

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Festive flute

Chloe Brockman, sixth grader, plays her flute during the Fort Recovery Band Christmas concert on Sunday in the auditoria at Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School.

Yodel set to launch next month

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

A new resource for community events is scheduled to launch in 2023.

Representatives from Yodel visited Portland City Council on Monday to provide details about the calendar the company is implementing in partnership with Jay County Development Corporation.

In October, Jay County Development Corporation approved a contract with Yodel, based in Columbus, Ohio, at a start-up cost of \$3,900 and a monthly fee of \$400 to implement a community event calendar. Rachel Shaw and Corie Loomis, who are in the county for two days of training sessions with local organizations, explained Yodel is designed to help boost community engagement.

The company creates a “one-stop community calendar” for events that users can customize with their personal preferences, filter and search. It will also link to a personal calendar, such as Google Calendar.

Yodel can be updated manually but also can “scrape” information from the websites or calendars of local organizations.

The first year of the Yodel service — the calendar is scheduled to launch in mid-January — is being funded through dollars set aside for marketing through the 2019 Stellar Communities process. (The Jay! Region was a finalist for the Stellar designation that year.)

See Council page 5

Lagoon treatment shows progress

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Treatment at the lagoons continues to head in the right direction.

Fort Recovery Village Council learned about improvement to dissolved oxygen levels at the village’s wastewater lagoons Monday.

Village administrator Randy Diller explained to council members dissolved oxygen levels continue to look positive, with primary results coming in at 6 milligrams per liter and secondary results at 11 milligrams per liter.

“Which is just crazy good, so there’s something

going on there,” noted Diller.

He added that wastewater from Cooper Farms’ egg processing plant has been consistently giving numbers in the low 200s — considered domestic strength — instead of the 400 to 600 range.

The village has not yet received results from the sonar report. John Jacobs, the individual handling the sonar report, has been sick with COVID-19 and unable to finalize the results, Diller explained. The report will likely be completed sometime this week.

Melvin Stein of Kainos Ag has expressed a desire

to continue treating the wastewater lagoons throughout the winter and possibly in the spring, depending on future test results. The village has an agreement to pay the company up to \$49,000 for its sludge removal product, with the agreement dictating the village only pays per inch of sludge removed.

“We’ll have more on that soon, I’m sure, but from what we’re seeing right now, things look really good,” said Diller.

Sludge removal is the first step in the village’s long-term wastewater treatment plan. Poggemeyer

Design Group completed a study for the village earlier this year, suggesting it invest in a mechanical wastewater treatment plant in the future.

Also Monday, council approved amending three ordinances on a second reading.

Two of the ordinances — they address water, wastewater and stormwater systems — are being amended to raise base water and sewer rates. The village will implement a slow increase for the next five years, with base rates going up \$3 in 2023, \$2 in 2025 and \$2.50 in 2027. Other changes include

increasing the sewer rate by about a dollar and introducing an industrial rate for sewage from industrial facilities, charging about \$4 per thousand gallons; raising the sewer improvement fee from \$2 from the current \$1.50; raising the tap fee to \$500 from the current \$450; and eliminating the discounted rate for using more than 50,000 gallons per month.

The remaining ordinance addressing 2023 salaries includes 6% raises for village staff next year. There are eight full-time employees and one part-time employee.

See Progress page 2

Advocates ask for federal probe

By LESLIE BONITA MUNIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

An Indianapolis-based ratepayer protection group has asked federal regulators to audit spending by a Carmel-based energy transmission system operator for an annual meeting at luxury resort 600 miles beyond its service territory.

In a letter dated November 18 — and publicized Monday — Citizens Action Coalition also asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to deny any attempts by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator to recover any meeting-related costs.

The system operator’s territory includes much of the Midwest, along with some southern states and parts of Canada. Geographically, it’s the world’s largest such system operator, according to Thomson Reuters.

But it’s holding an annual board of directors meeting nearly 600 miles outside its service territory, at a Ritz Carlton in Orlando, Florida. The meeting began Monday and will extend through Thursday. It’ll include an election for the board.

“We are outraged that Hoosier

families already struggling to heat and power their homes this winter will be asked to pay for executive trips to luxury Florida resorts,” said Coalition Executive Director Kerwin Olson in a news release Monday.

The system operator recovers its expenses, like those of its meetings, from ratepayers. In Indiana, that includes customers of AES Indiana, CenterPoint Energy, Duke Energy Indiana and the Northern Indiana Public Service Company — better known as NIPSCO.

Olson’s coalition criticized the system operator for holding the meeting “hundreds of miles away from its stakeholders and ratepayers at a luxury resort.”

The hotel’s website describes it as a “luxury resort” featuring a “championship-level golf course,” a 40,000 square foot spa, three pools, fine dining, and multiple tennis courts.

It then accused the system operator of violating federal requirements that all rates and charges related to transmitting or selling energy be “just and reasonable” — and same for the rules and regulations shaping those dues.

Snowflake surprise

Griffin Long, 4, opens his paper snowflake after cutting shapes into a piece of paper Friday at John Jay Center for Learning during the Merry Merchant Night event in downtown Portland.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Deaths

Lelia Culy-Minnis, infant
Francis Laux, 96, rural Bryant
Phyllis Johnson, 80, Redkey
Carol Rouch, 72, Hartford City
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 47 degrees Monday. The low was 30.
Tonight’s low will be 41 with a 40% chance of rain. Expect cloudy skies Wednesday with a high of 50.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

United Way of Jay County and Second Harvest Food Bank will hold a free food tailgate from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday at Jay County Fairgrounds. Income verification is not required.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of tonight’s Portland Park Board meeting.

Thursday — A look at local athletes competing at the collegiate level.



CR almanac

Wednesday 12/7	Thursday 12/8	Friday 12/9	Saturday 12/10	Sunday 12/11
50/37 Mostly cloudy skies are expected Wednesday with a high of 50 degrees.	47/39 There's a chance of afternoon rain Thursday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	50/34 Friday's forecast shows a 70% chance of rain starting after 1 p.m.	41/31 Mostly cloudy skies with the low dipping to the low 30s at night.	43/33 There's a slight chance of rain and snow at night Sunday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 35-45-47-54-55 Powerball: 14 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$100 million	13-20-23-24-25-30-36-40-43-56-57-61-62-65-68-78 Cash 5: 4-10-23-35-36 Estimated jackpot: \$485,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$354 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 0-5-6 Pick 4: 6-0-9-5 Pick 5: 6-6-7-8-4 Evening Pick 3: 2-3-2 Pick 4: 8-6-4-2 Pick 5: 5-4-3-8-2 Rolling Cash 5: 2-7-15-16-39 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000 Classic Lotto: 3-13-15-17-33-49 Kicker: 9-5-5-3-5-6 Jackpot: \$2.3 million
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 8-3-5 Daily Four: 6-2-2-7 Quick Draw: 1-7-8-10-16-18-29-32-35-39-41-43-47-48-54-60-64-71-75-80 Evening Daily Three: 6-5-6 Daily Four: 6-6-1-0 Quick Draw: 4-7-8-10-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.64 Jan. corn.....6.59 Wheat.....6.55	Wheat.....6.80 July wheat.....7.30
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.60 Jan. corn.....6.49 Feb. corn.....6.51	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.36 Jan. corn.....6.38 Beans.....14.51 Jan. beans.....14.51 July wheat.....7.31
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.42 Jan. corn.....6.42 Beans.....14.53 Jan. beans.....14.58	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....6.12 Jan. corn.....6.14 Beans.....14.38 Jan. beans.....14.43 Wheat.....6.88

Today in history

In 1484, Pope Innocent VIII condemned witchcraft, which led to an effort to prosecute those accused of being witches in Germany.

In 1757, King Frederick the Great of Prussia defeated Austria in the battle at Leuthen during the Seven Years' War.

In 1782, President Martin Van Buren was born in Kinderhook, New York. He was one of the founders of the Democratic Party, was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1821, served as vice president under Andrew Jackson and won the 1836 presidential election.

In 1791, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died in Vienna, Austria. He began composing and gave his first public performance at age 5. Among his many great works are "The Magic Flute" and his Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major.

In 1848, President James K. Polk confirmed the discovery of gold in California during his annual message to Congress. The move helped spark the Gold Rush, in which about 300,000 moved to the territory.

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln nominated Salmon P. Chase for Chief Justice of the

Supreme Court. He was sworn in nine days later and held the post for more than nine years before he died following a stroke in May 7, 1873.

In 1884, the capstone was placed on the Washington Monument. Completing the construction of the 555-foot monument, the marble capstone weighed 3,300 pounds and was topped with a 9-inch pyramid of cast aluminum.

In 1901, Walt Disney was born in Chicago, Illinois. He produced movies and TV shows, created the characters Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck and planned and built Disneyland near Los Angeles with it opening in 1955.

In 2005, the Jay County Development Corporation board of directors approved another one-year contract with Bob Quadrozzi to be its executive director.

In 2021, Jay County Council approved up to \$700,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds toward a project to convert the former Judge Haynes Elementary School building into a facility for child care. (The funding was later rescinded.)

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonia	Town Council, schoolhouse community center Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works special meeting, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.
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Obituaries

Lelia Culy-Minnis

Nov. 30, 2022-Nov. 30, 2022
Lelia Nevaeh Culy-Minnis went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022.

She was born on Nov. 30, 2022, in Muncie, the daughter of Bradley Minnis and Monica Culy.

Survivors include:
Her parents — Bradley Minnis and Monica Culy, Portland, Indiana
Siblings — Sheldon Minch, Gabby Minnis, Gracie Minnis, Jocelyn Minch, Sophie Minnis, Makayla Minnis, Carter Minnis and Calvin Minch
Grandparents — Kevin and Denise Culy, Portland, Indiana
Great-grandparents — Dave and Linda Peters, Portland, Indiana
Private services will be held at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Pastor Randy Smith will officiate and burial will follow at Green Park Cemetery in Portland.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

Francis Laux

March 14, 1926-Dec. 4, 2022
Francis J. Laux, age 96, of rural Bryant passed away Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022, in Persimmon Ridge Healthcare in Portland.

He was born in Bryant on March 14, 1926, the son of Frank and Odelia (Wagner) Laux. He was married on Aug. 25, 1951, to Patricia Alles who survives. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Francis was a farmer and owner of Laux Grocery and Hardware in New Corydon and also was a custodian at Jay County High School and delivered RV's. He was very active of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Holy Trinity Men's Sodality, Bryant Lions Club, attended Bryant High School, Red Cross Blood Donor of over 25 gallons and was on the 2010 Honour Flight. He was an avid Notre Dame fan.

He is survived by his wife Patricia; two sons, Phil Laux (wife: Marilyn) of Portland and Mike Laux (wife: Linda) of Gibsonville, North Carolina; one brother, Ralph Laux of Bryant; three sisters, Ann Jetmore of Huntertown, Indiana, Alice Crane of Florida and Stella Burns of Florida; five grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.



Laux

He was preceded in death by three children, Joseph, Mary and Elizabeth; and six siblings, Ambrose Laux, Lewis Laux, Bernice Dunham, Agnes Clark, Loretta Welsh and Betty Geels.

Mass of Christian Burial will be Friday, Dec. 9, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. in the Holy Trinity Catholic Church with Fr. Peter Logsdon presiding. Burial with military graveside rites will follow in the Holy Trinity Cemetery. Visitation will be Thursday from 1 to 6 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home and Friday from 9 to 10 a.m.

Memorials can be made to Jay County Cancer Society or Autism Society of Indiana.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com

Phyllis Johnson

July 6, 1942-Dec. 3, 2022
Phyllis Jean Johnson, 80, of Redkey, Indiana, passed away peacefully Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022, while in the company of family members at Persimmon Ridge in Portland, Indiana.

Phyllis was born in Chanute, Kansas, on July 6, 1942, a daughter of the late Pearl M. (Blackburn) and Marwin T. Simon. She was a graduate of Huntington High School and went on to receive her master's degree in education from Ball State University Teachers College.

Phyllis was a quiet and gentle spirit who dedicated her life to children through elementary education, reading and volunteer programs. She was a member of the Redkey Home Economics Club, Jay Classroom Retired Teachers Association, Portland Foundation Women's Giving Circle and Jay County Patriot Band Boosters, and enjoyed reading, gardening, needlepoint, traditional hymns and collecting Emmett Kelly clown figurines.

Phyllis' love for children has been filled with memories she has shared with her late husband Thomas B. Johnson who she happily married on June 26, 1965, and sadly lost on June 26, 2022. Together again, they are survived by two children, Matt Johnson (wife: Jennifer) and Erica Calhoun (husband: Charles); five grandchildren, Zachary Johnson (wife: Amanda), Megan Craw (husband: Tanner), Doug Calhoun, Ryan Calhoun and Abby Johnson; and



Johnson

one great-grandson, Nathan Johnson.

Phyllis is also survived by one sister, Betty Joan Harris; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Tom; and a brother, Marlin Lee Simon (wife: Mary).

Friends are invited to call Friday, Dec. 9, 2022, from 5 to 8 p.m. at MJS Mortuaries - Redkey Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, with Pastor Lori McIntosh and Pastor Randy Davis officiating. Burial will be held privately in Gardens of Memory Cemetery in Muncie, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Riley Children's Hospital.

Arrangements have been entrusted to MJS Mortuaries - Redkey Chapel.

Carol Rouch

June 12, 1950-Dec. 3, 2022
Carol Rouch, age 72, a resident of Hartford City, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022, at her home in Hartford City.

Carol was born on June 12, 1950, in Hartford City, Indiana, the daughter of Basil Harris and Ailene (Blakely) McFarland. She worked for Sheller Globe in Montpelier, Franklin Electric in Bluffton and Key Plastics in Hartford City.

Carol married Jerry Rouch on June 13, 1966, and he passed away on Nov. 9, 1996.

Survivors include:
Her children — Terry Rouch (wife: Marlene), Buena Park, California, Lance Rouch (wife: Mary-Grace), Hartford City, Indiana, and Tonya Roark (Jamie Lomax), Mansfield, Ohio
Brother — Jack Harris (wife: Linda), Hartford City, Indiana
Sister — Robbie Ray (husband: Rob), Pennville, Indiana
Five grandchildren and one great-grandson

Visitation will be held on Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. at the Pennville Chapel of Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. on Saturday at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Gravel Hill Cemetery, west of Bryant.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.



Rouch

Progress ...

Continued from page 1 (Council also preliminarily agreed following an executive session to add a

third position to the utility department.)

All three ordinances will be reviewed for a third reading and take effect starting in January.

In other business, council members Greg Schmitz, Scott Pearson, Al Post, Luke Knapke, Erik Fiely and Cliff Wendel:

•Learned plans are moving forward with acquisition of land from Fort Recovery Local Schools, with the village planning to close on the deal in January. The school system is selling the former baseball field — it is being replaced by a new field on the east side of Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School — located on the west side of Water Street just north of Fort Recovery Street Department.

•Heard Monday was the last day Fort Recovery Street Department would be removing leaves from along the sides of the road. The department will be preparing its vehicles for snow removal this winter.

SERVICES

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

Friday
Laux, Francis: 10:30 a.m., 7321 Indiana 67, Bryant.

Saturday
Johnson, Phyllis: 10 a.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.
Rouch, Carol: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

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Stories kept flowing

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

I think that the metal folding chairs had been stored somewhere where the temperature was at absolute zero. No matter how long we sat on them, they remained cold.

We were at my cousin's 50th anniversary get-together. There were family members, former co-workers, friends and more who had gathered to help them celebrate. We sat with someone we sort of recognized. Stories flowed easily with periodic breaks to check the score of a ball game. Except for the icy chairs, it was a pleasant way to spend a cold afternoon.

This cousin is a twin and we usually refer to her and her sister as the twins instead of by name. When they were little they looked almost identical but I don't remember having a hard time telling them apart. However, when I found some photos of them a few years ago, I had no idea which was which.

These days, it is much easier to tell them apart. It is still apparent that they are twins but now one wears glasses and one doesn't. Their husbands are as different as the girls are alike. While they both tell stories, one husband is a lot more vocal than the other.

As I See It



I love stories. Listening to the others talk, I found out that Gary, the twins' older brother, had been more than just a hypochondriac, he also believed in things that most of us dismiss as being, how shall I say it? Cuckoo. Wait, that word is too strong. Perhaps I should say that most of us sitting around the table didn't agree with his point of view. Gary died a few years ago.

The twins, Gary and their parents used to visit the farm on a fairly regular basis while I was growing up. In fact, they were the only ones who did. Their dad was my grandmother's youngest brother. So, technically, the twins were my mom's cousins even though they were a couple of years younger than me. My grandmother had a bunch of siblings but they rarely, if ever, visited. I remember going to Piqua, Ohio, once or twice to visit one of her sisters, and I have a picture of another one of her sisters standing outside at the farm but that is about it.

When we lived in Dayton, before we moved to the farm, we paid regular visits to her sister, Wilmuth, her sister-in-law Ida and a couple of other people. I don't remember them coming to see us but they may have. Whenever we did get company, we children were banished to either the upstairs or outside. We would go down to the creek or to the barn. The barn was full of treasures. My uncle Norman was a fan of flea markets and kept many of his finds in the barn.

The people who had the farm before us left a whole host of stuff to discover. One of them had worked at a factory that made plastic Campbell's Kids. There was at least an entire basketful of unpainted figures. That was just a sample of the discoveries we made.

Getting together with the twins and their friends and families brought back some of the more pleasant parts of my childhood. It is hard for me to believe that any of us are old enough to have a 50th anniversary. It was just yesterday that we were searching for treasure in an old barn.

Now we are sitting on icebergs telling old tales. I hope next time we get together the chairs are warm and the stories keep on flowing.

Cheating boyfriend continues old ways

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend, "Robert," for 10 years. We live together, and he helps me raise my preteen daughter. Recently, Robert has decided that he is "entitled to privacy." He has locked me out of his computer and phone and refuses to share his passwords.

Some history: Robert has cheated on me more than 20 times in the past, with an almost-encounter happening as recently as three months ago, thwarted only after I saw some text messages on his phone. Last week, I discovered that he used the search term "sex" on a website that's notorious for facilitating random hookups. I was furious.

Robert is now using my reaction to justify locking me out of his devices. I am finally putting my foot down and telling him this is the red line for me — if he doesn't allow me unrestricted access to his devices, I can no longer be in a relationship with him. He is still refusing, so we are now at an impasse. Am I crazy? — LIVID IN LAS VEGAS

DEAR LIVID: You ARE crazy if you stay in a relationship with someone who has not only cheated on you more than 20 times in the past, but is now hell-bent on continuing. You know what he is doing. You know he

Dear Abby



won't change. Access to his passwords isn't the answer. ENOUGH, already!

DEAR ABBY: My daughter went to visit her in-laws with her husband and two children. Her mother-in-law is an amazing cook. While they were having dinner, my daughter said to her, "This is so delicious, I would love to have the recipe." Her mother-in-law replied, "My recipes are for family only." My daughter was deeply hurt, and their relationship has never been the same. What would be the best way to handle this cutting remark and help their relationship move forward? — NOT FAMILY IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR NOT FAMILY: The best way would be for your daughter's husband to tell his mother how hurtful her response was, and for the woman to apologize to your daughter and offer her the recipe because, like it or not, her daughter-in-law IS "family."

Festival of Trees begins this week

It's that time of year again. Fort Recovery Public Library is hosting its annual Fort Festival of Trees from now through Dec. 31 during regular business hours.

Trees decorated by local businesses, organizations, families and individuals are on display for free at the library. Visitors may vote for their favorite tree.

The library at 113 Wayne St. is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Taking Note

Fridays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

Veterans event
Berne American Legion Post 468

will host an event for veterans Thursday.

Veterans are invited to the Berne post to receive quilts provided by the Daughters of the American Revolution. (Identification or Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty is required.) Vietnam era veterans can also receive a free copy of "The Time to Honor" book and "The Journey Home" documentary DVD. Food will be provided.

For more information, contact Arthur Booth at (260) 849-0294.

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.

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-

MOUS — 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.

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

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 - BRANNA'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.

PIKE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS — Will meet at 5 p.m. Dec. 8 at Tammy Shawver's house. For more information, call Tammy or Sandy.

JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB — Will meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.



Swiss Village

**NOW SEEKING:
PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST**

Now seeking a Part-Time Receptionist for the front desk at Swiss Village. This position is responsible for handling incoming phone calls, attending to front desk inquiries, and providing clerical services for the administrative staff. Seeking candidates available to work every other Wednesday and Thursday from 4:30pm-7:30pm, every other weekend from 5pm-7:30pm, and on a holiday rotation. Must be friendly, customer service oriented, and able to multi-task.

Apply online at www.swissvillage.org
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Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

The objective is to fill a nine-by-nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

Announcing

The Commercial Review's 24th Annual Christmas Fiction Contest



Open to residents of Jay, Randolph, Adams, Delaware, Blackford and Wells counties in Indiana, also Mercer and Darke counties in Ohio. Former area residents who are subscribers to The Commercial Review may also enter.

Selected entries will be published in The CR's annual Christmas Greetings special section. The first-place entry will also receive \$250.

Original short stories with a Christmas theme or setting should be emailed to news@thecr.com by Dec. 9. Each entry should bear the writer's name, complete address and telephone number.

Entry Deadline is Dec. 9, 2022.

The 2021 winner
"Gifts of Love
for Angie"
By Mary T. Hommelgarn

Proposal is positive for the county

To the editor:

The Nov. 23 edition of The Commercial Review indicated existing dormant exit forms may be activated and find their way to Jay County department heads who must complete and submit to the Jay County Personnel Committee when employees desire to terminate their association as a county worker.

As a former department head, I favor that proposal.

Returning to the fringes of modern history, in May 1995 I was one of four hopefuls waiting for an interview with the Jay County Commissioners for the vacancy of Jay County Veterans Service Officer. One of the three commissioners was napping (and I was the first interviewee), which challenged my optimism.

Surprisingly, I was the chosen one. (Perhaps the sleeping commissioner was to my advantage.) The target position was a lone occupant working part time with no subordinates but carried the

Letters to the Editor

impressive title of department head, which is on par with addressing one man in a row boat as captain.

Three days passed and a lady graced my office and presented herself as a Jay County Council member. Along with informing me who on the county council roster was my official representative, she welcomed me as a freshly minted novice in this new environment and ensured I landed upright thus diminishing my need to chase. The Lady's professionalism was grand and its memory still lingers. Her name is Mary Lou Premier.

A week later the director of Indiana Veterans Affairs jour-

neyed from Indianapolis to Portland. He seemed familiar but doubt prevailed until introduction. Forty-three years had passed since Gerald "Dutch" Boles and I had contact. The year was 1952 and we both resided in Van Buren. He was the postmaster and I was his paper boy. (I shattered his window with a poorly aimed Marion Chronicle.) It was his policy in his present capacity to welcome new veterans service officers on their own turf.

Although the monthly Jay County Council meeting is the primary platform for department updates, not all issues were settled with accepted boundaries. Rejected twice for computer funding, a county commissioner (his name has faded over time) later approached me and authorized a computer. The effort was quite daring and carried with it some danger on infringement on established procedures. Such action lends credence to the axiom: Do I

follow the rules or get the job done. In time two others came forward, and using the same raw approach helped resolve stagnant issues.

Challenges were met and addressed while I held the veterans' chair, with those of greater intensity resulting in a higher degree of satisfaction when victorious. There was stumbling along the journey but most were insignificant resulting in stale memories. Two however, have surfaced.

Veterans Day is a paid holiday for full time employees but a Catch-22 comes into play here. The veterans office at part-time does not qualify, resulting in an awkward but comical twist.

Secondly, an unruly veteran on premise nearly became physical. A year later (February 2015) he was arrested for a double homicide in Hartford City.

I don't recall any of my commissioner or council reps, in their capacity as such, ever

engaging me in dialog on or off the record.

I've strayed greatly from the exit form theme, but two proposals on their own merit might possibly hold sway for future consideration. All new department heads should be physically approached by their commissioner or council representatives. Although we're a small county and our leaders' names are publicly recognized, this suggestion is not professional overkill but adds refinement to the relationship and enhances the status of both parties. Additionally, our reps who choose to reach beyond are recommended and would certainly elevate the status quo.

After holding the position for 19 interesting years my enthusiasm waned and in 2014 I recommended the commissioners consider Clifford Allen Moser.

The baton was passed.
Respectfully,
Roy L. Leverich
Portland

Economist gloomy despite the positives

By **EDOUARD WEMY**

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

In any other time, the jobs news that came down on Dec. 2, 2022, would be reason for cheer.

The U.S. added 263,000 nonfarm jobs in November, leaving the unemployment rate at a low 3.7%. Moreover, wages are up — with average hourly pay jumping 5.1% compared with a year earlier.

So why am I not celebrating? Oh, yes: inflation.

The rosy employment figures come despite repeated efforts by the Federal Reserve to tame the job market and the wider economy in general in its fight against the worst inflation in decades. The Fed has now increased the base interest rate six times in 2022, going from a historic low of about zero to a range of 3.75% to 4% today. Another hike is expected on Dec. 13. Yet inflation remains stubbornly high, and currently sits at an annual rate of 7.7%.

The economic rationale behind hiking rates is that it increases the cost of doing business for companies. This in turn acts as brake on the economy, which should cool inflation.

But that doesn't appear to be happening. A closer dive into November's jobs report reveals why.

It shows that the labor force participation rate — how many working-age Americans have a job or are seeking one — is stuck at just over 62.1%. As the report notes, that figure is "little changed" in November and has shown "little net change since early this year." In fact, it is down 1.3 percentage points from pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels.

This suggests that the heating up of the labor market is being driven by supply-side issues. That is, there aren't enough people to fill the jobs being advertised.

Companies still want to hire — as the above-expected job gains indicate. But with fewer people actively looking for work, companies are having to go the extra yard to be attractive to job seekers. That means offering higher wages. And higher wages — they were up 5.1% in November from a year earlier — contribute to spiraling inflation.

This puts the Fed in a difficult position. Simply put, there is not an awful lot it can do about supply-side

Edouard Wemy



issues in the labor market. The main monetary tool it has to affect jobs is rate hikes, which make it more costly to do business, which should have an impact on hiring. But that only affects the demand side — that is, employers and recruitment policies.

So where does this leave the possibility of further rate hikes? Viewing this as an economist, it suggests the Fed might be eyeing a base rate jump of more than 75 basis points on Dec. 13, rather than a softening of its policies as Chair Jerome Powell had suggested as recently as Nov. 30. Yes, this still would not ease the labor supply problem that is encouraging wage growth, but it might serve to cool the wider economy nonetheless.

The problem is, this would increase the chances of also pushing the U.S. economy into a recession — and it could be a pretty nasty recession.

Wages still trail inflation, and for one reason or another people have been opting out of the labor market. The logical assumption is that to make up for both these factors, American families have been dipping into their savings.

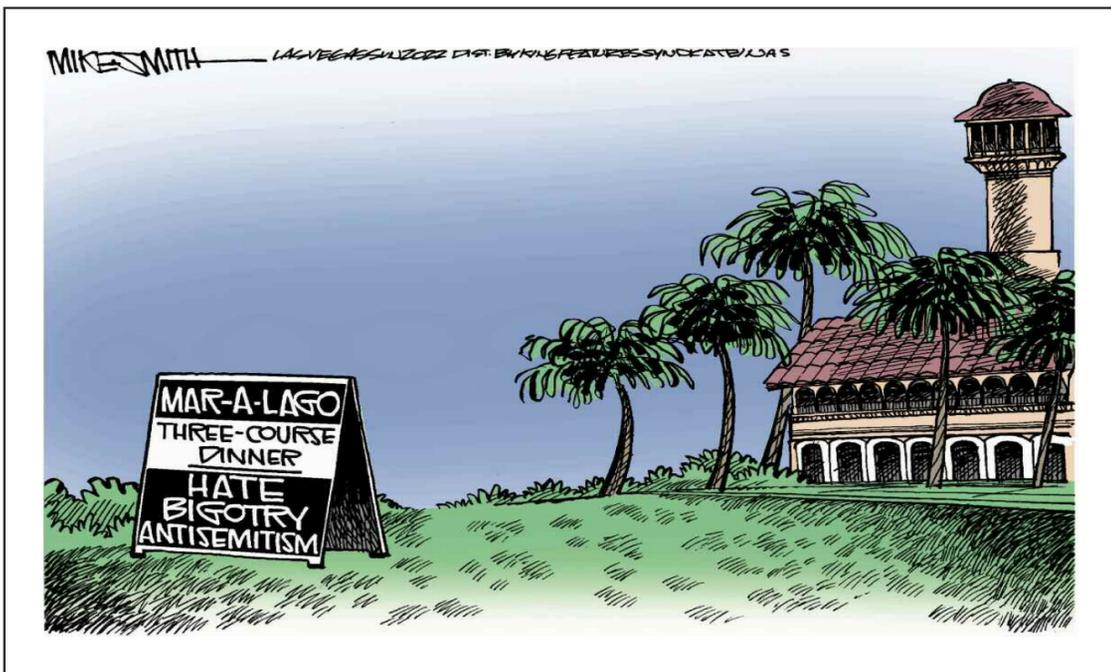
Statistics back this up. The personal saving rate — that is, the chunk of income left after paying taxes and spending money — has fallen steeply, down to 2.3% in December from 9.3% before the pandemic. In fact, it is at its lowest rate since 2005.

So, yes, employment is robust. But the money being earned is eroded by soaring inflation. Meanwhile, the safety net of savings that families might need is getting smaller.

In short, people are not prepared for the recession that might be lurking around the corner. And this is why I am gloomy.

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Wemy is an assistant professor of economics at Clark University.

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



Jury delivers truth about Jan. 6

By **HARRY LITMAN**

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

The conviction of Oath Keepers leaders Stewart Rhodes and Kelly Meggs on charges of seditious conspiracy is a historic legal victory for the Department of Justice, but it is much more than that as well.

Tuesday's verdicts in federal court in Washington will go a long way toward defining the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol melee, once and for all, as a heinous, purposeful crime orchestrated by enemies of democracy.

The Justice Department richly deserves a victory lap for its efforts. Seditious conspiracy is a notoriously difficult charge to prove — the last successful prosecution was in 1995 — and it has a checkered history in the department.

In fact, it was only after contentious internal debate that the department greenlighted the charges in Jan. 6 cases as righteous and winnable.

Even so, only Rhodes and Meggs were convicted on the seditious count. All five of the defendants were found guilty of obstructing a government proceeding, but none was convicted on all the various charges the government brought.

For some observers, the mix of verdicts tempers the government's victory. That's the wrong way to look at it.

The prosecutors' focus was always first on convicting Rhodes, and to a lesser degree Meggs, of seditious conspiracy.

On all the other counts and with the other defendants, the jury's meticulous evaluation of the various charges — accepting some, rejecting others — only bolsters the credibility of their decisions. The lack of a clean sweep shows that the jurors exercised independent judgment; they didn't simply swallow the government's case whole. And all the defendants were convicted of serious charges carrying the potential for significant jail time.

Harry Litman



Tuesday's decisions will have immediate, practical legal ramifications. First, those still to be tried for their involvement in the Jan. 6 riot, including Proud Boys and additional Oath Keepers, may want to think hard about pleading guilty and offering to cooperate with the government investigation.

The verdicts also cast a shadow over anyone who consorted with the conspirators in the days after the 2020 election. Perhaps the most obvious example: Roger Stone, whose encrypted messages with Rhodes were a key part of the evidence at trial. (Rhodes messaged Stone right after Joe Biden's victory: "What's the plan? We need to roll ASAP.")

More generally, the convictions represent a major advance in the Department of Justice's pursuit of accountability for all those involved in efforts to prevent a peaceful transfer of power. Now more than ever, the department is all in on treating the riot as the existential danger it was.

That means a no-stone-unturned approach to the role of political officials in the scandal, and in particular to the investigations that are now in the hands of special counsel Jack Smith, which mainly involve Donald Trump and his circle.

The practical and legal effects of the landmark result are only a fraction of the import of the convictions.

Some of the country's most prominent political leaders continue to embrace a ludicrous narrative that minimizes the events of Jan. 6. In their twisted telling, the riot was a legitimate political protest that got a

little out of hand or even, in the words of Trump himself, represented courageous acts of patriots who have been treated unfairly by the Justice Department.

The same denial of reality underlies the announced resolve of the new Republican majority in the House to investigate the Jan. 6 committee, as if that body has been engaged in an illegitimate examination of political trivialities.

Tuesday's verdicts offer a decisive rebuttal to these preposterous accounts and one that is far more effective than the protestations of political opponents, law professors or op-ed columnists, however well reasoned.

A jury trial represents our system's ideal of authoritative fact finding, a process enshrined in the Constitution for getting as close as a society can to the truth of a matter that is in dispute. And the jury in this trial plainly took its duty seriously and exercised its power with meticulous attention to detail.

That doesn't mean that the whole country will agree to call Jan. 6 a criminal conspiracy, but the hold-outs are suddenly swimming against a stronger current.

The effect of these guilty verdicts, in a trial conducted with thoroughness and care, will be to marginalize the apologists for Jan. 6. They can't help but look more and more like wingnuts or monsters now, inveighing against what a critical mass of society has accepted and denying a jury's account that squares with what the whole country saw in real time.

That goes for history as well. The Oath Keepers convictions (and the other seditious prosecutions) will be among the rare trials — perhaps one or two a generation — to appear in high school history books. And that future students will learn is that the trials mattered deeply because they vindicated the truth about Jan. 6, 2021.

The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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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.

Council ...

Continued from page 1
Also Monday, Jennifer Hartley again visited council to comment on the planned replacement of the Water Street (Indiana 26) bridge over the Salamonie River on the west edge of Portland. She indicated that a petition to maintain the bridge — Indiana Department of Transportation plans call for removing it and constructing a new structure in 2023 — now has 1,500 signatures.
She also said she located a report that indicated the large vehicles, such as semis and firetrucks, are prohibited from

using the bridge. Council members and Mayor John Boggs agreed that such a report indicates a mistake somewhere — either in the report itself or the lack of enforcement of such a restriction.
Boggs also advised Hartley that all bridges in the county, including those in municipalities, fall under the purview of the county commissioners.
Council members Kent McClung, Janet Powers, Don Gillespie, Michele Brewster, Mike Aker, Matt Goldsworthy and Dave Golden also approved a three-year tax abatement for Priority Plastics on \$1.2 million

in new manufacturing equipment. The abatement, which was recommended for approval by the city's tax abatement advisory committee, is projected to save the company \$30,000 in taxes. The new equipment will generate about \$96,000 in new tax revenue over a 10-year period.
In other business:
•Answering a question from Golden, clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips said there will be a reminder about the upcoming sewer rate increase included in December's bills. Rates are set to increase by \$7.44 per month on Jan. 1. (A second rate

increase of \$8.47 per month is slated for April.)
•Council members briefly discussed a draft of the revised golf cart ordinance. It will be on the agenda for approval at the Dec. 19 meeting.
•Council reappointed Aaron Loy to the Portland Board of Zoning Appeals.
•Powers asked if there were any updates regarding the status of The Greazy Pickle restaurant and bar as it relates to the possible demolition of the adjacent Bailey Building on Main Street. Boggs said there is nothing new to report.
•Responding to a question from

Golden, Boggs said the Meridian Street storm sewer project is in a "hurry up and wait" status. The work was scheduled to begin this fall but has been delayed by supply chain issues.
•Gillespie asked about whether catch basins are being cleaned out. Boggs reported that the truck had been down for repairs but is back in service.
•Council members briefly discussed the allocation of funds from a federal opioid settlement after receiving a request from Youth Service Bureau to be considered for the money. They plan to discuss the issue again at their next meeting.

LA teachers are seeking 20% raise

By HOWARD BLUME
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles teachers union is pressing its demands for a 20% raise over two years, smaller class sizes and a steep reduction in standardized testing — the latest stress test for the nation's second-largest school district and Superintendent Alberto Carvalho as the system struggles to address students' deep learning setbacks and mental health needs in the wake of the pandemic.

For United Teachers Los Angeles — which staged three simultaneous rallies Monday across the vast school system — its contract platform speaks to the intense pressures that members say are pummeling their profession, leading to dire teacher shortages in California and throughout the nation. Ongoing economic uncertainties and the high costs of living and housing in Los Angeles have intensified their focus on contract talks as teachers worry about career sustainability and increasing workloads.

"When you can't even afford to live when you work, we got a problem y'all," UTLA President

Cecily Myart-Cruz said in impassioned remarks that closed the rally outside district headquarters just west of downtown. "This district has had seven whole months to address the educator shortage and to make sure that every student has a classroom teacher, every student has a school nurse, every student has a counselor and a librarian and mental health support."

Speakers at the rally included newly elected school board member Rocio Rivas, who benefited from a multimillion-dollar independent campaign on her behalf from the teachers union.

While Myart-Cruz sought to fire up her rank-and-file, school district officials sought to tamp things down.

"Los Angeles Unified continues to meet with our labor partners regularly," according to a statement the district issued in the afternoon. "We respect and acknowledge the dedication of our employees and the need to compensate them fairly in this current economic environment. We remain dedicated to avoiding protracted negotiations to keep the focus on our stu-



Tribune News Service/Los Angeles Times/Brian va der Brug

Students, parents and community leaders join members of United Teachers Los Angeles for a rally Monday outside L.A. Unified headquarters.

dents and student achievement."

At the rallies, participants focused on record multibillion-dollar reserves, with the message that if teachers and other

employees can't be rewarded and helped now, then when would it ever be possible?

Carvalho, in turn, has focused attention on potential difficulties ahead.

Financial forecasters, including the state legislative analyst, warn of an economic downturn just as one-time COVID-19 relief aid is winding down. A raise that is affordable in

2022 must still be paid for three years from now — when money is likely to be tighter, and when steadily declining student enrollment could create more financial pressures.

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Felony arrests

Criminal confinement
A Bryant man was arrested Sunday for criminal confinement and related charges.

Jason L. Clutter, 35, 690 E. 600 North, was preliminarily charged with a Level 3 felony, along with two Level 6 felonies for criminal recklessness with a deadly weapon and pointing a firearm at another person.

He's being held on a \$36,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Dealing drugs

Two Michigan men were arrested this morning for dealing drugs.

Darrel D. Decamp, 46, 8406 Pine Lake Road,

Deslton, and John D. Watson, 49, 5533 E. Dowling Road, Nashville, were each preliminarily charged with Level 3 felonies for dealing methamphetamine, Level 5 felonies for dealing marijuana and Class A misdemeanors for possession of paraphernalia. They're both being held on \$41,000 bonds in Jay County Jail.

Strangulation

A Pennville man was arrested Friday for strangulation and other charges.

Seth Jones, 19, 300 E. South St., was preliminarily charged with two Level 6 felonies for criminal confinement and

strangulation, as well as two Class A misdemeanors for domestic battery and interfering with reporting a crime.

He was released on a \$6,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Drug possession

A Redkey man was arrested Friday for possession of methamphetamine.

Shawn R. Crabtree, 37, 33 N. Sycamore St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony, as well as a Class A misdemeanor for driving with a suspended license.

He was released from Jay County Jail on a \$4,000 bond.

Capsule Reports

Drunk driving

A man was arrested for operating a vehicle while intoxicated after he drove into a mailbox along Bridge Street about 4:38 a.m. Sunday.

Davince Morales-Roblero, 23, was driving north on Bridge Street when the 2012 Dodge Grand Caravan he was driving hit a mailbox. Local resident Tracy Arnold told police he woke up to a loud noise and noticed the damage.

Morales-Roblero was charged in Jay Superior Court with operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol level of 0.15% or more, a Class A misdemeanor, and leaving the scene of an accident, a Class B misdemeanor.

The vehicle he was driving — it's registered to Lopez L. Maximiliano of Dover, Ohio — was towed. Damage is estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

Disregarded stop

Damage is estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000 after a Brownsville man disregarded the stop sign and proceeded into the intersection of Indiana 26 and State Line Road, caus-

ing a collision about 4:08 p.m. Monday.

Kyle A. Baker, 32, was driving his 1995 Toyota Tacoma south on State Line Road. He disregarded the stop at its intersection with the highway, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report, and continued into the intersection. His vehicle was struck by a westbound 2017 Chevrolet Traverse, driven by 30-year-old Juarez S. Perez of Portland.

Perez was cited for driving without a license. Baker was arrested and preliminarily charged with a Class B misdemeanor for driving with a suspended license, a Class B misdemeanor. He was released on a \$1,000 bond from Jay County Jail.

Both vehicles were towed.

Vehicles collided

Two Portland residents' vehicles collided at the intersection of county roads 700 East and 200 North about 2:30 p.m. Friday.

Janel M. Knittle, 25, was driving a 2012 Chrysler Town and Country west on county road 200 North and

crossing the intersection with county road 700 East. At the same time, Brett M. Grayson, 25, was driving his 2015 Ford Escape south on county road 700 East and stopped at the stop sign. He proceeded into the intersection as Knittle's vehicle passed, causing a crash.

Both vehicles were towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000. Knittle complained of chest pain, and Grayson complained of arm pain, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report.

Intersection crash

A Portland woman crashed her car into a Portland man's truck at the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and Franklin Street about 10:13 a.m. Thursday.

Lester Dirksen, 73, Portland, told police he was stopped in his 2020 Ford F-150 on Lincoln Avenue and began to turn south onto Franklin Street. As he turned, a southbound 2008 Chevrolet Impala driven by 67-year-old Beth Lemaster struck his vehicle.

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly

OH MY GOD, DO I REALLY LOOK LIKE THAT WHEN I'M RUNNING?

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

12-6
©2022 Bil Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Syndicate www.familycomic.com

"Can't I wait a couple days to see if any of the other guys are bringin' presents to Miss Johnson?"

Peanuts

PLOP!

SOMEONE IS SPOILING FOR A SNOWBALL FIGHT..

Rose is Rose

DID YOU KNOW THAT PASQUALE IS PRETENDING TO MAKE SOMETHING IN THE BACKYARD?

OH, NO!

I'M LATE FOR PRACTICE!

MEMBERS OF THE SNOWMAN BUILDERS GUILD ARE CONSTANTLY HONING THEIR SKILLS!

Agnes

I HAVE FIXED UP THE SECRET GARDEN FOR NEW PONDING AND SESSIONS OF THAT NATURE.

YOU ADDED A JUNKY STOOL?

YES... IT IS ALMOST STABLE... I FOUND IT IN A DUMPSTER.

THIS IS OUT OF THAT PLEDANCE CLUB OVER ON HUDSON STREET. I RECOGNIZE THE LOGO.

YOU WILL NOTE THAT I BLACKED OUT HER ATTRIBUTES WITH A SHARPIE.

OH YES... FAMILY-FRIENDLY NOW.

Hi and Lois

THURSTON FELL ASLEEP AT HIS DESK AGAIN.

HE'S DEFINITELY NOT "QUIET QUITTING."

SNX! SNORT! WHEEZE

Funky Winkerbean

WHEN LISA WAS HURT IN THE POST OFFICE BOMBING... I INFLUENCED THE COACH AND BAND DIRECTOR TO HAVE THE FOOTBALL TEAM AND BAND DONATE BLOOD.

AND WHEN YOU WERE BORN... I MADE SURE THE TOP NEONATAL PHYSICIAN WAS IN CHARGE OF YOUR CARE!

Blondie

THESE GAS PRICES ARE INSANE!

TELL ME ABOUT IT!

AT THIS RATE, I'M GOING TO NEED A CAR THAT GETS BETTER GAS MILEAGE!

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT GETTING A NEW CAR?

ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING MAYBE I COULD BORROW YOURS

Snuffy Smith

I MYSELF WUZ NEVER A BIG FAN OF COLD CEREAL !!

'TIL THEY CAME OUT WIF THIS 'UN !!

Beetle Bailey

WHY DOES THIS SIGN SAY "YOU ARE HERE"?

BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE WE ARE

HOW DOES IT KNOW THAT?

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

When to win a trick

North dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 10 8
♥ A 2
♦ K Q J 10
♣ Q 7 5 3

WEST
♠ J 9 4 3
♥ K J 8
♦ 8 6 4 2
♣ 10 9

EAST
♠ 6 5 2
♥ 6 3
♦ 9 7 3
♣ A K J 8 4

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

The bidding:
North East South West
1♦ Pass 1♥ Pass
1NT Pass 4♥
Opening lead — ten of clubs.

East with the jack. East then played the king of clubs, and South was faced with the problem of which card to ruff with.

After studying the situation a while, declarer ruffed with the ten. West overruffed with the jack and shifted to a diamond. South won with the ace and led the queen of trump. It did not matter whether West covered or not; either way, his king was trapped, so South made the contract.

West fumbled badly when he overruffed declarer's ten with the jack at trick three. All he had to do to guarantee defeat of the contract was to discard on the trick. Once the ten was gone, West's K-J-8 of trump represented two sure trump winners regardless of declarer's holding or what he did next.

There is no magic rule that answers the question of when a player should take or refuse to take a trick. It depends on the circumstances. If it is advantageous to win the trick, you should do so; if there is something to be gained by refusing to win the trick, you shouldn't win it. More often than not, you win a trick when you can, but the overriding factor in every case is good judgment.

Tomorrow: Keep your eye on the ball.
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12-6 CRYPTOQUIP

MGLD SWYJC BWY SLJJ OAWOJA
MGW LPA PALJJB TFDW DGA
VDYCB WI VOAASG VWYFCV?
OGWFADTSV ILFLDTSV.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF THERE WERE A FRATERNITY IN A SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND NATION, WOULD THEY GO TO A TONGA PARTY?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals P

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Tater transport
5 Huck's — Lanka
12 London gallery
13 Fencing sword
14 Varnish ingredient
15 Tavern drink
17 Previously
18 Big-screen format
19 Asian noodles
21 Bucking horse
24 Nullify
25 Zero, in tennis
26 Frat party errands
30 Luau instrument
31 Trait carriers
32 "Science Guy" Bill
33 Goes too long
35 Distort

DOWN
36 Wee Rosters
38 Group of three
40 Tennis ace
42 Drone Sampras
43 Bank account
48 Employ woe
49 Meadows
50 Castle
51 Aachen article
52 Wheel bar
53 Dog's bowful
1 Norm (Abbr.)
2 Standard

3 Actress Hagen
4 Give meaning to
5 Country great
6 Pinnacle McEntire
7 Service charge
8 Really bratty
9 Sure kids
10 Fury picture
11 PC buff's network
20 Televisé
21 Fuzzy image

22 Video-streaming brand
23 Baker's clock
24 Swerve
26 Group of quail
27 Chemical suffix
28 Russian refusal
29 Stitches
31 Canal boat
34 "Diamonds" singer
35 Mountain chain
37 British "Inc."
38 Dull sound of impact
39 Stratagem
40 Bell sound
41 Gaelic puzzle
44 ISIP giant
46 Dandy guy
47 Ring decision

Solution time: 22 mins.

CLAM	BAA	ABBA								
RIGATON	GUAC									
ONTHEAIR	ERTE									
LAT	HINGES									
GAMER	WEND									
EVER	ARAMAIC									
DIM	DIODE	PAD								
DEPARTS	TORE									
HYDE	CADDY									
CARTOON	NON									
OREL	CLEANAIR									
WEAL	TOILETTE									
LADY	SON	ROSA								

Yesterday's answer 12-6

30 LOST, STRAYED OR FOUND

ATTENTION! LOST A PET Or found one? The Jay county humane society can serve as an information center. 260-726-6339

40 NOTICES

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Patriots dominate Franklin tourney

FRANKLIN, Ohio — Six champions.

The most outstanding wrestler.

Saturday was a good day for the Patriots.

Tony Wood was selected for the top honor at the Franklin Invitational and five other Patriots won their weight classes as well as the Jay County High School boys wrestling team dominated the event to win with 348 points.

Indian Lake was a distant second with 180 points among the nine teams that scored.

Wood was voted most outstanding wrestler after

Local roundup

sweeping his way through pool A and then defeated Reading's Gage Murphy by major decision in the championship at 138 pounds. The two-time state qualifier is currently ranked sixth in the state.

Cameron Clark, who is ranked fourth, had a dominant day at 144 pounds, pinning all of his opponents in

the first period in pool A. He then topped the host Wildcats' Tucker Campbell by a 12-4 major decision in the championship match.

Also winning titles for Jay County were Daniel Moore (106), Taye Curtis (120), Cody Rowles (126) and Christian Wittkamp (150). Ethan Reiley (132), Landon Mills-Blowers (157), Juaquin Flores (165), Bryce Wenk (190) and Conner Specht (HWT) all finished as runners-up.

JH girls roll

SELMA — Jay County's eighth grade girls basketball team clobbered host

Selma 48-15 Monday. The seventh graders rolled to a 42-12 victory.

Hallie Schwieterman led the Patriot eighth graders with 20 points. Ten players scored for the squad, with Bailey Towell adding eight points and Stella Skirvin and Raylin Hummer each chipping in four.

Gabi Petro's dozen points led the Jay County seventh grade team. Amelia Heath followed with eight points and Elizabeth Brunswick and Natalie May each had six.

Grapplers strong

Jay County Wrestling

Club had three champions Sunday at the Westfield Folkstyle Tournament and its elementary school team placed second in the Jordan Shafer Memorial Elementary Duals at Rochester.

The elementary team defeated Penn 1, Concord and Rochester before falling to Penn 2 in the championship match. Leading the team with perfect 4-0 records were Kase VanSkyock, Blake Wood, Jackson Bonifas and Cooper Reynolds. Going 3-1 on the day were Khoden Bentz, Max Myers, Bryce VanSkyock, Max McClain and Varen Ridgway.

Champions for Jay County at the Westfield tournament were Parker Huntsman, Cage Reynolds and AJ Huntsman.

Four unbeaten

HARTFORD CITY — Competing Friday at Blackford, four Jay County junior varsity wrestlers posted undefeated records.

Finishing the evening perfect were Trace Smith, Garrett Bennett, Carter Barton and Brice Coy. Added 2-1 records were Hayden Richman, Cole Carpenter, Benson Ward and Joaquin Johnson.

Boys ...

Continued from page 8

It was the first time Jay County has been held to fewer than 30 points in a game since a 42-26 loss to Delta in the sectional opener on March 2, 2021.

Fort Recovery (2-0) trailed for most of the game before taking a 17-15 lead late in the third quarter. Jay County (1-2), which topped Woodlan 56-51 Friday night for its first win of the year, later had a 24-20 advantage past the midway point of the fourth.

Cale Rammel, who led all players with 17 points, hit a 3-pointer to get the Indians within one. Jay County missed the front end of a one-and-one at the other end, and Rammel assisted on a Rex Leverette triple to put the Tribe on top, 26-24.

Two Landon Post free throws appeared to ice the game in the final seven seconds by putting Fort Recovery up 32-26, but Blake Bogenschutz, who led Jay County with 18 points in Friday's win, made it a one-possession game (32-29) with two seconds remaining.

Leverette, however, put it away for good with two bonus free throws.

"We talked about, we had a really good week of practice," Bob Leverette said. "They

worked their butts off. They were focused all week. I asked them, 'What do we have to show from working our butts off? We have nothing to show. Reward yourself by working hard in practice and getting a W tonight.'

"We got stops down the stretch when we needed to and we hit free throws."

Post, who complemented Rammel's effort with six points, summed up the feeling of beating the Patriots in back-to-back tries (they did not play in last season because of COVID-19 within the Jay County program).

"Came down to defense and whoever defended more was coming out with a victory," he said. "Both teams really locked down their best players. We had a plan all week and executed it perfectly and came out with the win."

Jay County and Fort Recovery were on pace for a score more suitable for a football game than basketball, as the Patriots led 12-10 at halftime. Jay County had a slight edge in shooting (4-of-17 to Fort Recovery's 4-of-18) while also having one fewer turnover.

Rammel scored the only three points for the Indians in the second quarter by splitting a pair

of free throws early on and then getting a bucket in the final two minutes. Jay County, meanwhile, got its only points of the period on two free throws from Dusty Pearson, who shared the team high with six points before fouling out in the fourth quarter.

"I don't know how many times in the first half we got the ball knocked away from us," said Bomholt, whose team ended the night shooting 8-of-30 (26.7%) while Fort Recovery was slightly better at 28.6% (10-of-35). "We weren't strong on the inside. It's a frustrating scenario. We have to work on it."

Junior varsity

A night after a third-quarter outburst carried Jay County to a win over Richmond, a strong offensive outburst in the same quarter propelled the Patriots to a 54-36 win against Fort Recovery.

The Patriots were ahead 10-7 after the first quarter and 23-16 at halftime. A 20-9 edge allowed the hosts to create a cushion before going point-for-point with the Tribe in the final period.

Jay County's Ben Crouch led all players with 17 points, while Gradin Swoveland followed with a dozen points. Liam Gar-

ringer chipped in 11 points to join them in double figures.

Colson Post did all his damage from the perimeter, making five 3-pointers to lead the Indians with 15 points. Eli Lennartz was second for the Tribe with eight points.

Freshman

Jay County overtook Fort Recovery in the second quarter on its way to a 45-29 win.

Down 10-9 heading into the second quarter, the Patriots held the Indians to just two more points before halftime as it went into the break on top 14-11. Jay County outscored Fort Recovery 31-18 in the final two periods.

Carter Fugiett made three triples on his way to a game-high 13 points for JCHS. Cole Forthofer was second with nine points while Brady Hess and Kade Sommers has seven points each.

Reece LeFevre led Fort Recovery with 11 points and Caden Homan ended with six points.

Correction

Statistics from Friday's freshman win over Woodlan were incorrect because of an error in the scorebook.

Brody Hess led Jay County with 16 points. Cole Forthofer followed with nine.

Isaac LeFevre had the lone victory for the Fort Recovery boys in the 100 freestyle, finishing first by more than three seconds in a time of 1:03.43.

Girls ...

Continued from page 8

Jay County, which has won six in a row, forced five Tribe turnovers in the first 2 minutes, 30 seconds, of the game and scored the first six points. Fort Recovery got a free throw from Cali Wendel at the 5:12 mark of the opening period, but the Patriots had a double-digit lead before Kennedy Muhlenkamp got the first Fort Recovery field goal with 3:57 on the clock.

The score was 21-9 after the only back-to-back FRHS hoops of the game before Jay County closed the first half with 10 consecutive points and then opened the second with another dozen in a row. The Patriots limited Fort Recovery to 2-of-12 shooting in the second half.

Renna Schwieterman led Jay County with 23 points, pulling her within 77 of breaking Shannon Freeman's career scoring record. Gabi Bilibrey followed with nine points and Sophie Saxman scored eight points to go along with team highs of six rebounds and three assists.

Comer went to his bench from about midway through the first quarter, with Meredith Dirksen hitting a 3-pointer and Cassie Petro and Natalie Carreno contributing two points apiece.

"I tried to put girls in today with four starters ... to see how they did. Because it's different when you're in there with four starters than it is with five girls off the bench," the coach said. "I thought they all handled it well."

"We're just looking for one or two people to step up, stand out, that can give us a little bit more depth."

Muhlenkamp's six points and four rebounds were team highs for the Indians.

Sprints ...

Continued from page 8

He also placed sixth in both the 50 freestyle and 50 backstroke.

The top finish for the Patriot

boys came from Josh Monroe, who was third in the 50 breaststroke at 31.05.

Fortkamp also led the FRHS girls Monday, winning the 200

individual medley in 2 minutes, 23.87 seconds and the 100 butterfly in 1:07.19. Bubp posted a winning time of 1:15.19 in the 100 breaststroke.

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Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT 2022 TERM

In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of: Caroline M. Jones, Deceased

No. 38C01-2211-EU-000045

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that on the 18th day of November, 2022, Isaac D. Jones, Esther A. South, and Matilda L. Garner were appointed as Personal Representatives of the Estate of Caroline M. Jones, deceased, who died on October 22nd, 2022. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 21st day of November, 2022.

Eric D. Orr, #28713-01
Eric D. Orr, Attorney
346 US Highway 27 North Berne, IN 46711
Telephone: (260) 589-2345
Jon Eads
Clerk of the Circuit Court, For Jay County, Indiana
CR 12-6,13-2022 HSPAXLP

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT CAUSE NO. 38C01-2207-MF-000011 LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, Plaintiff, vs. ANNIE COSTELLO, SOLELY IN THE CAPACITY AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF NICHOLAS COSTELLO, Defendant.

NOTICE OF SUIT
The State of Indiana to the Defendant(s) above named, and any other person who may be concerned.

You are hereby notified that you have been sued in the Court above named.

The nature of the suit against you is: Complaint on Note and to Foreclose Mortgage on Real Estate Against the property commonly known as 316 S Meridian St, Portland, IN 47371-2502 and described as follows:

Lot 52 in South Portland addition to the town, now city of Portland, Jay County, Indiana.

This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s) whose whereabouts are unknown: Annie Costello, solely in the capacity as Personal Representative of the Estate of Nicholas Costello.

If you have a claim for relief against the plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer or response.

You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit, and if you fail to do so a judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded, by the Plaintiff.

FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. By BRYAN K. REDMOND BRYAN K. REDMOND Attorney No. 22108-29 Attorney for Plaintiff BRYAN K. REDMOND FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. 8415 Allison Pointe Blvd., Suite 400 Indianapolis, IN 46250 NOTICE FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR. CR 11-22,29,12-6-2022 HSPAXLP

State line split



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School junior Sophie Saxman pushes the ball up the floor between Kennedy Muhlenkamp (20) and Cali Wendel (5) of Fort Recovery during the second quarter Saturday. Saxman finished with eight points, six rebounds and three assists.

Indian boys win defensive battle

By CHRIS SCHANZ
The Commercial Review

It would have been wise to stay home for fans of high-scoring games.

Those more defensive-minded got an early Christmas gift Saturday night.

Jay County and Fort Recovery combined to shoot just 27.7% from the field and totaled 34 turnovers, but the Indian boys basketball team prevailed for a 34-29 victory on Saturday in a battle of state-line rivals.

"That was a grinder," second-year FRHS coach Bob Leverette told WPGW following the game. "It was unbelievable, two teams playing really good defense."

"It was two contrasting styles; had a good 1-2-2 zone against a hard-nosed man-to-man. It was pretty fun to watch if you're a defensive guy."

Jay County coach Jerry Bombholt, whose team matched the visiting Indians with 17 turnovers, sang a different tune after the final buzzer.

"Right now this team is struggling a little bit with an identity," he said. "We played far well enough defensively to win a basketball game and win it going away."

"Offensively, it's one of those, it's not so much our shooting percentages, it's taking away the opportunities to even get shots off. It deflates you when you come down, turn it over and don't get a chance to score."

See Boys page 7

Jay County girls roll at Fort Site

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — The Patriots had the game well in hand in the opening period.

The Indians were left to find ways to make it a learning experience.

Jay County forced Fort Recovery into turnover after turnover early and bridged the halftime gap with 22 consecutive points.

The Patriot girls basketball team was able to go deep to its bench as it handed the Indians a 52-13 defeat Saturday.

"We've been really working on our 1-3-1," said JCHS coach Kirk Comer, whose team improved to 7-1. "We haven't been doing a very good job with that. So we've been really working on it in practice this week. So we used it today."

"We were in the right spots

more. If we run it right ... a lot of times in girls basketball, teams will throw it to certain spots. So we teach them to try to be in those spots. If you're in those spots, you're probably going to get steals."

Taking on the fifth-ranked team in Indiana's Class 3A was going to be a tough task for the winless Indians.

"We knew coming in that this

game was going to be challenging for us," said FRHS coach Holly Gann. "But the thing I think I can take away from that is I felt like ... defensively, when we could get them in the half-court set, we played some good defense. ..."

"For us, we know it's a process. We know that we're learning and growing every single day."

See Girls page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Autumn Leuthold of Fort Recovery swims the 50-yard backstroke during the Celina Waterdawg Sprint Meet on Saturday at Jay County Junior-Senior High School. The Indians were second in the 11-team field.

FR 2nd in sprints

In a massive meet Saturday, Teigen Fortkamp proved to be the best twice. Her efforts combined with a win from teammate Audra Bupp put the Indians near the top of the field.

Fort Recovery High School's girls swim team was the runner-up in the Celina Waterdawg Spring Meet held at Jay County High School.

The Indians scored 92 points to trail only Ottawa Glandorf (109) in the field of 11 scoring teams. Jay County's girls placed sixth with 61.

The FRHS boys were fifth out of 10 scoring

teams with 44 while the Patriots scored 20 for ninth. Bluffton won with 187.5.

Fort Recovery also competed in a double dual Monday with the girls defeating Hagerstown 87-37 while falling to Delta 99-46. The boys team dropped both competitions, 67-58 to Hagerstown and 93-34 to Delta.

Fortkamp starred for the Indians from the start as she took first place in the meet-opening 50-yard freestyle Saturday. Finishing at 25.54 seconds, she was the only athlete to break the 26-second mark.

She also won the 50 back-

stroke by more than a second in 28.18.

Bupp gave Fort Recovery a third win as she fought off Ottawa Glandorf's Marissa Becket by 0.16 seconds in the 50 breaststroke for a first-place time of 32.97.

Mara Bader placed in the top five in three events for Jay County, including a win with a time of 28.79 in the 50 butterfly. She was third behind Bupp and Beckett in the 50 breaststroke and tied for fifth in the 50 freestyle.

Sage Wendel powered the Tribe boys with a fourth-place effort in the 50 freestyle in 26.69.

See Sprints page 7

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys wrestling vs. Delta, Yorktown and Winchester — 6 p.m.; Girls basketball at Muncie Central — 6 p.m.; Swimming at Oak Hill — 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at Muncie Southside — 5:30 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys basketball at Fort Loramie — 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at Parkway — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today
2 p.m. — Soccer: World Cup round of 16 — TBA (FOX)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Georgia at Georgia

Tech (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Los Angeles Lakers at Cleveland Cavaliers (TNT)

Wednesday
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Atlanta Hawks at New York Knicks (ESPN)

8 p.m. — NHL hockey: Buffalo Sabres at Columbus Blue Jackets (TNT)

8 p.m. — NBA basketball: Indiana Pacers at Minnesota Timberwolves (Bally Indiana)

10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Boston Celtics at Phoenix Suns (ESPN)

10 p.m. — NHL Hockey: New York Rangers at Las Vegas Golden Knights (TNT)

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