



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Holiday performances

It was a busy week at Arts Place, with the MusicWorks ensembles Christmas concert on Tuesday and MusicWorks Christmas recitals on Thursday and Friday. Pictured, Evelyn Garringer plays “La Cinquantaine” on the cello during Thursday’s session. Arts Place is also hosting free showings of Christmas movies, with “The Muppet Christmas Carol” at 1 p.m. and “The Nightmare Before Christmas” at 6:30 p.m. Monday and “Noelle” at 1 p.m. Tuesday and “The Polar Express” at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Redevelopment commission pulls project support

Members vote to halt funding, request to rescind agreement

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review
Two county government units have decided to stop paying for planning a housing infrastructure project. Jay County Redevelopment Commission agreed Thursday to cease funding the proposed 68-acre development along Votaw Street (Indiana 67) on the west side of Portland. Its motion included plans to notify planning firm Rundell, Ernstberger and Associates to halt development work. The redevelopment commission also voted to send a letter to Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council declaring intent to rescind an inter-local agreement obligat-

ing American Rescue Plan Act dollars toward the project. Also, commission members accepted a resolution enacting three new tax increment financing (TIF) districts in Jay County. Jay County Council on Dec. 10 made a similar decision, voting to “pull the plug” on the 68-acre commercial and housing development project, which has approximately \$1.2 million in American Rescue Plan Act dollars backing it. Jay County Commissioners had discussed the topic Dec. 8 and will likely revisit the discussion Monday. Redevelopment commission president Carl Walker suggested the group consider taking action, either voting to continue with the project or following suit with council’s decision. Last week, commissioner Duane Monroe referenced a conference call between county officials and consulting firm Baker Tilly, saying the discussion indicated the county could reallocate American Rescue Plan Act dollars dedicated to the project. See Pulls page 2

Variance OK’d for new business

Harmon plans to offer powder-coating

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review
A new small business is starting in Pennville. Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals approved a variance request Thursday from Tristen Harmon to operate a small-scale powder coating business within the Town of Pennville. Harmon, 25, plans to start taking orders through Harmon’s Custom Coating in about a month. He’ll work out of his grandmother’s garage at 445 S. Broadway St. A Redkey native and Jay County High School graduate, Harmon has lived in Pennville for about five years. He’s been practicing powder coating for nearly three years as a hobby and decided to pursue it in a business setting. Powder coating involves fusing a dry powder to the surface of a metal object using an electric charge. See Variance page 2

Retrospect



The Commercial Review/Jennifer Datoli

Asbury bells group played at courthouse

Twenty-five years ago this week, Asbury United Methodist Church’s hand bell group performed during the annual Community Christmas Carol Sing at Jay County Courthouse. Pictured from the Dec. 21, 2000, edition of The Commercial Review, Rose Snow and Pat Chittum of the hand bell group play “Joy to the World” during the performance. The carol sing included performers from local churches, Jay County High School and other groups.

Deaths

Joel Roberts, 79, Westfield
Frederick Mann, 78, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

The temperature hovered in the low 20s Friday in Jay County. Expect partly sunny skies today with a high of 43 and winds gusting to 35 mph. Sunday’s high will be 31 under sunny skies before Monday’s high climbs into the 40s again. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Geneva Youth Council will host a Cookies with Claus event from 10 a.m. to noon today at Geneva Town Hall, 411 E. Line St., Geneva. It will include cookies and cocoa, as well as an opportunity to visit with Santa and attend a reading of “A Visit from St. Nicholas,” more commonly known as “Twas the Night Before Christmas.”

Coming up

Tuesday — Details from Monday’s Jay County Commissioners meeting.
Wednesday — Coverage of next week’s Dunkirk City Council meeting.
Friday — Results from the East Central Indiana Classic wrestling tournament.



Pulls ...

Continued from page 1

County attorney Wes Schemenaur has cautioned officials, noting American Rescue Plan Act dollars were given to communities in a unique fashion. He has voiced concerns about the county being forced to pay the funds back if an issue arises in a future audit.

Schemenaur shared similar worries with redevelopment commission Thursday, saying the process “probably will work” but that it isn’t a great position for the county to be in. He also advocated for being cautious about how the American Rescue Plan Act dollars are spent, pointing out the 68-acre project has been solely paid for with American Rescue Plan Act dollars deemed as revenue replacement.

He said Baker Tilly had suggested the county could reallocate the dollars as another revenue replacement, finding paid obligations prior to Dec. 31, 2024.

Examples included payroll or health insurance costs.

“Now that frees up \$1.2 million of revenue or funds that we can use for any purpose,” he explained.

County officials have talked about using the money to pay a portion of the cost to outfit emergency responders with new radios, a nearly \$7 million project.

Portland City Council agreed earlier this year to contribute \$400,000 toward the project, contingent on receiving a match from redevelopment commission. Jay County Commissioners recently decided in a 2-1 vote not to request redevelopment commission to supply that match.

Jay County Redevelopment Commission, Jay County Council and Jay County Commissioners entered into an interlocal agreement in November 2024 obligating American Rescue Plan Act dollars toward the 68-acre project.

Walker asked his fellow redevelopment commission mem-

bers for action, and they agreed to stop spending dollars on the project.

He also asked members if they’d like to inform county officials declaring their intent to rescind the interlocal agreement.

Redevelopment commission voted unanimously to send a letter to commissioners and council.

Also Thursday, the redevelopment commission approved a resolution to formally enact TIF districts encompassing four prospective solar farms in Jay County.

The redevelopment commission expects to capture anywhere from \$630,000 to just over \$3 million annually in TIF dollars with the new districts, which capture additional property tax revenue created by property improvements and set it aside to fund initiatives within TIF districts.

Solar farms on the horizon are Skycrest Solar in northwest Jay

County, Sun Chief Solar northeast of Redkey, Rose Gold Solar north of Dunkirk and New Jay Solar east of Dunkirk. (Rose Gold Solar and New Jay Solar are bundled into the same TIF district.)

A public hearing on the TIF districts during Thursday’s redevelopment commission meeting drew no comments.

Walker explained that with changes happening at the state level, the TIF district revenue could allow the commission to capture increases in property tax assessments.

“That’s kind of the intent of what we do here — goes in our pockets, and then hopefully the redevelopment commission then spends your money wisely,” he said.






In other business, redevelopment commission members Chuck Huffman, Harold Towell, Doug Horn, Jeff Bailey and Walker:

- Chose not to renew a contract with Ed Curtin of consulting

firm CWC Latitudes. The redevelopment commission had contracted with Curtin since November 2023. Walker indicated the county may no longer need his services because planning the creation of new TIF districts has been completed. He also voiced frustrations with some of Curtin’s work, such as inconsistencies in cost estimates for the 68-acre project shared by Curtin at past meetings. (Curtin is also a consultant for Portland Redevelopment Commission.)

- Paid the following claims: \$14,400 to law firm Barnes & Thornburg and \$6,000 to consulting firm Baker Tilly for putting together information for the TIF district creation, with Towell opposing the decision to pay Baker Tilly’s claim, \$2,691.80 to CWC Latitudes, \$551.25 to CNA Surety of St. Louis, Missouri, for insurance, and \$37.79 to The Graphic Printing Company for a public hearing notice.

CR almanac

Sunday 12/21	Monday 12/22	Tuesday 12/23	Wednesday 12/24	Thursday 12/25
 31/19 Sunday's forecast shows sunny skies with a high around 31 degrees.	 40/36 Monday looks to be cloudy with temperatures in the upper 30s and lower 40s.	 50/33 Cloudy skies, with the high reaching the mid 40s.	 49/46 Evening showers are expected Wednesday, when temperatures may hit the upper 40s.	 59/50 Thursday's weather looks like cloudy skies with temperatures in the 50s.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 8-3-4 Daily Four: 1-0-3-3 Quick Draw: 1-8-13-14-16-21-24-35-38-40-41-42-45-47-51-56-57-58-59-66	Pick 3: 3-3-0 Pick 4: 3-9-9-6 Pick 5: 2-2-4-5-7 Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$1.5 billion Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$90 million
--	--

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.64 Jan. corn4.62	Wheat4.64
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.62 Jan. corn4.59 Feb. corn4.56	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.44 Jan. corn4.44 Beans10.42 Jan. beans10.42 Wheat4.80
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.49 Jan. corn4.49 Beans10.39 Jan. beans10.42	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.59 Jan. corn4.54 Beans10.14 Jan. beans10.14 Wheat4.60

Today in history

In 1669, the first jury trial was commenced in Delaware. Marcus Jacobson was found guilty and sentenced to flogging, branding and slavery.

In 1803, the United States received the territory of Louisiana from the French in the Louisiana Purchase. The agreement cost \$15 million.

In 1812, Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm published “Grimm’s Fairy Tales,” originally known as “Children’s and Household Tales.” The popular German collection — it includes classics such as Rumpelstiltskin and Rapunzel — set

the tone for multiple fantasies in common day media.

In 1820, Missouri implemented a \$1 bachelor tax on unmarried men between ages 21 and 50.

In 1823, “Rosamunde, Princess of Cypress,” premiered in Vienna. The play created by Helmina von Chézy includes music by Franz Schubert.

In 2019, President Donald Trump signed the National Defense Authorization Act, establishing the Space Force as a new branch of the United States military.

— 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 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.	meeting, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.
Tuesday 6 p.m. — Pennville Town Council public hearing and regular	Jan. 5 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Obituaries

Joel Roberts
April 29, 1946-Dec. 16, 2025

Joel David Roberts, born April 29, 1946, in Evansville, Indiana.

Joel lived a life defined by faith, service, community and a loving devotion to family and friends. He was the son of Douglas and Ruth (Graves) Roberts and grew up in Winchester, Indiana, where he attended Lee L. Driver High School.

Joel met the love of his life, Connie Haworth, in the seventh grade — a bond that would shape the rest of his life. They were married on Sept. 15, 1967, beginning a partnership marked by love, faith and happiness.

Joel attended Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, earning a degree in civil engineering. While there, he played on the Rose-Hulman golf team and formed lifelong friendships through his fraternity, Alpha Tau Omega. Following graduation, Joel and Connie moved to Indianapolis, where he began working at Indiana Bell while attending law school at Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis. During this time, they welcomed three daughters.

After completing law school, Joel relocated to Portland, Indiana, where he practiced law at Clamme and Roberts, served as a deputy prosecutor, and later was appointed Superior Court Judge in Jay County. Joel served with distinction as Jay Superior Court Judge for 20 years. Following his retirement, he continued to serve the people of Indiana as a Special Judge throughout the state. In recognition of his service and character, Joel was honored with the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash Award.

Joel was deeply committed to his community. He volunteered extensively with numerous organizations, including the Rotary Club, Cincinnatus League, Knights of Columbus, Arts Place, Jay Commu-



Roberts

nity Center and The Portland Foundation. His faith was central to his life. He was a devoted parishioner at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, where he sang in the choir and served as a lector.

An avid golfer, Joel also loved reading, playing the guitar, singing, and watching sports — especially Indiana University athletics, the Cleveland Browns and the Cincinnati Reds. He cherished traveling with Connie and treasured time spent with family and friends. Above all, Joel was an extraordinarily devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend, and was adored by all who were closest to him.

In recent years, Joel and Connie moved to Westfield, Indiana, to be closer to family and became members of St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church.

Joel is survived by his beloved wife of 58 years, Connie Roberts; his brother, Brad (Stacy) Roberts; his sister, Polly Roberts; his daughters, Kim (Chris) Janak, Lexie (Patrick) Hughes and Kristen (Brad) Robling; and his cherished grandchildren Joel, John and Joshua Janak; Quinn, Jenna and Noah Hughes; and Nick, Sophia, Jacqueline and Luke Robling.

Those who knew Joel will remember him as kind, generous with his time and talents, humble, and fiercely devoted to his family. He was deeply grounded in his Catholic faith and known for his witty, dry sense of humor. Joel was profoundly loved by his wife, daughters, grandchildren and friends, and he will be dearly missed by all whose lives he touched.

Visitation will be held on Monday, Dec. 22, from 10 a.m. until the time of service at noon at St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church, 17102 Spring Mill Road, Westfield, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Portland Foundation, portlandfoundation.org, 107 S. Meridian St., Portland, IN 47371.

Bussell Family Funerals is privi-

leged to assist the family in arrangements.

Frederick Mann
Frederick Lee Mann, age 78, passed away peacefully on Dec. 16, 2025, at his home.

Born in Portland, Indiana, his parents were Norman and Alta (Miller) Mann.

Fred worked at Dana Corporation for 37.5 years and farmed for 37.5 years and longer. His hobbies included collecting old cars, restoring his tractors, attending car shows, collecting antique toy tractors and spending time with his two best friends, Smoke and Luke.

He is survived by his wife Shirley Mann; son Randy Mann (wife: Tami); daughter Tracy Winn; sister-in-law Jerri Jones; grandchildren Justin Mann, Brittany Mann, Josh Mann, Trisha McEwen, Derek Barnett and Shira Winn; 14 great-grandkids; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a son, Kevin Mann; and brothers Charles and Sonny Mann.

Funeral services will be Tuesday, Dec. 23, at 10 a.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Hugh Kelly presiding. Burial will follow in the Gravel Hill Cemetery west of Bryant.

Visitation will be Monday from 3 to 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be made to the choice of the donor.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

.....

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.



Mann

Variance ...

Continued from page 1

The coating is then cured in an oven and forms a smooth coating. It’s typically used for metal parts, such as automobile components.

“We’re talking any color that you want,” said Harmon. “(It) also offers protection, it’ll keep it from rusting and (help) the metal part (last) for a long time.”

Capsule Reports

Tractor hit
A Pennville man was injured when a Bluffton woman’s vehicle struck his tractor along Indiana 1 about 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Leah J. Jackson, 36, was driving a 2008 Chrysler Town & Country north on the highway when she approached a northbound 2020 agricultural tractor driving in front of her.

She began to pass the tractor driven by 68-year-old Jacob D. Wengerd and hit the tractor, causing it to leave the road and land on its side, damaging both vehicles.

Wengerd sustained three broken ribs,

back injuries and various scrapes on his head and hands.

Jackson complained of chest pain.

Both vehicles were towed, with damage estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

Schedule change
The Portland trash pick-up schedule will be altered next week because of the Christmas holiday.

Homes that are regularly serviced on Thursday will be handled Wednesday.

Those typically serviced on Friday will be bumped to the following Monday.

Felony arrests

Methamphetamine
A Ridgeville man was arrested Tuesday for possession of methamphetamine.

Levi S. Albertson, 37, 649 E. 600 North, was preliminarily charged with two

Level 6 felonies for the alleged crime and possession of a legend drug, and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.

He was released on a \$4,500 bond from Jay County Jail.

SERVICES

Today

Bergman, Barbara: 10 a.m., 1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery.

Monday, Dec. 22

Roberts, Joel: noon, St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church, 17102 Spring Mill Road, Westfield.

Tuesday, Dec. 23

Mann, Frederick: 10 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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

Service listings provided by

PROGRESSIVE

DEL TORO

OFFICE PRODUCTS

120 N. Meridian St.

Portland, Indiana 47371

(260) 726-9201

progressiveofficeproducts.com



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Festival of Trees

Jay County Chamber of Commerce announced Festival of Trees winners Thursday. Pictured at left are first place winner Jay County Conservation Club with club caretaker Missie Pagel, Tami Vormohr, chamber director Amanda Nixon-Randall and Jay County Public Library children’s services librarian Shana Neuenschwander. Above are second place winner Jay County Cancer Society with representative Andrea Poore, Neuenschwander, Nixon-Randall and Vormohr. Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition scored third place, and Youth Service Bureau earned the People’s Choice Award. Additional photos will be published at a later date.

Failure to return calls disappoints mother

DEAR ABBY: My sister recently became very ill and had to be hospitalized for four days. When I called and told our daughter, she was concerned and supportive. Then, I called our son, “Isaac,” and left a message to please call me because it was important. He did not return my call.

A couple days later, my husband left another message for Isaac to call. He finally sent us a picture of himself and his family at Disneyland in California. He was on vacation with his wife and two kids and didn’t want to be bothered. After he got back, he waited a few days to call me. I am hurt and disappointed in Isaac. We live in Texas, and they go to Disneyland three or four times a year.

Dear Abby



I think Isaac should have taken five minutes to return my call so I could fill him in about the situation with his aunt. Because of this, I no longer feel as close to my son. In fact, I feel I’m very unimportant to him. Am I wrong to be sad and disappointed? Is it common for close relatives not to respond when they are on vacation? My sister is now recovering, but her illness has taken a huge toll on her. — DISILLUSIONED IN TEXAS

DEAR DISILLUSIONED: What a rude awakening you had. That you are hurt and disappointed is understandable. Have you been in the habit of calling your son at inconvenient times? I can’t think of another reason why he would fail to respond to your urgent request to talk with him.

Your son appears to be self-centered and emotionally distanced from you and the family. If this is the first time you have noticed, pay attention to it.

If you need a support system as you and your husband grow older, do NOT take it for granted that Isaac will be there for you.

.....

DEAR ABBY: I am a 61-year-old woman who still works full time. My husband is 65 and retired. Unfortunately, he has severe back issues that prevent him from doing much. He’s unable to walk or ride long distances or even sleep well at night.

When I get home from work, I cook dinner and clean up, but by then he’s asleep in the living room, and I am unable to entertain myself. He controls the TV, and I’m stuck watching old shows from the ‘50s and ‘60s. I feel so isolated. We can’t go anywhere or do anything. I am the loneliest married woman I know.

My husband is currently good and kind, but he is getting more easily frustrated by everything.

Should I stay or go? — WAF-FLING IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR WAFFLING: Where you should go is straight to a store that sells television sets. Buy one for yourself and place it in a room your husband doesn’t sleep in. This should solve part of your problem. As to your husband’s increasing level of frustration, this should be discussed with his doctor. Neither of you is in a particularly happy place right now, but this might be a step in the right direction.

.....

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact her at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

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

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.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL MUSEUM — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the third Friday and Saturday of each month at Webster Depot, 132 W. Railroad St.

MUSEUM OF THE SOL-

DIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

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 BREAK-

FAST 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 Richard’s 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.

We are growing!

Sprunger & Sprunger is seeking a detail-oriented **MEDICAID COORDINATOR**. Responsibilities include Medicaid application support, FSSA interaction, document gathering, and client communication. Apply if you are organized, professional, and mission-driven.

Scan QR code with phone to see full job description



SPRUNGER & SPRUNGER
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Send cover letter and resume to mitch@sprungersas.com

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday’s Solution

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

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.



May Financial Group LLC

Serving Others First!

Jeff Hall, your hometown agent for over 30 years and hometown agent Matt Franks.

ACA Marketplace health insurance

OPEN ENROLLMENT

November 1, 2025 - January 15, 2026

Turning 65 or older and confused concerning Medicare Options?

Call Jeff or Matt at 260-729-5200

Life • Health • Dental • Vision • Employee Benefits • Annuities

Personal and private conversation at your local hometown office.

Indiana lawmakers sent a message

The answer was 33.
We asked the question in late October.
How many of our Indiana legislators would stand strong?
This month, we found out.
A total of 33 Republicans — 21 in the Indiana Senate and a dozen in the House — voted against a bill that would have redrawn the state's congressional districts. The Senate vote ended up 31-19, with all 10 Democrats also opposing the effort.
Indiana Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray had repeatedly said the votes were not there to pass redistricting. He tried to avoid going into session even after Indiana Gov. Mike Braun

Editorial

called legislators back to Indianapolis.
But there was pressure coming not only from Braun, but directly from the White House, as President Donald Trump is trying to protect his party's narrow majority in the U.S. House of Representatives. So the session was called.
The Indiana House of Representatives passed the bill, which

would have carved up Indianapolis into districts stretching from the Ohio River to the Kankakee River and reaching the eastern and western state borders.
The Indiana Senate spent four days hearing testimony and debating the legislation, which also would have put Lake County into the same district as Wabash County. Senators who had never been interested in taking part in this power play stood strong and defeated the bill.
We thank State Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle), whose district includes Jay and Blackford counties, for standing up against this blatant power grab. We also thank State Rep. Matt Lehman

(R-Berne), who was one of the 12 Republicans who voted against the bill in the House.
This issue had little, really nothing, to do with Indiana.
It was all a national power struggle.
Trump got the ball rolling when he pushed Texas to redistrict in favor of the GOP, with Missouri and North Carolina not far behind. California voters approved Proposition 50, a ballot issue to redraw the state's congressional districts in Democrats' favor.
The Hoosier State was simply the next battlefield where Trump and his cronies thought they could gain some ground.
Ultimately, Holdman, Lehman

and 31 others rightly decided that their responsibility is to the people they serve and not to protecting their own power or that of the president.
Mid-decade redistricting is a slippery slope. It's a path toward redrawing districts before every election to allow the party in power to try to protect that power.
Such a system would not be good for anyone and would only lead to greater polarization in our political system.
Speaking truth to power is never easy. We are proud of those who did it.
Their votes sent an important message: Indiana will not be pushed around. — R.C.

Give credit for staying principled

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

We've been known to give Indiana a hard time, and rightly so over hare-brained ideas such as aiding a portion of downstate Illinois in an effort to redraw state lines. Not so today.
Instead, we'd like to applaud the independence and fortitude shown by so many state lawmakers who stood up last Thursday against threats and intimidation. It's hard enough taking shots from your political opponents — it's even tougher when the pressure is coming from the same side of the aisle.
President Donald Trump has pressed GOP state lawmakers in states like Indiana as part of a mid-decade redistricting campaign. Texas listened. Indiana was supposed to fall in line.

The prospect of a remap had been hanging over the Indiana legislature for months. After weeks of uncertainty, state lawmakers convened last week to confront the issue. The state Senate rejected the map proposal by a 31-19 vote, with 21 Republicans joining their Democratic peers in voting no. Having publicly said Illinois would feel pressure to follow suit if Indiana redrew its maps, Gov. JB Pritzker didn't take that option off the table. But don't expect any action on that front in Illinois.

As for Indiana, Trump made it clear to lawmakers that if they didn't change their maps to add more Republican seats, there would be consequences, including federal aid cuts. Trump allies at Heritage Action, the advocacy arm of the Heritage Foundation, crystallized these threats in a post on X Dec. 11, writing that if Indiana didn't pass the new map, "Roads will not be paved. Guard bases will close. Major projects will stop. These are the stakes and every NO vote will be to blame." Now, the president has said he'll back primary challenges to lawmakers who voted no.
People don't take too kindly to that type of public bullying. Not even the president's friends.
"You wouldn't change minds by being mean. And the efforts were mean-spirited from the get-go," said Indiana state Sen. Jean Leising, who voted for Trump three times. "If you were wanting to change votes, you would probably try to explain

Guest Editorial

... it was the threats coming from the president and his allies that Indiana lawmakers simply couldn't stomach.

why we should be doing this, in a positive way. That never happened."
Republican state Sen. Spencer Deery, who voted against the maps, said, "My opposition to mid-cycle gerrymandering is not in contrast with my conservative principles. My opposition is driven by them."
Their bravery was met with an appalling escalation — Leising said her home was targeted with a pipe-bomb threat last month. Lawmakers knew physical threats were a possibility, and they stood their ground anyway.
You can only push people so far.
Leising's sentiments ring true to Midwestern sensibilities, and to a broader frustration with the increasingly coercive tone politicians adopt when determined to get their way. In this case, it was the threats coming from the president and his allies that Indiana lawmakers simply couldn't stomach.
On top of that, they didn't like being used as pawns, especially since it would've meant betraying their constituents and principles. Redrawing maps mid-cycle would only deepen cynicism about a process already viewed as overly political. With this question settled, the focus in Springfield and Indianapolis should return to governing, not manipulating the rules of the game.
GOP lawmakers who run our lawmaking state deserve credit for their courage and sticking to their principles.



Redistricting dies, republic lives

By JOHN KRULL
TheStatehouseFile.com

In the end, it wasn't even close.
When President Donald Trump's determined and deluded campaign to redistrict Indiana's congressional maps in the middle of a decade came up for a vote in the Indiana Senate, it fell 31-19.
That's a decisive number all by itself—anytime 62% of any group vote against something, it's telling—but a number hidden within that total demonstrates how complete the defeat of the president and his dwindling band of allies was.
There are 40 Republicans in the Indiana Senate.
And 21 of them voted against a president, a vice president, a governor and a lieutenant governor of their own party.
More than half of the Indiana Senate GOP caucus summoned the will and the courage to stand up to the relentless political pressure from the White House and the Indiana executive branch, to the swattings, to the threats of pipe bombings and to all the other forms of intimidation exerted by political leaders and operatives more interested in power for its own sake than any principles, including those they, with their hands on the Bible, pledged to uphold.
It was a fine moment, one that is likely to restore at least some faith in the integrity of Hoosier legislators and the durability of American institutions.
That matters.
This country and its states depend a great deal upon the good faith of those who hold government offices. We count on the people who take oaths to uphold the Constitution to mean what they say and adhere to their pledges.
If we have learned anything during the era in which Donald Trump has

John Krull



dominated the national stage, it is about the fragility of our institutions and our guiding principles when good men and good women lack the will to abide by their oaths and do the right thing.
Faith in our country and even in the idea of representative self-government—the belief that free people can rule themselves—dwindles and then perishes when that happens.
That is what makes this episode in Indiana and U.S. history so satisfying. So redemptive.
The members of the Indiana Senate, Republican or Democrat, are not exceptional people. Almost all of them were not born with extraordinary wealth or remarkable natural gifts.
No, with all their virtues and flaws, they resemble the people who sent them to the Statehouse. That is what makes them representative.
They come from the very people in whose name and with whose consent they govern.
The losers in the struggle to rig Indiana's maps are easy to determine. President Trump, of course, is one of them. His attempt to cheat his way through the next election cycle is as ethically indefensible as it is single-minded.
In this instance, though, the trust fund baby accustomed to buying, blustering or bullying his way through all difficulties and opposition ran into a force he couldn't move. Plain Hoosier decency.

Vice President JD Vance also suffered a defeat. He tried to serve as Trump's enforcer in Indiana and only reinforced the idea that he's a man whose moral core is as malleable as soft clay.
Indiana Gov. Mike Braun, who cringed and flinched before Trump like a frightened puppy, will have a tough time going forward convincing anyone inside or outside the Indiana General Assembly that he's anything more than a presidential lap dog.
Then there's Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith, who strutted through this whole drama as if he were a genuine power broker, a puppet master with his hands on all the strings.
As events unfolded, though, it became clear that he was a band leader without a band, which made him just a guy standing around waving his arms in the air to no effect. He bleated in defeat that Republicans in the Indiana Senate lacked "courage" and only made clear that he has no idea what the word means.
As for the winners, well, they're easy to identify, too.
Senate President Pro Tempore Rodric Bray, R-Martinsville, established himself as a power—perhaps the power—in Indiana state government. The Senate itself reasserted its longstanding role as Indiana's legislative killing field, the place where bad ideas and bad bills go to die.
But the biggest victor was something more ethereal and important. It was an idea, one as old as the dream of the republic itself.
The belief that a free people could keep the faith.
And govern themselves.
.....
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



US PS 125820

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

The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and six holidays (New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to letters@thecr.com. They should be 700 words or fewer, signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

RAY COONEY
President, editor and publisher
TONIA HARDY
Business manager

LOUISE RONALD
Board chair
BRIAN DODD
Production manager

VOLUME 151—NUMBER 164
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2025

www.thecr.com

"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

Subscription rates
Internet-only: Three days — \$3; Monthly auto-pay — \$10; 13 weeks — \$32; six months — \$60; one year — \$108.
City (walking — where available): Monthly auto-pay — \$12; 13 weeks — \$38; six months — \$72; one year — \$129.
Motor route (where available): Monthly auto-pay — \$13; 13 weeks — \$46; six months — \$78; one year — \$148.
Mail: Monthly auto-pay — \$15; 13 weeks — \$53; six months — \$86; one year — \$161.
Home delivery problems: Call (260) 251-9588

12-20 Cryptogram

Twice today the word "waiter" is spelled the same way as the word "waitress" but the letters are not in the same order. What is the word?

Yesterday's Cryptogram: The word "waiter" is spelled the same way as the word "waitress" but the letters are not in the same order. What is the word?

Today's Cryptogram: The word "waiter" is spelled the same way as the word "waitress" but the letters are not in the same order. What is the word?

Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

'Tis the season

1) Which U.S. state was the first to officially recognize Christmas as a legal holiday in 1836?

2) What was the first Christmas song ever broadcast from space?

1) Alabama
2) Jingle Bells

12-22 Cryptogram

Next time you see the word "waiter" spelled the same way as the word "waitress" but the letters are not in the same order. What is the word?

Yesterday's Cryptogram: The word "waiter" is spelled the same way as the word "waitress" but the letters are not in the same order. What is the word?

Today's Cryptogram: The word "waiter" is spelled the same way as the word "waitress" but the letters are not in the same order. What is the word?

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to food service. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 26 = E)

A. 22 26 17 4 26 17
Clue: Waiter/waitress

B. 24 23 13 19 25 26 11
Clue: Cooking room

C. 17 26 22 13 9 12 17 9 11 13
Clue: Place to dine

D. 19 25 26 19 24
Clue: Restaurant bill

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to food service.

TCIDRE

Answer: Credit

kids' corner

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Chocolate powder
4. Fruit growing areas
5. Outside of a place
7. Eats

DOWN

1. Handheld desserts
2. Not at home
3. Sweet treats
6. Fish eggs

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

19

1777: The Continental Army goes into winter quarters at Valley Forge.

1924: The last Rolle-Royce Silver Ghost is sold in London, England.

1941: Adolf Hitler appoints himself as head of the Oberkommando des Heeres.

FOOD SERVICE WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

A LA CARTE
ALLERGENS
BUTTER
CHAFING
COMPLIMENTARY
COST
COVER
EXPEDITER
GRIDDLE
GUEST
HOUSE
MENU
PANTRY
RESTAURANT
RUNNER
SALE
SEATING
SERVICE
SOMMELIER
TABLE
TIP
TURN OVER
WALK-IN
YIELD

Food FACT!

This dessert is made from dough that is either rolled, cut or pressed into shape.

Answer: Cookie

How they say that in...

English: Dough
Spanish: Masa
Italian: Impasto
French: Pâte
German: Teig

NEW WORD

CHIP

a small piece of solid chocolate

Did You Know?

Twisting the cookie cutter when cutting out the cookie dough can prevent the dough from rising properly and create inconsistent shapes.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Rolling pin

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1. Scholar
4. One
6. Floor
12. Gam
14. Wood
16. One
18. One
20. One
22. One
24. One
26. One
28. One
30. One
32. One
34. One
36. One
38. One
40. One
42. One
44. One
46. One
48. One
50. One
52. One
54. One
56. One
58. One
60. One
62. One
64. One
66. One
68. One
70. One
72. One
74. One
76. One
78. One
80. One
82. One
84. One
86. One
88. One
90. One
92. One
94. One
96. One
98. One
100. One

DOWN

1. One
2. One
3. One
4. One
5. One
6. One
7. One
8. One
9. One
10. One
11. One
12. One
13. One
14. One
15. One
16. One
17. One
18. One
19. One
20. One
21. One
22. One
23. One
24. One
25. One
26. One
27. One
28. One
29. One
30. One
31. One
32. One
33. One
34. One
35. One
36. One
37. One
38. One
39. One
40. One
41. One
42. One
43. One
44. One
45. One
46. One
47. One
48. One
49. One
50. One
51. One
52. One
53. One
54. One
55. One
56. One
57. One
58. One
59. One
60. One
61. One
62. One
63. One
64. One
65. One
66. One
67. One
68. One
69. One
70. One
71. One
72. One
73. One
74. One
75. One
76. One
77. One
78. One
79. One
80. One
81. One
82. One
83. One
84. One
85. One
86. One
87. One
88. One
89. One
90. One
91. One
92. One
93. One
94. One
95. One
96. One
97. One
98. One
99. One
100. One

Solution time: 25 mins.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Reducing the risk factor

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A Q 7
♥ Q 6 4
♦ Q 8 5
♣ A 10 7 3

WEST

♠ J 10 9 4
♥ J
♦ J 10 7 6 3
♣ Q 8 5

EAST

♠ 6 5 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 2
♦ 2
♣ K 6 4 2

SOUTH

♠ K 8
♥ A K 7 5 3
♦ A K 9 4
♣ J 9

The bidding:

South West North East
1♥ Pass 2NT Pass
3♦ Pass 3♥ Pass
6♥

Opening lead: jack of spades.

Most mistakes made by declarer are due more to carelessness than lack of skill. As a case in point, consider today's deal where South got to six hearts and West led a spade.

Declarer won the jack with the king, cashed the ace of trump, then led a low trump to the queen. When West showed out, South realized that the slam was in jeopardy. Although he could get rid of his club loser on one of dummy's

spades, he might still lose a diamond trick as well as a trump trick.

South therefore decided to leave a trump in dummy as he tested the diamonds. At trick four, he led a diamond to the ace and another to dummy's queen, but East ruffed and returned a trump, and South had to go down one.

Had declarer given a bit more thought to the matter after the hearts failed to break, he would have made the contract. Instead of leading a low diamond to the ace at trick four, he should have cashed dummy's queen of diamonds first before leading another diamond from dummy at trick five. This would have left East with no recourse.

If he ruffed, declarer would follow low and later draw East's last trump to wrap up the contract. And if East did not ruff, South would win the diamond with the king, cash the A-Q of spades, discarding a club, and then lead dummy's last diamond.

Again, East would find himself between the proverbial rock and a hard place. If he ruffed, it would be all over; if he did not ruff, declarer would win with the ace and ruff the nine of diamonds in dummy. Whatever East did, South's only loser would be a trump trick.

© 2025 King Features Syndicate Inc.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1. New
2. New
3. New
4. New
5. New
6. New
7. New
8. New
9. New
10. New
11. New
12. New
13. New
14. New
15. New
16. New
17. New
18. New
19. New
20. New
21. New
22. New
23. New
24. New
25. New
26. New
27. New
28. New
29. New
30. New
31. New
32. New
33. New
34. New
35. New
36. New
37. New
38. New
39. New
40. New
41. New
42. New
43. New
44. New
45. New
46. New
47. New
48. New
49. New
50. New
51. New
52. New
53. New
54. New
55. New
56. New
57. New
58. New
59. New
60. New
61. New
62. New
63. New
64. New
65. New
66. New
67. New
68. New
69. New
70. New
71. New
72. New
73. New
74. New
75. New
76. New
77. New
78. New
79. New
80. New
81. New
82. New
83. New
84. New
85. New
86. New
87. New
88. New
89. New
90. New
91. New
92. New
93. New
94. New
95. New
96. New
97. New
98. New
99. New
100. New

DOWN

1. New
2. New
3. New
4. New
5. New
6. New
7. New
8. New
9. New
10. New
11. New
12. New
13. New
14. New
15. New
16. New
17. New
18. New
19. New
20. New
21. New
22. New
23. New
24. New
25. New
26. New
27. New
28. New
29. New
30. New
31. New
32. New
33. New
34. New
35. New
36. New
37. New
38. New
39. New
40. New
41. New
42. New
43. New
44. New
45. New
46. New
47. New
48. New
49. New
50. New
51. New
52. New
53. New
54. New
55. New
56. New
57. New
58. New
59. New
60. New
61. New
62. New
63. New
64. New
65. New
66. New
67. New
68. New
69. New
70. New
71. New
72. New
73. New
74. New
75. New
76. New
77. New
78. New
79. New
80. New
81. New
82. New
83. New
84. New
85. New
86. New
87. New
88. New
89. New
90. New
91. New
92. New
93. New
94. New
95. New
96. New
97. New
98. New
99. New
100. New

Solution time: 21 mins.

12-20 Cryptogram

Twice today the word "waiter" is spelled the same way as the word "waitress" but the letters are not in the same order. What is the word?

Yesterday's Cryptogram: The word "waiter" is spelled the same way as the word "waitress" but the letters are not in the same order. What is the word?

Today's Cryptogram: The word "waiter" is spelled the same way as the word "waitress" but the letters are not in the same order. What is the word?

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K Q 6 4
♥ A 10
♦ K 6 5
♣ A Q 9 4

WEST

♠ J 8
♥ K 8 6
♦ A 10 9 8 2
♣ K 10 8

EAST

♠ A 10
♥ J 9 7 3 2
♦ 7 3
♣ 7 6 3 2

SOUTH

♠ 9 7 5 3 2
♥ Q 5 4
♦ Q J 4
♣ J 5

The bidding:

North East South West
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
4♣ Pass 4♣ Pass

*balanced raise to game in spades.
Opening lead: ten of diamonds.

This deal occurred in an early match between Norway and the United States at the 1993 world team championship. When Peter Weichsel and Bobby Levin of the U.S. held the North-South hands, they reached four spades as shown. It might appear that with the spades dividing evenly and the king of clubs favorably located, Levin was certain to make his contract.

But this did not take into account the inspired defense of then-23-year-old Geir Helgemo, who, with

his youthful Norwegian teammates, finished second to the Netherlands for the world title that year. For his opening lead, Helgemo selected the diamond ten!

Barring a defensive slip, there was now no way for Levin to make the contract. But the Norwegians demonstrated in this, their very first match, that they had not come to the world championship to settle for anything less than perfection.

Levin took the opening diamond lead in his hand and led a spade to the queen. East, Tor Helness, won with the ace and returned a diamond to his partner's ace. Helgemo then carefully led the diamond deuce for Helness to ruff, giving the defenders their third trick.

Had Helness returned a heart, certainly tempting in view of dummy's club holding, declarer could have gotten home safely by playing low from his hand, trapping West's king. But Helness obeyed the suit-preference signal carried by the diamond deuce and returned a club. After Helgemo's ten forced dummy's queen, there was no way for Levin to avoid losing a heart, and he finished down one.

At the other table, Norway's Glenn Grothum and Terje Aa stopped in three spades and made four for plus 170, giving the Norwegians a 6-IMP pickup on the deal.

Tomorrow: Look before you leap.

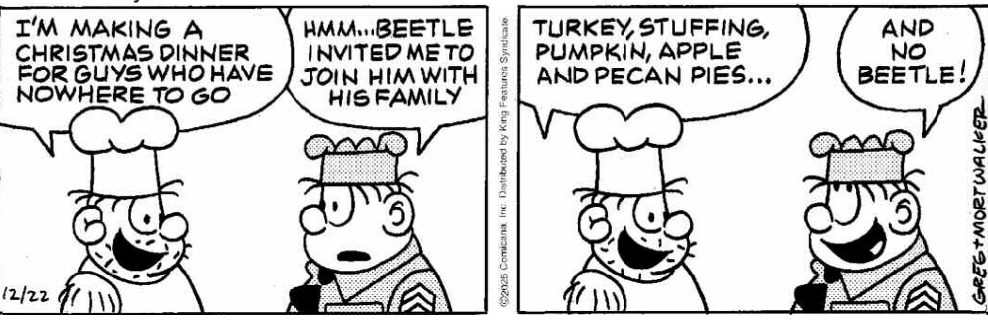
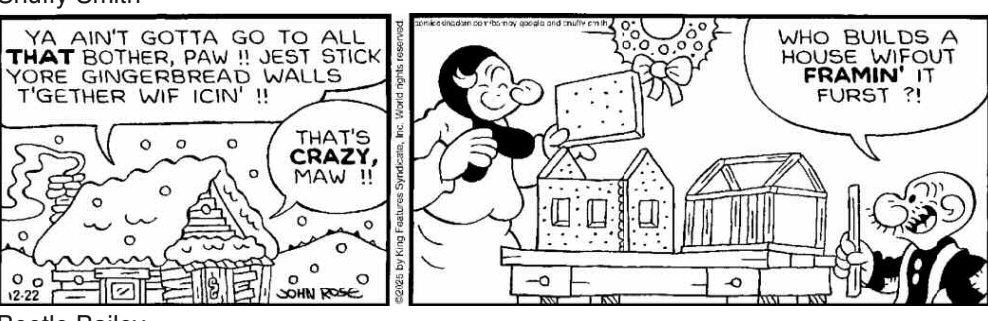
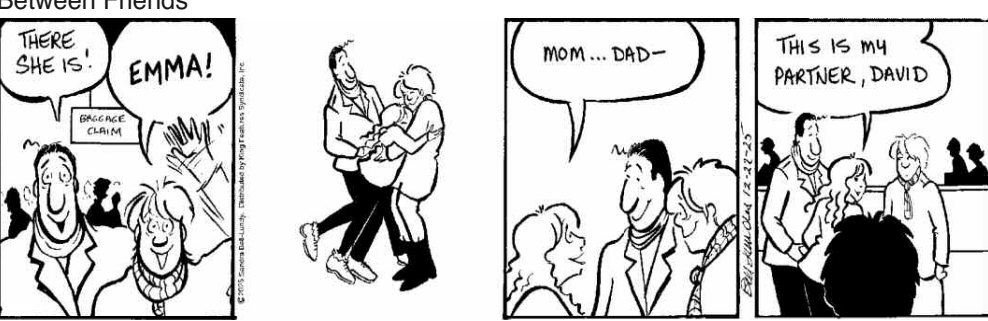
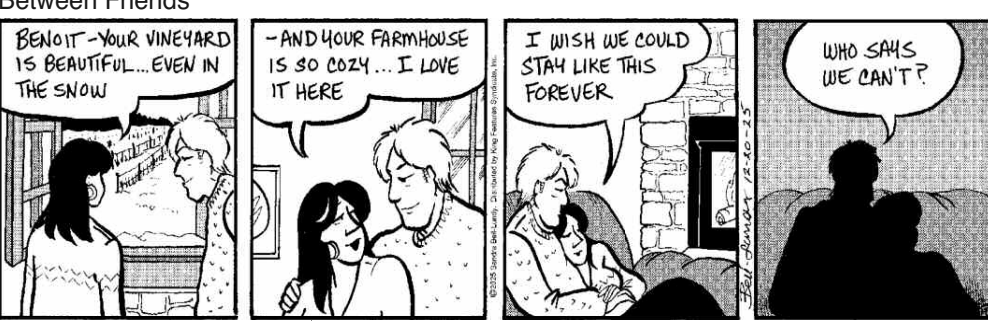
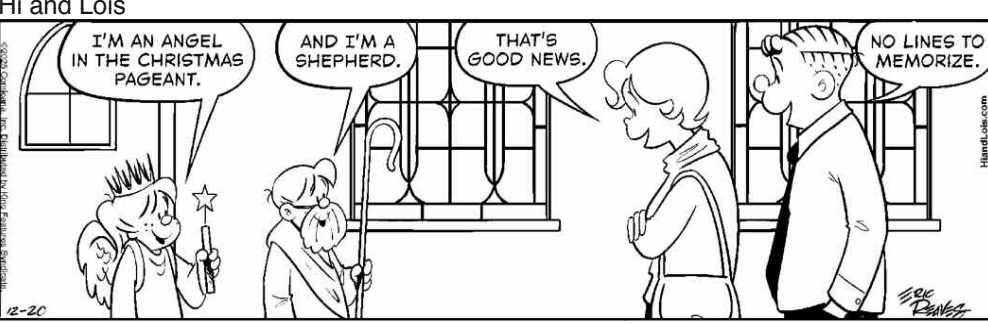
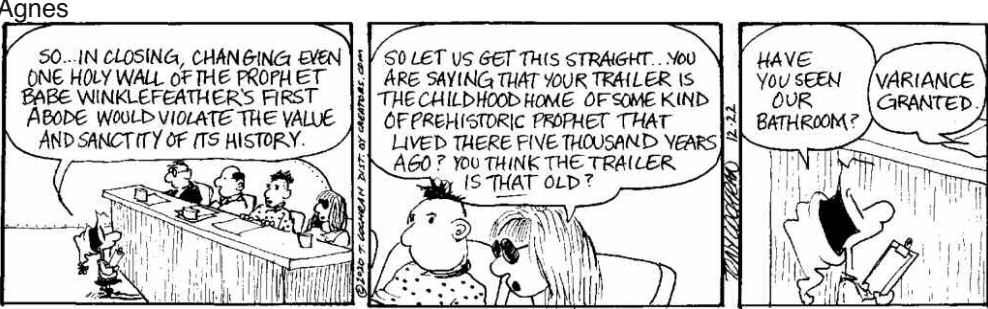
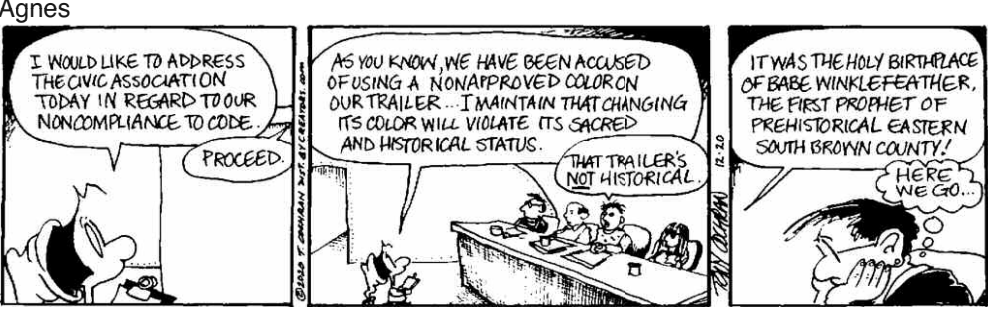
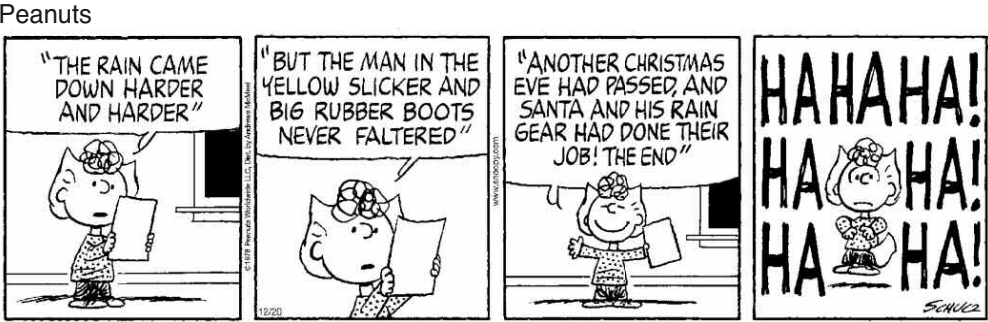
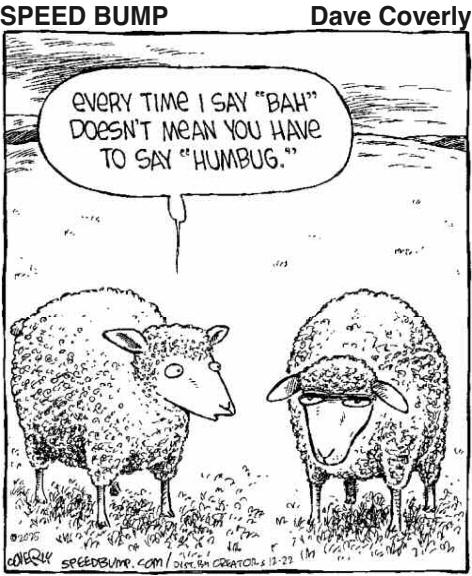
© 2025 King Features Syndicate Inc.

12-22 Cryptogram

Next time you see the word "waiter" spelled the same way as the word "waitress" but the letters are not in the same order. What is the word?

Yesterday's Cryptogram: The word "waiter" is spelled the same way as the word "waitress" but the letters are not in the same order. What is the word?

Today's Cryptogram: The word "waiter" is spelled the same way as the word "waitress" but the letters are not in the same order. What is the word?



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
D
V
E
R
T
I
S
E
in

The
Commercial
Review

C
L
A
S
S
I
F
I
E
D

A
D
S

726-8141

00 CLASSIFIEDS


CLASSIFIED ADS
260-726-8141
ADVERTISING RATES
20 Word Minimum
Effective 07/01/2018:
Minimum charge....
\$12.40
1 insertion.....62¢/
word
2 insertions.....81¢/
word
3 insertions.....96¢/
word
6 insertions.... \$1.14/
word
12 insertions. \$1.52/
word
26 insertions. \$1.77/
word
Includes
Online.....FREE
Classified Display \$6.95/
per column inch
No borders or logos
allowed on Classified
Page
Card of Thanks Up to
100 words.... \$13.00
In Memory Up to 100
words.... \$13.00
Advertising Deadline is
12:00 p.m. the day prior
to publication.
Pre-Payment required
for: Rummage sales,
business opportunities,
jobs wanted, boats and
sporting equipment,
wanted to rent, motor-
ized vehicles, real estate
and mobile homes.

40 NOTICES


PLEASE NOTE: Be sure
to check your ad the first
day it appears. We can-
not be responsible for
more than one days
incorrect copy. We try
hard not to make mis-
takes, but they do hap-
pen, and we may not
know unless you call to
tell us. Call before 12:00
pm for corrections. The
Commercial Review, 309
W Main, Portland, Indi-
ana 260-726-8141.

60 SERVICES

**J. L. CONSTRUCTION
& ROOFING LLC.** Amish
crew. Custom built
homes, new garages,
pole barns, interior/ exte-
rior remodeling, drywall,
windows, doors, siding,
roofing, foundations.
260-726-5062, leave
message.
**GOODHEW'S ALL SEA-
SON** Construction- Spe-
cializing in standing
seam metal roofs. When
Quality Counts, Count
On US. A company you
can trust. Member of the
BBB. New Installation
and repairs. Call Rodney
Thornbury, owner 765-
509-0191
SEAMSTRESS NAN
HOMEMADE Sewing
and Alterations, Quilts,
Baby Blankets, AppliquÉ,
Zippers, Hemming,
Memory T-Shirt, Special
Orders, Wedding & Prom
Gowns. 260.766.9334



Boolman's
Auto Sales & Service, Inc.
Highway 67 W,
Portland, Indiana
260-251-9735



Wendel's
Carpets & Upholstery Cleaning
Von Schrader Dry
Foam Cleaning
For Quick Drying,
Residential &
Commercial
Dave Wendel
Ph. 260-726-4520
Cell 260-729-2797

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY, JANUARY
10, 2026
10:00 A.M.
Location: 7851 W. 400
N.,
Pennville, IN 47369
OPEN HOUSE:
SATURDAY, DECEM-
BER 13, 2025 - 10:00
AM - 2:00 PM
SATURDAY, JANUARY
3, 2026 - 12:00 PM -
2:00 PM
OR BY APPOINTMENT
REAL ESTATE BEING
OFFERED:
1 Ω STORY HOME -
3,208 SQ. FT.; 3 BDRM;
1 BATH; KITCHEN; DIN-
ING RM/LIVING RM
COMBO; UTILITY RM;
BASEMENT W/ WOOD
STOVE; DETACHED
GARAGE; 2 BARNS;
PASTURES; STEEL
GRAIN BIN; 6.46 +/-
ACRES.
CALL FOR MORE
INFORMATION!!
TERMS OF SALE:
10% Non-refundable
deposit day of sale.
Property being sold as-
is, where is. New Survey
has been completed in
December 2025. Taxes
prorated until day of
closing. Possession at
closing. Closing to be
held within 45 days or
less from day of auction.
Title Insurance will be
provided and taxes pro-
rated to the day of clos-
ing. **ANY ANNOUNCE-
MENTS MADE DAY OF
AUCTION WILL TAKE
PRECEDENCE OVER
ANYTHING IN PRINT.**
**OWNER - LARRY
MOSER ESTATE**
Mel Smitley's Real
Estate & Auctioneering
119 E Main St. Portland,
IN
Laci Smitley -
AU10600051
260-729-2281 - Cell
Ryan Davidson
AU10600063 260-726-
5076

100 JOBS WANTED

**AMISH CREW LOOK-
ING FOR** any work. No
job is too big or small.
Pole barns, roofing,
remodeling. 260-849-
2489.

130 MISC. FOR
SALE

**SCRATCH PADS ARE
BACK** various bundles
sizes and XL pads.
\$1.25 plus tax. Pick up at
The Commercial Review
Tuesday thru Friday
10am to 4pm.
**PAPER END ROLLS
FOR SALE** Various
sizes and prices. Call
The Commercial Review
at 260-726-8141 for
more information.

190 FARMERS COL-
UMN

AG RENTAL Spreaders:
BBI, Artsway Vertical.
New Holland 228 skid
loaders w/full cab,
heat/ac. Fort Recovery
419-852-0309

200 FOR RENT

LEASE SPACE avail-
able, Coldwater, OH.
Manufacturing, ware-
housing, assembly, dis-
tribution, offices, inside
and outdoor storage.
Easy access to major
highways and railroad
access with loading
docks and overhead
cranes available. Con-
tact Sycamore Group,
419-678-5318,
www.sycamorespace.co
m
230 AUTOS, TRUCKS
WE PAY CASH for junk
autos. We pick up at your
location. 1-765-546-2642
or 1-765-857-1071.
Slocum's Salvage

SUBSCRIBE

TO THE
COMMERCIAL
REVIEW

up to
49%
off

Newsstand prices

Subscribe at
theocr.com

or call

260-726-8141

GET IT IN THE
CLASSIFIEDS

You never know what you might
find in
The Commercial Review
Classifieds.
From a new car to a new home,
to a new job, the Classifieds
deliver!
Go to theocr.com or call
260-726-8141

BANNERS
40" x 13"
BUY ONE FOR
\$6⁹⁵
GET ONE FOR
\$3⁵⁰

**Birthdays, Anniversaries,
Get Well, Just Because,
Valentine's Day,
and Many Others.**
Graphic Printing,
309 West Main St., Portland.
Open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., TUESDAY - FRIDAY
Custom sizes available.

PLACE YOUR
CLASSIFIED AD
in
The Commercial
Review call
726-8141

The Commercial Review

Newspaper Delivery Comments or Problems?
Call our Circulation Hotline
260-251-9588
After 5:00 p.m.Leave Message Please.

Carrier Delivery Deadlines
Tuesday - Friday: 6:00 p.m.
Saturday Morning: 8:00 a.m.

The Commercial Review
309 West Main St., Portland.
Front Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Circulation Department Hours: 10:00 am - 4:30 p.m.

THE
CLASSFIEDS
Find it - Buy It,
Sell It!
(260) 726-8141

Rinse and repeat

Hot start leads JC to fifth straight win

BY ETHAN OSKROBA

The Commercial Review

As the Patriot faithful nestled into the bleachers for Thursday's contest, they could have been forgiven for trying to find the footrest or grasping for a bucket of popcorn, because those who follow Jay County had seen this movie before.

Hallie and Karsyn Schwieterman each finished one point short of their career highs and combined for 57 points in the Jay County High School girls basketball team's 75-58 win over the New Castle Trojans.

"We came out and gave them a one-two punch, and I didn't really ever feel like they could recover from that," said Jay County coach Sherri McIntire. "Our defense is probably the best defense that we've played all season ... We challenged the kids. This is a sectional opponent, we want to send a message, and I think they responded to that challenge, and just very proud of the kids."

No one took McIntire's words to heart with more fervor than the Schwieterman sisters. Hallie's 31 points marked a new season high. The elder Schwieterman shot 12-for-17 from the field, barely outpacing Karsyn, who made 10 of her 16 shots on the way to a 26-point evening.

The duo made their presence felt right from the start, giving the Patriots the lead on the first possession of the game when Hallie found Karsyn on the perimeter for a 3-pointer. Jay County didn't surrender that edge all game and swelled its advantage to 26-9 at the end of the first quarter.

Jay County's wire-to-wire dominance was sig-



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Raylah Newton of the Jay County girls basketball team pushes up a shot during the Patriots' 75-58 win over the New Castle Trojans on Thursday. Newton finished with nine points on 4-of-7 shooting.

nificantly different from last season's clash with New Castle (4-6), where the Patriots (6-3) needed overtime to scrape out a 64-54 win.

"The energy of our team was so good today, and we all came into the gym so locked in," Hallie

Schwieterman said. "... We were projected to lose by three. I think that lit a fire in a lot of us because we knew that we could beat this team by 20, and I think we're capable of doing that to a lot of the teams on our schedule."

Hallie and Karsyn

Schwieterman were as vital a part of Jay County's torrid start as they were to the rest of the night. The sisters combined for 16 first-quarter points, but weren't the only Patriots to excel early.

Though she played spar-

ingly throughout the rest of the game while hampered by foul trouble, Elizabeth Brunswick was essential to setting the tone. The sophomore converted four baskets at the rim to finish the quarter with eight points.

"I know she got in foul trouble, but boy, when she was in the game in that first quarter, she was a part of that one-two punch big time, and very pleased with her," McIntire said.

Also chipping in for the Patriots was Raylah Newton, who celebrated her 18th birthday with a nine-point outing. Natalie May also tacked on one point at the free throw line, ensuring that all five Jay County starters scored in the game.

Though the starters accounted for all 75 of Jay County's points, depth isn't a concern for McIntire. She praised the efforts of reserves Claudia Dirksen and Charlee Peters, who combined for nine rebounds off the bench despite failing to score.

"I'm very comfortable with seven players, and I feel like I can rotate those seven," McIntire said. "Obviously, Karsyn and Liz (Brunswick) and Hallie are going to get the majority of our minutes, but I won't hesitate with those other girls either. They're learning, and their confidence is growing."

The Patriots' burgeoning confidence likely isn't confined to the second unit. Jay County has now won five straight games, the team's longest streak since it rattled off 20 consecutive wins en route to a sectional finals appearance in 2023-24.

"I'm very proud of my

Box score

New Castle Trojans
at
Jay County Patriots

Girls varsity summary

New Castle (4-6)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Lanzer	7-11	1-1	16	
ELuce	4-11	4-4	13	
MLuce	3-8	3-4	12	
Briscoe	3-3	1-1	7	
Orr	1-3	0-0	3	
Arthur	1-3	0-0	3	
Raymond	1-3	0-0	2	
Lee	0-0	2-2	2	
Blessinger	0-1	0-0	0	
Owens	0-0	0-0	0	
Totals	20-43	11-12	58	
	.465	.917		
Def. Rebound percentage: .750				

Jay County (6-3)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
HSchwmtmn	12-17	6-8	31	
KSchwmtmn	10-16	5-6	26	
Newton	4-7	0-0	9	
Brunswick	4-6	0-0	8	
May	0-3	1-2	1	
Dirksen	0-2	0-0	0	
Peters	0-1	0-0	0	
Lekue	0-0	0-0	0	
Totals	30-52	12-16	75	
	.577	.750		
Def. Rebound percentage: .722				

Score by quarters:				
NC	9	19	11	19—58
JC	26	13	17	19—75

3-point shooting: New Castle 7-15 (MLuce 3-5, Lanzer 1-3, Orr 1-3, Arthur 1-2, ELuce 1-1, Blessinger 0-1). Jay County 3-8 (HSchwieterman 1-2, KSchwieterman 1-2, Newton 1-1, Dirksen 0-2, Brunswick 0-1).

Rebounds: New Castle 20 (ELuce 4, MLuce 4, Owens 4, Lanzer 2, Orr 2, Raymond 2, Briscoe 2). Jay County 18 (Dirksen 5, HSchwieterman 4, Peters 4, KSchwieterman 2, Newton 2, May 1).

Blocks: New Castle 4 (Arthur 2, Lanzer, MLuce). Jay County 5 (KSchwieterman 2, Brunswick, May, Peters).

Personal fouls: New Castle 19 (ELuce 4, Lanzer 3, Owens 3, Orr 3, Briscoe 2, M. Luce 2, Arthur 1, Blessinger 1). Jay County 14 (Brunswick 4, May 3, KSchwieterman 2, Peters 2, Newton 1, Dirksen 1, Lekue Magro 1).

Turnovers: New Castle 19. Jay County 9.

team, and they keep me going, and they pick me up," Karsyn Schwieterman said. "And yeah, just makes me a better player."

NASCAR legend dies in plane crash

By TOM FOREMAN JR.

News & Record, Greensboro, N.C.
Tribune News Service

A business jet, owned by former NASCAR driver Greg Biffle, crashed on Thursday as it attempted to land at Statesville Regional Airport.

"I can confirm there were fatalities," Iredell County Sheriff Darren Campbell said to the Associated Press, though he declined to say how many.

The Federal Aviation Administration reported that a Cessna C550 crashed at around 10:20 a.m. Both the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating, according to The Associated Press. Reports indicate the plane had taken off from the airport and immediately returned to attempt a landing when it crashed and burst into flames.

Golfers playing next to the airport were shocked as they witnessed the disaster, even dropping to the ground at the Lakewood Golf Club while the plane was overhead. The ninth

hole was covered with debris.

"We were like, 'Oh my gosh! That's way too low,'" said Joshua Green of Mooresville. "It was scary."

FAA records show that the plane is registered to GB Aviation Leasing in Mooresville.

Flightaware.com showed the plane had planned to fly later from Sarasota, Florida, to Treasure Cay International Airport in the Bahamas before returning to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and then to Statesville by evening, data showed.

Biffle is considered semi-retired, having left full-time Cup racing in 2016. Before Biffle became a full-time Cup Series racer, he won the 2000 NASCAR Truck Series championship and the 2022 Busch Series title. He raced full-time in the Cup Series from 2003 through 2016 for team owner Jack Roush. He won 19 races and had six top-10 championship finishes, including a runner-up finish in 2005.

Tribe girls fall to Panthers

FORT RECOVERY — The Tribe played its second Midwest Athletic Conference opponent and suffered almost the exact same fate.

The Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team fell to the Parkway Panthers 46-29 on Thursday, dropping its eighth game to start the season.

The loss was also the second to come in the MAC for the Indians (0-8, 0-2 MAC) as they lost to Marion Local 47-29 on Dec. 11 with nearly a mirror image of the final score.

Paisley Hart had all five of her points in the first quarter to keep FRHS within striking distance of the Panthers at 12-8. But Fort Recovery only managed a pair of free throws in the second quarter, giving Parkway (6-1, 1-1 MAC) a 9-point advantage at the intermission.

The Tribe offense started to come alive in the third quarter with 12 points, but the defense couldn't keep up as the Panthers outpaced Fort Recovery 27-19 in the second half.

Cameron Muhlenkamp scored a team-high seven points, all of which came in the fourth quarter, while Maddie Schoenlein had six.

Local Roundup

Other FRHS scores came from Hart (five points), Bridget Homan (five), Ivy Tobe (four) and Makena Huelskamp (two).

Madelyn Stover led Parkway with 20 points, half of which came at the charity stripe. Brittny Bruns followed with 14 of her own.

Boys sweep

PONETO — The Jay County Junior High School boys basketball teams took care of business on Thursday as the eighth grade team defeated Southern Wells 47-11, while the seventh graders downed the Raiders 44-25.

Job Dirksen outscored the Raiders by himself with 16 points. Abram Lee also broke double-digits with 11.

Following Dirksen and Lee were Finn Hemmelgarn (nine points), Eli Homan (four), Bentley Comer (four) and Roman Clamme (three).

Carson Pfeifer led the Patriots in the seventh-grade game with 10 points and Beckham Hough added nine.

The rest of the scoring was spread out, coming from Cruz Darby (six points), Henry Teeter (four), Benson Collins (three), Mason Paxson (three), Ethan Paxson (three), Carter May (two), Parker Wasson (two) and Maverick McGill (two).

Link leads

Jay County Junior High School's girls basketball teams swept the Southern Wells Raiders on Thursday.

Arabella Link scored 15 points to lead the eighth grade team past Southern Wells 31-25. Brenna Weitzel almost broke double digits as well, scoring nine points. Kinze Homan only had two points, but ran the offense with eight assists.

The seventh graders won 30-15 with Gretchen Petro's eight points leading the way. Makenna Wellman and Kendall Farr followed closely behind with seven points each, while Haley Comer added six. Adalee Rigby also had one bucket.

**ACCULEVEL**
FOUNDATION EXPERTS

EASY FINANCING
OPTIONS AVAILABLE!

CALL 877-229-0197

WE CAN HELP WITH

BASEMENT
WATERPROOFING

HOME INSPECTIONS

FOUNDATION REPAIR

CRAWL SPACE
ENCAPSULATION

SUMP PUMP
INSTALLATION

CONCRETE LEVELING

BEFORE

AFTER

CRACKS
IN THE
BASEMENT?

Protection your loved ones deserve ...

GUARANTEED
Life Insurance
up to \$30,000.00

Modified Whole Life Insurance from Physicians Life Insurance Company

Imagine what \$30,000.00 could mean to your family after you're gone – cash to help pay your funeral, medical bills or other final expenses.

- Guaranteed acceptance for ages 45 to 85*
- No medical exam, no health questions
- Lock in your rate for life

Find out how affordable this coverage can be –
Call for your FREE Information Kit

1-833-467-0943
Life55plus.info/Hoosier

► Plus – you'll also get a FREE
Final Wishes Planner just for calling!



*Ages may vary by state. Guaranteed for one of these life insurance policies. Benefits reduced first two years. Insurance Policy L770 (ID: L770ID); OK: L770OK; TN: L770TN). 6236-0625

Even our Adjustable Bed
has a Flippable Mattress

Affordable priced everyday!



Made in
Muncie for
over 70
years



1815 N Granville Ave, Muncie
Open M-F 9:00a-5:30p;
Saturdays 10:00a-3:00p

www.holderbedding.net

765-747-8103



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

JCHS senior Gradin Swoveland fades away to get a jumper off over Walker Johnson during the 36-30 win over Delta on Friday. Swoveland led all scorers with 14 points in the contest.

Bears ...

Continued from page 10
“I’ve been really pleased with that room,” Johnson said. “We’ve got some young guys in there that we were really impressed with throughout training camp that ended up on being on the practice squad.
“If called upon, I think they’ve done a great job soaking the offense in over the course of the season so far and being involved. ... They’re in a great spot and I feel that way about all

the guys that are either on the practice squad or have been primarily special teams players to this point.”
Meanwhile, linebacker Tremaine Edmunds (groin) was upgraded to a full participant in Thursday’s practice, a sign he may be activated from injured reserve before Saturday’s game. The Bears listed Edmunds as questionable.
The injury report hadn’t come out before Johnson spoke to the

media Thursday, but he said: “If we can get Tremaine back, it’s a huge bonus. He was playing tremendous football before the injury.”
Despite missing four games, Edmunds ranks first on the team in tackles (89), tied for second in passes defended (nine) and third in interceptions (four).
“He’s a huge asset in coverage,” Johnson said. “Just because of how long he is, it’s

hard to get the ball around him when we’re playing zones.”
Running back D’Andre Swift popped up on Wednesday’s report as limited with a groin injury, and he remained limited Thursday. He was listed as questionable, as was tight end Cole Kmet (ankle/knee) despite being upgraded to full participation.
“I’m going to play,” Kmet said after practice.
Reserve linebacker and spe-

cial teams mainstay Amen Ogbongbemiga was ruled out with a hamstring injury, and defensive end Joe Tyron-Shoyinka (personal) is questionable.
Full participants included backup quarterback Tyson Bagent (illness), defensive tackle Andrew Billings (illness) and running back/special teamer Travis Homer (ankle), all of whom carry no injury designation for Saturday’s game.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Girls wrestling at Findlay — 11 a.m.; Girls basketball vs. South Adams — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls bowling vs. Marion Local at Pla-Mor Lanes — 9 a.m.; Boys bowling vs. Marion Local at Pla-Mor Lanes — 1 p.m.; Boys basketball at Ansonia — 4:30 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball vs. St. John’s — 10 a.m.

Monday
Jay County — Swim at Adams Central — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball at Houston — 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball at Bradford — 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday
Jay County — Boys wrestling hosts ECIC tournament — 9 a.m.

TV schedule

Today
11 a.m. — College football Myrtle Beach Bowl: Kennesaw State vs. Western Michigan (ESPN)
2:30 p.m. — College football Gasparilla Bowl: Memphis vs. N.C. State (ESPN)

6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Seton Hall at Providence (FS1)
8 p.m. — College Football Playoff first round: Alabama at Oklahoma (ESPN)
8 p.m. — College basketball: Wisconsin vs. Villanova (FOX)
9:30 p.m. — College basketball: Abilene Christian at BYU (TNT)
10 p.m. — College basketball: Cal Poly at UCLA (BTN)

Saturday
7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Newcastle United at Chelsea (USA)
10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Manchester City at West Ham United (USA)
11 a.m. — Women’s college basketball: Louisville at Tennessee (FOX)
12 p.m. — College Football Playoff first round: Miami at Texas A&M (ABC)
12 p.m. — College basketball: Oakland at Michigan State (BTN)
12:30 p.m. — College basketball: Liberty at Dayton (USA); St. John’s at Kentucky (CBS)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Tottenham Hotspur at Liverpool FC (NBC)
1 p.m. — PGA Tour Champions: PNC Championship Pro-Am (NBC)

1:30 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Iowa at UConn (FOX)
2:30 p.m. — Horse racing: America’s Day at the Races (FS1)
3 p.m. — College basketball: Ohio State at North Carolina (CBS)
3 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Leeds United at Crystal Palace (USA)
3:30 p.m. — College Football Playoff first round: Tulane at Memphis (TNT)
4 p.m. — College football FCS National Semifinal: Montana State vs. Montana (ABC)
4 p.m. — College football Division II Championship: Ferris State vs. Harding University (ESPN2)
4 p.m. — College basketball: Memphis at Mississippi State (ESPN)
5 p.m. — NFL: Philadelphia Eagles at Washington Commanders (FOX)
5:30 p.m. — College basketball: Abilene at Arkansas (CBS)
6 p.m. — College basketball: Maryland at Virginia (ESPN); Bucknell at Iowa (BTN)
7 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at New Orleans Pelicans (FDSN Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — College Football Playoff first round: James Madison at Oregon (TNT)
7:30 p.m. — College football FCS National Semifinal: Villanova vs. Illinois

State (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — College basketball: Xavier at Georgetown (FS1); Penn at Rutgers (BTN); Duke at Texas Tech (ESPN)
8:20 p.m. — NFL: Green Bay Packers at Chicago Bears (FOX)
10:30 p.m. — College basketball: San Diego State at Arizona (ESPN2)

Sunday
11:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Aston Villa at Manchester United (NBC)
12 p.m. — College basketball: Pitt at Penn State (BTN)
1 p.m. — NFL: Buffalo Bills at Cleveland Browns (CBS); Los Angeles Chargers at Dallas Cowboys (FOX)
1 p.m. — College basketball: Southern at Baylor (TNT); Ole Miss at N.C. State (ESPN)
1 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Kansas at Iowa State (ESPN2)
2 p.m. — College wrestling: Nebraska at Oklahoma State (BTN)
2:30 p.m. — Horse racing: America’s Day at the Races (FS1)
3 p.m. — College basketball: Oregon State at Arizona State (ESPN2); Cincinnati at Clemson (ESPN)
3:30 p.m. — College volleyball National Championship: Texas A&M at

Kentucky (ABC)
4 p.m. — College basketball: Brown at USC (BTN)
4:25 p.m. — NFL: Pittsburgh Steelers at Detroit Lions (CBS)
4:30 p.m. — College basketball: UConn at DePaul (FS1)
6 p.m. — College basketball: Campbell at Minnesota (BTN)
6 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Oregon at Stanford (ESPN)
8 p.m. — College basketball: North Dakota at Nebraska (BTN)
8:20 p.m. — NFL: New England Patriots at Baltimore Ravens (NBC)
8:30 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: USC at Cal (ESPN)

Monday
2 p.m. — College football Famous Idaho Potato Bowl: Washington State at Utah State (ESPN)
3 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Fulham at Nottingham Forest (USA)
6 p.m. — College basketball: Siena at Indiana (BTN)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Rider at VCU (CBS)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Boston Celtics (FDSN Indiana)
8 p.m. — College basketball: Missouri at Illinois (FS1); Central Michigan

at Wisconsin (BTN)
8:15 p.m. — NFL: San Francisco 49ers at Indianapolis Colts (ABC)
10 p.m. — College basketball: San Diego at Washington (BTN)
10 p.m. — NHL: Seattle Kraken at Anaheim Ducks (NBC)

Tuesday
2 p.m. — College football Boca Raton Bowl: Toledo vs. Louisville (ESPN)
2 p.m. — College basketball: Grambling State at Ohio State (BTN)
4 p.m. — College basketball: UC Riverside at UCLA (BTN)
4 p.m. — NHL: Pittsburgh Panthers at Toronto Maple Leafs (TNT)
5:30 p.m. — College football New Orleans Bowl: Western Kentucky vs. Southern Miss (ESPN)
6 p.m. — College basketball: Harvard at St. John’s (FS1)
6:30 p.m. — NHL: Dallas Stars at Detroit Red Wings (TNT)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Milwaukee Bucks at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)
9 p.m. — College football Frisco Bowl: UNLV vs. Ohio (ESPN)
9 p.m. — NHL: Philadelphia Flyers at Chicago Blackhawks (TNT)
10:30 p.m. — NBA: Houston Rockets at Los Angeles Clippers (NBC)

Surviving ...

Continued from page 10
“I have the most confidence in him,” Rigby said. “He’s so solid and just under control. Has a confidence about him, and it seems like he always knows what he’s going to do. Even if he doesn’t, seems like he always has a plan, and it’s good to have a guy in situations like that ... He just has something about him. We just know that those shots are going to go in, and he’s going to take the right ones at the right time.”
But as Swoveland and teammate Jayden Comer (12 points) thrived, the rest of the Patriots’ offense was largely stagnant. No other Jay County player attempted more than three shots or scored more than five points.

“I think we have skilled enough guys that can get it done offensively, but we’re not great right now,” Rigby said. “I think we’ll get better as the year goes, and we’ll work on it a little bit more as that year goes. But I think we can score enough points not being great as long as our defense is where it needs to be.”
Jay County’s defensive momentum has continued to swell, with the win over Delta marking the fourth straight game in which the Patriots have conceded fewer than 50 points. The combination of impervious defense and Friday’s erratic

‘We showed a little bit of toughness, which we haven’t, maybe, up to this point with the physicality. ... So it’s a good opportunity to learn and get better.’

— Tyler Rigby, JCHS boys basketball coach

offensive production will serve as a learning experience for Jay County.
“We showed a little bit of toughness, which we haven’t, maybe, up to this point with the physicality,” Rigby said. “We still turned it over a few times, let the pressure get to us a little bit, but the decision-making and the physicality of it, I thought we handled it much better. So it’s a good opportunity to learn and get better.”

Box score

Delta Eagles at Jay County Patriots			
Boys varsity summary			
	Delta (1-4)		
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Ramsey	2-7	2-2	8
Bragg	2-10	2-2	6
Johnson	2-9	0-0	4
Utsler	2-2	0-0	4
Lynch	0-6	4-4	4
Phillips	1-5	0-0	2
Peters	1-4	0-0	2
Morey	0-0	0-0	0
Totals	10-43	8-8	30
	.233	1.000	
Def. Rebound percentage: .786			
	Jay County (4-2)		
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Swoveland	4-9	4-4	14
Comer	5-9	0-1	12
Forthofer	2-3	1-3	5
Overton	0-2	3-6	3
Sommers	1-1	0-0	2
Phillips	0-0	0-0	0
Wasson	0-0	0-0	0
Barnett	0-0	0-0	0
Totals	12-24	8-14	36
	.500	.571	
Def. Rebound percentage: .640			
Score by quarters:			
Delta	9	2	9 — 30
JC	10	5	10 11 — 36

3-point shooting: Delta 2-18 (Ramsey 2-7, Bragg 0-6, Lynch 0-3, Phillips 0-1, Peters 0-1). Jay County 4-11 (Comer 2-6, Swoveland 2-4, Overton 0-1).

Rebounds: Delta 20 (Johnson 6, Bragg 4, Phillips 4, Ramsey 2, Utsler 2, Lynch 1, Peters 1). Jay County 19 (Phillips 6, Swoveland 4, Overton 3, Forthofer 3, Barnett 2, Sommers 1).

Blocks: Delta 1 (Johnson). Jay County (Sommers 3, Comer, Forthofer, Swoveland).

Personal fouls: Delta 16 (Bragg 5, Lynch 4, Utsler 3, Phillips 2, Johnson 2). Jay County 10 (Overton 2, Comer 2, Phillips 2, Sommers 2, Barnett 1, Swoveland 1).

Turnovers: Delta 8. Jay County 16.

SPONSORED BY

First Bank of Berne

JAY COUNTY
Chamber of Commerce

Surviving a slugfest

Patriots beat Delta despite scoring a season-low 36 points

BY ETHAN OSKROBA
The Commercial Review
The Patriots put up a season-low point total, had just four players score a basket and lost the turnover battle by eight.
All that didn't stop the Jay County High School boys basketball team from scratching out a 36-30 victory over the visiting Delta Eagles on Friday.
"It wasn't the prettiest thing, but it's good to figure out a way to win those," said Jay County coach Tyler Rigby. "It's good to have those early in the year so you can learn a few things about who you are."
Jay County's defense was pivotal to escaping with the win, as Delta's 30 points also represented a season-low and no Eagle scored in double figures. The Patriots (4-2) were especially proficient at shutting down the visitors' long-range attack, as the Eagles (1-4) shot just 2-for-18 from 3-point range.
"They shoot it so well as a group," Rigby said. "All the talk was, 'Be there on the catch.' You can't have any rhythm catch-and-shoots. I thought we did a really good job."
The Patriots' height and physicality on the interior also pestered Delta, which only managed five layups throughout the course of the game.

"On our schedule, we've never played anybody that big," said Delta guard Madden Ramsey, who led the Eagles with eight points. "I mean, they got a 6-9, 6-7 guy. Everybody else is above 6-foot. So we tried to adapt, but down the stretches, it got to a certain point and we've never really played that type of height before."
In addition to its stifling defense, Jay County also benefited from clutch scoring efforts despite the modest point total.
After heading to halftime with zero points on 0-for-2 from the field, Patriot forward Gradin Swoveland jolted to life. He scored all 14 of his points in the second half, including two timely 3-pointers midway through the fourth. The pair of daggers came within 30 seconds of each other and turned Jay County's tenuous two-point advantage into a six-point lead.
"I always try to be confident regardless of how I play," Swoveland said. "I mean, last home game here I shot what, 0-for-4, 0-for-5 from three, but you just got to have a short-term memory."
Swoveland's ability to turn the page on his quiet opening half and deliver in the clutch wasn't lost on his coach.
See **Surviving** page 9



Jayden Comer of the Jay County High School boys basketball team drives around Delta's Ryan Lynch during Friday's 36-30 victory. Comer scored 12 points while helping limit the Eagles starting guards to just 14 points in the contest.

The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

DECEMBER
Specials
Buy one, get one free ad

— 3x7 —
first ad is \$273
second ad FREE

— 3x6 —
first ad is \$234
second ad FREE

— 3x5 —
first ad is \$195
second ad FREE

Ads must run in December.
Rate does not apply to special sections.

Contact Lindsey at
L.Cochran@thecr.com
or (260) 726-8141

GRAPHIC
PRINTING
NEWSPAPERS

The
Commercial
Review

Bears rule out Burden III, Odunze

By PHIL THOMPSON
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

CHICAGO — The likelihood the Chicago Bears would be missing two of their top receivers Saturday against the Green Bay Packers is now a reality.

Rome Odunze (foot) and Luther Burden III (ankle) were nonparticipants for a third straight day in Thursday's final practice report and were ruled out for Saturday's game at Soldier Field.

It's the third straight game the Bears will be without Odunze, their leading receiver. Burden previously missed the Week 9 game in Cincinnati while in concussion protocol.

Coach Ben Johnson

hinted that depth and special teams players likely will receive more playing time.

Return specialist Devin Duvernay played 10 snaps at wide receiver Sunday against the Cleveland Browns and had a 4-yard catch wiped out when the Bears accepted a Browns penalty.

Former training camp standout Jahdae Walker has been active for six games this season and has played only seven snaps on offense, including two during the first meeting with the Packers two weeks ago at Lambeau Field.

Maurice Alexander and JP Richardson have spent the entire season on the practice squad.

See **Bears** page 9

Portland Veterinary Clinic
1407 Votaw St. • Portland • 260-726-7370
Christian Bader DVM

Spring is here...
and so are the fleas.

Keep your pets comfortable and protected with safe and effective flea and tick control solutions.

FRONTLINE[®] GOLD
BRAND PRODUCTS

BRAVECTO[®] (FLURALANER)
And others

3 months protection for dogs & cats.

Tribe takes down PHS

ROCKFORD, Ohio — Only one Indian broke double figures.

But the Tribe's defense left the Panthers scratching their heads as they fell by double digits.

The Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team shut down the Parkway Panthers in the second half for a 41-28 victory on Friday.

The Indians (4-1, 1-1 Midwest Athletic Conference) came out of halftime with a defensive fervor, only allowing Parkway (1-3, 0-2 MAC) to score one bucket in the third quarter.

Hudson Overman led the scoring for Fort Recovery with 12 points on a pair of first-quarter threes, two buckets in the fourth and two free throws.

Breaker Jutte hit a bucket in each period to add nine points, while Brody Barga contributed seven and Douglas Bihn had six.

Grant Fortkamp and Braylon Dilworth also scored for FRHS with four and three points, respectively.

Eli Schumm led Parkway with nine points. The rest of the Panthers had six or less points.

Fort Recovery held a 20-17 lead going into halftime. The Indians opened the half with a lopsided third quarter that favored them 10-2. The Tribe finished off the Panthers with an 11-10 advantage.

While the Tribe comes back to the court today to face Ansonia, it won't have another MAC game until Jan. 9 against New Bremen.