

Saturday, December 20, 2025

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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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

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.

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-

See Pulls page 2

Variance OK'd for new business

within the Town of Pennville.

Harmon plans to offer powder-coating

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 Datolli

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, Port-
land

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 Schemenauer 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.

Schemenauer 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
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Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$1.5 billion
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Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$90 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn 4.64 Jan. corn 4.62	Wheat 4.64
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ADM Montpelier Corn 4.44
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Beans 10.42

Jan. beans 10.42

Wheat 4.80

Heartland St. Anthony Corn 4.59

Jan. corn 4.54

Beans 10.14

Jan. beans 10.14

Wheat 4.60

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 1919, 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.

Tuesday
6 p.m. — Pennville Town Council public hearing and regular

meeting, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.

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.

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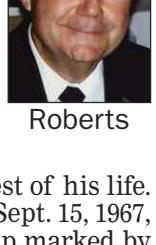
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Obituaries

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, Cincinnati League, Knights of Columbus, Arts Place, Jay Commu-

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



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



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.

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? — WAFFLING 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.

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Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact 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@thecrc.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 mofthesoldier.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.

PORLTAND 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!

Sprungler & Sprungler 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



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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Send cover letter and resume to mitch@sprunglers.com



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

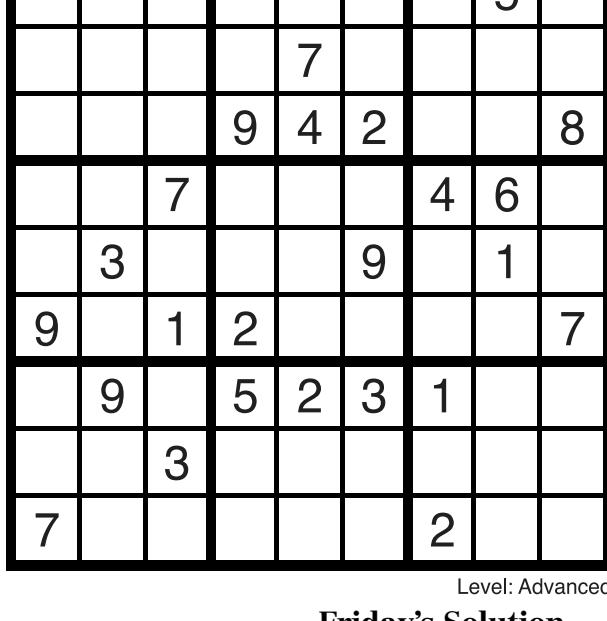
concerning Medicare Options?

Call Jeff or Matt at 260-729-5200

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

Personal and private conversation at your local hometown office.

Sudoku



Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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.

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

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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.

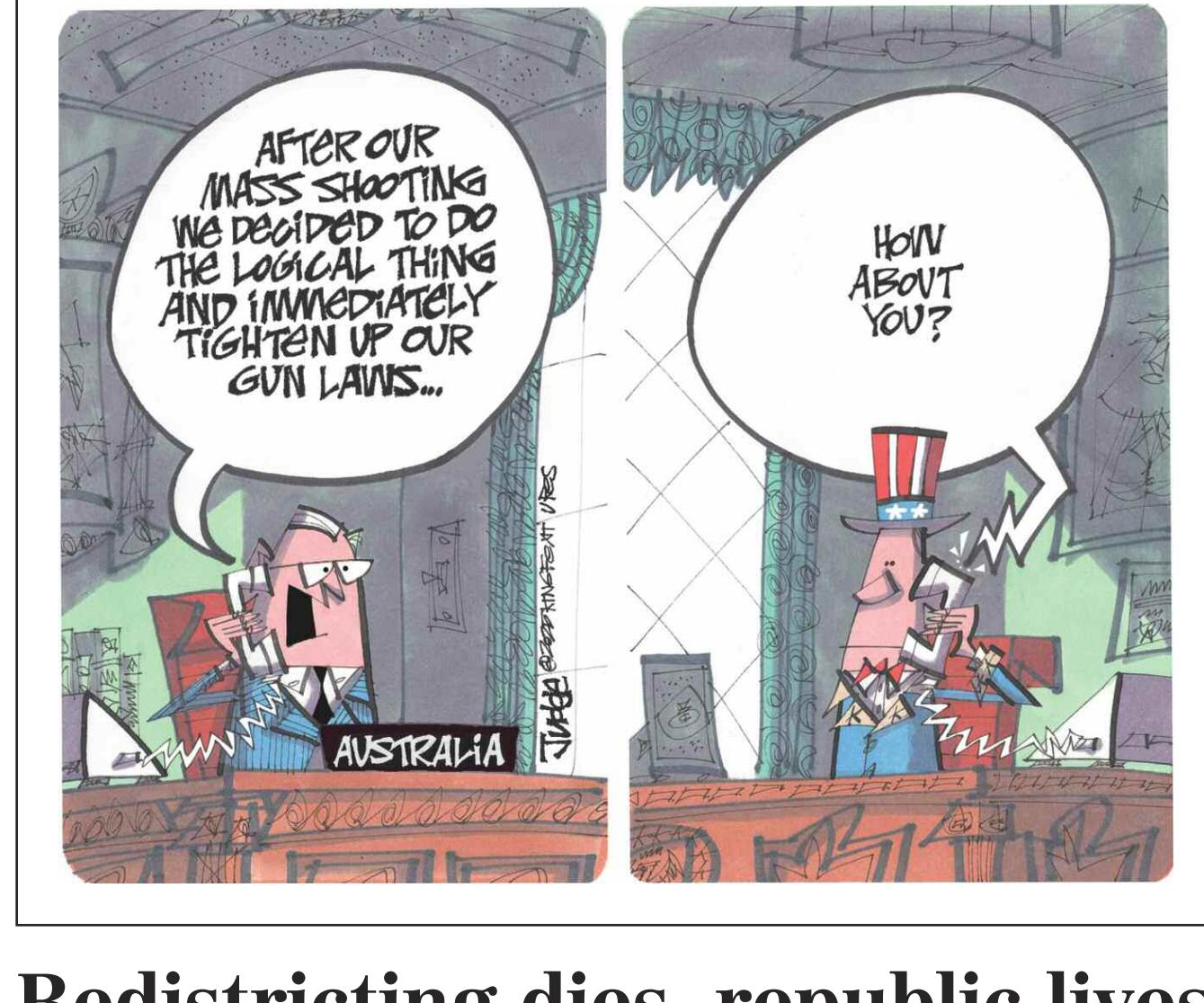
You can only push people so far.

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 neighboring 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

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.

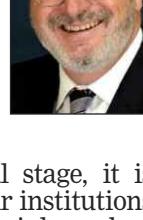
No, with all their virtues and flaws, they resemble the people who sent them to the Statehouse. That is what makes them representative.

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

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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

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Mail: Monthly auto-pay - \$15; 13 weeks - \$53; six months - \$86; one year - \$161.

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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., PO. 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.

12-20

CRYPTO FUN

TWIDLE DIDDLE DIDDLE DIDDLE DIDDLE
CLOUDS SPARKLE DING DONG DING DONG
KNOB KNOB DING DONG DING DONG
GIGGLE GIGGLE
Yesterday's Cryptogram: M I T T P A K U P
H S C H P A C H I T T I S D E I C C R A N S H O P
A I X A P H U L T S C H D S H A L T C H A L T
Today's Cryptogram: The Cryptogram

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CRYPTO FUN

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

Answers: A. server B. kitchen C. restaurant D. check

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

FOOD SERVICE WORD SEARCH

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

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

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?

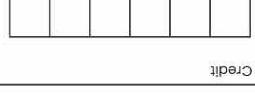
3) Jingle Bells

4) Alabama

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to food service.

TCIDRE



Answer: Crate

GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born in New York on December 19, 1972. I began acting at age 8 after landing a role on a national tour of "Annie." I rose to fame as a teen on a television show about a male housekeeper. I later starred alongside two other "sisters" on a magical show.

Answer: Alyssa Milano

WORDS

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

Answer: Cookie

Food FACT

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

Answers: Cookies 2. Away 3. Desserts 6. Rose

1. Crosses 4. Orcherds 5. Extritor 7. Miegess

8. Dovwn 9. Cookies 10. Dovwn

11. Cookies 12. Away 13. Desserts 14. Rose

15. Cookies 16. Crosses 17. Miegess

18. Dovwn 19. Cookies 20. Dovwn

21. Cookies 22. Away 23. Desserts 24. Rose

25. Dovwn 26. Cookies 27. Miegess

28. Dovwn 29. Cookies 30. Rose

31. Cookies 32. Miegess 33. Rose

34. Cookies 35. Miegess 36. Rose

37. Cookies 38. Miegess 39. Rose

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310. Cookies 311. Miegess 312. Rose

313. Cookies 314. Miegess 315. Rose

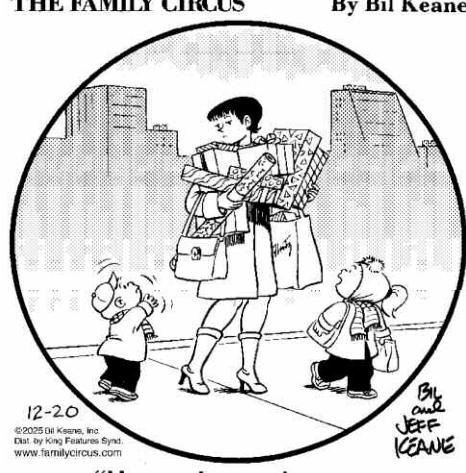
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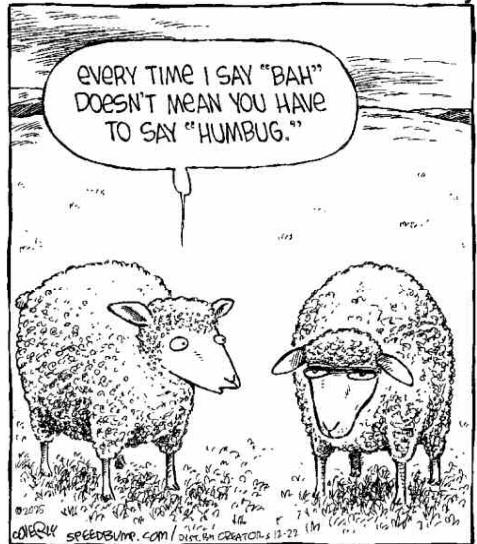
Dave Coverly

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



By Bil Keane

SPEED BUMP



Dave Coverly

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



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Peanuts



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SCHULZ

Peanuts



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Rose is Rose



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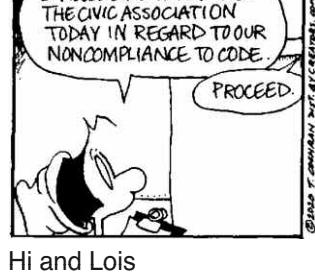


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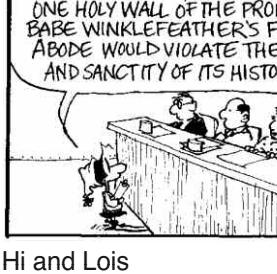
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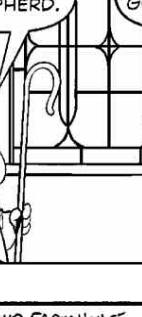


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Hi and Lois



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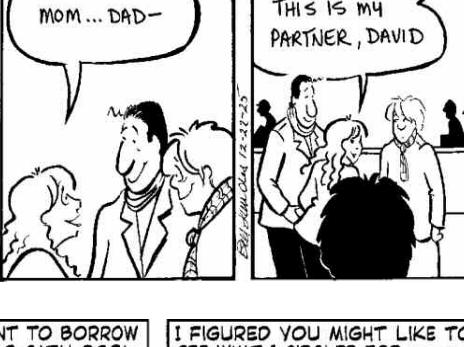
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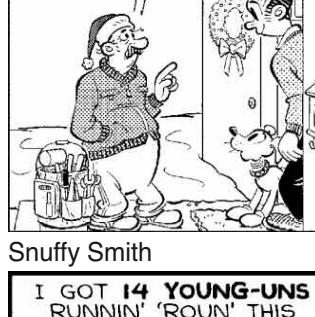


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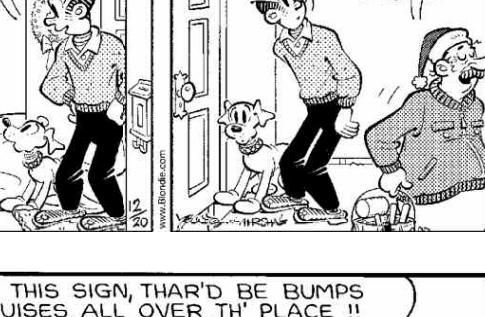
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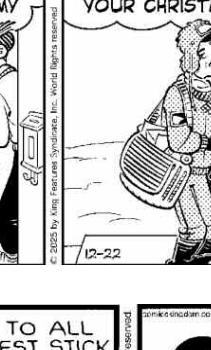
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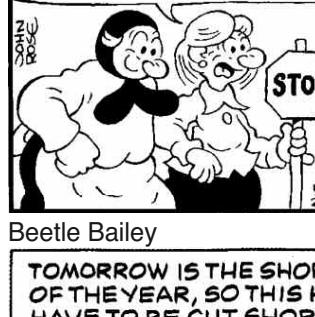


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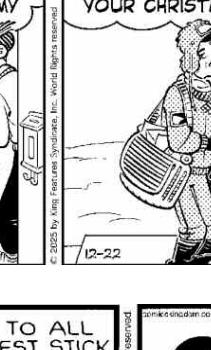
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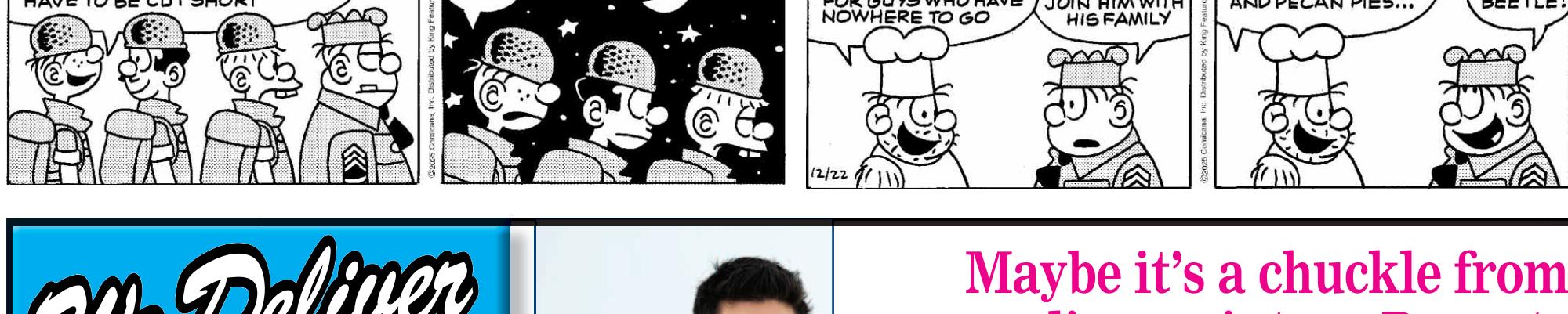


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Rinse and repeat

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

HSchwtmn	12-17	6-8	31
KSchwtmn	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, Arthur 1-3, Raymond 1-3, Lee 1-3, Blessinger 0-1). Jay County (3-8) (HSchwtmn 2, KSchwtmn 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, M. Luce 2, Arthur 1, Dirksen 2, Jay County (5) (KSchwtmn 4, Peters 4, KSchwtmn 2, Newton 2, May 1).

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

Personal fouls: New Castle (19) (ELuce 4, Lanzer 3, Owens 3, Briscoe 2, M. Luce 2, Arthur 1, Blessinger 1). Jay County (14) (Brunswick 4, May 3, KSchwtmn 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.

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

Tribe girls fall to Panthers

Local Roundup

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.

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

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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.

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)

	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	10	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 1-1, 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.

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 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 defensed (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 Tyrone 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 Gator 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 (FCN)

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 Christian 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: UConn at 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)

JCHS girls basketball took down New Castle Thursday, see story page 8

FRHS boys basketball travels to Ansonia today, see Sports on tap

Page 10

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The Commercial Review

Sports

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 Graden 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



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

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.

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**The
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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 Cleveland Browns and had a 4-yard catch wiped out when the Bears accepted a Browns penalty.

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.

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

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 Jahdai 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.

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 Bihm 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.

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