

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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Critical team



Photo provided

Jay County Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team, pictured above, formed in an effort to help local responders impacted by traumatic events.

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Responders see a lot in their line of work.

Some experiences don't stop at the end of the shift.

That's what has prompted a new mental health program for public safety officials in Jay and Blackford counties.

Jay County Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team formed this fall. The group helps responders left emotionally or physically affected by traumatic events.

According to the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation's website, CISM allows peers to help one another understand issues that may arise after a high-stress event. It comes down to engaging in dialogue about the incident, a process Portland fire chief Mike Weitzel noted is sometimes overlooked.

"That's always been a stigma in our fields of, 'Suck it up and move on,'" Weitzel said. "So, trying to break that stigma."

Jay Emergency Medical Service director John McFarland explained CISM team members

are trained to facilitate conversation about traumatic events.

"We get them to talk about the incident and allow them to hear other people talk about the incident as a group, and that usually kind of helps, they realize other people have the same issues," he said. "Sometimes they're just worried about how other people are looking at them, and they realize that everybody's in the same boat."

The team will be linked into Mindbase, a mental health application designed to care for first responder mental and emotional wellness. Jay County officials have accepted an agreement with the company, which will begin implementing its services in January.

Each team member's contact information — it also includes what department or field they work in — will be available to local responders using the application. From there, the user can choose to start a conversation with a team member via instant messaging or phone call.

McFarland and Weitzel teamed together recently to

launch the group. Efforts started in April when McFarland pursued mental health training following his experience with a student contemplating suicidal thoughts.

"I had absolutely no words — (I) didn't know where to go with it," McFarland recalled. "I just felt blindsided and felt useless."

Jay County Commissioners paid for McFarland to train in mental health first aid through National Council for Mental Wellbeing. Around the same time, Weitzel started to consider looking into options for local responders' mental health as well.

"There (were) a couple incidents that we experienced with our own people that we realized we weren't prepared for it, so it was a big eye-opener," he said.

In May, the pair began taking CISM classes together in Huntertown. They discovered Jay and Blackford counties are some of the few counties not included in the CISM network, which has multiple regions across the state. The northeast team has responded to a few inci-

dents in Jay County in the past, but it is not included in the group's service area.

"They were gracious enough to do that," explained Weitzel, noting the distance from the branch extending out of Allen County. "They struggled with the miles in between, they struggled getting people to come down."

That's what prompted Weitzel and McFarland to launch a local team. Support quickly poured in.

"We had quite a few people reach out," said McFarland. "It was amazing how many people were interested."

In October, Jay County CISM team hosted a three-day training for its members. Currently there are 23 members between Blackford and Jay counties, which include folks from fire and EMS departments, law enforcement agencies and mental health professionals, such as representatives from Meridian Health Services and IU Health Jay.

"The community really stepped up," Weitzel said. See **Team** page 2

Open beds are in short supply

Availability in Los Angeles has fallen to lowest level of pandemic

By LUKE MONEY, RONG-GONG LIN II and EMILY ALPERT REYES
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — The number of available Los Angeles County hospital beds has fallen to its lowest level of the pandemic, the result not only of the enduring threat of COVID-19 and the reemergence of flu and RSV, but also the needs of a populace that put off non-emergency care.

Based on data collected from 90 hospitals, there were 242 adult beds available countywide as of Monday, L.A. County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer told reporters Thursday. And, she added, "the average number of available beds so far in December is the lowest we have seen in the past four years."

Comparing current conditions to the darkest days of the pandemic isn't apples to apples, given that hospitals postponed many procedures and built up additional surge capacity during 2020 and into 2021. But with operations now more normalized, the situation illustrates the pressures exerted by the coronavirus and the wider respiratory virus season.

Retrospect

West Walnut church hosted live nativity

Twenty-five years ago this week, a local church was sharing the spirit of the season.

The Dec. 17, 1997, edition of The Commercial Review featured a story about West Walnut Street Church of Christ's live nativity.

The church's patrons were in the process of performing three consecutive nights of nativity pageants, a tradition that had been ongoing for about a dozen years. Organizer Keith Morrival said the idea came out of the church's educational ministry.

"It's a way for me to share my faith and church with others," said Jean Stucky, one of the pageant participants. "It brings you back to the beginning to the true meaning of Christmas."

It involved all ages, with children singing Christmas carols or portraying nativity characters.

"Grade School kids would be out there all the time if you'd let them," said Morrival. "It's kind of a treat for them."

And those playing shepherds had live sheep to tend to, as ani-

mals were always part of the plan. (Sheep, though, had previously been substituted with donkeys and cows.)

In an effort to make the live nativity as realistic as possible, costumes consisted of simple robes with a head covering.

"They're bed sheets, blankets or whatever we can put together," said Morrival. "They're not elaborate."

The event was held outdoors, with performers rotating in 30-minute intervals for the two-hour event. (A doll was used for baby Jesus.)

In addition to those playing Mary, Joseph and the shepherds, church member Mark McKee provided scripture passages combined with Christmas music. There were also live choirs, a brass ensemble and a children's choir.

Those involved said the process helped bring the church community closer together.

"It's not a large congregation, but it's a really good time of fellowship and there's always lots of yummy food after," said Morrival.



The Commercial Review/Laurie Chen

Amanda Barnett and her mother Lisa Barnett join Todd Hummer in portraying shepherds Dec. 16, 1997, during West Walnut Street Church of Christ's live nativity. Portraying Mary and Joseph are Vicki and Gerald Bailey.

Deaths

Betty Bechtol, 101, Fort Recovery
Donald Theurer, 101, Fort Wayne
George Willoughby, 78, Pennville
Jerry McAbee, 88, Redkey
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 36 degrees Friday. Scattered flurries are expected today with winds gusting to 25 miles per hour and a high of 30. Skies will be partly to mostly sunny Sunday and Monday with highs in the low 30s.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Cruis'n the HoliJay Lights at the Fairgrounds will be open two more times this year; from 6 to 9 p.m. tonight and Dec. 23 at Jay County Fairgrounds.

Coming up

Tuesday — Results from tonight's JCHS girls basketball game at South Adams.

Thursday — Coverage of Wednesday's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.



CR almanac

Sunday 12/18	Monday 12/19	Tuesday 12/20	Wednesday 12/21	Thursday 12/22
30/17	33/22	35/16	28/15	25/4
Mostly cloudy skies are in the forecast for Sunday with a low in the upper teens.	Another day of mostly cloudy skies expected Monday with a high just above freezing.	Tuesday's weather looks like partly sunny skies. At night, the low may reach 16.	Mostly cloudy Wednesday, with a 50% chance of snow at night.	There's a 50% chance of snow during the day. At night, the low will be 4 degrees.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 6-0-6 Daily Four: 6-2-2-3 Quick Draw: 4-10-13-19-23-28-33-47-48-49-51-53-59-60-61-66-67-72-73-75	Pick 4: 7-7-3-4 Pick 5: 1-8-1-7-3
Ohio Midday Pick 3: 9-7-6	Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$149 million
	Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$429 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.73 Dec. corn.....6.70 Wheat6.51	Wheat 6.94 July wheat 7.41
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.71 Jan. corn.....6.71 Feb. corn6.70	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.47 Jan. corn6.49 Beans14.70 Jan. beans14.70 Wheat7.41
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.53 Jan. corn6.53 Beans14.70 Jan. beans14.75	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....6.23 Jan. corn6.25 Beans14.55 Jan. beans14.60 Wheat7.03

Today in history

In 1538, King Henry VIII of England was excommunicated from the Catholic Church by Pope Paul III.

In 1760, Deborah Sampson was born. Sampson assumed a man's identity to join as a soldier in the American Revolutionary War.

In 1790, the Aztec calendar stone, also known as the Stone of the Five Eras, was discovered in Mexico City.

In 1807, the Milan Decree was issued by Napoleon of France. The measure, part of Napoleon's plan to wage economic warfare against the British, forbid all neutral countries and allies of France from trading with Britain.

In 1862, General Ulysses S. Grant issued an order expelling Jews from his military district, which included parts of Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky, after relating the folks in the religious sect to the black market for cotton. Word quickly reached President Abraham Lincoln, who ordered Grant to rescind the order.

In 1892, "Vogue" published its first issue. Starting as a high-society journal, it later became an American fashion and lifestyle magazine.

In 1903, brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright flew the first successful sustained airplane near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

In 1944, the Green Bay Packers beat the New York Giants, 14-7,

in the National Football League Championship.

In 1986, Davina Thompson had the first triple transplant — it consisted of her heart, lung and liver — at Papworth Hospital in Cambridge, England. Thompson lived for nearly another dozen years.

In 1989, "The Simpsons" debuted as a Christmas special. The animated series became a weekly show the following year and is the longest-running animated show in America.

In 1992, leaders from Mexico, Canada and the United States signed the North American Free Trade Agreement, a trade pact removing most tariffs and other barriers on products and services between the three countries. It was replaced in 2020 with the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

In 2016, the University of Saint Francis' football team won the NAIA Football National Championship with a 38-17 victory over Baker University in Daytona Beach, Florida. Eric Hemmelgarn, a 2014 Jay County High School graduate and member of the Cougars' defense, recorded three tackles and 1.5 sacks. "You don't have to be from a big high school to be a good athlete," he said the following evening after returning to Fort Wayne. "Just work hard and you'll get far." —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chamber, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, Fort Recovery High School, 400 E. Butler St.	7:15 p.m. — Fort Recovery Records Commission Committee, village hall, 201 S. Main St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St. Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, Portland Municipal Airport, 661 W. 100 North.
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Obituaries

Betty Bechtol

Nov. 18, 1921-Dec. 14, 2022
Betty F. Bechtol, 101, of Fort Recovery, Ohio, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at her home. She was born on Nov. 18, 1921, in Muncie, Indiana, to the late William and Blanche (Lindsay) Shawver. In addition to her parents, Betty was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Ralph L. Bechtol, whom she married on Oct. 22, 1941, and who passed away on Sept. 25, 2003; her daughter, Mary Cohen; her two grandsons and one great grandson; her two sisters, two half-brothers and one half-sister.



Bechtol

Betty is survived by her children, Danny (Molly) Bechtol of Fort Recovery, Ohio, Larry Bechtol of Florida, Ronald (Glenda) Bechtol of Phelan, Alabama, and Joseph (Susan) Bechtol of Muncie, Indiana; her 18 grandchildren; and many great- and great-grandchildren. Betty was a 1940 graduate of Bryant High School. She spent a majority of her life as a homemaker caring for her family. Betty was a member of the Fort Recovery American Legion Auxiliary and the VFW Auxiliary. She served as a den mother for the Fort Recovery Cub Scouts Pack 199 and was a Blue Bird Camp Fire leader. Betty was a lifelong member of the Fort Recovery United Methodist Church in Fort Recovery. A celebration of Betty's life will be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 20, at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery, with Pastor David Porath officiating. Burial will follow in Salamonia Cemetery in Salamonia, Indiana. Guests may visit on Monday, Dec. 19, from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. and again on Tuesday from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Center For Neurological Development, PO BOX 117, Burkettsville, Ohio 45310.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockman-boeckmanfh.com.

Donald Theurer

April 26, 1921-Dec. 9, 2022
Donald L. Theurer went to be with the Lord and his loving wife, Thelma, on Dec. 9. He was born April 26, 1921, in Jay County, Indiana, to Mathias and Pearl (Baldauf) Theurer. He graduated from Madison Township High School in 1939 as class valedictorian. After joining the U.S. Army Air Corps in November 1942, he spent one year in training and two years

in the ETO where he was attached to XIX Corps headquarters as a radio operator. In 1948, he graduated from Tri-State University with high honors and was later awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award. After working four years for Zenith Radio, he joined Magnavox in 1953 and retired in 1986 with 33 years service in engineering and management. He was a lifelong Lutheran and since 1971 was a member of Messiah Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne. He was also a member of The Air Force Association and of the American Legion Post 82. On April 30, 2021, he was recognized in celebration of his 100th birthday and his military service in World War II by Indiana representative Jim Banks when his name was read into the U.S. Congressional Record.



Theurer

His hobbies were golf, genealogy and woodworking. One of his woodworking projects was to design and build grandfather clocks so that each of his grandchildren would have a Theurer-built clock. His loving wife of nearly 65 years, Thelma Mae, preceded him in death on Oct. 8, 2010. His parents and brother, George, also preceded him in death. He was a loving, devoted husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by three children, Philip (Linda) of Mechanicsville, Virginia, Gregory (Phyllis) of Seattle and Marla (Roger) Reece of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Also surviving are five grandchildren, Kelly (Mathew) Martineau, Brandon (Stephanie) Theurer, Kendra (Phillip) Atkinson, Winston Reece and McKinnon Reece; three great-granddaughters, Ruby and Stella Martineau, Ella Atkinson; and three great-grandsons, Tristan Atkinson and Wyatt and Ezra Theurer.

Services will be conducted at the Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland, Indiana. Visitation will be from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14, at the funeral home. A brief service will follow at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14, at the funeral home. Burial will be in the Salamonia Cemetery at Salamonia, Indiana, with American Legion honor guard. A memorial service will be held at Messiah Lutheran Church, 7211 Stellhorn Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana, at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15. Family will be receiving guests starting at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 15, at the church. Memorials to Messiah Lutheran Church Memorial Fund to be used at their discretion. Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

George Willoughby

Feb. 11, 1944-Dec. 13, 2022
George F. Willoughby, 78, of Pennington, Indiana, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 13, peacefully at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana. George was born in Mount Sterling, Kentucky, on Feb. 11, 1944, a son of the late Betty E. (Watkins) and French Willoughby, Jr. He was formerly employed by Kerr Glass Manufacturing as a furnace operator. George was a proud member of the Union, Dunkirk Moose Lodge and NRA, and he enjoyed fishing, gardening, watching Westerns, listening to country and bluegrass music such as Johnny Cash, Earl Scruggs and Lester Flatt, and collecting coins, knives and guns. He was a self-taught musician who had a natural born talent for the organ, piano and anything with strings. He was a people person who never met a stranger, and he loved spending time with family and his dog Dixie.



Willoughby

George is survived by two sons, Todd Willoughby and Paul Willoughby (wife: Rose); daughter Melissa Nightingale (husband: Gregory); nine grandchildren, Monica (Simon) Cotton, Meghan (Bandon) Penton, Dustin Willoughby, Dane Willoughby, Justin Bertsch, Brenna Willoughby, T.J. Willoughby, Carter Willoughby and Mason Willoughby; 10 great-grandchildren, Jessie, Madelyn, Savannah, Brayden, Kylee, Peyton, Elijah, McKenna, McKayla and McKade; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Robert, Sidney and William Willoughby; one infant sister; and one grandchild, Devin Willoughby.

Friends are invited to call Monday, Dec. 19, from 1 to 2 p.m. at MJS Mortuaries - Redkey Chapel. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. with pastor Dan York officiating. Burial will be held privately in Dunkirk IOOF Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to MJS Mortuaries - Redkey Chapel.

Jerry W. McAbee, Redkey, Sept. 4, 1934-Dec. 15, 2022. Services will be at noon Tuesday at MJS Mortuaries - Redkey Chapel.

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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.

Team ...

Continued from page 1
As it stands, members could be pulled together for a situation today if need be. But plans are to hold off until January, when the group will come

together for its next organizational meeting.

Commissioners contributed \$5,000 toward the local team in September to get its operations started. Both McFarland and Weitzel noted the contribution would be a one-time request as they are hoping to file as a nonprofit organization in the future.

Jay County CISM team has been recognized by the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation of Maryland. Next on its agenda is to seek recognition from the Indiana group and apply for 501(c)3 status.

Although the group's training is specifically catered to public safety officials, McFarland noted there has been discussions about combining efforts with another group offering similar services to the general public.

"When I registered with the international team, I did say we would be willing to accept anything that was called to us, not

just public safety," he noted.

Weitzel emphasized getting the word out about the group. If folks need that help, he encouraged them to reach out.

"I'm not even worried about whether it be a public safety member," added McFarland. "If somebody witnessed something that they need to talk (about), we'll find somebody."

SERVICES

Today
Landess, Carol: 1 p.m., Hillcrest Cemetery, Redkey.

Monday
Willoughby, George: 2 p.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

Tuesday
McAbee, Jerry: noon, MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

Jan. 14
Theurer, Donald: 1:30 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by
PROGRESSIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS
120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

Swiss Village

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Kinder Haus Daycare at Swiss Village is now seeking a Full-Time Lead Teacher for the Infant room. Varied hours from 6am-5pm M-F. Responsibilities include planning, supervising, and implementing educational programming for the children in the classroom. This position is directly responsible for overseeing the Team Teachers. Must have an educational background in early childhood education and be at least 21 years of age. Strong desire to work with children and excellent interpersonal skills are required.
Apply online at www.swissvillage.org, in person, or send Resume to:
Kayla Reilly, HR Specialist
Swiss Village
1350 W. Main St., Berne, IN 46711
Or email: careers@swissvillage.org

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Try orange chicken for the holidays

By LINDA GASSENHEIMER
Tribune News Service

The sweet and tangy flavors of orange, honey and ginger coat the chicken for a quick, savory dinner. I like to use boneless chicken thighs instead of boneless chicken breast. They remain moist while cooking and have more flavor. The colorful Red and Green Salad adds a festive touch for this time of year.



Tribune News Service/Linda Gassenheimer

Orange honey ginger chicken pictured with a red and green salad.

Helpful Hints:
— Serve any type of bread with the chicken.
— Make the salad first and place on two dinner plates. Add the chicken to the plates.

Countdown:
— Make Salad and set aside.
— Prepare chicken ingredients.
— Start chicken.

— While chicken sautees, mix sauce ingredients together.
— Finish chicken dish and serve with salad.

Shopping List:
To buy: 3/4 pound

boneless, skinless chicken thighs, 1 small bottle orange juice, 1 small bottle honey, 1 container cornstarch, 1 bottle ground ginger, 1 container sesame seeds, 1 bunch scallions, 1 whole wheat

baguette, 1 bag washed, ready-to-eat salad greens, 1 container cherry tomatoes, 1 small package goat cheese, 1 bottle reduced-fat oil and vinegar dressing.

Staples: canola oil, salt and black peppercorns.

Orange Honey Ginger Chicken
3/4 pound boneless, skinless chicken thighs
2 teaspoons canola oil
1/2 cup fresh orange juice, divided use
2 tablespoons honey
1 teaspoon cornstarch
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 tablespoon sesame seeds
2 scallions, sliced
2 slices whole wheat baguette
Remove visible fat

from chicken. Heat oil in a medium-size nonstick skillet over medium-high heat.
Add the chicken. Saute 3 minutes and turn chicken over and cook 3 more minutes. A meat thermometer should read 165 to 170 degrees Fahrenheit. Remove the chicken and divide between the two dinner plates with the salad. While chicken sautees, mix one tablespoon of the orange juice with the cornstarch in a small bowl.
When the chicken is removed from the skillet, add the remaining orange juice, honey and ginger to the skillet. Add the cornstarch mixture and stir until sauce is smooth and thickens, about 1 minute. Add salt and pepper to taste. Spoon sauce over chick-

en and sprinkle sesame seeds and sliced scallions on top.
Yields 2 servings.
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Red and green salad
4 cups washed, ready-to-eat salad greens
1 cup cherry tomatoes
2 ounces goat cheese
2 tablespoons reduced-fat oil and vinegar dressing
Divide the salad greens between two dinner plates. Add the tomatoes and goat cheese. Drizzle the dressing on top.
Yields 2 servings.
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Gassenheimer is the author of over 30 cookbooks. Listen to Gassenheimer on WDNA.org and all major podcast sites. Email her at Linda@DinnerInMinutes.com.

Time has opened wounds, not healed them

DEAR ABBY: We moved from Indiana to Florida 30 years ago. Ten years later, I moved back for a job, but returned to Florida after 9/11. I recently received a letter from a friend telling me that I hadn't visited Indiana in 14 years. This friend, who has been in a long-standing relationship for 40 years, visited us once in Florida 28 years ago. He surprised us by coordinating a liaison during that visit with an old boyfriend — who slept over. It was very awkward. This friend hasn't visited us again, but did travel to Miami. We drove eight hours round-trip to see him and his partner. He considered this "visiting us." I know from others that he and his partner have come down to Florida often over the past 30 years without calling or seeing

Dear Abby



this in my letters to my friend, which are frequent? He guilted me in his last letter. How should I word my response? I feel a need to say something, but I want the words to be right. — ONE-SIDED IN FLORIDA

DEAR ONE-SIDED: You and this person are pen pals, nothing more. If you enjoy the correspondence, ignore the attempt at a guilt trip if that's what the comment was intended to be. You and his sisters are acquaintances, not friends. Their lack of communication with you should have sent that message. I cannot understand why you should chase after them. Stop nursing grievances. Concentrate on the people in your life who actually reciprocate your

friendship and you will be much happier.
.....
DEAR ABBY: I have been married for almost three years to an incredible man. It's the third marriage for both of us. I have an older daughter, and he has two older children — a son and a daughter. Last year, they both welcomed their own children. I'm not sure where I fit in when it comes to being a grandparent. Friends of mine said I am a grandma. I say, "By default, I am a grandma." My friends also said instead of calling me "Grandma," the grandkids could call me something else to differentiate between their biological grandmas and me. I recently signed a birthday card for one of the grandkids and wasn't sure if I

should sign just my name "Louise" or "Grandma Louise," so I settled on "G-ma Louise."
Because of COVID, we hadn't been able to visit much with the grandkids. However, when it comes to gifts, I'm usually the one picking them out and, in some cases, my husband and I split the cost. In my heart, I feel they are my grandkids, but I don't think my husband's kids view me that way. AM I a grandma? — STATUS UNKNOWN IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR STATUS UNKNOWN: You are as much a grandma as you would like to be, and to the extent the children's parents will allow it. Many families agree on the names the grandparents are called, and I see no reason why yours should be an exception.

Community Calendar

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

Today
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.
DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.
MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museu-

mofthesoldier.com.
Sunday
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 Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.
Monday
PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.
PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.
EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.
TAKE OFF POUNDS

SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.
PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.
BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.
PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

Tuesday
BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.
ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 5:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at Jay County Public Library community room. For more information, call Deb Tipton at (260) 729-2806 or Elasha Lennartz at (765) 729-4567.
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.
FRIENDS OF JAY COUNTY LIBRARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the library.
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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

3	2	6	7	1	9	8	5	4
9	7	5	2	8	4	3	1	6
8	4	1	5	6	3	7	9	2
1	3	4	6	7	8	9	2	5
2	8	9	1	4	5	6	7	3
5	6	7	3	9	2	4	8	1
4	5	2	8	3	7	1	6	9
6	9	8	4	2	1	5	3	7
7	1	3	9	5	6	2	4	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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WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

For Jay County Schools
December 19-23

Monday: Main Entrees: Walking Beef Taco **Alternate Entrees:** Cereal, Goldfish & Yogurt Fun Lunch, Cheddar/Mozzarella Salad, Saltine Crackers, Light Ranch Dressing **Sides for all meals:** Vegetarian Refried Beans

Tuesday: Main Entrees: Chicken Nuggets, Macaroni and Cheese **Alternate Entrees:** Cereal, Goldfish & Yogurt Fun Lunch, Cheddar/Mozzarella Salad, Saltine Crackers, Light Ranch Dressing **Sides for all meals:** Seasoned Peas

Wednesday: Main Entrees: Beef Hot Dog on Whole Wheat **Alternate Entrees:** Cereal, Goldfish & Yogurt Fun Lunch, Cheddar/Mozzarella Salad, Saltine Crackers, Light Ranch Dressing **Sides for all meals:** Oven Baked Curly Fries

Thursday: Main Entrees: Sloppy Joe Sliders **Alternate Entrees:** Cereal, Goldfish & Yogurt Fun Lunch, Cheddar/Mozzarella Salad, Saltine Crackers, Light Ranch Dressing **Sides for all meals:** Herb Roasted Potatoes

FRI.: - No school
(Christmas Holiday Break)

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WEST JAY COMMUNITY CENTER

Civic theatre thankful for support

To the editor:
Let there be joy in the world.
So the reverend says at the close of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical" before the cast sings that final song.

We truly hope our Christmas productions this year of "Frosty the Snow Man" and "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical" brought some joy to your world.

Following the tremendous success of "Elf the Musical" last year, we were not sure what to expect with our doubleheader of shows that didn't quite match the fame of the Will Ferrell blockbuster movie. We could not be more pleased with the results.

We would like to thank the community for its continued tremendous support, which resulted in five of our six performances being sold out. In total, more than 1,500 patrons made their way to Arts Place to see these two productions.

Letters to the Editor

Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket, shared a post on social media and encouraged friends to attend. Your support is appreciated.

We would like to thank the show's staff, crew and cast for all of their hard work on this production. The bulk of the cast was 16 and younger, and they were once again dedicated to our mission statement of "...striving for artistic excellence through our community-based, independently produced theatrical performances ..."

Thank you to Psi Iota Xi for being the major sponsor for the show and providing refreshments and ushering for our second weekend. The sorority has

been a tremendous supporter of Jay County Civic Theatre for many years.

Thank you as always to our sponsors, who provide funding to help with advertising and to defray the costs of producing a show. Sponsors for this show were Buffalo Wings and Rings, The Topsy Glass, Strohl Appliance and Electronics, First Bank of Berne, Pak-a-Sak, Williamson, Spencer and Penrod Funeral Homes, FCC, CrossRoads Financial Federal Credit Union and Loy Real Estate and Auction.

We would also like to thank those who helped make the show possible:

- Carolyn Carducci staff of Arts Place
- Tyler Newell and the staff of Patriot Fitness for their continued support with anything our productions may need
- Cruis'n the HoliJay Lights at the Fairgrounds for providing a variety of items that were given as gifts to our patrons
- Asbury United Methodist Church for allowing us to use its facility for rehearsals and post-show get-togethers
- Rob Weaver and WPGW and Bailey Cline and The Commercial Review for previewing the show on the radio and in the newspaper
- Neal Spencer, Bubba Staugler and Harold Fiely of Fort Recovery Radio for hosting us for a segment before the show
- Kyle Teeter and Display Craft for providing background scenery items
- The Fields family, for lending us their Jazzy scooter, which audiences seemed to get a kick out of
- New Beginnings Holiness Church for providing angel costumes
- Karen Meiring for her assistance as a vocal coach
- West Walnut Church of Christ for providing the manger
- "Frosty the Snow Man" and "The Best Christmas Pageant

Ever: The Musical" completed our first full year back — it also included "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" and "Moana Jr." — after missing two years because of the coronavirus pandemic. While we are still finalizing our 2023 schedule, we are looking forward to another great year.

We have also recently completed a strategic-planning process outlining our goals with an eye on the celebration of our 50th anniversary in 2027. We will be sharing the details of that process in the near future.

Thank you again for all of your support, and we look forward to seeing you Feb. 16 through 18 for our production of "The Laramie Project."

Jay County Civic Theatre Board of Directors
Ray Cooney, Lee Osteen, Reid Knuth, Greg Rittenhouse, Bev Wolford, Casi Avery, Sarah Lingo and Pete Vogler

Disgruntled voters are fleeing parties

By JOE BATTENFELD
Boston Herald
Tribune News Service

The two major political parties' long hold on America could be finally starting to slip, setting the stage for an exodus of disgruntled voters to the independent side of the ballot.

U.S. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema quitting the Democratic Party and the burgeoning rolls of independents in Massachusetts and elsewhere are just the latest evidence of Democrats and Republicans showing early signs of losing their grip on government.

And the stubborn parties have only themselves to blame.

The Democrats and the GOP have failed to reinvent themselves to win back disenfranchised voters, instead sinking to new lows with shrill, hateful, opportunistic and win-at-any-cost attitudes.

They are desperately clinging to power, caving to the most extreme elements of the party, throwing principles out the window and making up rules as they go along.

In both parties, the choice is between the most extreme elements like Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Elizabeth Warren on the Democratic side and Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene on the GOP side.

Or voters are left with aging dinosaurs who just won't leave like Joe Biden, Nancy Pelosi and Mitch McConnell.

Where is John F. Kennedy when we need him? Or Ronald Reagan? Both of those presidents crossed over to appeal to both parties.

Take the Democratic National Committee, which in its desperation to hold onto power is throwing New Hampshire and its long history of independent voting under the bus.

The party instead is rewarding South Carolina, despite the fact that it's a red state, just to pay back a political favor for the Democratic president.

It's precisely these kinds of tactics that are turning off voters and driving them to the independent rolls.

The DNC and RNC now

Joe Battenfeld



In both parties, the choice is between the most extreme elements ...

function as corrupted, heavily funded syndicates, silencing critics and using gutter tactics to get their way.

In Massachusetts, which used to be dominated by the major parties, more than six in 10 voters are now unenrolled, and the percentage of Democratic voters has declined to less than 30%.

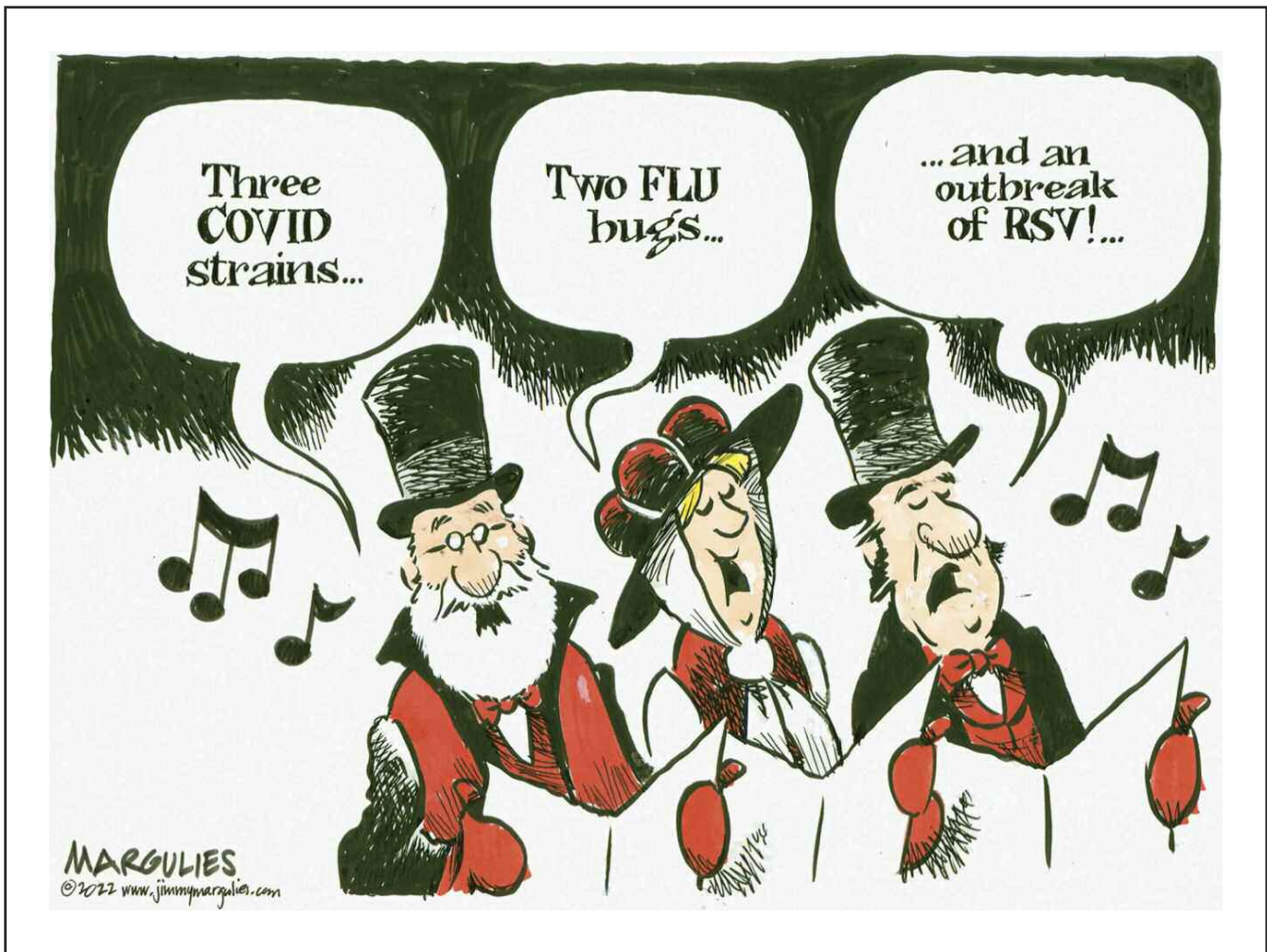
Since 1948, the number of unenrolled voters in Massachusetts has ballooned from just 1.2 million to 2.9 million. During the same period, the number of Democratic voters has remained stagnant at about 1.4 million.

Just in the last two years, close to 77% of new voters chose to be independent, up from 63% in 2020, according to the Massachusetts Secretary of State.

Those kinds of numbers could make it easier for independent candidates to win at the polls someday, or set the stage for a Donald Trump third-party candidacy.

Unfortunately, America will likely see another decade or two of unpopular Democrats and Republicans winning elections before any third-party efforts ascend to a position of strength.

But while we're still probably years away from independents winning at the White House level, the two parties should take notice of the millions of voters fleeing for other alternatives.



Innovation good for students

By ADDIE ANGELOV
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

I am a first-generation college student. Two generations of my family worked extremely hard to get me to college. I remember watching my grandmother study every night at the kitchen table to earn her GED while I was in high school. I am proud to be the beneficiary of their efforts and hope to honor them in the work I do to support others in making a similar jump.

As a student-athlete at Marian College (now University), I was supported and flourished in a community that was student-focused and individualized. They made it easy to succeed and hard to fail. I chose to become a teacher and then a professor to specifically support students like myself who were learning to navigate the educational system on their own.

As an educational researcher, I try to keep an eye on higher education policy and changes to the system that support first-generation college students. Over the last decade the state of Indiana has quietly worked to ensure that more and more students can earn the title of first-generation college student.

Under the leadership of Commissioner Teresa Lubbers, Indiana began an aggressive policy agenda to blur the lines between college and high school with the dual credit initiative and implementing the Indiana College Core. Commissioner Lubbers retired with a record that mirrors that of a hall-of-fame baller when it comes to championing opportunities for Indiana's aspiring first-generation college students. She passed her

Addie Angelov



legacy on to another first-generation college student, Chris Lowery.

Prior to his current role as Commissioner, Lowery served on the Batesville school board and leveraged opportunities from the K-12 sector, the community college system and the business community to ensure that students in the Batesville schools were able to gain all the opportunities that dual credit and dual enrollment had to offer. As Commissioner he is laser-focused on implementing the Indiana College Core across all Indiana high schools and universities.

He and his staff are racing toward an aggressive 3-year goal of 100% participation. This is no small feat, but as he puts it, "Every high school student in Indiana deserves access to this opportunity."

We have seen a troubling trend with a 12 percentage-point decrease in college-going rate in the last five years. That number jumps when you disaggregate for students who took dual credit classes and if students complete the Indiana College Core that number jumps to a 90% college-going rate. Additionally, students who complete the Indiana College Core perform better than their peers during their first year of college."

With all the policy initiatives taking hold, it falls on high school edu-

cators to bring these opportunities to reality. Kevin Teasley and his team at GEO Academies have been at the forefront of supporting high school students make their college dreams a reality for more than 20 years.

GEO focuses on supporting students navigating poverty and many of those are first-generation college students. As Teasley shares, "It's not just enough to get high school kids college credits and it's not enough to get them to college. We must do more. Our average student leaves us with 30 college credits, but that's not good enough. Our high school students need to be on college campuses, in college classes with other college students, taught by college professors that don't coddle them like high school teachers. We can't just get them there, we have to make sure they are prepared to succeed." Teasley's passion has led him to sharing his work specific to early college with the Louisiana Commission on Higher Education with hopes of expanding these life-changing successes more broadly.

Indiana is known nationally for leading in the area of educational innovation. We have leveraged autonomy and choice in ways that other states strive to achieve. First-generation college students, like myself and Commissioner Lowery, are lucky to be in a state that recognizes their value and works tirelessly on their behalf.

.....
Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

The Commercial Review



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

Power grid faces a new threat

By **WILL WADE**
and **MARK CHEDIAK**
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

As Americans grapple with surging home energy bills, state regulators are starting to take a harder line on utilities proposing to hike household electricity rates.

Regulators in at least three Midwest states are already blocking power companies from taking on costly grid upgrades that rely on consumer rate hikes to foot the bill. Instead, the utilities are being told to delay less urgent projects and absorb some costs they usually pass on to customers. As more and more households struggle with stubbornly high inflation, analysts warn that such regulatory pushback could spread across the country.

"With customer bills rising, you are going to see regulators shine a lot more light on specific spending on projects," Credit-Sights utilities analyst Andy DeVries said in an interview. "They are going to be asking: why do they need to spend all of this money?"

The shift poses a challenge for utilities that depend on rate hikes to keep profits flowing and pay for big projects needed to modernize grids. That could slow efforts to fight climate change as regulators seek a balance between keeping energy affordable for consumers while encouraging companies to invest in renewable energy.

Moody's Investors Service lowered its outlook for the U.S. utility sector to negative last month because the credit rating agency was concerned that higher natural gas prices, inflation and rising interest rates are driving up customer bills, increasing the risk that regulators will push back on further rate-hike requests.

State authorities in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin are already balking at increases.

In Michigan, regulators allowed just a fraction of the \$388 million in rate hikes sought by DTE Energy Co. this year, limiting the increases by the utility to \$30.6 million after hundreds of consumers spoke out at a rare public hearing in August. Much of the difference was due to the



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Scott Olson

A worker moves coal at a coal-fired power plant on Feb. 1, 2019, in Romeoville, Illinois. Regulators in at least three Midwest states are already blocking power companies from taking on costly grid upgrades that rely on consumer rate hikes to foot the bill.

Michigan Public Service Commission disagreeing with a sales forecast by the Detroit-based company, but the regulator also nixed spending on a battery storage pilot project and a proposal to bury some power lines.

"It was very clear that customers are fed up," said Amy Bandyk, executive director of Citizens Utility Board of Michigan. "This was a pretty stunning decision."

DTE said in an emailed statement that its "efforts remain focused on improving reliability and maintaining affordability for our customers."

In Minnesota, Xcel Energy Inc. last week withdrew its September request to increase rates an additional 4% next year to recover \$122 million from customers.

"Due to inflation and other factors, we recognize that some of

our Minnesota residential customers are currently struggling to pay their electric bills and have fallen behind," the Minneapolis-based utility said in an emailed statement.

Xcel had faced opposition from Minnesota's commerce department and Attorney General Keith Ellison, who said that the rate increase would pose a burden on families already struggling in the face of high inflation, high utility bills and the lingering impact of the pandemic.

"We're well aware of the challenges of affordability," John Stiles, deputy chief of staff for the attorney general's office, said.

Wisconsin's Public Service Commission this month approved less than 80% of a rate request for WEC Energy Group Inc.'s two electric utilities in the

state. The request was made to help offset investments in renewable energy and costs to make the power grid more resilient.

"Everything bears more scrutiny in the environment we're in right now," Tyler Huebner of the Public Service Commission said in an interview.

WEC's utilities also agreed to absorb \$34 million in late fees and unpaid bills accrued during the pandemic as part of a deal with consumer advocates including the Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin, an unusual move in an industry that typically passes along such write-offs to customers.

Not all regulators are pushing back this hard. Southern Co.'s Georgia Power unit reached an agreement Wednesday with regulatory staff that granted the company a rate increase of about \$1.8

billion over three years. While that's about 40% less than the utility's initial request, it is more than triple the \$529 million that the staff had initially recommended. The agreement still requires state approval.

"It's a really bad deal for residential customers," said Liz Coyle, executive director of consumer advocacy group Georgia Watch.

Increased scrutiny of rate-hike requests will likely spur utilities to put projects on hold or prompt regulators to reject proposals, said Edna Marinelarena, an analyst for Moody's and lead author of the report that downgraded the utility sector.

"Regulators might say 'let's put a pause on some of these nice-to-have things,'" she said. "We think everything is on the table."

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12-17 CRYPTOQUIP

XVKTIW MZHMNR TX DTKYVR
EJT VOEVLW IWMA V DTKYFPMA
WHMVN VPA YVRR0M - VZ:
JVOYMNA MFPWRMFP.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF CINDERELLA'S MAGIC MENTOR HAD ALWAYS BEEN ANGRY, I GUESS SHE WOULD BE HER FIERY GODMOTHER. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals D

Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

Going nuclear

- 1) Where is the 27-kilometer-long Large Hadron Collider located?
2) What percentage of U.S. electricity is produced by nuclear power plants?

1) Near Geneva, Switzerland
2) About 20%

12-19 CRYPTOQUIP

RSPHBMST BMKGPHGT
PGJRHOC ZHAQ AZM KJHO
HOYRSGOBGT JA EJXHJOBG: AQQ

YJXBGT MY CMMP JOP GEHR.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: FAMOUS EXPERT OF COMBAT WHO ALWAYS USED A COMBINED SPEAR AND BATTLE-AX: HALBERD EINSTEIN. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals G

CRYPTO FUN
Solve the code to discover words related to cold and flu. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 9 = F)
A. 1 10 12 9 9 17 2 1
Clue: Nose issue
B. 15 19 26 14 13
Clue: Expels mucous
C. 1 11 26 9 9 25
Clue: Congested
D. 9 2 6 2 21
Clue: High body temperature

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to colds.

STUESI

Grid for word scramble: S T U E S I

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in California on December 20, 1983. I began writing and performing my own plays while in college. I rose to Hollywood stardom for roles in funny films, and was nominated for an Academy Award for "Moneyball."

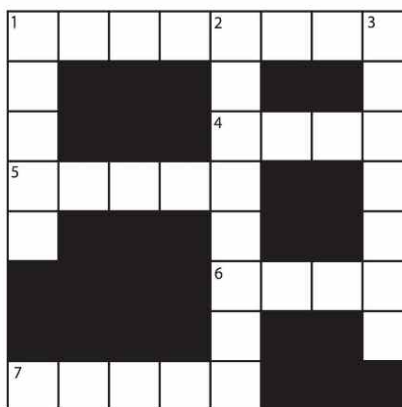
Answer: Jonah Hill



THIS GREEK/TURKISH BISHOP WAS KNOWN FOR HIS GENEROSITY AND HUMILITY. HE MAY HAVE INSPIRED SANTA CLAUS'S SIMILAR BEHAVIORS.
ANSWER: SAINT NICOLAUS

How they say that in...
ENGLISH: Jolly
SPANISH: Alegre
ITALIAN: Allegro
FRENCH: Enjoué
GERMAN: Fröhlich

Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS: 1. In good spirits, 4. Large grain cereal plant, 5. Come together, 6. Animated film, 7. Joyous
DOWN: 1. Santa, 2. Lately, 3. Yearning, desire

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY
1620: THE MAYFLOWER PILGRIMS LAND ON WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS PLYMOUTH ROCK.
1923: NEPAL AND THE UNITED KINGDOM SIGN A FORMAL AGREEMENT OF FRIENDSHIP.
1968: APOLLO 8 IS LAUNCHED FROM KENNEDY SPACE CENTER.

New Word
JOLLY
happy and cheerful

COLD & FLU WORD SEARCH

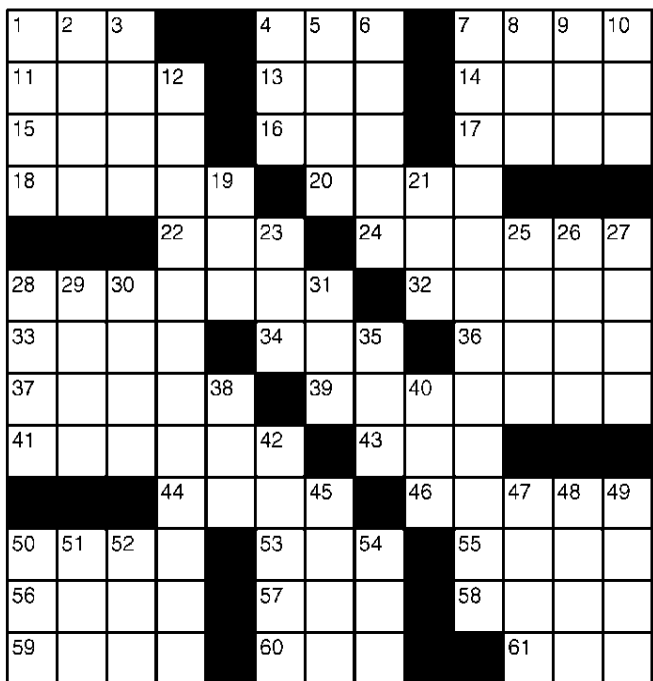
Word search grid containing words related to colds and flu.

WORDS

- ACHES, BACTERIA, BLANKET, CHILLS, CLEAN, CONGESTION, CONTAGIOUS, COUGHING, DISINFECT, DOCTOR, GERMS, HUMIDITY, ILL, INFLUENZA, MEDICINE, MUCOUS, PAINS, PHLEGM, QUARANTINE, REST, SANITIZE, SLEEP, SNEEZE, VIRUS

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solution time: 21 mins. Saturday's answer 12-19



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for North, South, West, and East.

The bidding: East South West North
Opening lead — king of diamonds. Italy won its first world team title in 23 years in 1998, but not before it had a very close call against the U.S. squad in the semifinals.

clubs, South failed to give enough weight to his singleton diamond and signed off at five hearts. This did not augur well for the American pair, who naturally thought the Italians would bid the slam at the other table. But things took an unexpected turn when Bart Bramley of the U.S. opened three diamonds in first seat with the East hand! The auction then proceeded: East South West North 3♦ 4♥ 7♠! 7♥!!

Tomorrow: Good, better, best. ©2022 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

With a little bit of luck

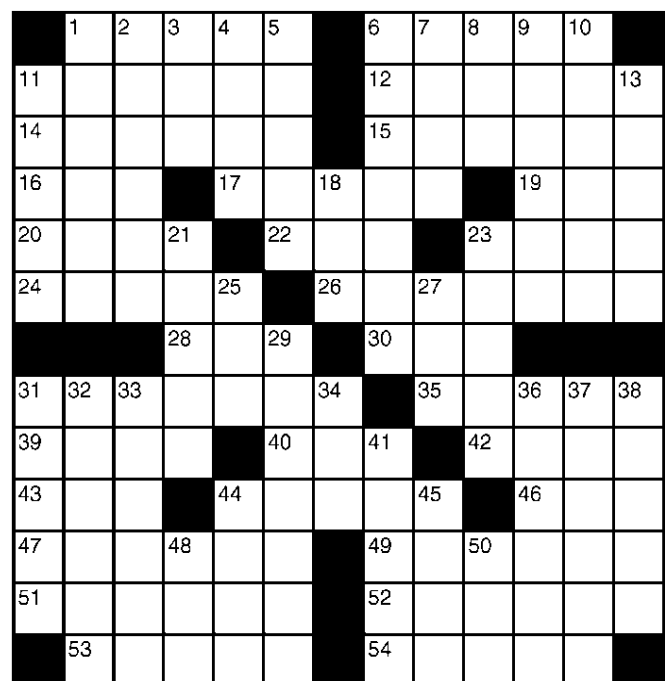
Bridge hand diagram showing cards for North, South, West, and East.

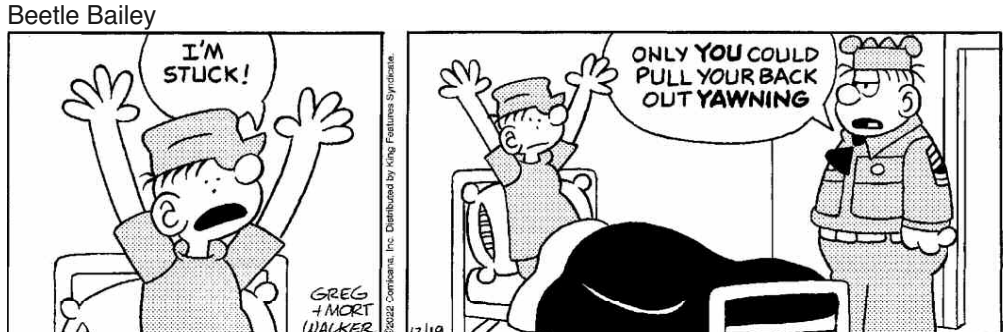
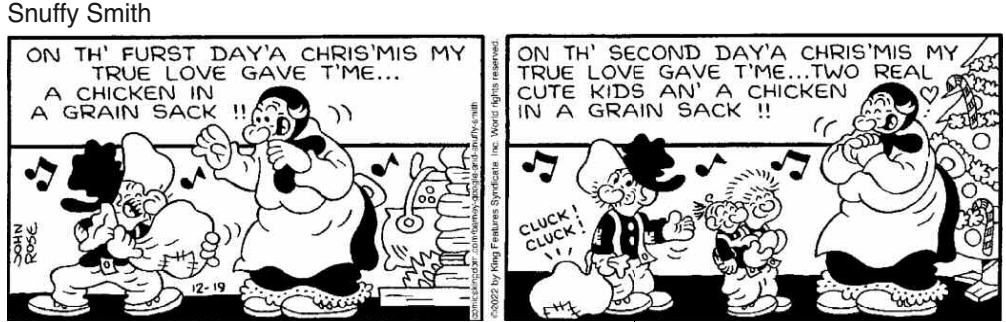
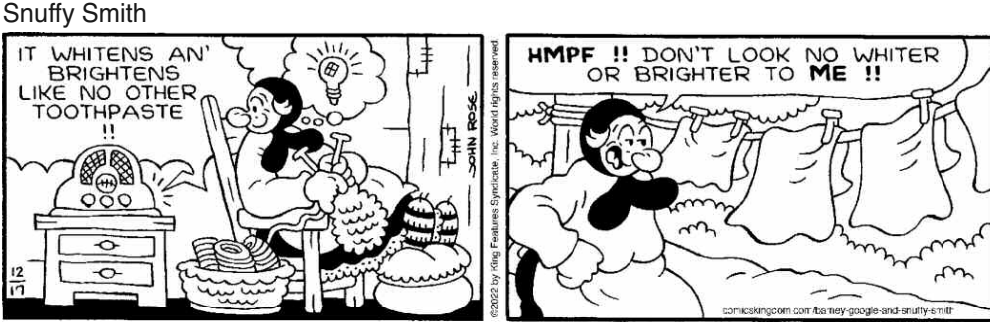
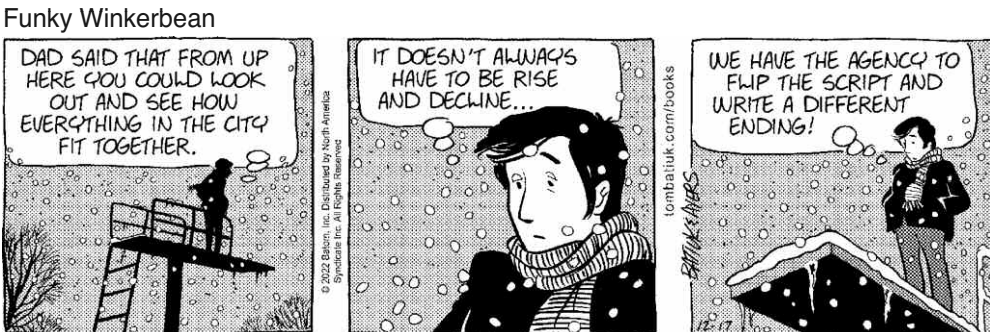
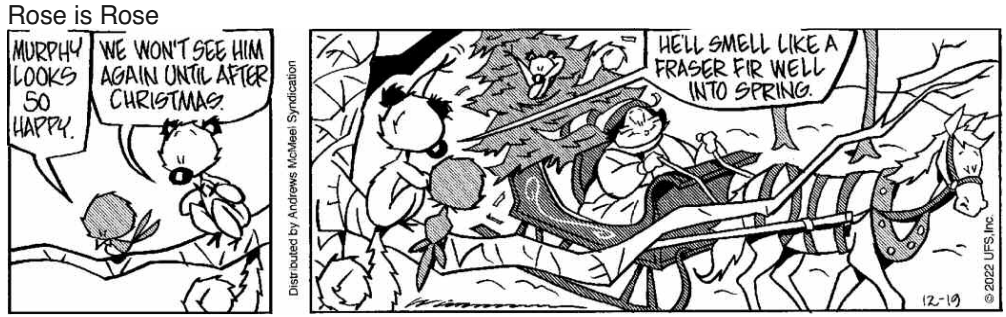
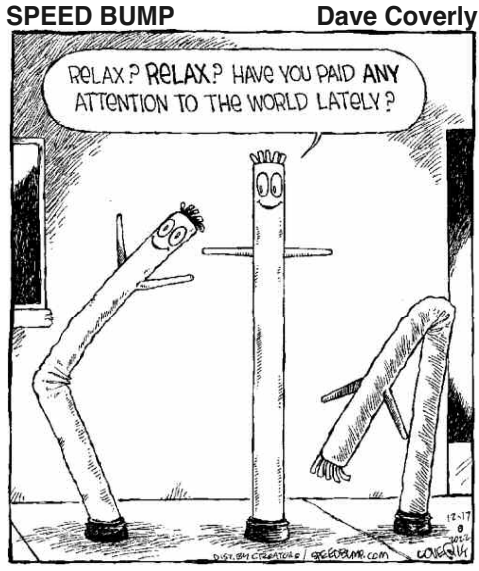
Skill is not the only factor that pays off in bridge. There is also the luck factor, and there are times when the wrong bid or play pays a handsome dividend, while the right bid or play proves disastrous. For example, take this deal from the 1975 U.S.-Italy match. Bob Hamman and Bobby Wolff were North-South for the U.S. at the first table and reached five spades as shown, avoiding a slam that had about a 30 percent chance of suc-

cess. At the second table, the Italian North-South pair reached six spades on this sequence: East South West North Pass 1♣ Pass 2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass 3♥ Pass 3NT Pass 4♣ Pass 4NT Pass 6♣. The opening lead at each table was a low heart, and both declarers successfully finessed the queen. They then led a low trump to the queen, followed by a low trump to the jack. East took the ace and returned the jack of hearts to dummy's ace. The rest of the play at both tables was pretty much the same. Each declarer played two more rounds of trump and cashed the K-A of diamonds, producing this position: North ♠10 ♣A K 7 2 East Immaterial ♠K ♣J 10 5 4 South ♠8 ♠9 ♠Q 9 3 When South next led the spade eight, West was squeezed. So at both tables declarer made six, but the U.S. scored 480 points while Italy scored 980. In bridge, virtue does not always triumph.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solution time: 26 mins. Yesterday's answer 12-17





We Deliver

Laughter



Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

The Commercial Review We Deliver



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Searching ...

Continued from page 10
JCHS also missed seven of its 10 free-throw attempts.

The Eagles won behind balanced scoring, with Wors getting a game-high 12 points. The post player was supported by nine points from Furney, who hit three 3-pointers, and eight apiece from D'Amare Hood and Jonny Manor. Hood also grabbed a game-best seven rebounds.

Dusty Pearson finished with 11 points to lead Jay County while Blake Bogenschutz and Bennett Weitzel each had six.

Following a five-point loss Dec. 3 to Fort Recovery, the Patriots have dropped their last two games by 21 points to New Castle and 18 to Delta. In their only win of the season over Woodlan, they had to rally from a 15-point deficit.

Bomholt likened Jay County's current situation to an algebra test. If you fail it, he said, you've got to figure out what to do differently on the next try.

"I love these kids," he said, then repeating the phrase again. "But we've got to figure out a way to stop the nonsense. When you've had enough, then you stop it. ... And if you

Box score			
Jay County Patriots at Delta Eagles		Score by quarters:	
Boys varsity summary		Jay Co.	8 2 13 6 — 29
		Delta	7 14 14 10 — 47
3-point shooting: Jay County 4-20 (Pearson 3-5, Bogenschutz 1-6, Dowlen 0-6, Dirksen 0-3). Delta 4-15 (Furney 3-9, Manor 1-1, Hood 0-2, BJones 0-2, Manor 0-1).			
Rebounds: Jay County 26 (Dowlen 5, Weitzel 5, Swoveland 4, Dirksen 4, Pearson 3, Crouch 2, team 2, Bogenschutz). Delta 29 (Hood 7, Furney 5, Bond 3, Manor 3, team 3, Wors 2, CJones 2, Elliott, BJones, Stitt, Manor).			
Assists: Jay County 4 (Dowlen 3, Pearson, Weitzel). Delta 6 (Furney 2, Hood, Bond, Manor, BJones).			
Blocks: Jay County 4 (Pearson 3, Weitzel). Delta 1 (CJones).			
Personal fouls: Jay County 12 (Bogenschutz 4, Dowlen 3, Weitzel 2, Swoveland, Crouch, Pearson. Delta 16 (BJones 4, CJones 4, Bond 2, Furney 2, Stitt, Wors, Samuels, Manor).			
Turnovers: Jay County 16. Delta 14.			
Jay County (1-4)		Delta (4-2)	
FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Dirksen 0-4	0-0	0	Hood 4-9
Dowlen 1-11	2-4	4	Bond 1-2
Crouch 0-0	0-2	0	Elliott 0-0
Swoveland 0-2	0-2	0	Ritchie 0-0
Bogenschutz 2-7	1-2	6	Manor 3-3
Blihn 0-0	0-0	0	BJones 0-2
Pearson 4-10	0-0	11	Furney 3-10
Weitzel 3-6	0-0	6	Stitt 0-0
Totals 11-41	3-10	29	Wors 5-10
	.268	.300	CJones 1-1
			Samuels 0-1
			Manor 0-1
			Totals 17-39
			9-12
			47
			.436
			.750
			Def. rebound percentage: .478
			.537

don't, then it's going to continue until you figure it out."

Junior varsity

First-quarter struggles had the Patriots fighting from behind for most of the game as they came up just short in a 38-36 loss to Delta.

Jay County trailed 12-4 after the opening period. It pulled to within one after three quarters but

the Eagles were able to hold them off down the stretch.

Parker Nichols' 10 points were the team high for Jay County. Liam Garringer added nine points, and Trevin Dunnington had seven.

Bronson Edwards and Jordan Furney shared the scoring lead for Delta with 10 points apiece. Cooper Bratton followed with eight.

Dusty Pearson, a Jay County senior, puts a shot up during the second quarter Friday. Pearson scored 11 points to lead the Patriots.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys wrestling at Carroll — 9 a.m.; Girls wrestling at Findlay — 9 a.m.; Girls basketball at South Adams — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. Ansonia — 6 p.m.

Monday
Jay County — Swimming vs. Adams Central — 6 p.m.

Tuesday
Jay County — Freshman boys basketball at Winchester — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls basketball at Wapakoneta — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today
10 a.m. — Soccer: World Cup bronze medal game — Morocco vs. Croatia (FOX)
11 a.m. — College football: Cincinnati vs. Louisville (ESPN)
Noon — College football: Jackson State vs. North Carolina Central (ABC)
Noon — Men's college basketball: Wake Forest at Rutgers (BTN); Indiana at Kansas (ESPN2)
2 p.m. — Golf: PGA Tour Champions — PNC Championship (NBC)

2:30 p.m. — College football: Florida vs. Oregon State (ESPN)
3:30 p.m. — College football: Washington State vs. Fresno State (ABC)
4 p.m. — College football: Montana State vs. South Dakota State (ESPN2)
5:45 p.m. — College football: Rice vs. Southern Mississippi (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — College football: SMU vs. BYU (ABC)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Southeast Missouri State at Iowa (BTN)
9:15 p.m. — College football: North Texas vs. Boise State (ESPN)

Sunday
10 a.m. — Soccer: World Cup final —

France vs. Argentina (FOX)
Noon — Men's college basketball: Canisius at Penn State (BTN)
1 p.m. — NFL football: Detroit Lions at New York Jets (CBS); Philadelphia Eagles at Chicago Bears (FOX)
1 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Florida State at Connecticut (ESPN)
1:30 p.m. — Golf: PGA Tour Champions — PNC Championship (NBC)
4 p.m. — NFL football: Cincinnati Bengals at Tampa Bay Buccaneers (CBS)
5 p.m. — NBA basketball: New York Knicks at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — NHL hockey: New York Rangers at Chicago Blackhawks (ESPN)
8:15 p.m. — NFL football: New York

Giants at Washington Commanders (NBC)
10 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Washington State at Baylor (ESPN2)

Monday
2:30 p.m. — College football: Marshall vs. Connecticut (ESPN)
8:15 p.m. — NFL football: Los Angeles Rams at Green Bay Packers (ESPN)
10:30 p.m. — NHL hockey: St. Louis Blues at Vancouver Canucks (Bally Indiana)

Tuesday
3:30 p.m. — College football: Eastern Michigan vs. San Jose State (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Liberty

vs. Toledo (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Golden State Warriors at New York Knicks (TNT)
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Memphis Grizzlies at Denver Nuggets (TNT)
10 p.m. — NHL hockey: St. Louis Blues at Seattle Kraken (Bally Indiana)

Wednesday
7 p.m. — NHL hockey: New Jersey Devils at Florida Panthers (TNT)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Indiana Pacers at Boston Celtics (Bally Indiana)
9 p.m. — College football: Western Kentucky vs. South Alabama (ESPN)
9:30 p.m. — NHL hockey: Edmonton Oilers at Dallas Stars (TNT)

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Sports

Left searching

Jay County boys unable to find groove against Eagles as they lose third straight to fall to 1-4

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

MUNCIE — The Patriots are searching. Searching for offense. Searching for consistency. Searching for confidence.

Those areas were all lacking Friday as the Jay County High School's boys basketball team suffered its third consecutive loss, struggling in the second quarter and then giving up 13 straight points across the third-quarter break as they fell 47-29 to the host Delta Eagles.

The loss dropped the Patriots to 1-4 overall. They've been held to fewer than 30 points in two of their last three games.

"I just told our seniors, we're five games into it, you've got to decide ... When is enough, enough," said JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt.

What is it the team needs?

"Confidence," Bomholt said. "You have to gain that confidence. We are putting so much pressure on our defense because we can't score."

After getting outscored 14-2 in the second quarter, Jay County had a chance to get back in the game as it tallied the first five points of the second half to close the gap to 21-15. But Eagle junior Jayden Furney immediately responded with back-to-back 3-pointers, the second of which was a wide open look from the right wing that led to a Bomholt timeout.

"We play hard," said Bomholt. "We get it to six coming out of the half-time. And then, bingo, two mental mistakes. Same kid. He hit a three on one side. He switches sides, we give it up on the other side."

The Patriots never got closer than eight points the rest of the way as Delta's Jackson Wors



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Caleb Elliott (right) of the host Delta Eagles knocks the ball away from Jay County High School's Blake Bogenschutz as Caleb Jones (left) also defends during the fourth quarter Friday. The Patriots were outscored 14-2 in the second quarter and gave up a 13-point run to Delta in the second half as they dropped their third consecutive game.

scored with three seconds to go in the third quarter to kick off the 13-point run. The only JCHS points in the final period came after the Eagles had cleared their bench.

Delta (4-2) limited the Patriots to just 27% shooting and 20% from 3-point range.

"I thought our guys played extremely hard defensively, harder than maybe we've played all

year," said Delta coach Mark Detweiler. "I thought tonight we used (our athleticism and quickness) well. We made it tough for them to catch in spots where they wanted to catch and were

able to push their offense out some. And the end result was we got a lot of deflections, we got a lot of stops, which then created some early offense for us." See Searching page 9

Tribe rallies to top host Tigers

VERSAILLES, Ohio — The Indians keep finding ways to win.

After struggling in the first half Friday, the Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team fought back in the final 16 minutes to knock off the Versailles Tigers 50-48.

It was the third straight win for the Indians, who improved to 5-1 overall and 2-0 in the Midwest Athletic Conference. Those victories include a defensive battle against Jay County in which they won after trailing by four with less than four minutes to play and a 55-54 victory Dec. 10 over Bradford on a buzzer-beater by Rex Leverette.

On Friday night, Cale Rammel imposed his will in the third quarter and then got the help he needed in the fourth.

Fort Recovery was in need of an offensive spark, trailing 22-10 at the half. It came from Rammel.

The senior guard scored 10 third-quarter points to at least keep the Indians in the game as they trailed 35-24 heading into the final period. Those last eight minutes belonged to the Tribe as they surpassed their scoring output from the first three quarters.

Rammel had nine of those points, including a perfect 5-for-5 from the foul line. Troy Homan, who had been scoreless over the first 24 minutes, added seven and Landon Post chipped in six. Alex Dues and Riggs Tobe also scored their only points of the game in the final period, hitting a 3-pointer and a 2-point field goal, respectively.

The second-half outburst from Rammel gave him a game-high 27 points. Post scored eight, six of which came at the foul line.

Connor Stonebraker shared the game-high of 27 points with Rammel, scoring a dozen of his in the final quarter as he tried to keep his team on top. Jace Watren followed with six points.

The Indians will try to make it four in a row tonight as they host the Ansonia Tigers.

Junior varsity

Fort Recovery also rallied from a halftime deficit, but came up short in a 49-47 defeat to the Tigers.

The Indians were down 30-23 at the half before pulling to within three with one quarter to play. Their rally fell just short despite hitting four fourth-quarter 3-pointers.

Cavin Evers led FRHS with 17 points. Colson Post followed with 15, all from long distance.

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