

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Policy modified

Jay School Board adjusts rules on attendance; plans to look at facility improvements next month

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

A new attendance policy is in place.

The new year will bring a look at projects to improve facilities.

Jay School Board on Monday approved a change to its attendance policy and heard an update from superintendent Jeremy Gulley on the process toward making facility improvements at Jay County Junior-Senior High School.

Both issues followed up on discussions from last month's meeting, during which director of special education Annie Van Horn introduced a proposed policy update to the board regarding attendance. She told board members that attendance rates have not bounced back following the coronavirus pandemic shutdowns, saying rates previously hovered around 94% and are now below 90%. (Junior-senior high principal Chad Dodd said current numbers are well below the state average.)

Van Horn proposed changing the corporation's policy that now allows excused absences if the parent calls the school. She noted that the policy has been abused in some cases, with one student already at more than 50 absences for the current school year.

The change allows for up to 10 "unexcused" absences per student each school year. A doctor's note would be required for an absence to be considered excused.

"Revising the policy will allow students to miss days with a parent call in, which will show as unexcused but will not



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay School Board president Ron Laux (right) presents outgoing board member Mike Shannon (left) with a token of appreciation for his 20 years of service. Shannon chose not to seek re-election this year.

impact a student's overall attendance until there are 10 unexcused absences," the proposal stated.

Board members Ron Laux, Donna Geesaman, Phil Ford, Mike Shannon, Chris Snow, Jason Phillips and Vickie Reitz

voted unanimously to put the new policy in place.

Also last month, athletics director Steve Boozier laid out an extensive list of facility improvement goals for the junior-senior high school, ranging from immediate to long-term. They included

replacing the softball field fence, adding lights to softball, soccer and baseball fields and renovating the football stadium.

Gulley told the board that since then, architecture and engineering firm Barton Coe Vilamaa

has visited the facility to assess the grounds. Plans call for Dana Wanemacher of Barton Coe Vilamaa to visit the board at its Jan. 9 meeting to describe options for facility and grounds improvements. See **Modified** page 5

Measure would analyze state tax structure

Holdman hopes to establish Blue Ribbon Commission

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Some state senators are touting the possibility of reinventing Indiana's tax structure to determine whether the state could eliminate individual and corporate income taxes. They say it'll take pressure off residents and businesses, but it would also depress future revenue as others say Indiana needs to invest in its quality of life.

Sen. Travis Holdman said last week he planned to introduce, and pass, a bill establishing a Blue Ribbon Commission that would analyze how the state should reorganize its taxes once it fully funds its only outstanding debt: a pension fund for teachers who retired before 1996.

"I think one of the things we can do is take a look at that tax structure we have and what we can do to make a difference for the whole state of Indiana and the taxpayer," Holdman said at a panel of fiscal leaders Friday.

The pre-1996 teacher retirement fund, which has just over \$8.8 billion left in unfunded liability, is expected to be paid off by 2030, freeing up an additional \$1 billion in expenditures annually.

Indiana is already in the process of cutting its 3.23% individual income tax rate to 2.9% over seven years following the passage of a bill in the 2022 session. The state also waived its utility receipt tax.

See **Tax** page 5

Committee refers

Criminal charges recommended for former president

By SARAH D. WIRE
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — In an unprecedented step in American history, the House panel investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol unanimously recommended Monday that former President Donald Trump be criminally prosecuted for insurrection, obstruction of an official proceeding of Congress, knowingly and willfully making materially false statements to the federal government and conspiracy to defraud the United States.

The referrals for Trump and others in his orbit are nonbinding recommendations and cannot compel the Justice Department to act. But they show the committee believes it has gathered sufficient evidence to prove Trump provided "aid and comfort" to a mob that ransacked the Capitol and actively tried to prevent the peaceful transition of power to a new president selected by voters, Joe Biden.

"Every president in our history has defended this orderly transfer of authority, except one," said Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyoming, the panel's vice chair. "January 6, 2021, was the first time one American president refused his constitutional duty to transfer power peacefully to the next. In our work over the last 18 months, the select committee has recognized our obligation to do everything we can to ensure this never happens again."

The committee laid out its rationale and evidence for the referrals in an introductory document released after the hearing. The document hinted that more information will be available when the full report is released later this week.

"This committee will lay out a number of recommendations in this final report," committee Chairman Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Mississippi, said. "But beyond any specific details and recommendations we present, there's one factor I believe is most important in preventing another Jan. 6 — accountability ... accountability that can only be found in the criminal justice system."

The committee's 18-month investigation and nine public hearings this year placed Trump at the center of the effort to overturn the 2020 presidential election and to assemble a mob he directed to Capitol Hill to interfere with the peaceful transfer of power.

See **Refers** page 5

Soft light

Second grader Skylar Campofiore Audet sings while holding a candle Thursday morning during dress rehearsal for East Elementary School's Christmas program at East Jay Elementary School. The program was based on the book "The Bear Stays up for Christmas."



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Deaths

Jack Wendel, 88, Bryant
Ashley Loucks, 38, Portland
Ruth Lloyd, 90, Dunkirk
Glen Bond, 83, Portland
Carmen Grayson, 58, Portland
Marilyn Bruns, 85, Fort Recovery
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature topped out at 29 degrees Monday. The low was 17.
Tonight's forecast calls for a low of 20. Skies will be mostly cloudy Wednesday with a high of 35. There is a winter storm watch in effect beginning Thursday evening.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Personnel Committee has scheduled an executive session for 1:30 p.m. Thursday with a regular meeting to follow at 2 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room at Jay County Courthouse.

Coming up

Wednesday — Results from tonight's FRHS girls basketball game at Wapakoneta.

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



CR almanac

Wednesday 12/21	Thursday 12/22	Friday 12/23	Saturday 12/24	Sunday 12/25
35/30 Cloudy skies are in the forecast for Wednesday with a chance of rain and snow late.	39/4 There's an 80% chance of rain, snow and freezing rain early Thursday. The low may hit 4 degrees.	5/0 Snow is likely with a 60% chance of showers throughout the day.	5/0 Mostly cloudy with snow. Temperatures won't surpass single digits.	9/5 Christmas Day will be partly sunny with temperatures staying below 10 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 7-37-55-65-67 Powerball: 12 Power Play: 5 Estimated jackpot: \$170 million	17-26-27-30-32-38-40-43-49-53-54-58-63-72-74 Cash 5: 5-21-25-27-30 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$465 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 1-0-1 Pick 4: 3-7-1-5 Pick 5: 6-7-7-3-9 Evening Pick 3: 3-3-6 Pick 4: 5-9-7-8 Pick 5: 0-0-8-9-9 Rolling Cash 5: 2-12-17-32-39 Estimated jackpot: \$150,000 Classic Lotto: 6-12-16-20-35-37 Kicker: 5-0-5-9-9-0 Jackpot: \$2.9 million
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 5-4-8 Daily Four: 3-1-3-0 Quick Draw: 1-3-13-16-19-24-32-33-46-50-52-56-57-59-67-70-71-73-75-80 Evening Daily Three: 2-3-9 Daily Four: 2-6-5-5 Quick Draw: 3-6-8-9-12	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.72 Jan. corn.....6.71 Wheat.....6.61	Wheat.....6.89 July wheat.....7.36
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.68 Jan. corn.....6.68 Feb. corn.....6.67	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.45 Jan. corn.....6.47 Beans.....14.72 Jan. beans.....14.72 July wheat.....7.36
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.50 Jan. corn.....6.50 Beans.....14.71 Jan. beans.....14.76	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....6.20 Jan. corn.....6.22 Beans.....14.56 Jan. beans.....14.61 Wheat.....7.00

Today in history

In 1669, the first jury trial was commenced in Delaware. Marcus Jacobson was found guilty and sentenced to flogging, branding and slavery.

In 1790, the first American cotton mill started operating along Blackstone River in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. The water-powered machinery was based on designs from English inventor Richard Arkwright.

In 1803, the United States received the territory of Louisiana from the French in the Louisiana Purchase. The agreement cost \$15 million.

In 1812, Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm published "Grimm's Fairy Tales," originally known as "Children's and Household Tales." The popular German collection — it includes classics such as Rumpelstiltskin and Rapunzel — set the tone for multiple fantasies in common day media.

In 1820, Missouri implemented a \$1 bachelor tax on unmarried men between ages 21 and 50.

In 1823, "Rosamunde, Princess of Cypress," premiered in Vienna. The play created by Helmina von Chézy includes music by Franz Schubert.

In 1894, England beat Australia in the first six-day Test Cricket by 10 runs.

In 1905, Jack O'Brien won the World Light Heavyweight boxing title. He beat defending champion Bob Fitzsimmons in round 13 of the match in San Francisco.

In 1946, "It's a Wonderful Life" premiered. The drama directed by Frank Capra and starring Jimmy Stewart went on to become a holiday classic.

In 1989, "Operation Just Cause," the United States' invasion of Panama, began under President George H.W. Bush. The invasion led to removing dictator Manuel Noriega, ending a little more than a month later.

In 1996, "Scream" was released in theaters. The classic horror film was directed by Wes Craven.

In 2007, Queen Elizabeth became the longest-living British monarch, surpassing Queen Victoria, who lived to be more than 81 years old. Elizabeth lived another nearly 15 years before her passing in September of this year.

In 2019, President Donald Trump signed the National Defense Authorization Act, establishing the Space Force as a new branch of the United States military.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, Portland Municipal Airport, 661 W. 100 North.	executive session, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 2 p.m. — Jay County Personnel Committee, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
Thursday 1:30 p.m. — Jay County Personnel Committee	

Obituaries

Jack Wendel

Jack W. Wendel, 88, Bryant, died Monday at Adams Memorial Hospital in Decatur.

Arrangements are pending at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, Geneva.

Ashley Loucks

April 24, 1984-Dec. 16, 2022

Surrounded by family, Ashley Michelle (Adair) Loucks, age 38, of rural Portland, Indiana, left this world on Dec. 16, 2022, and gained her angel wings. She was a true warrior, fighting cancer to the very end.

Ashley was born on April 24, 1984, and was the daughter of Kirby and Jeannie (Buttice) Adair. Since the day she was born, she has had the prettiest blue eyes.

Ashley attended school in Logansport, Indiana, having graduated from Logansport High School in 2002. She was the vice president of her senior class and graduated as a distinguished scholar. She was a member of the National Honor Society and staff instructor with Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA). She was excited to be selected as an instructor and continued in that role for six years.

Ashley headed to Bloomington in August of 2002 to attend Indiana University. She had always been a Hoosier fan but attending IU was a dream come true for her. Whether it was tailgating or waiting in line to get into Assembly Hall on game day, she would send a one-word text message to her family, "Red" and would expect a return message of "White." She earned a bachelor of arts degree from IU in 2007. She worked in Bloomington for a short time after graduation as a property manager before moving to Indianapolis. While in Indy, she first worked at Scotty's Brewhouse and then Key Bank. She also worked part-time at Indiana Elite Cheer and Tumbling in Noblesville. Besides being an IU Hoosier fan, she was a huge Green Bay Packer fan, sending her family her usual game day text of "Go Pack Go." She was also a Chicago Cubs fan and was excited that she was able to see them finally win a World Series Championship!

On Oct. 27, 2012, at All Saints Catholic Church in Logansport, she married Erik Loucks. Following their marriage, they moved to Erik's hometown of Portland, Indiana.

Ashley has been employed by Varsity Spirit since 2012. She was dual-branded and served as the state director for UCA and NCA in both Indiana and Michigan. She has earned numerous awards, including Rookie of the Year in sales, the coveted Eagle State Director award and Territory Goal Achievement award, including the year 2022.

Her greatest joy however was being a mommy to two precious little boys. Ashley was the best mommy! She always had fun activities planned for them and they had a George Hat for every activity and holiday. She loved Christmas and may have gone a tad overboard when buying presents for them.

Surviving is her husband Erik; two sons, Tanner Reece Loucks and Tucker Jackson Loucks, both at home; her parents Kirby and Jeannie Adair of Logansport; brother Matt Adair and his wife Savannah of Logansport; father- and mother-

in-law Ramon and LaVetha Loucks of Portland; brother-in-law Alex Loucks and his wife Christi of Denver; uncles Mike Buttice and his wife Judy of Logansport, and Larry Buttice and his wife Laura of Orange, California, aunt Carol Roth (companion: Mark Baker) of Monticello, aunt Deb Adair of Lafayette and uncle Kim Adair of Royal Center; and nieces Phoenix Foster and Maylin Adair of Logansport. She is also survived by many cousins and close family friends.

She was preceded in death by infant sister Brittany Adair; maternal grandparents Charles and Virginia Buttice; paternal grandparents Kay and Janice Adair; and uncle Richard Roth.

Ashley was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Portland. A visitation will be held in Logansport at Kroeger Funeral Home from 3 to 7 p.m. Tuesday Dec. 20, 2022. A prayer service will be held with Mike Montgomery presiding. A visitation will be held in Portland at Baird-Freeman Funeral Home on Wednesday Dec. 21, 2022, from 3 to 7 p.m. and Thursday from 10 to 10:45 a.m. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Portland on Thursday Dec. 22, 2022, at 11 a.m. Burial will follow in the Green Park Cemetery in Portland. A luncheon will follow. Memorials can be made to the Loucks family for the children's education.

Ashley's family would like to thank all who visited with Ash during her illness, sent cards, gift cards or monetary gifts, flowers or food, or reached out in some form. Your prayers for Ashley and her family are deeply appreciated. Your kindness will never be forgotten!

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Ruth Lloyd

Aug. 16, 1932-Dec. 15, 2022

Ruth Bernice Lloyd, 90, of Dunkirk, Indiana, passed away peacefully Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022, while in the company of family members at the Water's of Dunkirk, formerly Miller's Merry Manor.

Ruth was born in Mitchell, Indiana, on Aug. 16, 1932, a daughter of the late Chloe (Vanoy) and Willie Cochran. She attended Redkey High School and was formerly employed as a lab technician for the Redkey Canning Factory, Art Craft of Portland and Liggett's Greenhouse of Albany, Indiana.

Ruth was the widow of Joseph C. Lloyd, who she happily married on Jan. 25, 1950.

Ruth enjoyed crocheting, bird watching, country music and puzzles. She was a devoted mother who was always supportive of her children and grandchildren, a wonderfully organized homemaker who made the world's best butterscotch pies, popcorn balls at Halloween and always had a house overflowing with games and neighborhood kids.

She is survived by four children, Roger E. Lloyd (wife: Julie), Joretta Zimmerman (husband: Steve), Rita Muhlenkamp (husband: Mike) and Joseph A. Lloyd (wife: Kim); 11 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents; husband; one daughter, Rebecca Brunson; eight sisters; and four brothers.

Capsule Reports

Appointed

State Reps. Matt Lehman (R-Berne) and J.D. Prescott (R-Union City), both of whom represent sections of Jay County, received appointments last week to serve on House standing committees at the Statehouse.

Prescott will serve as a member of the House

Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, the House Insurance Committee and the House Public Policy Committee.

Lehman was reappointed as Majority Floor Leader, a House Republican leadership position. He will also serve on the House Commerce, Small Business and Economic

Development Committee, the House Insurance Committee and the House Public Policy Committee.

House standing committee appointments are made by the Indiana House Speaker biennially after the November election and are in effect for the duration of members' two-year terms.



Loucks



Lloyd



Bond

Glenn Bond

March 6, 1939-Dec. 16, 2022

Glenn Bond, 83, a resident of Portland, passed away Friday, Dec. 16, 2022, at Persimmon Ridge in Portland.

Glenn was born on March 6, 1939, in Pennington, the son of Garold and Mary (Fox) Bond. He graduated from Portland High School and served in the U.S. Air Force, serving in Korea. Glenn retired from Westinghouse in Muncie. He was an avid bowler and horseshoe pitcher and an avid Cleveland Browns fan.

Glenn married Deolla Addington on Jan. 17, 1960.

Survivors include: His wife of 62 years — Deolla Bond, Portland

Three daughters — Kay Neuenchwander (husband: Dave), Berne, Dujuana "Dee Dee" Bond, Portland, and Michelle Carter (companion: Eric Huey), Portland

Sister — Janet Lillard, Florida
Half-brother — Byron Bond (wife: Alice), Michigan

Stepsister — Darlene Ward, Michigan

Four grandchildren — Mackenzie Billington (husband: Matt), Lane Moser (companion: Paige Carpenter), Kristen Gillette (husband: Hunter) and Jeric Huey

Six great-grandchildren — Atticus Billington, Fitzgerald Billington, Beckett Billington, Waylon Gillette, Dawson Gillette and Grace Gillette

Several nieces and nephews
He was preceded in death by his daughter, Tuesday Bond.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. on Wednesday at the funeral home. Dave McClellan and Mark McKinley will officiate the service and burial will follow at Center Cemetery, west of Portland. American Legion Post #211 will conduct military graveside rites.

Memorials may be directed toward Jay Randolph Developmental Services in Portland.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

Carmen Grayson, Portland, Oct. 27, 1964-Dec. 17, 2022. Services will be at 3 p.m. Thursday at New Covenant Fellowship Church, 1238 W. 450 South, Portland.

Marilyn Catherine (Kremer) Bruns, Fort Recovery, died Monday at Briarwood Village in Coldwater, Ohio. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at St. Peter's Catholic Church.

.....
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.

SERVICES

Wednesday
Bond, Glenn: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Thursday
Loucks, Ashley: 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 506 E. Walnut St., Portland.
Bruns, Marilyn: 10:30 a.m., St. Peter's Catholic Church, 3512 St. Peter Road, Fort Recovery.
Grayson, Carmen: 3 p.m., New Covenant Fellowship Church, 1238 W. 450 South, Portland.
Monroe, Nellie: 4 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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

Get your local news online at thecr.com

HELP WANTED

HOME IDEA CENTER, INC.
Kitchens, Baths & More

is currently seeking applicants for a **GENERAL SHOP LABORER & FINISH CARPENTER** to assist with cabinet fabrication and installation on home remodel projects.

We're a small company that offers competitive pay, 4-day work week, paid vacation & holidays, retirement plans and so much more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY:
Call: 419-375-4951
Email: ehomeidea@bright.net
Stop by our office:
901 Industrial Dr. Ft. Recovery, OH 45846

Christmas paper fight will continue

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

What did you get for Christmas last year? How about the year before? I ask only because I want you to remember that the presents are only a small part of what we call Christmas.

We know that the holiday is supposed to be about the birth of a baby in far away Bethlehem. We know that is what we are celebrating. Yet, the focus is not on a baby, unless you happen to have one in your family this year.

Now the focus is on pres-

As I See It



ents. We buy, buy and buy some more in hopes of making our loved ones happy only to have them hold up the carefully chosen gift with a quizzical look. An attempt to explain your choice is met with another quizzical look that plainly says once they get home they will either toss the present

away or re-gift it to someone else.

It was in that spirit that I declared no more gifts. I hate spending money on things that will be thrown away. I didn't realize that would end what has become a cherished tradition. I am speaking of the wrapping paper fight.

Mom started it the year after her husband died. We were at her house for the day. Most of the presents had been opened when she wadded up some of her wrapping paper and hurled it at someone's head. This prompted the victim to retaliate. Soon

we were all pelting each other with wrapping paper.

We continued the tradition every year. My nephew said it was always his favorite part of the day. Because there are no more gifts, there are no more paper fights. I plan to fix that this year by providing everyone with newspaper to be used as ammunition.

The first year after Mom's death we had Christmas at my brother's trailer. In addition to wrapping paper ammunition, I had purchased tiny Nerf guns for everyone. I confess, I couldn't hit the

broad side of a barn. I still can't. But it made the day better to know a tradition Mom created still lived on.

I have convinced my husband to get me the same things every year. Some hyacinths to force, some paperwhites that will bloom before the hyacinths, a book by my favorite author and some fudge made by monks are gifts I look forward to every year.

The whole point is that it isn't the individual presents we remember. It is those things we do every year that become traditions. It is the love

for each other that is important.

Each family has their own traditions. Maybe it is a certain food that only appears this time of year. Maybe it is signing up to be a bell ringer for an hour or so. Maybe it is helping out at a food giveaway. Whatever your family does every year is important.

The other thing I do every year is to wish Jesus a happy birthday just before somebody wacks me upside the head with a huge wad of paper.

Merry Christmas to you and yours.

Sister tries to navigate pending divorce

DEAR ABBY: My brother and his husband are getting ready to file for divorce. Before they do, however, they are embarking on a very expensive trip to Italy. It was paid for before the divorce conversations started.

When they travel, I fly into the town where we both grew up, watch their home and dogs and spend time with old friends. Because of the difficulties facing travelers at this time, I like to come into town a few days early, in case there

Dear Abby



are any delays with my flight, so none of us has to worry about the dogs being alone.

I arrived last night. My brother left for the weekend to spend time with his new gent,

invited his new gent over for dinner tonight.

My concept of etiquette demands that I be friendly and welcoming of these new people in my brother's and brother-in-law's life. However, it is awkward.

Yes, I know divorce happens. But my brother-in-law is just as much a part of my family in my eyes as my brother. Are there any rules or thoughts regarding these new relationships as marriages end and new relationships begin? —

SUPPORTIVE SISTER IN ARIZONA

DEAR SISTER: Your brother and his (almost) former husband appear to be handling their soon-to-be dissolution in a civil manner — VERY civil, if they're taking a pre-divorce European vacation together. If they part as friends, your chances of maintaining a friendship with your (almost) former BIL are better.

Keep an open mind and be

gracious when you meet the new man in your brother's life. Avoid gossip, cross your fingers and hope for the best for everyone. That's all you can do. From the tone of your letter, I am sure you can handle this, Sis.

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 www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Take caution playing pickleball

By JASON HOWLAND

Mayo Clinic News Network
Tribune News Service

The game of pickleball is surging in popularity across the country. It can be played at any age and skill level. While many might assume that pickleball is a slower, lower-impact sport, experts at Mayo Clinic say it's important to remember that injuries from playing pickleball can and do happen. "P" is for pickleball. And Mayo Clinic hand and wrist surgeon Dr. Sanj Kakar says there are four other P's that players should remember to avoid injury.

"No. 1: You have to have proper stretching. When we get on the pickleball court, we think it's a smaller court. It's a slower sport. We don't have to stretch. And forget about hand and wrist injuries, we see so many Achilles tendon injuries," says Kakar.

"Proper stretching starts from the feet up. And that includes the lower extremities, the back, the neck and the upper extremities."

"No. 2: You have to practice with a purpose. Rather than spending an hour on the court with repetitive, repetitive, repetitive — that leads to chronic

injuries, chronic use, chronic overuse."

"No. 3: You have to have proper equipment. Do they have the appropriate paddle? Is the grip thick enough? As we get older, for example, when we pinch, that puts further areas of stress on the hand. And, so, when you're squeezing so hard, it can lead to increased pressure on the wrist."

"And finally, and probably most importantly, is proper mechanics because the ball doesn't bounce as high, when they're actually going for the ball. The motion is actually more violent than, I would say, tennis."

Community Calendar

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

Today

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

ALZHEIMER'S CARE-GIVER 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 - BRI-ANNA'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.

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

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 - BRI-ANNA'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.

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.

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consulta-

tions with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

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. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

Prepare for power outages today

WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE

CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE

(866) 953-2203

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
— A \$695 Value!

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

- 3-Year TV Price Guarantee
- 99% Signal Reliability, now backed by our Reliability Guarantee
- Multi-Sport with NFL Redzone from NFL Network

A TV PRICE YOU CAN RELY ON

ONLY FROM DISH

3-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE

A TV Price you can rely on - only from DISH

*Restrictions Apply

Call us now! 1-855-551-8162

ORDER TODAY & RECEIVE A \$100 GIFT CARD

GET DISH LET'S GO! \$100

Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. 3-year price guarantee requires credit qualification and 2-year commitment and covers core programming, local networks, and equipment. Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Offer ends 4/1/23. 99% signal reliability based on data from set-top boxes. Not a guarantee of signal in all weather conditions. *Thursday Night Football, Internet connected Hopper and a Prime Video subscription required.

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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.

First Presbyterian Church

402 North Ship Street, Portland
(Ship and West Arch) 260-726-8462

Christmas Eve — 7:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols
Special Music — Choir and Hand Bells

Pastor: The Rev. Rex Espiritu
Choir Director & Organist: Eric Rogers
Pianist: Jennifer Rupe

Christmas Sunday — 9:30 a.m.

Music provided by the Rodden family.

Communion will be offered at both services.
We hope you can join us.

'Unto us a Child is born!

Fusion energy starting to look real

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

Is the age of nuclear fusion finally dawning?

After many decades of not-so-productive research, scientists have been making serious progress toward an energy revolution. On Monday came news of the latest milestone: According to press reports, scientists at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California recently induced a fusion reaction that produced a net energy gain — that is, it generated more power than it consumed.

Although its practical consequences may be limited, it was a major symbolic and scientific achievement. “Net gain” has been the elusive lodestar of fusion research since the 1950s. Realizing it should give a major boost to global research efforts, provide crucial data for other

Guest Editorial

scientists to study, validate the push for more government investment, and offer a tantalizing glimpse of fusion’s real-world possibilities.

It’s no exaggeration to say that those could be revolutionary. A workable fusion reactor could produce effectively limitless energy, with no intermittency, no carbon emissions, no dangerous waste and nowhere near the material resources required by other renewable projects. President Joe Biden’s goal of a net-zero economy would start to look more plausible; humanity’s

longer-term climate and energy challenges would seem much more manageable. That’s to say nothing of the other scientific and technological advances fusion could one day unlock.

Some skepticism is still warranted. Few technologies have been hyped quite so relentlessly over the years, and the remaining challenges to building a viable commercial reactor — technical and economic — are immense. Many years of expensive research and problem-solving lie ahead, with no guarantee of success. Even so, the stars are aligning for progress, and potentially for more breakthroughs.

One reason for optimism is that the federal government has gotten serious about fusion. In March, the White House announced a long-term strategy to accelerate commercial fusion efforts. Congress recently direct-

ed a record \$713 million for fusion research and construction, along with some \$50 million for a major public-private partnership. Fusion projects will also soon benefit from hundreds of millions in Inflation Reduction Act funds. All told, this is the kind of focused commitment that has been long overdue.

Private enterprise is also entering the game on a significant scale. So far, investors have dedicated nearly \$5 billion to about 35 fusion startups, according to the industry’s trade group, with funding roughly doubling since last year. Several of these companies have the backing of Silicon Valley luminaries, including General Fusion Inc. (Jeff Bezos), Commonwealth Fusion Systems (Bill Gates), and Helion Energy Inc. (Peter Thiel). Some are already breaking

ground on new facilities. Bloomberg Intelligence estimates that the industry could one day command a market valuation of \$40 trillion.

For now, it’s enough for policymakers to express guarded enthusiasm, and to lay the groundwork for future progress. As fusion science advances, global cooperation will be essential. Funding for research, educating a skilled workforce, and building up infrastructure should be redoubled. Above all, governments must avoid red tape — of the kind that has needlessly held up traditional fission projects — and prevent parochial interests from impeding innovation.

Unlocking the power of the stars has never been an easy goal. But few scientific endeavors could have a greater potential payoff. Keep going.

Be cautious with social media

By **AUBREY KIRCHHOFF**
Tribune News Service

Chances are if you’ve read the news in the past year you’ve seen a headline like these: ‘It’s time to go nuclear. Mark Zuckerberg is choosing profit over children. We need to ban kids from social media’ ... And who could disagree? After all, you must be some kind of monster if you don’t want to protect children.

Society’s reaction to new technology is alarmingly cyclical. When a new technology is introduced and becomes mainstream, there is almost always an outcry against it. Video games make you violent. TV rots your brain. Everything we learn falls by the wayside when some new, more alarming technology is introduced.

Today, the panic is about social media and mental health. Of course children deserve protection. The question is not whether children should be protected. The question is how they should be protected.

The rise of social media seems to coincide with a rise in teenage mental illness and self-harm. The only issue is, the direction of causation is tough to parse. Some research has found a clear negative relationship in that more social media leads to more mental health problems. Other work has found that this is only the case for girls, while boys actually need some social media. To complicate it even further, some research has found no relationship at all when activity logs instead of survey questions track usage.

To be clear, the rates of suicide and self-harm among teenagers are on the rise. The loss of someone you care about is a terrifying reality to confront — especially when it is someone so young. Seeing young people struggle is terrifying; however, we should remember our tendency to panic and remember that, without seriously considering the underlying causes, our attempts to help may very well make the situation worse.

So what do teenagers say about social media?

According to reporting from Pew, most teenagers use social media to connect with others or learn new things. Further, the very same documents that the Wall Street Journal used to condemn Facebook indicate that 2 in 5 girls report feeling better about themselves after using Instagram. Overall, teenagers

Aubrey Kirchhoff



report having a positive experience with social media more often than not.

The urge to leap into action when there is a crisis is strong, especially when it affects younger generations. It is important to remember that, no matter how well intentioned, our attempts to help can backfire. Considering how nuanced the teenage experience with tech is, a complete ban could cause more harm than good.

Instead of trying to ban tech, leaders and parents should be looking to help teens better understand and manage this tech. Here are three suggestions I would endorse.

First, set screen time boundaries. Too much time spent online can be detrimental to children’s emotional well-being, but so can complete restriction. The healthy amount will vary by child, but researchers have provided a valuable starting point for parents when setting boundaries.

Second, have conversations with your child about their tech usage. Not all screen time is made equal. Time spent using devices to draw, learn and engage directly with peers is not the same as passively consuming content. Conversations are key to understanding how your child engages with technology and what issues they may be encountering.

Third, ensure screen time does not disrupt activities essential to health — such as exercise, sleep and social interaction. Sleep is an important aspect of health for everyone, but especially teenagers. If your child is sacrificing sleep for time online, then you should step in to help encourage them to engage in healthier behaviors.

Given that the research is not as conclusive as the critics make it sound, we should proceed with caution. Otherwise all we might end up doing is erasing the benefits of social media and creating new problems for those we are trying to help.

.....
Kirchhoff is Technology and Innovation Program Associate for The Center for Growth and Opportunity.



Indiana underfunds public health

By **GABRIEL BOSSLET**
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

In August 2021, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-21, which convened a commission to provide counsel on the state of public health in Indiana. The most striking finding ultimately is the extent to which Indiana has neglected investing in the health of its citizens.

The Commission issued its report about a year later. There were multiple “holy cow” moments for me as I read it. I will summarize the larger findings and contextualize the recommendations for this coming legislative session.

The backdrop for the Commission’s work is a falling life expectancy for Hoosiers and a significant rise in death rates in the younger age groups. You can read a terrific piece by Matt Kinghorn in the Indiana Business Review about the details of our declining life expectancy. But obviously a falling life expectancy is a major red flag in public health.

The Commission report is detailed and amazingly well researched. It includes recommendations in six subject matter areas. I will not talk about all of them here, but will focus on the “low hanging fruit” — starting with overall funding of public health.

In 2018-2019, the last year before the pandemic, the average state in the U.S. spent \$91 per citizen on public health funding. Indiana spent \$55. We invest only 60% of what the AVERAGE STATE did in 2019 on public health. And the amount we have spent per capita has been cut in half (in 2022 dollars) since 2004. We spend a small amount and have been shrinking that amount greatly over time.

But this only tells part of the story. Most Indiana public health spending does not come from its own coffers — it comes from public health grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). If we look at the amount of money spent per capita on public health from Indiana coffers, we only spend \$15 per Hoosier on public health. The rest of the \$55 quoted in the report (73%) comes from CDC and HRSA grants.

Gabriel Bosslet



In other words, only 27% of Hoosier public health funding comes from the Statehouse. The rest comes in the form of federal grants. The national average of total public health spending that comes from state coffers is 38%.

Low state coffer public health spending compounds itself. Federal public health grant funding is directly related to the amount of state spending — the more a state spends on public health, the more federal dollars come to that state for public health interventions. Indiana ranks 40th among states for per capita HRSA funding and 50th among states for CDC funding.

Another way to put it: nationwide, every \$1 in state public health funding brings in another \$2.64 in federal public health money.

Why is this the case? Because public health entities have to pursue federal grants — they aren’t just given out automatically. If we are underfunding public health, we have no one to apply for grants and collect data to justify that grant funding. So we miss out on federal dollars because we don’t spend any state dollars to create the infrastructure to obtain federal support.

Last week was the annual “Labor of Love” conference, held annually since 2012 to focus on improving maternal and infant mortality. The results have not been good. Over the last 10 years, Indiana remains 42nd in infant mortality (death within a year of birth) and maternal mortality rates have only worsened over the past decade.

Indiana remains in the bottom 1/3 of states when it comes to overdose deaths.

We are 34th in the nation in firearm death rates.

We are 39th in the nation for COVID-19 death rates (in the last

quarter). We are 41st in the country for number of residents fully vaccinated (57%, national average 68%).

We are 37th in the United States for teen birth rate.

These outcomes mean Indiana’s residents suffer more than needed. It also leads to significant downstream state health costs.

The Governor’s Commission report suggests that Indiana should consider investing an additional \$246 million of state funding per year in public health funding, which would bring the state up to median 2019 per capita spending in the United States.

There are reasonable arguments as to why this may not be a good way forward (all of which I disagree with). But one argument which holds very little water is one which suggests that we cannot afford it.

Indiana has had a budget surplus in all years but 2020 (the pandemic year) since 2010. The average budget surplus (including the deficit in 2020) during that time is \$677 million dollars — far more than the \$246 million that the Governor’s Commission has suggested would be appropriate.

This summer, given the fact that Indiana had a \$6 billion surplus, Holcomb called a special session to ultimately give Hoosiers a \$200 rebate. This amounts to \$1 billion, which means Indiana could have funded four years of the suggested increase in public health funding with these funds.

This year is a budget session — and the Indiana legislature should support the Governor’s Commission and fully fund public health. History tells us we can do this without a tax increase.

These issues are complicated issues without easy fixes. Public health policy is a messy combination of medicine, law, sociology, economics, and education.

Improving public health means accepting that everyone is not perfect and meeting them where they are. It means understanding the world as it is, not as it should be. It is important.

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

The Commercial Review

US PS 125820

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus
JOHN C. “JACK” RONALD (1948-2022), Publisher Emeritus

LOUISE RONALD

Board president

TONIA HARDY

Business manager

RAY COONEY

Editor and publisher

BRIAN DODD

Production manager

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

—Thomas Jefferson

Subscription rates

Internet-only: Three days – \$3; Monthly auto-pay – \$10; 13 weeks – \$32; six months – \$60; one year – \$108.

City (walking – where available): Monthly auto-pay – \$11; 13 weeks – \$35; six months – \$66; one year – \$118.

Motor route (where available): Monthly auto-pay – \$12; 13 weeks – \$43; six months – \$72; one year – \$136.

Mail: Monthly auto-pay – \$13; 13 weeks – \$47; six months – \$78; one year – \$147.

Home delivery problems: Call (260) 251-9588

VOLUME 149–NUMBER 165
TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 20, 2022

www.thecr.com

The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year’s Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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.



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Anna Moneymaker

Refers ...

Continued from page 1
“Ours is not a system of justice where foot soldiers go to jail and the masterminds and ringleaders get a free pass,” committee member Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Maryland, said while announcing the referrals. “The evidence clearly suggests that President Trump conspired with others to submit slates of fake electors to Congress and the National Archives.”

Raskin said after the hearing that the referrals will go to the Justice Department this week.

The White House declined to say whether it supports the committee’s criminal referrals or the Justice Department pursuing charges against Trump.

The committee also referred California attorney John Eastman for criminal charges, including obstruction. The panel has argued in court that Eastman, the architect of the legal theory embraced by Trump positing that the vice president could

reject certain states’ electors, most likely violated two federal laws: obstructing an official act of Congress and defrauding the American public. U.S. District Judge David O. Carter, who is based in California, concluded that Trump and Eastman probably conspired to overturn the election, an act the judge described as “a coup in search of a legal theory.”

In a statement, Eastman responded that the public would have been better served if the committee had focused on Capitol security and elections reform.

“A criminal ‘referral’ from a congressional committee is not binding on the Department of Justice and carries no more legal weight than a ‘referral’ from any American citizen,” Eastman said. “In fact, a ‘referral’ from the January 6th committee should carry a great deal less weight due to the absurdly partisan nature of the process that produced it.”

Raskin said in the hearing that

the committee was referring Trump, Eastman and “others” for certain charges, but did not name the other people. In the report’s introduction, which was released after the hearing, the committee identified others whom the panel believes the Justice Department could potentially prosecute, but refrained from urging that they be charged.

“Our criminal referrals were based on the gravity of the offense, the centrality of the actors and the evidence that we had available to us, and there were undoubtedly other people involved, but we were stymied by virtue of a lot of people refusing to come and testify, refusing to give us info they had or taking the Fifth Amendment,” Raskin told reporters after the hearing. “We chose to advance the names of people where we felt certain that there was abundant evidence that they had participated in crimes.”

Modified ...

Continued from page 1
A public hearing to present information and receive public comment on proposed improvements would then be scheduled for Jan. 23.

The board also approved implementing an elementary school basketball program with the goal of providing the activity for fifth and sixth graders next year. Practices and games would be held at East Jay and West Jay elementary schools and the junior-senior high school auxiliary gym, with practices beginning in November and games in December and January. The program will start by gauging interest at the sixth-grade level, with all students involved being split into teams. (Teams will not be based on schools.)

In other business, the board:

•Recognized Redkey Elementary School art students in Kelly Bricker’s class. Students explained the print-making work they have done during the first semester and showed off their creations.

•Thanked Shannon and Snow for their service on the board. Shannon, who has served for 20 years, chose not to seek re-election. Snow lost his election bid to Laux. (New members joining the board in January will be Tommy “Chip” Phillips and Marcie Vormohr.)

•Approved hirings and extracurricular assignments, including Kiah Bruns as a third grade teacher at East Jay Elementary School, Eldon Frasher as head custodian at East Jay and Eric Myers as girls wrestling coach.

•OK’d, with Snow dissenting, compensation changes for junior-senior high assistant principal/deal Bradley Milleman and assistant princi-

pal/assistant athletics director Chris Brown, both of whom were not included in previous changes because they were new employees. Snow made the same argument he had when other increases were approved in October, saying he was concerned that all administrators were receiving a raise while some teachers were given only a stipend.

•Accepted the following grants: a \$1.08 million federal Title I grant; a \$165,445.07 federal Title II grant for teacher development; a \$108,866.23 state grant to provide bonuses for teachers who received either a 3 or 4 rating on their evaluations; a \$43,175.26 state grant for summer school; \$2,100 grant to West Jay Elementary School from Dunkirk Kiwanis.

•Heard a presentation from Gullely regarding how the school corporation handles bullying. He noted that a reporting portal and information is available on the corporation’s website — jayschoolcorp.org — and that conflict resolution curriculum has been developed to help students better deal with conflict.

•Approved the following: Appointing Parker May to Jay County Public Library Board; a leave of absence for Redkey Reading Recovery teacher Emily Laux; and bus requests for Fellowship Baptist Church youth group and Immaculate Conception CYO.

•Received an update on use of federal coronavirus relief funds. Changes have included more funding allocated to student software, summer school transportation and supplies.

•Voted 6-0, with Shannon abstaining, to uphold an expulsion that had been appealed.

Tax ...

Continued from page 1
“I think that’s somewhat aggressive but I think we can get there,” Holdman, R-Markle, said. “It’s going to mean there’s less revenue for us to spend at the state level.”

Holdman said it would enable the state to compete for businesses with places such as Tennessee, Florida or Texas, which have no income tax. Holdman chairs the Senate’s

powerful Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee and would likely helm any major tax overhaul in that chamber.

Indiana ranks 9th-highest in the Tax Foundation’s 2023 State Business Tax Climate, above both Tennessee and Texas.

But Rep. Greg Porter, D-Indianapolis, cautioned that the state’s tax climate wasn’t what hindered its economic

progress, but rather its quality of life.

“We talk about attracting and (retaining) corporations but you’ve got to have the infrastructure, the human infrastructure, to do those jobs to compete with other states,” Porter, also a panelist, said.

Ball State University economist Mike Hicks pushed back against the proposition. Hicks, another panelist, said that Indiana

needed to pivot its focus from continued tax cuts to addressing the “deficit” of public services.

“I think it would be important over the long run to change the focus of the debate about taxes from simply looking at the rates and trying to use the marginal tax rate as a way to attract economic activity,” Hicks said. “It hasn’t worked here; it doesn’t work really anywhere.”

Largest Fireplace & Stove Display With Over 300 Units Including Over 80 Live Burn Models

SERVING OUR
CUSTOMERS
SINCE 1978



KERN'S
FIREPLACE & SPA

LOWER PRICES
BEST SELECTION
BEST SERVICE



HARMAN™

BUILT TO A STANDARD, NOT A PRICE



QUADRA-FIRE

NOTHING BURNS LIKE A QUAD



HEAT & GLO

No one builds a better fire

Wood • Pellet • Electric • Stoves • Logs • Fireplaces • Outdoor Fireplaces

5217 Tama Road (1 mile west of Rt. 127) • Celina, Ohio • 419-363-2230

4147 Elida Road • Lima, Ohio • 419-224-4656

www.kernsfireplaceandspa.com

SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

First things first

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: A 8 2, A Q J 9 3, Q J 10, 9 4. WEST: J 10 5, 6, K 7 5 4, Q J 10 8 3. EAST: Q 7 6 3, K 10 8 4 2, 3, 6 5 2. SOUTH: K 9 4, 7 5, A 9 8 6 2, A K 7.

ing the jack to East's king. Back came a club, won by West with the ten, and another club forced out the ace. South led a heart to the queen, and West showed out. Forced by the bad heart split to turn his attention to the diamond suit, declarer played the queen from dummy and finessed, whereupon West took the king and cashed two club tricks to put the contract down one. South was certainly unlucky, but, even so, the outcome was entirely his own fault. He could have ensured nine tricks at the start by attacking diamonds instead of hearts, and he should not have allowed himself to be distracted by an alternative, but uncertain, line of play. All declarer had to do was to lead a spade to the ace at trick two, return the queen of diamonds and finesse. Win or lose, he would make at least nine tricks against any distribution. In effect, South allowed himself to be diverted from his goal because he happened to be in his hand at trick one, making it more convenient to take a heart finesse than a diamond finesse. Declarers must learn to reject such temptations.

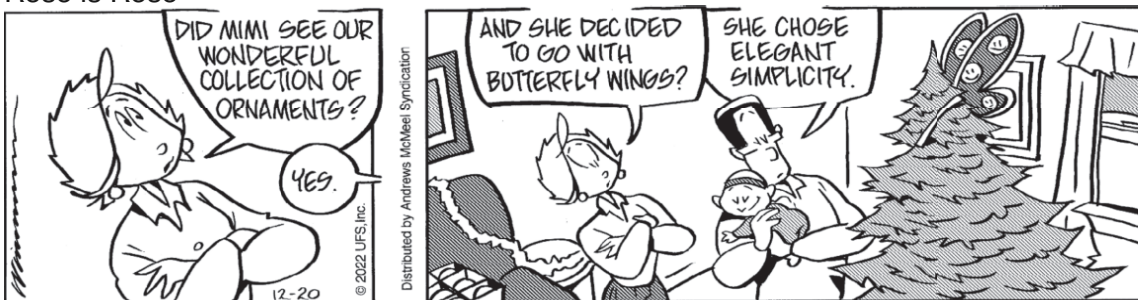
When there is a sure way to make a contract, declarer should not adopt any approach that might jeopardize it. This principle is self-evident, but the fact is that players occasionally violate it without intending to do so. Take this case where West led a club against three notrump. Declarer took the queen with the king and tried a heart finesse, los-

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

Peanuts



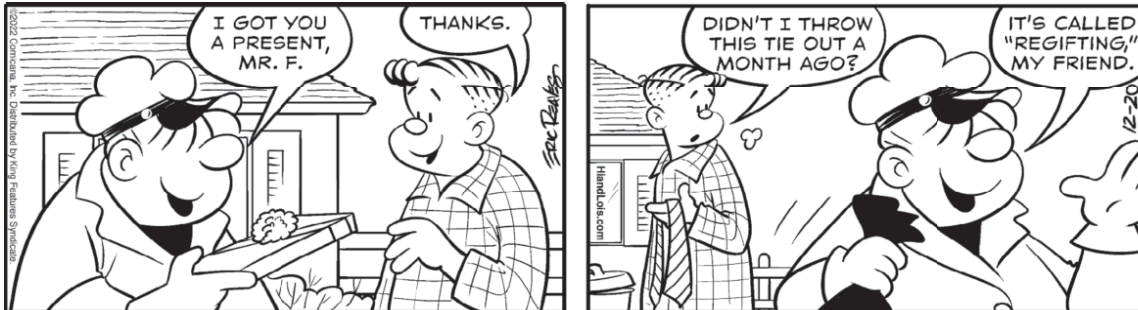
Rose is Rose



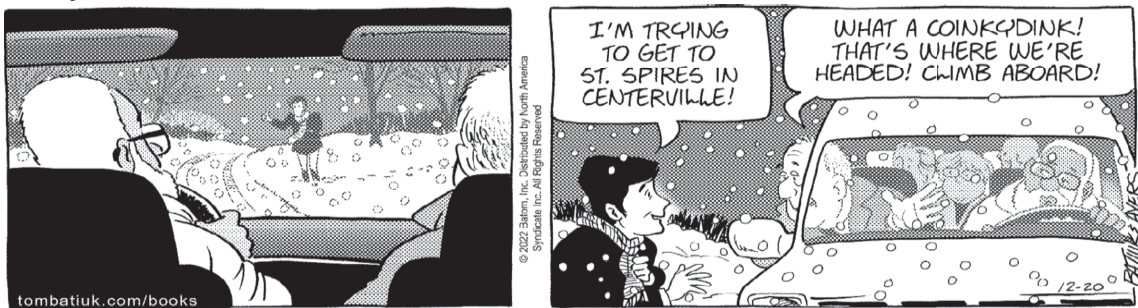
Agnes



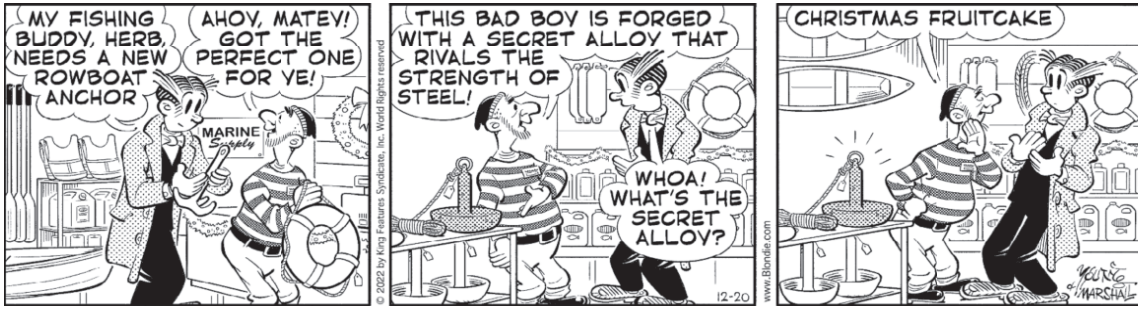
Hi and Lois



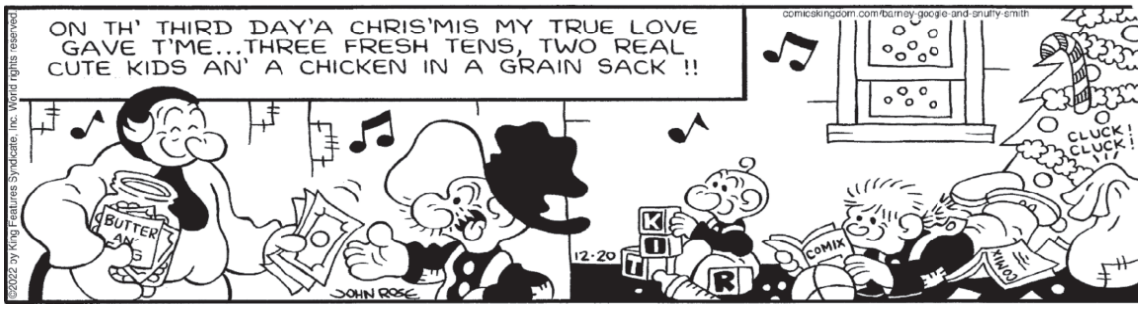
Funky Winkerbean



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



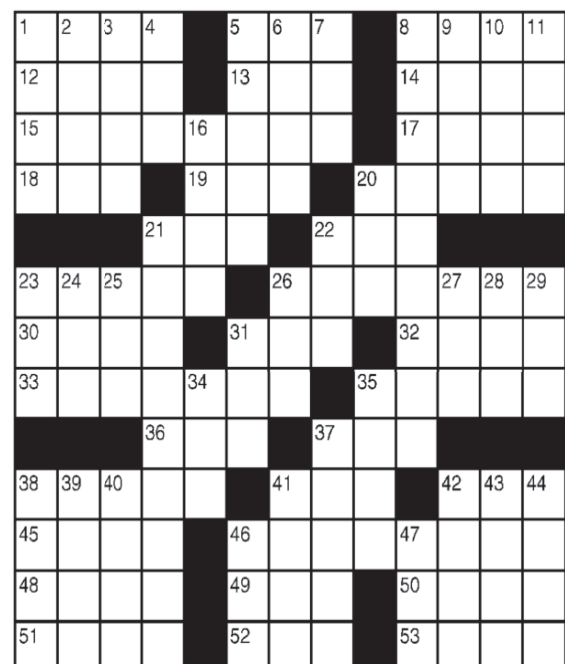
CRYPTOQUIP

Z T O G N L V C P F O Q X V O H P
Z P O N Q F O N E E H Q A H L F Y H I H L
Z P O G N T X O X Q N , I C X E A Z O

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: LUDICROUS COMEDIES DEALING WITH TWO MAIN INFLUENCES AT VARIANCE: THE FARCES OF GOOD AND EVIL. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals T

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Crystal gazer, 5 Copper head?, 8 Eldest Stark child on "Game of Thrones", 12 Jr.-year exam, 13 Misery boy, 14 Mayberry, 15 Valuable volume, 17 Pretzel topper, 18 Actor Brynner, 19 Blunder, 20 Screams, 21 Flushed, 22 Vat, 23 Poultry choice, 26 Scroll material, 30 "Hey, sailor!", 31 Jewel, 32 Oxidation result, 33 Munich setting, 35 Golf great Sam, 36 Long, crosser. 37 Compass dir., 38 Hotel area, 41 "O Sole —", 42 Ton fractions (Abbr.), 45 Teen fave deli roll, 48 Bistro handout, 49 Swiss canton, 50 Competent, 51 Use the oven, 52 Eastern path, 53 Slightly. 2 Jacob's brother, 3 Count counter-part, 4 Hwy., 5 "Don't say —" ("Hush"), 6 Rude dude, 7 "A spider!", 8 "Bridesmaids", 9 October actress, 10 Check, 11 Wagers, 16 Existed, 20 "Uh-huh", 21 Queenly color, 22 Highland hat, 23 Taxi, 24 "Now I get it!" (Abbr.), 25 Angle (Abbr.), 26 Pot pie morsel, 27 Paris street, 28 Can., neighbor, 29 Norm, for short, 31 "Shoo!", 34 Shaft of light, 35 Elitist, 37 "Old Mac-Donald" refrain, 38 Branch, 39 Classic theaters, 40 Hit on the noggin, 41 "— Breckin-ridge", 42 Pride parade initialism, 43 Lugosi of film, 44 Coaster, 46 Boring routine, 47 Small battery.



Little JJ's Tree Service. Tree Trimming, Removal, Stump Grinding, Firewood available. 765-509-1956

BAIL BONDS Travis Weaver. 260-726-3189 across street from Jail

Wendel's Carpets & Upholstery Cleaning. Von Schrader Dry Foam Cleaning. Dave Wendel. Ph. 260-726-4520

Dave's Heating & Cooling. Furnace, Air Conditioner, Geothermal Sales & Service. 260-726-2138

BOOLMAN'S Auto Sales & Service, Inc. Highway 67 W, Portland, Indiana. 260-251-9735

THE CLASSIFIEDS. Find it Buy It Sell It! (260) 726-8141

SUBSCRIBE TO THE COMMERCIAL REVIEW up to 49% off

Medicare Seminar Advantage Plans. Jay Community Center. 115 E Water St - Portland, IN 47371.

CSA Society of Certified Senior Advisors. A.M.D.A. American Medicare Disability Advocate Founding Member.

RODFATHER INSURANCE. NOT JUST BUSINESS, IT'S PERSONAL. 260-418-9492 - RODNEY PENROD - RPENROD@CGNAZ.ORG

GABBARD FENCE FARM • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL RESIDENTIAL • VINYL. rgfence@yahoo.com (765) 546-8801

Visit Us At: thecr.com

Bricker's Flowers & More. 414 N. Meridian St. Portland. Call or text to order 260-703-0304

Subscribe at thecr.com or call 260-726-8141

Boxed out

Defensive shift turns tide as Jay County dominates 2nd half vs. South Adams

By **RAY COONEY**

The Commercial Review
BERNE — The Patriots had been there before.

They found themselves in a close game against an opponent with a clear offensive catalyst.

So, they made an adjustment.

The Class 3A No. 5 Jay County High School girls basketball team shifted its defense to focus on Macy Pries in the second half and proceeded to limit the host South Adams Starfires to six points over the next 12 minutes as it pulled away for a 56-36 victory.

"I thought in the first half we got off to a decent start and then I thought we were just going through the motions," said JCHS coach Kirk Comer, whose team earned its 10th straight victory and took firm control of the race for the Allen County Athletic Conference regular-season championship. "At halftime we made some adjustments. I thought they really responded to the adjustments we made. We

played with a lot more intensity in the second half."

The Patriots (11-1, 3-0 ACAC) were up by just three points before a Mabrey McIntire 3-pointer from the left wing on the final possession of the first half.

Comer challenged them in the locker room.

"I didn't feel like we were in a good mind frame being only up six," said Comer. "I felt like we had to adjust something to change the momentum. Fortunately tonight, it did."

After trading buckets to open the second half, Jay County went on a 9-0 run to take control for good. Junior Breanna Dirksen bookended the push with a second-chance hoop on the front end and a 3-pointer off of a Renna Schwieterman assist on the back end.

Meanwhile, the Patriots held South Adams (8-5, 2-1 ACAC) to just 4-of-22 shooting (18%) in the second half after the home team had hit for 50% in the opening 16 minutes.

See **Boxed** page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School junior Breanna Dirksen launches a 3-pointer during the second half of the Class 3A No. 5 Patriots' 56-36 victory Saturday over South Adams. Dirksen had seven points for JCHS, which outscored the host Starfires 27-13 in the second half.

Tribe wins 4th in a row

FORT RECOVERY — The Fort Site fans finally got in on the winning streak.

After winning three in a row on the road, the Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team returned home Saturday and used a dominant second quarter to push to a fourth straight victory by a 65-54 score over the Ansonia Tigers.

The Indians (6-1), who had won consecutive games at Parkway, Bradford and Versailles, found themselves trailing by three at the end of the first quarter. But they racked up 24 second-quarter points to take a 37-25 advantage into halftime and were able to hold that lead after the break.

Cale Rammel followed up his 27-point performance in Friday's win over Versailles with 25 against Ansonia. Twelve of those came in the second quarter as he hit a couple of 3-pointers.

Landon Post and Riggs Tobe joined him in double figures with 14 and 12 points, respectively.

Garrett Stammen had 23 points for Ansonia.

Fort Recovery dominated the junior varsity game 48-9, holding the Tigers scoreless in the third quarter. Briggs Overman led the Indians with 13 points and Colson Post had 10.

Jay perfect at Carroll

FORT WAYNE — Another state-ranked opponent proved to be no match for the Patriots.

Jay County High School's top-ranked boys wrestling team improved to 15-0 Saturday with a 5-0 record at the Carroll Super Duals that included a 48-23 victory over Class 2A No. 4 Garrett.

The Patriots, who are ranked 16th overall and already had wins this season over Class 2A No. 2 Delta, Class 1A No. 2 Adams Central and Class 2A No. 6 Norwell, also fought off the host Chargers 42-31 and beat East Noble 60-13, Northrop 61-13 and Bishop Dwenger 67-3.

Jay County was a perfect 20-0 from 126 pounds through 145 pounds. No. 8 Cody Rowles (126), No. 20 Ethan Reiley (132), No. 6 Tony Wood (138) and No. 4 Cameron Clark (145) combined for 14 pins in their matches.

Bryce Wenk, the 20th-ranked 182-pounder in the state who wrestled at 195, and Daniel Moore, who swapped between 106 and 113, also finished 5-0. No. 14 Christian Wittkamp (152), Tye Curtis (120), AJ

Local roundup

Myers (182) and Conner Specht (heavyweight) all went 4-1.

Kunkler, Bader lead

Wyatt Kunkler and Mara Bader each took first place in a pair of individual events as they led the Jay County swim teams to victories Monday over the visiting Adams Central Jets.

The Patriot girls cruised to a 194-114 victory while the boys won 128-111.

Kunkler's victories came in the 100-yard freestyle in 56.46 seconds and the 100 backstroke in 1 minute, 11.81 seconds. Bader also won the 100 freestyle, finishing in 59.44, and was first in the 50 freestyle at 26.11.

JCHS took the top two spots in both 200 individual medley races. David Keen finished first in the boys race in 2:42.41 with Kolby Baldwin second, and Aubrey Millsbaugh won

the girls race in 2:45.01 with Sophia Hoevel second.

Other wins from the Patriot boys came from Peyton Yowell in the 100 butterfly in 1:22.83 and Josh Monroe in the 500 freestyle in 5:55. Adding victories for the girls team were Maddy Snow with 173.6 points in diving and Lauren Fisher with a time of 6:36.19 in the 500 freestyle.

Winner takes title

FINDLAY, Ohio — Malloy Winner won the 170-pound championship Saturday as the Jay County girls wrestling team placed 11th out of 43 squads at the Findlay Invitational.

The Patriots scored 83 points, four behind 10th-place Lebanon. Toppenish (Washington) dominated the meet with 278.5 points, winning by 115 over runner-up Liberty.

Winner, the defending 160-pound state champion who is ranked fourth this season, edged Jocelyn Velasco of Toppenish 4-3 in the championship match. She was 4-0 on the day, earning two wins by pin.

Eighth-ranked Jayla Huelskamp placed fifth at 120 pounds, winning four consecutive matches in the consolation bracket after dropping her first of the day. She went 5-2 overall, topping Napoleon's Alyssa Johnson by pin in 4 minutes, 1 second, in the fifth-place match.

Kiley Williams (190) placed sixth while Lina Lingo (125) and Mattie Affolder (235) were each seventh.



Four make finals

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio — Four members of the Fort Recovery swim teams advanced to the finals Saturday in the Northwest Ohio Classic at Bowling Green State University.

Teigen Fortkamp led the Indians with top-10 finishes in both of her events. She was fourth in the 100-yard backstroke in 1 minute, 0.42 seconds, and ninth in the 100 feet in 56.56.

See **Roundup** page 7

Portland's Largest Selection of FRESH CUT QUALITY MEAT

AWARD WINNING MEATS

While supplies last, no rain checks

Prime Rib Roasts

PRIME RIB	\$14 ⁹⁹ /lb
STANDING PRIME RIB	\$14 ⁴⁹ /lb
SEASONED PRIME RIB	\$15 ⁹⁹ /lb
SEASONED STANDING PRIME RIB	\$15 ⁴⁹ /lb

From Fisher's Smokehouse

HAMS

Spiral Sliced	\$3 ⁹⁹ /lb
Boneless Pit	\$4 ²⁹ /lb
Whole Bone-In ...	\$3 ²⁹ /lb
Semi Boneless ...	\$3 ⁷⁹ /lb
Half Bone-In	\$3 ⁴⁹ /lb

Gift Cards available!

Be sure to stop in and get one!

Old Fashioned
Summer Sausage \$5⁹⁹ /lb

Hunter's
Summer Sausage \$5⁹⁹ /lb

Jalapeno & Cheese
Summer Sausage \$6¹⁹ /lb

***while supplies last, no rain checks, sale prices reflected at the register**

300 W. Walnut St., Portland, IN
(260) 726-7355
Monday - Friday 8 am-5 pm • Saturday 8 am-1 pm • Closed Sunday

Call your order in today!

Freezer bundles are also available. They offer the perfect mix of our most popular cuts of meat in quantities small enough to not crowd your freezer or cramp your budget. Save time and energy with call ahead ordering and have your order ready to go when you arrive.

www.fishermeats.com

They're in Good Hands Here

- Vaccines & Preventive Care
- Illness, Injury & Surgical Care
- Flea & Heartworm Prevention
- Allergies & Nutrition



Hours:
Mon - Fri. 8-5 p.m.
call for appt on Saturday

Portland Veterinary Clinic

1407 Votaw St. • Portland • 260-726-7370
<http://www.portlandvet.net> • Christian Bader DVM