

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Board looks at details for water park

Plans call for facility to open on holiday weekend

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

After a year off, city officials are trying to get a jump on the 2023 water park season.

Portland Park Board on Tuesday discussed several issues related to Portland Water Park, including its schedule, reimbursement for training and pay for lifeguards and the pool manager.

Park board president Brian Ison reported that after talking with street and parks department superintendent Tom Leonard he recommends opening the water park on Memorial Day weekend and having its final day on Aug. 13. (Jay School Corporation returns to classes Aug. 10.) That would

account for a 79-day season for the facility. He said he'd like to see the park open from noon to 8 p.m. daily with possibly extended hours on some Friday or Saturday evenings.

The water park has not been open for a full summer since 2019. It opened July 4, 2020, after coronavirus restrictions were lifted, had limited hours in 2021 because of a lifeguard shortage and was closed this year for tile repairs.

"I would hope as we get into a normal routine with this park that we can open at the beginning of Memorial Day weekend and then try to stay open for 79 days," said Ison.

Board members Shauna Runkle, John McFarland, Michael Brewster and Ison unanimously approved the planned 2023 schedule.

Part of the equation for being able to have the facility open for a full season is having enough lifeguards. (Eight lifeguards are required at all times. Ison estimated the need for at least 15 lifeguards to cover the water park's regular hours. He noted that at least 20 were on staff in 2021.)

See **Water Park** page 5

Details released about dashboard

New resource will provide education statistics

By CASEY SMITH

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

A soon-to-be-released statewide dashboard will make a vast array of data on Indiana schools and education statistics available to

all Hoosiers in one comprehensive website.

Once complete, the new dashboard is expected to be used by lawmakers and education officials to change the state's approach to K-12 curriculum and school accountability evaluations.

The highly-anticipated Indiana Graduates Prepared to Succeed (GPS) dashboard is expected to go live to the public this month, although an exact launch date still has not been determined.

See **Dashboard** page 5



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

'Twas the night

Redkey Elementary School students, including third grader Rachel Ray, perform Tuesday afternoon during their production of "'Twas the Night Before Christmas." The Christmas program featured songs including "Christmas is Coming," "Reindeer on the Roof" and "Happy Christmas to All."

Warnock wins seat

By MARIO PARKER and CHRISTIAN HALL

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Democratic Senator Raphael Warnock's narrow reelection win in Georgia's runoff puts a historically Republican state up for grabs in 2024, giving President Joe Biden an early opening in his bid for a second term.

Warnock defeated GOP challenger and former football star Herschel Walker late Tuesday, giving Democrats a crucial 51-49 majority and a cushion on close votes where senators like Joe Manchin of West Virginia might break party ranks.

Yet the win will have a far more lasting and significant effect on future elections, starting with the presidential race of 2024. It means Republicans will be forced to spend millions in a former bastion turned battleground. Moreover, it offers Democrats a blueprint for other states, like

Victory in Georgia gives Democrats 51 seats in Senate

North Carolina, where President Donald Trump edged Biden by 1.4 percentage points in 2020.

"It's a state that's proven to be anti-Trump," said Celinda Lake, a Democratic strategist.

Trump took the brunt of the blame for Republicans' underwhelming midterm performance in an otherwise favorable environment. Well before ballots were cast on Nov. 8, GOP strategists pointed to Walker's scandal-ridden candidacy as a prime example of the former president's elevation of flawed candidates who would struggle to woo independent voters.

Democrats began their push in Georgia in 2018 with voting rights activist Stacey Abrams' narrow loss to Republican Brian Kemp in the gubernatorial race. In 2020, Biden defeated Trump in the November presidential election and Warnock and Jon Ossoff prevailed in January 2021 runoffs over Republican incumbents.

Biden was the first Democratic president to carry Georgia since Bill Clinton in 1992 and it had been decades since both the state's senators were Democrats.

See **Warnock** page 5



Tribune News Service/AFP via Getty Images/Yuriy Dyachyshyn

Army Day

An elderly woman grieves next to the grave of a Ukrainian soldier during Ukraine's Army Day at Lychakiv Cemetery in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv on Tuesday amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Deaths

Betty Muhlenkamp, 67, Bryant
Melissa Hall, 55, Portland
Melina Matsuda, 39, St. Anthony
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 52 degrees Tuesday. The low was 42.
Tonight's low is expected to drop into the mid 30s. Expect a high of 45 Thursday with a 30% chance of rain in the afternoon.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Civic Theatre's doubleheader Christmas production of "Frosty the Snow Man" and "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical" continues with shows at 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Arts Place in Portland. Tickets are available at myartsplace.org, at Arts Place or by calling (260) 726-4809.

Coming up

Thursday — Jay County FFA has built a tradition in soil judging.

Friday — Results from Thursday's JCHS swim meet against Norwell.



CR almanac

Thursday 12/8	Friday 12/9	Saturday 12/10	Sunday 12/11	Monday 12/12
45/37	46/34	44/35	45/33	48/37
There's a 30% chance of rain during the day with a higher chance at night. Lows will be in the upper 30s.	Rain is likely Friday with a 70% chance of showers throughout the day. The low may hit 34 degrees.	Saturday's forecast shows mostly cloudy skies, with highs in the low to mid 40s.	Mostly cloudy skies are on the horizon for Sunday. The low will be around 33.	Another mostly cloudy day. There's a 40% chance of rain late when temperatures will be in the 30s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$100 million	Quick Draw: 3-14-15-25-26-27-30-35-42-48-49-53-58-59-60-61-63-66-70-78 Cash 5: 7-11-29-39-42 Estimated jackpot: \$505,500
Mega Millions 15-16-19-28-47 Mega Ball: 13 Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$379 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 1-6-8 Pick 4: 6-7-9-6 Pick 5: 8-3-1-8-6 Evening Pick 3: 0-7-5 Pick 4: 6-5-3-3 Pick 5: 3-4-9-9-8 Rolling Cash: 15-20-21-26-38 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 7-6-5 Daily Four: 7-9-5-7 Quick Draw: 2-9-13-14-23-26-31-33-36-38-50-52-60-61-62-73-74-75-77-78 Evening Daily Three: 6-0-7 Daily Four: 8-1-1-9	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.68 Jan. corn.....6.63 Wheat.....6.70	Wheat.....6.95 Jan. wheat.....7.44
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.63 Jan. corn.....6.52 Feb. corn.....6.54	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.39 Jan. corn.....6.41 Beans.....14.56 Jan. beans.....14.56 Wheat.....7.44
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.46 Jan. corn.....6.46 Beans.....14.59 Jan. beans.....14.64	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....6.15 Dec. corn.....6.17 Beans.....14.44 Jan. beans.....14.49 Wheat.....7.04

Today in history

In 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the Constitution. The vote among 30 delegates in to a state convention at Battell's Tavern was unanimous. The event is now celebrated as Delaware Day.

In 1917, the United States declared war on the Austro-Hungarian Empire during World War I.

In 1928, Noam Chomsky was born in Philadelphia. Sometimes referred to as "the father of modern linguistics," he is a defender of unconditional freedom of speech.

In 1941, the United States was attacked by the Japanese at its naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Territory. More than 2,300 Americans were killed, the U.S.S. Arizona was destroyed and the U.S.S. Oklahoma capsized.

In 1956, Larry Bird was born in West Baden, Indiana. Bird led Indiana State University to the 1979 national championship game, won three championships with the Boston Celtics and coached the Indiana Pacers.

In 1972, the last crewed flight to the moon occurred under the command of Eugene Andrew Cernan. It

effectively brought an end to NASA's Apollo program.

In 1979, the first "Star Trek: The Motion Picture" premiered, starring William Shatner as Captain James Kirk and Leonard Nimoy as Spock.

In 1995, The Grateful Dead broke up following the death of lead guitarist and vocalist Jerry Garcia. The band, whose top hits include "Casey Jones" and "Touch of Grey" received a Grammy for lifetime achievement in 2007.

In 2004, John Jay Center for Learning asked for public support for its application for a \$500,000 grant from Indiana Department of Commerce to take steps to make the Weiler Building, which would become the organization's home, weather-tight.

In 2021, Portland Park Board approved its five-year park plan to be sent to Indiana Department of Natural Resources for its approval. Priorities included improving Portland Memorial Park's baseball/softball fields and utilizing the green space at Hudson Family Park.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works special meeting, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.

Monday
8:30 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners executive session, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
9 a.m. — Jay County

Commissioners, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
6 p.m. — Jay County Regional Sewer District, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St.
7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

Obituaries

Betty Muhlenkamp

Oct. 16, 1955-Dec. 6, 2022
Betty Kay (Krieg) Muhlenkamp, 67, of Bryant, Indiana, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022, in Adams County, Indiana.

She was born on Oct. 16, 1955, to Roselma "Rosie" (Knoth) Krieg of Fort Recovery and the late Virgil J. Krieg.

In addition to her mother, Betty is survived by her husband, Charles Muhlenkamp, whom she married on Aug. 28, 1976; her children, Stacie Muhlenkamp of Celina, Ohio, Kent Muhlenkamp of Bryant, Joanie (Willis) Shirk of Celina, Jay (Jessica) Muhlenkamp of Bryant and Leo (Katie) Muhlenkamp of Monroe; her grandchildren, Robert, Elijah, Isaac, Noah, Zach, Alex, Elena and Beauden, with one on the way; her siblings, Roger Krieg of St. Henry, Ohio, Sharon (Joe) Metzger of Fort Recovery, Nancy (Randy) Wuebker of Fort Recovery, Jerry (Lisa) Krieg of Lima, Ohio, Judy (Kenny) Thien of Fort Recovery, Janet (Mark) Jacobs of St. Henry and Margie (Jerry) Jacobs of St. Henry; her in-laws, Richard (Bonnie) Muhlenkamp of Bryant, Harold (Nancy) Muhlenkamp of Geneva, Joseph (Connie) Muhlenkamp of Bryant, Roger Muhlenkamp of Bryant, Phyllis Muhlenkamp of Portland, Jeff (Janice) Muhlenkamp of Geneva, Pat (Jim) Guggenbiller of Fort Recovery, Kevin (Linda) Muhlenkamp of Bryant, Pam (Matt) Tebbe of Coldwater, Ohio, and Rodney (Holly) Muhlenkamp of Bryant.



Muhlenkamp

In addition to her father, Betty was preceded in death by her infant siblings, John, Ruth and Ron; her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Marvin and Delores Muhlenkamp; and her in-law, John Muhlenkamp.

Betty was a 1973 graduate of Fort Recovery High School. Before becoming a mother, Betty worked for Fort Recovery Lumber. While

raising her own family, she also babysat for many children. Aside from working for Jay Schools for 24 years as a teacher's aide, Betty was also a devout mother and farm wife. In fact, her faith and family were the most important thing to her. She loved supporting her children in all they did, helping Charles with bookkeeping for the farm and, in recent years, watching her grandchildren participate in their extracurricular activities. Betty's competitive side came out when she played card games and board games with her family. Betty's heart was a giving heart. If someone called and needed something, Betty was there to lend a hand.

She was a member of the Church of the Most Holy Trinity in Bryant, where she was a part of the Ladies Sodality and the funeral luncheon committee. Betty was also a member of the Fort Recovery American Legion Auxiliary. In her free time, Betty took pride in her flower and vegetable gardens, often canning much of her produce and sharing it with her family. If she wasn't canning, she could be found baking something sweet for them.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, at the Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Bryant, Indiana, with Father Peter Logsdon celebrating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Guests may visit with Betty's family on Friday, Dec. 9, 2022, from 2 to 8 p.m. and again on Saturday from 8 to 9 a.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 506 E. Walnut St. Portland, IN 47371.

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

Melissa Hall

Jan. 28, 1967-Dec. 5, 2022
Melissa M. Hall, age 55, of Portland passed away Monday, Dec. 5,

2022, in IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital.

She was born in Portland on Jan. 28, 1967, the daughter of Gordon and Harriett (Peer) Hutson. She was married on Nov. 21, 1998, to Jeff Hall who survives.

Melissa was office manager for May Financial Group of Portland. She was a 1985 Jay County High School graduate, member of Asbury United Methodist Church and Job's Daughters, and enjoyed going to Jay County sports activities.

Surviving are her husband Jeff; two sons Joseph "Joey" Hall and Matthew Hall, both of Portland; two brothers, Patrick Hutson (wife: Tina) of Knoxville, Tennessee, and Thomas Hutson (wife: Pamela) of Hannibal, Missouri; nephew Joshua Hutson (wife: Florence); niece Jamie Navas (husband: Carlos); and several other nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be Monday, Dec. 12, 2022, at 11 a.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Joe Boggs presiding. Burial will follow in the Green Park Cemetery. Visitation will be Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. and Monday from 10 to 11 a.m.

Memorials can be made to the Portland Foundation for the Melissa Hall Scholarship Fund for Nursing, Jay County Humane Society and Jay County Fair.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Melinda Sue Matsuda, St. Anthony, Ohio, died Nov. 30. A celebration of Melinda's life will be held at 4 p.m. Friday at the Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene.

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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

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

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.
Matsuda, Melinda: 4 p.m., Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene, 401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery.

Saturday
Johnson, Phyllis: 10 a.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.
Muhlenkamp, Betty: 10 a.m., Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 7321 Indiana 67, Bryant.
Rouch, Carol: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Monday
Hall, Melissa: 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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

Felony courts

Child solicitation

A Portland man was sentenced to prison for child solicitation.

Wayne Lanning, 45, 835 E. Main St., pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to the Level 4 felony crime. He was sentenced to 10 years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served since April 8.

Lanning was assessed \$185 in court costs and a \$500 sexual assault victims assistance fee.

Drug possession

Several people were sentenced to serve time for drug possession.

Craig Worley, 44, 110 N. 11th St., Richmond, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but 90 days of his sentence suspended and given 60 days credit for time served. Worley was fined \$25, assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and cor-

rection fee. He was placed on probation for 275 days and ordered to submit to an evaluation within 30 days of his sentencing for substance abuse. As part of his plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: a Class A misdemeanor for possession of a controlled substance, a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.

See page 5

34th Annual Jay County Farm Toy Show
Sun, Dec. 11, 2022
from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
In the green 4-H bldg at the Jay Co. Fairgrds
Admission: \$2/Adults, \$1 Youth, 12 & Under Free with an adult.

70 plus tables of new and used farm toys, pedal tractors and scale implements, modified toys, and other misc. collectibles. Family oriented, handicap accessible, plenty of parking, concessions on site. Many of our dealers have been with us for over 20 years. We urge our guests to use the COVID-19 precautions that make you feel comfortable. If you have any questions, please call one of the numbers below.
For more info call:
260-726-6433 or 260-251-0463



Our Season's Greetings issue will appear in the CR December 16!

Ads 15 inches or larger may include a photo of your staff. For those who provide their own photo, the fee will be \$15. (The fee will be waived if you get your photo to us by Nov. 30!)

If you'd like us to come take your picture, the fee will be \$30.

Deadline for all ads & photos is December 7th!

We try hard not to miss anyone who wants in this issue. If you do not get contact and would like to be in our Christmas Greeting's special section, please email Lindsey at L.Cochran@thecr.com or call (260) 726-8141

The Commercial Review



Swiss Village

NOW SEEKING: SKILLED TRADES MAINTENANCE WORKER

The Skilled Trades Maintenance Worker at Swiss Village will be responsible for installation, operation, and upkeep of equipment and systems throughout the Swiss Village community. This position will be 40 hours/week, Monday – Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm with rotating on-call requirements. Qualified candidates must have electrical, plumbing, carpentry, or remodeling experience. Seeking candidates with good work habits, the ability to efficiently use materials and equipment, and committed to following policies and procedures. This position is eligible for benefits including health, dental, vision, and life insurance, Paid Time Off (PTO), and 403(b) retirement plan participation.

Apply online at www.swissvillage.org or send

Resume to:
Taylor Lehman, VP of Human Resources
Swiss Village
1350 W. Main St.
Berne, IN 46711

Or email: careers@swissvillage.org



Photo provided

Grant for shelter

The Portland Foundation recently awarded a \$100,000 grant in support of the Jay County Humane Society's new animal shelter campaign. Funds will be used to retro-fit the former Fastenal building, located on West Votaw Street in Portland. Pictured, left to right, are The Portland Foundation program officer Jessica Cook, Jay County Animal Control Task Force chair Julie Forcum, Jay County Humane Society treasurer Mindy Weaver and The Portland Foundation executive director Doug Inman. The humane society will be hosting a radio-thon, sponsored by WPGW, on Thursday. A local business is providing a \$10,000 match for the event.

Poetry preserves fleeting memory

By KWAME DAWES

Allison C. Rollins manages, in this striking poem, to contain the anxiety of those facing sightlessness, and the urgency they feel to try to preserve in memory, that which is fleeting. For her, the poem is a solace, for when spoken, it prolongs sight even for blind poets like Jorge Luis Borges.

If we think of sight as more than just physical, we

American Life in Poetry

may get a glimpse of what Rollins may be saying in "The Library of Babel," about one of the peculiar purposes of art.

The Library of Babel

for Jorge Luis Borges

While there is still some light on the page, I am writing now a history of snow, of everything that has been and will be thought. When a blind poet says I need you to be my eyes, they are asking to see through your mouth.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2019 by Alison C. Rollins, "The Library of Babel" from *Library of Small Catastrophes* (Copper Canyon Press, 2019.) Poem reprinted by permission of the author and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2022 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Kwame Dawes, is George W. Holmes Professor of English and Glenna Luschei Editor of *Prairie Schooner* at the University of Nebraska.

Newlywed can't commit

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my wife for a little over a year. I love her. However, right before our wedding, I met a co-worker I'll call "Alexis." We hit it off, and I consider her a close friend.

Alexis and I hooked up a few times before and after my wedding. We never discuss the encounters after they happen. After we've had a few drinks, we both say things about being together, but usually, we're just best friends. While my friends believe this is odd, it's almost a blessing that the awkward conversation doesn't happen after a night of something happening.

There have been instances when I have ditched my wife to hang out with Alexis — not to do anything, but just to hang out with her and her mother. My wife says I spend too much time with Alexis between work and after work, but she's fun to be with. My wife is kind of a homebody. She doesn't like to go out and have a good time.

My wife doesn't trust Alexis, and while I can't blame her, I'm conflicted about what my next step should be. I love my wife, but I also love Alexis as more than a friend, and I know she feels the same. What should I do next? — LOVES THEM BOTH

DEAR LOVES: You may love

Dear Abby



both of these women, but you are being fair to neither one. Your wife doesn't trust Alexis because she senses something is wrong — and she's right. You and Alexis aren't buddies; you are lovers. That you have confided it to friends "who think this is odd" (in your words) means it is just a matter of time until your wife is in on the secret. Your first loyalty should be to your wife. At the very least, you owe it to her to have an honest discussion with her and figure out WITH HER what the next steps should be.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been going to the same dentist for 20 years. We have always had the same dental hygienist. There's a computer in the room where she works, and she always schedules our next six-month cleaning with her before we leave. Over the years, we have

noticed that she's not very clean. She is sometimes very unkempt — with greasy hair and body odor. Her treatment room is also very messy. The last time I was there, she opened her cupboard, and I was appalled at the junk crammed in there. We are concerned that this is unsanitary and we no longer want to see her.

We love our dentist and the office staff. They are the nicest, most considerate and professional people. I would like to call and ask the front desk to reschedule our appointments with the other hygienist and include in our files that we only want to see that one. My husband thinks we should switch dentists. To be honest, I'm shocked the dentist would tolerate this, but he is a kind individual, and maybe that's the problem. Any advice would be appreciated. — DENTAL DRAMA IN THE EAST

DEAR DRAMA: You should have discussed this with your dentist years ago. Your concerns are valid. It is your right to be treated by another hygienist for the reasons you have stated. However, for your dentist's sake, as well as your own, tell him exactly why you felt it was necessary to make the change. It will be doing the practice a favor.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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. 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 Begin-

nings, 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.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB — Will meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday

of each month at Jay Community Center.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

Sunday

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 Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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

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First Presbyterian Church
402 North Ship Street, Portland
(corner of Ship and West Arch) 260-726-8462

December 11 – 9:30 am Worship
Our church youth will portray the story of the Nativity in the Children's Pageant. The service will include singing by our choir, organ music, and a sermon by our pastor.

Pastor: The Rev. Rex Espiritu
Choir Director: Pete Vogler
Organist: Eric Rogers



Saturday, December 24 – 7:00 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

God's house is open. All are welcome here.

We seek to provide a ministry which will lead people to strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ and reach out with God's Love.

Present shined despite being dated

(Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Dec. 8, 2004. It is a good reminder that it's not the gift itself that matters, but rather the sentiment behind it that really counts.)

By JACK RONALD
The News and Sun

Childhood Christmas presents date you.

Tell someone that you received the first Hot Wheels when you were a kid, and you've pretty much defined yourself as a forty-something.

Say that your first train was a Lionel O-gauge with the triple track, and you've given yourself away as over 60.

First generation Barbie doll with the black and white swimsuit, girls? I'm afraid that guarantees you're in your 50s.

This not particularly profound insight came to me the other day when I was shining my shoes in

Back in the Saddle



preparation for a string of holiday-related parties.

When I smelled the polish and reached for the brush, I remembered my own particular Christmas present milestone, the one that proves without contest that I was born in the first half of the 20th century.

Who, today, would think of giving a kid a shoeshine box for Christmas?

Yet, there it was, undeniably those many years ago, not just for me but for thousands of other young American boys whose par-

ents somehow felt that footwear cleanliness and maintenance were high priorities for us.

Looking back on it, I wonder what message that present was supposed to deliver.

I was an unreformed scuffer of my shoes, with a lazy tendency to drag my toes in the dirt. "Pick up your feet" would have been a decent motto for my childhood coat of arms.

Was that what they were trying to tell me? Was this a Christmas present that said, "New shoes are expensive. Take better care of them, you laggard."

At the same time, the implied message of the shoeshine box — mine was a wooden thing that must have weighed several pounds — was that the time had come to put childish things aside and get to work.

In those days, the comics and the Sunday funnies were

full of gags that involved shoeshine boys working on the corner.

"Henry" — that long forgotten, mute, bald-headed kid whose comic ran for decades in the Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette without so much as a single laugh — had a shoeshine kit. (I'd say his parents probably gave it to him for Christmas, but my recollection is that he was an orphan in the great tradition of Little Orphan Annie.)

So, what was I to think, lo' those many years ago, when I opened the present that turned out to be a shoeshine kit?

In addition to the implied message that I looked a little scruffy, was I also to infer that my parents expected me to haul the thing up to Main and Meridian in hopes that some character out of the Sunday

comics would stroll by and need a shine?

Maybe. But it wouldn't have happened, because just like the shoeshine box "Henry" used to lug around in the comics, mine was a relic of an earlier era.

By buying it for me, my parents were reaching back to their own childhoods, I think, back to an era when a kid's first job was often shining someone else's shoes.

It was a good era. And shining shoes wasn't a bad way to launch a life of work.

By giving it to me, they were also sharing something from their own childhood in a simpler, less manic time.

A disappointing present? I don't think so.

In fact, I think I'm just now beginning to appreciate how good it was.

Shine, mister?

Books should be added, not removed

Herald Bulletin (Anderson)

The ideological battle for young minds has once again spilled into the classroom and, once again, books are the target.

As social anxieties increase over the push for LGBTQ+ inclusion and the proliferation of misinformation about critical race theory, public schools' board meetings have frequently been the site of passionate arguments to remove "objectionable" content from school libraries.

Moms for Liberty, a conservative nonprofit that has been at the vanguard of book banning efforts, argues that it doesn't support "banning" books but simply wants the books to be age-appropriate.

The phrase "banned book" has a long history of referring to books that have been removed from public school libraries and reading lists, so let's not get caught up in word games.

As for age-appropriateness, parents may disagree on what is appropriate for what age. The kinds of books that have been challenged suggest an ulterior motive.

According to the American Library Association, of the top 10 books challenged in 2021, five were challenged for LGBTQ+ content.

From 2018 through 2020, the No. 1 challenged book was "George" by Alex Gino. Some reasons cited were, "LGBTQ+ content, portraying a transgender character, conflicting with a religious viewpoint and not reflecting values of the community and traditional family structure."

Imagine being a child of same-sex parents and hearing the message that your family is somehow in conflict with community values and deserves no representation or discussion in school. Imagine being a high school student who is LGBTQ+ and being told that your very existence is "not age-appropriate."

LGBTQ+ content isn't the only reason for challenging books. Other reasons include discussions of racial injustice and police brutality, which are stated to be "politically charged and sensitive topics."

What exactly is education for if not to address relevant issues in the community and the world at large?

In The Herald Bulletin's own reporting on the issue of book banning, some sources comment that

Hoosier Editorial

What exactly is education for if not to address relevant issues in the community and the world at large?

pornography shouldn't be in school libraries.

Pornography is defined by Merriam-Webster as the depiction of erotic behavior (as in pictures or writing) intended to cause sexual excitement. Unless those who are challenging books have a very strange idea of what is sexually exciting, there is no pornography in school libraries.

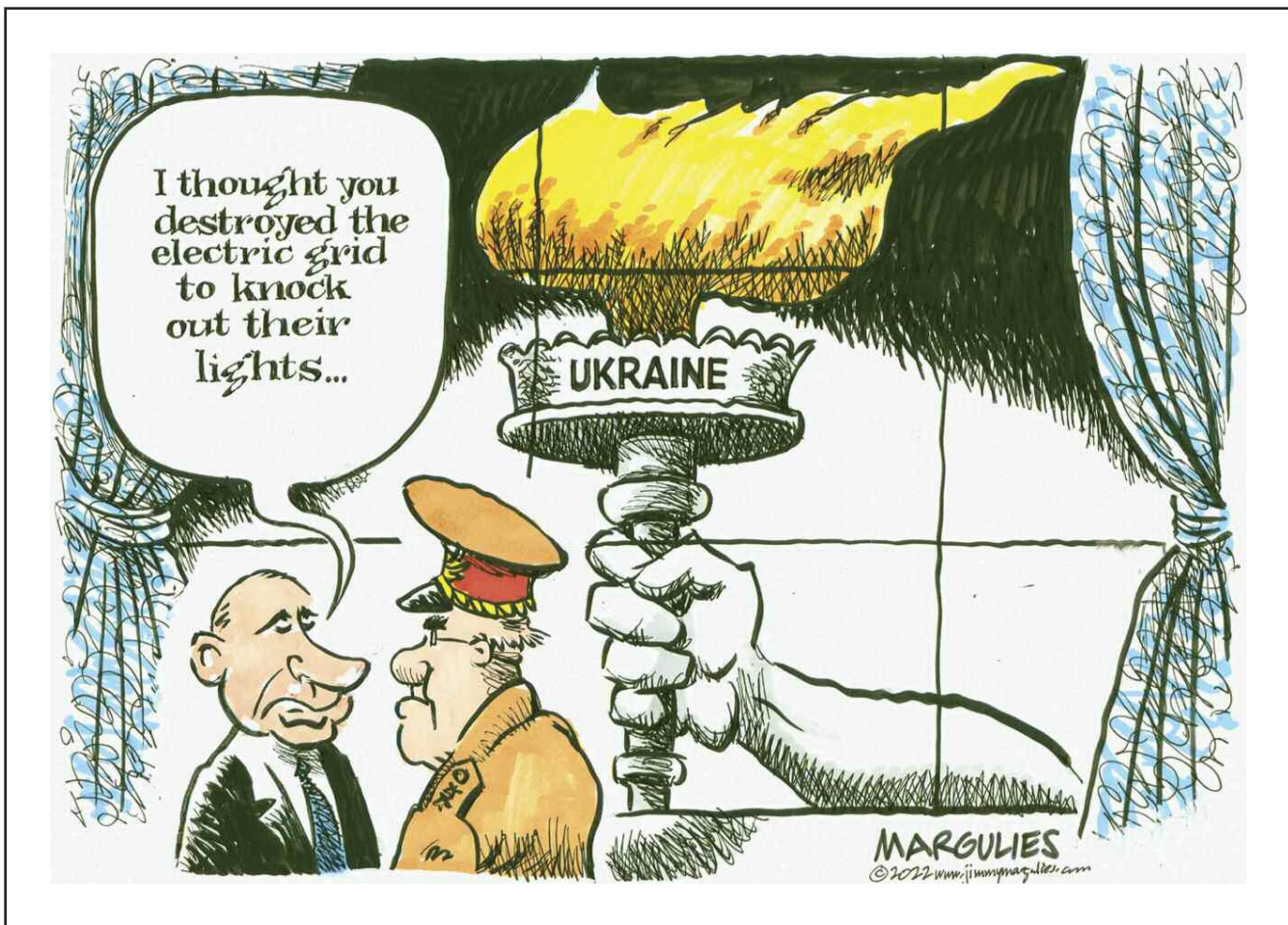
And, finally, some books are challenged for promoting witchcraft or dark magic. The ever popular Harry Potter fantasy series has been frequently challenged due to references to magic and witchcraft and containing "actual spells and curses."

Certainly, children could get injured if they attempted to fly on broomsticks, but it's highly unlikely any of them will be manifesting supernatural powers, no matter how many times they chant "Expecto Patronum!"

In any well-stocked school library, many different political and social viewpoints should be represented, as should the lived experiences of many authors.

If residents are concerned about students being swayed to a particular viewpoint, the reasonable solution is not to remove books but to add more books.

There should be enough room on the shelves for books that present a more conservative or traditional worldview. Shielding young minds from ideas that may challenge their worldview is the wrong answer and antithetical to education.



Welfare system needs overhaul

By HINA NAVEED
Progressive Perspectives
Tribune News Service

When I graduated from nursing school five years ago, I worked for an agency in New York City's foster care system. I believed I was helping families. But what I saw there was not a system working for children's best interests, but one that was quick to separate children from their parents because they were living in poverty.

I've since gone to law school and now work as a human rights advocate. For the past year, as a fellow with Human Rights Watch and the American Civil Liberties Union, I have been investigating the system I once worked for — not just in New York, but across the country.

We found that child welfare systems punish families experiencing poverty by removing children and charging parents with "neglect." Our analysis of nationwide child welfare data showed alarming racial and ethnic disparities. Black and Indigenous families are more likely to be investigated than white families. Single mothers of color are most frequently held responsible for neglect. Parents are often not told their rights or connected with an attorney early enough in the process.

Every year, more than 3 million children are subjected to a child welfare investigation. The process can be highly stressful and traumatic for families. Child welfare authorities may search the family's home, interrogate neighbors, strip search and question children — sometimes based on anonymous or unfounded accusations.

Most referrals to the system do not involve abuse. The overwhelming majority of cases, nearly 75% in 2019, include allegations of state-defined neglect, which is inextricably linked to poverty. Parents struggling with limited resources, unable to pay rent

Hina Naveed



or secure stable housing, or working long hours to make ends meet, are judged unfit and neglectful.

As a registered nurse in New York, I was required to report any concerns about child abuse or neglect to the state child protective services hotline, or risk losing my license and facing harsh criminal penalties. Every state has a similar requirement.

But broad and vague state definitions of abuse and neglect mean that teachers, social workers, and health care providers are required to report families out of an abundance of caution, even if our professional training and clinical judgment dictate otherwise.

Millions of reports are made every year, overwhelming an already burdened child welfare system. Most do not warrant an investigation.

We found a clear correlation between child welfare investigations and poverty, as counties with more families living in poverty have higher rates of investigation. Black families, however, experience a high rate of maltreatment investigations even when living in counties where the poverty rate is low.

Black children make up just 14% of the U.S. child population but 24% of child abuse or neglect reports and 21% of children entering the foster system. Indigenous children are also disproportionately affected. They enter the foster system at nearly double the nationwide rate.

I've talked to parents who only learned about a child maltreatment

allegation against them when a caseworker showed up on their doorstep. Often, the caseworker assigned to reunify a family is also responsible for making the case to terminate parental rights and place a child for adoption. These roles are inherently at odds. Caseworkers tasked with documenting parents' struggles and shortcomings to build a case against them are, at the same time, expected to somehow support family reunification.

Caseworkers have significant influence in determining whether maltreatment occurred. If a caseworker "substantiates" an allegation, parents or caregivers are listed on a state central maltreatment registry, where they often remain for years, affecting job opportunities and perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

Of course, there are devastating cases where children face serious abuse and intervention is needed. The problem, however, is that the system we have now is not designed to effectively keep children safe. Instead, the system puts parents, especially single mothers of color, in the impossible situation of having to overcome poverty in order to stop being monitored and to reunite with their children, without providing them the resources necessary to do so.

The entire system needs an overhaul. Lawmakers should address the extreme economic hardship and systemic racism at the heart of many child welfare cases. Federal, state and local governments should invest in community resources and support that addresses families' needs instead of punishing and surveilling them.

.....
Naveed is the Aryeh Neier fellow at Human Rights Watch and the American Civil Liberties Union.

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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.

Water park ...

Continued from page 1
In an effort to attract lifeguards, the board also approved reimbursing them up to \$150 for their lifeguard certification training. They will be paid half the amount up front with the other half to be reimbursed if a guard works for the city for at least 10 weeks.
The board also discussed lifeguard pay, which by city ordinance can be between \$13 and \$15 per hour. Board members

reviewed numbers for what the budget would look like at \$13 per hour and \$14 per hour. They also discussed keeping in place the 25-cent per hour increases for each year of experience.
They also voted to request that Portland City Council set a salary range for the water park manager at \$17 to \$19 per hour. (The previous rate was \$16.89 per hour.)
Applications for the position are available at city hall. Ison

said the position will be advertised next month.
“We need to get that position hired first,” said Ison. “Once we get that position hired, it’s going to be a lot easier to get the guards.”
Board members reviewed season pass and ticket prices as well. Previously, daily admission was \$5 during the day and \$3 after 5 p.m. Season ticket prices started at \$5 for an individual and \$70 for two in the same family with

increases to \$180 for a family of seven or more.
They plan to revisit lifeguard pay, admission, season ticket and rental prices at their next meeting.
Also Tuesday, parks department employee Matt Shauver told the board he is seeking quotes from K&L Tractor Sales (Fort Recovery), Hull Brothers (Fort Recovery), Outdoor Concepts (Muncie) and Roy Padgett Sales (Albany) for mowers. He

noted that supply chain problems may impact cost and availability.
He plans to have quotes for the board to review at its next meeting.
The board also accepted the resignation of Glen Bryant, who is stepping away because of health issues.
The board changed its January meeting date to 5:30 p.m. Jan. 10 to avoid a conflict with city council’s meeting the previous week.

Dashboard ...

Continued from page 1
State officials highlighted the latest developments to the dashboard during a media briefing Tuesday.
Indiana Secretary of Education Katie Jenner said the new GPS dashboard will make available more in-depth data about schools and student performance — which will ultimately improve Indiana’s education system and help ensure students are prepared for life after K-12.

“begins to tell the data story” by outlining key statewide education statistics and explaining the history and purpose behind the data project.
At any time, users can click away from the landing page to immediately search for school-specific data.
From there, the site will feature visual representations of various data pertaining to individual schools and school corporations, as well as measurements for school performance statewide.
For grades K-8, that includes indicators like third grade literacy rates, eighth grade math proficiency, student attendance, 21st Century Scholars enrollment and percentages of students completing advanced coursework.
In high school, data is expected to highlight students’ on-track status for graduation, attendance, SAT performance, FAFSA completion rate, college and career coursework, and diploma strengths.

The dashboard also intends to help make “a lot of data points in the state” — like student demographic information, enrollment numbers, standardized test performance and college preparedness metrics — more easily accessible for families and school administrators.

“In education, you use a lot of charts and graphs and data, and sometimes that is not easily accessible for the average person. And so we really took that to heart,” Jenner said. “Right now, it’s pretty cumbersome for an individual person or educator or a community leader to have to go to each (state or federal) agency to pull that data. This is really putting everything at one place for a school in a transparent way.”

The dashboard website features a “scrollytelling” landing page, which

Within each school and school corporation’s own data page, high-level demographic information will be easily visible at the top.
Representatives from the Indiana Department of Education said data on the site can also be filtered by factors such as students on free or reduced-price meal plans, race or ethnicity.

Warnock ...

Continued from page 1
Republicans called it a fluke, blaming it on voters’ weariness of Trump, who unsuccessfully berated state officials there to overturn his loss in the aftermath of the presidential election.
But Warnock proved them wrong on Tuesday, indicating that Republicans can no longer take Georgia’s 16 electoral votes for granted. That limits their ability to expand their electoral map and robs them of resources to dispatch in states such as Pennsylvania, Michigan and Arizona.

Of course, Trump was still in the background of the race, given that Walker was his hand-picked candidate. Walker tried to capitalize on his statewide star power, but allegations of domestic abuse, struggles with mental illness, rhetorical gaffes and accusations that the anti-abortion candidate paid for several abortions all made enough



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Win McNamee

U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-Georgia) celebrates during an election night watch party at the Marriott Marquis on Tuesday in Atlanta.

Georgia Republicans forget their party affiliations to give Warnock the victory.
Even so, the results signal that winning Georgia in 2024 won’t be a slam dunk for Democrats.

Walker, a Heisman Trophy winner, dragged Warnock into a neck-and-neck runoff and carried nearly all of the state’s rural areas and performed well in some suburban districts.

Felony court news

Continued from page 2
Heather L. Sawyer, 39, 752 E. 450 South, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but 60 days of her sentence suspended and given two days credit for time served. Sawyer was fined \$25, assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. She was also ordered to submit to an evaluation within 30 days of her sentencing for substance abuse counseling. Sawyer was placed on probation for 305 days. As part of her plea agreement, a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia were dismissed.

Parker M. Squier, 32, Pennville, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to four years in Indi-

ana Department of Correction — two years were added to his sentence for being a habitual offender — assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. He was recommended for purposeful incarceration, meaning upon completion of a substance abuse treatment program, the court will consider modifying his sentence. As part of his plea agreement, two Class A misdemeanors for resisting law enforcement and possession of marijuana were dismissed.

Kiaya A. Crouch, 31, 19 N. Oak St., Redkey, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of a narcotic drug, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail and given 70 days credit for 35 days served. She was assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of her plea agreement, a Level 6

felony for unlawful possession of a syringe and Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia were dismissed.

Deanna E. Brenner, 27, 439 W. Race St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to 180 days in Jay County Jail and given 144 days credit for time served. Brenner was fined \$25, assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of her plea agreement, a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana was dismissed.

Robert E. Mann, 50, 305 Oberli St., Berne, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to cemetery mischief, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 545 days in Jay County Jail with all but 180 days suspended and given eight days credit for time served. Man was assessed \$185 in court costs and placed on probation for

one year. He was ordered to pay \$4,700 restitution to the benefit of Jackson Township. As part of his plea agreement, a Class B misdemeanor for public intoxication was dismissed.

Heather L. Sawyer, 39, 752 E. 450 South, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but 60 days of her sentence suspended and given two days credit for time served. Sawyer was fined \$25, assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. She was ordered to submit to an evaluation within 30 days of her sentencing for substance abuse counseling. She was placed on probation for 305 days. As part of her plea agreement, a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia were both dismissed.

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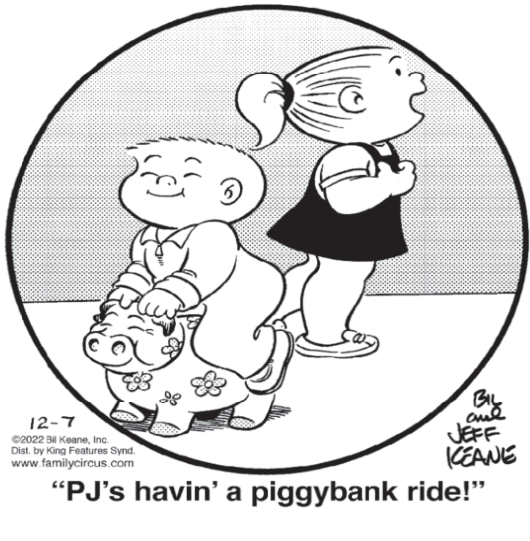
SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Keep your eye on the ball

North dealer.
North-South: vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A J
♥ A K J 10 8 5
♦ 9 7 2
♣ 5 3

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

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 7
♥ 9 3
♦ K J 4
♣ A J 9 6

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

Opening lead — six of diamonds.
There are often two sides to a story, and the same can be said of many bridge hands. Consider this case where West led the diamond six against three notrump, taken by East with the ace. East returned the five of diamonds, South's jack losing to the queen, and at this point West — a very fine defensive player — realized that it would be futile to continue the suit.

Accordingly, he switched to a low club at trick three, having decided that the best chance of stopping three notrump was to find partner with the ace or king of clubs and queen of hearts. That holding was entirely possible on the bidding. No truer arrow was ever shot! East's king forced declarer's ace, and South could do no better than attempt a heart finesse. When he did, East took his queen and returned a club, and declarer went down one, losing two diamonds, a heart and two clubs.

After giving West full credit for his club shift at trick three, the unalterable fact remains that failing to make the contract was South's own fault — and that's the other side of the story.

South blundered badly when he finessed the jack of diamonds at trick two. He was playing with fire, and he ultimately got burned. South could have assured making three notrump by winning the second diamond with the king and finessing the nine of hearts.

If the finesse lost and East did not have a diamond to return, South would make five notrump. If the finesse lost and East did have a diamond to return, that would mean West had started with only a four-card suit, so South would wind up making three notrump.

The normal-looking play of the diamond jack at trick two thus turned out to be both a snare and a delusion.

Tomorrow: Proper technique pays off.
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Peanuts



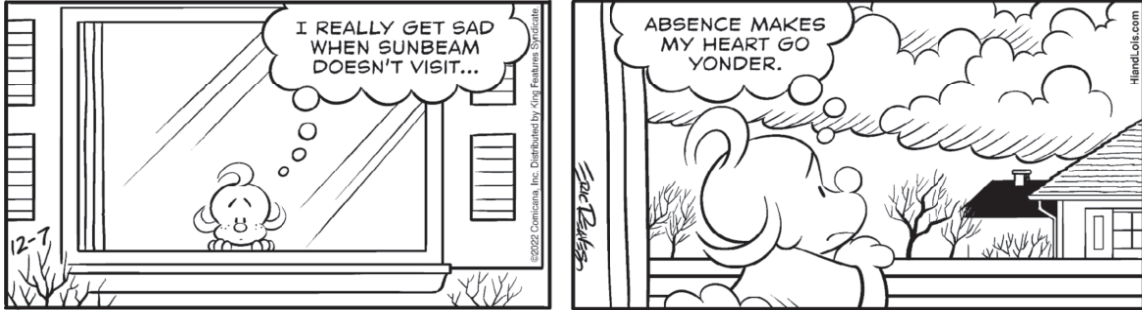
Rose is Rose



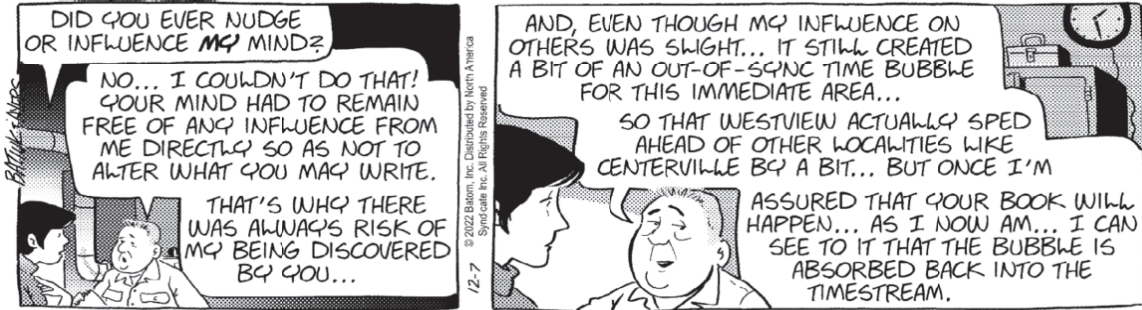
Agnes



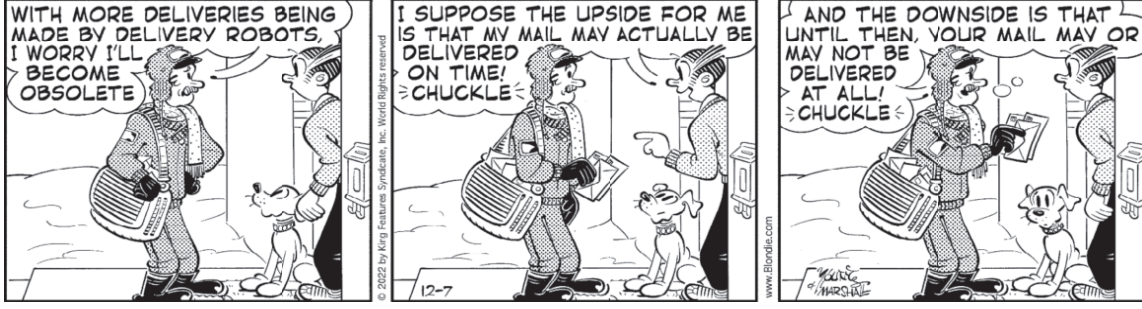
Hi and Lois



Funky Winkerbean



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



12-7 CRYPTOQUIP

LXDT OHSGJV VJRDISGWDN
BXDICN PDQV IDHNNC QZIDW,
LXHQ BGNW CGJ VHC
XHRRTV? QZDPV OHQZPJDV.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL PEOPLE WHO ARE REALLY INTO THE STUDY OF SPEECH SOUNDS? PHONETICS FANATICS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals Y

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Comic Caesar
4 Heavy mists
8 Gym pads
12 Chi follower
13 Redact
14 Luau strings
15 Golfer Ernie
16 Trial VIP
18 Chocolate source
20 Use a straw
21 Bikini parts
24 River of Rome
28 Conquered
32 Differently
33 Hot temper
34 Rescued
36 Salt Lake athlete
37 Building wings
39 Postponement
41 "I cannot — lie"
43 Actress Meg

DOWN
1 Detail, briefly
2 Madonna's "La — Bonita"
3 Platter
4 Felt hats
5 Poem of praise
6 Computer image, briefly
7 Fr. holy women
8 Kid's "dessert"
9 Alias abbr.
10 Sawbuck
11 Concorde, e.g.
17 Quibble
19 Honest politician

22 Slightly
23 Cut off
25 Fuzzy image
26 "Como —
27 Stagger
28 Regimen
29 Mystery writer
30 Topped Gardner
31 Challenge
35 World's lowest lake
38 Jacket part
40 Genetic letters
42 Lob's path
45 \$ dispensers
47 Filches
48 Sneeze syllable
49 Caterwaul
50 Pooch
51 NFL's Manning
52 "Terrif!"
53 Wilder's " — Town"
54 Trio after Q

Solution time: 23 mins.

SPUD RAFT SRI
TATE EPEE LAC
DRAFT BEER AGO
IMAX RAMEN
BRONC VOID
LOVE BEERRUNS
UKE GENES NYE
RUNSOVER SKEW
TINY LISTS
TRIAD PETE
HUM OVERDRAFT
USE LEAS ROOK
DER AXLE ALPO

Yesterday's answer 12-7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
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15			16					17			
18			19			20					
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37			38			39			40		
41			42			43					
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50	51	52				53	54			55	
56					57					58	
59					60					61	

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Sports

Class 2A statement No. 1 JC avenges 2021 loss vs. No. 2 Eagles

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

They had not forgotten. A year ago, the Patriots were ranked third in Class 2A when No. 9 Delta knocked them off by seven points. So with the match set again Wednesday as part of double dual along with Yorktown and Winchester, they had something to prove.

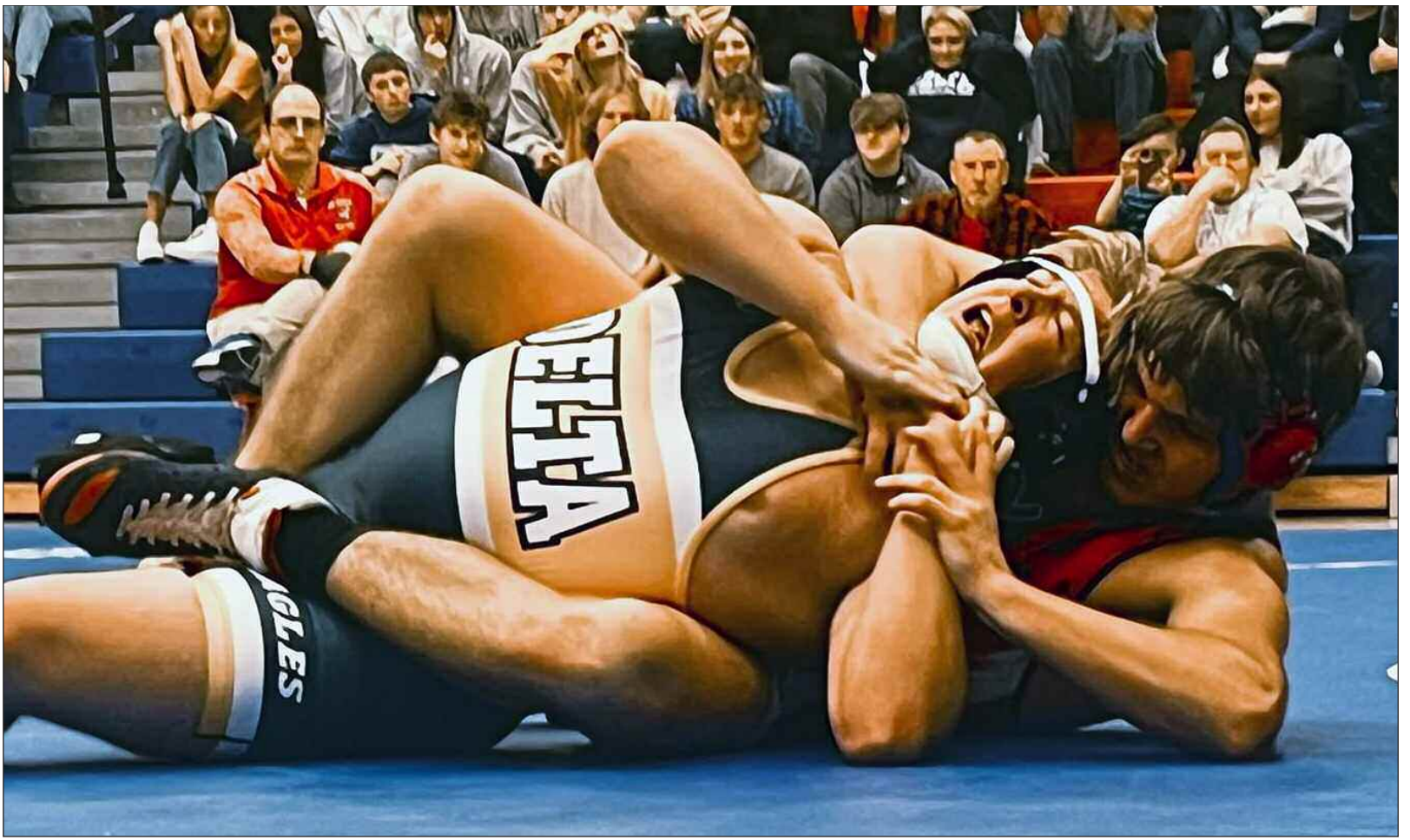
It didn't hurt that the schools separated by just 21.4 miles of Indiana 67 and Indiana 28 were rated as the best two teams in Class 2A.

The top-ranked Class 2A Jay County High School boys wrestling team fell behind early to the No. 2 Delta Eagles but won five straight matches from 126 pounds to 152 pounds to take control in a 42-29 victory.

"It was pretty exciting," said JCHS coach Eric Myers, whose team also defeated Yorktown 61-7. "Last year we underestimated them a little bit and they came in and knocked us off. I've thought about that match for a year. I know some of our guys did too.

"It's pretty exciting to make a statement like that. But I told the guys, that was a dual meet win. That's all that was. We didn't win team state with it. We didn't win conference, sectional or anything like that. So we need to learn from it and not be content and move forward."

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School junior Bryce Wenk, who is ranked 15th in the state, controls TD Wine of Delta during their 195-pound match Tuesday. Wenk's pin of Wine in 3 minutes, 20 seconds, finished off the Class 2A No. 1 Patriots' 42-29 victory over the second-ranked Eagles.

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No. 4 Patriots blast MC

MUNCIE — The Patriots have won seven in a row. Their leader is closing in on the record.

The Class 3A No. 5 Jay County High School's girls basketball team cruised to its second consecutive win of 30 points or more Tuesday, clobbering the Muncie Central Bearcats 66-33.

A 28-point outburst in the second quarter pushed the Patriots (7-1) to a 42-12 lead at halftime. They were ahead by 44 after three quarters before going heavily to their bench for the final eight minutes.

The victory followed Saturday's 52-13 triumph over Fort Recovery. During its winning streak — the team's only loss this season came by one-point in overtime to sixth-ranked Hamilton Heights — it is averaging 60.4 points per game

Local roundup

with a 26.3 margin of victory.

Senior Renna Schwieterman led the Patriots with her second consecutive 23-point game. She is now just 54 points away from breaking the school scoring record of 1,458 held by 1986 graduate Shannon Freeman. She also had six steals and four rebounds.

Seniors Gabi Bilbrey and Mabrey McIntire followed with 16 and nine points, respectively.

JC girls top Eagles
CONVERSE — Aubrey

Millspaugh and Mara Bader each won two individual events and the Jay County girls swim team swept the relays Tuesday in a 103-83 victory over the host Oak Hill Golden Eagles.

The Jay County boys team fell 123-53.

Millspaugh led the Patriots in the distance events, teaming with freshman Avery Wentz for a one-two finish in the 500-yard freestyle as she reached the wall in 6 minutes, 20.67 seconds.

She was also first in 2:19.97 in the 200 freestyle.

Bader and Kenzie Huey also recorded a one-two finish in the 100 backstroke, with the former winning in 1:09.95. Her other victory came with a time of 1:06.8 in the 100 butterfly.

See **Roundup** page 7



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