

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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\$1

Just starting

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

It's just starting. Jay County is expected to get between 3 to 7 inches of snow today. As of 7 a.m., about an inch of snow had fallen.

The county issued a travel advisory — it means travel or activities may be restricted in areas — at 7:16 a.m. because of slick road conditions.

Jay School Corporation announced in advance Tuesday it would be closed today. Instead of implementing an e-learning day, plans are to make up the day Feb. 20.

Fort Recovery Local Schools also closed for the day.

Jay County Highway Department started plowing county roads about 8 a.m. Superintendent Eric Butcher pointed out about

As of 9 a.m. today, snow was limited but county was prepped for more in forecast

8:15 a.m. that the forecast had been constantly changing, although he said it predicted heavier snow would come down between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

"It's going to be a day long battle," he said. "If (the) wind picks up, drifting should be minimal. That's what we're hoping for anyway."

Jay County Emergency Management Agency direc-

tor Samantha Rhodehamel noted this morning if the snow continues to fall at a heavy rate, the county may raise its travel advisory to a travel watch or warning.

"This is a wet, heavy snow compared to the snow we got around Christmas time," she said. "We may not have the blowing and drifting, but we'll have the slushy, slick (snow)."

See **Starting** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

An Indiana Department of Transportation plow clears snow from Votaw Street (Indiana 67) on the west side of Portland this morning. Just the start of a projected 3 to 7 inches of snow had fallen as of 9 a.m. today with a winter storm warning in effect until 8 p.m.

A new leader



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Patty Johnston, pictured left, retires at the end of this month from her position as director of Pregnancy Care Center of Jay County. New director Lisa Peterson, pictured right, started transitioning into the role Jan. 4.

Peterson now heading Pregnancy Care Center with Johnston set to retire at end of the month

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

One woman is retiring. Another woman is taking the reins.

After 20 years directing the Pregnancy Care Center of Jay County, Patty Johnston will be retiring at the end of the month. Lisa Peterson, formerly president of the organization's board of directors, is taking over as executive director.

Peterson formally assumed the role Jan. 4. Throughout her last month of employment, Johnston has been helping Peterson transition into the position as she prepares for retirement.

"I was very happy that I know somebody who loves the center as much as I do is going to pick up the reins, because this is not just a job. It's a lot

more than that," said Johnston. "And I think she'll do a darn good job."

Peterson, a native of San Antonio, Texas, moved to Dayton, Ohio, in 2004. She graduated in 2013 from Wright State University with a bachelor's degree in social work and again in 2016 with a master's degree in applied behavioral science: criminal justice and social problems. She came to Jay County in November 2019.

Through the years she has worked with the severely mentally ill, individuals struggling with addiction and the incarcerated population.

"Being a social worker, I've always been in the line of helping and serving others," explained Peterson. "So this was a good way to incorporate my Christian beliefs with my life purpose."

The Pregnancy Care Center of Jay County's main role is to "demonstrate God's love by providing counseling and support to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs associated with crisis pregnancy and family care." A nonprofit affiliate of Heartbeat International, it offers a free pregnancy test as well as clothes, food, toys, diapers and other necessities.

Peterson's focus will be extending the pregnancy care center's reach into the community, hoping to connect with more local residents, churches and businesses. As a Latina, she noted, she wants to be more inclusive to the Latino community in Jay County, referencing a language barrier.

Each year the pregnancy care center hosts a few

fundraisers, including its "Ladies Night Out" event in October attracting more than 300 women annually and, most notably, its "Baby Bottle" fundraiser, which involves sending empty baby bottles to local churches for attendees to fill with donations. (The annual fundraiser begins in coming months.)

"That fundraiser has really grown from just a few churches in the beginning," Johnston said. "It's very, very exciting to see all the local churches and the support that they give to the center because ultimately that's what runs the center, the donations from the local churches and individuals and civic organizations. It's really a county wide mission."

See **Leader** page 2

Documents found at home of Mike Pence

By MICHAEL MCAULIFF
and DAVE GOLDNER

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

A lawyer for former Vice President Mike Pence found 12 classified documents in a search of his Indiana home in the latest bombshell related to mishandling of secret information by officials.

Pence quickly moved to notify authorities and handed over the documents unearthed in the search, which was launched after similar searches turned up classified materials at President Joe Biden's home and office.

"A small number of documents bearing classified markings ... were inadvertently boxed and transported to the personal home of the former Vice President at the end of the last Administration," Pence's lawyer, Greg Jacob, told the National Archives in a letter last week.

Jacobs said Pence, who is considering a 2024 presidential run, had no idea the documents were stored at his home and is cooperating fully with an investigation.

"Pence was unaware of the existence of sensitive or classified documents at his personal residence," Jacobs said.

Pence's team told congressional leaders about the documents on Tuesday.

The FBI and the Justice Department's National Security Division have launched a review of the documents and how they ended up in Pence's home in Carmel, Indiana.

FBI agents went to Pence's home on Jan. 19 to retrieve the papers, according to Jacob. Pence was in Washington at the time. Four boxes contained copies of administration papers, two of which had "a small number" of documents with classified markings, the letter said.

The discovery mirrors the recent discovery of several sets of documents at an office once used by Biden before his return to the White House and his home in Wilmington, Delaware.

Special counsel Robert Hur has been appointed to investigate the Biden documents.

The Pence and Biden finds are completely different from the scandal involving former President Donald Trump, who deliberately took hundreds of classified documents to his Florida home when he left the White House in 2021.

Unlike Pence and Biden, Trump resisted efforts to retrieve the top secret documents and defied a subpoena for their return.

See **Pence** page 2

Deaths

James Hedges, 85, Portland
Georgia Johnson, 97, Bluffton
James Johnson, 96, Warren
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 41 degrees Tuesday. The low was 29.

A winter storm warning is in effect until 8 p.m. tonight. The low will be 29. Expect a high of 31 Thursday with cloudy skies and a 40% chance of additional snow.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Three Republicans filed Tuesday to run for office.

Jay Miller signed up to run for the GOP nomination for mayor of Dunkirk. Incumbent Donald Gillespie filed to run for another term as Portland City Court Judge, and Jacqueline Miller filed to run for the District 2 seat on Dunkirk City Council.

Coming up

Thursday — Collegiate check-up looks at local athletes competing at the next level.

Saturday — Coverage of Friday's Portland Redevelopment Commission meeting.



Fort Recovery charities raise \$19,225

Charities in Fort Recovery raised more than \$19,000 last year. Fort Recovery Combined Charities recently released its 2022 campaign results, which announced its total donations at \$19,225. That's an increase of \$1,282 from 2021. Leading in donations was Mercer County Right to Life with \$2,602. Fort Recovery Morvilius Opera House received \$2,200.50, the Center for Neurological Development gained \$2,111 and the Cancer Association of Mercer County raised \$1,869. Other distributions were Fort Recovery Community Foundation at \$1,498.50, Fort Recovery Historical Society at \$1,422, Fort Recovery Friends of the Library at \$1,330, Ever Heart Hospice at \$1,252, Fort Recovery Girl Scouts at \$698, Project Recovery at \$929, Fort Recovery Academic Boosters at \$888.50, Fort Recovery 4-H club at \$778.50, Fort Recovery Cub Scouts at \$666, Our Home Family Resource Center at \$585 and M.A.V. (Mercer, Auglaize and Van Wert counties) Youth Mentoring at \$395.

Juried art show opens Saturday

It's that time of year. Minnetrista's Annual Juried Art Show opens Saturday in Muncie. This year's showcase of Indiana's artists was selected by juror Shaun Thomas Dingwerth, executive director at Richmond Art Museum.

Featured annually are a variety of mediums, including painting, print-making, digital media, sculpture, jewelry, ceram-

Taking Note

ics, photography and textiles. The show runs through April 16.

President's list
Southern New Hamp-

shire University announced students on its president's list for the fall semester.

A Redkey resident, Majenica Moles, made the list.

Students must earn 12 credit hours with a minimum GPA of 3.7 to qualify.

Dean's list
Manchester University recently announced its

dean's list for the fall semester.

Making the list was Kendal Garringer of Portland, a student majoring in biology chemistry.

To be named to the university dean's list, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher while taking at least 12 credit hours and have no more than three hours of pass or no pass grades.

Woman wants to join married couple

DEAR ABBY: I'm a woman in my early 50s who has been through two divorces. This may make me sound like a bad person, but I'm really nice and quite conservative. I just make poor choices when it comes to men.

A few years ago, I met a woman I have become good friends with. She's happily married. She and her husband are empty nesters, like I am. We often socialize, and when we do there is definite chemistry between the three of us.

I've recently heard of the concept of a "throuple," which is consenting adults living together as any couple would, except there are three rather than two. I can't help but wonder whether my friend, her husband and I might make a good throuple. This is not a case of rushing into something. We have known each other for several years and have established trust and compatibility.

I'm nervous to bring this up because I don't want to jeopardize our friendship. I'm also scared about how deeply I feel for both of these people, and I think it's mutual. I don't like being single, and the thought of dating again gives me hives. What should I do? — FOUND THE RIGHT ONES OUT WEST

DEAR FOUND: Carefully consider which will give you worse hives. After two divorces, you are now in a position to make

Dear Abby



Wiser decisions about men in the future, provided you're willing to risk dipping your toe into the dating pool.

It's very possible that, as much as this couple likes you, they may not be enthusiastic about the idea of a throuple. Proposing what you have in mind may put a crimp in your relationship with one — or both — of them. Unless you can find a way to casually gauge their reaction to "throupling" hypothetically in the course of a conversation, allow me to share a bit of wisdom that has served me well: When in doubt — DON'T!

.....

DEAR ABBY: Our daughter's husband has not bonded with their youngest child. He won't hold her or play with her, and barely acknowledges her existence. When, through therapy, our daughter learned to confront the issue, he admitted he just doesn't feel anything for the child.

In truth, he's not much more attentive to their 3-year-old. He

would rather play video games than interact with his children or his wife. As far as we know, he isn't physically abusive toward the children or our daughter, but he is definitely verbally abusive.

Having been a victim of abuse myself, I am well aware that verbal abuse is just as damaging as physical abuse and, in fact, is sometimes a precursor to physical abuse.

As grandparents, is there anything we can do, or must we watch these precious little girls be starved for affection from their father? — AWARE IN TEXAS

DEAR AWARE: While you cannot force your son-in-law to be a better parent — or husband — you CAN encourage your daughter to continue her therapy so she can become more assertive, not only for the sake of her children, but also for herself.

It may give her the strength to end the marriage.

In the meantime, continue to love your grandchildren and give them the positive reinforcement and all the attention they deserve so they learn what healthy relationships feel like.

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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 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.

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

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

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

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

AL-ANON FAMILY

GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE — BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

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

Thursday
CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

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

Saturday
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For

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Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

GIFTED

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Shop class taught key life lessons

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Jan. 26, 2005. Jack was far more likely to write the book that ended up on the shelf than to create the shelf himself. Still, there are valuable things to be learned by attempting tasks for which we do not have a natural talent.

By JACK RONALD
The News and Sun

It's amazing what you can learn about life in seventh grade shop class, particularly if you have a great teacher.

Mine was a guy named Don Oswald.

He had his hands full trying to teach some basics of wood shop to a crew that could never seem to decide whether they were kids or grown-ups or maybe even creatures from another planet. In other words, we were seventh graders, deep in the throes of confusion created by adolescence.

But Don Oswald let us know quickly and firmly that he was the boss. There was a get-down-

Back in the Saddle



to-business firmness about him, though he soon showed he had a sense of humor as well.

Our project that pivotal year was to be a bookcase, though giving it that name implies much more structure than was actually involved.

The "bookcase" was three pieces of wood. One was about six inches by fourteen inches. One was about six by six, and the third was six by two inches.

Our task, he explained that first week, was to construct a bookcase of basic design, cutting the wood ourselves, joining it, and sanding it to a finish that would pass his inspection.

Fortunately, no power tools

were involved or some of us would have left seventh grade with fewer digits than we'd had as sixth graders.

The tools were rudimentary, and they were kept locked in a screened cage at the back corner of the shop. At the start of each class, we'd have to sign tools out. At the end of the class, we'd have to return them in good condition. Class members took turns with the record-keeping in the tool cage.

For most of us, it was our first time ever trying to build something.

For all of us, it was a chance to see the world in a different way.

It quickly turned out that some of us weren't very good at this, while others took to it naturally. And there was absolutely no correlation between how well a student performed in shop and how well he did in any other class.

None of the good grades from English or history transferred

over to the skills necessary to think three-dimensionally and to work with our hands.

Probably nobody learned that faster than I did. When it came to shop, I was the equivalent of an illiterate. And it took some real patience on Don Oswald's part to get me "reading" by the end of the year.

The bookcase came together with dado joints, one on the top of the largest piece of wood and one on the bottom. The dado slots were cut with a miter saw, then chiseled out by hand. The shortest piece of wood would then be glued into the dado on the bottom of the largest piece, acting as a sort of foot. The third piece would fit into the top dado and act as a bookend. The finished piece would sit at a slight angle.

It would make a perfect gift for your father, Don assured us. Sure, if it ever got finished.

Few projects ever seemed as daunting as that first one.

We all fought with the chisel.

Some of us mis-measured and had to buy more wood. And our finishes — no matter how hard we sanded or how much we steel-wooled — always seemed to need more work.

In the end, we all got them done, even those who were worse with wood than I was.

What did we learn? We learned respect for wood. We learned respect for tools. We learned respect for those whose set of skills was different from our own.

And we learned to respect ourselves for seeing the project through to the end.

Don was right, by the way. It made a great gift to my father. To my great pride and seventh grade satisfaction, he kept it in his office the rest of his life. Today, it sits on the computer desk at home, holding software CDs.

Great life lessons from an outstanding teacher. You never know what you're going to learn in seventh grade.

Don't politicize our school boards

Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)

The spin was subtle, but significant, in a Republican announcement of a proposed bill to end Indiana's long history of non-partisan school board elections.

A news release from the Indiana House Republicans said, "State Rep. Alan Morrison (R-Brazil) authored legislation that would boost transparency in Hoosier school board elections by allowing candidates to declare a party affiliation."

So, it apparently would "allow" folks wanting to serve on their local school board — already one of the most thankless jobs in public service — to declare a political party affiliation. They could, at last, fully join in the wonderful world of partisan politics, circa 2023, where each side demonizes the other, acceptance of ideas from the opposite party is forbidden by party bosses, and no proposal moves forward without approval up the chain of party command.

"Allow" sounds optional.

Actually, that is not how the bill reads. House Bill 1074 "provides that for school board offices, each candidate's affiliation with a political party or status as an independent candidate must be stated on a petition of nomination and on the ballot."

The proposed law would, in reality, force people wanting to serve on their local school boards to decide to wear the party label of "Republican," "Democrat" or "Libertarian" unless they choose no party and run as an independent. The predominance of Hoosier school board members who are not overtly political would have to get overtly political, or go it alone as an independent.

And, how often do independent candidates — who have no party endorsements or support — win partisan elections in Indiana? Rarely.

Instead, the plan to immerse local schools in party politics is meant to give the ruling political party even more control over Hoosiers' lives. This scheme is pitched under a shiny, expedient coating of "empowering parents,"

Hoosier Editorial

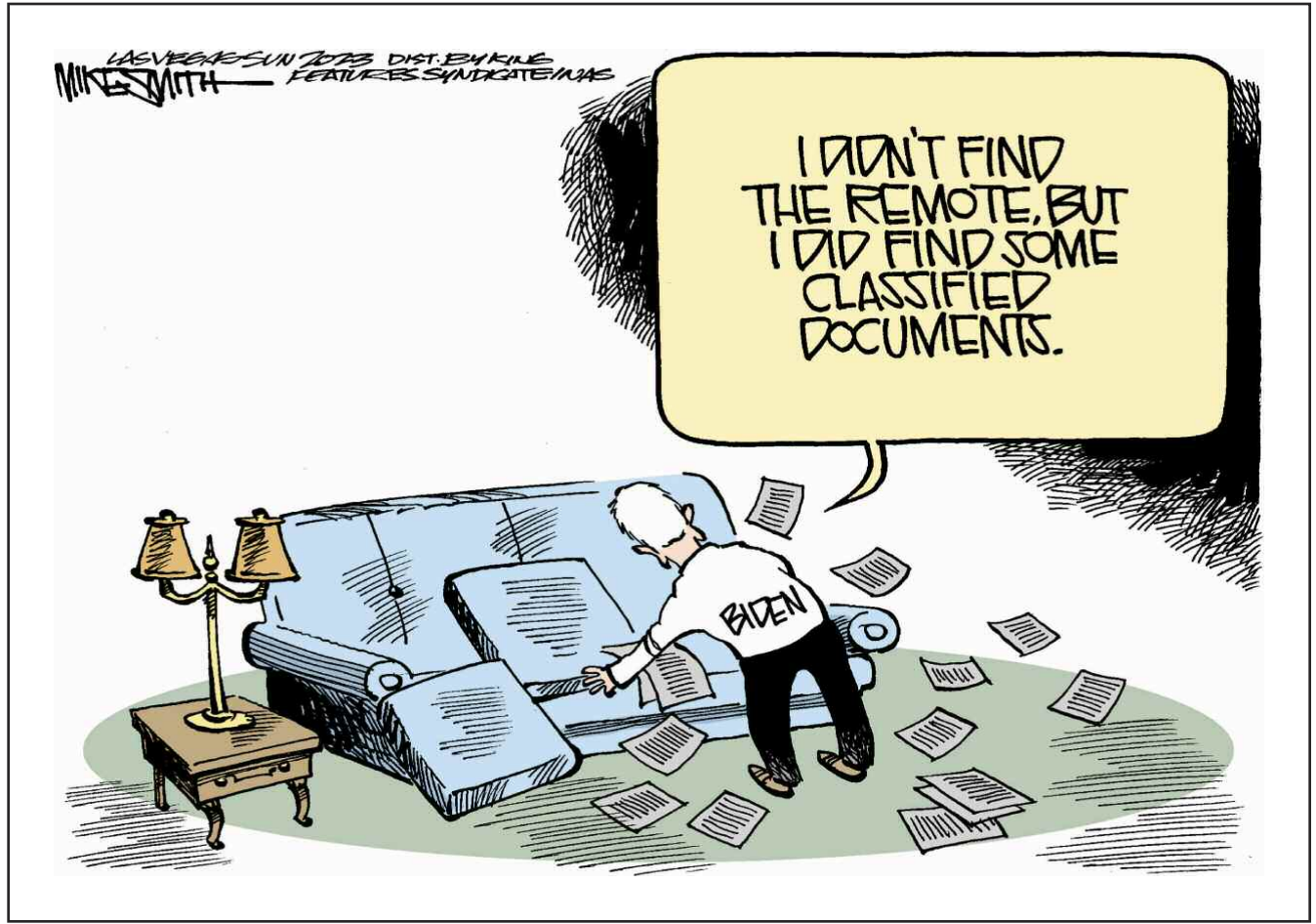
but it is really aimed at forcing school board members to carry out the state and national party leadership's outrage-issue-of-the-month to win elections. Kids receive a weakened education as a result.

Party officials would probe candidates even after they declared a party. Under the proposed law, candidates must have selected a ballot from their declared party in the two most recent primaries. If not, the county's party chairman must certify a candidate's declaration. Again, it is about control.

The party controlling the local school board also can then influence hiring decisions. A Republican dominated board could choose not to approve contracts for teachers, coaches, principals, counselors and staff members they suspect to be Democrats, and vice versa. The divisive, us-versus-them mess that stagnates Congress would unfold in the community school, sucking up the oxygen and energy that should be devoted to efficient, thoughtful, day-to-day operations.

The most recent election in Vigo County itself refutes the bogus claim that attaching a "R," "D" or "L" to a school board candidate's name provides better information to voters than the nonpartisan system. Voters in November's election closely scrutinized the 14 nonpartisan candidates on the ballot to get their takes on last year's turned-down school construction referendum and other issues. Candidate forums were heavily attended, too. Party labels would have added nothing helpful and only blurred the pertinent information.

Those are the reasons that only four states force candidates to wear party labels in school board elections. Indiana should not join that list.



Farm workers deserve living wage

By XOCHITL BADA
Progressive Perspectives
Tribune News Service

With a new congressional term kicking off, the agricultural lobby will fight to bring the Farm Workforce Modernization Act back for approval to alleviate the shortage of farmworkers across the country. The bill is now in limbo after Democrats lost control of the House of Representatives. Despite this, lawmakers could take up other measures, such as increasing farmworker minimum wage, that would help address the shortage — and more importantly, improve labor conditions for these workers.

Net farm income for last year across the United States is projected to be \$160.5 billion, up from \$141 billion in 2021. Although 10% of this income is from government support to help farmers recruit enough workers, this investment has done nothing to address the root causes of the farmworker shortage.

Approximately 2.5 million workers toil in U.S. farms each year. In the last two decades, farmworkers have lost more than \$65 million in wage theft; few standards exist to protect their wages. According to the 2019-2020 National Agricultural Workers Survey, at least 70% of farmworkers are foreign-born and 68% were born in Mexico and Central America.

American farmers are once again speaking up about their inability to secure enough laborers for the harvest of hand-picked crops. Chronic labor shortages of farmworkers regularly lead to rising production costs, empty shelves and higher food prices.

But there's an effective solution to prevent such shortages: paying farmworkers a higher wage. Recent research indicates that raising mini-

imum wages improves the recruitment and retention of low-wage workers, including agricultural workers.

Today, the federal minimum wage for agricultural workers is set at \$7.25 per hour, lagging behind the 30 states and the District of Columbia that have a higher minimum wage and the 47 cities that have adopted minimum wages higher than their state minimum wage.

Agricultural work is not just poorly paid, it is also dangerous, with a fatal injury rate four times higher than other private sector workers. Work schedules in this industry include early mornings, weekends, holidays and more than 40 hours per week with insufficient or unreliable pay.

The hazards of farm labor include working outdoors, dying in extreme heat (which is increasing due to climate change), enduring inadequate and overcrowded living facilities and lacking access to adequate health care, which is the case, for example, for the half-million farmworkers based in California.

This is why raising wages is only the first step for improving the working conditions of farmworkers. In addition to harsh working conditions, these workers are seldom allowed to claim overtime or have collective bargaining rights due to exemptions in the Fair Labor Standards Act and the National Labor Relations Act. The



Xóchitl Bada

lack of basic labor rights leaves many farmworkers unprotected from retaliation should they attempt to form unions. Having equal access to collective bargaining in all states would offer farmworkers the opportunity to negotiate wages, hours and benefits, thus making agricultural employment more attractive to a diverse pool of workers.

We need to advocate for federal changes to the National Labor Relations Act to offer all workers the right to union representation and support local living wage ordinances that mandate at least \$15 per hour.

While it may be too late to pass the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, it is never too late to begin imagining pieces of legislation that would truly help to raise the wages of all farmworkers. We can begin by supporting legislation that would extend federal overtime protections to agricultural workers.

We could also ask our legislators to support the Raise the Wage Act, a bill introduced in the House of Representatives last year. If passed, this bill would gradually raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025, achieving a modest and adequate standard of living for all workers. And we could support the Fight for \$15 and a Union, a decade-old labor rights movement. Although these are just modest solutions, we need to act soon because one thing is for sure: the continued exploitation of 2.5 million farmworkers is unacceptable, and we can do better.

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Bada is a public voices fellow with The OpEd Project and associate professor in Latin American and Latino Studies at the University of Illinois Chicago.

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



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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
—Thomas Jefferson

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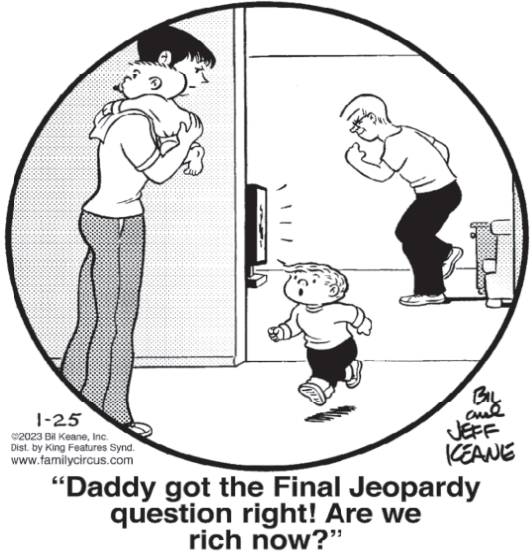
SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Jack the Giant Killer

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠10 2
♥A K 7 5
♦A K 6 4 3
♣8 4

WEST
♠A 9 7 4
♥J 10
♦10 9
♣Q 10 5 3 2

EAST
♠K J 3
♥9 8 6 2
♦18 7 2
♣9 6

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

Opening lead — jack of hearts.

Let's say you're East, defending against three notrump, and partner leads the jack of hearts, won by South with the queen. Declarer catches the Q-K-A of diamonds, partner discarding the deuce of clubs, and plays another diamond that you win with the jack as partner discards the three of clubs.

Matters have now reached a critical stage, and it is clear from what

has transpired thus far that you must return a spade. Partner has indicated a lack of interest in clubs, and it is also plain to see that a heart return would be pointless. Your problem therefore is not so much whether to lead a spade, but rather which spade to lead.

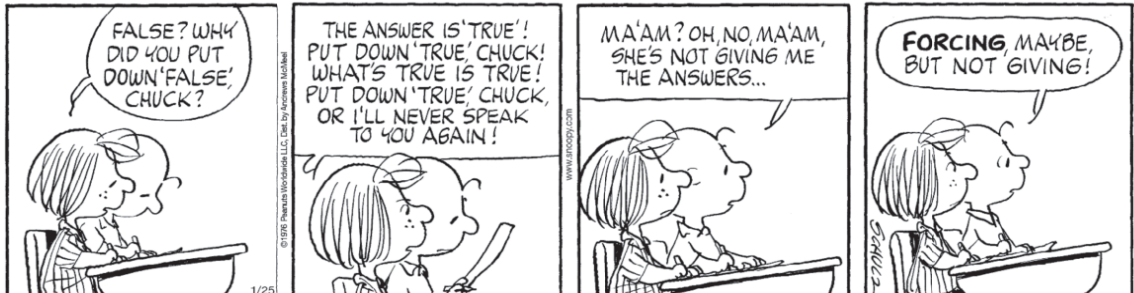
If you start by crediting South with the A-Q of spades merely because he bid the suit, you are thinking along the wrong lines, since by making that assumption, you are, in effect, conceding the contract. Instead, your best shot is to assume that South does not have the ace of spades.

Accordingly, you should shift to the spade jack in the hope that your partner has the A-9-x-x, in which case you will defeat the contract. As it happens, the jack kills declarer dead. Whether or not he covers the jack with the queen, you reel off four spade tricks, and he winds up down one.

But note that if you start the spades by leading the king or three first, South can make the contract with correct play. Only the jack lead leaves declarer without recourse and prevents him from scoring nine tricks. The jack becomes the giant killer!

Tomorrow: Proper technique pays off.
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Peanuts



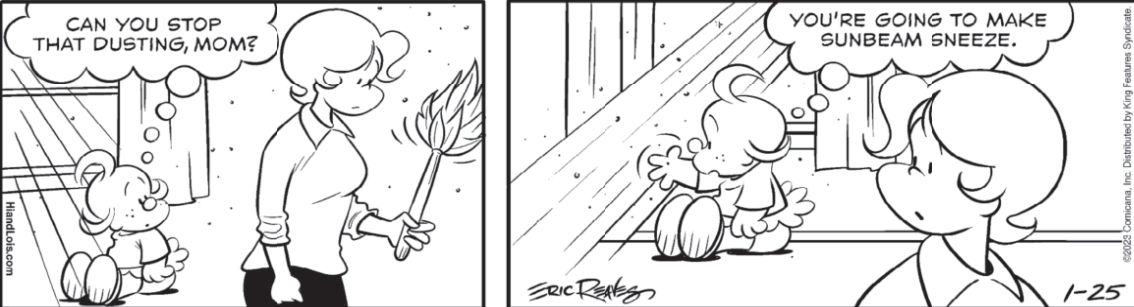
Rose is Rose



Agnes



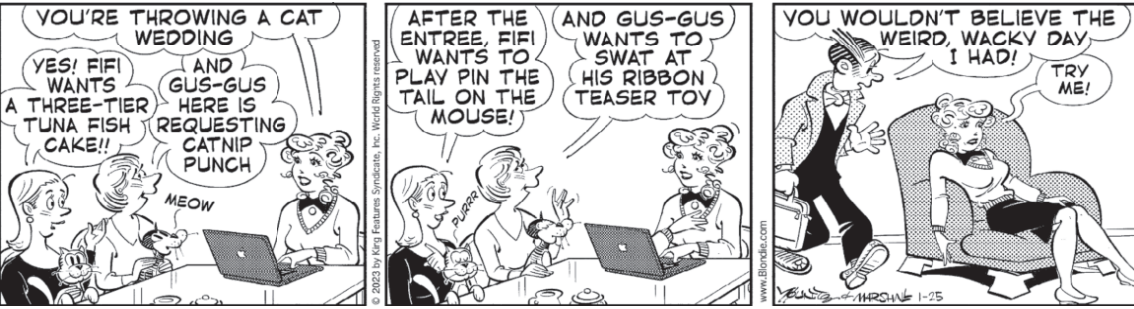
Hi and Lois



Between Friends



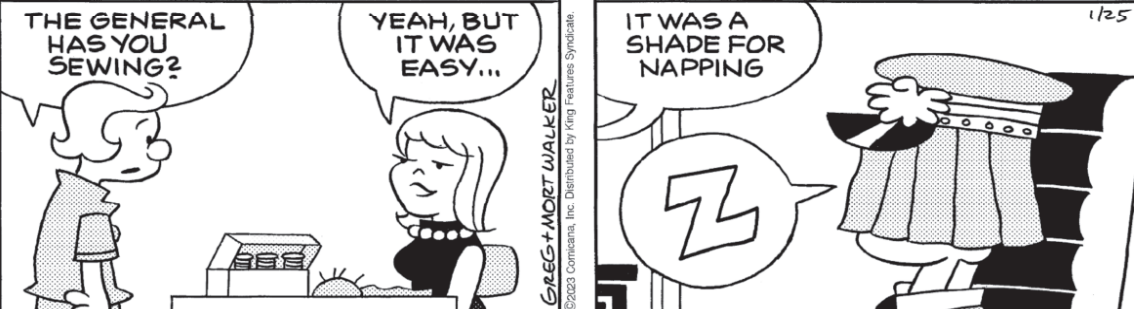
Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



ZQSKJ YTJ AJMZPSDH YMDQSJM

QZS'Y GPMFQSB PXY JSPXBT,

TJ AHDSZ YP AXY QS TQZ

YPP-GJDF SPYQKJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF GOLFERS ARE PRETTY NERVOUS ABOUT HOLING THE BALL ON THE GREEN, THEY HAVE THE PUTTER-FLIES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 26 Silver DOWN 10 Score

1 Tyler of "Ad Astra" 27 Naughty child 2 Film material

4 Favorite pal, in texts 28 1965 march site 14 Leaves

7 — Valley, Calif. 30 Modern, in Bonn 3 Apparent wok

8 Bozo, e.g. 33 "Mrs Dalloway" author 4 Sheep's cry partner

10 Frog habitats 36 Serenade stream 21 Big rigs 22 — de corps

11 High nests 37 Vermont ski resort 6 Kin of IMHO 23 "Brave New World" drug

13 Story-book villain 38 Domesticates hood 24 Unfreeze 25 Ms. Vance,

16 Abel, to Eve 39 Web addresses conflict 9 Former liberal, for short awards

17 Fabric bundles 41 Prof's aides 28 Rho follower 29 Door sign

18 Lot vehicle 20 Big name in cosmetics 30 Seasonal songs

21 Tennis star Monica 31 Avenue liners 32 "Avatar" craft

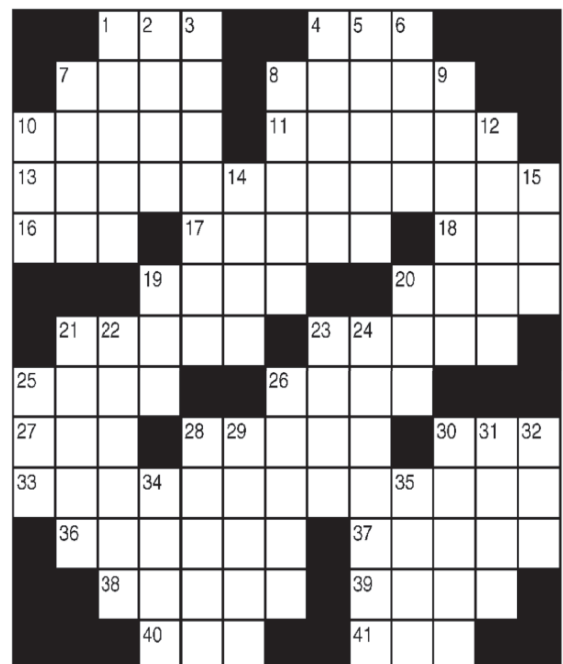
23 Sculptor's material 34 Chew (on) 35 Gumbo veggie

25 Bullet-proof garment

Solution time: 23 mins.

W A Y S A D S G P A S
E R A T L I I R E S T
A G R A L O T H A R I O
L O N G F O R O N T A P
E A T B U D
H A Y D N L O R E N Z O
A P E P E W A A H
L O A N E R S T E M P O
A Y E B R R
C H O I R L O U N G E S
L O W L E V E L E L B A
U L E E A N T S U B S
B A N D T A S T E S S

Yesterday's answer 1-25



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Photo provided

2022-23 schedule

Table with 3 columns: Date, Opponent, Time. Lists matches for Thursday, Jan. 26 to Saturday, Feb. 18.

Pictured is the 2023 Jay County High School gymnastics team. From left are Cassidy Upp, Grace Yowell, Coryn Blalock, Olivia Cox, Jordyn Hutzler, Mikaylee Hoffman, Karci Hopkins and Callie Yates.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today Jay County — Junior high boys basketball hosts Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament — 6 p.m.;

Thursday Jay County — Girls basketball vs. Heritage — 6 p.m.; Swimming at Marion —

6 p.m.; Gymnastics vs. Huntington North — 6:30 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. St. Henry — 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball vs. St. Henry — 5 p.m.;

Friday Jay County — Boys basketball

(including freshmen) vs. Bluffton — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys basketball (including freshmen) at St. Henry — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today 6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Xavier at Connecticut (FS1)

7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Indiana Pacers at Orlando Magic (Bally Indiana)

7 p.m. — NHL hockey: New York Rangers at Toronto Maple Leafs (TNT)

7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Brooklyn Nets at Philadelphia 76ers (ESPN)

Thursday 3:30 a.m. — Tennis: Australian

Open semifinals (ESPN)

7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: SMU at Memphis (ESPN2); Iowa at Michigan State (FS1)

7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: New York Knicks at Boston Celtics (TNT)

9 p.m. — NHL hockey: St. Louis Blues at Arizona Coyotes (Bally Indiana)

10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Dallas Mavericks at Phoenix Suns (TNT)

3:30 a.m. — Tennis: Australian Open semifinals (ESPN)

5 p.m. — Golf: PGA Tour — Farmers Insurance Open (CBS)

7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Saint Louis at Davidson (ESPN2)

7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Milwaukee Bucks at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)

7 p.m. — NHL hockey: Detroit Red Wings at New York Islanders (ESPN)

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Pursuant to the laws of the Indiana General Assembly and by resolution of the Jay County Commissioners, notice is hereby given that the following described tracts or items of real property are listed for sale for delinquent taxes and/or special assessments.

State. Pursuant to IC 6-1.1-24-3(e), property descriptions may be omitted for properties appearing on the certified list in consecutive years.

sale, each bidder must affirm under the penalties for perjury that he or she does not owe delinquent taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, costs directly attributable to a prior tax sale, amounts from a final adjudication in favor of a political subdivision in this county, any civil penalties imposed for the violation of a building code or ordinance of this county, or any civil penalties imposed by a health department in this county.

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BRYANT 47326 382200066 38-10-33-202-014.000-024 \$20.31 JEFFERIS DONALD & VICKY PT LOT 1 & 44 1/2' OF LOT 1 BLK 3 POWERS STATION S33 T22 R13 PART OF VACANT LOT S 600 W POWERS STATION PORTLAND 47371 382200083 38-09-14-403-014.000-031 \$46.32 ELMORE DEBORAH A PT SE 1/4 50' X 335' S14 T22 R12 .38A VACANT LAND N SYCAMORE ST REDKEY 47373 382200085 38-09-14-404-018.002-031 \$37.15 HOWARD SANDRA PT A & S 34' PT B SPAHR & ANDREWS LOT BEHIND OR EAST OF 45 N SYCAMORE ST REDKEY 47373 382200092 38-09-23-101-114.000-031 \$46.32 APPENZELLER HARRY H JR N PT LOT 46 O P PT VACANT LOT S UNION ST REDKEY 47373 382200095 38-09-24-201-022.000-031 \$132.78 RUSSELL RICHARD W II LOT 33 CADWALLADER & EDGER 2ND ADD 301 E BELL AVE REDKEY 47373 382200117 38-07-201-018.001-034 \$22.04 WHITE HAROLD L & LELAND B TURPIN JT WRIGHTS OR SURV PT NE 1/4 SW 1/4 (39.5') S20 T23 R14 VACANT LAND S WESTERN AVE PORTLAND 47371 382200119 38-07-201-034.000-034 \$60.38 HEARN CHRIS C "G" PT NE 1/4 SE 1/4 S20 T23 R14 .12A VACANT LAND S BRIDGE ST PORTLAND 47371 Total Number of Properties: 31 I hereby certify that the above real properties have been offered in one tax sale, have not received a bid for at least the amount required under I.C. 6-1.1-24-5 and have been identified in a resolution of the Board of Commissioners for Jay County, Indiana, to be offered for sale. Emily Franks, Auditor, Jay County Indiana. CR/NS 1-18,25-21-2023-HSPAXLP

Blowout, record

No. 2 JC blasts Devils, breaks record for wins

Another game, another win by at least 25 points, another record broken.

The blowout wins and accompanying accomplishments have become the norm for the second-ranked Patriots.

Jay County High School's girls basketball team did it again Tuesday, scoring the game's first nine points and blowing out the visiting Richmond Red Devils 61-26 on senior night.

The win marked their 21st victory of the year, breaking the single-season school record set in 2014-15 and matched in 2021-22. It also extended the team's school-record winning streak to 20 games. And it was the squad's seventh straight victory by 25 points or more.

The Class 3A No. 2 Patriots (21-1) wasted no time taking control against Richmond (6-15) as senior Mabrey McIntire opened the scoring with a 3-pointer and her classmate Gabi Bilbrey hit back-to-back hoops in the paint. The quick 7-0 advantage led to coach Clay Bolser of the Red Devils scoring a timeout. It didn't change anything.

Sophie Saxman scored following the timeout to complete the opening run before Amari Jackson got the Red Devils on the board at the 2:43 mark.

Jay County added seven more points in a row en route to an 18-7 lead at the quarter break. It never let that advantage slip to single digits again, as an 8-0 run

later in the second quarter put the home team firmly in control.

Senior Renna Schwieterman scored 10 of her game-high 17 points in the second half. The school's all-time leading scoring is now one point away from 1,700 and 25 away from surpassing 1973 Redkey graduate Greg Bales to become the county's all-time leading scorer.

Molly Muhlenkamp, a junior, added 15 points, and Bilbrey racked up all of her 13 points in the first half. Bilbrey also had a game-high nine rebounds.

Weather-permitting — snow started falling before sunrise this morning with a forecast of 3 to 7 inches possible — the Patriots will close the regular season at home Thursday against Heritage (5-15), a team they beat 74-20 in the opening round of the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament. They will play Centerville (5-11) in the opening round of the Class 3A Sectional 24 tournament at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Hamilton Heights, with a semifinal date with the host Huskies looming in the semifinal. (Hamilton Heights is responsible for Jay County's only loss this season, 45-44 in overtime on Nov. 12.)

In junior varsity action Tuesday, the Patriots rolled to a 54-18 victory. Cassie Petro's 14 points led the Patriots while Danielle May joined her in double figures with 11. Natalie Carreno added eight points.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School senior Gabi Bilbrey puts up a shot for two of her 13 points during the Class 3A No. 2 Patriots' 61-26 senior night win over the visiting Richmond Red Devils. The victory was the 20th in a row and 21st overall, setting a new school record.

A sweep and a split

JC girls top Bruins, Owls, boys pick up one victory

The Patriots' spread the wealth in their final home meet of the regular season.

Six Jay County High School girls swimmers earned individual wins and the team swept the relays Tuesday as it rolled to victories of 124-46 over the Blackford Bruins and 117-35 over the Burris Owls in a double dual.

The boys team came away with a split, beating Blackford 101-60 while losing 94-78 to Burris.

Senior Mara Bader's two individual victories led the way for the Patriot girls, who close their regular season Thursday with a trip to Marion, while Aubrey Millspaugh, Maddy Snow, Zion Beiswanger, Avery Wentz and Lauren Fisher. Bader stepped away from her typical best

events — the 100-yard breaststroke and 200-yard individual medley — with her first win of the evening coming in dominating fashion in the 50 freestyle. She posted a time of 26.78 seconds to finish more than 2.5 seconds ahead of Beiswanger in the runner-up spot. Her victory in the 100 butterfly came by more than 10 seconds in 1:09.01.

Jay County had several one-two finishes that helped it dominate its rivals Tuesday, with Fisher taking the 500 freestyle in front of Sophia Hoebel in 6:29.11. Avery Wentz took the 100 backstroke in 1:14.42 with Morgan DeHoff second and Beiswanger posted a time of 1:22.03 to take the 100 breaststroke with Ana Solis second.

The Patriots' other

individual wins came from sophomores Aubrey Millspaugh (2:39.18) in the 200 individual medley and Maddy Snow (189 points) in diving.

In relays, Bader and DeHoff teamed with Beiswanger and Fisher for first in the 200 medley in 2:05.89 and with Millspaugh and Hoebel to win the 200 freestyle in 1:54.73.

Fisher, Millspaugh, Beiswanger and Hoebel then posted a time of 4:24.06 in the 400 freestyle to close out the relay sweep.

The JCHS boys managed just two individual wins as Burris won half the events, including two individual victories for Kody Coyne and two relays. Braxton Malott had two first-place finishes for Blackford.

The winning efforts for the Patriot boys came from a pair of freshmen, with Matthew Fisher touching the wall in 1:10.6 in the 100 backstroke and Brasen Glassford posted 113.1 points in diving. Wyatt Kunkler, Josh Monroe, Joseph Dow and Peyton Yowell won the 400 freestyle relay in 4:00.96.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Lincoln Clamme's eyes peer over the water as he swims the breaststroke leg of the 200-yard individual medley for the Jay County High School boys swim team Tuesday against the Blackford Bruins and Burris Owls.

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