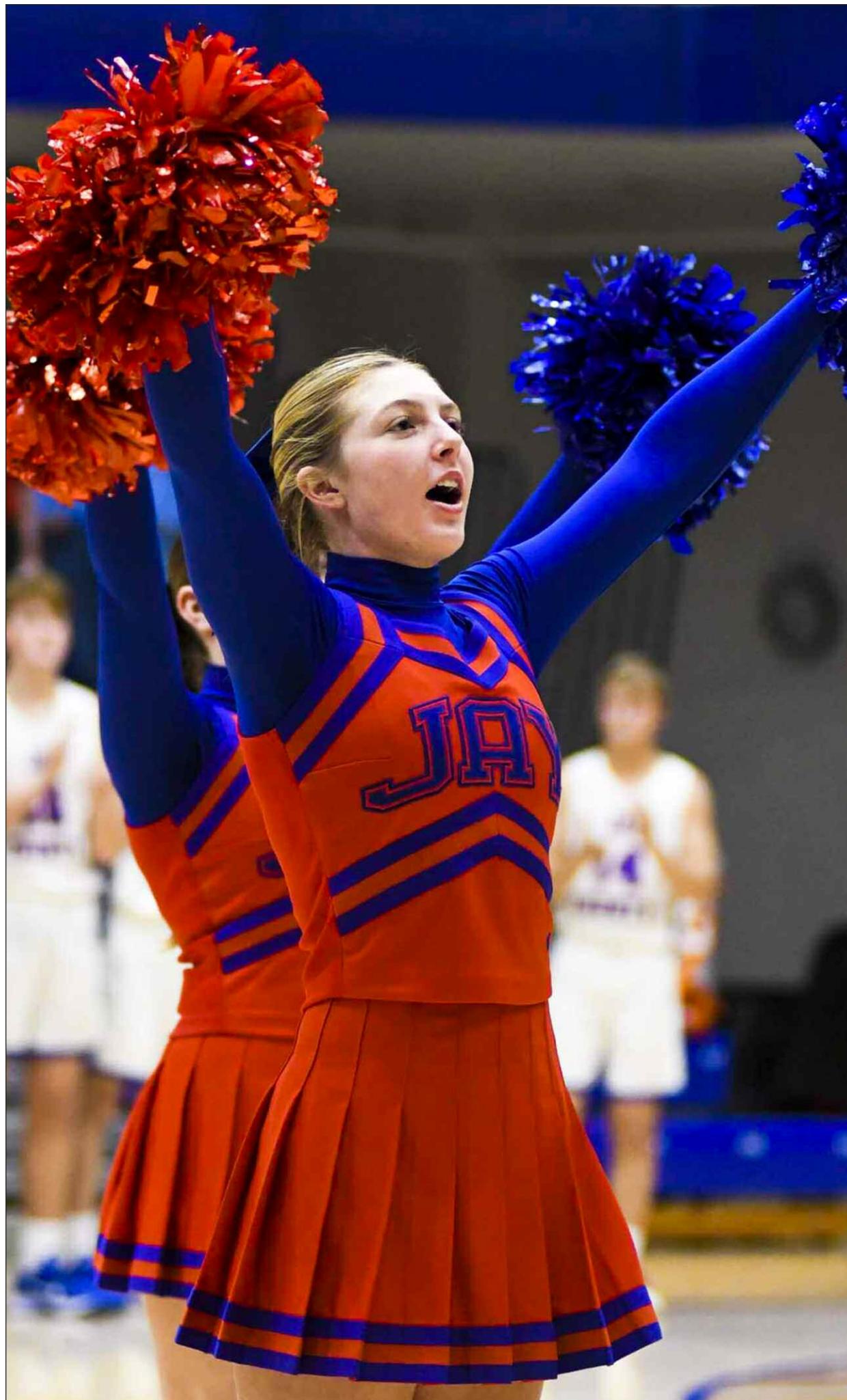


The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Victorious in openers

Jay County High School cheerleader Faith Faulkner chants in front of the crowd following the Patriots' 50-20 victory over Woodlan's girls basketball team on Tuesday evening. Both the boys and girls basketball teams beat Woodlan by 30 or more points to advance to Friday's semifinal against Southern Wells. For full stories on the games, see page 8.

Police motion to dismiss was denied as moot

asserting that Mock and Hopkins cannot be sued in their individual capacities as chief and investigator.

In that motion, she also argued that the city's police department is not a suable entity under Indiana law. The motion to dismiss the suit against the police department was granted.

The amended complaint from Phillips' attorney Clayton J. Lengerich clarifies that she is suing the city for the actions of Mock and Hopkins that were within the scope of their employment and both men individually for actions taken outside of the scope of their employment.

Judge Douglas Mawhorr handed down an order Tuesday granting Portland clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips' motion to amend her complaint against Portland Police Chief Dustin Mock and investigator Jeff Hopkins. As a result of the amended complaint, he denied as moot a previous motion to dismiss the case against Mock and Hopkins.

He also vacated the hearing on the motion originally scheduled for Jan. 6 and later rescheduled for April 25.

The City of Portland is also named in Phillips' lawsuit.

Attorney Katlyn M. Christman filed a motion to dismiss in September,

See Denied page 2

Variance for car business is OK'd

ing Appeals approved a use variance request Tuesday for Randy and Karla Hopkins to operate the business out of their property at 863 S. 100 East.

The board had jurisdiction over the decision because the property falls within the city's 2-mile buffer for zoning.

Randy Hopkins explained that he has operated the business from 809 N. Franklin St., Portland, where he also had rentals. He no longer has the rentals there and would like to sell that property and instead run the business from his home.

Portland Board of Zon-

See Variance page 2

Indiana to opt out of some of Trump's cuts

By TOM DAVIES

Indiana Capital Chronicle

indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana legislators aren't going along with all the federal tax cuts that President Donald Trump pushed through Congress last summer.

A hefty tax break for businesses included in what Republicans dubbed the "One Big Beautiful Bill" won't be applied to state taxes under legislation advancing in the state Senate.

Republican fiscal leaders, however, haven't said which of the dozens of other new federal tax cuts — including the temporary deductions for workers who receive tips and overtime wages — will be extended to state taxes.

An analysis from Gov. Mike Braun's administration estimated that total state tax

Changes could have topped \$900 million over two years

breaks on businesses and individuals could top \$900 million over the next two years if the Legislature were to fully conform the state tax code with the federal changes.

The Senate Tax and Fiscal Committee last week endorsed Senate Bill 212 adopting a few of the federal tax breaks.

See Opt page 2



Members of the Indiana Senate Appropriations Committee discuss legislation. Committee chair Travis Holdman (R-Markle), who represents Jay County, said Senate Bill 212 will adopt a few of the federal tax breaks laid out in the "One Big Beautiful Bill" but will not include others.

In review

Jay County Public Library will offer Wintergreen Take & Makes for children on Monday. Children can visit the library at 315 N. Ship St., Portland, to pick up a bag of activities to take home. For more information, call (260) 726-7890 or visit jaycpl.lib.in.us.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 49 degrees Tuesday. The low was 36.

Tonight's low will be 16. There is a 40% chance of snow with winds gusting to 25 mph. Light snow is possible Friday with continued windy conditions and a high in the mid 30s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Two new candidates have filed to run for election, including Republican Fona Masters of rural Portland for the District 2 seat on Jay County Council. Harold Towell currently holds that seat. He has not yet filed to run for re-election. Also filing Wednesday morning was Republican Tammy Horn for Pike Township Trustee.

Coming up

Friday — Details from this week's Jay County Council meeting.

Saturday — Results from Katie Rowles at the IHSAA Girls Wrestling State Finals.

Tuesday — Coverage of the finals of the ACAC basketball tournaments.



Denied ...

Continued from page 1
The suit, in which Phillips says she has been the focus of "torment, harassment and defamation" by the police department, is one of two active against the city.

The other suit, filed by former Portland police officer Patrick Long, alleges Mock and Hopkins purposefully made working conditions so intolerable that Long had no option but to resign, intentionally inflicted

emotional distress, interfered with a business relationship, defamed Long and failed to pay wages.

A motion to dismiss the police department, Mock and Hopkins from that suit was filed early this month. The plaintiff and other defendants were given 30 days to file a response.

The next scheduled court date in the Phillips suit is for a pre-trial conference on Oct. 19. A jury trial is scheduled for

November, and Mawhorr has ordered the parties to go through mediation with Richard McDevitt of McDevitt Mediation Center on or before July 15.

Phillips filed her lawsuit on July 16. Long filed his lawsuit on Nov. 5.

The lawsuits stem from two of the eight tort claims that were filed against the city in 2024 and 2025. Four others remain active while two have been resolved.

The other active claims are as follows:

• Two from former Portland wastewater department employee Brad Clayton alleging that his Family and Medical Leave Act information was illegally made public, he was berated by wastewater department superintendent Brad Dues and that city representatives, including Mayor Jeff Westlake, spread false information about him and his job

• One from former Portland

police officer Kyle Denney alleging that Westlake made statements that included allegations of misconduct against him

• One from Mock and Hopkins — it also names Phillips and her office, and council members Mike Aker, Ron May and Dave Golden — alleging retaliation by council members, an institutional failure to intervene, improperly deleting email accounts, violating the city handbook, harassment and other issues.

CR almanac

Friday 1/16	Saturday 1/17	Sunday 1/18	Monday 1/19	Tuesday 1/20
 35/18	 20/6	 18/12	 20/4	 17/4

There is a 50% chance of snow in the morning with a high in the mid 30s. Winds will gust up to 30 mph.

The high will top out at 20 with a 30% chance of snow in the afternoon. The low will be in single digits.

Expect a high of 18 under partly sunny skies.

Skies will be mostly cloudy with a high of 20.

Cold temperatures will stay with a high of 17 under mostly sunny skies.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$156 million	Daily Three: 0-7-4 Daily Four: 8-8-3-1 Quick Draw: 1-2-11-12-15-18-22-26-27-29-32-33-35-37-41-57-61-68-74-76
Mega Millions 16-40-56-64-66 Mega Ball: 4 Estimated jackpot: \$230 million	Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 9-1-1 Pick 4: 1-4-7-7 Pick 5: 3-2-9-5-6 Evening Pick 3: 2-1-2 Pick 4: 3-6-2-4-6 Pick 5: 9-9-3-3-8 Rolling Cash: 5-7-8-16-29
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 5-2-9 Daily Four: 1-3-2-0 Quick Draw: 5-8-9-19-21-22-35-36-38-41-58-59-60-62-69-70-71-75-79-80 Evening	Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 9-1-1 Pick 4: 1-4-7-7 Pick 5: 3-2-9-5-6 Evening Pick 3: 2-1-2 Pick 4: 3-6-2-4-6 Pick 5: 9-9-3-3-8 Rolling Cash: 5-7-8-16-29	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery	Feb. beans 10.39 Wheat 4.68
Corn.....4.40	
Feb. corn4.42	
March corn4.42	
POET Biorefining Portland	
Corn.....4.40	
Feb. corn4.34	
March corn4.34	
The Andersons Richland Township	
Corn4.26	
Feb. corn4.28	
Beans10.35	
	4.95

Today in history

In 1759, the British Museum opened to the public. Established as an act of Parliament about five years prior, the museum was created to hold world-renowned antiquities and artifacts. Its belongings include the Elgin Marbles and Rosetta Stone.

In 1967, the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League defeated the Kansas City Chiefs of the American Football League in the first Super Bowl game. The Packers took home the trophy for winning the game ending in 35-10.

In 2001, Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger launched Wikipedia, a free, internet-based encyclopedia. The website works with an open-source management style, allowing users to edit documents at will.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Thursday, Jan. 15
6 p.m. — Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Monday, Jan. 19
5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland.

7:30 p.m. — Fort North, Portland.

Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Tuesday, Jan. 20
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.

6 p.m. — Jackson Township Advisory Board, 5341 W. 400 North, Portland.

SERVICES

Friday, Jan. 16

Rockwell, Wendell: 6 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Shirk, Richard: 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Saturday, Jan. 17

Finch, Glen: 11 a.m., West Walnut Street Church of Christ, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland.

Stafford, Donald: 2 p.m., Cornerstone Church, 190 W. Main St., Pennville.

Vance, Robert: 3 p.m., Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St., Portland.

Monday, Jan. 19

Arnold, Rick: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Saturday, Feb. 28

Hughes, Allyyah: noon, 205 E. 1st St., Bath, Illinois.

Service listings provided by

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*Ads must run in January

The Commercial Review

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about \$80 million during that time, while the vehicle loan deduction was estimated at \$70 million.

The state tax code generally conforms with federal law for the simplicity of determining taxable income.

Indiana's last major conformity update came in 2023, when Indiana adopted the Internal Revenue Code as of Jan. 1, 2023, bringing the state into line with pandemic-era relief measures such as the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan.

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Sunday, January 18

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Arts Place hosting piano, guitar labs

There are more opportunities upcoming to learn how to play a musical instrument.

Registration is also open for Arts Place's piano and guitar labs at its Jay County Campus. The labs are group lessons. They are open to second through fourth graders for piano and fourth through 12th graders for guitar. The cost is \$30 and \$40, respectively.

Guitar labs will begin Feb. 23, while piano labs will start March 12.

Taking Note

Also, the art exhibit Come Back Patricia Whack by Jolynn Reigeluth is on display at the Jay County Campus of Arts Place through Feb. 16.

For more information, visit

myartsplace.org or call (260) 726-4809.

Contest is open

The Indiana Association of School Principals' 2026 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest for sixth through eighth graders is now open.

Students are asked to write essays based on the following King quote:

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor

popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right."

Additional contest information is available at iasp.org/students/mlk-jr-essay. The deadline to submit essays is Friday, Feb. 27.

Ag meeting scheduled

Purdue Extension will host its east region 2026 Agriculture Outlook Meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at Randolph County Fairgrounds.

The event will feature speakers sharing information about agriculture, policy, markets and farm well-being. They include:

- Don Lamb, director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, on his perspective on current and emerging agriculture issues in the state

- Zoe Robinson of the Purdue Farm Stress Team, on information and resources for farmers

To register, email aalka@purdue.edu or call (765) 584-2271. The deadline is Jan. 20.

Divorce doesn't have to mean disappearance

By JANN BLACKSTONE

Tribune News Service

Q: I think continuing to interact with an ex after a breakup is unnatural. My parents divorced when I was 7 and I rarely saw my dad after that, and I turned out just fine. My kids will be fine too. So why is everyone making such a big deal about getting along after a breakup? It's over. End of story. Anything else just seems like pouring salt in a wound and asking your kids to watch it. That can't be good for them.

A: Your reaction is more common than you think. For many adults, divorce meant disappearance. One parent faded out; holidays were split cleanly down

Ex-etiquette



the middle, and emotional distance became the new normal. It didn't feel cruel — it simply felt finished. You adapted. You survived. You grew up.

But here is the quiet truth: Surviving is not the same as thriving.

When adults say, "I turned out fine," what they often mean is, "I learned how to carry loss without talking about it." Children are extraordi-

narily resilient, but they are also extraordinarily observant. When a parent vanishes from daily life, children don't just lose contact. They lose continuity. They lose access to half of their history, half of their story and sometimes half of their sense of safety.

Good ex-etiquette is not about forcing friendship. It is not about pretending the relationship didn't end or rewriting the past. It is about something much simpler and much harder: refusing to make your child pay the emotional bill for a relationship that didn't work.

Children do not need parents who like each other. They need parents

who can coexist without placing the kids in the middle. They need parents who make their transitions from house to house stress-free. They need parents who put them first.

When parents disengage entirely, children become the bridge. They carry information, tension, guilt and sometimes responsibility far beyond their years. They learn to filter stories, manage moods and soften realities. You may never have named it — but chances are you did some of that yourself.

Practicing good ex-etiquette changes that pattern.

It says: My child should not be the messenger.

My child should not have to choose sides.

My child should not have to pretend everything is fine when it isn't.

Getting along after a breakup isn't about being "unnatural" — it's about being intentional. You are building a parenting system, not a marriage. That system requires communication, predictability and restraint. It requires you to speak to the other parent with enough respect that your child never feels the need to defend, hide or apologize for loving both of you.

Your children will adapt to whatever environment you offer them. The question isn't whether they will survive, because they

will. The real question is whether your children will grow up thinking people just vanish from their lives or that relationships

can change shape and still be dependable, continuing to offer safety, love, continuity and respect, even when the family looks different. That's "good behavior after divorce or separation," and that's good etiquette.

.....

Blackstone is a child custody mediator and the author of "The Bonus Family Handbook: The Definitive Guide to Co-parenting and Creating Stronger Families. She can be reached at bonusfamilies.com or jann@bonusfamilies.com.

Brother-in-law's new main squeeze is a familiar face

DEAR ABBY: Please help me move forward. My brother-in-law is dating a woman my husband was intimate with once before we were married. It makes family functions very awkward for me, but most of the family sees it as the past. It was the past, but it is now in our faces. My husband feels the same way.

Do we just keep the peace and stay away from functions as she seems to be more accepted than I am? We have been married 37 years. Are we being unreasonable? — CONFUSED IN THE EAST

DEAR CONFUSED: Oh, my. It seems like "who goes around comes around." It's a shame that you can't leave the past — a one-night stand more than 37 years ago — in the

Dear Abby



past and find the humor in this. I suspect it happens more often than you think. Please quit regarding this as a competition between you and your brother-in-law's girlfriend. Your husband chose YOU. End of contest. If there is cause for embarrassment, it should be hers, not yours.

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Muriel," and I have been together for 10 years and mar-

ried for seven. She has worked in animal rescue for much of her life. Muriel thinks she has to save them all. No amount of explaining the financial and other consequences gets through to her.

We currently have 21 pets living in our house. I have tried searching for support groups that might help, but to no avail. Even if I found such a group, my wife won't admit there is a problem. Can you help? — STUMPED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR STUMPED: I'll try. I will also venture to say that 21 animals living in a house may not be healthy for all concerned. Because your wife is unable to listen to reason,

contact animal control services in your city or county and explain what's going on. (I'm

surprised one of your neighbors hasn't already tipped them off.) Your wife may have a heart of gold, but those creatures deserve a better standard of care than what your wife can give them.

DEAR ABBY: I delivered mail for 36 years. For 25 of those years, my route was in a retirement community. I'm retired now, and it upsets me when I am not contacted when someone I was friendly with for 25 years passes away. This is happening more and more.

Yes, I was their mail lady, but I was also their friend. I got to know and love all my customers. Their children knew who I was. The ones I was closest to are the ones whose deaths upset me the most because I wasn't notified. I

know I'm not a relative, but still it hurts. If they read this, they will know who they are. I'm not angry. I'm just hurt. Do you understand? — RETIRED MAIL LADY IN ARIZONA

DEAR MAIL LADY: Yes, I understand, and I also empathize with you. However, the "children" you describe may not have notified you about their parents' deaths because, unless they had your contact information, they didn't know how to reach you.

.....

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

Today

STITCH AND CHAT-TER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and tell is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who

wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

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

9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF — Meets from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month. The support group serves to help individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide. To register, contact Stephanie Patterson at (260) 251-3259.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for par-

ents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1.

Friday

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.

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. To learn

more information, please call (260) 251-3259.

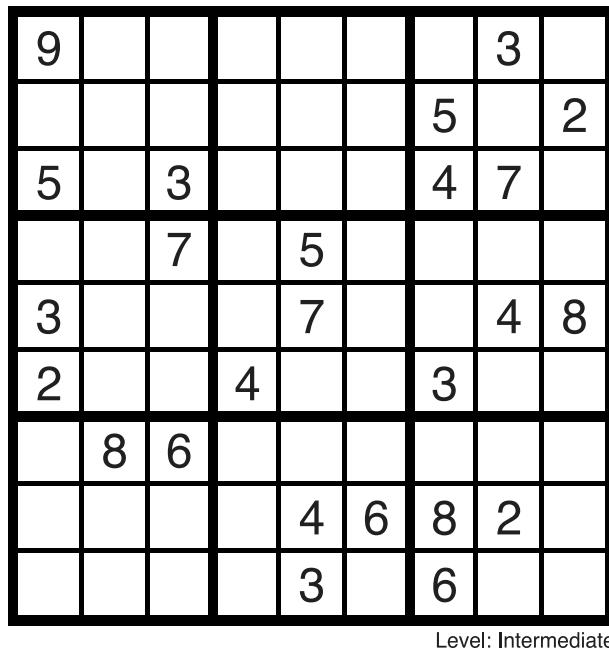
Saturday

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 SOLDIER — 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.

Sudoku



Wednesday'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.

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



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1/4-page B&W — \$225

Big business card (5x5.5) — \$110

Business card (2x2) — \$52

Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Deadline for ads is Tuesday, Jan. 20.

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

Immigration shootings are chilling

The Columbian
(Vancouver, Washington)
Tribune News Service

It could happen here.

With the Trump administration's immigration enforcement seemingly recognizing no boundaries — neither physical nor moral nor legal — the prospect of violence lingers over every community in the United States.

In Minneapolis, that prospect metastasized Wednesday in the death of 37-year-old Renee Nicole Good, who was shot by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent while attempting to drive away in her SUV. In Portland, on Thursday, two suspects were shot by Border Patrol agents.

Details about both shootings are still being uncovered, a fact that should preclude conclusions or reactionary responses. Yet the incidents are disturbing and intensify questions about the fed-

Guest Editorial

eral government's immigration enforcement. They also intensify doubt about the accounts provided by the federal government.

The Minneapolis shooting, which was captured on video, has been particularly inflammatory. Good apparently encountered ICE agents undertaking an enforcement action. When one agent approaches her vehicle and attempts to open the driver-side door, she attempts to drive off. Another agent then fires from in front of the vehicle, hitting and killing Good.

Indeed, if Good was ordered to step out of her vehicle, she

should have complied. But the punishment — death — grossly exceeds the supposed crime.

As disturbing as the images are, the response from officials is even more troubling. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem characterized Good as a "domestic terrorist," a claim that appears to have no foundation in fact. President Donald Trump claimed that Good "violently, willfully, and viciously ran over the ICE officer, who seems to have shot her in self-defense," a claim that contradicts what is shown on the video.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey denounced the characterization, saying at a press conference that it was "bull---" and a "garbage narrative." "This was an agent recklessly using power that resulted in somebody dying, getting killed," he added.

Meanwhile, Vice President JD

Vance defended the shooting, saying the agent has "absolute immunity," a conclusion not supported by legal experts. And federal officials have blocked Minnesota officials from taking part in the investigation of the shooting.

From what we know at this point, the most powerful people in the country are telling us to not believe what we see. Then they tell us they alone will handle the investigation and tell us what happened. And then the vice president of the United States says that law enforcement officers have immunity to do what they want.

This is an indefensible interpretation of the U.S. Constitution, yet it fits in with Trump's persistent erosion of the rule of law. It also lends doubt to the narrative of what happened in Portland.

There, federal officials say, Border Patrol agents were conducting a "targeted vehicle stop" against an undocumented Venezuelan immigrant allegedly affiliated with a violent gang. The Department of Homeland Security says the driver "weaponized his vehicle and attempted to run over the law enforcement agents" before an agent fired at the vehicle and the suspects fled. They were later found and taken to a hospital.

Is that what happened? We do not know, but there are firm reasons to not believe the account of federal officials. There also are troubling reasons to wonder where it will happen next, with federal agents apparently emboldened by an authoritarian administration.

It could happen here. And that should be a concern to all Americans.



Indiana residents will have final say

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

Michael J. Hicks



A year ago, I wrote about the rise and risks of Christian nationalism in Indiana government. It's time to once again define the problem and take stock of where we find ourselves.

Christian nationalism is the belief that the U.S. is an explicitly Protestant Christian nation ruled by Christian doctrine carried out by a government filled by Christians. One must know nothing about either Christianity or our Constitution to believe this sort of nonsense.

Yet, the movement is alive and well in Indiana.

Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith continues to identify as a Christian nationalist — the most senior elected official in the country to do so. Gov. Mike Braun is not a Christian nationalist, but he is stuck with Beckwith — a man he wouldn't otherwise permit to make coffee in the governor's office.

That association is costly. The Christian nationalist presence is dragging down the Braun administration, with polls reflecting a shockingly

low 24% approval rating. It is fair to say that whatever political momentum Braun may have enjoyed is hobbled by his running mate.

Still, compared to Beckwith, Braun's approval ratings appear Lincoln-esque. Beckwith is viewed favorably by just 9% of Hoosiers, placing him in a statistical tie with public favorability of the Black Plague. Quite a testament to his character and political acumen.

The failure of mid-decade redistricting in Indiana shed light on a growing fissure between the Christian nationalist movement, its post-democracy allies and traditional American conservatives. That fissure is nowhere more apparent than in Indiana, where traditional conservatives are emerging as the clear winners.

The good news in this cascade of awfulness is that the real brains at Heritage have mostly departed for other locations. The most influential ones have landed at a new think tank, Advancing Ameri-

Over the past two months, the nation's largest Christian nationalist-oriented think tank, the Heritage Foundation, has largely collapsed. This is part of a long decline in integrity at Heritage, which I warned about in 2013 and again in 2024. The immediate cause is

Heritage President Kevin Roberts' defense of Tucker Carlson following his interview with prominent antisemite Nick Fuentes. What followed was a rapid flight of

board members, donors and researchers.

Heritage has been happy to call out antisemitism from the progressive left, but somehow managed to ignore it on the right. The reason is simple: Antisemitism is a hallmark of Christian nationalism. Heritage doesn't want to anger anyone who might support it, no matter how loathsome their views.

The coming year will be important for extremism in Indiana. The vapidity of Christian nationalism has worn thin with elected leaders. The public is even less pleased.

can Freedom, which was founded by former Vice President Mike Pence.

Pence's think tank is dedicated to conserving the founding of the U.S., far removed from the anti-American nonsense of the Christian nationalist movement. It is led by a group of principled men and women who are unafraid to denounce antisemitism.

Pence's AAF has captured all the important legal analysts from Heritage, including the entire staff of the Meese Institute for the Rule of Law. The staff at Heritage has been so diminished that its two economists don't have enough publications between them to make it through pre-tenure review at Martin University. Students everywhere should breathe a sigh of relief.

The reverse brain drain to a think tank with Hoosier connections is a blessing indeed.

The coming year will be important for extremism in Indiana. The vapidity of Christian nationalism has worn thin with elected leaders. The public is even less pleased.

It is too early to make confi-

dent predictions about the Christian nationalist movement and its dealings in Indiana. The coming year brings many challenges to Beckwith and his followers. We all await the findings of a grand jury investigating ghost employment and misconduct allegations in Beckwith's office, as well as an ongoing scandal at Beckwith's Life Church following the arrest of the lead pastor's son on child sex crime charges.

We've been here before. Beckwith isn't the first Christian nationalist in Indiana whose political agenda has been threatened by scandal. Ultimately, the final test will happen among citizens, and their good opinion.

In that domain at least, the influence of Christian nationalism appears to be in trouble.

.....

Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University. Email him at mhicks@bsu.edu.

The Commercial Review



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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."

—Thomas Jefferson

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We welcome letters to the editor, 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.

Area churches are listed with location, pastor and phone number, services and website or email address.

All services are Sunday, unless otherwise indicated.

Asbury United Methodist

204 E. Arch St., Portland
Josh Arthur
(260) 726-8464
Services: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
asburyministries.org

Bellefontain United Methodist

440 S. 600 East
Pamela Freeman
Services: 9 a.m.

Bluff Point Friends

80 E. 650 South
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Boundary St. Paul

Corner of Treaty Line Road and county road 300 East
Ava Gannon
(260) 726-2373
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Bryant Wesleyan

209 S. Hendricks St.
Paul VanCise
(260) 997-6231
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
bryantwesleyanchurch.com

Calvary United Methodist

301 N. Main St., Dunkirk
Susan Durovey-Antrim
(765) 499-0368
Services: 10:30 a.m.
susan.duroveyantrim@inumc.org

Christ Chapel

2535 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery
(419) 733-1469
christchapelfr.com

Church of the Living God (Miracle Missions)

8472 S. 800 East, Union City
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Church of God of Prophecy

797 N. Creagor Ave., Portland
Nanette Weesner
(260) 766-9334
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nanybell@yahoo.com

Church of the Brethren

Floral and Chicago avenues, Portland
Kevin McClung
(260) 729-7295
Services: 10 a.m.

Church of the Living God

South Broad Street, Dunkirk
Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Friday

Collett Nazarene

450 South, 1 mile west of U.S. 27
Billy Stanton
(260) 251-2403
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Cornerstone Baptist

211 E. Main St., Portland
Wayne Ward
(260) 726-7714
Services: 10 a.m.

Cornerstone Church of Pennville

190 W. Main St., Pennville
Jack Houck
(260) 729-2164
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Dunkirk Nazarene

226 E. Center St., Dunkirk
Tom Fett
(765) 768-6199
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Evangelical Methodist

930 W. Main St., Portland
Steve Arnold
(260) 251-0970
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Fairview United Methodist/Jay County

2875 E. 200 South
Pamela Freeman
Lay leader: Beth Stephen
(260) 726-9184
Services: 10:15 a.m.

Faith Community

9560 W. 200 South, Dunkirk
Mark Acree
(260) 251-0987
Services: 10 a.m.

Family Worship Center

200 E. Elder St., Portland
Ronald Willis
(260) 726-4844
Services: 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
thefamilyworshipcenter.org

Fellowship Baptist

289 S. 200 West
Hugh Kelly
(260) 726-8873
Services: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
pastorkelly@fbc-portal.com

First Church of Christ

1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery
David J. Nicholson
(419) 375-2860
Services: 10:30 a.m.
fccftrecovery.org

First Community Baptist

341 S. Meridian St., Redkey
Everett Bilbrey Jr.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. Wednesday

First Free Will Baptist

12369 W. 600 South, Dunkirk
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday

First Presbyterian

402 N. Ship St., Portland
Rev. M. Rex Espiritu
(260) 726-8462
Services: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.
firstpcportland.org

Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene

401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
(419) 375-4680
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Kids vision and teen ministries: 6 p.m. Wednesday
frnaz@frontier.com

Fort Recovery United Methodist

309 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
Rev. Carol McKay
(304) 617-0101
Services: 9 a.m.

Full Gospel Lighthouse Tabernacle

468 E. Washington St., Dunkirk
Robert Thomas
(765) 348-4620
Services: 6:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Thursday

Geneva First United Methodist

100 W. Line St., Geneva
Barry McCune
(260) 368-7655
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Geneva Nazarene

225 Decatur St., Geneva
(260) 525-8609
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Prayer meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Gilead Church

County road 650 North, one-quarter mile east of Balbec
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Hickory Grove Church of the Brethren

Indiana 1 and Indiana 26
Earl Doll
(260) 731-4477
Services: 10:30 a.m.

High Street United Methodist

435 High St., Geneva
Rev. Joseph Hampton
(260) 368-7233
Services: 9 a.m.

Holy Trinity Catholic

7321 E. Indiana 67, Bryant
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
Services: 8 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Saturday

Hopewell of Life Ministries

County road 200 South, 2 miles east of Indiana 1
Rev. Ruth Funk
(260) 251-8581
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Catholic

506 E. Walnut St., Portland
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
(260) 726-7055
Services: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Kingsley Full Gospel

4030 S. 700 East, Dunkirk
Stuart Phillips
Services: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

Faith Community

9560 W. 200 South, Dunkirk
Mark Acree
(260) 251-0987
Services: 10 a.m.

Mary Help of Christians

403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
(419) 375-4153
Services: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.

Mount Tabor Community Church

216 W. Pleasant St., Dunkirk
Scott McClain
(765) 768-7273
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Mount Zion United Methodist

County roads 600 East and 200 North
Rev. Darrell Borders
(260) 726-4786
Services: 9 a.m.

New Beginnings Holiness Church of Blaine

4017 W. 200 South
Randy Smith
(260) 251-2406
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nholiness.com

New Covenant Fellowship

1238 W. 450 South
Chuck Myers
(260) 251-0063
Services: 10:30 a.m.

New Life Ministries

415 S. Helen St., Portland
Dr. Kay Fairchild
(260) 223-2961
Services: 4 p.m.
drkayfairchild.com

New Mt. Pleasant United Methodist

5905 S. Como Road
Neil Butcher
(765) 499-7838
Services: 9 a.m.

Noble Congregational Christian

1964 N. 800 East
Aaron Huey
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Oak Grove United Methodist

829 S. Indiana 1
Neil Butcher
(765) 760-9085
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Pleasant Hill

9945 N. 800 East, Union City
Bruce Bryan
(765) 964-3664
Services: 9 a.m., 6 p.m.
mypleasanthillchurch.org

Portland Church of Christ

1217 W. Votaw St., Portland
Bob Graham
(260) 726-7777
Bible class: 9:15 a.m.
Services: 10:20 a.m.
Bible School: 6 p.m. Wednesday
portlandcoc.com

Portland First Church of Nazarene

920 S. Shank St., Portland
Steve Cecil
(260) 726-8040
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Portland Friends

226 E. Main St., Portland
Herb Hummel
(260) 202-9732
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.

Praise Chapel Church of God

4527 E. 1000 North (Jay Randolph county line)
Rev. Josh Canfield
(765) 584-7045
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redkey Faith Ministries

981 W. Indiana 67, southwest of Redkey
Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman
(765) 369-2920
Services: 10 a.m.
RedkeyFaith.org

Redkey First Christian

Union and Elm streets, Bryant
(260) 997-6787
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey Faith Ministries

981 W. Indiana 67, south of Redkey
Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman
(765) 369-2920
Services: 10 a.m.
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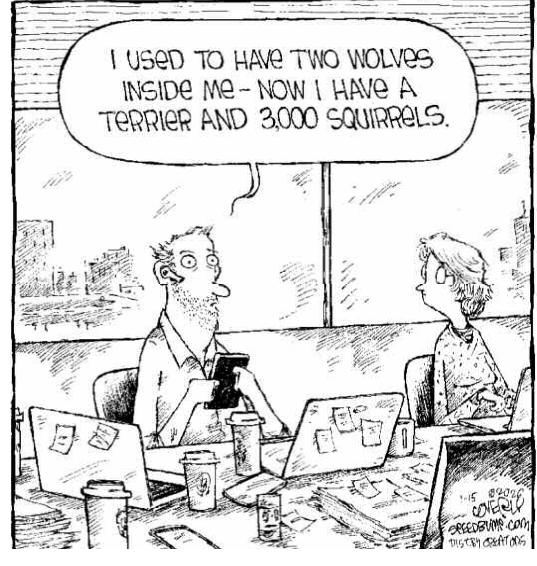
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(260) 997-6787
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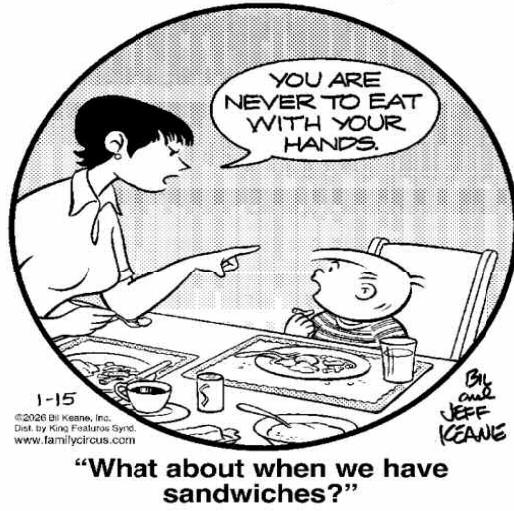
Union and Elm streets, Bryant
(260) 997-6787
Services: 9:30 a.m.
RedkeyFaith.org

SPEED BUMP



Dave Coverly

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



By Bil Keane

Peanuts



SHH!! YOU HAVE TO BE QUIET IN A LIBRARY, SIR!

JUST SINGING AN OLD WORLD WAR II SONG, MARCIE...

BET IT BROUGHT BACK A FLOOD OF MEMORIES, HUH, MA'AM?

Rose is Rose



IGNORE IT.
NOSE IN THE AIR... FOLLOW ME.

I THOUGHT WE AGREED ON A UNIFIED SNUB!

Agnes



HI, AGNES!
BACK OFF, BUSTER. I WILL REPORT YOU TO THE AUTHORITIES.

SORRY... I WILL HONOR YOUR SPACE.
UH-OH... I HEAR "WORDS" IN MY EAR HOLES, WHICH I BELIEVE ARE MY SPACE.

Hi and Lois



THERE! I PUT ON YOUR SNOWSUITS, BOOTS, GLOVES AND HATS...

NOW GO OUTSIDE AND PRETEND THERE'S SOME SNOW.

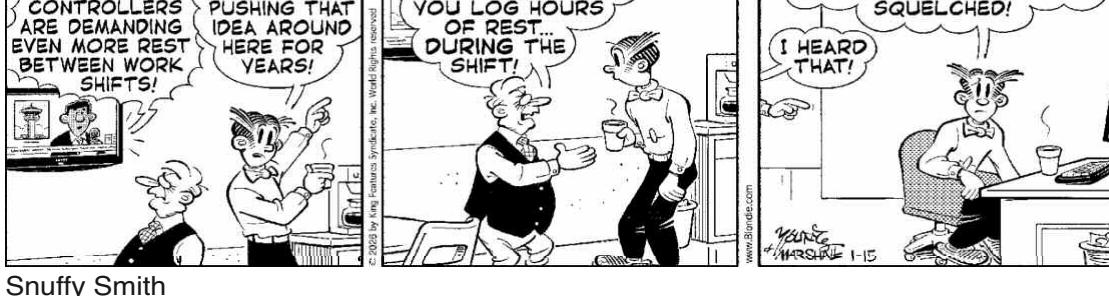
Between Friends



... SIZE 28 WAIST JEANS... HALTER TOPS... A-CUP PUSH-UP BRA... BIKINIS...

SIGH
You REALLY CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN

Blondie



BETWEEN SHIFTS?! YOU LOG HOURS OF REST DURING THE SHIFT!

ANOTHER BRILLIANT IDEA SQUELCHED!

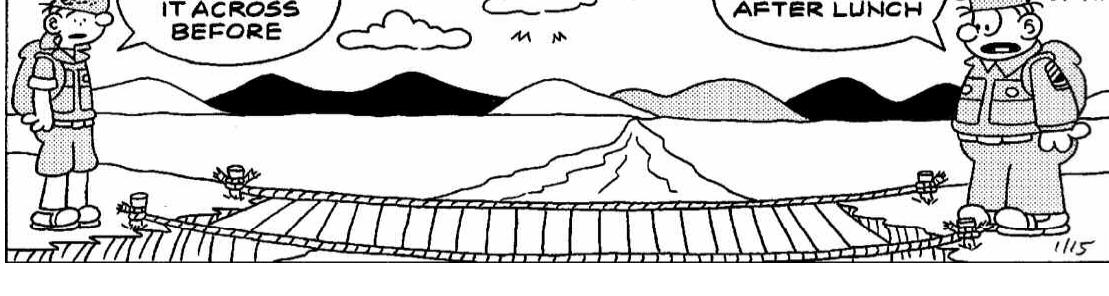
Snuffy Smith



I JEST GOT THESE IN--THAR ALL PRICED ONE-THIRD OFF !!

TH' FELLER THAT MAKES 'EM IS GOIN' THROUGH A BREAKUP !!

Beetle Bailey



YOU'VE MADE IT ACROSS BEFORE

NOT RIGHT AFTER LUNCH

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

It happened in Dead Man's Gulch

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♦ 9 5

♥ 8 6

♦ A Q J 10 9 4 2

♦ 3 2

WEST

♦ Q 7 4

♥ Q J 10 5 3

♦ 6 3

♦ 7 6 4

EAST

♦ J 10 8 6 2

♥ 9 4 2

♦ K 8

♦ 9 8 5

SOUTH

♦ A K 3

♥ A K 7

♦ 7 5

♦ A K Q J 10

The bidding:

South West North East

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♦ Pass

4 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Pass

6 NT

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

It happened in Dead Man's Gulch many years ago. Twelve good men and true listened attentively to the evidence. It seems that East — in a fit of rage in the middle of a hand — suddenly pulled out his six-shooter and let his partner have it. East was promptly hauled into court before judge and jury and tried for murder.

The facts were not disputed. The defendant told his story, which was

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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1-15

CRYPTOQUIP

Z A L S Y U E A S F B Y D B C D T L J J

L F M N O S A L S ' F L J Z L X F

T B Y M J L U C U C E L C O T Q B S T A D S X ?

L E Q B N T A M B S L S B .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PIANIST KEEPS BANGING THE SIDE OF HIS HEAD ON THE KEYS, HE'S PROBABLY PLAYING BY EAR.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals C

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 40 Rainey or Differ 24 Fanatic

1 River Barker 25 Mound

blockers 41 Welsh recording

5 Part of pooch label

speech 43 Doo- 26 State

9 Request hickey grain of Minne-

12 Departure 47 Parisian Burns

pal 27 Crou- sota

13 Actor 48 Whole grain dish 28 The staff

El-Masry 51 GOP org. 29 Vampire

14 Born as 52 Green novelist

15 Legendary 49ers 10 Burn

receiver 53 Black, in some-

17 Snooze 54 Conk out 11 Fulfilled,

18 "Shark 55 Ollie's pal as a promise

Tank" shark 16 Decade

Kevin 27 Crou- parts

22 More 49ers (Abbr.) 28 The staff

broad 50 Lumber 29 Vampire

24 Sal- 30 TGIF part

amander 35 Lumber

27 Carnival 36 "Holla- unit

city 37 San Diego

21 "Love — 38 "Blind" team

Blind" (Netflix 39 Feelings, informally

series) 40 Chess

20 Super- 41 Hallmark

man foe offering

22 Wind- 42 Hotel

shield 43 "Holla- chain

cleaner 44 Back

23 Teeny bit 45 "Blind" singer

46 Look 46 Stefani

after 47 Taunt

49 Dye 48 Nobel

brand Prize

50 British subj.

singer 49 Dye

Rita 50 British

Solution time: 24 mins.

HER S P E I S W A P

28 13, to Cato O G E E I N S C A R L

31 Swiss H A C I E N D A O L I O

canton O D D J O B A M U L E T

32 Suitable I N A C A R E

33 Sylvester, A R C S L Y P E N E

for one D I R T L E S D D A Y

34 Towering O P E R A E T A A G E

36 Mauna — S E W S E L S

R E S E N T E V E N E D

37 Corrals O B I S E M P A N A D A

T A D A A X L A T A D

S N A P L I E T O M E

Yesterday's answer 1-15

Solution time: 24 mins.

HER S P E I S W A P

28 13, to Cato O G E E I N S C A R L

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canton O D D J O B A M U L E T

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T A D A A X L A T A D

S N A P L I E T O M E

Yesterday's answer 1-15

Solution time: 24 mins.

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32 Suitable I N A C A R E

33 Sylvester, A R C S L Y P E N E

for one D I R T L E S D D A Y

34 Towering O P E R A E T A A G E

36 Mauna — S E W S E L S

Redemption ...

Continued from page 8

Newton's ability to shoot and space the floor paid dividends for the entire Jay County offense as the Patriots (11-5, 3-1 ACAC) picked up their fifth win of the season by 30 points or more.

"It was huge, because when she's shooting the ball like that, then they can't focus on Hallie (Schwieterman) or Karsyn (Schwieterman) or Liz (Brunswick)," McIntire said. "That's a fourth person then that they have to guard ... Very proud of Raylah, shot the ball

with a lot of confidence tonight and we need her to do that and she's capable of doing that."

Aided by the slight reduction in defensive attention, Hallie Schwieterman was also pivotal in the Patriot victory. The junior willed her team to victory with a 24-point, 14-rebound double-double.

"That's just huge leadership," McIntire said. "That's where she's decided we were winning this game tonight as a team, and she was doing everything that she could to get us there ... I feel like she's on a mission (to) cut

nets down on Saturday."

While Hallie Schwieterman was able to shine as Jay County's offensive engine on Tuesday, the Patriots were able to curtail the production of Woodlan's leading scorer Alyssa Anderson.

When the Warriors upended the Patriots earlier in the season, Anderson's 15 second-half points were at the heart of the Woodlan triumph. This time, Jay County held her scoreless after the intermission as she mustered just 11 points during the contest.

"It was amazing to get revenge," Newton said. "And the shift in the game plan was to shut (Anderson) down, get her to as (few) points as possible."

Anderson wasn't the only Warrior to struggle against the staunch Patriot defense. Woodlan shot just 14% from the field and turned the ball over 23 times. The going got even rougher for the Warriors after the intermission, as Woodlan managed just four points in the second half.

The stifling defense helped secure the Patriots' 11th win of

the campaign, already more victories than they accumulated throughout the entirety of last season.

"To be able to come in and just see the growth of our team and how much that we've improved and matured, we had a lot of freshmen last year, and so a year's time, they've matured and gotten better," McIntire said. "... And so that's huge for our program, and to beat teams that beat us by double digits last year, hats off to our kids because that's how much growth they've shown."

Swamped ...

Continued from page 8

"I challenged them. Are we satisfied with where we're at? Because in my opinion, we've got a long way to go and could be better. And they answered that challenge today."

The Patriots jumped on top of Woodlan (5-9) early. They had a pair of 6-0 runs in the first quarter to develop a 20-7 advantage. Jay County also had an 11-0 stretch over three minutes in the second quarter to build a 37-11 lead at the half.

While the Warriors struggled to contain the Patriots, it was Jay County's defense that really shined in the first 16 minutes.

Woodlan's top five scorers on the season, Keaton Delagrange (9.1 points per game), Camden Brooks (9.1), Nate Peters (7.0), C.J. Bullock (4.2) and Alex Art (3.6), were held scoreless in the first half on 0-of-8 from the field.

"Coach does a great job scouting the other team and knowing their players," said forward Aiden Phillips. "So we're just already prepared throughout the week, just going throughout the week and going through the scouting report."

Phillips guarded Delagrange, who had a team-high 12 points during the Dec. 5 matchup with Woodlan. The JCHS senior held Delagrange to just three points on Friday on 1-of-7 (14.3%) shooting. His sole bucket came on a baseline-out-of-bounds play that got ran too early before the official blew the play live, resulting in Delagrange rejecting the play entirely and relocating to the weak-side wing for a triple.

Peters and Art remained scoreless the entire game,



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Alex Miller of Jay County drives past one of Woodlan's starters, Camden Brooks, in the closing minutes of the Patriots' 65-29 victory on Tuesday. The win advanced Jay County to Friday's ACAC semifinal against Southern Wells, which holds a 1-7 record.

"It was the same thing with the scouting," said Phillips. "I got to see what he does every day and I just watched him constantly and that's how I stopped him."

Peters and Art remained scoreless the entire game,

while Brooks made a layup in transition and Bullock finished with five points on two manufactured fast breaks in the third quarter and a free throw in the fourth.

Colin Keppler was Woodlan's leading scorer with 10

points, but still only had a 25% shooting percentage (3-for-12).

While WHS only had one player reach double figures, both Jayden Comer and Graden Swoveland had 18 points apiece to lead Jay County. Phillips added nine

points as well on short push shots off ball movement or offensive rebounds.

Swoveland found success with one-dribble pull-ups and by pushing the pace to get to the rim. Comer found 12 of his points from deep, but had to take advantage of some broken plays as he was constantly face guarded while the rest of the Warriors were in a 1-3 zone.

"I thought as a group, we were patient at times and it was really good," said Rigby. "Then we kind of took some quick ones that weren't necessarily the wrong ones, but just understanding the situation a little better. But I thought for the entirety of the game, we did a pretty good job of choosing our spots on that end."

Production didn't stop when Jay County went to its bench.

With a 29-point lead, Rigby started digging deeper into the bench, first with Jacob Monroe. The senior forward immediately knocked down a 3-pointer between the right wing and corner off an assist from Phillips.

He later hit another triple on an assist from Sam Wiggins.

"It's like a domino effect," Monroe said. "If (the starters) are doing good, we're going to follow after them. ... Then I was just able to read the defense and find the open shot."

Even after all the starters had been pulled, the Patriots still suffocated the Warriors' offense. The bench didn't allow Woodlan to score a single point while Monroe hit his shots and Nick Snow completed an old-fashioned 3-point play.

Box score

Woodlan Warriors
at Jay County Patriots

Boys varsity summary

	Woodlan (5-9)	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Jacquay	2-6	0-0	5	
Brooks	1-9	0-0	2	
Klepper	3-12	3-4	10	
Bullock	2-2	1-2	5	
Peters	0-3	0-0	0	
Smith	1-3	0-0	2	
Friend	0-0	0-0	0	
Art	0-1	0-0	0	
Delagrange	1-7	0-0	3	
Haertig	0-0	0-0	0	
Clear	1-1	0-2	2	
Totals	9-44	4-8	29	
		.205		

Def. Rebound percentage: .458

Jay County (8-2)

	Jay County (8-2)	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Overton	2-5	1-2	5	
Comer	6-10	2-2	18	
Monroe	2-2	0-0	6	
Barnett	0-0	0-0	0	
Wasson	0-2	0-0	0	
Wiggins	0-0	0-0	0	
Miller	0-1	0-0	0	
Forthofer	2-3	0-0	4	
Phillips	4-5	1-2	9	
Snow	1-1	1-1	3	
Swoveland	6-16	6-6	18	
Sommers	1-3	0-0	2	
Totals	24-48	11-15	65	
		.500	.733	

Def. Rebound percentage: .606

Score by quarters:

Woodlan 7 4 13 5 — 29

Jay Co. 20 17 15 13 — 65

3-point shooting: Woodlan 3-18 (Jacquay 1-3, Delagrange 1-3, Klepper 1-4, Smith 0-1, Art 0-1, Peters 0-2, Brooks 0-4). Jay County 6-19 (Comer 4-8, Monroe 2-2, Wasson 0-2, Overton 0-3, Swoveland 0-4).

Rebounds: Woodlan 24 (Bullock 5, Jacquay 3, Brooks 3, Smith 3, Delagrange 3, Team 3, Clear 2, Klepper, Peters). Jay County 33 (Swoveland 7, Comer 6, Sommers 4, Phillips 3, Team 3, Overton 2, Barnett 2, Wasson 2, Forthofer 2, Wiggins, Snow).

Assists: Woodlan 3 (Jacquay, Klepper, Peters). Jay County 9 (Swoveland 3, Forthofer 2, Overton, Barnett, Wiggins, Phillips).

Blocks: Woodlan 0. Jay County 6 (Swoveland 3, Overton, Forthofer, Sommers).

Personal fouls: Woodlan 16 (Brooks 3, Jacquay 2, Peters 2, Delagrange 2, Clear 2, Klepper, Smith, Friend, Art). Jay County 13 (Wasson 6, Forthofer 2, Phillips 2, Swoveland 2, Sommers 2, Comer, Barnett, Snow).

Turnovers: Woodlan 15. Jay County 10.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today

Jay County — Boys wrestling at Homestead — 6:30 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball vs. Heritage — 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at Heritage — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys bowling vs. Memorial — 4 p.m.; Girls bowling vs. Memorial — 4 p.m.; Boys basketball at Minster — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys bowling vs. Newton at McBo's Lanes — 4 p.m.; Girls bowling vs. Newton at McBo's Lanes — 4 p.m.; Girls basketball vs. Minster — 6 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball at South Adams — 5 p.m.

Friday

Jay County — Girls wrestling state tournament at

Corteza Coliseum — 10:30 a.m.; Girls basketball in Allen County Athletic Conference tournament vs. Southern Wells — 6 p.m.; Boys basketball in Allen County Athletic Conference tournament vs. Southern Wells — 7:30 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys bowling vs. Memorial — 4 p.m.; Girls bowling vs. Memorial — 4 p.m.; Boys basketball at Minster — 6 p.m.

TV schedule

Today

2 p.m. — USGA golf: Latin America Amateur Championship (ESPN2)

7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Villanova at UConn (FS1); Texas at South Carolina (ESPN2);

Nebraska at Michigan State (BTN)

7 p.m. — NHL: Philadelphia Flyers at Pittsburgh Penguins (ESPN)

8 p.m. — NHL: Seattle Kraken at Boston Bruins (ABC)

9 p.m. — College basketball: Wichita State at Florida Atlantic (ESPN2)

9 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Oregon at Iowa (FS1)

9:30 p.m. — NHL: Toronto Maple Leafs at Vegas Golden Knights (ESPN)

Friday

2 p.m. — USGA golf: Latin America Amateur

Championship (ESPN2)

6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Creighton at Providence (FS1)

7 p.m. — NBA: Cleveland Cavaliers at Philadelphia 76ers (ESPN); New Orleans Pelicans at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)

7 p.m. — College wrestling: Iowa at Penn State (BTN)

7 p.m. — College gymnastics: Alabama at Florida (BTN)

7:30 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Phantom BC at Laces BC (TNT)

8 p.m. — College basketball: Baylor at Kansas (FOX)

8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Loyola Chicago at Dayton (ESPN2); Marquette at DePaul (FS1)

8:45 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Hive BC at Rose BC (TNT)

9 p.m. — College wrestling: Minnesota at Nebraska (BTN)

9:30 p.m. — NBA: Minnesota Timberwolves at Houston Rockets (ESPN)

10:30 p.m. — College basketball: Colorado State at Boise State (FS1)

To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.com

90 SALE CALENDAR

49TH ANNUAL COLDWATER YOUNG FARMERS CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Saturday February 14, 2026

The Coldwater Young Farmer Association will be conducting their annual farm machinery consignment auction at the Coldwater football stadium parking lot in Coldwater, Ohio.

For more information on consigning your farm machinery please call: Dusty Uhlenhake 419-733-3096

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Machinery consigned by

January 17, 2026

Yorktown swim got the better of the JCHS tankers, see roundup below

FRHS girls basketball hosts Minster today, see Sports on tap

Sports

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The Commercial Review

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Patriots earn redemption

Jay County avenges regular-season loss to Warriors

By ETHAN OSKROBA

The Commercial Review

The last time Jay County and Woodlan squared off, the Patriots saw their seven-game winning streak snapped in an agonizing 56-54 defeat on Jan. 2.

Less than two weeks later the Jay County High School girls basketball team didn't let history repeat itself, romping to a dominant 50-20 home victory over the Woodlan Warriors in the opening round of the Allen County Athletic Conference tournament on Tuesday.

Next up, the Patriots will host Southern Wells in a semifinal matchup at 6 p.m. on Friday.

"We felt like we didn't play up to our level last time, and so I felt like the kids came in and were on a mission and I felt like the mission was accomplished," said Jay County coach Sherri McIntire. "We just did the things that we needed to do defensively, and rebounding was a big key ... I'm very pleased with the kids' effort."

Jay County's effort and intensity were evident from the opening tip, as the Patriots rattled off a 14-0 run in the final four-and-a-half minutes of the first quarter to lead 17-2.

One key cog in the Patriots' early dominance was Raylah Newton. The senior drained four 3-pointers in the opening half to set the tone for Jay County.

Motivation from the prior defeat to Woodlan (9-7, 5-0 Allen County Athletic Conference) helped propel Newton to the career-best four 3-pointers and the fourth double-digit scoring game of her career.

"I just took last game, the last game that we got beat, as just energy to put back for my team to win it," Newton said.

See *Redemption* page 7



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Raylah Newton of the Jay County High School girls basketball team fires a 3-pointer during the Patriots' 50-20 victory over the Woodlan Warriors in the opening round of the Allen County Athletic Conference tournament. Newton's career-best four 3-pointers helped power the Patriots to redemption after they had endured a 56-54 loss to Woodlan on Jan. 2.

Box score

Woodlan Warriors at Jay County Patriots

Girls varsity summary

Woodlan (9-7, 5-0 ACAC)

FG-FGA FT-FTA PTS

	Anderson	4-12	3-6	11
Scheumann	1-9	1-2	0-0	4
McDaniel	1-6	0-0	0-0	3
Thullner	1-3	0-0	0-0	2
Hodson	0-7	0-0	0-0	0
Peoples	0-4	0-0	0-0	0
Gillingham	0-3	0-0	0-0	0
Sterling	0-3	0-0	0-0	0
Noble	0-1	0-0	0-0	0
Crozier	0-1	0-0	0-0	0
Smith	0-1	0-0	0-0	0
Totals	7-50	4-8	20	
	.140	.500		

Def. Rebound percentage: .714

Jay County (11-5, 3-1 ACAC)

FG-FGA FT-FTA PTS

	HSchwtrmn	10-21	1-2	24
Newton	4-5	0-0	0-0	12
KSchwtrmn	4-13	0-2	0-0	8
Brunswick	1-4	1-2	1-2	4
Peters	1-2	0-0	0-0	2
Lekue	0-1	0-2	0-0	0
Schemenaur	0-1	0-2	0-0	0
Dirksen	0-1	0-0	0-0	0
May	0-1	0-0	0-0	0
ASchwtrmn	0-0	0-0	0-0	0
Kaigler	0-0	0-0	0-0	0
Totals	20-49	2-10	50	
	.408	.200		

Def. Rebound percentage: .744

Score by quarters:

Woodlan 2 14 1 3 — 20

Jay Co. 17 14 8 11 — 50

3-point shooting: Woodlan 2-19 (McDaniel 1-6, Scheumann 1-4, Hodson 0-3, Gillingham 0-3, Noble 0-1, Sterling 0-1, Smith 0-1). Jay County 8-16 (Newton 4-5, HSchwierman 3-5, Brunswick 1-1, KSchwierman 0-1, Dirksen 0-1).

Rebounds: Woodlan 30 (Anderson 8, Peoples 7, Hodson 5, Thullner 2, Sterling 2, McDaniel 2, Noble 1, Crozier 1, Scheumann 1, Gillingham 1). Jay County 37 (HSchwierman 14, KSchwierman 7, May 4, Peters 4, Dirksen 3, Newton 1, Brunswick 1, Lekue Magro 1, Schemenaur 1, ASchwierman 1, 1).

Assists: Woodlan 6 (Hodson 3, Scheumann 1, Sterling 1, Peoples 1). Jay County 11 (HSchwierman 3, May 2, Peters 2, KSchwierman 1, HSchwierman 1, Newton 3, Brunswick 1).

Blocks: Woodlan 2 (Peoples 2). Jay County 2 (HSchwierman 1, Brunswick 1).

Personal fouls: Woodlan 9 (Hodson 2, Noble 2, Thullner 1, Sterling 1, Smith 1, Gillingham 1, Peoples 1). Jay County 12 (Schemenaur 3, May 2, Peters 2, KSchwierman 1, HSchwierman 1, Lukue Magro 1).

Turnovers: Woodlan 23. Jay County 19.

Swamped in first half

Jay's defense suffocated Woodlan over first 16 minutes to allow just 11 points

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

The first time the Warriors visited Portland, the Patriots defense gave up a total of 28 points, including 27 to the Warriors' top five scorers on the year.

In the second matchup, the Patriots only gave up 10 points to the top five threats, none of which came in the first half. As a result, the Patriots ran ahead by over 25 points and never looked back.

A strong first half led the Jay County High School boys basketball team to a 65-29 victory over the Woodlan Warriors on Tuesday in the first round of the Allen County Athletic Conference tournament.

The win earns the Patriots (8-2) a spot in the ACAC tournament semifinal against Southern Wells. The game will follow the conclusion of the Jay County girls ACAC semifinal against the Raiders.

"The first half was really good," said JCHS coach Tyler Rigby. "All week we talked about ourselves and how good we could be at things we do every day. You could tell by the look on their faces, they were locked in and mentally focused on those things and we executed them really well. Much better than we've done up to this point."

See *Swamped* page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School senior Jacob Monroe starts to shoot a triple from the wing during the Patriots' 65-29 beating of the Woodlan Warriors in the ACAC tournament opener on Tuesday. Monroe came into the game to knock down two threes while the Patriot bench players held Woodlan scoreless over the final four minutes of play.

Tankers fall at Yorktown

YORKTOWN — The girls ran into a buzzsaw, while the boys' effort wasn't quite enough.

The Jay County High School swim teams lost to the Yorktown Tigers in Tuesday's meet, which was moved to Yorktown due to issues with the JCHS pool. The boys fell 100-83, while the girls were defeated 106-64.

The boys (3-5) claimed eight out of the 12 events, but depth proved to be a problem for them. The girls (6-2) struggled as they won a season-low two events.

Maria Laux and Lauren Fisher secured the only victories for the JCHS girls. Laux won the 50-yard freestyle in 26.78 seconds. Fisher beat the field in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1 minute, 21.65 seconds.

Cooper Glentzer, Grady Warvel and Carson Westgerdes all won two events for Jay County.

Glentzer topped the 200 freestyle with a swim of 1:55.55 and a time of 5:17.33 earned him first in the 500 freestyle.

Warvel opened his day with a win in the 200 individual medley (2:14.37) before claiming the 100 butterfly in 57.02 seconds.

Westgerdes picked up his first win in the 100 freestyle with a time of 53.08. Four events later, Westgerdes claimed his second first-place finish with a time of 1:08.18 in the breaststroke.

The Patriot boys also won a pair of relay races. Warvel, Westgerdes and Glentzer were joined by Peyton Yowell to win the 200 freestyle relay in 1:38.12. The same group swam a 3:39.68 to take the 400 freestyle relay as well.

While the girls only won two events, they claimed the runner-up spot in seven, including all three relays.