

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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\$1

## Funding requests are up across agencies

*Drafters question if increases can be sustained*

By **WHITNEY DOWNARD**

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Requests for funding are up across the board for state agencies in their budget presentations before the State Budget Committee this week, especially for personnel, construction costs and technology services.

But key budget drafters have their concerns about whether the state can sustain those requests, especially when the forecast predicting the state's revenues for the next two years won't be out for another week.

Bremen Republican Sen. Ryan Mishler, who leads the Senate's budget efforts, noted the various challenges ahead for the two-year spending plan and had concerns about meeting all of the asks.

"(It) all adds up and that's before we even start talking about K-12 — the biggest part of our budget," Mishler said. "All of that concerns me when people are asking (for more). But until we get the (forecast) numbers ... I'll feel better about it."

Mishler argued that the state's estimated \$4 billion reserves don't reflect the state's actual savings, since three of the reserve accounts — Medicaid, tuition reserve and rainy day — are only available in an economic emergency.

See Up page 2

# Shocking Destiny



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School senior Destiny McManus reacts Thursday after realizing she was selected as The Portland Foundation's Lilly Endowment Community Scholar. A member of the Marching Patriots and manager for the girls basketball and girls soccer teams, she plans to attend Indiana University – East to pursue a career in dentistry.

## McManus named Lilly scholar

By **RAY COONEY**  
The Commercial Review

Destiny McManus thought she was headed to reschedule her swim test.

When she walked into the room and saw the group that was gathered, she realized that wasn't the case.

She paused for several seconds, looking around.

"And then I saw my mom," said McManus.

That's when she knew.

McManus was surprised Thursday with the announcement that she has been selected as The Portland Foundations' 2023 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar.

The honor brings with it four years of full tuition and fees to

any Indiana college or university as well as \$900 annually to cover the cost of books.

"I really thought I was going to be rescheduling my swim test," McManus said. "And then I walked in and saw everybody and I was like, 'You're kidding. You can't actually tell me I got this.'"

"It's just so shocking. I didn't

actually think when I applied I would even become a finalist. To be getting this right now is just a great honor."

McManus, who is ranked sixth in the JCHS senior class with a 4.153 grade point average, plans to attend Indiana University – East to study human life science.

See **Destiny** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Cruiser crushed

A Portland police vehicle was smashed in a collision on Meridian Street on the north side of the city Thursday afternoon. Officer Brandon Wright was responding to an emergency call when his vehicle collided with a Dodge Journey driven by Shane Geesaman of Portland. For additional details, see Capsule Reports on page 2.

# House OKs marriage bill

*Measure headed to Biden for signature*

By **MICHAEL MACAGNONE**  
CQ-Roll Call  
Tribune New Service

WASHINGTON — Congress passed a bill to codify federal recognition of same-sex marriages Thursday with some protections for religious freedom, sending the bill to President Joe Biden.

The House voted 258-169-1 on the bill that would repeal the 1996 law known as the Defense of Marriage Act that the Supreme Court found to be largely unconstitutional in a

2013 decision. It would also codify federal recognition of same-sex and interracial marriages that are legal in the state where the marriage was performed.

The Senate passed a version of the bill less than two weeks ago, after months of bipartisan negotiations, that added provisions to protect the tax-exempt status and other government benefits of religious institutions.

The Biden administration praised the revised bill last month in a policy statement and said Biden would sign it.

"No person should face discrimination because of who they are or whom they love, and every married couple in the United States deserves the security of knowing that their marriage will be defended and respected," the Biden administration said.

See **Marriage** page 5

### Deaths

**James Weaver**, 58, Fairmount  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

The temperature in Jay County hovered between 39 and 44 degrees Thursday.

Tonight's forecast calls for a 30% chance of rain with a low of 35. Expect cloudy skies Saturday with a high in the mid 40s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available Saturday. Trailers will be open from 9 a.m. to noon in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, and Dunkirk City Park.

### Coming up

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

**Tuesday** — Coverage of Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.



Felony court news

Burglary
A Dunkirk woman was sentenced in Jay Circuit Court to prison after pleading guilty to burglary, a Level 5 felony.

Shonda L. Easton, 42, 1261 S. Main St., Dunkirk, pleaded guilty to burglary, a Level 5 felony, in Jay Circuit Court. Easton was sentenced to four years in Indiana Department of Corrections with 30 months suspended and given credit for time served.

Common nuisance

A Portland woman was sentenced to jail after pleading guilty to maintaining a common nuisance, a Level 6 felony.

Andrea N. Dugan, 26, 503 E. High St., was sentenced in Jay Circuit Court to one year in Jay County Jail with 10 months suspended and given credit for four days served. She was ordered to serve the remainder of her sentence (60 days) on house arrest. Dugan was placed on probation for 10 months and assessed \$185 in court costs.

Failed to appear

A Pennville man was sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to failing to appear in court.

Parker M. Squier, 32, Pennville, pleaded guilty to failing to appear, a Level 6 felony, in Jay Circuit Court. He admitted to being a habitual offender. He was sentenced to four years in Indiana Department of Correction — an additional two years was added onto his sentence because he is a habitual offender — and given credit for time served.

Fraud

A Redkey woman was sentenced to jail after pleading guilty to fraud, a Level 6 felony.

Christina R. Norris, 44, 703 S. Meridian St., was sentenced in Jay Superior Court to 816 days in Jay County Jail with all but 416 days suspended and given 16 days credit for time served.

Norris was assessed \$185 in court costs.

As part of her plea agreement, another Level 6 felony charge for fraud was dismissed.

Pointing firearm

A Winchester man pleaded guilty to pointing a firearm at another person, a Level 6 felony.

Anthony J. Trendel, 39, was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but two days of his sentence suspended and given two days credit for time served.

Trendel was assessed \$185 in court costs and placed on probation for 363 days.

Obituaries

James "Jim" Weaver, Fairmount, July 24, 1964-Dec. 5, 2022. Services will be held at a later date. Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland is in charge of the arrangements.

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.

Destiny ...

Continued from page 1
It is the next step on her path toward the goal of a career in dentistry.

She's been fascinated by dentistry ever since she got braces on her teeth when she was in sixth grade. ("The fact that, wow, these people are putting brackets on teeth and then in the outcome everybody is getting a happy smile at the end," she said.) That experience sparked an interest that included watching videos of orthodontists at work.

"And I love working with children," she said, noting that she's worked at Jay Community Center's summer day camp for the last three years. "Children are my life."

"So it works with children. It works with the field. It's been my passion since sixth grade and I haven't changed it at all."

She chose IU — East in part because it is close to home and because when she visited she felt a lot of support and saw the opportunities the university could provide her as she works toward her career goals. She was also attracted to the diversity of the campus and the city.

"Richmond's kind of a different area," she said. "I want to meet people who are different."

McManus has been a member of the Jay County Marching Patriots

I'm just extremely grateful for this opportunity I've been given.

—Destiny McManus

and is currently the center snare on the drum line. She has managed the JCHS girls basketball team for four years and the girls soccer team for two years. She is also a member of the softball team.

She is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Club and student council. And she has been involved in the youth group at Asbury United Methodist Church.

McManus was one of 21 local applicants for the Lilly, which requires a minimum 3.5 grade point average. She was selected as one of three finalists along with Josh Dowlen and Danyelle Bland.

Applicants are evaluated on academic excellence, financial need, school/community activities, their response to an essay question and whether they are a first-generation college student. The finalists then interviewed with the selection committee and completed an impromptu essay in October. Finalists were then submitted to Inde-

pendent Colleges of Indiana for the selection of the winner.

The Portland Foundation board member Jeremy Gulley, who is also superintendent of Jay School Corporation, said the poise McManus showed during her interview was one of the qualities that made her stand out.

"She was able to really articulate a good plan of what she wanted to accomplish if she had this opportunity," he said. "That spoke to the committee."

McManus is the 41st Jay County student to receive the Lilly scholarship since 1998. More than 5,000 scholars have been awarded statewide with more than \$486 million in tuition paid for through the program.

Being on the list of those honorees will take some time to set in.

"I'm just extremely grateful for this opportunity I've been given," said McManus. "I just can't believe it. I'm probably going to be in shock for the next week or two."

CR almanac
Table with 5 columns: Saturday 12/10, Sunday 12/11, Monday 12/12, Tuesday 12/13, Wednesday 12/14. Includes weather icons and temperature forecasts (45/35, 45/30, 41/27, 43/35, 46/31).

Lotteries

Table listing lottery games: Powerball (jackpot \$116 million), Mega Millions (jackpot \$379 million), Hoosier, and Ohio Midday/Evening (jackpot \$140,000).

Markets

Table listing market prices for Cooper Farms Fort Recovery, POET Biorefining Portland, and The Andersons Richland Township, including prices for Wheat, Corn, Beans, and Jan. beans.

Today in history

In 1824, Antonio Jose de Sucre of Venezuela led a revolutionary force to victory over Spain in the Battle of Ayacucho. In 1868, the world's first traffic light was installed in London. In 1990, labor leader Lech Walesa won Poland's first direct presidential election.

Citizen's calendar

Table listing events for Monday and Wednesday, including Jay County Commissioners' executive sessions and court proceedings.

Capsule Reports

Vehicles collide

A Portland resident and Portland police officer were injured after their vehicles collided at the intersection of Meridian and Rogers streets about 3:15 p.m. Thursday.

Shane E. Geesaman, 52, was driving his 2012 Dodge Journey west on Rogers Street and stopped at its intersection with Meridian Street (U.S. 27).

He continued into the intersection as Brandon R. Wright, 31, was driving north on the highway. (There is no stop for Meridian Street traffic at the intersection. Wright was responding to an emergency call at the time with the city's 2019 Dodge Charger's lights and sirens on.)

Geesaman's vehicle came to a stop in the Port-

land True Value parking lot. Debris struck three vehicles in the parking lot.

Geesaman was trapped in his vehicle. Wright sustained a fractured leg and Geesaman sustained an arm injury. Both men were transported to the hospital for treatment.

Damage is estimated between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

Portland City Court

Judge Donald Gillespie Fined and sentenced

Richie Elysee, North Miami, Florida, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$185.50; Victor K. Gaston, Portland, driving with a suspended license, \$160.50; Israel A. Weiss, Dunkirk, speeding 110 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$171; Jarnail Singh, Bakersfield, California, disregarding stop sign, \$160.50; Rukib Kurtic, Holland, Michigan, speeding 65 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$145.50; Lewis D. Whitt, Kings Mountain, Kentucky, speeding 65 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$145.50; Gurpreet Singh, South Ozone Park, New York, speeding 76 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$171; Nurzlan Tashtanov, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$185.50; Gulab Singh, Covina, California, violating

Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$185.50; Lavpreet S. Singh, Riverside, California, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$185.50; Omar Abdulle, Columbus, Ohio, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$185.50; Mangal Singh, South Richmond Hill, New York, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$185.50; Manjinder Singh, Clovis, California, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$185.50; Jatinder Sraa, Sacramento, California, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$185.50; Samantar M. Mohamed, Burnsville, Minnesota, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$185.50.

SERVICES

Table listing services for Friday, Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday, including funeral homes and recovery services.

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

Leaf Filter Gutter Protection advertisement featuring a 'YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE' and a '20% OFF + 10% OFF' offer.

Wilson's Christmas Lights advertisement for Santa Claus Sunday, Dec. 11, 5:30-7:30 pm, serving hot chocolate and cookies.

## Stranger took offense to woman's insight

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend of two years works for a company with 160 employees, 95 miles from our town. He held a party at a restaurant located near the company. I knew no one and doubt very much I will ever run into these people again.

While I was at the party, I met a young woman who, like myself, was there with her boyfriend and didn't know anyone. We chatted for half an hour about the holidays and made general conversation. When she mentioned she had been recently diagnosed with a condition I have, too, I gave her some websites to check out for information and told her not to worry. I also told her that if I can be well and deal with this issue, anyone can. Our conversation lasted about 15 minutes, and I asked no personal questions. When I had to leave the party, she remained sitting by herself and started playing with her phone.

The next day, my boyfriend was angry because upon leaving with her boyfriend, the woman told him, "Your girlfriend kept nagging me about my condition and wouldn't shut up." I was dumbfounded and hurt. I was trying to be nice. Why did my boyfriend tell me? He said nothing to her to defend me. Even worse, what did he accomplish by repeating what she had said? He knew it would make me feel bad. I'll never run into these people again. Am I wrong in feeling hurt? — DUMBFOUNDED IN THE EAST

DEAR DUMBFOUNDED: I am still trying to figure out why someone would tell a stranger at a party her medical status and then take offense if the person tried to be helpful. If what you were saying made her uncomfortable, she should have said it to you, not your boyfriend. You aren't wrong for feeling hurt. However, you ARE wrong to blame your boyfriend for telling you something he thought you needed to hear. That's what people who love each other do.

DEAR ABBY: My partner and I have been together for 11 years, living together for seven. He's a Realtor in his hometown. I had a stroke four years ago, which forced me into early retirement. Real estate is a dog-eat-dog occupation. Paychecks are few and far between, so I pay the rent and all the

Dear Abby



household bills. He pays his personal bills and the costs of doing business as a Realtor.

He is currently broke and doesn't have the money to pay his personal bills. I refuse to pay them. I think he should get a part-time job to pay his own bills, but he refuses. Of course, there will be a backlash, and he'll blame me. He will lose his car, telephone, real estate license, health and car insurance, etc.

I have bailed him out before, but I am no longer willing to do it because I'm running out of what money I had set aside for retirement. He already owes me thousands of dollars in several loans, which I don't expect to recover. What do I do? I don't want to split up or continue to argue over this. — PLANNING AHEAD

DEAR PLANNING: Your "partner" refuses to look for a part-time job so he can be self-supporting and not dependent on you? Dear lady, you may not want to split up after this amount of time, but your partner is a luxury you can no longer afford. Stop arguing, accept it and move on.

DEAR ABBY: What is a proper tip to leave a server at an all-you-can-eat buffet? They bring water and bus the table, but we get our own food and drinks. They certainly don't work as hard as servers in a sit-down restaurant. — WONDERING IN THE EAST

DEAR WONDERING: The employees you describe are also "working hard." If you're eating in the restaurant, leave a couple of dollars for the bussers who are clearing the dishes. If you receive service IN ADDITION to that, leave 10%.

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](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## Optimist donations

Breakfast Club recently presented donations to two local organizations. Pictured above, Community Thanksgiving Dinner organizer Carol Smith accepts the donation from Optimist Club president Rodney Miles. Pictured below, Conny Knight of Secret Families Christmas Charity of Jay County accepts the donation from Miles.



Photos provided

## Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

### 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. 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 COM-

MUNITY 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](mailto:rediscoveringjoy@yahoo.com).

### Tuesday

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will

be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

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

**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

## Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

### Thursday's Solution

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

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

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### JOB POSTING: ADMINISTRATOR IN TRAINING (AIT)

The Administrator in Training (AIT) at Swiss Village is a paid training position that meets the requirements for the Administrator in Training program in Indiana. As an AIT at Swiss Village, the successful candidate will complete the 6 months of training that is required for an HFA (Health Facility Administrator) by working with our AIT Preceptor and will then be promoted to the Health Facility Administrator following successful completion of the Indiana HFA exam.

During the AIT, this position will be responsible for working in all departments to become familiar with all operations. This position will also assist the VP of Operations in managing day-to-day functions of Swiss Village in accordance with current federal and state regulations governing long-term care facilities.

The successful candidate will possess a Bachelor's Degree in a health-related field of study and be eligible through the State of Indiana to complete an AIT training program. The successful candidate must also believe in the mission and purpose of Swiss Village, have strategic critical thinking skills, and be an effective communicator.

If interested, please submit a Resume and Cover Letter to Taylor Lehman, Vice President of HR, by Monday, December 19, 2022.

Contact information:  
Taylor Lehman, Vice President of HR  
Swiss Village  
1350 W. Main St.  
Berne, IN 46711  
Or email: [careers@swissvillage.org](mailto:careers@swissvillage.org)

# We must adapt to changing needs

**News and Tribune**  
**(Jeffersonville and New Albany)**

In report after report, researchers have reached the same conclusion: Digital technology will soon dominate the market, and Indiana's workforce is ill-prepared for the seismic shift.

The latest reminder of this troubling forecast came from the state's own study, released in November by the Governor's Workforce Cabinet. That panel's findings reinforce those detailed in similar reports including one produced by the Brookings Institution.

The bottom line is that many employers already demand distinguished digital skills from their workers, and that trend

## Hoosier Editorial

will only grow stronger. The state report suggests factors including the pandemic and a tight labor market have pushed many employers to speed up automation.

Advanced technology requires skilled workers, and researchers worry that Indiana could be left in the "digital dust" without a major overhaul of educational priorities and training.

To meet the demand, high

schools and colleges should prioritize instruction in fields such as computer science, math, technology and engineering, researchers propose.

Similar to how the Legislature addressed shortfalls in nursing during its last session, lawmakers must find ways to incentivize Hoosier high schools and colleges to offer more dual credits and enhanced training for in-demand occupations. With Indiana being fortunate enough to have budget surpluses, investing more in training the workforce would be a wise move.

Employers should also be a part of the process. By partnering with colleges, high schools and workforce training organizations, employers can help fund

the instruction of the employees they need to sustain their businesses.

Workers and students must also recognize the shift in the landscape. It behooves a worker to attain high-skilled accreditation and training for technology-related jobs. Those who obtain such skills will be attractive to employers and will earn more money.

And while the Legislature should act to foster tech-centric training and digital proficiency, there are already programs available for Hoosiers. Many of them are free. Workforce organizations across the state offer coding programs, teaching students front-end web development in a matter of weeks.

We also must eliminate the stigma between technical and skills training and academics. They are both necessary for a viable workforce.

STEM and digital learning doesn't necessarily boost critical thinking, but proficiency in reading, writing and arithmetic may not be the most crucial need for future workers.

We need our educators and workforce developers to meet in the middle to promote a wide scope of training and instruction.

Indiana has positioned itself as a manufacturing hub, but to maintain that status, decision-makers, workers and students must accept that tech skills are vital.

## Inflation could get a bit worse

By **SHELDON JACOBSON**  
Chicago Tribune  
Tribune News Service

The U.S. dollar is near its highest level in more than a decade. A strong U.S. dollar has many benefits to consumers. When traveling abroad, goods and services cost less in U.S. dollars, making foreign destinations attractive vacation options for many. Domestically, imported items also cost less in U.S. dollars, with some of these savings passed along to consumers.

At the same time, a strong U.S. dollar means that exported goods and services cost more in foreign countries, putting downward pressure on export sales. Compensating for this effect may require lower prices offered overseas and an associated lower revenue and earnings for U.S. companies.

So far, at least for large companies, this has not been the case. S&P 500 companies generate a significant portion of their revenue and earnings abroad. In fact, based on the first quarter of 2022, those that generated more than one-half of their sales domestically had weaker earnings growth than those companies that generated more than one-half of their sales abroad.

Conventional wisdom is not always accurate, which makes forecasting economic causes and effects so challenging. It also means that setting economic policies is an inexact science at best.

Take for example inflation, which is close to a 40-year high. Shouldn't a strong U.S. dollar be buffering higher prices?

Surprisingly to some, it has, which means that prices would be even higher if the U.S. dollar were weaker. For example, inflation rates are higher in several other countries, including the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands.

Oil prices have received significant attention. Gasoline prices are routinely between \$3.50 and \$4 per gallon in the United States. Given that crude oil is priced in U.S. dollars, a strong dollar obfuscates its actual cost.

The current nominal, noninflation-adjusted price of oil has been comparable to the price of \$80 to \$90 per barrel back in 2011 to 2014. Taking inflation into account, prices are much lower today.

In contrast, oil prices are near all-time highs in

*Sheldon Jacobson*



Canada and Europe. As much as Americans are not pleased with gas prices at the pump and will not be with the cost of natural gas to heat their homes this winter, Canadians and Europeans are faring even worse. For example, Canadians are paying around \$1.70 Canadian dollars for a liter of gasoline, equivalent to around \$6.50 per gallon, or \$4.80 in U.S. dollars.

What a strong U.S. dollar is doing is clouding the cost of oil that many other countries are paying. If the U.S. dollar weakens, as it inevitably will, the price of oil domestically will surge. This means that \$4 per gallon of gasoline at the pump will look like a bargain.

As the Federal Reserve continues to raise interest rates to suppress economic activity, effectively cooling systemwide demand and placing less upward pressure on prices, higher interest rate investments become attractive to foreign investors. This means that demand for U.S. currency is increased, putting more upward pressure on the dollar.

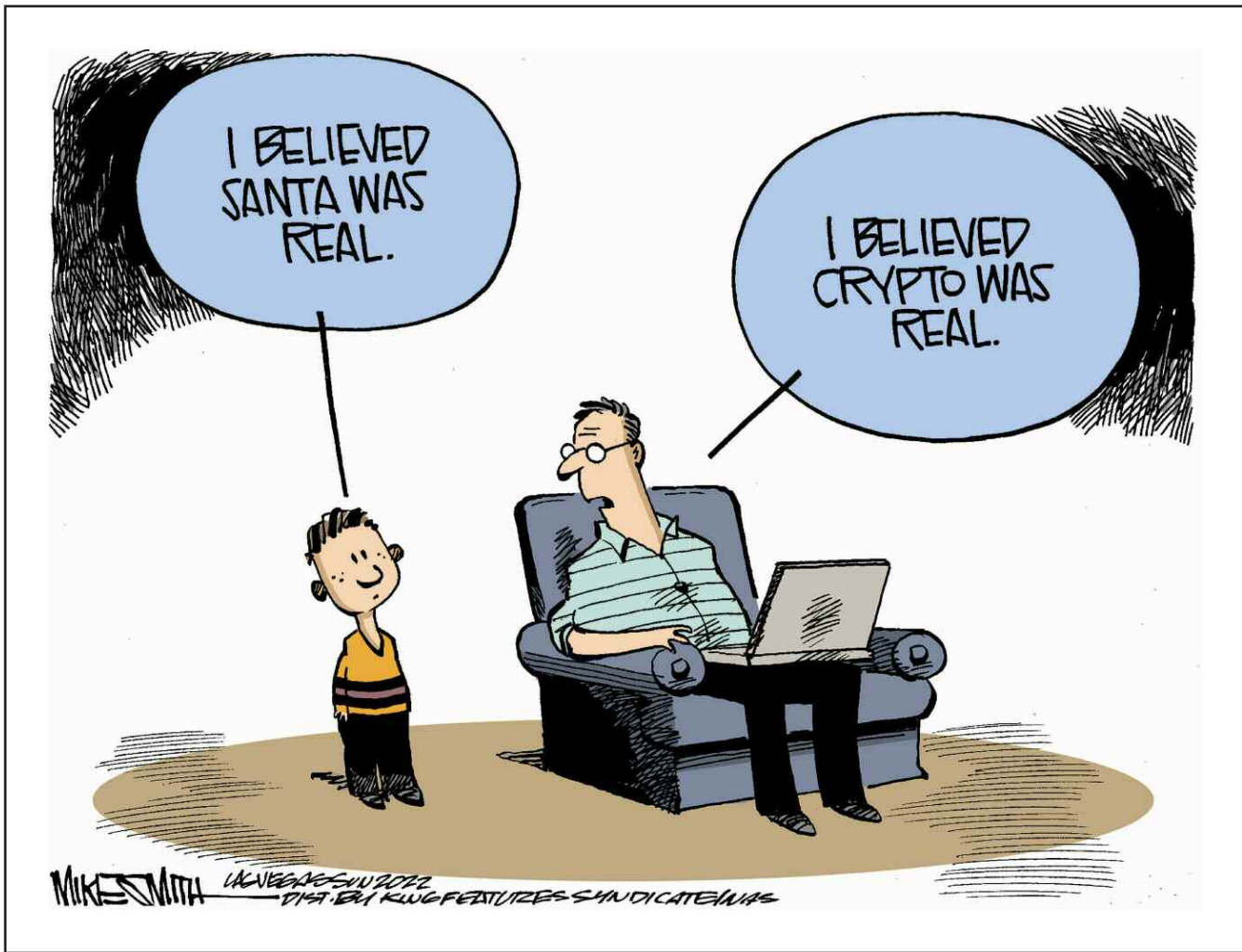
It's complicated. And rightly so. Every dial that is turned has unexpected consequences.

Now with Republicans in control of the House, bipartisan support will be needed to affect any legislation that could support the economy and temper inflation. Without such cooperation, gridlock is likely, with President Joe Biden forced to resort to executive orders, which have their limitations.

Polls from the Pew Research Center show that people view inflation as a top issue of concern. What few realize is that the number of tools available to effectively manage a massive economy like that of the United States is limited, and those available are rather blunt with significant time delays to yield effects.

As bad as inflation may seem at this time, it could be worse. If the U.S. dollar weakens, it likely will be.

*Jacobson is a professor of computer science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.*



## Rokita is mean-spirited with office

By **MICHAEL LEPPERT**  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The battle initiated by Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita against Dr. Caitlin Bernard, an Indiana reproductive healthcare provider, disgracefully marches onward. Our embattled AG is wrong about this endeavor, in every possible way, but it is important not to lose track of who he is hurting, and why.

A 10-year-old girl was raped, became pregnant as a result of the rape, and understandably sought an abortion in Ohio earlier this year. Due to the restrictive abortion law already in place there, the girl sought and received medical care in Indiana from Dr. Bernard.

She is, or was, a 10-year-old girl. The mother of the girl reported the allegation to child services in Franklin County, Ohio, before medical care was sought in Indiana. The story became known through an article by Shari Rudavsky and Rachel Fradette in the Indianapolis Star on July 1. It caught the attention of President Joe Biden during a press conference in early July announcing his administration's initial response to the Supreme Court's ruling on abortion in *Dobbs v. Mississippi*. Biden said, "10-years-old! 10-years-old...already traumatized and forced to travel to another state."

Yes, Mr. President, that was and continues to be sadly correct.

The following Monday, on July 11, the Attorney General in Ohio, Dave Yost, started the inglorious descent of the episode by going on Fox News and claiming that there was "not a whisper of evidence" to back up the story about the rape. Ohio congressman, Rep. Jim Jordan tweeted a story from the Washington Examiner that challenged the validity of the story, adding the comment that the account was "a lie." The tweet was deleted soon after, and for good reason.

This is the landscape, the context

*Michael Leppert*



of what sent Indiana's AG into what I'm sure he would call "action." The president mentioned it. The Sunday morning news shows talked about it. They interviewed South Dakota Governor Kristi Noehm about it. A neighboring AG had already gotten national attention from it. And a notorious MAGA-driven, political bomb thrower like Jordan had covered Twitter with it.

Rokita could not let this gigantic opportunity for nastiness pass him by. So, he dove in headfirst.

It began with his own appearance on Fox News on July 13, claiming that he was going to investigate the Indiana doctor involved. In that childish, ill-prepared, attention-seeking moment he said he intended to "fight this to the end, including looking at (the doctor's) licensure."

The end? What end? Maybe the end of his legal license.

In a ruling last week Marion County Judge Heather Welch issued findings on one set of legal issues involving the ongoing and ridiculous "fight" from which Rokita won't walk away. Welch wrote that Rokita's statements "are clearly unlawful breaches of the licensing investigations statute's requirement that employees of the Attorney General's Office maintain confidentiality over pending investigations until they are so referred to prosecution."

Not only is Rokita incapable of seeing that the lack of any evidence of wrongdoing on the part of Dr. Bernard is a problem with his fight, but he is also violated confidentiality in his zealotry. Remember, this

isn't some ambulance chasing, crackpot attorney without any particular duty. This is the Attorney General of the State of Indiana.

Again, I ask to what end? The story that set off this specific and exhausting episode of Rokita's trademark meanness was only credibly doubted for a brief moment, though the Star never flinched in its certainty.

A Gannett spokeswoman provided a comment shortly after the story was published from Bro Krift, the newspaper's executive editor: "The facts and sourcing about people crossing state lines into Indiana, including the 10-year-old girl, for abortions are clear. We have no additional comment at this time."

Then the real bomb dropped. The rapist was arrested, and while in custody, apparently confessed to the crime. That led to Rep. Jordan's deleted tweet and this later statement from the Ohio AG Yost: "I am grateful for the diligent work of the Columbus Police Department in securing a confession and getting a rapist off the street."

Back home in Indiana, our state's top lawyer won't let it go. He has no facts to base his quest to hurt Dr. Bernard. He has no way to keep his fanatical and irrational battle with the doctor and her impeccable record from revictimizing the 10-year-old girl either.

And that's the saddest part of all this to me; the ongoing harm to that little girl.

Ohio cared enough about her to shut up about politics and move on to dealing with the crime in July. But in Indiana, Todd Rokita would rather use his office to keep confirming he is too mean-spirited to hold it.

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

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## Up ...

Continued from page 1  
Mishler said he focuses on the roughly \$1.7 billion in general fund reserves when talking about places to potentially spend more money — a fund already depleted by the summer's \$1 billion automatic taxpayer refund and \$2.5 billion contribution toward the unfunded pre-1996 teacher retirement fund. "We're really down to \$700 million," Mishler said. "We already know we're a billion short on the (capital improvement) projects from 2021. So we start 2023 with needing to budget to do those projects... we're already negative \$1 billion to start."

Committee members heard in Wednesday budget presentations that inflation had nearly doubled some project estimates, ranging from a 20% increase to a 94% increase on state-owned buildings. The biggest increase, for the Westville Correctional Facility in northwest Indiana, will need \$1.2 billion to construct — a 200% increase from its initial \$400 million allotment.

The state's general fund reserves filled up as revenues came over projections repeatedly in the last year, but Mishler warned that the great economy pushing those revenues won't last forever.

"I am concerned about the cost overruns and I'm concerned that everybody thinks we have all of this money to spend," Mishler said. "The economy looks like it's slowing down a little bit so that's another concern. I guess I always take the pessimistic approach and look at the worst-case scenario for the budget."

This comes as Gov. Eric Holcomb is expected to

push for salary increases across the board for state agencies, especially following the loss of hundreds of employees throughout the pandemic — 10% of high performers with an overall turnover rate of 25%.

Holcomb, in an email to the Indiana Capital Chronicle, said the State Personnel Department conducted a year-long analysis to draft a new compensation plan for civil service employees that wrapped up in October.

"It's imperative for the state to remain competitive in attracting and retaining high-quality public servants. The state of Indiana, like many businesses, has experienced high turnover and lost many high-performing employees over the past two to three years," Holcomb said. "We are covering the cost of increases for the remainder of the fiscal year with existing funds, and my budget request for the next biennium will include the cost of the new salaries."

The State Budget Agency in their budget presentations detailed a 5% average increase in salaries in 2022 but a compensation study suggests more is needed — with a General Fund share of a \$160 million for a total of \$253 million. Technology costs will increase by 5%, driven in part by increased licensing fees from Microsoft.

Other governor priorities include funding another round of READI grants for Indiana communities and \$243 million for public health. The first round of READI grants were funded using federal COVID-19 dollars, a source that has dried up.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Festive feature

First grader Maylin Arreguin touches her red nose Thursday afternoon while performing as part of West Jay Elementary School's Christmas program.

## Marriage ...

Continued from page 1  
During floor debate Thursday, Rep. David Cicilline of Rhode Island and other Democrats praised the measure for protecting the right to same-sex marriage originally recognized in the Supreme Court's 2015 decision in Obergefell v. Hodges.

"The idea of marriage equality used to be a far-fetched idea. Now it's the law of the land, and supported by the vast majority of Americans," Cicilline said.

The original House version of the bill, known as the Respect for Marriage Act, received 47 Republican votes when it first passed the cham-

ber in July on a 267-157 vote. On Thursday the bill received 39 Republican votes.

In a floor speech, Rep. Brian Mast, R-Florida, one of the Republicans who voted for the original version in July, said he would oppose the bill now because it did not include religious liberty protections beyond what passed in the Senate.

The rule that set the bill up for floor consideration Thursday did not allow for religious liberty amendments offered by Republicans. Those protections were also not in the version of the bill Mast voted for.

"Our oath is to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America. It's our singular job here, and 'We don't have the time to do it.' That's what your side is telling us," Mast said.

Numerous business and religious groups, including the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the National Association of Manufacturers, have announced support for the revised legislation.

A congressional push to pass a bill to legalize same-sex marriage followed a Supreme Court decision earlier this year that wiped out a constitutional right to an abortion.

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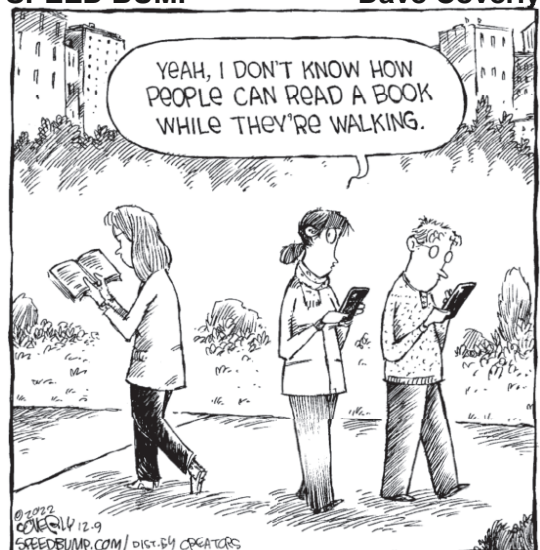
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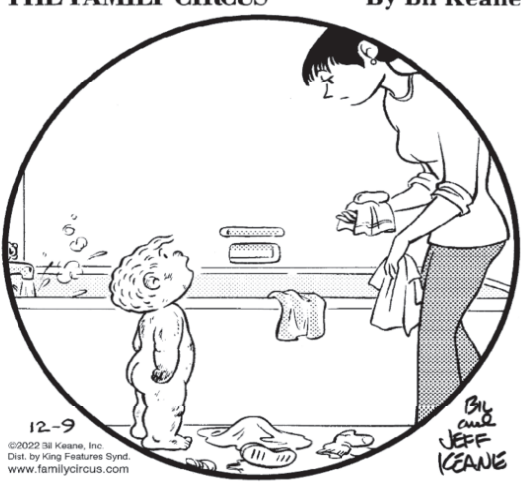
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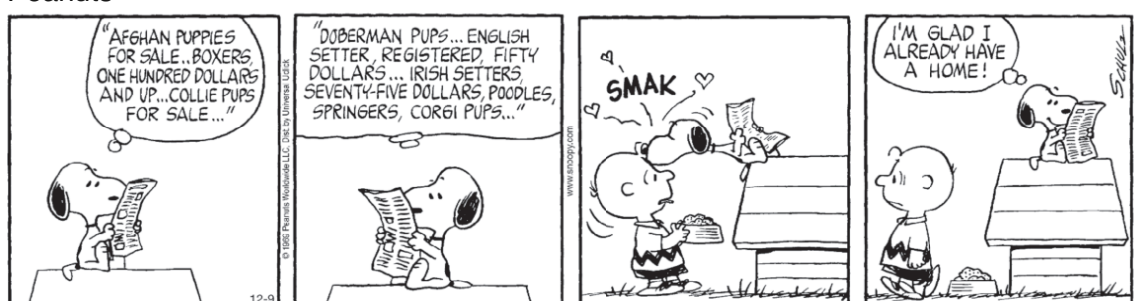
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

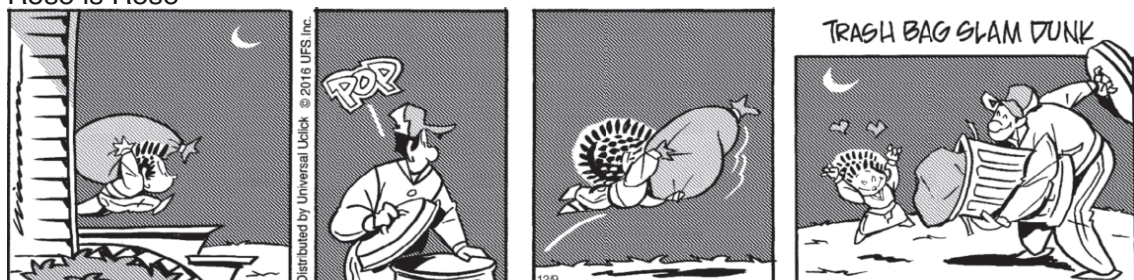


"Couldn't you just dust me off?"

Peanuts



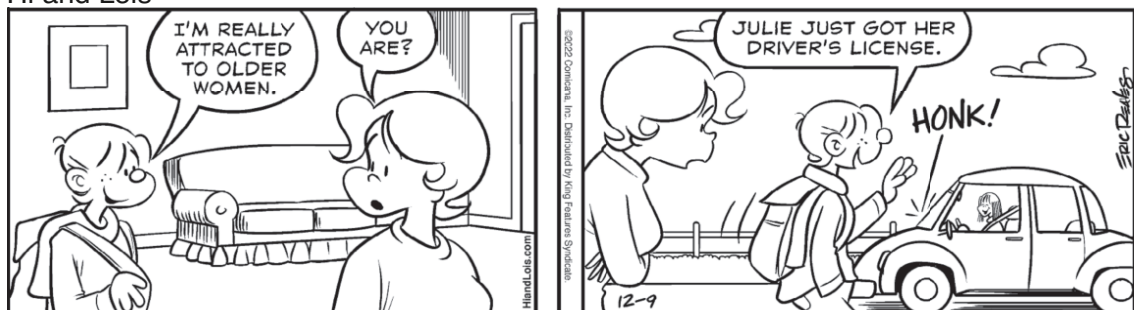
Rose is Rose



Agnes



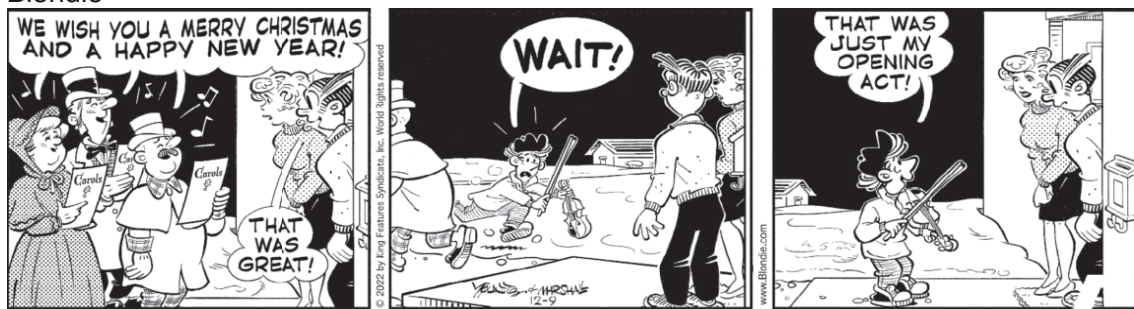
Hi and Lois



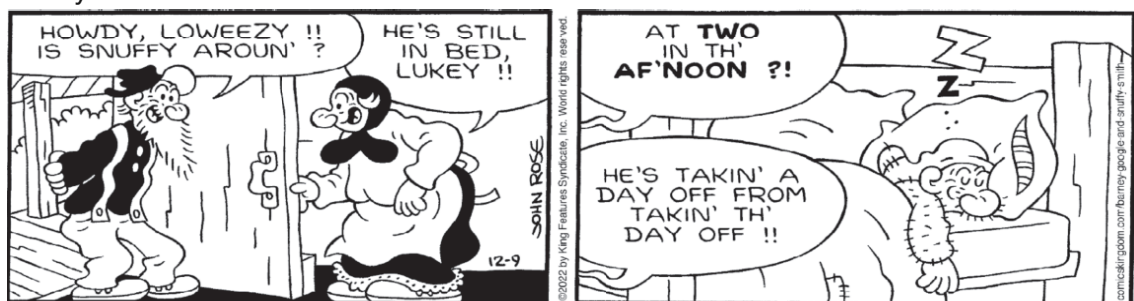
Funky Winkerbean



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Test your play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Five Clubs. North leads the ten of diamonds. How would you play the hand?
WEST EAST
A J 10 6 4 2
6 2 A Q
AK 7 Q 5 3
AK 10 8 3 Q J 7 5 4

1. Win the diamond, draw trump, cash two more diamonds and play the A-Q of hearts! This guarantees the contract regardless of how the missing cards are divided.

would cost you the contract if South had the king of hearts and North the K-Q of spades.

2. North can't have the K-Q-J of hearts, since he would have led the king instead of the six initially.

The type of hand you are guarding against is one where North has:
WEST EAST
A Q J 10 7
A 8 10 5 4 3
K Q J 3 A 6 4 2
A J 6 5 4 2 8

If you ducked South's nine of hearts, he would continue the suit, and you'd go down at least one.

Tomorrow: A question of probabilities.

12-9 CRYPTOQUIP

NK F AFLZ ZJXNCNGY VFIJC
OJGOMJ CDNHXA PFXI FYZ
KGLHA PJHJJY GONYNGYC,

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FACE-REDDENING COSMETIC APPLICATION BRUSHED ON BY ONE OF THE DISNEY PRINCESSES: MULAN ROUGE.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 39 The Browns, on scoreboards
1 Broad-band letters
4 Squealer
7 Wee hr.
12 Slangy suffix
13 Sch. founded by Jefferson
14 Mrs. Flintstone
15 Pallid cone order
18 JFK info
19 "Holy smokes!"
20 Floral garlands
22 Lair cabbage
23 Curly order
27 Existed
29 Vienna's river
31 Host
34 Access the web
35 African desert
37 Lawn coating
38 Editor's "keep it"

DOWN 23 Recognized
24 Calendar abbr.
25 Wall St. deal
26 Still, in verse
28 - Lingus
30 Pub serving
31 Twisty letter
32 Yoga pad
33 "Evita" role
36 Pinnacle
37 Abhor
40 Endures
42 Fre-quantly
43 Civil rights org.
44 Goof
45 "Sad to say ..."
46 Gross
48 B'way show purchase
49 Sturgeon product
50 Hot temper
51 Signing need

crossword grid with letters filled in for some words.

Yesterday's answer 12-9

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# Sports

## Norwell knocks off Patriots

The defending champions were too much for the Patriots. But they kept the meet reasonably close.

Jay County High School's girls swim team won five events and was able to push the 2022 sectional champion Norwell Knights on Thursday in a 163-138 loss.

The boys team fell 109-86. Mara Bader earned two wins for the girls, who were third behind Norwell and Delta in last season's sectional tournament. She took the 200-yard individual medley by nearly five seconds in 2:25.88 and the 100 breaststroke by four seconds in 1:13.35.

Kenzie Huey posted a time of 1:11.95 for first place in the 100 backstroke and Maddy Snow won the diving competition with 172.95 points.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School freshman Matthew Fisher competes in the butterfly during Saturday's Celina Waterdawg Sprints at Jay County Junior-Senior High School. The Patriots competed again Thursday, with both the boys and girls teams falling to the visiting Norwell Knights.

The lone win for the boys team came from Brasen Glassford, who was uncontested in diving, as he scored 114.3 points. Josh Monroe was second in the 200 individual medley and 100 breaststroke.

**FR girls win two**  
VAN WERT, Ohio — Fort Recovery's girls swim team defeated Marion Local 63-43 and Van Wert 56-45 Tuesday at Van Wert YMCA. The boys team lost 46-24 to

Marion Local and 46-18 to Van Wert.

Teigen Fortkamp was the only double winner for the Indians. See **Roundup** page 7

## Mayfield rallies the Rams

By GARY KLEIN  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — Sean McVay did not waste any time.

Check that: The Los Angeles Rams coach allowed more than 12 minutes to expire before he could not control himself any longer.

The evaluation of new quarterback Baker Mayfield needed to commence.

Forget that Mayfield arrived only 48 hours earlier.

Mayfield came on in place of starter John Wolford for the second series of Thursday night's game against the Las Vegas Raiders. And on his first snap, he completed a 21-yard pass.

But it was the finish that fans will remember.

Mayfield engineered two fourth-quarter scoring drives, capping his

debut with a touchdown pass to Van Jefferson with 10 seconds left for a 17-16 victory before a Raiders-heavy crowd of 74,738 at SoFi Stadium, which for one night anyway was Baker's Field.

"I don't know if you could write it any better than that," Mayfield said.

The Rams could not have felt better. They ended a six-game losing streak and improved their record to 4-9.

"You forget what winning's like," McVay said, "and it sure is fun."

The night was all about Mayfield, and whether the No. 1 pick in the 2018 NFL draft can be a viable option as Matthew Stafford's backup next season — and perhaps beyond.

The initial read: Absolutely.

"Whatever happens from here on out, I got nothing but respect for Baker Mayfield," receiver Ben

Skowronek said. "To have a guy come in like that, work his tail off for 48 hours, learn the game plan, learn our names.... He's the type of competitor you want to play with."

Mayfield was big in the clutch and showed the type of arm strength and release that McVay adores. He completed 22 of 35 passes for 230 yards, including the touchdown to Jefferson.

Not a bad Rams debut for a much-maligned player who was traded by the Cleveland Browns in July and waived this week by the Carolina Panthers.

"Hats off to Baker," center Brian Allen said. "We were teaching him cadences in the middle of plays. Time to get out there and see what happens. And it happened."

Quipped McVay: "Just like we drew it up."

See **Rallies** page 7



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