

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Prices reset

Portland Park Board updates pass rates for 2023 with water park planned to be open for full season

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Water park rates have been adjusted.

Portland Park Board on Tuesday took another look at the annual pass rates for Portland Water Park, adjusting them from the numbers it approved last month. The board also added a 10-day pass and special rates for senior citizens and veterans.

Park board president Brian Ison explained that when discussing rates last month, the board was looking at numbers from 2020 and '21. Fees were reduced during those years because of reduced hours at the water park during the coronavirus pandemic and a lifeguard shortage.

Daily admission remains at \$5 before 5 p.m. and \$3 after 5 p.m., as was approved last month. Children ages 2 and younger will be admitted for \$2. Admission will be \$3 for senior citizens (62 and older) and veterans (with an ID).

The updated prices for an annual pass for an individual is \$75. Passes for immediate families in the same household are \$100 for two people, \$125 for three, \$150 for four, \$175 for five and \$200 for six or more. Those numbers are generally up \$15 — see chart for full comparison — since the water park was last open for a full season in 2019. (Members of Jay County Summer Swim Team — they are all required to purchase a pass — will get a \$10 discount.)

The board also added a 10-day pass for \$45.

Pool rentals will be available on Saturday mornings and Saturday evenings when the pool is not in use by the summer swim team for a meet. The fee is \$75 per hour with a two-hour minimum plus the

	2023	2020/21 (reduced hours/dates)	2019
One person	\$75	\$45	\$60
Two people	\$100	\$70	\$110
Three people	\$125	\$95	\$110
Four people	\$150	\$120	\$135
Five people	\$175	\$145	\$160
Six people	\$200	\$165	\$185
Seven or more	\$200	\$180	\$210

Portland Park Board on Monday approved updated Portland Water Park season pass rates to reflect the facility being open for a full season for the first time since 2019. (Hours/dates were limited in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic and in 2021 because of a lifeguard shortage. The facility was closed in 2022 for repairs.) A breakdown of rates is below.

*A 10-day individual pass is available for \$45.
Single-day admission is \$5 before 5 p.m. and \$3 after 5 p.m. (2 and younger admitted for \$2.)
Admission for senior citizens (62 and older) and veterans (with an ID) will be \$3.*

cost of lifeguards. A minimum of four lifeguards is required.

Board members Shauna Runkler, John McFarland, Michael Brewster and Ison approved the updated rates.

Ison also reported that there are four applicants for the water park manager job. Interviews will begin next week, with the park board then to make a recommendation to

Portland Board of Works. Once hired, the water park manager will be in charge of hiring an assistant manager and lifeguards.

See **Prices** page 2

Bill would create police buffer

Author says goal is to limit potentially violent encounters

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

A Republican-led Senate corrections committee voted along party lines, 5-2, to advance a bill that would create a 25-foot “buffer zone” between law enforcement and bystanders.

House Bill 1186 previously passed a House committee with unanimous approval — though some Democrats flipped their votes when the bill appeared before the full House Chamber, where it passed along party lines.

To author Rep. Wendy McNamara, the proposal would reduce potentially violent encounters between law enforcement and citizens.

“Ultimately, this bill is about creating a life-saving space for officers to do their job ... while adhering to the philosophy of de-escalation,” McNamara, R-Evansville, said.

Law enforcement testified in support of the bill, praising its utility in the field as Hoosiers’ negative sentiment toward the profession grows.

See **Buffer** page 2

Two dead in Mexico

By KATIE LINTHICUM and PATRICK J. MCDONNELL

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

MEXICO CITY — Two of four U.S. citizens kidnapped at gunpoint in northern Mexico last week were found dead Tuesday, Mexican authorities said, while two others were rescued after an intense manhunt that renewed U.S. focus on violence south of the border.

The Americans were located Tuesday morning in a small wooden house in a field outside the border city of Matamoros, said Irving Barrios Mojica, the attorney general of Tamaulipas state. Mexican authorities detained one suspect, identified only as Jose Guadalupe N., 23, who they said was guarding the house.

The two survivors — Latavia “Tay” McGee and Eric James Williams, who was badly wounded in his left leg — were rushed to the border in a convoy of ambulances and law enforcement vehicles and handed over to U.S. authorities in Brownsville, Texas.

The frantic rescue came four days after unknown gunmen fired on the tourists amid a busy stretch of downtown Mata-

Two others who were kidnapped were rescued following intense manhunt

moros, then loaded them into the back of a pickup truck and sped away.

The disappearance of the four friends sparked an international incident, with the FBI launching an investigation, the White House intervening and some Republican members of Congress calling for invading Mexico with U.S. troops.

“This tragic incident only highlights a rising pre-occupation in the United States about Mexico’s lack of interest in facing down organized crime,” said Tony Payan, director of the Center for the U.S. and Mexico at Rice University’s Baker Institute. The kidnapping in Matamoros, he said, “has become a symbol of impunity in Mexico.”

The U.S. government condemned the kidnapping and deaths, with National Security

spokesman John Kirby saying Tuesday that “attacks on U.S. citizens are unacceptable, no matter where ... they occur.”

Though Kirby said the FBI worked closely with Mexican officials and would continue to collaborate with them, there was little doubt the incident threatened to inflame binational tensions over Mexico’s security strategy.

With homicides in Mexico hovering around all-time highs and a record number of American deaths linked to Mexican-produced fentanyl, many in the U.S. have grown increasingly critical of Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador’s “hugs not bullets” crime-fighting policy, which purports to emphasize social programs over violent confrontations with criminal groups.

See **Dead** page 5



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Marchal blues

Caden Marchal sings “I Guess That’s Why They Call It the Blues” by Elton John during the Fort Recovery Local Schools choral department’s Cabaret 2023 concert.

Deaths

Anthony Gors, 55, Bryant
William Reynolds, 71,
rural Hartford City
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 49 degrees Tuesday. The low was 32.

Tonight’s forecast calls for a low of 27 with winds gusting to 20 miles per hour. Expect partly sunny skies Thursday with a high of 47. Rain is expected after midnight Thursday.

See page 2 for an extended forecast.

In review

The Jay County Fiber Arts Festival is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Jay Community Center, 115 E. Water St., Portland. The event will include a variety of fiber arts vendors and classes.

Admission is \$1. Those 12 and younger will be admitted for free.

Coming up

Thursday — Coverage of tonight’s Jay County Council meeting.

Saturday — Photos from junior high ACAC swimming championships.



Obituaries

Anthony “Tony” Gors, Bryant, June 5, 1967-March 6, 2023. Arrangements are pending at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

William “Bill” Reynolds, rural Hartford City, a Portland native, Aug. 7, 1951-March 6, 2023. Private graveside services will be held at Bluff Point Cemetery.

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.

Boxes installed

IU Health announced recently that naloxone boxes were recently installed at IU Health Jay and IU Health Blackford. The boxes make naloxone kits — the medication is approved to reverse an opioid overdose — to anyone in the communities. The box at IU Health Jay is located inside entrance A. Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition will be in charge of refilling both boxes.



Photo provided

CR almanac

Thursday 3/9	Friday 3/10	Saturday 3/11	Sunday 3/12	Monday 3/13
47/33	39/21	35/25	38/27	39/23
Thursday will bring mostly cloudy skies with rain or snow at night. Wind gusts may be 30 mph.	There's a 60% chance of showers Friday under mostly cloudy skies.	Another day of mostly cloudy skies Saturday with lows in the mid to upper 20s.	Sunday has a slight chance of rain. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	There's a slight chance of rain mixed with snow under mostly cloudy skies.

Prices ...

Continued from page 1
Matt Shauver of the city's street and parks department also reported that work is underway on new restroom doors and dugout roofs at Portland Memorial Park's Runkle-Miller Field. He added that electrical work at the baseball/softball fields at Weiler-Wilson Park is expected to be complete by April 1.
Shauver also expressed concern about incidents of vandalism, noting recent problems with the bridge over the Salamonie River connecting Hudson Family and Weiler-Wilson parks. He advocated for updating security cameras in that area. He added that plans are to pressure wash and seal the bridge deck this year.

The board also heard an update from rural Portland resident Jenny Bricker regarding efforts to save the Indiana 26 (Water Street) over the Salamonie River on the east edge of Portland. She acknowledged that saving the bridge no longer seems possible given the timeline and financial constraints, but that parts of it could be salvaged to create a smaller replica or a sculpture. She and board members discussed several options without settling on a path forward. Bricker said she would pursue acquiring pieces of the bridge for potential future use.

In other business, the board:
•Approved two hours of free swimming from 7 to 9 p.m. June 20 for Jay

County Law Enforcement Youth Camp.

•OK'd Shauver to get quotes for roofing on the gazebo on the east side of Hudson Family Park

•Shauver, answering a question from board members, said park restrooms will open when weather allows. He noted that temperatures must be consistently above freezing in order to avoid the risk of frozen pipes.

•Heard from Ison that he hopes to hold a park walk-through next month, with a particular focus on Milton Miller and Hudson Family parks. He asked fellow board members to email him potential dates for that event.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$31 million	Quick Draw: 1-11-13-22-25-32-36-37-39-42-43-45-46-49-50-59-60-63-71-72 Cash 5: 18-26-30-35-42 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Mega Millions 15-22-25-28-69 Mega Ball: 21 Megaplier: 4 Estimated jackpot: \$203 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 8-5-4 Pick 4: 4-3-6-4 Pick 5: 8-9-6-0-9 Evening Pick 3: 6-7-8 Pick 4: 7-3-7-3 Pick 5: 9-8-1-1-4 Rolling Cash: 8-11-25-27-39 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 7-7-1 Daily Four: 2-2-0-8 Quick Draw: 1-5-10-14-15-17-18-29-30-36-37-38-38-40-54-55-65-69-73-76 Evening Daily Three: 4-0-0 Daily Four: 4-8-3-6	

Capsule Reports

Pole hit

A Columbia City man was hospitalized after he drove a vehicle into a pole about 10:45 p.m. Saturday.

Jadyn T. Gilbert, 18, was driving a 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt north on U.S. 27 just south of county road 800 South when he veered off the road and hit a pole.

Gilbert was given a blood alcohol level test. Police cited him with a Class A misdemeanor for operating a vehicle with an alcohol concentration equivalent to at least 0.15%. He complained of upper leg pain and was transported to Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000. The vehicle he was driving — it's registered to Sara L. Kirkpatrick of Garrett — was towed.

Turning accident

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Portland woman's vehicle struck a vehicle driven by a Portland teen about 7:39 a.m. Monday.

Tyler R. Ellsworth, 17, was driving a 2007 Jeep Compass north on Wayne Street when a 2010 GMC Acadia, driven by 28-year-old Mariana Gutierrez, struck the side of Ellsworth's car.
See page 5

Felony arrests

Drug possession

Two Jay County residents were arrested Monday for drug possession.

Jesse A. Cooley, 25, 604 S. Meridian St., Redkey, was preliminarily charged with two Level 6 felonies for possession of methamphetamine and unlawful possession of a syringe, and two Class A misdemeanors for possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia. He's being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

Raven N. Howard, 25, 128 W. Third St., Portland, was preliminarily charged with three Level 6 felonies for unlawful possession of a syringe, possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug and possession of methamphetamine, and two

Class A misdemeanors for possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia. She's being held at Jay County Jail on a \$5,000 bond.

Dependent neglect

Two Dunkirk residents were arrested Tuesday for neglect of a dependent.

Johnathan J. Barclay, 27, and Quintessa J. Barclay, 27, both of 338 N. Main St., were each preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for neglect of a dependent, a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.
They're both being held on \$4,500 bonds in Jay County Jail.

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.49 April corn.....6.49 Wheat.....6.61	Wheat.....6.28 July wheat.....6.71
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.46 April corn.....6.52 May corn.....6.54	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.32 Late March corn.....6.32 Beans.....15.11 Late March beans.....15.11 July wheat.....6.71
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.34 April corn.....6.34 Beans.....15.05 April beans.....15.05	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....6.06 April corn.....6.08 Beans.....14.92 April beans.....14.92 Wheat.....6.32

Today in history

In 1701, Queen Anne took the throne in Britain. She was the last monarch from the House of Stuart. She had previously agreed to the Act of Settlement of 1701, which would shift the crown to Sophia, granddaughter of King James I or her descendants.

In 1884, Susan B. Anthony spoke before the House Judiciary Committee in favor of a Constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote. The amendment would not be ratified for another 36 years.

In 2007, heavy rain and melting snow led to flooding, with significant issues on Rick Drive in Dunkirk. Other serious flooding was in the area of county road 800 North and county road 900 North.

In 2022, a Jay County Republican caucus appointed Emily Franks to fill out the remainder of former county auditor Anna Culy's term. Culy resigned to accept a job with Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.

—The CR

Buffer ...

Continued from page 1
“You may have to do this with multiple third-party subjects who have no involvement or interest but are now inches away from you,” said Howard County Deputy Sheriff Jordan Buckley, who also represented the Indiana Sheriffs' Association. “This is an unsafe practice that often escalates situations and leads to further confrontation or the use of force. Because of this and other challenges, it is more important than ever to establish a perimeter.”

The bulk of the testimony in opposition to the bill focused on the ability of bystanders to capture

police misconduct. Video has played a crucial role in several investigations into police abuse, including the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, whose death was filmed by a teenage bystander.

“We believe, strongly, that existing law provides the protections that law enforcement needs,” said Zach Stock, with the Indiana Public Defender Council.

The bill now advances to the full Senate chamber for further consideration.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, non-profit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

Citizen's calendar

Today 1 p.m. — Jay County Sheriff's Office Merit Board, sheriff's conference room, sheriff's office, 224 W. Water St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium,	courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. Friday 2:30 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners special meeting, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
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Jay County Sheriff's Department
 is now taking applications for
Reserve deputies and Part-time Transportation officers
 Applications may be picked up at the Jay County Sheriff's Department 224 W. Water St., Portland. E.O.E.

Gun & Knife Show
 All state and federal laws apply.

Jay County Fairgrounds
Saturday, March 11, Sunday March 12.
 Admission \$6.
 • Buy, Sell and Trade.
 For more info 765-993-8942

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Photo provided

Caring kids

East Elementary School recently recognized students for caring with Character Counts awards. Pictured above, front row, are kindergarteners Kelly Grayson, Trynity Rowland, Piper Morgan and Elarah Cox. In the back row are Zendaya Godwin, Phynox Storie, Micah McCord and Keaton Osterholt.

Kindergarten registration open

Pre-registration for prospective kindergarten students at Jay School Corporation is in progress.

Taking Note

Jay Schools is accepting new students who will be enrolling in the 2023 to 2024 school year.

Round-up enrollment dates for elementary schools in Jay County are slated for April 4 at the following schools and times:

- Bloomfield Elementary, 8:30 a.m.
- East Elementary, 4 to 6 p.m.
- West Jay Elementary, 5:30 p.m.
- Redkey Elementary, 6 p.m.

Indiana students must be at least 5 years old on or before Aug. 1 in order to enroll in public school kindergarten. Parents should attend round-ups at the school in their district. Certified birth certificates are required for registration.

To pre-register, parents may call or visit the school in their district. Call (260) 726-9341 for more information.

Volunteers needed

EverHeart Hospice is looking for volunteers.

The nonprofit organization offering hospice and palliative care is recruiting volunteers to

help with patients in west central Ohio and east central Indiana. EverHeart Hospice is in need of hair stylists, barbers, notaries and veterans.

EverHeart serves patients in Jay, Randolph and Wayne counties in Indiana, and Mercer, Darke, Van Wert, Allen, Auglaize, Paulding and Shelby counties in Ohio.

To learn more, call the office at (800) 417-7535, select option five and ask for volunteer coordinator Beverly Baltes.

Senior learning

John Jay Center For Learning's next session in its senior learning series is slated for April 6.

Jay County Tourism's executive director, Mary Adair, will give a presentation following the lunch, which begins at 11:30 a.m. Reservations for lunch are \$5 and must be paid in advance.

Lies, sexting jeopardizes couple's marriage

DEAR ABBY: I found out today that my wife was sexting with a man in another state. His girlfriend sent me a message, which included a series of screenshots. I had confronted my wife regarding this prior to receiving the messages, but she swore she had sent only ONE topless photo and nothing else. After I reviewed the messages, I saw much more.

She claims "she doesn't remember everything," which I find hard to believe. Worse, they had planned to meet. She claims she didn't, but I saw a message saying that once I went back home (we were visiting her parents), she would stay an extra week with our son so he could "spend more time with the grandparents" — and she could maneuver to meet up with him.

Dear Abby



She claims she didn't, but I can't believe her based upon her lying repeatedly about this.

We have a child together, so I don't want to walk away, but I'm deeply hurt and no longer trust her. I know you will recommend marriage counseling, but beyond that process, is there anything I should do? — LOST IN THE EAST

DEAR LOST: Has your wife always been this way, or is

this behavior something new? She seems to be severely allergic to the truth. By all means, attempt marriage counseling if she is willing. However, if she isn't willing, have some counseling without her. And start interviewing attorneys to represent you in what is likely to be a divorce. Without trust, there can be no marriage.

P.S. Save those messages and images the girlfriend sent you because they could come in handy.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 59 and the oldest of four children. When we were kids, our parents were raging alcoholics. They smoked pot and were barely functioning adults. As the oldest, I was

tasked with caring for and raising the other three, which I did to protect them from my parents' nonsense.

We were never close to our parents. Our father passed some years ago, which left our mom, who continued to live her booze-filled life. She was a terrible mother. She never protected us from my father's verbal and physical abuse. My brother still has nightmares about him.

Now that our mother has dementia, my siblings make a lot of effort to spend time with her. I refuse to have anything to do with her. My sisters say I should make amends because she won't live forever. I have made my peace with it all, and I'm fine without what I never had.

My siblings think I should

"just get over it" because she can't remember anything. Because she can't remember doesn't negate the fact that it happened. I've had a fantastic life and family without her being part of it. I'm truly happy. Am I wrong for standing strong on my decision? — RESOLUTE IN FLORIDA

DEAR RESOLUTE: Because your mother can no longer remember what a failure she was as a parent doesn't mean you must magically forget. She has reached a point where she is beyond any help you can give her. Now it's time to take care of yourself. If you feel it's better to stand strong on your decision, do not allow yourself to be guilty into doing otherwise.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE — Holds its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the board room at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — For

caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias, the group will meet at 6 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at Blackford Community Hospital conference room, 410 Pilgrim Boulevard in Hartford City. For more information, call Joni Slentz or Lisa Garrett at (765) 348-1072 or (800) 272-3900.

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.

Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

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

Thursday

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

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

6	7	1	5	9	2	8	4	3
8	5	2	3	4	7	9	6	1
9	4	3	1	6	8	7	2	5
5	1	6	4	7	9	2	3	8
7	3	9	8	2	1	4	5	6
2	8	4	6	3	5	1	7	9
4	6	7	9	1	3	5	8	2
3	9	5	2	8	4	6	1	7
1	2	8	7	5	6	3	9	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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Help needed to avoid being a jerk

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from March 9, 2005. Jack was a holdout on getting his first cell phone. Even after he got one, for years if you called it you could count on it buzzing away unanswered in his car's glove compartment. And he never succumbed to the lure of Facebook. No doubt by being wary of these things he dodged dealing with those who can't seem to avoid using the tools he was so consciously trying to avoid.

By JACK RONALD
The News and Sun

I now have all the tools I need to be a complete jerk. Oh, I know. There are plenty of folks who believe I've had those tools for years. There are

Back in the Saddle



probably still others who don't think I need any tools at all. But I've got news for them: I now have a cell phone. And in 21st century America, that's the most important tool anyone can have when it comes to being insufferable, rude, or just plain irritating. For years, I resisted the allure of the cute little digital handheld gizmos.

I liked being out-of-touch now and then, enjoying the wind-shield meditations of a drive to Dunkirk for instance. It didn't bother me that I was cut off from the global network of chatterers. I reveled in it. Back in 2000, when I was doing a journalism project in Georgia (the republic of, not the state of), I was handed a cell phone by the guy I was working for. He'd even programmed in some ditty from an opera as my ring tone. For the next four weeks I continued to drive him nuts by leaving it turned off 90 percent of the time. But, think about it, he was just about the only person I knew in the entire country. At least, he was one of a tiny handful who

had the number of the cell phone I'd been assigned. Since I saw him and the rest of the handful at least once a day at the office, the cell phone struck me as overkill. A couple of years ago, we relented and got a cell phone for Sally. It's apparently required by U.S. law when one reaches a certain point in the teen years. She's now on her second one, and my wife has her own tucked in her purse. That just left me, odd man out and determined to stay that way. My Luddite streak was asserting itself, and all was right with my world. Until the ice storm. In short order, it turns out that cell phones are vitally important

to getting a newspaper produced during adverse conditions. By the time things had reverted back to normal — that is, another lousy Indiana winter — I'd relented and agreed to join the late 20th century before the 21st got too far along. And so I have it. It's cute. It can do more things than I can figure out. It fits into a neat holder that attaches to my belt. And it's actually proved useful. At least when I remember to turn the darned thing on. But if you ever see me yakking on it in a public place, talking loudly in an airport or as I walk down the street, do me a favor: Remind me not to be a jerk.

Principal creates a positive culture

Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)

Sarah Scott Middle School Principal Scotia Brown had a question for her students.

"What if today and going forward, we made everyone feel good about being here?"

Could anyone argue this was anything but a noble goal? We'd like to think the answer is an obvious and hard "no." But when we dig deeper, we realize it's not so simple.

Across our nation — and here in Indiana — vigorous efforts to control how race and racism is taught are ongoing. Not only that, but ideas and conversations about other tough subjects like LGBTQ+ rights and even women's rights ("The Handmaid's Tale" has recently been banned in libraries and schools nationwide) are being censored.

In Brown's case, she was carrying out a lesson during Black History Month. The lesson didn't shy away from the hard truth that racism is alive and well. One path toward eradicating it, she and her colleagues offered, can be as simple as using affirming instead of hurtful words.

What if we replace "You don't belong here" with "Would you like to join us?" she asked.

Learning about the weight of words was among various exercises and activities during the month of February that allowed the middle-schoolers the opportunity to dig deeper into their understanding of very current issues and to also consider possible solutions.

The depth of the lessons at Sarah Scott and the obvious amount of time and energy put into the school's efforts stand apart in this politically turbulent climate.

Brown and her fellow educators are true heroes. They aren't afraid of threats of censorship, or if they are, they push past the fear and stand up for the truth anyway, teaching their students to do the same.

Their goal was — and is — to teach children to speak up and not shy away from uncomfortable conversations, especially those surrounding racism. The result? Young men and women — the future of this community — would be armed with knowledge and compas-

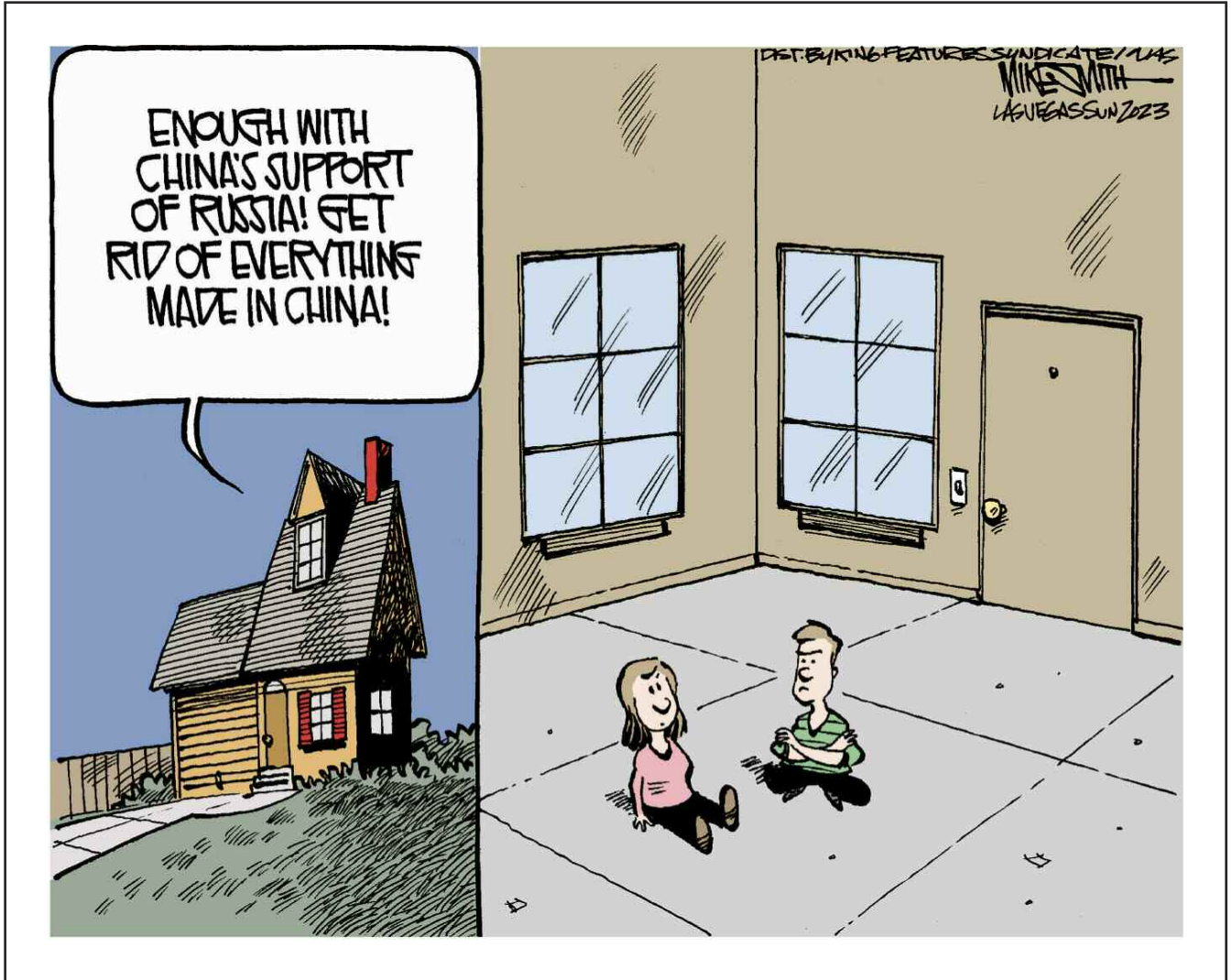
Hoosier Editorial

The lesson didn't shy away from the hard truth that racism is alive and well. One path toward eradicating it, she and her colleagues offered, can be as simple as using affirming instead of hurtful words.

sion and equipped to have difficult conversations with those whose opinions and even truths differ from their own. They are our future leaders who will be able to express understanding and kindness in ways that open conversations instead of closing them, and who will be more informed and fair in their decision making. And perhaps most importantly, they will come to the table, the boardroom, the assembly line, the construction site, the classroom, as politicians, healthcare workers and more with an empathy that's difficult to find in 2023.

"We want our students to know they have the power to change the environment and create a positive culture here in the school and the community," Brown said.

With Brown's efforts, we can be assured a group of well-educated and deeply understanding young people is prepared to lead us into the future, a group of students already unafraid to ask what it would mean if everyone "felt good about being here."



It's time to pare DoD budget

By TOM H. HASTINGS

PeaceVoice

Most folks are honest; this tricks them into a belief in the bedrock honesty of others, especially those who make bold public statements. How could someone lie in a public statement? Most folks know they would not want to live with that embarrassment when the truth inevitably came out.

And yet we get fooled again. And again.

George Santos claimed his mother died in the 9.11.01 attacks. She did not. He claimed his grandparents survived the European holocaust. As we all know, his shenanigans have been extraordinary.

From Trump's incessant and continuing lies to the fictions spun up on Fox News, we are awash in a gaslighting culture from the right that cannot seem to stop its relentless daily "flooding the zone."

But this is the chop on the surface; what about the current underneath? Where does the political left join the political right in framing profits as patriotism, bloodshed as glory, immiseration as inspiration?

Here we are in yet another crisis of our own making (well, made by the people we freely elected), the debt ceiling debacle. At the actual nut of the problem is the military budget.

Why? Because it seems to be literally more sacred than the money the government takes out of your paycheck for your retirement, Social Security.

Just ponder the headlines. Forbes: "Republicans Plan To Cut Social Security—Will Voters Let Them?"

Time magazine: "How Biden Got Republicans To Run Away From

Tom H. Hastings



Their History of Pushing Social Security and Medicare Cuts"

The fight is on, even as your paycheck shows the deductions made to the Social Security fund. That is your money, not Congress's to play around with. And yet it's a public debate now.

On the other hand, find me the politicians who are calling for cuts to the biggest budget item by far in the pool of your tax dollars that we do give Congress the right to divide as they see fit, discretionary spending. That would be the Pentagon budget, of course. There is pretty much radio silence on that topic. Where there are minor quibbles it's usually about how much to increase it, not whether it should be cut.

Back in the day, Ronald Reagan's head of his Office of Management and Budget, David Stockman, in an interview in The Atlantic, talked about the defense contractors and noted, "The hogs are really feeding now."

Fast forward to today and those hogs are breeding and feeding, gorging on your tax dollars, and yet the Pentagon is so reckless and eager to spend that they cannot pass an audit, year after year.

So the bloated Pentagon budget, some \$816 billion officially, is far more than every hostile foreign power combined, and yet in reality is much more than that, since mil-

itary costs are also absorbed into other budgets, such as Veterans Affairs, Dept. of Energy, and NASA, amongst others.

Into all this comes the fatuous self-inflicted threat of a default to the US full faith and credit because Republicans won't honor past expenses they voted to make. If a Dad does that he's a deadbeat Dad. If a contractor does that to a subcontractor, expect a lien. Do that do a neighbor nice enough to sell you an appliance that you never paid for and he's going to see you in small claims court.

Deadbeat Republicans never met a weapons system they wouldn't vote for but now that the bill is here they want to dip out. Gullible Democrats also voted for those military boondoggles but at least they want to honor those debts.

Republicans are, as usual, aiming to cut programs that really serve human needs, but the budgets they seek to eliminate are so small the Pentagon would regard them as rounding errors. They want to cut Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)? No food for poor kids! More caviar for Raytheon war profiteer executives!

It is long past time to really pare down the DoD budget. We should not have sophisticated weaponry all over the Earth, under the seas, and in space while families are living in tents in the snow on sidewalks and while health care is still not available to all. Can we unite for peace and prosperity?

Hastings is coordinator of conflict resolution degree programs and certificates at Portland State University and PeaceVoice senior editor.

The Commercial Review



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Proposal made to fund Medicare

By **JUSTIN SINK**
and **JOSH WINGROVE**
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

President Joe Biden's budget will propose hiking payroll taxes on Americans making over \$400,000 per year and allowing the government new power to negotiate drug prices as part of an effort the White House says will extend the solvency of a key Medicare program for another quarter century.

"The budget I am releasing this week will make the Medicare trust fund solvent beyond 2050 without cutting a penny in benefits," Biden said Tuesday in an op-ed published in the New York Times shortly before the announcement. "In fact, we can get better value, making sure

Taxes would increase on income over \$400,000

Americans receive better care for the money they pay into Medicare."

The president's budget, which will be released Thursday, proposes raising Medicare taxes from 3.8% to 5% on annual income above \$400,000, and eliminating a loophole business owners and higher-earners can exploit to avoid additional taxes, according to a White House fact sheet. Biden's plan would also help bol-

ster Medicare reserves through some \$200 billion in prescription drug reforms over the next decade by allowing the insurance program to negotiate costs on more medications and sooner after they come to market.

The Medicare portion of the budget plan was announced by the White House on Tuesday and reported earlier by the Washington Post.

The moves are part of a con-

certed effort by the White House ahead of looming negotiations over the debt ceiling and government funding, where Republicans vow to seek deep cuts to federal spending.

Biden's plan has little chance of becoming law, especially after Republicans took control of the House of Representatives this year, but the proposal is an important signpost for negotiations over government spending, and offers the president a chance to publicly outline his priorities.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy has vowed the GOP won't touch Medicare or Social Security, programs that share bipartisan support, particularly among elderly voters. But Democrats, including Biden,

have repeatedly highlighted past GOP efforts to overhaul the entitlement programs by reducing eligibility or benefits. Ahead of the budget release, White House officials have challenged McCarthy to specify where he would pursue cuts.

Democrats are hoping Biden's budget, which would reduce the deficit by \$2 trillion over the next 10 years, will provide a political advantage by keeping benefits intact, with higher taxes on the wealthy helping to offset rising costs. Medicare's Hospital Insurance Trust Fund, also known as Part A, pays for hospital stays, nursing facilities, and hospices. It is currently projected to reach insolvency as soon as 2028, according to the most recent Medicare Trustees report.



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Dustin Franz

Smoke rises from a derailed cargo train in East Palestine, Ohio, on Feb. 4. On Tuesday, the National Transportation Safety Board announced that it is launching a special investigation into Norfolk Southern's safety culture and corporate organization.

NTSB to investigate

By **KELLY YAMANOUCI**
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Tribune News Service

The National Transportation Safety Board announced Tuesday it is launching a special investigation into Norfolk Southern's corporate organization and safety culture.

The new probe follows a national outcry over a fiery derailment on Feb. 3 in East Palestine, Ohio, that released toxic chemicals into the air, soil and water, causing fear and uncertainty among residents in the surrounding area. That February incident was already under investigation by the NTSB, and investigators have already pinpointed overheated bearings as a cause.

Tuesday's announcement puts the Atlanta-based railroad under even greater scrutiny just as Norfolk Southern's CEO is set to testify this week before the U.S. Senate.

"Given the number and significance of recent Norfolk Southern accidents, the NTSB also urges the

company to take immediate action today to review and assess its safety practices, with the input of employees and others, and implement necessary changes to improve safety," NTSB said in an announcement. "The continued safe operations of Norfolk Southern is vital to the United States. The NTSB is concerned that several organizational factors may be involved in the accidents, including safety culture."

The NTSB said since December 2021, it has launched investigations into five significant accidents involving Norfolk Southern. Those include:

—Dec. 8, 2021: An employee for National Salvage and Service Corporation assigned to work with a Norfolk Southern work team replacing track was killed when the operator of a spike machine reversed direction and struck the employee in Reed, Pennsylvania.

—Dec. 13, 2022: A Norfolk Southern trainee conductor was killed, and another conductor was injured, when

the lead locomotive of a Norfolk Southern freight train struck a steel angle iron protruding from a gondola car on another Norfolk Southern freight train that was stopped on an adjacent track in Bessemer, Alabama.

—Feb. 3: A Norfolk Southern freight train carrying hazardous materials derailed in East Palestine, Ohio. The derailment resulted in a significant fire and hazardous materials release.

—March 4: A 2.55-mile-long Norfolk Southern freight train derailed near Springfield, Ohio.

—March 7: A Norfolk Southern employee was killed during a movement in Cleveland, Ohio.

The agency said it would also look into an Oct. 28, 2022, derailment of a Norfolk Southern train in Sandusky, Ohio.

The NTSB said it will conduct an in-depth investigation into the safety practices and culture of the company but also said the company "should not wait to improve safety."

Dead ...

Continued from page 1

And while in practice López Obrador's strategy largely resembles that of his predecessors, with high-profile arrests of cartel leaders, regular seizures of drug shipments and even more federal troops in the streets, his softer rhetoric, combined with violent incidents such as the one in Matamoros, "reinforces the narrative being pushed on the right side of the U.S. political spectrum that Mexico is a lawless country," said security analyst Alejandro Hope.

The Americans who were killed have not been officially identified but were named by various news outlets as Shaeed Woodard and Zindell Brown.

Family members of the victims told news outlets that the four arrived in Matamoros on Friday so that McGee could undergo a tummy tuck — a surgical procedure to remove abdominal fat.

Each year, nearly 1 million U.S. citizens seek medical procedures in Mexico, where drugs and treatments are generally

much cheaper than in the United States, according to the Mexican Council for the Medical Tourism Industry.

According to the FBI, the four were in a white van with North Carolina license plates when "unidentified gunmen" fired on their vehicle. The Americans were then thrown into the back of a truck and spirited away, a violent scene captured on a widely disseminated video.

Mexican authorities said a Mexican woman was killed in the shootout.

Violence in broad daylight is common in Tamaulipas state, which has long been one of the most lawless regions of Mexico and which is currently the site of a turf war between dueling factions of the Gulf cartel. The state ranks high in homicides, kidnappings and "disappearances"; in the vast majority of cases, the victims are Mexicans.

That the victims this time were Americans immediately made the kidnapping international news.

Capsule Reports

Continued from page 2

Gutierrez failed to yield the right of way to Ellsworth as she turned from River Road onto Wayne Street, according to a Portland police report.

Rear collision

A Geneva woman's vehicle struck the rear of a Dunkirk woman's car on U.S. 27 about 4:05 p.m. Monday.

Melissa A. Bergman, 51,

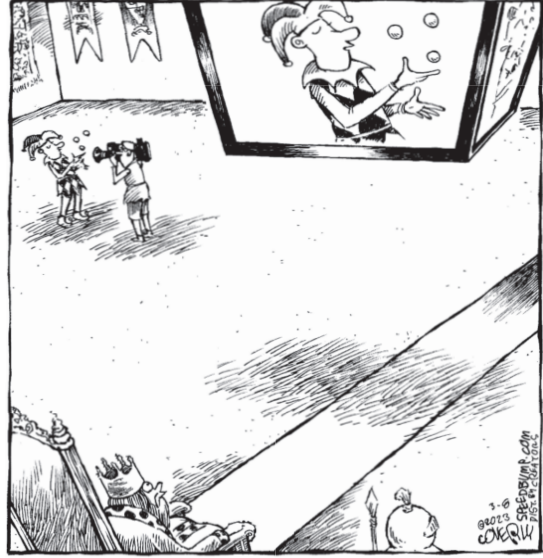
was driving her 2005 Chrysler Town and Country south on the highway. She was following a 2020 Buick Encore GX, driven by 23-year-old Allisyn P. Smith. Smith slowed and stopped because of traffic, and Bergman's car crashed into the back of Smith's vehicle, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office accident report. Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

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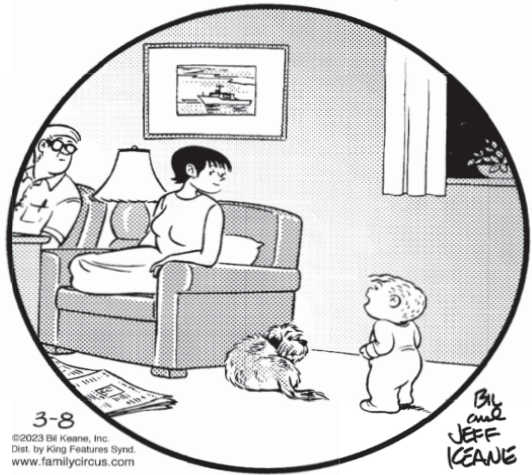
SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

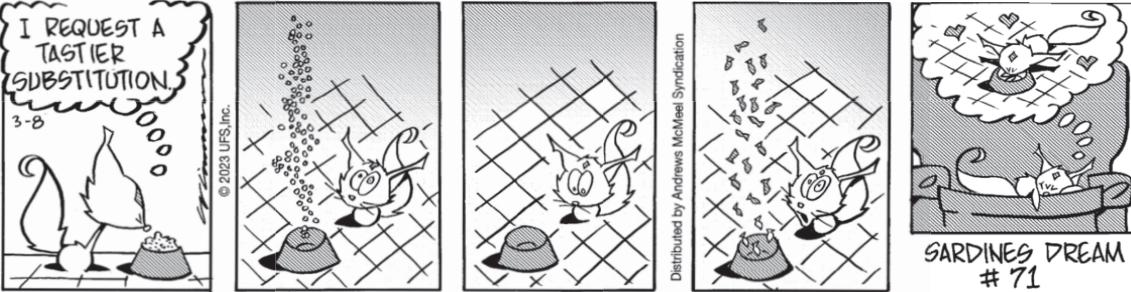


3-8
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"Can somebody come get in bed with me? I feel all-alonely."

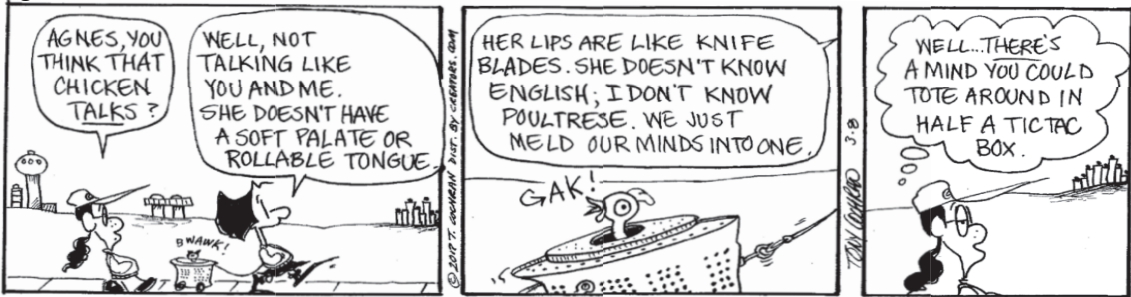
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



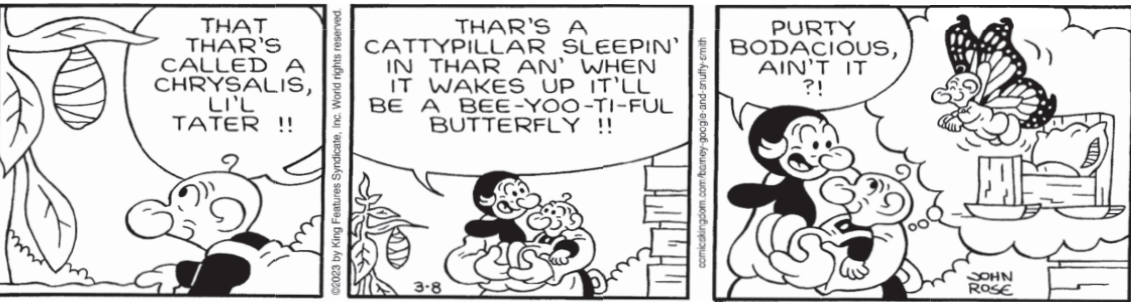
Between Friends



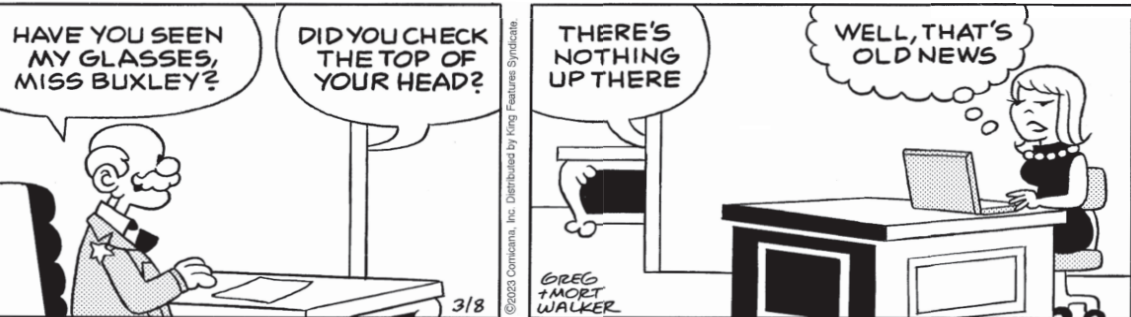
Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The all-important time factor

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 8 4
♥ J 9 7 2
♦ Q
♣ K Q J 9 3

WEST
♠ Q 7 5
♥ 4 3
♦ K J 5 2
♣ 8 7 6 4

EAST
♠ J 10 9 3
♥ A 6
♦ A 9 7 6 3
♣ A 5

SOUTH
♠ K 6 2
♥ K Q 10 8 5
♦ 10 8 4
♣ 10 2

The bidding:
East 1♦ South 1♥ West 2♦ North 4♥
Opening lead — two of diamonds.
Timing is a big factor in the outcome of a great number of deals. There are many hands where a declarer actually has all the tricks he needs to make the contract and yet goes down because the defenders score their own tricks first.
A competent declarer always looks for a way to turn the time factor to his own advantage. This deal provides a case in point.
West leads a diamond against four hearts, and East wins with the ace. East then shifts to the jack of

spades in the hope of developing a spade trick for the defense before dummy's clubs become established. Declarer wins the spade with the king and plays the ten of clubs, ducked by East. South then leads a second club to East's ace, and East returns another spade, taken by dummy's ace.
If the defenders were on lead at this point, they could cash a spade trick and sink the contract. However, they are one tempo behind and are helpless. South has the situation under control and cannot be stopped from making his game.
When declarer next leads dummy's king of clubs, East can do no better than ruff with the six, which South overruffs. Declarer then trumps a diamond in dummy and leads the queen of clubs, leaving East without recourse whether he ruffs with the ace or not. Whatever East does, South discards a spade and finishes with 10 tricks.
Although it is perfectly normal for West to lead a diamond — the suit East opened the bidding with — it is interesting to note that the defense can win the race against time if West happens to lead a spade instead. In that case, the defenders would collect four tricks before declarer could score 10.

Tomorrow: Mandatory falsecard.
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3-8
CRYPTOQUIP
J P C SDHZEL NCMDZ C
QEMD JL CL JII-ODNSDHT,
YLPHJDLTIV RCV, J CIRC VZ
ZCV, "ZYHIV VEY QDZO!"
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN COMEDIC ACTOR FELDMAN PLAYED THE PART OF A WISENHEIMER, I'D SAY HE WAS A MARTY-PANTS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals Y

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 41 Literary Jane bigwig
1 Ballpoints
5 Binge 43 Lunar DOWN 20 Moolah
8 Help a craft 1 Marathon's 22 "Encore!"
crook 46 "West thoner's 23 Skirt
12 "Zip- Side tempo style
--- Doo-Dah" Story" 2 Biblical 25 Monk's
13 "Caught song land title
ya!" 50 Altar 3 Sleuth 26 Historic
14 TV explorer 51 Eye- Wolfe time
15 Farm glasses 4 Gate 27 Fatigued
storage variety tender 29 Not
site 54 Sala- holder 31 Director
17 "Phooey!" mander DuVernay
18 Overact 55 French fish 32 Pallid
19 Aromas article 7 Yaks 34 Gas co.,
21 Capital of 56 Actor 8 Venom- for one
Italia Omar ous 38 More
24 "Bow- 57 Catches viper beloved
wow!" some 9 Elsa's 40 Expels
25 Damp at rays story 42 Pres.
dawn 58 Physi- 10 Part of after
cheers cian's Q.E.D. LBJ
30 Unpro- nick- 11 Makes 43 Gum
cessed name lace flavor
33 Granada 44 Classic 45 Barak of
gold theaters Israel
34 Dickens' Heep 47 Mature 48 Rap-
35 Actress Longoria scallions
36 Scratch 49 Admin. aide
37 Till bills 52 Yoko from
38 Campus bigwig Tokyo
39 "There's — in team" 53 Fun and games

Solution time: 23 mins.

ANNA	SAM	JOTS								
LIAR	LIU	ERAT								
FATGRAMS	TARE									
YEW	SALLOW									
CELLO	MIRA									
ALOE	FELT	GOOD								
LIL	URGES	DUO								
FALL	GUILYS	CORN								
	OLIN	WORSE								
TILSIT	PAR									
IBIS	FAIR	GAME								
NAME	URN	IPAD								
TRES	LAT	SECS								

Yesterday's answer 3-8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15			16					17		
18						19	20			
		21	22	23	24					
25	26	27		28	29		30	31	32	
33			34					35		
36			37				38			
	39	40		41	42					
43	44			45		46	47	48	49	
50				51	52	53				
54				55			56			
57				58			59			

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Sports

Colts finalize 2023 staff

By **GEORGE BREMER**
The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)
Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — Shane Steichen's first coaching staff has been finalized, and as expected it is filled with some familiar faces.

Defensive coordinator Gus Bradley and his entire staff will return for their second season with the Indianapolis Colts. Linebackers coach Richard Smith will add the title of run game coordinator, and Brent Jackson — a Tony Dungy Diversity Fellow in 2022 — has been promoted to defensive quality control coach.

Wide receivers coach Reggie Wayne is the only offensive coach returning.

"Excited about Reggie," Steichen said during last week's NFL Scouting Combine. "Reggie, obviously, 14-year playing career, a legend for Indianapolis. Had some very good conversations with Reggie, very detailed, brings (a) great wealth of knowledge into that receiver room."

The new additions to the staff begin with a pair of coordinators. Jim Bob Cooter will run the offensive meeting room, and Brian Mason will be in charge of special teams.

Cooter was an offensive assistant in Indianapolis from 2009 to 2011, working with Peyton Manning during his final three seasons with the franchise.

See **Staff** page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Cooper Glentzer of Jay County Junior High School swims to victory in the 100-yard breaststroke Tuesday during the Patriots' victory over visiting South Adams. Glentzer won the breaststroke in 1 minute, 33.53 seconds.

Host Patriots cruise over SA

The Patriots simply had their opponent vastly outnumbered.

Jay County Junior High School's swim teams used their numbers advantage Tuesday to cruise to victories of 160-10 over the visiting South Adams Starfires in the boys competition and 150-39 in the girls competition.

Most events in the meet were uncontested as South Adams

had just one boy and three girls on its roster.

Rockland Beiswanger and Cooper Glentzer earned the only contested victories for the Patriot boys team. The former posted a time of 29.68 seconds in the 50-yard freestyle and the latter reached the wall in 1 minute, 33.53 seconds, in the 100 breaststroke.

The girls team also had just two contested victories. Kaitlyn Fish-

er took the top spot in the 100 breaststroke in 1:29.3 and Maria Laux was first in the 400 freestyle in 5:16.7.

Winners in races uncontested by the Starfires were:

•Alex Frazee in the boys 50 butterfly (44.7) and 100 individual medley (1:24.33)

•Carson Westgerdes in the boys 200 freestyle (2:19.01) and 400 freestyle (4:48.98)

•Brooklynn Byrum in the girls 50 butterfly (31.74) and 100 backstroke (1:17.48)

•Ben Fisher in the boys 100 backstroke (1:25.38)

•Glentzer in the boys 100 freestyle (58.93)

•Laux in the girls 200 freestyle (2:31.75).

Jay County was also uncontested in all six of its relay victories.

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