

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



Fading away

An array of colors were left along the horizon Thursday evening as the sun faded away in this view from Indiana 26 looking west toward Indiana 1.

The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Attorney to assist the city with sale

Outside help sought to ensure IDEM compliance

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The sale of the former Sheller-Globe south property has taken another step toward becoming a reality.

Portland Mayor John Boggs on Thursday explained during a special meeting of the city's board of works that an outside attorney has been hired to craft a purchase agreement between the city and rural Portland resident Chad Fifer.

The board held an executive session to discuss details of the purchase agreement prior to the special meeting.

Boggs said that because of environmental issues with the Sheller-Globe south property, 510 S. Bridge St., city attorney Wes Schemenaur suggested hiring outside counsel to craft the purchase agreement with Fifer. To that end, the city has contracted with environmental attorney Chris Braun of Indianapolis firm Plews Shadley Racher & Braun.

Braun suggested a step back, Boggs said, in order to make sure all of the steps required via covenants with Indiana Department of Environmental Management are met and handled in the correct order. The mayor added that the step is intended to make sure the city fulfills all IDEM mandates and to protect Fifer as well.

Board of works members Jerry Leonhard, Steve McIntosh and Boggs in September approved the sale of the former Sheller-Globe south property to Fifer for \$50,000.

See Assist page 2

Pentagon tracking spy balloon

By ROXANA TIRON and TONY CAPACCIO

Bloomberg News Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is tracking a Chinese surveillance balloon that's lingering at high altitude over the western U.S., home to sensitive sites including nuclear-missile silos, Defense Department officials said Thursday.

The Chinese balloon, spotted earlier this week, was loitering over Montana for a short time and briefly caused the grounding of planes in Billings as a precaution, a senior official told reporters on customary condition of

Chinese surveillance balloon is lingering over western U.S.

anonymity. Officials said it poses no intelligence threat and a decision was made not to shoot it down because of the possible risk of falling debris.

"The U.S. has detected and is tracking a high-altitude surveillance balloon that is over the continental United States right now," Brigadier General Pat

Ryder, a Pentagon spokesman, told reporters. "It is currently traveling at an altitude well above commercial air traffic and does not present a military or physical threat to people on the ground."

Once U.S. officials became aware of the balloon, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin convened a

meeting of his top advisers while on a trip to the Philippines on Wednesday and informed President Joe Biden. Its technology doesn't offer any intelligence-gathering capability beyond what China's low-orbit satellites already provide, the official said.

The U.S. official declined to answer several ques-

tions about the balloon, including the precise target of its surveillance, its size or other specifications. It's well above the altitude used by civilian aircraft — about 40,000 feet (12,000 meters) — but not at the edge of space, the official said.

Austin was in the Philippines as part of a U.S. effort to rally allies and counter what officials believe is China's increased assertiveness in the South China Sea and toward Taiwan. The U.S. secured access to more Philippine military bases, clearing the way for a greater American presence in the region.

See Tracking page 5

Tax bill meets opposition

By CASEY SMITH

Indiana Capital Chronicle indianacapitalchronicle.com

What could be Hoosiers' best bet at property tax relief was met with opposition Thursday from education advocates and local government officials who maintained they would take a financial hit if lawmakers approve the proposal.

The bill would temporarily provide a supplemental homestead credit and lower the 1% cap on residential property taxes.

It was filed by Rep. Jeff Thompson, R-Lizton, who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee. Thompson's rank could help the bill get more traction in a GOP-dominated legislature that has so far expressed hesitation about addressing property tax spikes in the current session.

The bill was heard in committee Thursday but has not yet been scheduled for a vote.

"There's been — by all estimates — a significant, unusual increase in assessed values of homestead across the state,"

Schools, local officials push back because of expected financial hit

Thompson said Thursday during a Ways and Means committee hearing. "This is an issue that has to be addressed. I believe taxpayers expect that."

He emphasized that his bill is not a reduction in revenue for local governments — rather, it's a reduction in the increase they will get. Currently, local units are set to see a 10% increase in revenue. That would drop to a 6% increase if the bill passes, according to a legislative services analysis referenced by Thompson, but which has not been made available publicly.

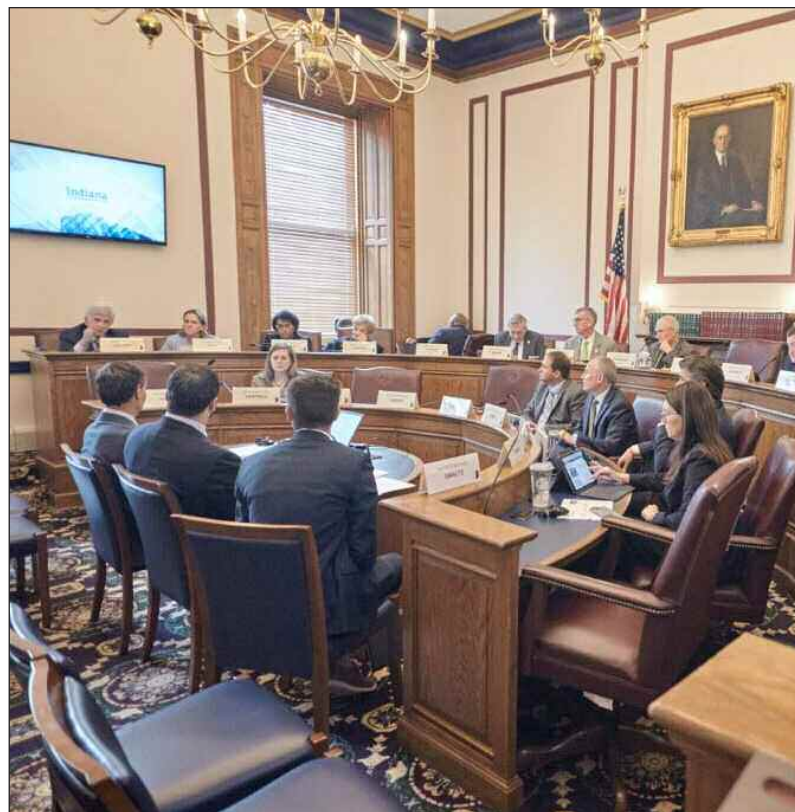
Thompson also suggested sizable school funding increases in the upcoming state bud-

get that would offset losses. He said it's too early to provide details, though.

Taxable assessed values shot up 15% from 2021 to 2022 — even after tax abatements, deductions and credits — according to data from the Association of Indiana Counties (AIC). Homeowners' bills payable this year could increase as much as 15% — more than double what previous reports estimated for the upcoming bills.

But naysayers of the bill argue that local governments — and under that umbrella, public schools — would take on the brunt of any relief given.

See Tax page 2



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Monroe Bush

The House Ways and Means Committee hears testimony on a bill. A bill discussed Thursday regarding property tax relief met opposition from education advocates and local government officials worried about the financial hit they would take if it is approved.

Deaths

Breanna Reef, 19, Dunkirk
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 41 degrees Thursday. The low was 22.

The forecast calls for a low of 12 tonight. Skies will be sunny Saturday with a high of 37 and winds gusting to 35 miles per hour. Windy conditions will continue through Sunday. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

One additional candidate filed Thursday to run in this year's municipal elections. Incumbent Dave Golden turned in his paperwork to run for the Democratic nomination for Portland City Council at-large.

Coming up

Saturday — Results from tonight's JCHS girls basketball sectional semifinal.

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Portland City Council meeting.



Holidays were made a bit brighter

To the editor:
The 2022 holidays were made a little brighter with a substantial donation from Payton's Northern in Bluffton.

The Cruis'n the HoliJay Lights committee was contacted by Peyton's Northern employee Jennifer Schug, encouraging it to participate in receiving semi loads of holiday merchandise. After a generous offer from Wade Kohler to use a Pioneer Packaging warehouse, the loads of mer-

Letters to the Editor

chandise arrived. Holiday merchandise including Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter, was given to the committee for the sole purpose of being given away.

More than 50 organizations, including not-for-profits, nursing homes, schools, daycares, the hospital and the library received truck loads of Squishmallows, blankets, stuffed animals and various other holiday items.

A big thank you to Wade Kohler and Wade Lewellen for the offer of the use of a warehouse and to Pioneer Packaging for helping to move and unload the merchandise. Thank you to

Scott Swingley for being there with a skid loader we needed.

Alice Strohl, Gail Compton and Maria Snow spent countless hours unboxing merchandise to be given at the Cruis'n the HoliJay Lights gate.

Thank you Trent and Sarah Paxson for the use of their horse trailer at the light's gate.

Christmas stockings, totes, blankets, stuffed animals and Squishmallows were handed out to the light's cruisers.

Thank you to all who helped move what seemed like a ton of free merchandise for Santa's house. A great, big thank you to Kristi Barron, who was beside me many, many evenings working in the warehouse.

The merchandise has all been given away and Jay County's Christmas was hopefully a little brighter.

Debi Gillespie
Portland

Indiana needs moderate, sensible

Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)

Hoosier Editorial

It would be hard to deny that Hoosier voters have made it clear what they want in a governor.

Going back as far as the 1970s, when Otis Bowen started a long string of two-term governors, the politicians most likely to run, win and serve effectively in Indiana's top elective executive position have been moderate in tone and politics, accessible and affable, and possessing of a degree of competence and common sense that citizens like and trust to run the affairs of state.

Regardless of party affiliation, most of the governors over that time span have worked hard to rise above the politics of the moment and be a governor of all the people, not just a partisan ideological base.

Over that time, there have been five Republicans and three Democrats to serve as governor. Only two — Joe Kernan and Mike Pence — did not serve the maximum two terms allowed by the state's constitution.

Kernan served the final 16 months of Frank O'Bannon's second term after O'Bannon died while in office. Pence vacated his candidacy for reelection when Donald Trump chose him as his vice presidential running mate in mid-2016.

Indiana has long been considered a conservative state, despite its jog toward liberalism in the 1960s and '70s when "Kennedy" Democrats Birch Bayh and Vance Hartke served as Indiana's U.S. senators.

But the conservatism displayed by Republicans such as Bowen and Mitch Daniels was based on a blend of pro-business policies and fiscal restraint. They rarely, if ever, ventured into the so-called "culture wars" that roiled the national political scene.

The Democrats who served as governor were likewise more conservative than their national counterparts and avoided being drawn into political fights over divisive social issues.

While the governor's office in the Statehouse was occupied by individuals of both political parties, they were more alike than not. They shared similar leadership attributes and governed with the sort of sensibility that Hoosiers have long admired and embraced.

Current Gov. Eric Holcomb fits into the Hoosier mold and has had his mettle tested vigorously. The public health crisis triggered by

The national political climate will likely remain in turmoil through the next election cycle. But Indiana doesn't have to embrace that rancor.

the COVID-19 pandemic put every state's chief executive under fire, and Holcomb responded admirably.

Even when his own party resisted his steady leadership, he calmly stood his ground and allowed common sense and constitutional principles to guide the way.

Voters rewarded Holcomb for his job performance in late 2020 with more than 56% of the vote in his reelection bid. Last month, he passed the halfway point of his second and final term in office.

In 2024, Hoosiers will begin searching for a candidate to succeed Holcomb. Will they choose someone to continue in the mold they've crafted over the past 50-plus years?

Voters would be wise to do so, although bucking recent trends of nominating candidates with more extreme views, especially in Republican Party politics, will be difficult.

The national political climate will likely remain in turmoil through the next election cycle. But Indiana doesn't have to embrace that rancor.

The Hoosier way would be to continue demonstrating a preference for gubernatorial candidates with experience, substance and sensibility rather than be drawn into the arena of political stunts, showmanship and ideological warfare.

Hoosiers have a template that works when it comes to tapping governors that strive to make Indiana better for all its citizens.



'Tripledemic' reveals broken system

By LAHARI VUPPALADHADIAM
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

Lahari Vuppaladhadiam



An exhausted mother of four brought in her youngest child, not even 6 months old, to the doctor's office where I was working for a barking, unending cough. The baby struggled to catch her breath and threw up her milk as she cried. Her test was positive for respiratory syncytial virus, and her mother, who was also now sick, wondered aloud about how she would be able to take time off from work.

When I lived in Missouri, I worked at a pediatric clinic, and such situations were not uncommon. Parents would bring their children to the clinic for RSV testing, often after a day care outbreak, and stay home from work or rely on other family members — if they were lucky — to care for their sick children. My experience at the clinic taught me that access to affordable child care is more than a concern for families — it is a public health issue that needs to be a bigger priority.

This winter, RSV, influenza and COVID-19 cases have plagued our hospitals in a "triple-demic" that only recently has started to decline. With 16% of families in Chicago having at least one child with asthma (compared with a 12% national average), the prevalence of RSV is especially concerning. RSV is a respiratory virus that most children encounter by the age of 2, but children with more severe RSV are at higher risk for developing childhood asthma as a result. Catching a serious respiratory infection can therefore have long-term ramifications on children's health — and their parents' livelihoods.

With day care closures and quarantine requirements, parents' paychecks and productivity suffer. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 100,000 people missed work due to child care problems in October. Adding the number of people missing work due to COVID-19-related illness, especially considering the removal of risk mitigation strategies, reveals an alarming worker crisis.

Low-income families have been disproportionately affected, with a higher percentage having less access to paid leave and facing more child care disruptions compared with their higher-income counterparts. Many of them have even lost their jobs due to not being able to balance in-person work and frequent infection-related day care closures.

With the three respiratory viruses spreading rapidly, day cares are requiring symptomatic children to stay at home for days, and without affordable alternatives for child care, their parents and guardians have to stay home with them. Child care is already expensive in Illinois. The average yearly cost for a young child is more than \$10,000 and is nearly \$14,000 for infant care. When a sick child stays home, most day cares do not offer families a refund. Without paid leave, parents lose money they cannot afford to lose, and when they get sick themselves, they often do not have an option other than to go in to work despite their ongoing illness.

I have friends and relatives who are unable to take time off and have gone into work despite being sick, infecting their co-workers. The same is likely happening in day cares, where regardless of the precautions staff may take, children congregate and spread infections.

We need to address this public health concern by restoring accessible child care in the United States and, in the meantime, by investing more time, money and resources to support parents and guardians. Tax credits, minimum wage policies and paid leave are initiatives that can ease the undue burden of inconsistent child care for families, according to a report released by the University of California, Berkeley in

2020, along with the more permanent solutions that can be implemented in the system itself.

Illinois offers a refundable earned income tax credit for families, and a bill that would require paid time off for workers sits on the governor's desk. With the help of state or federal incentives, employers are willing to provide those benefits and subsidize child care expenses, since high-quality child care helps parent well-being and efficiency, and hence, the economy.

Restoring federally funded child care in the U.S. or increasing the availability of lower-cost home-based child care are just two possible long-term solutions to the dilemma. Home-based child care could provide an affordable alternative to day care for lower-income families, and there are programs for sick children that should be made more accessible. President Joe Biden's Build Back Better Act and Massachusetts U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren's Universal Child Care and Early Learning Act have attempted to bridge the child care gap in the recent past, but with their failure, it is clear we need more voices to elevate the discussion.

New policies and investments require additional funding and resources that can be difficult to acquire, but we need to prioritize child care to help parents return to the workforce knowing that their children are being cared for. This strategy not only helps the families directly affected but also the entire workforce as a whole.

In Illinois, we can start with offering parents paid leave to care for sick children at home and let our policymakers know we want long-term solutions for affordable child care. The child care system has been falling apart for years, and with this RSV-flu-COVID-19 triple-demic, we might have finally gotten the push we need to call for reform.

Vuppaladhadiam is a medical student at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and co-editor-in-chief of the Pritzker Health Policy Review.

The Commercial Review

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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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We welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be 700 words or fewer, signed and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for content and clarity. Email letters to news@thecr.com.

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Tribune News Service/Abaca Press/Yuri Gripas

Marking the 30th

U.S. President Joe Biden and former President Bill Clinton attend an event Thursday to mark the 30th anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act at the White House in Washington, D.C.

Tax ...

Continued from page 2
“Many districts can use that education money for teacher salary increases — we all support wanting to do more of that,” Costerison said.

Terry Spradlin, executive director of the Indiana School Boards Association, said the group representing 290 school corporations across the state also opposes the bill. Spradlin said he’s especially concerned about how Thompson’s legislation — combined with other bills floating through the General Assembly — will impact school revenues.

“There’s a confluence of issues that are constraining local resources for us, so that is of significant concern for the future of our ability to provide quality schools,” Spradlin said.

Muncie Mayor Dan Ridenour additionally testified against the bill, noting that a majority of Hoosier cities are struggling to grow.

Ridenour said he is trying to run his city “properly,” with 65% of the general fund revenue coming from property taxes. All expenses in the city have “skyrocketed,” however.

“I was disappointed to see that there was no way that the cities and the local governments and schools were being assisted (by the state) to help get through this,” he said.

Ryan Hoff from the Association of Indiana Counties said assessment increases are an anomaly

and that Thompson’s bill offers “a temporary fix for what appears to be a temporary situation.”

But Hoff said the association still opposes the bill because it would cost counties \$172 million. Thompson’s proposal additionally fails to “specifically target those paying higher taxes,” Hoff said.

“We have to ask whether or not the mechanisms of the bill really get to the taxpayers who are seeing dramatic increases in property tax assessments,” Hoff continued.

Thompson noted repeatedly that any relief offered by his legislation wouldn’t be reflected on tax bills until next year.

When asked what tools locals have to lower tax bills without the state getting involved, Thompson said they don’t have to go to the max levy allowed, or they could use local income tax dollars.

Rep. Ed Delaney, D-Indianapolis, questioned if Thompson would be receptive to the state paying for the supplemental home-
stead credit.

Thompson responded that he would rather focus on a substantial increase for K-12 schools, adding that schools will be “quite well pleased” with the increase they will see in the upcoming state budget.

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Tracking ...

Continued from page 1
Tensions between Washington and Beijing have been running high, with the Biden administration becoming more explicit about its willingness to defend Taiwan in the event of a conflict. Last week, an Air Force

general told his staff he believed the U.S. and China would be at war by 2025.

The senior official said the U.S. had raised the balloon issue with China. The Chinese embassy didn’t immediately respond to an email seek-

ing comment on Thursday.

Montana is home to the 341st Missile Wing, which is headquartered at Malmstrom Air Force Base and maintains Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles.

It wasn’t the first time a

spy balloon had been spotted over U.S. territory, though this one is staying longer than in past cases. The official declined to say why the U.S. believed the balloon belonged to China but said the U.S. had high confidence that was the case.

Felony arrests

Failed to appear

A Geneva man was arrested Wednesday for failing to appear in court.

Richard D. Hough, 51, is charged in Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony for possession of methamphetamine, a Class C misdemeanor for pos-

session of paraphernalia and a Class A infraction for driving with a suspended license.

Drug possession

Two Indiana residents were arrested this week for drug possession.

Cassie C. Miller, 24, 215 S. Jef-

erson St., Hartford City, was arrested Wednesday and preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for possession of methamphetamine. She’s being held on a \$4,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Kaitlyn R. Morningstar, 21, 538 W. High St., Portland, was

arrested Tuesday and preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for possession of a narcotic drug. She’s being held on a \$750 bond in Jay County Jail.

Dealing drugs

A Muncie man was arrested Tuesday for dealing drugs.

Logan K.M. Johnson, 21, 1114 W. 15th St., Muncie, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for dealing in a schedule I, II or III substance and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. He was released on a \$4,000 bond from Jay County Jail.

Felony court news

Common nuisance

Continued from page 2
Three people were sentenced to jail after pleading guilty in Jay Circuit Court to maintaining a common nuisance, a Level 6 felony.

Dusti J. Gillum, 30, was sentenced to 18 months in Jay County Jail with 10 months suspended and given credit for time served.

Gillum was assessed \$185 in court costs. As part of her plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: a Level 6 felony for neglect of a dependent, a Level 5 felony for possession of methamphetamine and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.

Lana D. Wheeler, 65, 460 W. Lafayette St., Portland, was sentenced to one year and 12 days in Jay County Jail with all but 12 days suspended. Wheeler was assessed \$185 in court costs and given 12 days credit for time served. As part of her plea agreement, a Level 4 felony for dealing methamphetamine was dismissed.

Donald E. Stipp, 51, 914 W. Water St., Portland, was sentenced to 18 months in Jay County Jail and given credit for time served. Stipp was assessed \$185 in court costs. As part of his plea agreement, two Level 5 felonies for possession of methamphetamine and possession of a narcotic drug as well as a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia were dismissed.

Dealing marijuana

An Anderson man was placed on probation after pleading guilty to dealing marijuana, a Level 6 felony.

Jalen D. Blaylock, 24, 628 Hawthorne Ave., was sentenced in Jay Circuit Court to 18 months in Indiana Department of Correction with all but

two days suspended and given two days credit for time served. Blaylock was placed on probation for one year, five months and 28 days. He was fined \$1, assessed \$185 in court costs and charged a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.

Theft

A Hartford City woman was sentenced to jail after pleading guilty to theft.

Brittany N. Rivera, 38, 2905 Old State Road 22, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to the Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to 180 days in Jay County Jail.

Her sentence will be served consecutive to another case in which she pleaded guilty to a Level 6 felony charge for drunk driving. Rivera was assessed \$185 in court costs.

Resisting law

Two people were sentenced to jail after pleading guilty in Jay Superior Court to resisting law enforcement, a Level 6 felony.

Quentin L. Guntle, 27, was sentenced to 1,460 days in Jay County Jail with 730 days of his sentence tacked on for being a habitual offender. Guntle was given 228 days credit for time served. He was assessed \$185 in court costs and fined \$25. As part of his plea agreement, two Class A misdemeanors for resisting law enforcement and driving with a suspended license along with a Class C misdemeanor for reckless driving were dismissed.

Steven M. Rines, 31, 4300 E. 700 South, Portland, was sentenced to 545 days in Jay County Jail with all but 180 days suspended and given two days credit for time served. Rines was placed on probation for one year and ordered to serve 178

days on home detention. He was assessed \$185 in court costs. As part of his plea agreement, a Class B misdemeanor for failure to remain at the scene of an accident was dismissed.

Illegal driving

A Portland man was sentenced to prison after he pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle after forfeiture of license for life, a Level 5 felony.

Dustin J. Pfeifer, 40, 928 W. Arch St., Portland, was sentenced in Jay Superior Court to 1,095 days in Indiana Department of Correction with three days credit. Pfeifer was assessed \$185 in court costs.

Nonsupport

A Portland man was sentenced to jail after pleading guilty to nonsupport of a dependent child.

Jacob A. Bowdell, 35, 101 S. Pierce St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to the Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 545 days in Jay County Jail with all but 60 days of his sentence suspended and given 60 days credit for time served. Bowdell was assessed \$185 in court costs and placed on probation for 485 days.

Paul J. Townsend Jr., 39, 335 Richfield Lane, Geneva, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to nonsupport of a dependent child, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 910 days in Jay County Jail with all but 100 days suspended and given 100 days credit for time served. Townsend was assessed \$185 in court costs and placed on probation for 810 days. Townsend was ordered to make weekly child support payments.

Cases dismissed

Indiana v. Quentin L. Guntle, Level 6 felony

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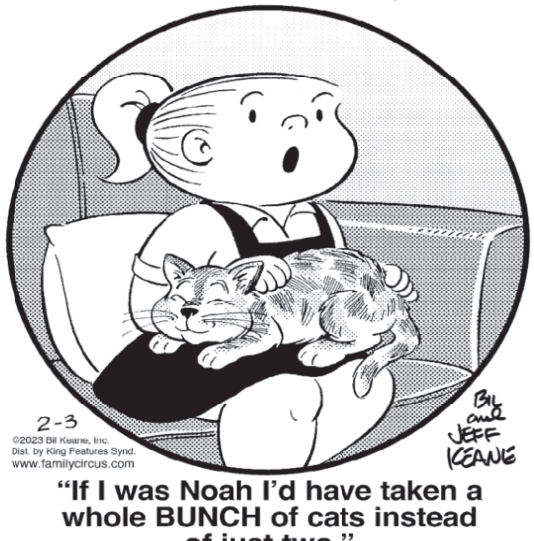
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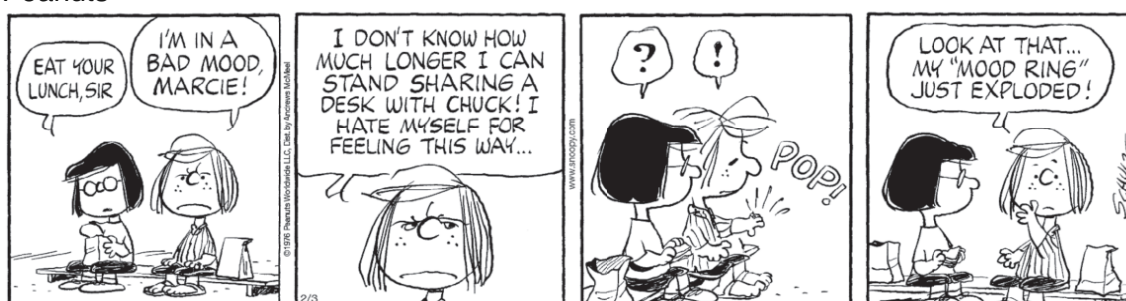


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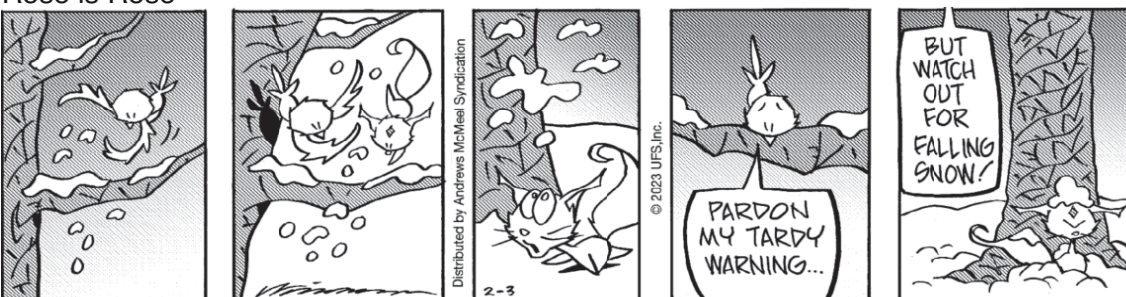
Bidding quiz

Your right-hand opponent opens One Heart, both sides vulnerable. What action would you take with each of the following five hands? 1. ♠KJ83♥6♦AKJ762♣A8...

Peanuts



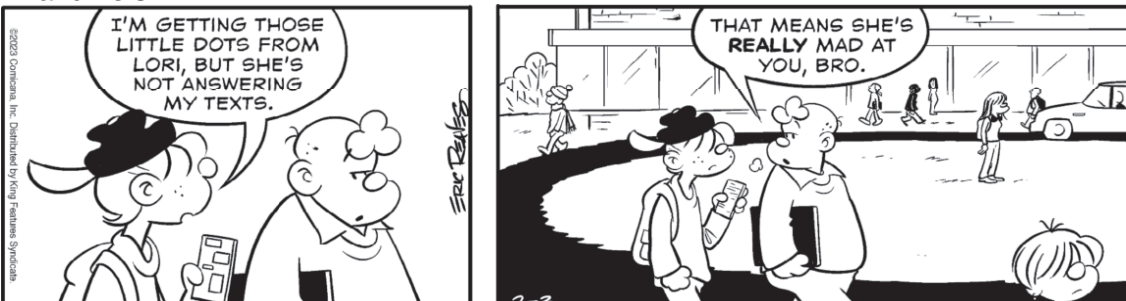
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Tomorrow: Death of a monarch. ©2023 King Features Syndicate Inc.

CRYPTOQUIP

W GWLKN "EBWK YWKE" KZFAJWK MC "EZEWVZ EBKZZB" YMAJQ JLDZJN FZB CWVZQ

BGZ YMMDLZZ VMCEBZK. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MALE SHEEP THAT'S VERY GOOD AT DELIVERING RAPID SALES SPIELS SMOOTHLY: A PATTERNING RAM.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 35 "Funk" (Bruno Mars hit) 23 Arcade pioneer 1 America's uncle 37 Support-briefly 2 Island off Vene-zuela partner 4 Mornings, 7 Hokey 38 Missing 26 Hostel 12 Opposite of "post-" 41 Bagdad's land 28 Part of DJIA 13 Decay 45 Chopping down lines 30 Spanish gold 14 Maya Angelou's "And Still —" 47 Ostrich's kin 31 Actor Brynner 15 Trench 48 1982 Billy Joel song 32 GI's address 16 1974 52 — polloi 33 Uplands, for short 17 Jack Nicholson 54 Sigma follower 9 Carnival city 18 Jurist Fortas 55 Illustrations 10 Sydney's state (Abbr.) 37 Boston stadium 19 Dev Patel's role in "Lion" 56 Boxer's dream 11 Longing 40 Mob scenes 20 "I did it!" 57 Method (Abbr.) 17 Par 42 Detox center 21 In progress 43 Love, to Luigi 44 Rather 45 Pot starter 46 Wildebeests 48 Astern 49 Floral garland 50 Long, crosser 51 Immigrant's subj.

Solution time: 25 mins.

Crossword grid with letters P, J, S, B, E, T, A, O, A, R, S, etc.

Yesterday's answer 2-3

Numbered crossword grid for clues.

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30 LOST, STRAYED OR FOUND

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Sports

Top-three team

Bader earns two No. 1 seeds, Patriots dropped significant time in sectional prelims to position themselves behind Delta, Norwell

Mara Bader positioned herself for another double trip to state.

The Patriots showed they are still solidly one of the top teams in the sectional.

Bader earned a pair of No. 1 seeds and the host Jay County High School girls swim team is projected for a third-place finish after seven Patriots earned berths in individual championship races during Thursday's sectional preliminaries.

Based on the preliminary results, JCHS is the No. 3 seed as a team about 15 points behind the favorites to battle for the title — defending champion Norwell and Delta. (Projections do not include points for diving.)

"I don't even know how to describe it," said JCHS coach Matt Slavik. "This is a really great group of kids. They're extremely hard working and they're extremely coachable. ...

"Last night all their hard work and dedication and long hours paid off, top to bottom."

Delta led the way with six No. 1 seeds, including all three relays. Jay County and South Adams were next with two apiece, and Huntington North had one.

The meet continues with diving preliminaries at 9 a.m. Saturday followed by swimming and diving finals at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Bader, a three-time state qualifier in the 200-yard individual medley who also advanced in the 100 breaststroke last season, showed herself to be the dominant swimmer in the sectional in both



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School sophomore Aubrey Millspaugh swims during her heat of the 200-yard freestyle in Thursday's sectional preliminaries. Millspaugh hacked more than six seconds off of her seed time to earn the No. 7 seed for Saturday's finals and went on to trim almost 16 seconds in the 500 freestyle, in which she is seeded third.

events again. She was 3.53 seconds faster than No. 2 seed Ella Krug of Norwell in the 200 IM in 2:23.47 and finished nearly four seconds ahead of No. 2 seed Julia Arnold of South

Adams in the 100 breaststroke in 1:11.1.

Senior Maggie Nussbaum of South Adams (200 freestyle and 500 freestyle) and freshman Eleanor Groves (50 freestyle

and 100 freestyle) of Delta matched Bader in each earning a pair of top seeds.

The top relay seed for the Patriots came in the 200 freestyle in which they were

second behind Delta by 1.3 seconds. Lauren Fisher, Zion Beiswanger, Morgan DeHoff and Bader put up a time of 1:47.37.

See Team page 7

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Wendel sets record

Another meet, another record for Sage Wendel.

The Fort Recovery High School junior took down a more than decade-old record as the Indians placed third Thursday in a three-team meet against Versailles and Coldwater.

The Indian boys scored 39 points to trail the Tigers (106) and Cavaliers (52).

The FRHS finished in the middle with 42 points while Versailles won with 106 and Coldwater was third with 28.

Wendel's record came in the 100-yard breaststroke as he won the event in 1 minute, 11 seconds, flat. He broke the Fort Recovery record of 1:11.89 that was set by Andy Gray in 2012.

Local roundup

Teigen Fortkamp, Paige Guggenbiller, Audra Bubp and Joelle Kaup teamed to win the 200-yard medley relay for the Tribe girls in 1:59.09. They were more than eight seconds ahead of the runner-up squad from Versailles.

Fortkamp posted a time of 56.78 to win the 100-yard freestyle and Audra Bubp took the top spot in the 100 breaststroke in 1:13.79.

Abby Knapke (122.9) and Caleb Smith (103) of the Indians were uncon-

tested in their diving victories.

Four pins key win

Jay County's junior high wrestling team knocked off the South Adams Starfires 48-42 Thursday behind four pins.

Earning victories by pin for the Patriots (6-5) were Corbin Lothridge (85), Jason Landers (132), Julian Hudson (140) and Varen Ridgway (150). Cooper Glassford (110) added a 13-7 major decision and Freddie Lingo (175) won by a 4-2 decision.

Picking up junior varsity wins for Jay County were Grant Linville (95), Kevin Dues (102), Cooper Reynolds (117), Brayden Fox (125), Caleb Sibray (140), Gavin Hambrock (140), Victoria Hernandez (140) and Wyatt Bihn (175).

JC fights off Raiders

Victory gives the Patriots chance at ACAC share

By RAY COONEY

PONETO — The Patriots got one senior back from injury but were without another.

They won't be looking back at the game film as a pristine display of how they'd like to play. But they did enough to get a win.

With Blake Bogenschutz back in the fold and Dusty Pearson out, the Jay County High School boys basketball team was able to finally open a lead in the fourth quarter and held on for a 52-49 victory over the host Southern Wells Raiders. See **Figths** page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Blake Bogenschutz, a Jay County High School senior, puts in a layup in front of Perrin Gates of Southern Wells during the second quarter of the Patriots' 52-49 win Thursday. Bogenschutz led JCHS with 23 points.