

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

A legacy in soils



Photo provided

The Jay County FFA soil judging team qualified for nationals at the state competition in October, marking the sixth time in the last 12 years for that accomplishment. Pictured are this year's national qualifiers, from left, Ryler Johnson, Duston Muhlenkamp, Nick Lyons and Laci McGinnis.

Jay County FFA has built tradition

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Over its nearly 50 years, Jay County High School students have been known statewide for certain activities.

Band and cheerleading have been among those.

In the last decade-plus, soil judging has been added to the list.

When Ryler Johnson, Laci McGinnis, Nick Lyons and Duston Muhlenkamp placed fifth in October at the Indiana FFA Soil Evaluation Career Development Event in October, they became the sixth Jay County FFA team in the last 12 years to qualify for nationals.

With a record like that, they've developed a reputation across Indiana.

"Which is really cool to be a

part of," said McGinnis, a senior.

Soil judging in Indiana breaks down into two parts — the left side of the scorecard is about evaluating the soil.

"What you can see with your eyes," said Lyons, a junior.

The right side of the scorecard is about making evaluations based on the information gathered on the left side, which includes details about slope, land form, parent material, drainage and if there is a "limiting layer" that would be a barrier to plant growth.

For example, when judging parent material, Muhlenkamp noted that the most common type is glacial till.

"The glaciers came through and they deposited more jagged rocks," the sophomore said.

Whereas if the rocks are more rounded, that would indicate outwash, meaning they have been smoothed by time in water rather than broken by giant bodies of dense ice.

Competitors also look at color — black, gray or brown — with black indicating more nutrients and gray indicating the amount of water.

"If it's a little sticky, if you can ribbon it, it's going to be clay," said Lyons. "Obviously if you can't ribbon it it's going to be more sandy."

Using the information they have gleaned from studying the soil, teams answer questions on the right side of the scorecard regarding the best use of a certain plot of land, whether it be to plant rotating

crops, leave a permanent pasture or build a house.

Each item on the left side is worth five points while the right side is worth three.

"If you miss on the left, you're going to miss those points on the right too because your rule is not going to apply," said Cody Linville, who coaches the Jay County FFA teams.

Each competition involves judging four sites (two agriculture and two home) — they are judged to 40 inches deep — with 20 minutes allowed per hole.

From the area competition, six teams move on to state. (Jay County has taken as many as five of the six state-qualifying spots.) At the state competition, the top five advance to the national level.

See Soils page 2

Griner released in swap with Russia

By AKAYLA GARDNER and JORDAN FABIAN

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

President Joe Biden announced that WNBA star Brittney Griner had been released from detention in Russia, celebrating her one-to-one swap for a notorious arms dealer who had been convicted and imprisoned in the U.S.

"She's safe, she's on a plane," Biden said Thursday at the White House. "She's on our way home after months of being unjustly detained in Russia, held under intolerable circumstances. Brittany will soon be back in the arms of her loved ones."

Griner, 32, was exchanged in a one-to-one swap for Viktor Bout, a notorious arms dealer, according to a statement from Russia's foreign ministry. The president didn't mention Bout's name in his remarks.

Biden spoke to Griner by phone Thursday morning from the Oval Office, in the company of her wife, Cherelle Griner.

Griner had been sentenced to nine years and moved to a penal colony last month. The Phoenix Mercury basketball star who played in Russia during the off-season pleaded guilty to drug smuggling in July after customs officials found vape cartridges containing cannabis oil in her luggage at a Moscow airport in February.

Paul Whelan, a former U.S. marine who is serving a 16-year sentence in Russia on spying charges that he denies, was not included in the exchange. One U.S. official said that Russia was unwilling to negotiate his inclusion, and so Biden had to choose between getting Griner back or no one.

"This was not a choice of which American to bring home," Biden said. He said "Russia is treating Paul's case differently" from Griner's and promised Whelan's family that his administration would continue negotiating for his release.

Model questioned

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana's higher education officials on Wednesday faced tough questions about a draft post-secondary funding model and proposed plans to increase the number of Hoosiers with post-high school credentials.

That was during a state budget committee meeting at the Statehouse, where representatives from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE) outlined their biennial budget recommendations.

Indiana's state budget operates in two-year periods. The General Assembly drafts the budget in odd-numbered years, meaning that expenditures must be accounted for in two-year segments.

Budget committee asks about plans for post-secondary funding

ICHE officials last month approved recommendations for a new approach to funding higher education that is based on school-specific goals, rather than blanket recommendations. The General Assembly tasked the commission with researching a new formula to cover costs at Indiana's state colleges and universities.

But some lawmakers on the state budget panel raised concerns about the

recommendations, saying the higher education commission should develop a more specific and strategic plan to meet the governor's goal of having at least 60% of adult Hoosiers with a quality degree or credential beyond high school by 2025. Currently, that number is just over 48%, leaving a majority of Hoosier adults without a credential beyond a high school diploma.

Sleepy song

Emily Quate pretends to sleep while performing as part of Redkey Elementary School's Christmas program Tuesday afternoon.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Deaths

Richard Newton, 66, Salamonia

Lorlene Sanders, 80, Portland

Mary Adams, 66, Albany

Evelyn Mertz, 86, Bluffton

Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 47 degrees Wednesday. The low was 35.

Tonight's low will be 34 with a 40% chance of rain after midnight. Rain and snow is likely before 10 a.m. Friday with more rain to follow. The high will be 44.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

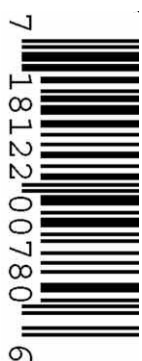
In review

Winterfest activities continue Sunday with Winterfest at the Fairgrounds from 5 to 8 p.m. The event will include carriage rides, cookie decorating, ornament and craft making and Santa. There will also be a performance by Cook and Belle.

Coming up

Friday — Results from tonight's JCHS girls basketball game against Adams Central.

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Jay County Commissioners and Dunkirk City Council meetings.



Obituaries

Richard Newton

May 31, 1956-Dec. 6, 2022
Richard M. (Dick) Newton, age 66, of Salamonia passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022, in IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital.



Newton

He was born in Portland on May 31, 1956, the son of Richard and Genevieve (Boorman) Newton. He was married in 1999 to Nila Schmitz who survives.

Dick had worked at Fort Recovery Industries and Vore's Welding. He had attended The Rock Church and made two missionary trips to Uganda.

Surviving are his wife Nila; two daughters, Kerioka Henkle (hus-

band: Bryan) of Portland and Melissa Newton (fiancé: Davis Anderson) of Portland; his mother, Genevieve Newton of Portland; stepmother Mary Mae Newton of Dunkirk; three sisters, Nyoka Smith of Portland, Judy Eglan of Portland and Sandra Newton of Portland; and one granddaughter.

He was preceded in death by his father Richard Newton; and stepson Steven Dryden.

Celebration of Life services will be Monday, Dec. 12, 2022, at 7 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastors Jeff Horsman and Joe Schmidt presiding. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m.

Memorials can be made to the family or The Rock Church for mission trips.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Loriene Sanders

June 17, 1942-Dec. 6, 2022
Loriene Sue Sanders, age 80, of Portland passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022, in IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital.



Sanders

She was owner and collector of antiques and an antique dealer at antique malls. She was a 1960 Portland High School graduate and was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother.

Surviving are her husband James; one son, Dean Sanders (wife: June) of Portland; and two grandchildren, Brooke A. Sanders and Kyle A. Sanders, both of Portland. She also is survived by an aunt; several nephews; and a sister-in-law.

Funeral services will be Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022, at 1 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Steve Arnold presiding. Burial will follow in the Green Park Cemetery. Visitation will be Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Memorials can be made to Jay County Humane Society.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Mary Kathryn Adams, Albany, Oct. 18, 1956-Dec. 5, 2022. Services will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Baird-Freeman Funeral Home.

Evelyn L. Mertz, Bluffton, a relative of Geneva residents, June 19, 1936-Dec. 3, 2022. No services will be held.

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.

CR almanac

Friday 12/9	Saturday 12/10	Sunday 12/11	Monday 12/12	Tuesday 12/13
44/35	46/35	42/31	42/29	45/36
Rain is expected Friday with an 80% chance of showers throughout the day.	There's a 20% chance of rain after 1 p.m. under cloudy skies. The chance of precipitation doubles at night.	Mostly cloudy, with a high in the low 40s. At night, the low will reach just below freezing.	Partly sunny skies are in the forecast for Monday with a low around 29 degrees.	There's a 50% chance of rain and snow Tuesday under mostly cloudy skies.

Lotteries

Powerball
6-28-44-59-61
Power Ball: 21
Power Play: 2
Estimated jackpot: \$116 million

59-63-65-67-70-71-75
Cash 5: 1-6-9-13-31
Hoosier Lotto: 9-10-14-19-21-22
Estimated jackpot: \$6 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$379 million

Hoosier
Midday
Daily Three: 6-9-4
Daily Four: 1-8-6-3
Quick Draw: 6-16-20-23-24-26-35-37-41-42-47-49-52-60-62-65-68-69-73-74
Evening
Daily Three: 7-0-8
Daily Four: 9-3-7-7
Quick Draw: 1-3-9-13-14-28-33-37-40-43-47-51-55-

Ohio
Midday
Pick 3: 7-8-1
Pick 4: 7-5-0-5
Pick 5: 4-4-5-5-2
Evening
Pick 3: 0-4-7
Pick 4: 1-3-4-1
Pick 5: 2-4-5-2-6
Rolling Cash: 7-15-17-30-32
Classic Lotto: 8-22-27-28-45-46
Kicker: 8-4-2-3-8-8
Estimated jackpot: \$2.4 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.60 Jan. corn.....6.57 Wheat.....6.55	Wheat.....6.81 July wheat.....7.30
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.59 Jan. corn.....6.56 Feb. corn.....6.58	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.34 Jan. corn.....6.36 Beans.....14.63 Jan. beans.....14.63 Wheat.....7.30
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.41 Jan. corn.....6.41 Beans.....14.66 Jan. beans.....14.71	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....6.09 Jan. corn.....6.11 Beans.....14.51 Jan. beans.....14.56 Wheat.....6.90

Today in history

In 1542, Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, was born in Linlithgow Palace, West Lothian, Scotland. She became queen of Scotland just six days later when her father, King James V, died. The country was ruled by regents during her childhood.

In 2003, Portland mayor-elect Bruce Hosier announced the appointment of new department heads that would go into effect Jan. 1. Bob Sours was named police chief, Jeff Harker superin-

tendent of the street and parks department and Bob Brelsford superintendent of the wastewater treatment plant.

In 2020, Indiana Department of Transportation announced Community Crossings grants totaling \$475,612 to Portland, Dunkirk and Bryant. Paving via the grants included a section of Bridge Street in Portland, Moore Avenue in Dunkirk and Main Street in Bryant.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday
8:30 a.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.

Soils ...

Continued from page 1
The following Jay County teams have earned national berths:

2011 — Edward Muhlenkamp, Tyler Osborne, Shelbi Louck and Trevor Blankenbaker (state champions)

2014 — Taylor Campbell, Alli Campbell, Luke Knapke and Mitchell Kunkler

2016 — Katie Lyons, Lizzy Schoenlein, Tucker Pearson and Dillon Muhlenkamp

2019 — Chloe Campbell, Jackson Lyons, Abby Benter and Lucas Lyons

2020 — Chloe Campbell, Logan McGinnis, Abby Benter and Lucas Lyons

2022 — Ryler Johnson, Laci McGinnis, Nick Lyons and Duston Muhlenkamp

Why has there been so much success?
"I think it's just that once we qualified the first time kids have wanted to do it," said Linville.

Students who compete in soil judging — the group this fall had about 30 involved — practice in the morning twice a week. Typically Linville will provide the "left side" scorecard information with the teams then needing to answer the questions on the right side. Competitors have also made trips to local sites, including Linville's property on the southern end of the county and farm ground owned by Troy and Krista Muhlenkamp, to practice judging in person.

Through that process, teams are chosen based on skill level.

"It's no different than basketball," said Linville. "At the end of the day, through practice, you fig-



Photo provided

Jay County FFA won the soil judging state championship in 2011. Pictured is the championship team of Edward Muhlenkamp, Trevor Blankenbaker, Shelbi Louck and Tyler Osborne.

ure out your starting five. And that's what we've got too here."

At the state contest, students typically spend the day before competition practicing. This year, there were 12 practice holes for the contest in Porter County in northwest Indiana along the southern shore of Lake Michigan.

"It's totally different than what we have here," said Linville. "Practice is very important."

At nationals, there are two days of practice. (Linville said the Indiana teams typically practice together for an additional day in order to prepare.)

Of the four members of this year's national-qualifying team, three have had siblings make the trip already. Duston's brother Dillon was a qualifier, Laci's brother

Logan was as well and all of Lyons' siblings (Katie, Jackson and Lucas) advanced. (Johnson is the oldest of his five siblings.)

The team is currently taking a bit of a break before beginning practice in January to gear up for the national competition, which is held each spring in Oklahoma.

"It's an awesome experience," said Lyons. "If you think about it, how many school organizations get to go halfway across the country for a week and just do their thing?"

But of all activities, specifically the long list of career development events available to participate in through FFA, why soil judging?

"For me it was just having Logan (in it) and him being my driver and tak-

ing me to practice every day," said McGinnis. "The more sibling bonding that I got to do with him, that was fun to get me started into it and then I just continued."

Lyons reiterated those thoughts, saying that once his sister Katie — she is now an agriculture teacher at JCHS — qualified for nationals the brothers wanted to follow in her footsteps.

Since that first team qualified for nationals in 2011, the activity has simply become a mainstay.

"It's been one of our primary focuses as an FFA chapter — doing soils and getting good at soils," said Linnville. "It's what the kids wanted to do originally, so we did it. And then it just kind of became a legacy thing. "It's just what we do."

Felony arrests

Resisting law

A Redkey man was arrested this morning for resisting law enforcement. Austin J. Holliday, 31, 5415 S. Indiana 1, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for the alleged crime, as well as three Class B misdemeanors for operating a vehicle while intoxicated, resisting law enforcement and reckless driving.

He's being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

Methamphetamine

A Portland man was arrested

Wednesday for possession of methamphetamine.

Juan E. Hurtado-Gutierrez, 30, 6676 E. Indiana 26, is charged in Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony for the alleged crime, along with a Class A misdemeanor for possession of marijuana.

He's being held in Jay County Jail for violating his probation in an Adams County case. (He pleaded guilty in Nov. 2021 to possession of marijuana, a Level 6 felony, and was later sentenced to 545 days in Adams County Jail with one year suspended.)

Capsule Reports

Backing accident

Damage is estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500 after a Portland man backed his vehicle into a parked car along Twelfth Street about 1:52 p.m. Sunday.

Ethan Lairson, 21, was backing his 2010 Toyota Highlander out of a driveway on Twelfth Street near its intersection with Meridian Street when he struck a parked 2017 Dodge Grand Caravan.

The parked vehicle is owned by Kaleb Hemmelgarn of Portland.

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SERVICES

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.
Newton, Richard: 7 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Tuesday
Sanders, Sue: 1 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Thursday
Adams, Mary: 6 p.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



Photo provided

Cincinnati donation

Cincinnati League of Portland donated \$500 to Youth Service Bureau and Jay County United Way on Nov. 25. Pictured, from left, are P.J. Corwin of Youth Service Bureau, Julia Schwomeyer of Cincinnati League and Traci Gross of United Way.

Library offers Christmas fun

Jay County Public Library has a few holiday events coming up.

Events kick off with "Silly Safaris" holiday shows at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Monday. The event features live reindeer and other animals from the North Pole, as well as one of Santa's elves, Holidaisy.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be stopping by the library on the Christmas Express train from 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 19. Folks are invited to visit the Clauses and take a train ride outside the library, as well as participate in other holiday activities and games.

The library is also offering a shopping experience Dec. 15 and Dec. 16 for children to buy gifts for two family members. To participate, children must complete certain activities

for their age group. Once finished, they'll get a ticket to enter the experience and pick from a variety of gifts for all ages, as well as wrap their chosen presents. Requirements and dates for age groups are as follows:

•Kindergarteners through third graders from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Dec. 15 — check out a holiday themed book, write a letter to Santa, write a thank-you card to their mail carrier and take a photo in the Christmas Express train. Parents may wait outside while their child shops.

•Preschool-age children from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Dec. 16 — write a letter to Santa and take a picture in the Christmas Express train. Parents or caregivers are encouraged to help their children select a gift.

Boyfriend's anger impacts relationship

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend for three years, and it has been great. However, he has serious anger issues that affect our relationship sometimes. It started with small arguments here and there.

But as our relationship progressed, so did his mood swings and anger.

He has never hit me. Lately, though, his anger has gotten worse, and he says cruel things to me that he later apologizes

Dear Abby



ings, he tells me I'm overly sensitive and to leave the past in the past. During our last argument, he asked me how to seek professional help. How can I help him? Am I dumb staying with someone like this? Although I love him, I don't know how long I can last with someone who is so angry all the time. — BROKEN IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR BROKEN: Ask your doctor or your insurance provider for a referral to a

psychologist who can either help your boyfriend or get him into an anger-management class. He definitely needs professional help, and it's good that he knows it.

Although my knee-jerk impulse would be to tell you to end the relationship, that he is self-aware enough to know he needs help makes me inclined to suggest you stick with him a little longer and see how effective the therapy is.

But please know that verbal abusers often become physical abusers if they don't receive help, and the verbal bashing is terrible for your self-esteem.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips.

Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY POST 211 — Will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, at the post at 211 W. Walnut St., Portland.

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 - BRIGANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

BRYANT AREA COMMUNITY CENTER — Walking from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 3 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio.

JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at 3:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month at Portland Fire Department, 1616 N. Franklin St. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more

information, call (260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

REDISCOVERING JOY — The support group of widows and widowers meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at R & R Fabrications, 601 E. Washington St., St. Henry, Ohio. For more information, email rediscoveringjoy@yahoo.com.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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

There is no place like Arts Place

To the editor:

Thank you once again to our Arts Place supporters.

The Jay County Campus of Arts Place recently held its "There's No Place Like Arts Place" 40th Annual Holiday Benefit Auction on Friday, Nov. 18.

Thank you, supporters, for donating your time and treasures to support and recognize the power of the arts within our community. I am delighted to report that due to your generosity, the auction raised \$23,139. That is the fourth-highest result since the inaugural auction.

Letters to the Editor

This funding supports programs and services such as MusicWorks, ArtWorks, Arts in the Parks, exhibits and performances.

I would like to thank Arts Place staff, interim executive director Carolyn Carducci,

Emily Hull, Amanda Chaffins, Teresa Penrod and Greg Ashley; the Holiday Benefit Auction Committee members, Anni McClung, Cindy Denney, Kayla Farris, Bonnie Maitlen, Sarah Lingo and Mindy Weaver; the Arts Place board of directors; Jay County Beverage for providing the drinks for the evening; Janet Powers; Sarah Lingo for the wonderful bistro boxes; Loy Auctioneering; Rob Weaver at WPGW; Bailey Cline at The Commercial Review; JCHS German Club; Jay County Wrestling Club; Jay County

Humane Society; Jay County Civic Theatre; and all of the volunteers who helped make the event possible.

So many businesses, artists and private donors contributed traditional, creative and innovative gifts to the auction. Many thanks to our bidders, both veterans and newcomers, who came out to support the auction with their generous bids.

Arts Place binds us, strengthens our community's character and brings people together at exhibits in our gallery and performances in Hall Moser The-

atre. It engages our youth through ArtWorks, MusicWorks and Arts in the Parks classes. This place helps us form connections with others and tells a community's shared story.

We hope you can join us for next year's auction on Friday, Nov. 17, 2023.

Art is too important not to share, so thank you all for supporting Arts Place.

There really is no place like Arts Place.

Kristen Gibson
2022 Holiday Benefit Auction Committee chair

Hoosiers do not tend to move much

By MORTON J. MARCUS

I looked up from my computer screen and was surprised to see Elvin Elfenhausen, my friend and confidant from Santa's Workshop.

"What are you doing here?" I asked.

"I've been assigned to the CIA," he responded. Noting my quizzical look, he added, "the Continuity in Address division of SClause, LLC."

"We knew it was coming," Elvin continued. "Each year more orders, more households worldwide. The hassles of licenses to park on rooftops, regulations about no-fly zones and product liability insurance. The Workshop needed year-round, experienced people. It went beyond the purposes of our Elves Union."

"You mean?" I asked in my fully nasal imitation of Fred Allen.

"Yes," he sighed. "We incorporated in Bimini with an address in Pickle, just off Interstate 65 at the Frankfort exit. We have an HR division and a strategic plan."

"Oh, how the mighty have fallen," I whispered. "And, delighted as I am to see you, why are you here?"

"To find out about our address list and update our data base," he answered. "We hacked into your internet connection and have known what you download for years. But we don't know what you do with all those data."

"I understand your concept of privacy," I said. "Well, I'll tell you what I can."

"The latest from the Census Bureau are survey data for 2021. For the population aged 1 year and older, 86.7% were living in the same house as a year earlier. That ranks 25th in the nation, almost the median state, Missouri, where the figure is 86.6%.

"If you add in those living in a different house, but in the same county, the percentage rises to 93.5%, just a bit higher than the U.S. median state of 93.2%.

"Then when you add in those living in the same state, but no longer in the same county, you get 97.3% of Hoosiers over age 1 were also Hoosiers in 2020. By comparison, for the median U.S. state the figure was 96.4% of persons over age 1."

"Strange," said Elvin. "We always think of Indiana as place of homebodies, but it's not really very different from most American states. We

Eye on the Pie



"Then when you add in those living in the same state, but no longer in the same county, you get 97.3% of Hoosiers over age 1 were also Hoosiers in 2020."

"By comparison, for the median U.S. state the figure was 96.4% of persons over age 1."

won't have to change our delivery guidelines for Indiana; what works elsewhere will work here as well."

"Hoosiers pride themselves on being as close to ordinary as humanly possible," I said.

"But," Elvin asked, "How many of the people you're calling Hoosiers were actually born in Indiana?"

"Two out of every three," I answered. "We're the 11th most nativist state at 67.5% after Louisiana's leading 78%. The median state is 58.9%."

"That's more like the Hoosier state we imagine," Elvin said. "See you next year at the North Pole, unless we move because of climate change. Is there room for us in Pickle?"

.....
Marcus is an economist. Email him at mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com.



Stand against discrimination

By ERWIN CHEMERINSKY

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

On Monday, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in a case that threatens to open the door widely to businesses being allowed to violate anti-discrimination laws. If the court rules that the First Amendment protects the right of business owners to discriminate — based on claims of freedom of speech or free exercise of religion — civil rights laws banning discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion or sexual orientation will be severely weakened everywhere in this country.

The case before the court, 303 Creative LLC v. Elenis, involves Lorie Smith, a graphic artist and a web designer. She wants to design websites for weddings, but she refuses to do so for same-sex weddings because of her religious beliefs.

Colorado law prohibits businesses that sell or offer services to the public from discriminating based on "disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, or ancestry." The law also prohibits businesses from displaying a "notice" that "indicates that the full and equal enjoyment of the goods (or) services ... will be refused" based on a protected characteristic.

Smith filed a lawsuit in federal district court to have the law declared unconstitutional as applied to her and for an injunction to keep it from being enforced against her.

The district court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit rejected her claims and upheld Colorado's anti-discrimination law. The appeals court stressed that the government has a compelling interest in preventing discrimination based on sexual orientation, in protecting the dignity interests of marginalized groups and in their ability to access the commercial marketplace.

The Supreme Court granted review, but interestingly only on the free speech issue and not on the question concerning free exercise of religion. The question before the court

is: "Whether applying a public-accommodation law to compel an artist to speak or stay silent violates the free speech clause of the First Amendment."

Smith argues that the Colorado law compels her speech by requiring that she design websites for same-sex couples. But the state argues that it is regulating conduct — prohibiting discriminatory conduct — and only incidentally affecting Smith's speech.

Although the free exercise of religion issue is not directly presented, it also underlies this case. It is the same question, indeed even the same Colorado law, that the court reviewed in the 2018 case, Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission. In that case, a baker refused to design and bake cakes for same-sex weddings. In a majority opinion by Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, the court decided that case in favor of the baker on narrow grounds, without deciding the broader question of whether someone's claims to free speech or free exercise of religion could be the basis for an exemption from anti-discrimination laws.

The willingness of the current court — with an even more conservative group of justices — to take this new case is concerning, and might suggest its interest in carving out exemptions from longstanding civil rights laws.

There will be grave consequences if the court rules in favor of Smith. There is no reason why such new First Amendment exemptions would be limited to sexual orientation. Those who want to discriminate against others based on race, sex or religion could simply raise a First

Erwin Chemerinsky



Amendment defense. And this would seemingly extend to laws prohibiting discrimination in all contexts, such as in employment and housing.

For example, an employer with religious objections to employing gay, lesbian or transgender individuals could claim an exemption from state and federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination. Similarly, an employer who, based on religious beliefs, thinks that men and women should not be in the same workplace, could refuse to hire women (or men). A landlord with religious objections to interracial marriage could refuse to rent apartments to interracial couples.

The court has been explicit that all that is required is that the individual have a sincerely held religious belief; it does not matter whether it is a belief held by an organized religion. In a 1981 case, the court ruled that a person of the Jehovah's Witness faith could claim a religious basis for quitting a job even when the requirements of that faith did not support his views.

The appeals court properly ruled that the Colorado law was constitutional because there was no other way to achieve the government's goal, even if the law impinged on First Amendment rights. This analysis complies with long settled constitutional doctrines. People should not be able to use their religion as a basis for inflicting injuries on others.

There is always a tension between liberty and equality. Any law that prohibits discrimination limits the freedom to discriminate.

For decades, the Supreme Court has been clear that stopping discrimination is more important than protecting the freedom to discriminate. The court should reaffirm this principle in this case. But I worry that the conservative justices will use this case to undermine countless anti-discrimination laws.

.....
Chemerinsky is a contributing writer to Opinion and dean of the UC Berkeley School of Law.

The Commercial Review

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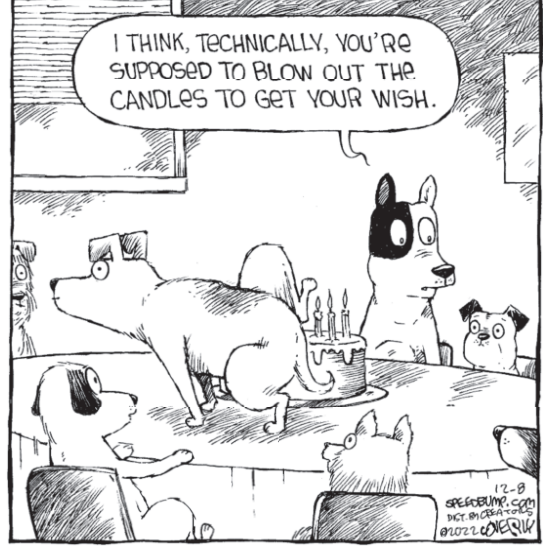
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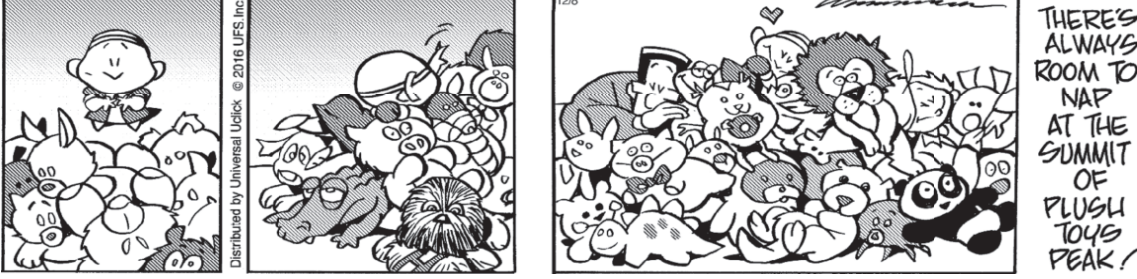
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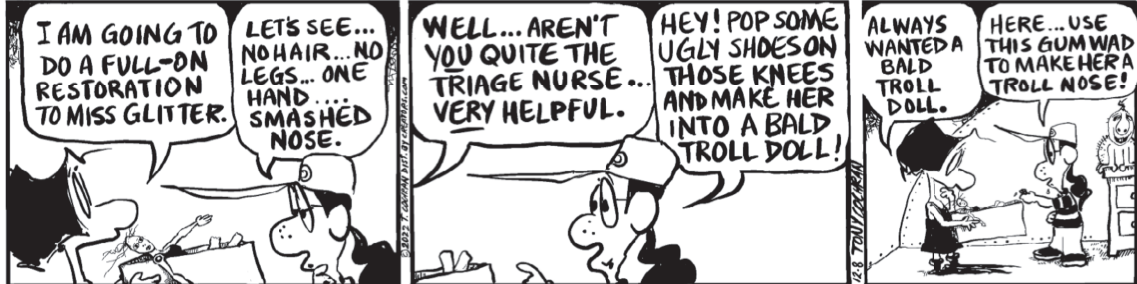
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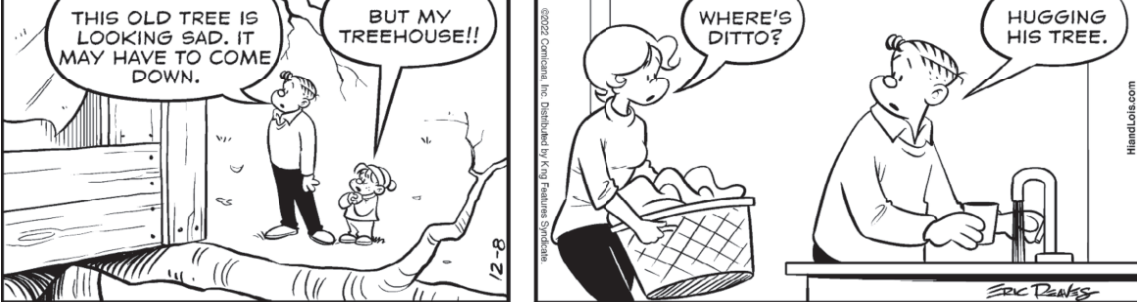
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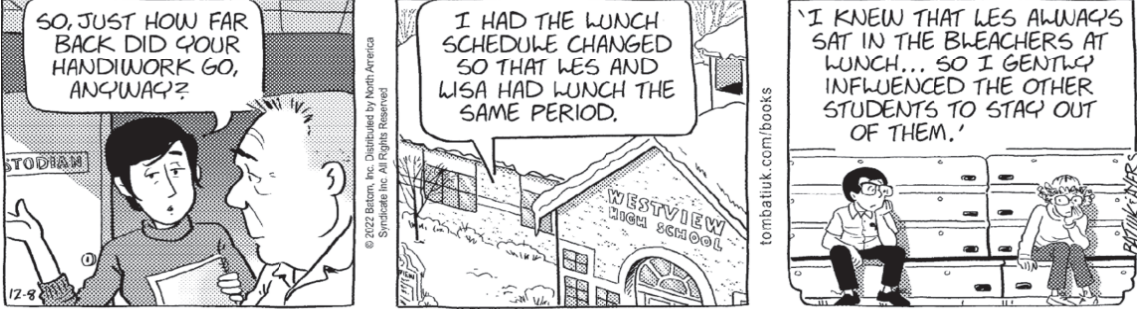
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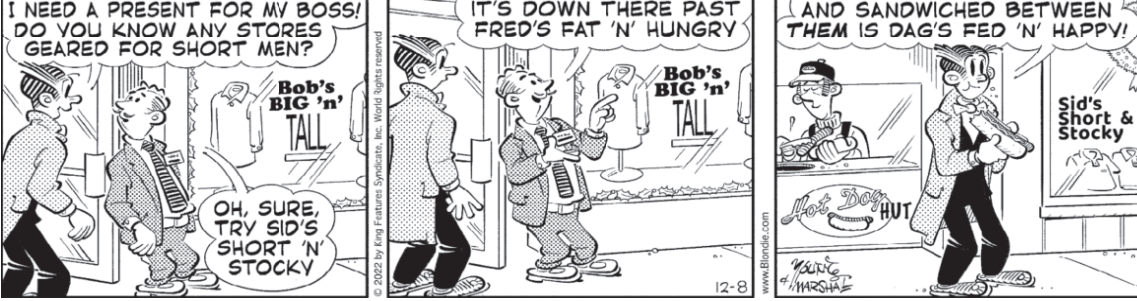
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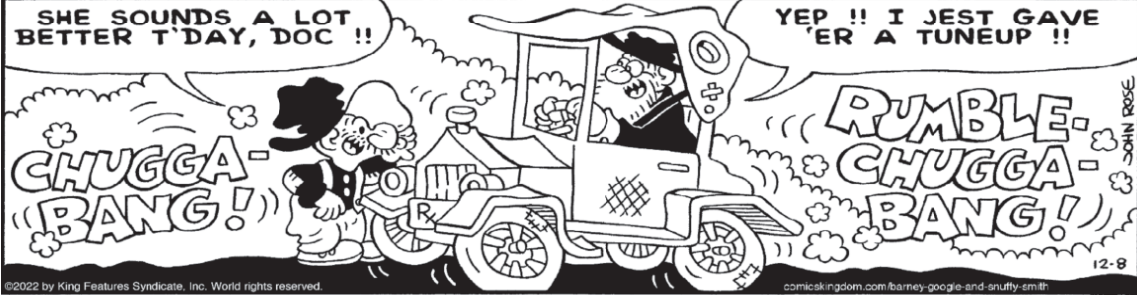
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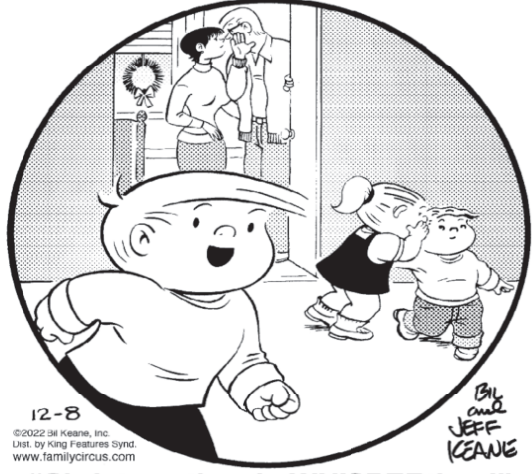
Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



12-8 "Christmastime is WHISPertime!"

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Proper technique pays off

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable. NORTH A Q 9 A 5 7 6 K J 10 6 3 2 WEST 10 6 3 9 6 2 10 8 4 3 2 7 4 EAST J 8 K Q J 10 7 4 5 Q 9 8 5 SOUTH K 7 5 4 2 8 3 A K Q J 9 A

The bidding: West North East South Pass 1 4 3 3 Pass 4 4 Pass 4 NT Pass 5 4 Pass 7 4 Opening lead — nine of hearts. This deal occurred in the 1986 Cavendish Club Invitational...

Tomorrow: Test your play. ©2022 King Features Syndicate Inc.

12-8 CRYPTOQUIP

NHPZ-DZLLZXRXB PGWCZARP HVVKRPHARGX JDFWMZL GX JE GXZ GN AMZ LRWXZE VDRXPZWVZW: CFKHX DGFVBZ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN FAMOUS SUPERMODEL CHERYL GETS REALLY TIRED, WHAT COULD YOU SAY HAPPENS? TIEGS FATIGUES. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Sort 4 "I cannot tell —" 8 Roman 12 Reuben 13 Chinese 14 Barber's 15 Blue-grass 17 Old 18 Insult 19 Hardy 21 Threw 24 Fri. 25 Foreman 26 Doo-wop 28 Borders 32 Foot 34 Feedbag 36 Break DOWN 42 Fan's 44 Chai 46 Urban 50 "No seats" 51 Jai — 52 In error 56 "Death in Venice" 57 Daring 58 JFK info 59 Hose 60 "Dirty Jobs" host Mike 61 Bottom line 70 "Up in the Air" actress Anna 4 Tickled 5 DMV doc 6 Pen fluids 7 Cairo's nation 8 Little angels 9 Group of actors

Solution time: 24 mins. Yesterdays answer 12-8 Cole

Crossword grid with numbers 1-61.

00 CLASSIFIEDS

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Pacers ...

Continued from page 8
Still, the game-defining play likely took place on the other end of the court. With Minnesota leading 117-115 with 15 seconds to play, Buddy Hield caught the ball on the perimeter on a switch against Rudy Gobert. Hield went at Gobert, who snuffed out the play by stuffing Hield at the rim. Anthony Edwards buried the ensuing free throws to essentially put the game away.

On a play prior, Hield drove on Gobert and scored at the rim. Gobert noted on that play, a Timberwolves defender tried to help him in the paint but actually cut the big man off. So he let the team know that when he's defending, do not help. He would take care of it.

And he did. "Obviously Buddy Hield, he knows he wants to shoot that three and he's a tough shot maker," Gobert said. "Especially when you look at the score, you're up two, you don't want to give up a 3 when you're up two to their best 3-point shooter. Try to pick him up and make him drive and see what I can do."

Gobert finished with 16 points and 21 rebounds for Minnesota. But the block was the highlight. That's what left the Tar-

Haliburton has 26 points, 15 assists in loss to Timberwolves

get Center faithful belting out "Rudy! Rudy! Rudy!" chants in celebration.

That play was the one that sealed a game Minnesota simply had to have.

Tyrese Haliburton and Hield each scored 26 points to lead the Pacers, who are now 13-12. Myles Turner added 23 points on 8-of-11 shooting and Ben Mathurin had 14.

Haliburton dished out 15 assists while Turner had a team-high seven rebounds.

Minnesota fired out of the gates, outscoring Indiana 35-17 in the first frame. That lead was built on the strength of tempo and aggression — a tone that was set on the defensive end. The first quarter Wednesday may have been one of Minnesota's best defensive quarters to date.

But the Pacers rallied with a 44-point second quarter.



Tribune News Service

Purdue University football coach Jeff Brohm (center) chats with PJ. Fleck of Minnesota before a game. Brohm's name was immediately a favorite among Louisville fans after Cardinals coach Scott Satterfield announced that he would be leaving the school for Cincinnati.

On the move

Constant coaching changes and the transfer portal have made following college football a crazy pursuit

By JOHN CLAY
Lexington Herald-Leader
Tribune News Service

John Clay



And you thought last year was crazy. Transfer portal crazy. Record-breaking crazy. When a multitude of college football players walked out on the diving board and did a triple-somersault into the packed portal you thought you'd seen it all. You were wrong. We were wrong.

Welcome to Transfer Portal 2022, which opened for brisk business on Monday. Talk about a crowded house. By noon Monday there were nearly 700 players in the portal. By Monday night, there were over 1,000, a vast majority of whom had declared themselves free agents via the use of fancy graphic designs on social media.

Instant mobility wasn't limited to just players. Oh, no. Monday morning opened with the jaw-dropping news that Louisville coach Scott Satterfield was now the new head coach at Cincinnati. Louisville fans began writing thank-you notes to the UC administration. Cincinnati fans began scratching their heads.

Purdue fans awoke to "#Bring-BackBrohm" trending on Twitter. That would be former U of L quarterback and current Purdue coach Jeff Brohm. Back in 2018, the Cards took a swing-and-miss at Brohm, who led the Boilers to the Big Ten title game this season. Four years later, afforded a second chance, can new U of L athletics director Josh Heird hit a home run?

Meanwhile, out in Boulder, new Colorado coach Deion Sanders was telling his new players (a) that his son Shedeur will be the Buffaloes' new starting quarterback and that

(b) the current Buffs might want to get their portal papers in order.

Coach Prime: "So I want y'all to get ready to go ahead and jump in the portal and do whatever you're gonna get because if more of you jump in, the more room you make."

At last count, and always subject to change, nine Kentucky players have hit the portal. No real surprises among them. Most of the BBN portal attention has focused on possible incoming candidates, especially at quarterback. At that position, the portal overflows. Over 60 signal-callers have filled out transfer papers. Now-former Wisconsin quarterback Graham Mertz is believed to be on the Big Blue radar. Now-former North Carolina State quarterback Devin Leary is worthy of attention.

Then there's the little item of Mark Stoops' search for a new offensive coordinator. A Liam Coen 2.0 has received considerable buzz, but Stoops said Monday he has talked to several unnamed candidates. The UK coach said he was excited about the interest the opening has generated and the possibilities moving forward.

This isn't Stoops' first OC rodeo. His decade in Lexington, the former defensive coordinator has been through five offensive coordinators — Neal Brown, Shannon Dawson, Eddie Gran, Coen, Rich Scangarello.

Dawson (2015) and Scangarello (2022) were both let go after just one season on the job.

I asked Stoops on Monday what he had learned from his extensive experience of hiring a play-caller.

"It's a good question," the coach answered. "I don't know if there's any one exact thing I could put my fingertip on, other than you have to trust your instincts and you have to make sure you stay true to them and what's most important to you and what I believe in this current environment."

Let's face it, the current college football environment is chaos.

By Tuesday morning, there were reports 16 Texas A&M players had hit the portal after the Aggies' 5-7 nosedive of a season.

At least three players — Michigan quarterback Cade McNamara, Florida offensive lineman Joshua Braun and Boston College quarterback Phil Jurkovec — committed to new schools just hours after entering the portal. McNamara picked Iowa. Braun picked Arkansas. Jurkovec chose Pittsburgh, where quarterback Kedon Slovis, a Southern Cal transfer, entered the portal for a second time.

Tampering, anyone? Of course not.

This about sums it up: In February, Auburn boosters used allegations of an alleged affair to try and push out unpopular head coach Bryan Harsin. By November, Auburn had hired Liberty coach Hugh Freeze, who was previously fired at Ole Miss in part for allegedly using his company phone to call escort services.

And we're just getting started. Pass the popcorn.

Collegiate ...

Continued from page 8
The junior had two points and two rebounds Dec. 1 in a 73-61 loss to No. 2 Ashland.

Robby LeFevre FRHS - 2019

Ran for the Fordham

University men's track team as it opened its season at the Youree Spence-Garcia Invitational on Staten Island, New York.

LeFevre finished 17th in the 300-meter dash. He was 0.03 seconds behind Eric Anderson of Molloy.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Swimming vs. Norwell — 6 p.m.; Girls wrestling at New Haven — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball vs. Bluffton — 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at Bluffton — 5:30 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. Parkway — 6 p.m.; Swimming vs. Van Wert and Marion Local at Van Wert YMCA — 5:30 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball vs. Parkway — 5 p.m.; Seventh grade girls basketball at South Adams — 5 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Girls basketball vs. Adams Central — 6 p.m.; Boys wrestling in Allen County Athletic Conference Duals at Adams Central — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball at Parkway — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Rutgers at Ohio State (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — NHL hockey: Winnipeg Jets at St. Louis Blues (Bally Indiana)

Friday
10 a.m. — Soccer: World Cup quarterfinal — Brazil vs. Croatia (FOX)
2 p.m. — Soccer: World Cup quarterfinal — Argentina at the Netherlands (FOX)
6:30 p.m. — Men's college hockey: Michigan State at Michigan (BTN)
7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Washington Wizards at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — College football: Samford at North Dakota State (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Los Angeles Lakers at Philadelphia 76ers (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Milwaukee Bucks at Dallas Mavericks (ESPN)
10:15 p.m. — College football: William & Mary at Montana State (ESPN2)

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5:00 P.M.

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

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: Don Thomas Hicks, Deceased
No. 38CO1-2211-EU-000048
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Greg Kahlig was, on the 5th day of December, 2022, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Don Thomas Hicks deceased, who died on October 26, 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 6th day of December, 2022.
HINKLE, RACSTER & SCHEMENAUR
121 W. High Street
Portland, IN 47371
Attorney
Jon Eads
Clerk of the Circuit Court, For Jay County, Indiana
CR 12-8,15-2022 HSPAXLP

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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: James H. Coleman, Deceased
No. 38CO1-2211-EU-000047
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Rebecca L. Coleman was, on the 30th day of November, 2022, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of James H. Coleman deceased, who died on November 13th, 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 5th day of December, 2022.
HINKLE, RACSTER & SCHEMENAUR
121 W. High Street
Portland, IN 47371
Attorney
Jon Eads
Clerk of the Circuit Court, For Jay County, Indiana
CR 12-8,15-2022 HSPAXLP

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT LOY AUCTION 260-726-2700 OR GARY LOY AUCTIONEER 260-726-5160.

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Sports

Vaughn strong in HU victory

Gabi Melby hit the game-winning hoop with seven seconds left.

A Fort Recovery High School graduate added one more point for good measure.

Alli Vaughn, a 2021 FRHS graduate, hit a free throw with less than a second left Saturday to finish off the **Collegiate Check-up** University

women's basketball team's 81-78 victory over Mount Vernon Nazarene.

The Foresters (4-7) fell behind 74-71 at the 3:16 mark of the final period but pulled even on a Ruby Bolon 3-pointer and then took the lead on a Vaughn layup and free throw. Mount Vernon pulled even with 13 seconds to go before Melby hit her jumper to give Huntington the lead for good. Coming off the bench, Vaughn had five of her 14 points in the final three minutes while also grabbing a team-high nine rebounds and recording two steals.

Vaughn also had eight points, four rebounds, three assists and a block in a 76-56 loss to Taylor on Nov. 30.

Val Muhlenkamp FRHS- 2020

Tied for second on the team in rebounds Saturday in a 72-58 loss to Malone.

Muhlenkamp started and grabbed four rebounds for the Oilers (3-4). She also had five points.

See Collegiate page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fullenkamp fly

Fort Recovery High School's Carson Fullenkamp competes in the 50-yard butterfly Saturday during the Celina Waterdawg Sprints at Jay County Junior-Senior High School. He finished 49th out of 75 competitors in the event as the Indian boys were fifth out of 10 scoring teams with 44 points.

Pacers fall after rallying in Minnesota

By JACE FREDERICK
PIONEER PRESS (St. Paul, Minnesota)
Tribune News Service

MINNEAPOLIS — The Pacers struggled early and rallied Wednesday.

In the end, they weren't able to pick up a second consecutive win on their Western Conference road trip.

On a night in which Indiana rallied from a 23-point first-half deficit and led by as many as eight after the break, the Pacers weren't able to hold off the Minnesota Timberwolves and fell 121-115 at Target Center.

D'Angelo Russell carried much of the load offensively for Minnesota in the final frame, scoring

15 points over the final 12 minutes.

"Humbly speaking, I feel like I try to come alive, no matter how the game is going in the fourth, those last few minutes I try to make something out of nothing a lot of times. That's when it kind of works for me," Russell said. "Throughout the game, trying to make some-

thing out of nothing or whatnot, maybe a turnover or just not go in my favor."

But it did when it mattered most. "It was much needed. We needed that from him," Timberwolves coach Chris Finch said. "It was good to see him have confidence in that shot and let it fly."

See Pacers page 7

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