachers Association is pushing the Legislature to increase teacher pay and benefits as the state deals with more than 1,500 teacher vacancies.

“More than a decade of inadequate education funding and efforts to de-professionalize the education profession has resulted in an educator shortage crisis,” ISTA wrote in its annual list of

priorities ahead of the 2023 legislative session. “ISTA has a plan, but it will take us all — educators, school administrators and parents — to make sure all students have caring, qualified, committed educators in their school.”

ISTA released that list Tuesday morning, addressing teacher compensation and benefits, learning and working conditions, and giving teachers more autonomy. The ITSA is asking legislators, among other things, to:

- Significantly increase funding

to public schools that can be used to reach teacher-salary goals.

- Create a commission to identify and report comprehensive information regarding educational support professionals, such as bus drivers, food-service employees, custodians, technicians, skilled trades, administrative staff, security and instructional aides.
- Expand collective bargaining and give those rights to educational support professionals.
- Create a grant program

designed to recruit and retain educational support professionals, including signing bonuses, benefits packages and commercial driver’s license certification costs.

- Amend state law to exempt student loan debt relief from Indiana’s state income taxation, with the goal of alleviating the financial burden of studying education at the college level.
- Provide up to 12 weeks of state-funded paid parental leave for public school employees.

•Increase special-education and English language-learner funding.

•Develop and fund universal and free public preschool within the next three years.

•Increase scholarships aimed at attracting and retaining teachers, with a particular focus on increasing the number of Black, Indigenous or people-of-color teachers.

•Support paraprofessionals to transition to become licensed teachers.

## CR almanac

Thursday 12/15	Friday 12/16	Saturday 12/17	Sunday 12/18	Monday 12/19
<b>46/29</b> There's a slight chance of rain Thursday under mostly cloudy skies.	<b>36/23</b> Wind gusts may reach up to 25 mph on Friday. The low is expected to dip to the low to mid 20s late.	<b>29/20</b> Saturday's forecast shows mostly cloudy skies with temperatures in the 20s.	<b>30/19</b> Partly sunny throughout the day. The low may dip to 19 degrees.	<b>33/20</b> Mostly sunny Monday with a high of 33 degrees.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$134 million	Quick Draw: 3-4-12-19-23-24-26-27-29-30-31-36-37-39-45-63-71-73-76-77 Cash 5: 12-18-20-24-42 Estimated jackpot: \$90,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> 14-22-48-58-68 Mega Ball: 6 Megaplier: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$429 million	<b>Ohio</b> Midday Pick 3: 7-6-8 Pick 4: 1-6-6-9 Pick 5: 2-8-7-6-0 Evening Pick 3: 8-7-3 Pick 4: 4-1-8-5 Pick 5: 0-0-0-9-5 Rolling Cash: 7-16-28-31-33 Estimated jackpot: \$300,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Midday Daily Three: 2-1-7 Daily Four: 9-2-4-1 Quick Draw: 4-11-18-19-27-34-39-40-43-46-48-56-57-60-64-65-70-72-73-75 Evening Daily Three: 4-6-7 Daily Four: 6-0-8-3	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....6.68 Jan. corn.....6.65 Wheat .....6.58	Wheat ..... 6.81 Jan. wheat.....7.32
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....6.65 Jan. corn.....6.62 Feb. corn .....6.64	<b>Central States Montpelier</b> Corn.....6.41 Jan. corn .....6.43 Beans .....14.65 Jan. beans .....14.65 Wheat .....7.31
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....6.47 Jan. corn .....6.47 Beans .....14.69 Jan. beans .....14.74	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....6.17 Jan. corn .....6.19 Beans .....14.52 Jan. beans .....14.57 Wheat .....6.89

## Today in history

In 557, Constantinople withstands a 6.4 magnitude earthquake. The capital of the Byzantine Empire sustained major damage from the event.

In 1287, more than 50,000 lives were lost after the Zuiderzee seawall collapsed during St. Lucia's Flood in the northwest Netherlands. It's known as the fifth largest recorded flood in history.

In 1503, astrologer and physician Michel de Nostredame (also known simply as Nostradamus) was born in France. Nostradamus is best known for his collection of poems, “Les Prophéties”, that allegedly predicted the future during the Renaissance.

In 1542, Scottish princess Mary Stuart took over the throne from her father, James V, and

became Queen Mary I. Stuart was six days old.

In 1799, George Washington died at his Mt. Vernon home in Virginia. After serving his country for more than five decades, including in the American Revolutionary War and as the United States' first president for two terms, he died at the age of 67.

In 1920, Jack Dempsey KO'd Bill Brennan in the heavyweight boxing title in New York City.

In 1939, The League of Nations expelled the Soviet Union for its demands of Finland.

In 2012, Twenty children and six adults were killed in the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

—The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Today</b> 1 p.m. — Jay County Sheriff's Office Merit Board, sheriff's office, 224 W. Water St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council joint executive session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 7 p.m. — Jay County	Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. <b>Thursday</b> 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St., Redkey. 6 p.m. — Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
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## Obituaries

### Michael McBeth

April 10, 1945-Dec. 11, 2022  
Michael D. McBeth, age 77, Albany, died Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital following a short illness.

Born in Portland on April 10, 1945, he grew up in Redkey and was a 1963 graduate of Redkey High School. Mike was a U.S. Navy veteran who served during the Vietnam War. He worked at General Motors for 31 years and was a member of American Legion Post 507, Ridgeville. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed playing cards.

Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Judy McBeth; son Skylan

McBeth (wife: Jill), Troy, Michigan; daughter Brooke McBeth (partner: John Mock Jr.), Alexandria; brother Dean McBeth (wife: Carol), Plainwell, Michigan; and grandchildren Joseph McBeth (partner: Chelsea Martin), Winchester, Nicklaus McBeth, Troy, Michigan, and Lauren McBeth, Troy, Michigan.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph F. and Mildred Eileen (Friend) McBeth. Cremation was chosen. There will be no public services.



Condolences and other expressions of sympathy may be expressed at MeachamFuneralService.com.

**Christopher Morgan**, Portland, Dec. 14, 1987-Dec. 12, 2022. Services will be held at a later date.

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*The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge.*

*They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.*

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

## Flu ...

Continued from page 1  
Ohio influenza activity has also spiked, with more than 1,400 hospitalizations as of the last weekly report. The five-year average for early December is less than 100, with flu activity typically peaking in mid-February.

Tabor and Box said that, when possible, Hoosiers should get tested for respiratory illnesses and seek care for mild symptoms at a family physician's office or a local urgent care, rather than at a hospital emergency room.

“Our hospitals are dealing with the triple impact of influenza, RSV and COVID-19 right now, along with normal emergencies and illnesses, and we want to keep emergency rooms clear for Hoosiers who urgently need them,” Box said.

Those most at risk for developing flu-related pneumonia, requiring hospitalization or even dying include pregnant people, young children, elderly people, and those

*‘Our hospitals are dealing with the triple impact of influenza, RSV and COVID-19 right now.’*

—Dr. Kris Box

with chronic illnesses or who are otherwise immunocompromised.

The Indiana Department of Health recommends washing hands often with warm and soapy water, covering a cough or sneeze with an elbow or tissue, and staying home when sick.

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*Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, non-profit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.*

## Felony courts

### Unlawful possession

A Pennville man was sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to unlawful possession, a Level 6 felony, in Jay Circuit Court.

Parker M. Squier, 32, admitted he is a habitual offender. Squier was sentenced to four years in Indiana Department of Correction — two years were added onto the sentence because he is a habitual offender — and given credit for time served. He was assessed \$185 in court costs.

As part of his plea agreement, a Class A misdemeanor for resisting law enforcement was dismissed.

## SERVICES

Today

**Jones, Doug:** 5 p.m., Fairhaven Funeral Home, 6557 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne.

Friday

**Smith, Mary:** 10 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

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# Alternating holidays makes life easier

By JANN BLACKSTONE  
Tribune News Service

Jann Blackstone



Ex-etiquette is a weekly column. Each week I answer your questions about breaking up, starting over, and co-parenting. In last week's column I made a comment about not being in favor of co-parents splitting the holidays. Because my readers felt this was out of character, I got a lot of emails. Comments like, "You always say children have the right to time with both parents. How can you say you are not in favor of splitting the holidays? I thought you were about what's fair."

parents tell me, "It's not me! That's what it said in the court order!" it is a little crazy-making to me. Many parents simply don't know they can agree to adjust the court order any time they want. Let me explain a little further.

When co-parents live around the corner from one another or even across town, they can easily split the holidays, the children with one parent on Christmas Eve and the other parent on Christmas Day.

However, when you live an hour away from your co-parent, or two or three hours, and try to shuffle the kids back-and-forth because the court order

says you are supposed to share the children's time on a holiday, you have to ask yourself, "Is this really in the best interest of my children?"

That's when I am not in favor of splitting the holidays. Alternating the holidays in those cases may be easier on everyone — especially the kids.

This was the decision of two of my clients who realized even driving across town in the middle of a holiday frustrated their children. During a co-parenting session they were comparing notes and talking about how the children celebrated Thanksgiving this year with dad instead of trying to juggle portions of the day. Mom was smiling as she listened to dad talk about the spontaneous family recital initiated by her children, and that prompted me to ask dad if it would be a stretch for him to videotape a spontaneous moment and send it to mom so she



Tribune News Service/Dreamstime

When co-parents live around the corner from one another or even across town, they can easily split the holidays, the children with one parent on Christmas Eve and the other parent on Christmas Day, writes Dr. Jann Blackstone. However, when you live an hour or more away from your co-parent and try to shuffle the kids back and forth because the court order says you are supposed to share the children's time on a holiday, you have to ask yourself, "Is this really in the best interest of my children?"

could see how well the children were adjusting to celebrating at dad's home.

He thought for a second and I could see the wheels turning as he considered my question. Then he

smiled and said, "Of course."

This was a huge step for them. Months ago these parents couldn't talk to one another, even separately in a Zoom meeting. Now, because they had

learned to put their own issues aside and put their children first, they were considering sending each other videos.

Some might ask why I didn't suggest FaceTime or a video call.

These parents are just in the beginning stages of co-parenting. If co-parents are not ready for that sort of interaction, they may find video calls to the other parent intrusive, whereas sending a video that someone just took demonstrates forethought and a desire to cooperate. As these parents become more comfortable working together, FaceTime might be a great alternative, but not yet. We start with baby steps. That's good ex-etiquette.

Blackstone is the author of "Ex-etiquette for Parents: Good Behavior After Divorce or Separation," and the founder of Bonus Families, [bonusfamilies.com](http://bonusfamilies.com). Email her at [drjann@exetiquette.com](mailto:drjann@exetiquette.com).

# Man blindsided by his ex's new boyfriend

DEAR ABBY: My ex-wife, "Jenny," and I were together seven years, married for almost five of them. We have a young child together. We have been divorced for eight months. I have been trying to reconcile with her because she is the love of my life and I want our family to be together.

The problem is, since we separated, she has been seeing my ex-best friend, "Mack," who was the best man at our wedding. I was crushed when I found out. I have tried to show Jenny that Mack is a manipulator and a liar and that he hasn't been honest with her during their time together.

I know that I am clearly the best man for Jenny, our son and our family. However, she continues to see Mack even after

Dear Abby



n't been honest, and sometimes people must learn the hard way. As much as you'd like to "save" Jenny, she's going to have to make her own mistakes. Stay close so you can buffer your son if there are stormy seas ahead. If Mack is as bad as you say, their romance likely will not last.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have two adult sons, 22 and 20. We helped them become independent by teaching them as teenagers to cook, do their laundry, scrub their bathrooms, vacuum, do dishes, etc.

Our oldest moved out a year ago and rented an apartment with his 28-year-old girlfriend. A month after he moved, we were invited to their place for

dinner. The apartment was a mess. We let our son know they need to spend 15 to 30 minutes every day picking up after themselves so their days off won't be spent cleaning. They both work crazy hours.

Neither one thinks cleaning their apartment is important! We have bought them cleaning supplies, a vacuum, a mop, etc., to help them maintain their apartment, but they sit unused. Their place is now a total disaster. It pains me to see them live like this. This isn't how our son was raised.

By the way, she is the mother of a 5-year-old who stays with her three days a week. Part of me wants to call CPS because no child should live in these conditions, but I'm hesitant because of my son. He loves

her and enjoys living with her. I desperately need advice on how to best handle this. — FASTIDIOUS IN WASHINGTON

DEAR FASTIDIOUS: I understand that you are disgusted, but the "best way to handle this" would be to step back and stay out of it. This is how your son has chosen to live — for now. If he is bothered by the mess, he's capable of stepping in to rectify it. You should not call CPS unless the child is in imminent danger.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [DearAbby.com](http://DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

# Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

**Today**  
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 - BRIGANNA'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. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

JAY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY — Will meet at 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Jay County Public Library. The public is welcome.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

MISSISSINEWA CHAPTER OF NATIONAL SOCIETY OF DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION — Will meet on Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at Jay County Historical Museum. Chapter will give the Citizenship for Outstanding Volunteerism Award. Please bring non-perishable food items to donate to Trinity United Methodist Church in Portland. This is the last chapter meeting until March 2023. Any questions, please call Kathy Selman at (260) 251-1694 or Sue Sommers at (260) 726-2678.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1.

# Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

## Tuesday's Solution

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

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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# Kind moment was pure Americana

*(Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Dec. 14, 2005. I can picture Jack walking up the steps to the post office making his second visit of the day after his regular morning visit to pick up mail from the newspaper's P.O. Box. And I can't help but wonder who his helper was and if the man remembers the interaction as well.)*

By JACK RONALD

The Commercial

No wonder Norman Rockwell came here to paint.

It's just that sort of place.

It was an afternoon last week before the big snow hit. I was trying to get an early jump on

## Back in the Saddle



things by mailing some Christmas packages to our daughters in Boston.

There I was, looking like a holiday caricature, bundled up against the weather and carrying three large cardboard boxes, stacked so high I could barely see where I was going.

Ascending the steps in front

of the post office, I was watching for my footing out of the corner of my eye.

When I was about halfway up the steps, the door swung open.

Out came a guy I didn't know.

He was of medium build, and his hair was closely cropped.

He had a beard that was only about half a step up from a five o'clock shadow.

He zipped past me, flipping through his mail and reading the envelopes as he went down the stairs.

Then the Norman Rockwell moment happened.

As he neared the foot

of the steps and I neared the top, he swung suddenly around, ran up the stairs, and beat me to the door.

Grabbing the handle, he swung it open to let me in.

Then, remembering the second doors from the vestibule into the post office lobby, he followed me in and repeated the gesture.

"Thanks," I said. "Thanks. And Merry Christmas!"

"Merry Christmas," he said. And he was gone.

And I stood there, having received a very special Christmas gift in that simple act of courtesy and generosity, and grinned like an idiot.

Norman Rockwell, I thought, could have turned that into a classic cover for the old Saturday Evening Post.

He would have captured the chill in the air and how ridiculous I looked with that big stack of packages. He would have done justice to the humanity of the moment. It was pure Americana.

.....  
*For the record, Rockwell did come here to paint at one point in the early 1950s. A print of his charming rendition of then-county-extension-agent Herald Rippey hangs in the Jay County Courthouse.*

## Feds continue to kick the can

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Tribune News Service

More than 20 years after 9/11, Americans are still taking their shoes off at airport checkpoints and remain prohibited from packing larger bottles in their luggage. Yet the folks at the Department of Homeland Security continue to be flummoxed about how to implement more stringent identification requirements for airline passengers.

On Monday, the department announced that it was again delaying enforcement of the Real ID Act, which Congress passed 17 years ago. The legislation imposed certain standards on states for issuing driver's licenses and ID cards, forcing recipients to provide additional documentation. The purpose was to enhance travel security by improving the reliability of state-issued identification.

The latest extension means air travelers have been granted a two-year reprieve and won't need federally approved IDs until May 2025.

Department officials blame the most recent delay on the coronavirus, claiming that "Real ID progress over the past two years has been significantly hindered by state driver's licensing agencies having to work through the backlogs created by the pandemic." But this ignores the fact that missed deadlines have been a feature of the law from the outset. The act was initially supposed to be applied in 2008, and the latest delay is the seventh time enforcement has been pushed back.

The real problem is that many Americans still don't have the upgraded licenses. According to the DHS, only 43 percent of state-issued IDs as of 2021 met the law's requirements. Many people still don't realize that at some point they will be unable to board a flight without the Real ID or a passport. Imagine the chaos — and the effect on airlines and airports — if half of all travelers were turned away because they had only a traditional driver's license.

Those in the travel industry have warned of disruptions. In 2020, Kevin Burke, president and CEO of The Airport Council-North America, told NBC News that enforcement of the law is

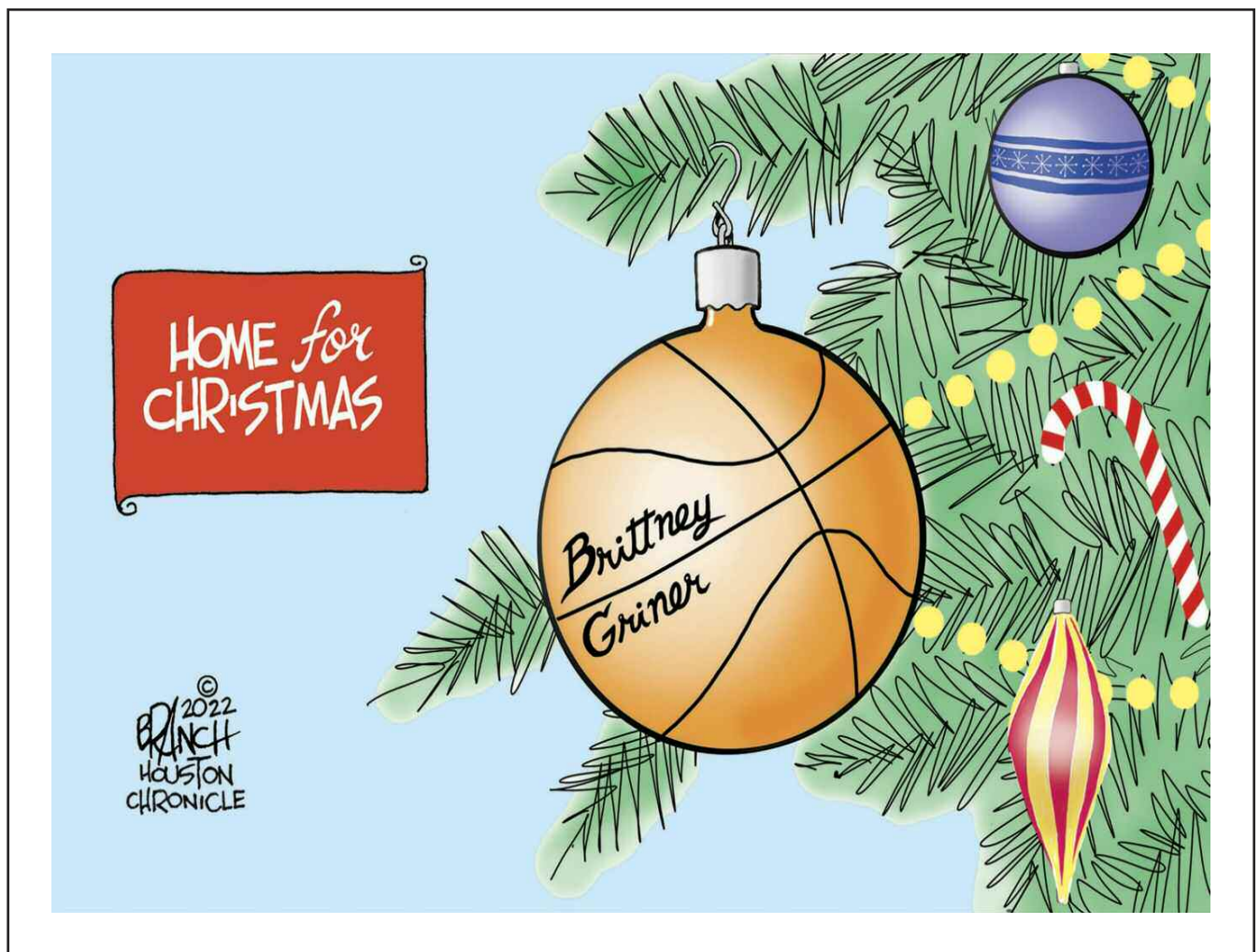
## Guest Editorial

*Many people still don't realize that at some point they will be unable to board a flight without the Real ID or a passport. Imagine the chaos — and the effect on airlines and airports — if half of all travelers were turned away because they had only a traditional driver's license.*

"a crisis waiting to happen." He added, "If the government doesn't make a definitive statement now that they're going to extend this, then we're going to have a real crisis on our hands."

Equally important, however, is the debate over whether the Real ID will actually have any significant impact on airline safety. Homeland Security officials have been unable to enforce the requirement for 17 years, yet the nation has avoided a repeat of 9/11. "There is precious little in way of evidence supporting the idea that this additional hurdle could prevent terrorism," notes Reason magazine's Emma Camp.

Attempting to minimize disruptions that will accompany enforcement of the new ID policy makes sense. But disruptions are inevitable. If Congress isn't willing to live with that after nearly two decades, perhaps it should reconsider imposing this mandate at all.



## Chamber missed an opportunity

By JOHN KRULL

TheStatehousefile.com

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Chamber of Commerce missed a huge opportunity the other day.

The chamber had a chance to transform Indiana's bitter and unproductive battles over education into a discussion that might lead somewhere and help this state and its people.

But the voice of Hoosier business let the moment go by — in fact, it probably added to the bitterness — so everyone in Indiana is condemned to still more angry and pointless wrangling over the state's schools.

Here's what happened.

The chamber released a report, "Indiana's Leaking Talent Pipeline." That report noted that our state performs abysmally when it comes to retaining and attracting talent. The chamber cited a CNBC report that ranked Indiana 48th when it came to alluring qualified workers to come work and live here.

The chamber then veered to blame schools for this sorry showing. The report said Indiana had too few students going on to get certificates or degrees beyond high school and too many school districts.

The chamber's verdict, as usual, was that Indiana's education system was a failing business.

Educators, understandably and predictably, reacted with fury.

Three former state superintendents of public instruction — Suellen Reed, Glenda Ritz and Jennifer McCormick — dismissed the chamber's report as nothing more than hack work. The head of the Indiana State Teachers Association attacked the chamber's findings as driven by ideological, partisan and even financial motivations.

And this state suffers for another season of protracted siege warfare — with our children being used as both cannon fodder and targets.

John Krull



There are many frustrating things about Indiana's education debates, but perhaps the most maddening is that both sides in the struggle have valid points.

But neither is being heard because there is just too much noise accompanying their ongoing strife.

The chamber's overarching point is a pertinent one. In many ways, Indiana's schools are not serving Hoosier students, businesses or taxpayers well. There is significant room for improvement.

That said, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce is in no position to point fingers.

For almost 20 years, the chamber has been the driving force when it comes to shaping education policy in Indiana.

Running roughshod over the concerns of and objections from teachers and many parents, the chamber and its allies in the Indiana General Assembly and elsewhere have rammed through one supposed "reform" after another.

They created the most expensive and expensive school voucher program in the nation. They encouraged charter schools to pop up and often blow away like weeds in an untended garden. While claiming to empower parents, they denied those same parents the power to choose their own education chief by making the state superintendent of public instruction an appointed rather than an elected position. They changed the state's standardized testing system again and again, sometimes more often than

once a year, so that the data collected from the tests are close to worthless.

They also took pains to make sure that many of their reforms were exempt from the assessment and accountability measures they imposed on traditional public schools.

So, if the leaders of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce don't think the state's schools are up to snuff and they want to hold someone responsible, all they need to do is find a mirror.

In fact, that is what the chamber's leaders should have done.

That is, if they want to move the discussion forward.

The challenges facing Indiana's schools are neither easy nor simple. They will not yield to magic-bullet or wishful-thinking solutions, which is what the self-proclaimed education reformers championed by the chamber often have offered.

Those challenges surely won't be met if we don't find some way to get everyone on the same side of the table.

Even more important, we need to make it clear that admitting to a mistake isn't a sin or a character flaw. It's the natural byproduct of trying new things — an essential component of innovation.

It falls to the chamber to send those signals and set that tone because the chamber has dominated the education debate for at least two decades.

But the chamber didn't do that with this latest report.

Instead, it scored some political points.

And missed the opportunity to do something much more important.

Lead.

.....  
*Krull, director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism and publisher of TheStatehouse-File.com.*

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—Thomas Jefferson

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WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 14, 2022

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# Marriage ...

Continued from page 1  
Her first term as speaker concluded with her shepherding a bill into law that ended the U.S. military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, allowing openly LGBTQ people to serve in the military.  
"With courage, fortitude and unity, we have achieved a landmark victory in equality," Pelosi said. "For millions of Americans, the impacts of this law are necessary and fundamental."  
Pelosi said she and others still want to push further on legislation, including bills that would establish federal anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQ people.  
Biden emphasized Pelosi's central role in pushing for the legislation.  
"Equality and dignity for the LGBT community have always been her North Star," Biden said.  
The president also expressed a desire to go further than the legislation signed into law Tuesday, particularly for federal pro-

tections against discrimination.  
"When a person can be married in the morning and be thrown out of a restaurant for being gay in the afternoon, this is still wrong," Biden said.  
Such a bill is unlikely to pass in the next two years with a Republican-controlled House and a closely divided Senate.  
The new law celebrated Tuesday, known as the Respect for Marriage Act, passed the House on a 258-169-1 vote last week, with 39 Republicans voting to support the measure. Last month it passed the Senate on a 61-36 vote after months of bipartisan negotiations led by Sens. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisconsin, and Susan Collins, R-Maine.  
The law repeals the Defense of Marriage Act, the 1996 law that prevented the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages, which the Supreme Court ruled largely unconstitutional in a 2013 decision.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Bunny buddy

"Holidaisy" snuggles up with her rabbit buddy as she shows him off to those gathered for a Silly Safaris event Monday at Jay County Public Library. Other holiday activities scheduled at the library this month include Christmas shopping, crafts and activities on Dec. 15 and 16, and a visit from Santa from 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 19.

# Portland City Court

## Judge Donald Gillespie Paid by waiver

Michel E. Rousseau, Immokalee, Florida, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Ferninand O. Addo, Missouri City, Texas, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Jack S. Escalante, Dallas, Texas, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Jaswinder Singh, Bakersfield, California, stop sign city limits Redkey ordinance violation, \$160.50; Mohammed J. Marei, Lewis Center, Ohio, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Chatmakut Ratanamook, Hemet, California, off the truck route in Dunkirk, \$160.50; Jason L. Fenwick, Tell City, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Dilcia R. Ruiz, Bryant, speeding 80 mph in

a 55 mph zone, \$171; Sebastian Perez, Bound Brook, New Jersey, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Robert E. Becker, Geneva, Ohio, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Gurbinderjit Singh, South Ozone Park, New York, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Luis A. Cortez Bautista Cortez, Laredo, Texas, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Alexis O. Lopez, Houston, Texas, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Skylar Meer, Muncie, speeding 75 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$171; Ethan D. Snapp, Richmond, speeding 77 mph in a 55 mp zone, \$171; Rajinder Kumar, South Richmond Hill, New York, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Yean C. Hernandez, Miami, Florida, violating

Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$185.50; Hendrick Vandorp, Carrboro, North Carolina, off the truck route in Dunkirk, \$160.50; Munkhtulga Baatar, Schaumburg, Illinois, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Youseff Lembarky, Raleigh, North Carolina, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Margaret A. Pierson, Dunkirk, disregarding a stop sign, \$160.50; Navjot S. Virk, Indianapolis, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Faisal M. Mohamud, Columbus, Ohio, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Navjot Singh, South Richmond Hill, New York, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Gural Singh,

Hicksville, New York, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Ashauni S. Robinson, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Satbir, South Richmond Hills, New York, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Gurpreet Singh, South Ozone Park, New York, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Gurpreet Singh, South Ozone Park, New York, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Zachary W. Williams, Portland, overgrown weeds, \$160, and grass or weeds taller than 8 inches, \$25; Donovan A. Woods, San Antonio, Texas, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Kristen P. Farr, Muncie, speeding 72 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$152.50; Jeremy A. Moore, Winchester, driving without a valid license,

\$160.50; Johnny R. Marsh, Sidney, Ohio, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Edmund W. Haliburton, Detroit, Michigan, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Joseph T. Gooden, Union City, driving with expired plates, \$160.50; Janshed Islomov, Feasterville-Treose, Pennsylvania, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Mohamed T. Gele, Sioux Falls, South Carolina, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Keegan D. White, Boone, Iowa, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Moland A. Hopkins, Hollywood, Florida, off the truck route in Dunirk, \$160.50; Matthew S. Bair, Fort Wayne, speeding 77 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$171; Amandeep Singh, Riverside, California, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50.

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**Contract Bridge**

By Steve Becker

**An indispensable tool**

North dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ Q 9 3  
♥ A 7 5  
♦ A 9 3  
♣ J 8 4

**WEST**  
♠ J 8 7 6 2  
♥ Q 8 4  
♦ 5 2  
♣ A 7 2

**EAST**  
♠ K 10 5  
♥ J 9 6 3  
♦ Q J 10 8  
♣ 6 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 4  
♥ K 10 2  
♦ K 7 6 4  
♣ K 10 9 5

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1♣ Pass 2 NT Pass  
3 NT

Opening lead—six of spades.

The Rule of Eleven is a handy gadget that can be used by either side. Here is an unusual case that demonstrates the value of the rule. West leads the six of spades, dummy following low, and the question is what East should play on this trick. If he plays the ten, which is probably what most players would do, declarer can make the contract by establishing clubs and guessing to play the nine of spades on West's spade return (or later leading a spade to the nine himself) to produce his ninth trick. Let's suppose that East is a devout

disciple of the Rule of Eleven and understands its workings perfectly. In that event, after West leads the six of spades and dummy follows with the three, East plays the five!

The effect of this startling play is that South goes down one. Declarer wins and attacks clubs, whereupon West takes the ace and leads another low spade. If the queen is played from dummy, East quickly defeats the contract by taking the king and continuing with the ten to West's jack; if the nine is played from dummy, East wins with the ten, cashes the king and returns the queen of diamonds, leaving South with only eight tricks.

In applying the Rule of Eleven (which assumes that the lead is fourth-best), East subtracts the number of the card led from 11, which in this case tells him that there are five cards higher than the six in the North, East and South hands.

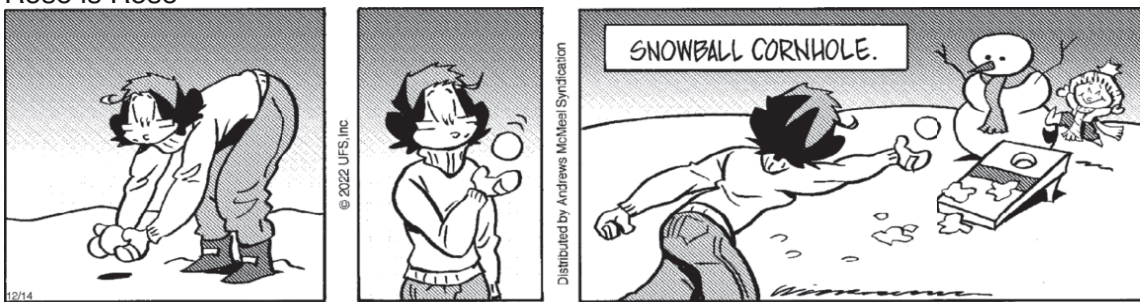
East sees two of them in dummy and two of them in his own hand, so he knows South has only one spade higher than the six. Given South's two-trump bid, this card is most likely to be the ace, which means East can safely play the five. Even if South's spade honor is the jack, the play of the five can do no worse than break even, since South is assured of a spade trick no matter what East plays.

Tomorrow: Extra chance.  
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**Peanuts**



**Rose is Rose**



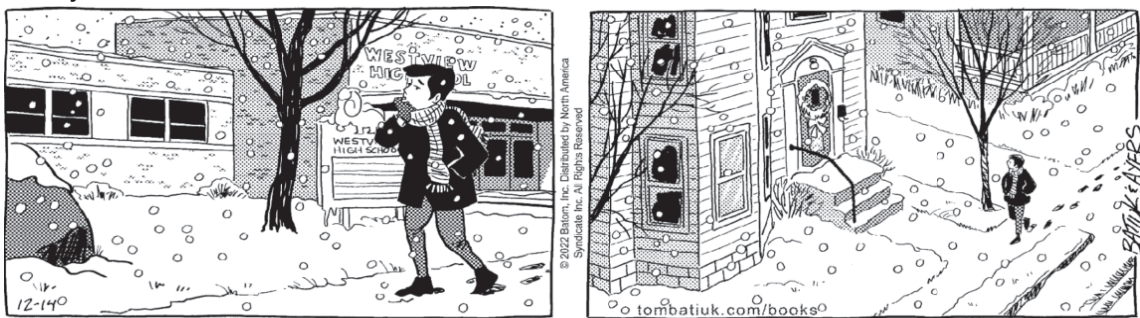
**Agnes**



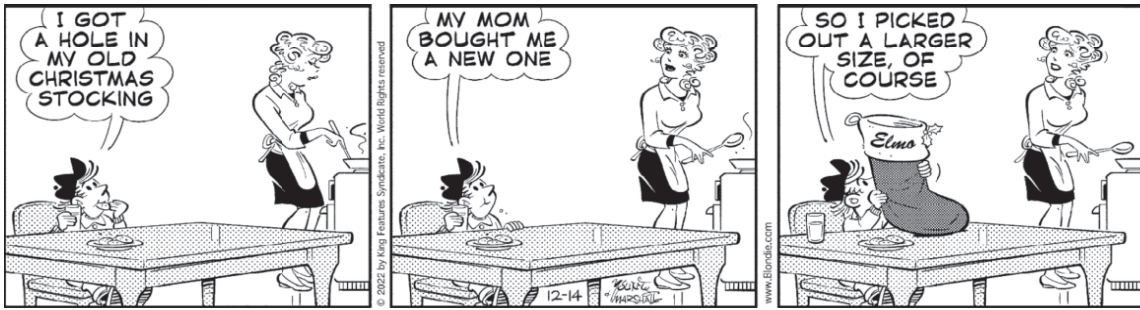
**Hi and Lois**



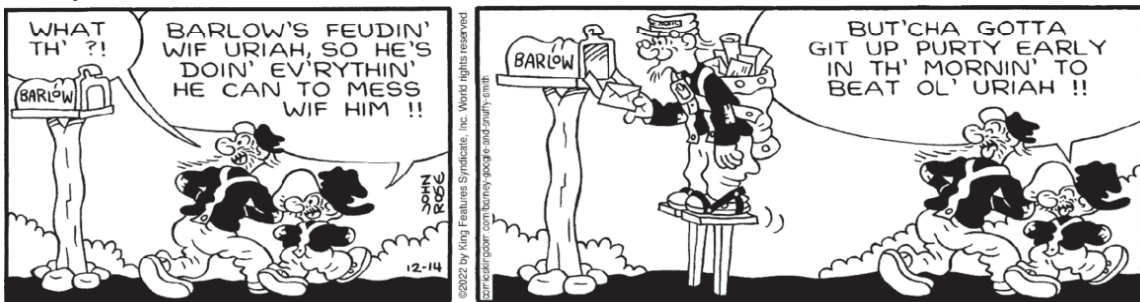
**Funky Winkerbean**



**Blondie**



**Snuffy Smith**



**Beetle Bailey**



**12-14**

**CRYPTOQUIP**

UCQM R CSBXQ DBSWQX  
WFEVSBFSZX FM RNN VCBQQ  
VBFDNQ EBSUM BREQX, FV'X R  
UFM-UFM-UFM XFVZRVFSM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT IS A STORAGE SITE CONTAINING CRATES FULL OF SMALL ITEMS FOR HOMES? A HOUSEWARE WAREHOUSE.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals R

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

**ACROSS**  
1 Audubon subject  
5 Dog's foot  
8 Early TVs  
12 Poet Khayyám  
13 Promising words?  
14 Close Editing site for news stories  
17 "La Dolce —"  
18 Caper  
19 Hire farewell  
21 Pisa  
24 CBS forensic drama  
25 Spiked club  
28 "Peter Pan" pooch  
30 Pop  
33 Hit show letters  
34 Stop-watch button  
35 Flamenco cheer  
36 Baseball's Hodges

**DOWN**  
1 — Raton  
2 "— a roll!"  
3 En-grossed  
4 Over-night-package cooler  
5 Chart format  
6 Billboards  
7 Stirred  
8 Answers an invitation  
9 Spicy ballpark  
10 Car  
11 Remain 16 601, in old Rome  
20 Future doc's exam  
22 Fresh  
23 Caravan stops  
25 Food additive  
26 "Entourage" agent  
27 Sparkling wine  
29 Octavia's spouse  
31 Frazier foe  
32 Dict. info  
34 C&W artist  
38 Swaps  
40 "The Sopranos" restaurateur  
42 Branch  
43 Beer ingredient  
44 Beyoncé's "If I Were —"  
45 Wound cover  
47 Freshens lawns  
48 Ninny  
49 Picnic intruders  
52 Past  
53 Tony winner  
Salonga

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

W	I	G	S	R	E	A	E	A	S	T
E	D	N	A	E	A	R	A	M	E	S
B	O	U	T	I	Q	U	E	G	O	R
I	D	S	A	D	L	I	B	S		
S	C	E	N	E	B	R	I	E		
C	O	T	Y	B	O	U	N	T	I	E
A	C	T	A	R	E	G	O	D	A	H
B	O	U	L	D	E	R	S	A	E	R
L	E	A	S	D	R	A	P	E		
B	Y	H	A	N	D	N	E	T		
R	O	A	M	B	O	U	F	F	A	N
A	G	U	A	O	N	T	U	R	I	S
G	A	L	S	X	E	S	L	A	N	E

Yesterday's answer 12-14

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Saturday, December 3rd 10 AM, 1 PM  
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# Sports



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Daniel Moore of Jay County High School puts all of his weight on Norwell's Connor Fojtik en route to a pin during their 113-pound match Tuesday.

## JC tops No. 6

By **RAY COONEY**  
The Commercial Review

A run of seven straight victories to end the match turned it into a blowout.

But it may have been a couple of early decisions that set the tone.

Key early wins from Landon Mills-Blowers and Bryce Wenk kept the Class 2A No. 6 Norwell Knights from ramping up too much momentum early and the top-ranked Jay County High School wrestling team dominated down the stretch Tuesday for a 52-24 victory.

### Key early victories set tone for Patriots

"We came out and we wrestled all right," said JCHS coach Eric Myers. "We came out and won some pretty big matches and were able to beat a pretty good Norwell team."

While the dominating run came later, the Mills-

Blowers and Wenk matches may well have been the ones to erase any hope Norwell had of victory.

Mills-Blowers started off the evening at 160 pounds against Norwell's Max Walker.

See **Tops** page 7

## Indian girls drop to 0-6

ST. MARYS, Ohio — The Indians were already trailing at the end of the first quarter.

They struggled to score points the rest of the way.

Fort Recovery High School's girls basketball team slipped to 0-6 Tuesday as it fell 44-21 to the host Memorial Roughriders.

The first quarter was the best offensively for the Indians, but they still found themselves trailing for 17-9. They managed just four points apiece in each

of the final three quarters as Memorial pulled away.

Three players handled almost all of the scoring for the Roughriders, with sophomore Reese Rable hitting four first-quarter 3-pointers on the way to a 17-point effort. Cora Rable added 13 points and Morgan Hesse scored a dozen.

Kennedy Muhlenkamp's nine points were the team high for Fort Recovery. Karlie Niekamp added six.

## Argentina moves to World Cup final

By **KEVIN BAXTER**  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

LUSAIL, Qatar — Lionel Messi scored one goal and set up two others Tuesday, leading Argentina to a 3-0 victory over Croatia in a World Cup semifinal, keeping alive his quest to win the one trophy that has eluded him during a stellar career.

Argentina will face the winner of Wednesday's semifinal between Morocco and defending champion France in Sunday's final.

Messi put Argentina ahead to stay with a penalty kick in the 34th minute.

Argentine forward Julián Álvarez drew the foul that sent up the penalty, charging into the 18-yard box a couple of steps clear of Croatian midfielder Mateo Kovacic, forcing Croatia goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic to come off his line. When Livakovic's clumsy challenge and took Álvarez down, Italian referee Daniele Orsato pointed at the spot immediately.

At the other end of the field Argentina keeper Emiliano Martínez turned his back and looked the other way, unable to watch as Messi drilled his left-footed shot into the upper right corner. The crowd's reaction told Martínez that Messi had scored, him giving him an Argentine-record 11 World Cup goals and five in this tourna-

ment, matching France's Kylian Mbappe for the scoring lead.

It wouldn't be the last time Álvarez and Messi, who was playing in his 25th World Cup match, tying Germany's Lothar Matthaus' record, would get together.

Álvarez got the next goal five minutes later, doubling Argentina's lead with a brilliant effort. Released by Messi at the halfway line, Álvarez charged up the center of the field, weaving his way through the Croatia defense. In the box he steered around defender Josip Juranovic and away from Borna Sosa, got help from a fortunate deflection, then poked the ball in with his right front from close range.

The goal gave Álvarez, 22, six scores in eight starts for Argentina in all competition. It also marked the first time in 29 World Cup games that Croatia has trailed by two goals at the intermission. Argentina, meanwhile, had history of its side since it has never lost in the semifinals.

Messi and Álvarez hooked up in the 69th minute, this time with Messi doing most of the work, hugging the touchline as he battled Josko Gvardiol up the right wing before turning into the penalty area and delivering a beautiful ball for Álvarez in the center of the box.



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