



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Byrum to take role as recorder

Deputy chosen to replace Upp following her resignation

By BAILEY CLINE The Commercial Review A new recorder has been selected.

Jay County Republican Party members appointed Angie Byrum as the next Jay County recorder Thursday.

She takes over the position from Melanie Upp, who has turned in her resignation Dec. 31. She will serve as recorder for the remainder of Upp's term through the end of 2026.

She also plans to run for the role in the 2026 election cycle.

"I think it's a great honor to represent the Jay County residents, and I'm looking forward to it," said Byrum, who has worked as Upp's first deputy for the last three years.

Byrum has spent a decade working in Jay County Courthouse offices. She served two years in Jay County Assessor's Office before shifting to Jay County Treasurer's Office for five years.

She talked about hopes to encourage more residents to sign up for Doxpop's Property Alert service, which notifies property owners any time a document is recorded that references their name or parcels they own. The alert system alerts a property owner so they can take legal action against property fraud. (Those interested can visit watch.doxpop.com to sign up or call the recorder's office for more information.)

Byrum filed for the position shortly after Upp's announcement about her resignation last month. She was uncontested.

See Role page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Festive Friday

Jay County Chamber of Commerce and Arts Place got the holiday season kicked off Friday night with Christmas at the Courthouse and the Holiday Benefit Auction.

Pictured above, Little Miss Winterfest Taylor Lee reacts after lighting the community Christmas tree during Friday's Christmas at the Courthouse event, the first among this year's Winterfest activities. The evening also included a performance by the Jay County High School choirs.

At left, Wyatt Acker, 7, rural Portland, holds up a pamphlet to bid during Arts Place's Holiday Benefit Auction. Acker squared off against other bidders for a five-course gourmet dinner for six guests with chef Matt Pieper, with the total raising approximately \$3,000 before Acker's family dropped out of the bid.

Jay County Chamber of Commerce's Winterfest celebration continues today with the Little Miss Winterfest Pageant at 1 p.m. at Fellowship Baptist Church and the Parade of Lights at 6:30 p.m. on Meridian Street in Portland.

Retrospect

Council received plans for a new city hall

Twenty-five years ago this week, Portland was considering a new headquarters.

The Nov. 21, 2000, edition of The Commercial Review featured a story about a proposal to construct a new Portland City Hall.

Engineering firm Hannum, Wagle and Cline presented plans to Portland City Council for a city hall that would bring together city offices with the police and fire departments. The project was estimated at \$4 million, with the city to enter a 20-year lease with payments of about \$200,000 annually.

"You could be in it sometime next year if you move forward now," said Cory Whitesell of Hannum,

Wagle and Cline, estimating eight to nine months for construction.

"We can really fast track it, since we do everything," he added of his company's design-build program. "We can move as aggressively as the city wants to."

No location was identified for the proposed facility.

A local committee had been exploring location options, along with ideas for the design.

"There's a handful of sites that meet your needs," he said. "A goal of the steering committee was to find something in the downtown area, but it wasn't easy."

Whitesell said the project would be most cost-

effective if the new facility was constructed on donated land with an open lot. In order to keep operations downtown, he estimated an additional \$600,000 to purchase a site, demolish an existing structure and raise the base so that it would be out of the floodplain.

The next step in the process would have been to host a public hearing, but nothing was scheduled during the council meeting.

The city hall project never came to fruition. Instead, a new fire station with city council chambers was constructed in 2003. City hall remains at 321 N. Meridian St. and houses city offices and the police department.



Hannum, Wagle and Cline

This illustration is a look at Portland's proposed new city hall that was presented in December 2000. The facility would have brought city offices and the police and fire departments into a single facility. No location was proposed for the project, which never came to fruition.

Deaths

Geraldine Shively, 91, Portland
Phyllis Young, 84, Kansas City, Missouri
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 51 degrees Friday. The low was 35.

Today's high will be in the upper 40s under partly cloudy skies. Skies will be mostly sunny Sunday with a high in the lower 50s. Lows will be in the 30s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The annual Dunkirk turkey drop is scheduled for 10 a.m. today at Webster Depot Park.

Additional upcoming activities include Santa's arrival in Redkey at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 28, and Feel the Warmth of Christmas on the evening of Monday, Dec. 1, in Dunkirk.

Coming up

Tuesday — Details from Tuesday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.

Wednesday — Coverage of next week's Dunkirk City Council meeting.

Friday — Results from the JCHS boys basketball season opener against South Side.



Obituaries

Geraldine Shively
May 15, 1934-Nov. 21, 2025
Geraldine Shively, age 91, a resident of Portland, passed away on Friday, Nov. 21, 2025, at IU Health Jay in Portland.

Geraldine was born May 15, 1934, in Hamilton, Ohio, the daughter of Stanley and Delia (Frederick) Jackson. She graduated from Western College in Oxford, Ohio, where she earned a bachelor's degree in education.

She taught at Jefferson Elementary School in Hamilton, Ohio, and her parents owned Jackson Grocery Store in Hamilton. She later moved to Portland where she worked in real estate. She was an active



Shively

member of Sugar Grove Church of the Nazarene, where she led Sunday School, Children's Church and Bible School.

She was first married to Hampton Fields, who preceded her in death. She later married Arnold Lairson on June 4, 1968; he passed away on Aug. 21, 1984. She then married Dale Shively on Jan. 6, 1990.

Survivors include:
Her companion — Dale Shively

Her children — Daryl Fields (wife: Lisa), Pennville, Kathy Schumacher, Portland, Darlene Nibarger (husband: Steve), Athens, Tennessee

Stepchildren — Ronald Lairson, Dale Shively Jr., Robert Shively, Patricia Wood, Vicki Shively and Melanie Niemeyer

Several grandchildren and great-grandchildren

She was preceded in death by

her parents; stepdaughter Debbie Dale; and sister Georgetta Jackson.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday from 4 to 7 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Pastor Mike Heckman will officiate and burial will follow at IOOF Twin Hill Cemetery in Pennville.

Phyllis Young
Dec. 26, 1940 – Oct. 19, 2025
Phyllis Joy Young, age 84, of Kansas City, Missouri, passed away on Sunday, Oct. 19, 2025, at Menorah Medical Center in Overland Park, Kansas.

She was born in Portland on Dec. 26, 1940, the daughter of Dallas and Mary (Thornton) Van Skyock. She was a 1958 graduate of Portland High

School and earned a bachelor of arts degree in education in 1964 and a master of arts degree in education in 1967 for special education, speech and hearing therapy from Ball State University.

Phyllis had a calm and patient demeanor and enjoyed working with children having speech and hearing therapy needs. As director of education at Crossroad in Fort Wayne, Phyllis provided counseling and mentoring for teens requiring behavioral intervention. She also had the God-given gift of writing beautiful poetry and was excellent at drawing cartoons and sketching lifelike portraits. Phyllis loved animals, enjoyed creating crafts, going



Young

antiquing, boating, and watching tennis, basketball and the Kansas City Chiefs.

Phyllis is survived by sister, Nelda (Paul) Shimp of Portland; nephew, Troy Shimp of Stockbridge, Georgia; niece, Robin Shimp of Portland; sister Rita (Fred) Webb of Portland; niece, Angela Webb of Portland; nephew, Trent Webb of Dayton, Ohio; and longtime friend Judy Limbach of Kansas City.

Phyllis will be deeply missed.

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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Sunday 11/23	Monday 11/24	Tuesday 11/25	Wednesday 11/26	Thursday 11/27
55/32	57/47	58/36	41/25	36/22
Sunday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a high around 55.	Mostly cloudy on Monday, when the low may dip to 47.	Tuesday looks like a 70% chance of showers throughout the day.	Mostly sunny skies with temperatures plunging into the mid 20s.	Another day of mostly sunny skies with the high temperature in the mid 30s.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 1-1-9 Daily Four: 9-3-9-7 Quick Draw: 2-5-14-15-20-23-25-31-33-35-37-47-53-54-58-62-70-72-75-78	Pick 3: 5-9-0 Pick 4: 5-5-6-3 Pick 5: 8-5-4-6-5
Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$629 million	
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$60 million	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.51 Jan. corn4.48	Wheat4.95
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.52 Nov./Dec. corn4.42 Jan. corn4.42	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.34 Dec. corn4.34 Beans11.11 Dec. beans11.15 Wheat4.92
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.41 Dec. corn4.51 Beans11.10 Dec. beans11.15	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.41 Dec. corn4.41 Beans10.85 Dec. beans10.85 Wheat4.77

Today in history

In 1972, Portland City Council agreed to move forward with the process of seeking a \$120,000 bond for the purchase of a new firetruck and other improvements, including \$30,000 in upgrades to the fire station to house the new truck.

In 1986, Mike Tyson, 20, knocked out Trevor Berbick to become the youngest heavyweight champion in boxing history. He had nine successful title defenses before losing the title to James “Buster” Douglas in Tokyo on Feb. 11, 1990.

In 1995, Pixar released “Toy Story,” the first feature-length animated film that was completely created by computer. It made \$365.3 million worldwide and spawned multiple sequels.

In 2021, Dunkirk City Council approved a contract with Kenna Consulting of Greenwood for assistance with seeking a \$600,000 Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs grant to create two detention basins on the east side of the city.

In 2022, a Safe Haven Baby Box was dedicated at Portland Fire Department. The installation of the box was made possible through donations from Tom Robbins of Portland and the IU Health Jay Foundation.

—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, district office, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 4 p.m. — Portland Revolving Loan Fund Committee, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 5:15 p.m. — Portland Board of Works executive session, council chambers, fire station,	1616 N. Franklin St., Portland. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St. Tuesday 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St. 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St. Wednesday 7 a.m. — Portland Fire Department Pension Board, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.
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Study: Municipal elections cost more

By **LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ**
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Municipal elections cost Indiana significantly more per vote than midterm and presidential contests, according to a state study released Thursday.

The analysis, conducted by the Voting System Technical Oversight Program at Ball State University, also found traditional precinct systems carry higher per-vote costs than newer vote centers setups.

“Transparency is one of our top priorities,” Secretary of State Diego Morales said in a Thursday news release. “By making this report available, it’s evident how hard our team is working to strengthen elections and serve every Hoosier with integrity.”

House Enrolled Act 1633, approved in April, directed Morales to consider whether changing up municipal elections timing or mandating vote centers statewide would save money. Turnout was another factor.

During debate, lawmakers from both parties revealed distrust of his spending decisions and his penchant for self-promotion.

The law required Morales’ office to conduct at least three public hearings, but he held five. The results were submitted to the General Assembly’s Legislative Council ahead a Nov. 1 deadline, according to the news release.

No policy recommendations were made, however.

In an analysis of elections held from 2018 to 2024, municipal elections were about as expensive to administer as midterm elections, but brought in fewer voters — resulting in higher costs per vote.

In the 2022 midterm general elections, for instance, the cost per vote was about \$5.26, while the 2024 presidential general contest was \$5.47.

But it was \$15.62 for the 2023 municipal general election.

Aligning municipal elections with larger cycles could “modestly” increase participation in the midterms and presidential elections, according to the study, which noted several thousand voters who cast ballots in local races abstained from the even-year contests.

The move “would lead to significant increases” in the number of Hoosiers participating in municipal contests, however.

The boost in turnout would “more than mak(e) up for” those lost through “ballot fatigue.” That’s when voters lose interest in lengthy lists of choices or become overwhelmed by the options.

VSTOP recorded 74 comments related to municipal election timing, with 60 in opposition and 14 in favor. Hoosiers against changes feared national issues would drown out local ones, while supporters cited cost savings and turnout gains. Local election administrators said it should be a choice.

Review shows 2023 cycle cost almost three times as much per vote compared to presidential and mid-term balloting

Role ...

Continued from page 1

Several tables at John Jay Center for Learning were filled for the Jay County Republican caucus and meeting Thursday. Jay County Republican Party chair Jenae Blasdel said the turnout was the largest she had seen for a caucus to appoint one individual to office, noting the party's support for Byrum was evident.

Also Thursday, Jay County Sheriff Ray Newton and Jay County auditor Emily Franks announced they will run for re-election in 2026.

Blasdel also shared plans to host Republican Party election night festivities next year at Portland Elks Lodge.

SERVICES

Today

Lochtefeld, Ann: 10 a.m., St. Paul Catholic Church, 517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery.

Bowen, Luetta: 11 a.m., Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St., Portland.

Wednesday, Nov. 25

Shively, Geraldine: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Saturday, Nov. 29

Moore, Stephen: 2 p.m., Redkey Church of the Nazarene, 801 W. High St., Redkey.

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SMILE...

It's that Time Again!

Our Season’s Greetings issue will appear in the CR December 17! If you would like to schedule a picture, the ad must be 15” or larger and a \$15 fee will be charged to come take your picture or if you provide a picture.

Deadline for all ads & photos is **December 10th!**

We try hard not to miss anyone who wants in this issue. If you do not get contacted and would like in the greetings, please call us at (260) 726-8141

The Commercial Review



Photo provided

Character Counts

East Elementary School recognized first graders for displaying respect. Pictured above are (front row) Otto Huelskamp, Nash Younger and Noam Dudelston. In the back row are Kyler Vargas Boolman, Rhett Roberts and Jack Jutte.

Sorority news

Zeta Alpha chapter of Delta Theta Tau sorority met at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13. President Sue Ann McLaughlin opened the meeting with the following attending: Sue Ann McLaughlin, Kathy Nelson, Connie Louck, Linda Lowe, Lois Nauman, Sharon Hammers, Jackie McCollum, Mary Miller, Susan

Louck, Denise Selvey, Nancy Garringer and Bonnie Seward. The current budget was distributed and discussed. We will also be assisting with Redkey Junior League participating in the Portland practice building. We plan to meet Dec. 4 at 2 p.m. to assemble our Christmas cookie plates. The following Thursday

will be our Christmas party at 5 p.m. Hostesses Nancy Garringer and Denise Selvey served delicious treats. We sang Happy Birthday to Sue Ann McLaughlin and Bonnie Seward, both having their birthdays that day. Bonnie took home the Pot of Gold and Connie Louck was our Lucky Lady.

Community Calendar

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

Today
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 – BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday
PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.
PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.
TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.
THE LIFE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy, as well as help with the needs of the family. The center is located at 1209 S. Shank St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.
BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.
PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will

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

Tuesday
JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richards Restaurant.
COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.
A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more infor-

mation, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

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 in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.
COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.
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 – BRIANNA'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.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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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Let’s put redistricting stunt to bed

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

While many of us will be hunkering down to watch Illinois and Northwestern — or Michigan and Ohio State — duke it out Nov. 29, there’s a new kind of interstate rivalry brewing.

The great issue driving this animosity is political maps, and who can rig the system best to give their political allies an advantage.

These matchups include: California versus Texas — two giants at opposite ends of the political spectrum, both redrawing their congressional maps ahead of the 2026 midterm elections. Elsewhere, GOP-led Missouri is moving ahead with a new congressional map while Democrats in Maryland debate whether to join the mid-decade redraw. And then there’s

Guest Editorial

the rivalry we care about most today: Illinois versus Indiana.

Yes, Indiana and Illinois get pitted against each other quite frequently, most recently driven by the Hoosier State’s bizarre campaign to redraw their state lines to include a handful of existing Illinois counties. That’s not happening, and while Indiana’s flirtation with mid-cycle redistricting appears to be fizzling, it gave Pritzker one more example to point to as he kept Illinois’ own redistricting options on the table.

“If Indiana does it ... I think

that would push Illinois toward redistricting,” Pritzker said Nov. 12 on the “Pivot” podcast. Why does Indiana’s decision matter? Aside from being a neighbor, Indiana has a similarly partisan legislative landscape — and Illinois Democrats often point to GOP-dominated states to justify their own maneuvers.

Thankfully, Indiana’s not going there, after much speculation that they might.

Gov. Mike Braun, Pritzker’s conservative opposite number in Indiana, had called for a special session at the start of December to consider, among other things, congressional redistricting. But Indiana Senate Pro Tem Rod Bray announced last week that the Senate would not convene, confirming that Republicans don’t have the votes for redistricting.

In other words, Indiana

appears to be moving on. Illinois should, too, at least on congressional maps.

Pritzker has to recognize the unpopularity of mid-decade redistricting for purely political purposes in a state with some of the worst gerrymandering in the country. He and the Democrats in the General Assembly simply don’t have the moral high ground on this issue.

Perhaps, for now, the governors from our two great states can call a truce.

Maps are traditionally only redrawn once a decade, after the census releases new population data. Opening them up earlier isn’t necessarily bad — we’ve called for that to happen here in Illinois to address our rigged state legislative maps. But that kind of reform wasn’t what was on the table.

Instead, what we’ve seen this

year is a wave of opportunistic map manipulation. Texas was the first mover, with the state legislature approving new congressional maps in August after weeks of pressure from President Donald Trump. Some Texas Democrats fled to Illinois to try to block the vote before ultimately returning to face the inevitable. California voters jumped in next, approving Prop 50 earlier this month as a counter.

Not only do we believe it would be wrong to open up the maps for any reason other than addressing unfairness at the state legislative level, but also the Democrats just don’t need the help. They already hold 14 out of Illinois’ 17 congressional seats.

Let’s hope Pritzker meant what he said about Indiana, and we can finally put this political stunt to bed.

Favor compassion over punishment

By BRUCE LOWE

The Fulcrum

Tribune News Service

America’s drug policy is broken. For decades, we’ve focused primarily on the supply side — interdicting smugglers, prosecuting dealers, and escalating penalties while neglecting the demand side. Individuals who use drugs, more often than not, do so out of desperation, trauma, or addiction. This imbalance has cost lives, strained law enforcement, and failed to stem the tide of overdose deaths.

Fentanyl now kills an estimated 80,000 Americans annually. In response, some leaders have proposed extreme measures, including capital punishment for traffickers. But if we apply that logic consistently, what do we say about tobacco? Cigarette smoking and secondhand smoke kill nearly 480,000 Americans each year.

Should we execute tobacco farmers, CEOs, and distributors for the deaths caused by smoking? That would be absurd — but it reveals a deeper truth: Our policies are driven more by emotion than by rational thinking.

We must shift our focus from punishment to empowerment. People make choices — sometimes harmful ones. I may choose to eat highly processed foods, drink excessively, or smoke. These decisions carry risks, but they are mine to make. The role of government should be to educate, not to intervene in one’s personal choices. We all have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of that which makes us happy, as long as it does not put others in harm’s way.

One simple, life-saving reform would be to make fentanyl test strips freely available at every pharmacy, no questions asked. Users could test their drugs for lethal additives and receive pamphlets on where to find help, should they choose to seek it. This approach respects autonomy while reducing harm. It’s cost-effective, humane, and rooted in the same public health logic we apply to seatbelts, sunscreen, and flu shots.

We’ve seen this movie before. Prohibition turned alcohol into a black-market bloodbath. Today’s

Bruce Lowe



drug war echoes the same refrain, with similar results. We failed to learn from the past. It’s time we learn it now.

In Rhode Island, for instance, the state legalized supervised consumption sites in 2021. While controversial, early data suggests these programs reduce overdose deaths and connect users to treatment without increasing crime. These are not lawless zones — they are lifelines. They reflect a shift from moral panic to public health pragmatism.

I’ve seen how addiction quietly affects families in every ZIP code. My sister died from a drug overdose in her bedroom, alone, ashamed, and unaware that help was available. My mother didn’t know where to turn for help. She feared judgment, legal consequences, and the stigma of acknowledging my sister’s addiction. We can and must do better for our loved ones.

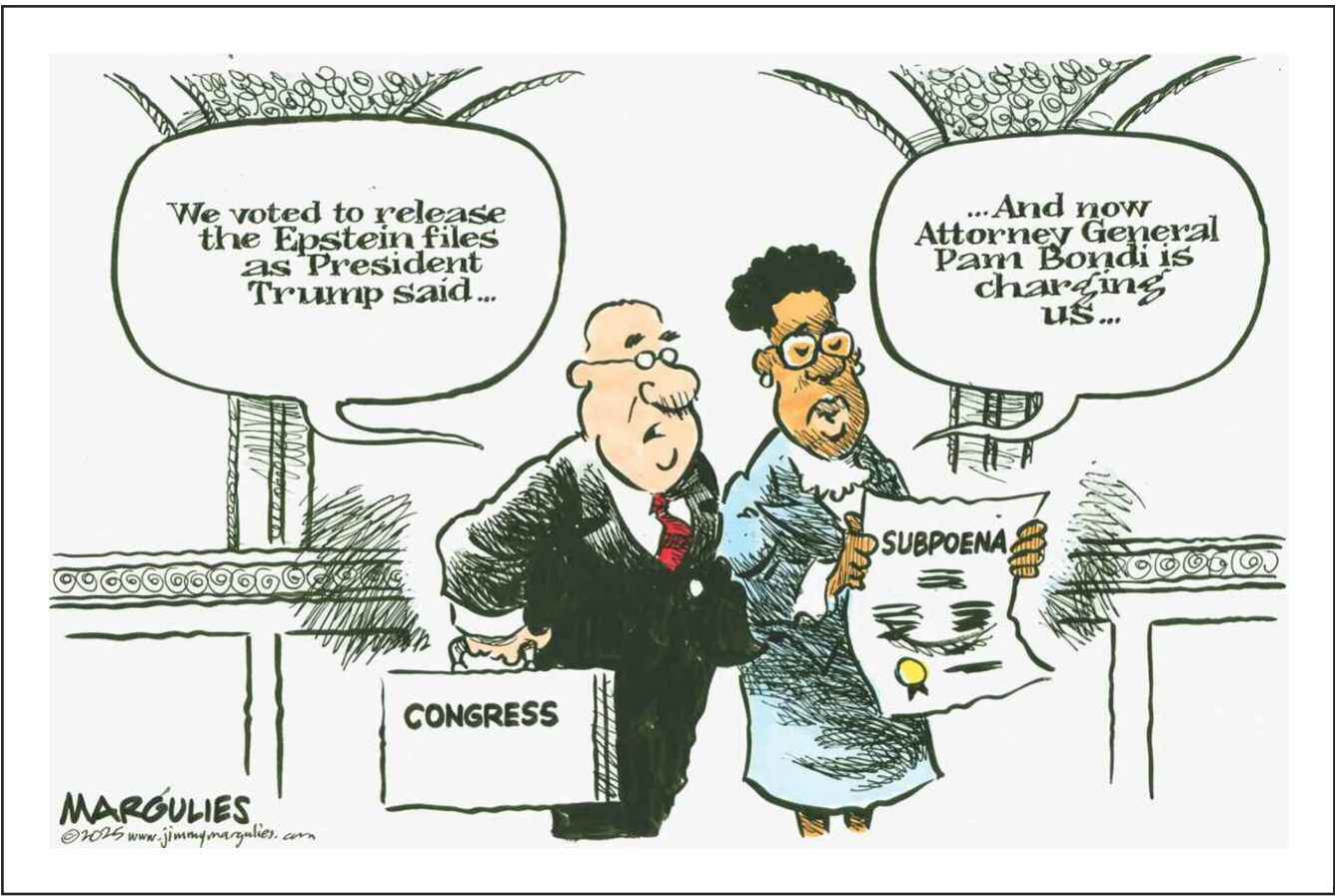
It’s time for lawmakers to stop posturing and start listening to public health experts, to families, and to the data. And it’s time for citizens to demand policies that reflect compassion, not just punishment. We need to treat addiction as a health issue, not a moral failure. We need to invest in education, prevention, and support not just law enforcement.

My book, *Honesty and Integrity: The Pillars of a Meaningful Life*, explores these themes and others — how principled leadership and informed choice can reshape our communities. I write not as a politician or pundit, but as an advocate who believes in reducing harm and saving lives through practical solutions.

Let’s stop fighting a war we can’t win and start building a system that saves lives.

.....

Lowe is a homeowner advocate and community leader in Lubbock, Texas. He writes about civic integrity, public health and principled reform.



Decision was about preservation

By JOHN KRULL

TheStatehouseFile.com

If nothing else, Indiana Senate Republicans demonstrated, by calling off a mid-decade special session designed to gerrymander the state’s congressional map, that they have an instinct for self-preservation.

President Donald Trump and his yapping yes men around the country have been leaning hard on Republican-dominated state legislatures across the country to rig next year’s U.S. House of Representatives election.

The president—perhaps understandably, given that he’s bent almost every law he hasn’t broken—worried that a House in Democratic hands and armed with subpoena power could pose problems for him and his unquestioning subordinates. He also can count well enough to know that his public approval ratings, which are now lodged firmly in the middle 30-percent range, didn’t promise success if next year’s balloting occurred on an even playing field.

Hence, the presidential campaign to change the rules of the game by getting compliant governors and state lawmakers to play Etch A Sketch with their states’ congressional district maps in hopes of pilfering a few more Republican seats.

Here in Indiana, Republican Gov. Mike Braun—one of Trump’s more slavish lackeys—complied almost immediately, acknowledging publicly that he was doing so because he was afraid of the president. Braun said that Trump would punish Hoosiers if they didn’t give the petulant president what he wanted.

Most Hoosiers, though, are made of stronger stuff than their governor.

Poll after poll indicated that the idea of calling a special session not to serve the interests of Hoosiers but to save the pouting president a political headache or two was about as popular in Indiana as a return of the bubonic plague would be.

Democrats and independents over-

John Krull



whelmingly detested the idea and even the numbers of Republicans who opposed it climbed over 50% in some surveys.

Worse, some of the polling data indicated that the opposition to redistricting was spilling over to other areas. Indiana voters were beginning to ask why the governor and some lawmakers were willing to declare an emergency to try to save Donald Trump’s job, but seemed remarkably nonchalant about the ways accelerating inflation and a stagnating job market were wreaking havoc with the lives and budgets of ordinary citizens.

That meant Trump was asking Hoosier Republican lawmakers to risk enraging their own voters—and offering those legislators and Indiana citizens nothing in return.

Indiana Senate President Pro Tempore Rodric Bray, R-Martinsville, had been telling both Trump and Braun for months that there weren’t enough votes in the chamber in pass a redistricting plan.

Braun either didn’t listen or was so scared of the peeved president that he tried to force the issue by unilaterally calling for a special session.

But Braun’s hand isn’t that strong, either.

Some Republicans have told me that the party’s private polling has put Braun’s public approval rating here in the state at just over 25%. That’s not a strong enough number to frighten any but the most skittish lawmakers.

So, Bray decided to put an end to the farce.

“Over the last several months, Sen-

ate Republicans have given very serious and thoughtful consideration to the concept of redrawing our state’s congressional maps,” he said in an announcement. “Today, I’m announcing there are not enough votes to move that idea forward, and the Senate will not reconvene in December.”

The governor reacted as petulantly as his master in the Oval Office.

“I called for our legislators to convene to ensure Hoosiers’ voices in Washington, DC are not diluted by the Democrats’ gerrymandering,” Braun pouted in a statement. “Our state senators need to do the right thing and show up to vote for fair maps. Hoosiers deserve to know where their elected officials stand on important issues.”

That statement explained why Trump’s and Braun’s gerrymandering dream for Indiana went nowhere.

There are states in which Democrats have rigged the maps—Maryland being at the top of that list—but at present Republicans are runaway winners in the gerrymandering sweepstakes.

Even the most GOP-friendly studies on the subject show that eight out of the top 10 most gerrymandered states are in Republican hands. And many studies show that nine out of the top 10 are GOP strongholds.

Already, there are voices lauding Bray and other Senate Republicans for demonstrating integrity despite pressure from above.

Perhaps.

More likely, they just demonstrated that they have enough sense not to walk willingly into a buzzsaw.

Maybe that counts for something.

.....

Krull is director of Franklin College’s Pulliam School of Journalism and publisher of TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

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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11-22 CRYPTOQUIP

RO E GEHWMQJNPC ORYC RY
HMSRPRZW E LJLNGEH SEPCJGRS
LHEVMH, QRWCP RP KM E
CERG QEHV KEYY?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: GAME SHOW IN WHICH HUMPBCKS AND ORCAS GUESS PARTLY BLANKED-OUT PHRASES: "WHALE OF FORTUNE."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals P

Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

Giving thanks

- 1) Which U.S. state was the first to adopt an annual Thanksgiving holiday?
2) What U.S. city is home to America's oldest, continuously celebrated Thanksgiving Parade?

2) Philadelphia
1) New York

11-24 CRYPTOQUIP

CPYQ EX CAQ RQQL RAQK
XEOLF UZB AEYZSQ CE Z NPS
UOZKQC DPIDOQM NB KJYQIEJF
IPKSF: FZCJIKMZB.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A LARGEMOUTH FISH IS RECITING A POPULAR CATHOLIC PRAYER, MIGHT IT BE A HAIL MARY BASS?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals H

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to senior safety. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 17 = E)

A. 19 24 13 7 7 17 23 5
Clue: Slick

B. 19 1 15 11 17 23
Clue: Place to wash

C. 26 20 23 19
Clue: Handles

D. 17 5 17 19 13 12 1 25
Clue: Ability to see

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to senior safety.

M M E O Y R

GUESS WHO?

I am a country singer born in South Carolina on November 20, 1977. I went to the Vanderbilt voice clinic to treat a lesion on my vocal cords. I performed at the Grand Ole Opry in 2001 and have had several top ten hits.



Food FACT!

Despite the word "nut" in the name of this food, they are actually legumes, which is a family of plants that includes peas and lentils.

How they say that in...

English: Peanut
Spanish: Cacahuete
Italian: Arachide
French: Cacahouète
German: Erdnuss

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1. Parcels
5. Tidy a space
7. Liquid turning into a gas

DOWN
1. Nuts that are not a nut
2. Transparent
3. Pain
4. Trying things out
6. Liquid fat

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1777: The Articles of Confederation are submitted to the states for ratification.
1820: Captain Nathaniel Palmer becomes the first American to see Antarctica.
2019: The first known case of COVID-19 is traced to a man in China.

SENIOR SAFETY WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS
BALANCE
BATHROOM
CAREGIVERS
COGNITIVE
ELDER ABUSE
EMERGENCY
FALL PREVENTION
FIRES
GRAB BARS
HEARING AIDS
HOME SAFETY
HYPOTHERMIA
LIGHTING
MEDICATION
MOBILITY AIDS
NON-SLIP
PERSONAL ALARM
PREPAREDNESS
SAFE DRIVING
SCAMS
SECURITY SYSTEM
STAIRLIFT
VISION

Did You Know?

Peanut butter is not just for sandwiches. It also is delicious in baked goods or even savory dishes.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Evidence
6 Locales
12 Swiss cereal
13 One way to serve café
14 Actor
15 Brown pigment
16 Conference leader?
17 Heroic verse
19 Hanoi holiday
20 Hayseed
22 Comic Gaster
24 Select, with "for"
27 Coal source
29 Online crafts site
32 Attraction in Cambridge, Massachusetts
35 1012, in Old Rome
36 French perfume brand

DOWN
1 White
2 Genuine
3 Blender brand
4 Flamenco cheer
5 Stravinsky
6 El —, Texas
7 "— Miller" (Verdi opera)
8 Pub brew
9 Bach choral works
10 Aachen article
11 Doc's "Now!"
12 Rockies hrs.
18 Like some patents
21 Ms. Thurman
23 Modern, in Bonn
24 Resistance unit
25 Peace, to Caesar
26 13-figure figure
28 Mysterious
30 Lanka lead-in
31 Verily
33 Itinerary word
34 P followers
39 Stage
41 Suit
42 Burnside denials
43 Not busy
45 Exploits
47 Emit coherent light
48 Feeder filler
49 Golfer Ernie
51 Insult, slangily
53 "Exodus" hero

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-22

Crossword grid for 11-22

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A synthetic trump finesse

North dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A J 3
♥ A Q 9 8 7
♦ Q
♣ 8 7 6 5

EAST
♠ K 10 9 5 2
♥ K J 4
♦ 10 6
♣ K 9 3

SOUTH
♠ 6
♥ 5 2
♦ A 9 7 4
♣ A Q J 10 4 2

The bidding:
North 1♥
East 2♠
South 3♠
West 3♣
Pass 5♣
6♣

Opening lead — four of spades.

Careful management of the trump suit is vital in the play of many contracts. This hand required delicate handling by declarer to bring home a slam.

West led a spade, taken by dummy's ace. Declarer then played a club to the queen, on which West showed out. South realized from the bidding that he would be unable to ruff his diamonds successfully in dummy, so he led a heart and finessed the queen, hoping to establish that suit in order to dispose of his diamond losers.

The finesse lost to the king, and East returned the ten of diamonds.

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q J 10 7 4
♥ A
♦ 7 6 5 3 2
♣ Q 5

EAST
♠ A 9 8 6 3
♥ 7 6 5
♦ K 9
♣ 10 6 4

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

The bidding:
East 1♥
South Pass
East 2NT
South Pass
East 3♥
South Pass

Opening lead — seven of clubs.

Even the best players often disagree on how to bid or play a hand. But that is perhaps all to the good, since this lack of unanimity adds zest to the game.

Consider this deal played by France and the United States in 1971. When Mike Lawrence and Bobby Goldman were North-South for the U.S., the bidding went as shown, and West led a club.

Goldman played dummy's queen, which won, and tried a diamond finesse, which succeeded. He then returned to dummy with a heart, led another diamond and so scored nine tricks consisting of five hearts, three diamonds and a club.

When Pierre Jais and Roger Trezel held the North-South cards for France, the bidding and play were totally different. This time the bidding went:

East 2♥
South Pass
East 2NT
South Pass
East 3NT
South Pass

Again, a club was led by West and won with the queen, but here declarer played a low spade from dummy at trick two. Bobby Wolff (East) rushed up with the ace and returned a club, and South quickly went down one for a combined loss to France of 700 points.

It seems clear that the French declarer misplayed the hand. True, he would have succeeded had West held the ace of spades instead of East — essentially a 50-50 chance. But Goldman's line of play gave him two chances to succeed instead of one: if East had the king of diamonds or, failing that, if West had the ace of spades, making him a 3-1 favorite to get home safely.

Tomorrow: Caught in a quandary.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

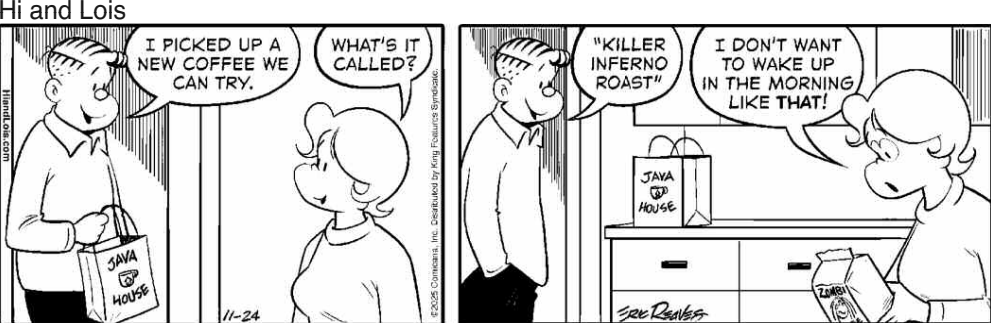
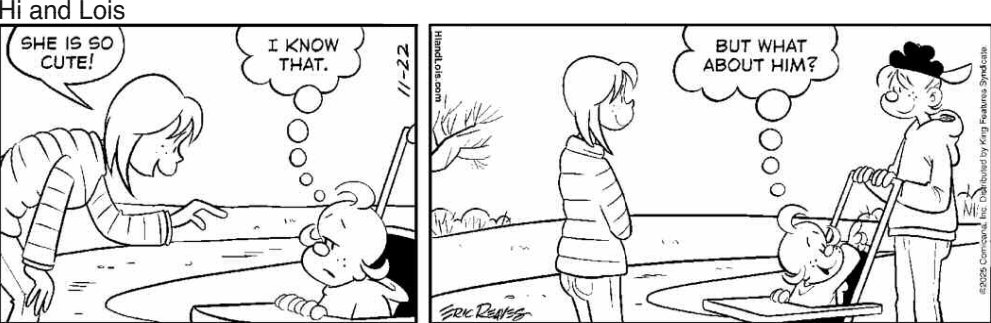
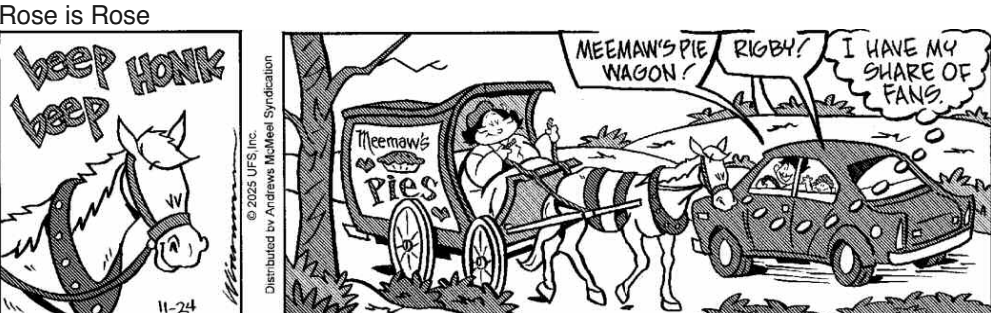
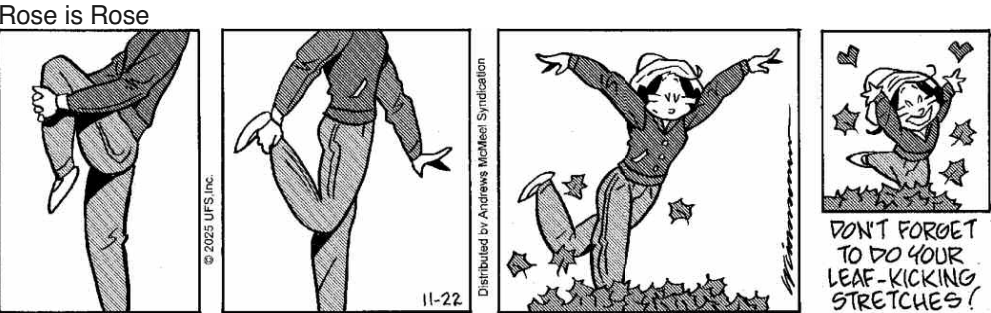
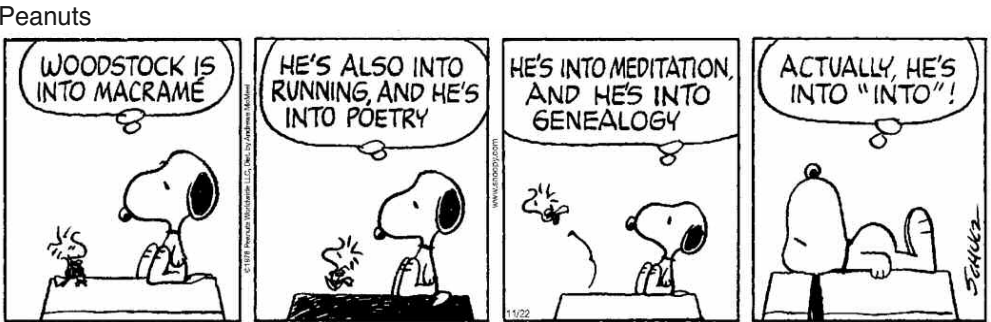
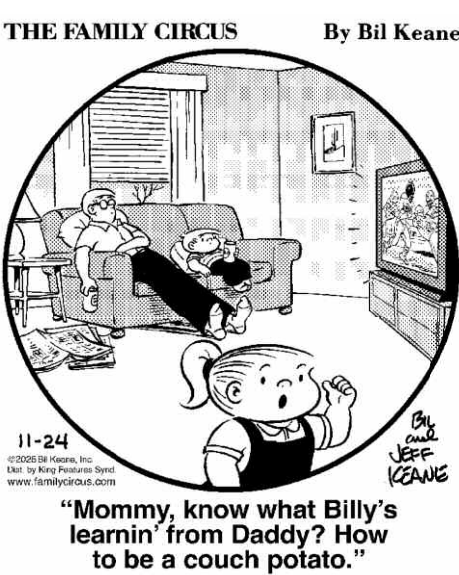
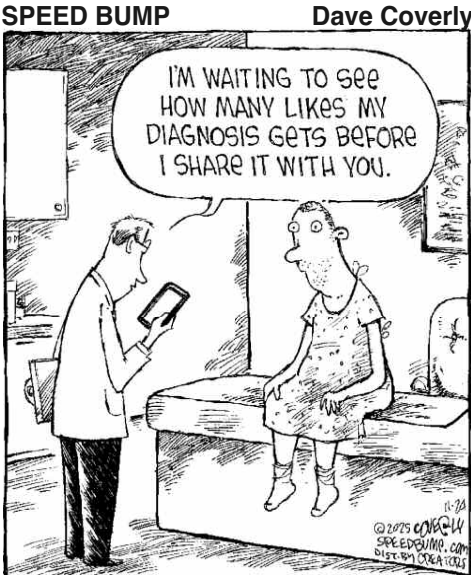
ACROSS
1 Old Testament book
5 Crater edge
8 Off-roaders, for short
12 "Va-va—!"
13 High card
14 507, to Caesar
15 Saudi native
16 Keeps going
18 New parent's task
20 Swindle
21 Actor James — Jones
23 A/C measure
24 Make a hard copy
28 Icelandic saga
31 Charged bit
32 "Star Wars" director
34 Suffix with hotel
35 "Holy cow!"

DOWN
1 Author Hunter
2 Author — Neale Hurston
3 Meander
4 Sleep aid drug
5 Run-DMC, for one
6 Hosp. area
7 Screen material
8 Carol starter
9 News anchor's work-place
10 Cello's fore-runner
11 Trig function
17 Center
19 Country-wide, briefly
22 "Filthy" money
24 Babe, for example
25 Kanga's kid
26 Loads, as software
27 Fitted, as a suit
29 Dict. info
30 Canine greeting
33 Char
36 React with loud laughter
38 "CSI" work-place
40 Sean — Lennon
42 Gush
43 Whine
44 "Frozen" reindeer
46 Houston acronym
47 Singer Stefani
48 Hitch
50 Rock's Brian

Solution time: 21 mins.

Saturday's answer 11-24

Crossword grid for 11-24



We Deliver

Laughter

Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

The Commercial Review *We Deliver*

A
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ADVERTISING RATES
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3 insertions.....96¢/
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12 insertions. \$1.52/
word
26 insertions. \$1.77/
word
Includes
Online.....FREE
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40 NOTICES

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90 SALE CALENDAR

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6.5 MILES E OF HWY
27. PORTLAND, IN
REAL ESTATE
96.6 Acres in Section
16, Noble Twp. Jay
County, Indiana.
Tract 1: 76 +/- Acres
with 68 Acres Tillable
with frontage on County
Road 100 N.
Tract 2: 20 +/- Acres
Wooded with Access via
a 25' Lane from County
Road 100 N. Wooded
Acreage in Classified
Forest.
Tract 3: Combination of
Tracts
1 and 2.
Note: Tillable Acreage
does have some tile but
not systematically
drained. More acreage
can be made tillable.
Very desirable Farm in a
great location!
OWNERS:
Jeffrey V & Agnes M
Smith.
Note: Check Auctionsoft
and AuctionZip for more
photos.
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AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
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260-726-5587

PUBLIC AUCTION

Located: Women's
Building at the Jay
County Fairgrounds, 806
E Votaw St., Portland,
IN
Thursday Evening
DECEMBER 4, 2025
6:00 P.M.
REAL ESTATE - PIKE
TOWNSHIP, JAY
COUNTY INDIANA
TRACT 1 - 31.48 acres
of land located in Sec-
tion 30 of Pike Town-
ship. 28.92 acres of till-
able land and the bal-
ance in non tillable land
and roadway. This par-
cel of land has road
frontage on CR 175W
and
CR 800 S.
TRACT 2 - 43 +/- acres
of land with approxi-
mately 42 acres of till-
able land and the bal-
ance in roadway and
utility transmission tow-
ers.
This parcel of land has
road frontage on CR
175W.
TRACT 3 - 74.48 +/-
acres of land, which is
the combination of Tract
1 and Tract 2.
For more information
contact Gary Loy, Auc-
tioneer at (260) 726-
5160 or Kim Loy, Real
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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
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COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
IN THE JAY COUNTY CIR-
CUIT COURT
CAUSE NO 38-C01-2509-MI-23
IN RE THE NAME
CHANGE OF:
Robert Noah Crosby,
Petitioner
NOTICE OF A PETITION
FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Robert Noah Crosby, whose
mailing address is: Dunkirk,
IN 47336, in the Jay County,
Indiana, hereby gives notice
that Robert Noah Crosby has
filed a petition in the Jay
County Court requesting that
his name be changed to
Robert Noah Bishop
Notice is further given that
the hearing will be held on
said Petition on January 26,
2026 at 1:00 pm
Robert Noah Crosby,
Petitioner
CR 11-22,29,12-6-2025-HSPAXLP

Public Notice

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Portland
Storage Units located at 217 E
Pearl St/1000 N Wayne St Port-
land IN 47371intends to hold a
sale to sell the property stored
at the facility by the below oc-
cupants whom are in default at
an auction. The sale will occur
or otherwise disposed as an on-
line auction via www.storage-
treasures.com on 12/4/2025 at
10:00AM. Earl Johns unit #B1;
Kimberly Hiday unit #J175;
Shelby Smith unit #K217; Earl
Johns unit #L233. This sale may
be withdrawn at any time with-
out notice. Certain terms and
conditions apply. See manager
for details.
CR 11-22-2025-HSPAXLP

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2025-26 Jay County boys wrestling preview

- Projected lineup**
- Corbin Lothridge – 106
 - Mitchell Byrum – 106
 - Bryce Whisler – 106
 - Anthony Campofiore – 113
 - Sylas Wenk – 120
 - Alexander Rivers – 126
 - Karson Hines – 126
 - Gavin Fennig – 132
 - Cooper Glassford – 132/138
 - Jason Landers– 132/138
 - Miles Jones – 144
 - Gabriel Ardizzone – 144
 - Carson Tarter – 144
 - Jacob Robinson – 150
 - Chandler Murphy – 150
 - Dylan Bolt – 150
 - Caleb Sibray – 157/165
 - Mario Ardizzone – 165
 - Bryan Fields – 175
 - Freddie Lingo – 190
 - Efren Ruiz-Herrera – 190
 - Varen Ridgway – 215
 - Alan Ortiz – 215/285
 - Spencer Smitley – 285



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Pictured is the 2025-26 Jay County High School boys wrestling team. Front row from left are Efren Ruiz-Herrera, Alan Ortiz, Cooper Glassford, Sylas Wenk, Jacob Robinson, Caleb Sibray, Freddie Lingo and Anthony Campofiore. Second row are Mitchell Byrum, Karson Hines, Carson Tarter, Gabriel Ardizzone, Brayden Keihn, Braelyn Rathbun, Varen Ridgway and Dylan Bolt. Third row are Alexander Rivers, Mario Ardizzone, Spencer Smitley, Jason Landers, Bryan Fields, Corbin Lothridge and Miles Jones. Back row are managers Trinity Glassford, Chloe Muhlenkamp, Raylin Hummer and Aurora Michael. Not pictured are Oscar Acantar, Jacen Dame, Alexander Doll, Reynaldo Leos, Chandler Murphy, Hayden Richman, Shawn Shott Jr. and Bryce Whisler.

2024-25 season

The Patriots took a step back during last year’s campaign as they missed out on the team state tournament for the first time since 2019 (four seasons) and failed to get anyone to state for the first time since 2011 (14 seasons). Jay County came up just short to Adams Central in both the ACAC Duals and the ACAC tournament. JCHS fell to the Jets 47-30 in the opening round of the Allen County Athletic Conference Duals before going on to win the other five matches. The Patriots claimed the title in five weight classes via Corbin Lothridge, Alan Ortiz, Griffin Byrum, A.J. Heskett and A.J. Myers, but ACHS also had five champs and three runners-up. Jay County finished third at the sectional behind Belmont and Adams Central and claimed fifth place at the regional tournament.

Matches to watch

- Tuesday, Dec. 9 vs. Delta/Yorktown/Winchester**
After missing the team state tournament last season, picking up a win over Delta would be an enormous resume builder to try to make it back in.
- Tuesday, Dec. 23, in East Central Indiana Classic**
After a week off, the Patriots will host the East Central Indiana Classic, which includes a plethora of strong teams including Delta, Oak Hill and Coldwater.
- Friday, Jan. 31, ACAC Tournament at Bluffton**
Not only does the ACAC Tournament determine bragging rights inside of the conference, it is one final chance for a tune-up before the postseason.
- Saturday, Feb. 14, Semi-state at Fort Wayne**
Two of the returning Patriots fell in the semi-state last season and will look to redeem themselves this year.

Top returners

- Alan Ortiz**
32-4, regional qualifier
- Jacob Robinson**
25-5, injured in postseason
- Jason Landers**
27-14, semi-state qualifier
- Corbin Lothridge**
28-12, semi-state qualifier

Key departures

- Griffin Byrum**
36-5, semi-state qualifier
- A.J. Heskett**
36-6, semi-state qualifier
- Bryce Coy**
23-12, regional qualifier
- A.J. Myers**
19-7, semi-state qualifier

Coach Tyler Leonhard says

“I’m just excited with the group of guys that we have, especially our senior class. They had the chance to learn under a whole bunch of talented senior classes before them, so they’re kind of taking that leadership and instilling it in all of the rest of the guys and getting everybody ready for the season. ... Last year we didn’t get into team state which kinda bummed us out a bit. I think that put a chip on our guys’ shoulders and honestly why everyone’s been working so hard. ... Last year would have been 15 years in a row we sent someone to state, but we’re kind of stuck at the 14 number, so I think that’s another motivating factor not only for this senior class, but also for the underclassmen that want to prove themselves.”

Fast facts

- Last season broke a 14-year streak of sending at least one wrestler to the state tournament. Griffin Byrum and A.J. Heskett both came close but fell in the ticket round at semi-state.
- Jay County last won its sectional in 2023, while Belmont has claimed the title in five of the last six years.
- This will be Tyler Leonhard’s first year at the helm of the Patriots after taking over for Eric Myers. Leonhard graduated JCHS in 2017 and started as an assistant in 2022.
- Jay County has struggled with some health problems the last few years right before entering the postseason. Two years ago, Cameron Clark went down before the play-offs and last year, Jacob Robinson was sidelined with an injury.
- The Patriots’ schedule will feature more dual matches than usual with 11 (including the ACAC Duals) compared to just three invitational.

Schedule		
Date	Opponent	Time
Tuesday, Dec. 2	Centerville	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 6	Western	9 a.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 9	Delta/York./Winch.	6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13	ACAC Duals	9 a.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 16	Norwell	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 23	ECIC	9 a.m.
Saturday, Jan. 3	Battle in the Bear Den	8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 6	Coldwater	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 15	Homestead	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 17	Concordia Lutheran	9 a.m.
Friday, Jan. 23	ACAC Tourney (Bluff.)	6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 31	Sectional	8:30 a.m.
Saturday, Feb. 7	Regional	8:30 a.m.
Saturday, Feb. 14	Semi-State	8:30 a.m.
Friday, Feb. 20	State Finals	2 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 21	State Finals	10 a.m.
Home matches in bold		

Jay wrestlers suffer first loss of season

COLUMBIA CITY — The Patriot veterans took care of business on the mat in their first road match of the season. But they couldn’t get enough support from the freshmen and first-year wrestlers to claim a win over the Eagles.

The No. 9 Jay County High School girls wrestling team suffered its first loss of the season 48-30 at the hands of the Columbia City Eagles on Thursday.

All three of the Patriots’ ranked wrestlers, Katie Rowles (fourth – 100-pound weight class), Amara Crawford (seventh – 190) and Maleah Parsons

Local Roundup

(13th – 140), secured victories.

Crawford had the most dominant win, pinning Lacey Ernst of Columbia City (3-0) 31 seconds into the 170-pound match. Rowles needed 1:32 to pin Adisyn Omelian and 1:41 came off the clock before Parsons got Laken Garcia on her back.

Jay County (2-1) also got wins from Madison Gage in the

155 weight class and Kelly Jones in the 145 match. Gage pinned Kiersten Williamson in 5:48, while Jones beat Jaylynn Smith in 42 seconds.

Five Patriots also got pinned in the match and a pair of forfeits in the 110 and 130 weight classes tipped the scales for the Eagles.

JV falls

COLUMBIA CITY — The Jay County junior varsity boys wrestling team fell to Columbia City in the season opener 29-18.

A trio of freshmen all picked up their first career victories

for the Patriots (0-1), while five more wrestlers fell.

Mitchell Byrum put Mason Dean on his back in 46 seconds in the 106-pound weight class to secure JCHS some points.

The other two victories came in the heavy weight classes. Varen Ridgway pinned Haden Watson 25 seconds into the second period of the 215 match. Spencer Smitley won the 235 contest over Joshia Myers in only 19 seconds.

Jay sweeps

MUNCIE — The Jay County Junior High School girls basketball teams took down

Muncie Southside on Thursday.

Arabella Link led the eighth graders with 18 points to beat Southside 40-18. Kinze Homan also reached double figures with 10.

Brenna Weitzel also had seven points.

Gretchen Petro’s 13 points fueled a 33-14 victory for the seventh graders. Haley Comer (six points), Adalee Rigby (five) and Brooklyn McGill (four) supported the effort.

The rest of the points came from Remi LeMaster and Remi Saint with two points apiece and Alyssa Schwieterman with one.

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The Commercial Review

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Trouble ...

Continued from page 10
“They might be quicker than us, but our athleticism kinda helped that.
“We talked about doubling off of anybody that’s not another Schwieterman onto the Schwietermans and at times we executed that. At times we needed a little bit of help. We hadn’t gone

zone much all year, but when we sank back in there, it sort of threw them off their game and gave us a little bit of momentum.”
Karsyn Schwieterman had only one basket in the second half as Raylah Newton found her in transition with 13 seconds remaining in the third quarter.

Cutting off the Schwietermans stalled the offense for the rest of the team as well. The only hoops other than Karsyn Schwieterman’s layup came on an Elizabeth Brunswick corner three and drive to the rim to open the fourth quarter and a Natalie May score on a curl cut assisted by Newton.

The other 10 points for JCHS in the second half came at the charity stripe.
While Jay County struggled to score in the third quarter, Belmont took advantage of seven JCHS turnovers in the period. The Braves pushed to a 45-23 advantage that the Patriots couldn’t recover from.

Box score

Jay County Patriots
at Class 3A No. 6
Belmont Braves

Girls varsity summary

Jay County (1-2)

	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
KSchwtrmn	6-13	5-10	17
Newton	0-3	0-0	0
HSchwtrmn	2-10	7-8	11
Brunswick	2-5	2-2	7
Dirksen	0-2	0-0	0
May	1-2	2-4	4
Peters	0-2	0-0	0
Totals	11-37	16-24	39
	.297	.667	
Def.	Rebound	percentage:	
	.721		

Belmont (4-0)

	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Kitson	1-5	0-0	2
Barton	2-5	3-4	7
Schumm	0-0	0-0	0
Caffee	0-1	0-0	0
Krueckeberg	2-9	3-3	7
French	5-9	0-0	14
ABleke	5-18	4-6	16
Converset	0-1	0-0	0
MBleke	6-10	2-6	14
Borne	0-0	0-0	0
Totals	21-58	12-19	60
	.362	.631	
Def.	Rebound	percentage:	
	.793		

Score by quarters:

Jay Co. 8 12 3 16—39
Belmont 18 16 11 15—60

3-point shooting: Jay County 1-6 (Brunswick 1-1, KSchwierman 0-1, Newton 0-1, HSchwierman 0-1, Dirksen 0-1). Belmont 6-23 (French 4-6, ABleke 2-8, Converset 0-1, Kitson 0-2, Barton 0-2, Krueckeberg 0-3)

Rebounds: Jay County 37 (Team 10, KSchwierman 6, Newton 6, Peters 6, HSchwierman 3, Brunswick 2, Dirksen 2, May 2). Belmont 35 (MBleke 9, Kitson 7, ABleke 7, Team 3, Barton 2, Krueckeberg 2, French 2, Converset).

Assists: Jay County 4 (Newton 2, HSchwierman 2). Belmont 10 (Kitson 5, ABleke 2, MBleke 2, French).

Blocks: Jay County 2 (KSchwierman, Brunswick). Belmont 5 (Caffee 2, MBleke 2, ABleke).

Personal fouls: Jay County 17 (HSchwierman 5, Dirksen 5, Brunswick 3, KSchwierman 2, May 2). Belmont 19 (French 4, Kitson 3, Caffee 3, Krueckeberg 3, ABleke 2, MBleke).

Turnovers: Jay County 21. Belmont 11.

VaTech signs Franklin

By DAVID TEEL
The Virginian-Pilot
Tribune News Service

Virginia Tech’s financial commitment to football is evident in new coach James Franklin’s five-year contract, which guarantees him \$41.75 million and dramatically increases pay for assistant coaches and support staff.
The school released the terms Friday afternoon.
Among the highlights:
With base and supplemental compensation, Franklin is assured \$750,000 for the remainder of calendar 2025, followed by annual totals of \$6 million, \$5 million, \$4 million, \$12.75 million and \$13.25 million. The modest totals in his first three full years reflect his buyout from Penn State, which fired him last month after 11-plus seasons.
The salary pool for Franklin’s 10 assistant coaches is \$9.5 million, with an additional \$6 million for support staff. According to Tech’s most recent NCAA financial report, assistant coaches earned a combined \$6.4 million, while staff made \$3 million.
For context: Clemson’s NCAA report showed \$9.7 million for football assistant coaches, \$10.5 million for staff. Florida State was \$8.7 million and \$6.5 million.

When Bill Belichick became North Carolina’s head coach in December, the Tar Heels created salary pools of \$10 million for assistants and \$5.3 million for support staff.
Virginia Tech is pledging \$3 million toward football recruiting, more than double its \$1.2 million of 2024. Clemson and FSU reported \$3.1 million and \$1.8 million, respectively, in recruiting expenses.
Franklin’s contract includes industry-standard bonuses for benchmarks such as an ACC championship (\$150,000), College Football Playoff qualification (\$150,000 to \$800,000 based on how far the Hokies advance) and national Coach of the Year (\$100,000).
He and his staff also will receive bonuses based on wins, with a maximum of \$250,000 to Franklin for 12 victories in a season.
In a unique twist, Franklin will earn a bonus if Virginia Tech finishes among the ACC’s top five in television viewership.
Those amounts double at each step, \$50,000 to \$100,000 to \$200,000 to \$400,000 to \$800,000.
That clause reflects the ACC’s new TV revenue distribution formula, 60% of which is based on ratings.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Girls wrestling at Mooresville team duals – 9 a.m.; Girls swim at Westfield – 10 a.m.; Boys basketball scrimmage vs. Beech Grove – 3 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys bowling vs. St. Henry at Plaza Lanes – 9 a.m.; Boys basketball vs. Van Wert at Plaza Lanes – 1 p.m.; Girls bowling vs. Van Wert at Plaza Lanes – 1 p.m.
Monday
Jay County — Freshman boys basketball at Delta – 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball vs. Richmond – 6 p.m.
Tuesday
Jay County — Boys basketball vs. South Side – 6 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball vs. South Side – 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Middle school girls basketball vs. Versailles – 5 p.m.
TV schedule
Today
7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Burnley at Chelsea (USA)
10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: AFC Bournemouth at West Ham United (USA)
12 p.m. — College football: Missouri at Oklahoma (ABC); Minnesota at Northwestern (BTN); Rutgers at Ohio State (FOX); Louisville at SMU (ESPN2); Miami at Virginia Tech (ESPN); Kansas at Iowa State (FS1)
12 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: FC Tulsa at Pittsburgh Riverhounds (CBS)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League soc-

cer: Newcastle United at Manchester City (NBC)
1 p.m. — College football: Baylor at Arizona (TNT)
3:30 p.m. — College football: Arkansas at Texas (ABC); Kentucky at Vanderbilt (ESPN); USC at Oregon (CBS); Michigan State at Iowa (FS1); Syracuse at Notre Dame (NBC)
3:30 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at New York Islanders (FDSN Indiana)
4 p.m. — College football: Michigan at Maryland (BTN); TCU at Houston (FOX); Kansas State at Utah (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — College football: Nebraska at Penn State (NBC); Pitt at Georgia Tech (ESPN); Colorado State at Boise State (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Tennessee at Florida (ABC); Illinois at Wisconsin (BTN)
8 p.m. — College football: BYU at Cincinnati (FOX); Arizona State at Colorado (ESPN2)
10:30 p.m. — College football: Washington at UCLA (NBC); San Jose State at San Diego State (FS1)
11 p.m. — Formula 1: Las Vegas Grand Prix (ESPN2)
Sunday
9 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Leeds United at Aston Villa (USA)
11:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Arsenal FC at Tottenham Hotspur (NBC)
12 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Syracuse vs. Michigan (FS1)
12:30 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Miami (OH) at Purdue (BTN)
1 p.m. — NFL: Minnesota Vikings at Green Bay Packers (FOX); Indianapolis at Kansas City (CBS)

1 p.m. — LPGA Tour: CME Group Tour Championship (NBC)
2:30 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: George Mason vs. Maryland (BTN); UConn vs. Utah (FS1)
3 p.m. — La Liga soccer: Elche at Real Madrid (ABC)
4:25 p.m. — NFL: Philadelphia Eagles at Dallas Cowboys (FOX)
7:30 p.m. — MLS: Philadelphia Union at New York City (FS1)
8:20 p.m. — NFL: Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Los Angeles Rams (NBC)
Monday
11 a.m. — College basketball: Rhode Island vs. Towson (ESPN2)
1 p.m. — College basketball: Tennessee vs. Rutgers (TNT)
2:30 p.m. — College basketball: Seton Hall vs. N.C. State (ESPN2)
3 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Manchester United at Everton (USA)
3:30 p.m. — College basketball: Notre Dame vs. Kansas (TNT)
5 p.m. — College basketball: USC vs. Boise State (BTN)
6 p.m. — College basketball: Syracuse at Houston (TNT)
7 p.m. — NBA: Detroit Pistons at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)
8 p.m. — College basketball: UT Rio Grande Valley at Illinois (BTN)
8:15 p.m. — NFL: Carolina Panthers at San Francisco 49ers (ESPN)
Tuesday
7:30 p.m. — College football: Western Michigan at Eastern Michigan (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — NBA: Orlando Magic at Philadelphia 76ers (NBC)
11 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Clippers at Los Angeles Lakers (NBC)



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Wrestlers come into season with chip on thier shoulder, see preview page 8

Jay County girls swim opens season today, see Sports on tap

Triple trouble



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School's Raylah Newton pulls up for a jump shot in the middle of the lane on Friday as the Patriots fell to Class 3A No. 6 Bellmont 60-39. The Patriots struggled to score in the second half, making just four field goals.

Series of second-quarter 3-pointers bury Patriots against No. 6 Bellmont

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

DECATUR — Nothing stopped Karsyn Schwieterman from getting to the rim and pulling the Patriots back into the game during the second quarter.

But just as soon as the Patriots got back into it, the Braves drained a triple.

And then another.

And another.

And another.

When the buzzer sounded for the intermission, the difference had ballooned to 14 points. The Braves never let their visitors back in.

Jay County High School's girls basketball team gave up four threes in the final 2 minutes, 20 seconds, of the first half and only managed four second-half field goals as it fell to the Class 3A No. 6 Bellmont Braves 60-39 on Friday.

"I felt like we definitely showed that we were capable of playing at that level with that quality of a team, so now we just need to do it for 32 minutes," said JCHS coach Sherri McIntire. "Credit to Bellmont. They are a very fine ball club.

... "I just felt like there were times tonight, where we came and went. When we were here and playing well, I felt like we competed and we could compete at that level. Then there were times that we didn't and we had some breakdowns with turnovers and not contesting shots. But I saw promise tonight."

A lot of that promise came in the second quarter, when Karsyn Schwieterman — she led Jay County (1-2) with 17

points — got to the rim four times to slice what was at one point a 12-0 deficit down to just four points.

After the freshman knocked down her final points of the quarter at the free-throw line, the Braves (4-0) started punching back as Lanie French kicked the ball out for Ashley Bleke to hit a triple from the left wing.

The Patriots had an answer for the first three as Hallie Schwieterman pulled up from the elbow to down her second field goal of the game.

French hit the final three 3-pointers — two came from the left wing and a final one on an elevator screen — on assists from Kate Kitson to reclaim control for Bellmont with a 34-29 lead at the intermission.

"We were just not rotating in our defense," said McIntire, who switched her team to a man-to-man scheme after giving up the first 12 points of the game. "We were supposed to be switching and we just didn't rotate and she got open looks."

While the Braves' offense impressed in the first half, it was their defense on the Schwieterman sisters that carried them in the second half. Any time Hallie or Karsyn Schwieterman attempted to penetrate the arc and reach the paint, a swarm of Braves would collapse to swallow up the drive before they could get too deep.

"We talked all week about stopping them high in the lane," said BHS coach Andy Heim. "I think our athleticism is a thing we can chalk up as a win against most teams and I thought it was the same there.

See **Trouble** page 9,

FR falls to Roughriders

FORT RECOVERY — The Tribe played a strong second half, but it wasn't enough to undo the struggles in the first.

The Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team dropped its season opener 48-32 Friday to the Memorial Roughriders.

The Indians (0-1) struggled to contain Memorial (1-0) in the first half, giving up 15 points in the first quarter and 14 in the second. Claire Turner scored eight of her 10 points in the first half, while Sophie Menker added seven.

Fort Recovery scored just nine points in the first 16 minutes. Cameron Muhlenkamp scored once in the opening quarter and split two pairs of free

throws, while Bridget Homan added a bucket. Maddie Schoenlein had the only score for FRHS in the second, hitting a 3-pointer.

The Tribe picked things up in the second half with 10 points in the third quarter and 13 in the fourth.

Muhlenkamp finished with a game-high 13 points, while Makenna Huelskamp followed with nine. Homan had four, and Kayla Gaerke matched Schoenlein with a triple.

Audrey Reineke led the Roughriders with 11 points, seven of which came in the third quarter.

FRHS will have another test coming up on Nov. 28 when it hosts the Mississinawa Valley Blackhawks.

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