

Pilot update

Virtual academy is serving 67 students this semester

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review
Jay School Corporation is halfway through its first year of a pilot program with a virtual academy. It has already resulted in fewer students leaving the district.
Katie Clark, the school corporation's director of digital learning, provided Jay School Board with an update on the pilot program during Monday's meeting.
The virtual academy, approved in February 2025, contracts with Edmentum's EdOptions Academy for its virtual curriculum. Students can work from home and still get regular check-ins from school staff. They have access to extracurriculars, special education accommodations, work-based learning opportunities, college and career exploration, financial literacy and technology support. They are required to go through an onboarding process and take required state tests in person.
Clark reported that the pilot program for seventh through 12th graders had 62 students for the fall semester. That number is up to 67 for the spring semester.



Photo provided

Retired history teacher Todd Gibson returned to Jay School Corporation as a success coach for its new virtual academy. The pilot program that started in August is serving 67 students this semester.

Clark noted that in 2024, 119 students from Jay Schools were leaving the district to take classes with a virtual academy. In 2025, that number was down to 73. She also noted that the school corporation's total enrollment went up by 86 students, an increase of 3%.
The school corporation has added a success coach, hiring retired history teacher Todd Gibson for that position. In that role, he stays in regular communication with virtual academy students and is available to provide assistance. He noted one student who was struggling and began coming to the Jay Schools annex at John Jay Center for Learning. By the end of the first semester, the student had earned four credits. (The same student earned just one credit

last year.)
"We've really done a good job, I feel like, of meeting the needs of our students and meeting them where they are," said Clark.
Clark said priorities in the second semester of the pilot are increasing communication with virtual teachers and working more on career readiness programs.
Answering questions from board member Donna Geesaman, Clark said the virtual academy students are able to work at their own pace.
Board member Chad Towell asked about how Jay Schools' statistics for its virtual academy compare to those with other virtual schools. Clark said she would get that data to the board.
She also said that school staff

reach out to all students when they begin the withdrawal process to make sure they are aware of the virtual academy option.
In other business, board members Ron Laux, Marcie Vormohr, Chip Phillips, Jon Eads, Aaron Clark, Geesaman and Towell:
•During the Patriot Pride moment, learned from Jay County Junior-Senior High School principal Chad Dodd that the school corporation's graduation rate was 95.4% for 2025, up by about 7 percentage points from the previous year. It is one of the highest marks in the high school's history. Dodd noted that all students who stuck with the school corporation received a diploma.
See Pilot page 2

State cut for overtime and tips advances

Surplus would cover tax losses for one-year trial program

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com
A key finance panel on Tuesday inserted a one-year state income tax break on overtime and tips for Hoosier workers.
The amendment would cost the state \$251 million in tax revenue and that loss would be covered by the growing state surplus, said Sen. Travis Holdman, R-Markle.
"This would be for just one year until we see if we can actually afford to go forward. And folks, this would come out of the reserves that we have accumulated at the state level," Holdman said.
Lawmakers will decide during budget negotiations in 2027 whether to make it permanent.
Holdman, who chairs the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee, said it applies to 2026 wages on tax returns filed in 2027.
The amendment was inserted into Senate Bill 243, which passed 11-1. It now moves to the Senate floor.
Sen. Andrea Hunley, D-Indianapolis, voted against the bill after noting that Indiana continues to have a tax on period products even though it would cost the state only \$5 million.
The amendment would couple Indiana's tax code to federal tax code with regard to no tax on tips, no tax on overtime and no tax on loan interest for American-made vehicles passed in the One Big Beautiful Bill that President Donald Trump pushed through Congress last summer.
But it also cuts close to opening the current two-year budget, which Gov. Mike Braun and Republican legislative leaders have said they wouldn't do.
See Tips page 5

Village working on plans for sidewalks

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review
FORT RECOVERY — The village is working on plans to ensure new sidewalks are well-lit while also reviewing its policy for maintaining existing sidewalks.
Fort Recovery Village Council discussed lighting plans for a multi-use trail near Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School and looked at potential updates for its sidewalk maintenance policy.
Assistant village administrator Aaron Rengers told council members that bids for a multi-use trail along Ohio 49, Sharpshurg Road and Flaler Road will be opened on Jan. 26. He said he expects the project to be awarded in March, with construction to come this summer.
The project, which has been in the works since 2021, will connect businesses on the south

Construction on multi-use trail is expected this summer

end of the village to the elementary/middle school and continue to Flaler Road.
The project is 90% funded through Ohio Department of Transportation's Systemic Safety Funding grant, with the village's estimated match at \$200,000.
Rengers told council members they will need to make a decision about street lights in the area and whether they want to have lighting on one side of the streets or both. Council members Scott Pearson and Lucas

Knapke advocated for lighting on both sides of the roadway. Mayor Dave Kaup agreed that it is nicer to have both sides lit, referencing the lighting along Ohio 118 on the north side of St. Henry.
They asked Rengers to provide cost estimates for both options.
Rengers also told the council that Ohio Department of Transportation has completed environmental work for a Safe Routes to School program and that right-of-way work can begin this week.
See Sidewalks page 5



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fort Recovery Mayor Dave Kaup (left) swears in new village council member Shawn Thobe prior to Monday's meeting. Thobe and Amy Wendel, who was sworn in at the previous meeting, were selected to fill two open council seats.

Deaths Weather In review Coming up
Carol Lovell, 91, Bluffton Dean Cormany, 62, Petroleum Details on page 2.
Jay County had a high temperature of 23 degrees Monday. The low was 10. Tonight's low will be in the low 20s with winds gusting to 35 mph and a 20% chance of snow. Expect a high in the mid 20s on Thursday with continued windy conditions. See page 2 for an extended forecast.
One new candidate filed Tuesday morning to run in the May primary election. Robert Ford, a Democrat, filed to run for Richland Township Advisory Board. Offices up for election this year include Jay County Commissioner and four county council seats. The filing deadline is Feb. 6.
Thursday — Results from the Jay County swim meet against Muncie Central.
Friday — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.
Saturday — Details from the JCHS boys basketball game against South Adams.





# Obituaries

**Carol Lovell**  
*July 19, 1934-Jan. 18, 2026*  
Carol Joan (Clifton) Lovell, 91 of Bluffton, passed away on Sunday morning Jan. 18, 2026, at her residence.

Carol was born July 19, 1934, in Lebanon, Indiana, to Hershel and Elsie (Wright) Clifton. She graduated from Gray High School in Jay County in 1952.

Carol married Ralph David Lovell Jr. of Keystone, Indiana, in Dunkirk, Indiana, in 1952. Ralph passed away at age 53 in 1986.

Survivors include her compan-

ion of 37 years, Donald A McQueary; her four children, Connie (Tom) Pace of South Carolina, Cheryl Hahn of Warren, Indiana, David (Peggy) Lovell of Bluffton, Indiana, and Kim Gentis of Ossian, Indiana. She is also survived by eight grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Carol worked in medical records at Caylor Nickel, Bluffton, Indiana, and Marion



Lovell

General Hospital, Marion, Indiana, for most of her working career. When she retired she worked out of her home flower shop, Carol's Flowers and Gifts, doing grave flowers, wedding flowers and floral gifts.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents Hershel and Elsie Clifton; and her siblings, Richard "Dick" Clifton, Arita Jeannine Coats, Dorothy Marlene Schell and Patricia Clifton (stillborn), and Robert "Bob" Clifton.

Visitation will take place from 3 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler

Funeral Home in Bluffton and for one hour prior to the service on Thursday.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 22, at the funeral home, with Jeff Lemler officiating. Burial will follow at Gravel Hill Cemetery, outside Bryant, Indiana.

Memorials may be made to The Light, payable to the Wells County Foundation, and can be directed to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Friends can send condolences at thomarich.com.

**Dean Cormany**, Petroleum, the brother of a Dunkirk resident, Sept. 12, 1963-Jan. 17, 2026. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

CR almanac

Thursday 1/22	Friday 1/23	Saturday 1/24	Sunday 1/25	Monday 1/26
26/6	12/-1	10/4	17/3	19/5
Skies will be mostly sunny with a high in the mid 20s and winds gusting to 25 mph.	Expect a high of 12 under mostly cloudy skies.	There is a 20% chance of snow, mostly in the afternoon. Skies will be mostly cloudy. The high will top out at 10.	The high temperature will be in the upper teens with partly sunny skies and a chance of snow.	Skies will be mostly sunny with a high of 19.

Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Monday 5-28-34-37-55 Power Ball: 17 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$209 million	Daily Four: 8-1-3-1 Quick Draw: 1-3-9-13-18-22-36-38-40-42-44-45-51-55-59-63-67-69-70-76 Cash 5: 1-8-10-17-23 Estimated jackpot: \$282,500
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$250 million	<b>Ohio</b> Monday Midday Pick 3: 5-3-2 Pick 4: 8-5-1-4 Pick 5: 3-8-1-6-0 Evening Pick 3: 0-6-1 Pick 4: 3-4-0-2 Pick 5: 2-1-5-7-7 Rolling Cash: 11-18-32-35-37 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Monday Midday Daily Three: 8-6-5 Daily Four: 0-8-0-2 Quick Draw: 3-4-5-6-7-8-17-29-30-34-35-39-40-42-45-52-60-67-70-78 Evening Daily Three: 1-0-9	

Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.42 Feb. corn .....4.44 March corn .....4.44	Feb. beans .....10.53 Wheat ..... 4.76
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.42 Feb. corn .....4.39 March corn .....4.36	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.25 Feb. corn .....4.27 Beans .....10.47 Feb. beans .....10.51 Wheat .....4.96
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.34 Feb. corn .....4.34 Beans .....10.49	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.40 Feb. corn .....4.40 Beans .....10.22 Feb. beans .....10.22 Wheat .....4.66

Today in history

In 1616, Samuel de Champlain arrived in a Huron Indian village after a battle with the Iroquois in New France.

In 1783, Britain signed a peace agreement with France and Spain.

In 1793, Louis XVI of France was executed in Paris. Louis was convicted of "high treason" by the French Parliament amid the French Revolution.

In 1905, Christian Dior was born in Granville, France. The fashion designer became a worldwide success in his career.

In 1910, the Seine began rising rapidly, setting the stage for the Great Flood of Paris that would disrupt much of the city.

In 1930, aviator Charles Lindbergh arrived in New York after a 14.75-hour flight.

In 1954, the USS Nautilus was launched in Connecticut, becoming the world's first nuclear-powered submarine.

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter issued an unconditional pardon for many Vietnam War-era draft evaders.

In 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its Citizens United v. FEC ruling, reshaping campaign finance and political spending in America.

In 2013, Jay County Regional Sewer District set plans in motion for a rate increase of up to 22%. After months of discussion and contention, the board ultimately agreed to move forward with the increase in July.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

<b>Today</b> 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.
<b>Friday, Jan. 23</b> 8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Pilot ...

Continued from page 1

The board recognized the efforts of the school staff, also hearing from assistant principal James Myers and guidance counselors Kristin Millspaugh and Tom Ferguson.

•Declared the school corporation's pension debt fund dormant. Its pension debt was paid off last year. The remaining \$40,217.64 in the fund was transferred to the rainy day fund.

•Authorized business manager Shannon Current to transfer up to 10% of the operation fund budget to the rainy day fund. She plans to transfer \$135,318.64 to bring the rainy day fund balance to \$2 million.

•OK'd expenditures related to recovery from the September 2024 tornado that hit the junior high wing of the junior-senior high school. Costs now totaling nearly \$5.9 million.

•Accepted the resignation of Greg Garringer as a custodian.

•Approved the following: the hiring of Kami Fulkerson as a sixth grade teacher for West Jay Elementary School; approved extracurricular assignments, including Matt Champ as junior high assistant softball coach; a contract with EverDriven Technologies for alternative transportation services; a handbook change to allow overtime pay for the director of maintenance if he is required to report on a weekend or holiday; year-end transfers that were made to keep all fund balances in the black; new or modified policies on topics including drug and alcohol testing, digital content, background checks, nondiscrimination and anti-harassment; the purchase of a new boiler for the pool at a cost of \$198,400; and increasing preschool fees to \$758 per child for two days per week, \$1,109 for three days per week and \$1,761 for five days per week.

•Accepted donations of \$1,500 from Dunkirk Kiwanis Club to Redkey Elementary School, \$1,000 from Portland Veterinary Clinic for pool rebranding and \$750 from Portland Breakfast Optimist Club for the high school choir.

•Heard from Gulley that he expects to have bids for a portion of the junior-senior high school capital project ready for review at the Feb. 16 meeting. The project includes updates to the electrical system, heating, ventilation and air conditioning controls, and mechanical equipment at the pool.

Capsule Reports

Driver injured

A Portland woman was injured Thursday when the SUV she was driving struck the rear of a dump truck.

Serena L. Lester, 29, was driving a 2017 Hyundai Santa Fe west on Indiana 26 near county road 300 East at about 10:45 a.m. Thursday. She said she did not realize a Jay County Highway Department dump truck, driven by Mason E. Johnson, 19, Redkey, was turning in front of her. The Santa Fe struck the rear of the dump truck.

Lester was transported to Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie for treatment of head injuries. The vehicle she was driving is registered to Cody D. Davis of Portland.

Damage in the collision was estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Sign damaged

An Indiana Department of Transportation sign was damaged Monday when it was hit by a truck driven by a Pennville man.

Jason A. Berry, 20, was driving his 2002 Chevrolet Silverado east on Indiana 26, approaching its intersection with Indiana 67. According to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report, Berry's vehicle went off the north side of the road and ran over an Indiana Department of Transportation sign.

Damage was estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

Pole struck

A Ridgeville teen's vehicle went off the road Saturday and struck a utility pole.

Makalah R. Lamoreaux, 17, was driving her 2019 MINI Countryman north on Como Road about 12:30 p.m. Saturday. She told police that her passenger-side tires went off the roadway and that her vehicle then went through a ditch and struck a utility pole.

According to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report, Lamoreaux declined medical service at the scene but said she would go to a hospital to be checked because of head pain.

Damage was estimated at between \$10,000 and \$25,000. The Countryman was towed.

The utility pole is owned by American Electric Power.

City collision

Vehicles driven by a rural Portland man and a rural Portland woman collided on Meridian Street in Portland on Jan. 14.

McKenzie P. Bailey, 34, was south-

bound on Meridian Street in her 2018 Jeep Renegade when she attempted to make a left turn onto Arch Street. According to a Portland Police Department report, her vehicle struck a northbound 2020 Ford Expedition MAX driven by Alan P. Dirksen, 49. The report says wet road conditions may have been a contributing factor to the collision.

Damage was estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Hit and run

A Redkey man's vehicle was struck Jan. 14 in an apparent hit-and-run.

Robbie L. Funkhouser, 24, told police he was driving west on county road 800 South about 3:05 p.m. Jan. 14 near county road 250 West. He told police a gray Jeep Grand Cherokee failed to stop at a stop sign at the intersection and struck the 2024 Kia Soul he was driving. According to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report, the Soul spun as a result of the collision and the sides of the vehicles struck each other again.

Damage was estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

The Soul, which was towed, is registered to Deborah Funkhouser of Redkey.

FEBRUARY SPECIALS

Run your half-page black and white ad any day from Feb. 3 through 14 for \$150 (Run it again as many times as you want in February for \$125 each)

any day from Feb. 17 through 21 for \$175 (Run it again as many times as you want in February for \$150 each)

any day from Feb. 24 through 28 for \$200 (Run it again as many times as you want in February for \$175 each)

Rates do not apply to special sections  
Ads must run in February

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The Commercial Review



# Rosalita is top annual

**By NORMAN WINTER**  
Tribune News Service

Yogi Berra, the beloved New York Yankee, was as famous for his sayings as he was for his baseball prowess. One of my favorite sayings was “It’s déjà vu all over again.” When it comes to **On Gardening** *Senorita Rosalita* cleome or spider flower, it is déjà vu again and again.

*Senorita Rosalita* has been chosen as the Proven Winners “Landscape Annual of the Year” for 2026. Awards are commonplace when it comes to *Senorita Rosalita*. It has won 166 awards, which has to be up there against all other plants not called *Supertunia Vista Bubblegum*.

Before *Senorita Rosalita*, cleome varieties were beautiful and tall but sent out seeds far and wide that numbered in the hundreds if not thousands, depending on the size of your patch. *Senorita Rosalita* produces no seed.

Prime planting season for *Senorita Rosalita* will be here sooner than you think, so start getting ready as the weather allows. They are usually planted as young transplants in warm spring soil. Select a site that is well-drained and receives plenty of sunlight. Morning



Tribune News Service/Norman Winter

Proven Winners named the *Senorita Rosalita* cleome or spider flower as its Landscape Annual of the Year. It is well-suited to monoculture or thriller plants in containers.

sun and afternoon shade also work well. *Senorita Rosalita* cleome is still considered tall, reaching 24 to 48 inches in height with a spread of 18

quintessential cottage flower.

If the bed is poorly drained, add 2 to 3 inches of organic matter and apply a good layer of mulch after planting. Mulch helps prevent moisture loss to evaporation and deters weeds, which compete for water and nutrients. Cleomes are drought-tolerant once established. In midsummer, give them a little fertilizer, such as a 5-10-5, to help push them into the fall season.

The flower color is pink, but I often see violet shades exhibited in gardens where a little afternoon shade is given. Hummingbirds and butterflies will be frequent visitors to the blooms. The spidery texture of the blooms looks tropical, making good partners with bananas and elephant ears.

To recap, *Senorita Rosalita* is shorter than typical cleomes and is sterile, which means it does not set seeds. It also does not have thorns, and it blooms all season long. With attributes like that, you would guess it’s an award winner, and it is.

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*Winter is a horticulturist, garden speaker and author of “Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South” and “Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden.”*

## Eighth graders make honor roll

Jay County Junior-Senior High School recently announced its honor roll for the first semester.

Eighth graders making the honor roll were Veda Adams, Avery Ainsworth, Jake Arnold, Lyle Beiswanger, Marshall Bihn, Kenzley Blunk, Layla Boyer, Jaylen Brown, Bentley Brunswick, Hailey Buchtel, Jayden Butler, Avery Carpenter, Urijah Carpenter, Jordyn Champ, Roman Clamme, Ellie Clark and Emalynn Clark, Madison Costello, Carter Cox, Mackenzie Coy, Raelynn Crabtree, Madilyn Curtis, Ava Dame, Macy DeHoff, Jackson Denton, Job Dirksen, Rowann Dunn and Dillon Dunnington.

Also, Mohamed Elshiekh, Asher Flowers, Allianna Fosnaugh, Scarlett Fosnaugh, Ashlynn Fox, Gabriella Friddle, Daisy Garcia-Benitez, Daniel Garcia-Benitez, Vanessa Gatto, Aliyha Gilbert, Kendel Glessner, Amos Graber, Ethan Guntle, Mal’Aki Hart, Finn Hemmelgarn, Cadly Henry, Eli Homan, Kinze Homan, Logan Hornbaker, Frederick Howell, Grace Huelkamp, Ramzey Huftel, Aubree Hunley, Kamzy Johnson, Bristol Kahlig, Royce Kaigler, Ango Kato, Kellan Keys, Bryce King, Madison Kline, Alexander Koenig and Harper Kunkle.

Also, Nadlie Landers, Sophia Lawhead, Anderson Layton, Chloe Lewellen, Arabella Link, Murphy Link, Miley Love, Brandon Loyd, Trinity Marcum, Eric Martinez Alvarez, Danika Masonbrink, Willow McCallister, Parker McCoy, Gabriella Miller, Lexi Miller, Braxton Mock, Andrew Myers, Joslyn Norman, Folton Parr, Joanna Peterson, Lillian Petro, Ayva Pitman, Fletcher Post, Ryan Recker, Draven Reese, Minzy Renner, Hallie Reynolds and Journey Reynolds.

Also, Payson Rickard, Tristin Romine, Gavin Rosenbeck, Brenna Rowles, Karson Schilling, Easton Siegrist, Kyla Sims, Emma Skirvin, Aiden Stallsmith, Kaylynn Stanley, Leah Steed, Cody Suman, Kari Timmerman, Isacc Torres Jr., Brantley Towell, Byron Upp, Julia Wagner, Brayden Walker, Alexa Watkins, Sophia Weesner, Aubrie Weitzel, Brenna Weitzel, Alyssa Wendel, Eli Westgerdes, Jade Westgerdes, Saige Winget, Daniel Wright

# Wife tired of being told who she can talk to

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 40 years and share the same friendships — joint, his and mine. We have camped, hosted parties and traveled with the same friends. My problem is my husband says I’m not allowed to speak privately with the males in our group unless I first confirm with him what I’m talking about. He also gives me the third degree about my visits with the wives, mainly to find out if their husbands were around.

In all our married years, I have never given him reason to think there’s anything going on between me and anyone else. I have always held him in high regard. I consider him to be somebody with honesty and integrity, and I love him wholeheartedly.

Where in the world does he get off trying to order me

Dear Abby



may be a man with “honesty and integrity,” but he is also someone with bottomless insecurities and an insatiable need to control you. I am surprised it has taken 40 years of this for you to finally say to yourself, “Enough!” I would recommend marriage counseling for the two of you, but I seriously question his ability to change. Counseling for you alone might give you the courage to draw the line.

.....

DEAR ABBY: After I found the courage to leave my abusive marriage, it has been difficult. My family refuses to accept that a woman could have actually abused a man, and they are very skeptical. Even after my mother and sister attended therapy with me, they still question my honesty, something that has

never been questioned before. Still, I have an amazing 9-year-old daughter from the marriage. She is part of the reason I had to leave her mother: There was no way I could model acceptance of that abuse after her mother refused to seek help. I tried.

Now, two years later, I’m in a healthy relationship — with another man. While my daughter is overjoyed because he treats both of us well, my family continues to attack me, even saying they were no longer going to speak to me. They say this is why I left my ex, even though it is not true. (I didn’t anticipate this either.)

My mother, who refuses to talk to me, recently let me know she wants to take me to court for the right to see my daughter. My daughter no longer wants to spend any time with her after

seeing how she has treated me. I don’t think allowing visitation would be in my daughter’s best interest. Should I be worried? — UNRESOLVED IN OHIO

DEAR UNRESOLVED: Not every state has laws on the books that govern grandparents’ rights. Ohio, where you reside, is one of those that does. Because your question is legal in nature, and you are rightly worried, the person you should ask would be a lawyer familiar with family law. I understand why you are worried, and you have my sympathy.

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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 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](mailto:news@thecr.com).

**Today**  
WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards

Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe

at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

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

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE – BRI-

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

**Thursday**  
LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those

interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

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.

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 informa-

tion, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park St., Portland.

**Friday**  
CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will meet at noon Friday, Jan. 23, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

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.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

### Tuesday’s Solution

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

The objective is to fill a nine-by nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

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STEP 2

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STEP 3

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# Colts helped get some chores done

*Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Jan. 18, 2006. It was the heyday of the Peyton Manning Indianapolis Colts, though this individual game ended in the playoff loss. A year later, they won the Super Bowl.*

By JACK RONALD  
The Commercial Review

Thanks to the Colts, I got some work done this weekend. That wasn't the original plan. The original plan was to sit in my favorite chair, put my feet up, munch on some pistachios, and watch the Colts rack up another win on their way to the inevitable Super Bowl that all of us have been banking on for months. And then the game started. The Steelers — looking weirdly like the Colts at times — took command on their first possession, marching down the field to a touchdown. Then the Colts — looking weirdly like most of their opponents this season —

## Back in the Saddle



sputtered on offense and were forced to punt. The sense of impending doom, the feeling that we were watching a slow-motion train wreck couldn't be shaken. Like a kid who runs from the room when something scary happens on television, I started getting busy with other projects, watching the game with only a fraction of my attention. My favorite chair was no longer comfortable, so I sat on the floor and started sorting and filing the hundreds of snapshots that have accumulated over the years. (The best ones are in albums, but like most families we

have way too many photos in the house.) That occupied most of the first half, long enough for the Steelers to score again and for the Colts to show uncharacteristic inability to convert on third down. Sensing my nervous energy over the game, my wife started adding to my chores. With the photos sorted, I started going through a pile of old sweaters unloaded from a closet. Keeping one eye on the Colts, I figured out which ones I might wear again and which ones should go to Goodwill. By the time I was finished, it was halftime and things weren't looking good for the boys in blue. I called Sally in Bloomington. She, too, was having trouble watching and had decided to get some work done on her computer, watching an online text version of the play-by-play at the same time. Photos and sweaters sorted, I walked the dog and came back

hoping that the third quarter would be different. It wasn't, and I soon needed another distraction. So while the Colts kept trying — by fits and starts — to get back into the game, I started on the family CD collection. You'd be amazed how many of the things can be accumulated, and it's often hard to find the one you're looking for. (Reading the titles on the edge of CD cases is a real challenge when you have bifocals.) Connie was equally jumpy about the game, coming and going from the room. I'm not sure what she thought when she came back in to find me stacking up CDs all over the place, putting classical in one pile, rhythm and blues in another, jazz in another, and rock in several others. By the fourth quarter, I was done, though I'd been interrupted by intense sections of the game that held my interest — and boosted my hopes — for several minutes at a time.

There was only one more thing to sort: Socks. I moved to the bedroom and another TV set. Warm socks, sweat socks, dress socks, socks with holes in them that for some reason I haven't thrown out, there were soon piles of them on the bed as I watched the game out of the corner of my eye. There was even a pile of odd-ball socks: A pair of battery-operated electric socks that employees gave me when we first went to Moldova, a pair of argyles that had never been worn, and a pair featuring the likeness of the Tasmanian Devil which should never have been made in the first place. The Colts and I finished about the same time, though the sock sorting job lacked the excitement and the heartbreak of the final seconds of the game. Sad as I am to see Indianapolis defeated, it may be a good thing. I'm not sure I could come up with enough chores to get me through another game like that.

# Don't procrastinate on mail-in balloting

Times Union  
(Albany, New York)  
Tribune News Service

It's Nov. 3, 2026, Election Day. Avoiding the lines at the polls, you patriotically fill out your mail-in ballot and take it to a post office well before the last daily pick-up time. You're confident it will be postmarked that day, enabling your vote to be counted. Right? Not necessarily. The U.S. Postal Service quietly changed its postmark policy on Dec. 24. Now, the postmark date will reflect when items start being processed at a central facility — which could be a day or even more after they're mailed. That's a big change in a country that has long relied on postmarks as proof that something was mailed on time. Tax returns sent on April 15, utility bills mailed on the due date, legal documents mailed right on deadline, and yes, ballots mailed on Election Day (or even a bit earlier) — all might now be considered late.

The Postal Service says this is simply about reining in costs for an agency that has long struggled with a decline in letters, which were once the most profitable part of its operation.

Letters have long been processed — including the application of a postmark — at 195 “sectional center facilities.” But the Postal Service is consolidating operations into roughly 60 regional centers. In the past, centers were close enough to post offices or mail drops for letters to be processed the same day they were mailed, but with fewer centers, that part of the process will take longer. Ten states will have all their mail processed in other states. Eight states face a high risk of delay, according to a detailed analysis by the Brookings Institution.

Sensible as the rationale may sound, the change comes in a sensitive political climate. President Donald J. Trump has openly talked of his desire to tilt elections in favor of Republicans, whether by extreme, mid-decade redistricting in red states or by ending mail-in balloting, which until recently tended to strategically benefit Democrats more than Republicans.

## Guest Editorial

It doesn't help that this consolidation plan was conceived under Louis DeJoy, Mr. Trump's pick for postmaster general in his first term. It was on Mr. DeJoy's watch, during the run-up to the 2020 election, that the USPS decommissioned machines that sped up the processing of mail, raising concerns that the administration was trying to tamper with mail-in ballots.

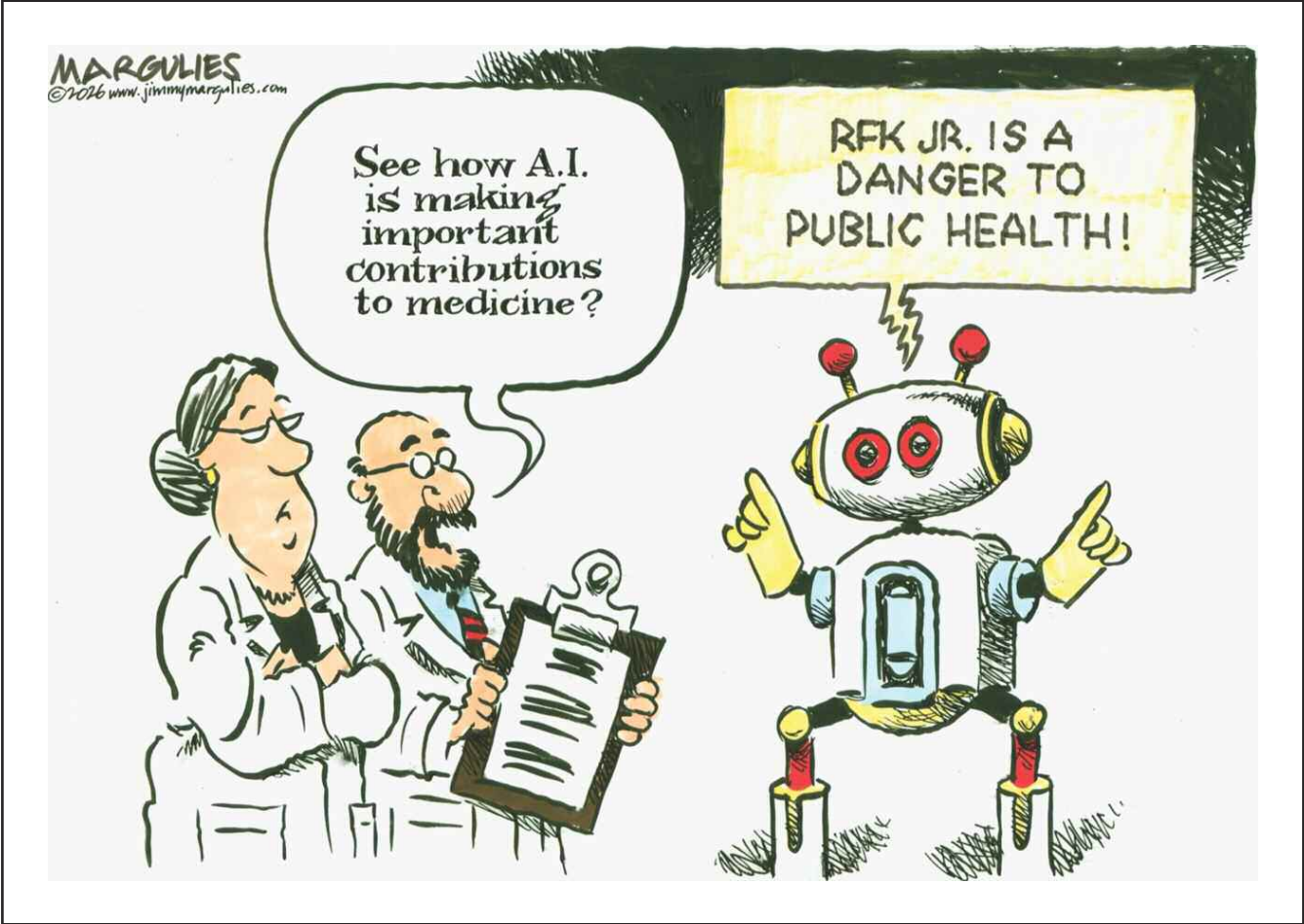
Together with other moves in certain red states and counties — the imposition of voter identification rules and conspicuous limits on the number of polling places in Democratic-leaning districts — the change raises suspicions that more than mere postal efficiency is at work here.

Here's the reality: Mail-in balloting is secure and widely popular; 29% of voters used it in the 2024 presidential election, and nearly 32% did so in the 2022 midterms. It's especially beneficial for parents and time-pressed working people. Last year, Republican voters embraced it in most areas where it had tended historically to benefit Democrats, The New York Times found.

It is possible that improving efficiency is truly the Postal Service's only motive here. But even if it isn't, it's probably fruitless to expect this Republican Congress to take a serious look at the new policy and see if there's something unwholesome going on.

The bottom line: File your taxes and pay your bills early or online. And either mail your ballot early, take advantage of in-person early voting or go personally to the polls on Election Day. If you must mail in a ballot at the last minute, go to the counter at the post office and ask for a postmark on the spot.

And if you've gone year to year putting off that resolution to “stop procrastinating,” 2026 just might be the year to get it done.



# Education law deserves protection

By JOHN PASCARELLA  
and MATT PASCARELLA  
Progressive Perspectives  
Tribune News Service

The Trump administration recently announced its plan to move oversight of Title I, the federal program serving roughly 26 million children living in poverty, from the U.S. Department of Education to the Department of Labor. The change has drawn little public attention, but its consequences could be far-reaching for families and schools across the country.

Title I is not a niche program. It is the largest federal investment in K-12 education for children living in poverty, multilingual learners, migrant students and students with disabilities. It helps schools pay for reading support, after-school programs, bilingual instruction, counselors and other services that make school possible for students facing hardship. Shifting this program to an agency built for workforce policy, not education, risks weakening the very supports Title I was designed to provide.

We come to this issue from both professional and personal experience, as brothers and former teachers. One of us (John) is a professor of education who studies equity and teacher preparation; the other (Matt) is an investigative journalist who has reported on public institutions and accountability. Together, we grew up in a low-income, single-parent household and attended thirteen public schools across urban, rural and suburban communities. For us, Title I was often the difference between falling behind and staying afloat.

The program worked because it is administered by the Department of Education and governed by complex equity safeguards written into federal law, rules that require deep expert-

## Guest Opinion

ise in education finance, accountability and civil-rights enforcement. Education officials have the knowledge and skills to support early literacy, serve multilingual learners, monitor civil-rights protections and ensure districts use federal funds as intended.

In contrast, while the Labor Department plays a vital role in protecting workers and administering job-training programs, it is not designed to work in collaboration with K-12 schools.

Proponents of the move, which is part of a larger plan to eliminate the Department of Education, argue that aligning education more closely with workforce needs will make schools more “relevant.” But this framing misunderstands the purpose of public schools. Schools prepare young people for work matters, but they also teach children to read, to think critically, to participate in civic life and to develop socially and emotionally. Those foundations need to be built long before students enter the labor market.

Congress, in creating Title I in 1965 as part of President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty, assigned its administration to the Department of Education, recognizing that poverty, not ability, was limiting educational opportunity for millions of children.

For students including ourselves, this decision was not abstract. When families move frequently or struggle

to make ends meet, school can be the one stable institution in a child's life. Title I funded reading teachers when we needed extra help, after-school programs when our mother was working, school meals when money was tight and even access to the school band when the cost of instruments was out of reach. Those supports did not turn school into job training; they made learning possible.

What can readers do? Start by asking your members of Congress whether they support moving Title I out of the Department of Education. Urge them to hold hearings, review the legality of the transfer and ensure that programs created by Congress remain where Congress intended.

State leaders can also speak up, making clear that schools depend on educational expertise, not bureaucratic reshuffling. Parents, educators and community members can raise questions at school board meetings and with local representatives about how this change could affect students.

Title I was created because poverty should not determine a child's future. Preserving that commitment requires more than good intentions. It requires oversight, expertise and accountability. Those are best provided by an education agency focused on children, not by an agency built for the labor market.

.....  
*John Pascarella is a professor of clinical education at the University of Southern California's Rossier School of Education and chief academic officer of the USC Race and Equity Center. Matt Pascarella is an investigative journalist and producer whose reporting and documentaries have appeared in numerous outlets.*

# The Commercial Review

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WELCOME LETTERS

THE COMMERCIAL REVIEW

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

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Tribune News Service/Mlive.com/Joel Bissell

## Clearing snow

A person removes snow from a sidewalk outside a business Tuesday in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Following recent snow and chilly weather, an even colder stretch is coming later this week. Friday's low temperature is expected to be near zero.

# Leaders push back on Trump threats

By JORGE VALERO  
Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

President Donald Trump's economic threats on the European Union over acquiring Greenland amount to a "mistake" that violates a trade arrangement forged last year between the transatlantic allies, the bloc's executive said.

"The European Union and the United States have agreed to a trade deal last July," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in a speech to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Tuesday. "In politics as in business, a deal is a deal. And when friends shake hands, it must mean something."

Trump announced a 10% tariff on goods from eight European countries beginning Feb. 1, rising to 25% in June, unless he has a deal for the "purchase of Greenland," a semi-autonomous territory of Denmark, a NATO-ally and E.U. member. The escalation prompted European leaders to decry that the U.S. leader has crossed a red line.

The bloc's response will be "unflinching, united and proportional," von der Leyen said, without offering details about what form a response would take.

E.U. leaders will hold an emergency meeting in Brussels Thursday to explore potential retaliatory measures. European Council President Antonio Costa said the 27-member bloc was united in support of Denmark and Greenland — and ready "to defend ourselves against any form of coercion."

During a meeting Sunday, E.U. envoys agreed to seek a diplomatic resolution with the Trump administration while the bloc sets up options to retaliate if the U.S. presses ahead with fresh duties, viewed as a breach of the fragile trade agreement between the U.S. and E.U. last summer.

Lambasted by critics as offering excessive concessions to the U.S., the agreement set a 15% U.S. tariff for most E.U. goods in exchange for a pledge by the E.U. to eliminate duties on U.S. industrial goods and some agricultural products.

Von der Leyen, who oversees trade negotiations for the E.U., forged the deal in the hopes of avoiding a full-blown trade war with Trump. The agreement now faces an uncertain future after leaders in the European Parliament said they would put the legislation on hold after Trump's latest volley.

The measures now being considered include reactivating duties on \$109 billion worth of U.S. goods, including Boeing Co. planes, cars and bourbon. The tariffs were suspended last summer before the trade deal was fleshed out at the end of July.

The E.U. is also considering enforcing its yet-unused anti-coercion instrument, the E.U.'s most powerful trade tool, which allows the commission to respond to coercive actions from third countries exploiting trade measures to pressure the bloc.

Measures could include tariffs, fees or targeted curbs on investments in the E.U. They could also involve limiting access to certain parts of the E.U.'s vast market or restricting firms from bidding for public contracts in bloc.

In order to support Greenland, von der Leyen said that authorities are working on a support package including a "massive European investment surge."

# Tips ...

Continued from page 1  
Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray applauded the bill. "These state income tax cuts are a concrete way we can help hardworking Hoosiers keep more of their hard-earned money," Bray said. "These cuts come on the heels of our strong track record of cutting taxes.

Statehouse Republicans have cut taxes more than 20 times in 10 years, the income tax rate dropped yet again on Jan. 1 of this year, and this year two-thirds of Hoosiers are expected to see a property tax bill lower than their 2025 bill following a historic property tax relief package resulting in \$1.3 billion in

property tax relief over the next three years."

An analysis from Braun's administration estimated that total state tax breaks on businesses and individuals from tax conformity 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 already passed Senate Bill 212 to adopt a few of the federal tax breaks that would apply this tax season. This includes strengthening the state adoption tax credit.

The House is expected to take that legislation up quickly and send it to Braun for his signature.

# Sidewalks ...

Continued from page 1

The Safe Routes project calls for installing 625 feet of sidewalk to connect the elementary/middle school to Sharnsburg Road, building a crosswalk at the intersection of Butler and First streets in front of Fort Recovery High School and improving the visibility of markings at the intersection of Butler, Boundary, William and Third streets just east of the high school.

Council members also discussed potential updates to the village's sidewalk maintenance policy that was originally approved in 2021.

Rengers said proposed updates to the policy would shift sidewalks from being inspected once every three years to once every four years. The policy lays out a system of inspection and requirements for repairs. Property owners are notified of any needed repairs by May 15, with work to be complete by July 31.

Currently, repairs are required if there is:

- A half-inch height difference between adjoining blocks
- A three-quarter-inch gap between blocks
- A slope with a change of more than 1 inch
- A crack that is at least a half-inch wide
- An area where grating or covers are not flush with the adjoining sidewalk

Pearson expressed concern about the limited time between notification and completion of repairs. He suggested possibly extending the deadline to Aug. 31.

The council will address the sidewalk policy again at a future meeting.

Rengers also reported that engineering consulting firm Kleinfelder has started work, including some surveying, related to a new wastewater system plan. Council members Al Post, Dave Schmitz, Amy Wendel, Shawn Thobe, Pearson and Knapke also approved applying for a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund loan to help

cover the cost to continue with the design process. (Kleinfelder is currently contracted to handle the first 30% of the design.)

Also, Rengers noted that village officials will be meeting with environmental and construction services firm Pohlkat of Piqua about potential dredging of the village's wastewater lagoons. Rengers said he is confident the village can find a more cost-effective option than the original quote it received of \$1.5 million.

In other business, the council:

•Swore in Shawn Thobe, who was appointed to fill an open council seat following the November election.

•Learned from Kaup that Southern Mercer County Joint Ambulance District has ordered a new ambulance at a cost of \$370,000. The vehicle will give the district three ambulances. Kaup said the district intends to rotate ambulances with a new purchase every five years.

•Approved the following: allowing employees to cash out leftover vacation time; selling excess village equipment at auction; updating language in its policy for the use of laptop computers; the village's cybersecurity program, which was required to be in place by June 1 to comply with new state law; a resolution that allows the village administrator to live outside of village limits;

•Heard from fiscal officer Roberta Staugler that the village received its final audit report. It did not show any major deficiencies, calling only for minor adjustments to bookkeeping and procedures.

•Designated Park National Bank as the depository for village funds.

•Heard from Rengers that there is a zoning board meeting scheduled for Wednesday to discuss a request for a variance.

## IT'S ALL UP TO YOU ...

### PEOPLE'S CHOICE

The Graphic Printing Company is bringing back its People's Choice special section. This special section gives you, our readers, the opportunity to recognize your favorites.

#### Here's the concept:

For the next few weeks you vote for your favorites in a variety of categories: We tally the votes.

The winners in each category will be listed in a special section to run next month, along with other top vote-getters. The winners of the "Best Overall" category will be featured in the special section. Eligibility is limited to those in The Graphic Printing Company's coverage area, which includes all of Jay, Randolph and Blackford counties, as well as portions of the adjacent counties including Fort Recovery and Geneva.

### The Categories

#### Best Overall

Antique shop  
Appliance sales  
Auto parts store  
Auto service and repair  
Bank/credit union  
Boutique/clothing  
Car dealership  
Chiropractor  
Coffee spot  
Community Event  
Construction  
Convenience store  
Daycare facilities  
Dentists  
Doctor  
Entertainment option  
Farm implement sales  
Financial advisor  
Florist  
Funeral home  
Furniture  
Gas station

Greenhouse  
Gym  
Hair salon/barber  
Hardware store  
Home improvement  
Industry  
Insurance  
Landscaping  
Law office  
Nail salon  
New business  
Non-profit organization  
Park  
Photographer  
Pizza  
Real estate and auction  
Restaurant (non-pizza)  
Veterinarian and pet services  
Other  
(is there something that doesn't quite fit the above)

To vote, visit [theocr.com](http://theocr.com), [winchesternewsgazette.com](http://winchesternewsgazette.com) or [hartfordcitynewstimes.com](http://hartfordcitynewstimes.com) and click on the "People's choice" link. (Rather than making this multiple choice, we are leaving each category open-ended. That leaves the voting up to you, the readers, and avoids the possibility that we might leave off an option that would be worthy of the winning vote.)

Winners will be acknowledged in a special section to run in late February.

Did we miss a category?

Let us know and we'll consider adding it to the list next year.

### To advertise in People's Choice ...

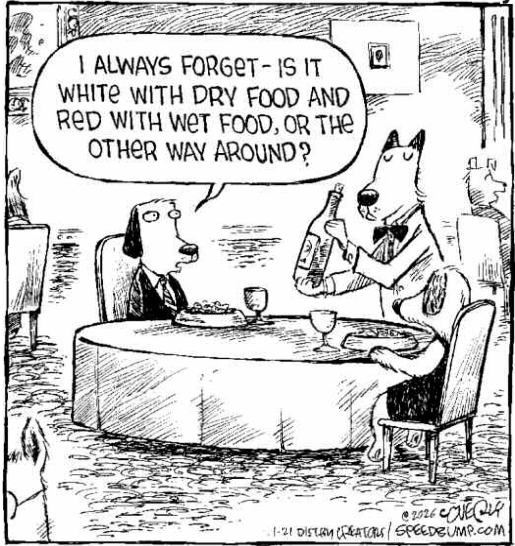
Contact Lindsey at [L.Cochran@theocr.com](mailto:L.Cochran@theocr.com) or (260) 726-8141

#### Advertising options:

- Six columns by 10.5 inches full color (limited availability): \$500
- Six columns by 10.5 inches black and white: \$300
- Three columns by 10.5 inches black and white: \$200
- 3 columns by 5 inches black and white: \$125
- 3 columns by 3 inches black and white: \$75



SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Vanishing act

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ K 6 5  
♥ 8 7 3 2  
♦ A 8 5 4  
♣ J 3  
**WEST**  
♠ —  
♥ K J 9 6  
♦ K 9 6 3  
♣ 10 9 8 6 5  
**EAST**  
♠ Q 8 7 4 3  
♥ Q 10  
♦ Q J 2  
♣ Q 7 2  
**SOUTH**  
♠ A J 10 9 2  
♥ A 5 4  
♦ 10 7  
♣ A K 4

The bidding:  
South 1♠  
West Pass  
North 2♠  
East Pass

Opening lead — ten of clubs.

of clubs, ruffed a club in dummy and cashed the king of spades, disclosing the horrendous trump break. After pausing to catch his breath, South took stock.

He could count five tricks in the side suits, including the club ruff already taken in dummy. If he could score all four of the spades remaining in his hand, he would have 10 tricks. Accordingly, he adopted a line of play that virtually assured this objective.

At trick five, he led dummy's last spade to his jack and then made the key play of ducking a diamond. East won with the jack and switched to the queen of hearts, but declarer was in full control.

He won the heart with the ace, led a diamond to the ace, ruffed a diamond with the spade nine and exited with a heart. Regardless of who won the heart or what was returned, South could not be stopped from eventually scoring his A-10 of spades, and the contract was home.

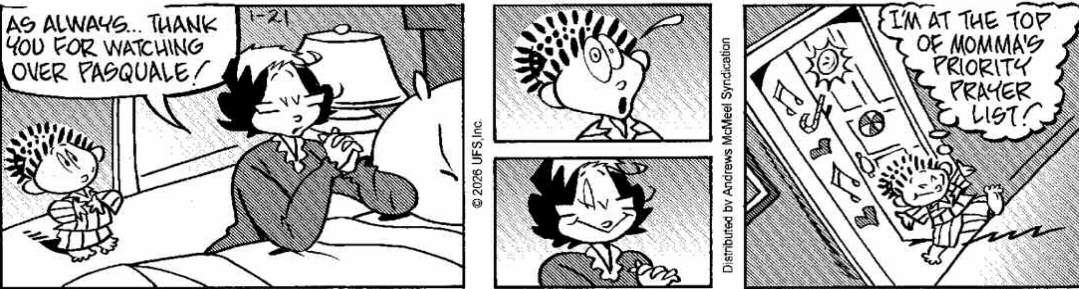
Note that if declarer plays the ace of diamonds on the first round of the suit, he goes down against best defense. At some point, he will be forced to ruff a diamond or a heart in his hand after the defenders have collected three tricks in the red suits, and he will then have to lose a trick to East's queen of spades.

Tomorrow: Imaginative defense.  
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Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



1-21

CRYPTOQUIP

AB JCYMFPEY GCMFPX E  
BEADZR DAMIYP DEXAC  
ODCTDEN, RCY NATGF JEZZ

GAN "MGCJL VCJL VEJIYPM."  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT LEGENDARY FIGURE WOULD LEAD A PACK OF RATS TO A SUCCULENT, FLAKY DESSERT? THE PIE PIPER.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals C

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 May honoree  
4 Citrus drink  
7 Nickel-odeon's "Explorer"  
8 Falls into a chair  
10 Put through a sieve, as potatoes  
11 Sea off Sicily  
13 Cafeteria meals for students  
16 Darjeeling, e.g.  
17 Poor partner  
19 Literary collections  
20 Length times width  
21 Trojan War story  
23 Sun-powered  
25 Eve's mate  
26 Ship's frame

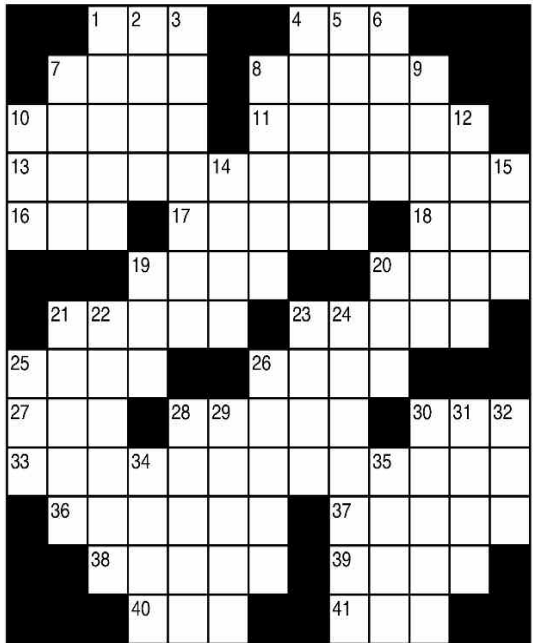
**DOWN**  
1 Frap-puccino  
2 Popular flavored  
3 "Material Girl" singer  
4 Vocally  
5 Marie's brother  
6 Monumental  
7 "Monopoly" cubes  
8 Heaps  
9 African desert  
10 Letters after Q  
12 More recent

**14 Pencil filler**  
**15 Mer-maid's home**  
**19 Goal**  
**20 100 percent**  
**21 The Gem State**  
**22 Two-point shots**  
**23 "Star Trek" helmsman**  
**24 Veterans line**  
**25 Curved**  
**26 "luegol"**  
**28 Sports-cast offering**  
**29 Paratrooper's need**  
**30 One with a pitchfork**  
**31 Part of Q.E.D.**  
**32 Visual communication syst.**  
**34 Numbered rds.**  
**35 Fine cotton**

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-21



00 CLASSIFIEDS

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

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**FREE TO PLAY POKER PERIL**  
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# Indiana basks in its first CFP national title

**By DAVID J. NEAL**  
Miami Herald  
Tribune News Service

Some of the Hoosiers hopped about their Hard Rock Stadium locker room late Monday night, clumps of them doing knee-wobbling dances amidst an air thick with cigar smoke, joy and relief.

Bathing as deeply in the good feeling after Indiana's 27-21 College Football Playoff national championship was wide receiver Omar Cooper, Jr., who had a team-high five catches for 71 yards in the game.

"Honestly, it's euphoria, man," Cooper said. "I never thought I was going to be here. I always dreamed of playing in it and winning it is just a dream come true."

Cooper's also a four-year Indiana man with a past that includes 4-8 in 2022 and 3-9 in 2023. He's a Hoosier by raising, not just school — growing up in Indianapolis, a graduate of Lawrence North High School, very familiar with the piles of losing associated with Indiana University football. No national championships. No Big Ten titles since 1967. No outright Big Ten title since 1945. The biggest loser in major college-affiliated football.

Now, Cooper's not only a T-shirt model — about five seconds after Cooper's skyscraping, toe-tapping



Tribune News Service/Matias J. Ocnr

Indiana Hoosiers quarterback Fernando Mendoza (15) celebrates with offensive lineman Pat Coogan (78) after they defeated the Miami Hurricanes in their College Football Playoff National Championship Game at Hard Rock Stadium on Monday.

grab that beat Penn State, Indiana was selling T-shirts depicting it — he's a starter on a national championship team.

"Growing up in Indiana, you're not much of an Indiana college football fan, really," Cooper said. "So, that I decided to come here, and we were able to

turn the history around with this group, it's a special feeling. I'm grateful to be a part of that."

Center Pat Coogan bounced as his voice boomed, still seeming to have a quarter or a half in him. He recalled how gung ho he felt when Indiana coach Curt Cignetti told

the field goal unit "get off the field!" and called a quarterback draw on a fourth-and-4 from the Hurricanes 12.

Coogan helped open the hole quarterback Fernando Mendoza slithered through before he dodged two defenders, bowled over another and hurled

himself over the goal line to give Indiana a 24-14 lead with 9:18 left.

A year ago, after Notre Dame lost the national championship game to Ohio State and before Coogan transferred to Indiana, Coogan felt the pain of losing. That's why, even as he wanted to exult

with his teammates on the field, Coogan took time to talk to University of Miami defensive end Reuben Bain, destroyer of many an Indiana play Monday.

"I've been there," Coogan said. "Last year at Notre Dame, sitting down on the field. It was a really sad moment. I didn't have anybody come up to me, but I was in the same boat. He was sitting there on the field and.... he deserved his props. He's one of the best players in the country, no doubt about it. He had an amazing night tonight."

Sprawled in a chair in front of his locker, sophomore defensive lineman Mario Landino said, "It's a relief. This season has been very long and hard. We had ups and downs. To be in this moment, to have the relief off your shoulders to know we did it the right way with the right teammates and coaches, it's a blessing."

As for the pressure, Landino said, "Maybe it's the [school] logo, but we're changing that in people's minds. I just think every week we were doubted. It just pushes us forward. We're always going to play to a different standard, we're always going to be the underdog in our eyes."

How long did Coogan want the night to last?

"It's going to last forever," he said. "It's going to last the rest of my life."

## Hall ...

Continued from page 8

It's this personal side of baseball that has stuck with Selvey the most.

"My kids always joke about, 'We can't go anywhere without you knowing somebody,'" Selvey said. "I have been blessed to meet a lot of people and make these contacts that have lasted a lifetime."

While success is no accident, Selvey credited the Portland and Jay County community for the success he has had over his career.

"But another thing that really stuck out for

me was the community support," Selvey said. "Me getting to the Hall of Fame is a reflection of this community. I couldn't have done it without all the people of the community."

"I get the honor, I get the plaque, but when I get up there and take that plaque, it's everybody here. Everybody who's been a part of the program is a part of this honor."

While Selvey will continue to help assist at Delta, he will now go down in history for the sport he loved.

## Roundup ...

Continued from page 8

Over the six Baker games, the Indians racked up 969 pins for an average of 161.5.

### LeFevre leads

BELLEFONTAINE, Ohio — Fort Recovery's boys bowling team fell to seventh at the King's Classic Tournament hosted by Bellefontaine at T-P Lanes on Monday.

The Tribe's 3,849 pins placed them just over halfway up the standings in the 14-team field while Marysville took home the title with 4,221.

LeFevre had the second-best series of all the bowlers as he threw 269, 241 and 181 for 695 total pins.

Gabe Acheson was the only other Indian to roll three games and had 193 pins in all three for a 579 series.

A.J. Siefring and Garrett Diller competed in two individual games. The former had a 367 series while the latter knocked down 334 pins.

Other individual scores belonged to Anthony Roessner (211), Leland Wilson (178) and Troy Post (146).

The six-game Baker series resulted in 1,053 pins for Fort Recovery, which comes out to an average of 175.5.

### Three win

INDIANAPOLIS — The JC Flipsters gymnastics team competed at the Meet Me Under the Sea competition held in Indianapolis on Saturday.

The Flipsters had three athletes take home the best all-around scores from their divisions.

Lettie VanSkyock claimed the

top spot in the Xcel Bronze child A division with 36.725 points. She claimed the top spot on the bars (9.35) and the floor (9.025) and was second on the vault.

Leading the Flipsters in the Xcel Silver child division was Emma Robinson. Robinson's 9.65 points on the bars earned her first place. A runner-up on the floor competition and third in the other events led to 38.125 all-around points to secure the top spot.

Emma Fisher racked up 35.85 all-around points to win the Xcel Gold Sr. B division for JC. She won both the vault and bars competitions with scores of 9.2 and 9.225, respectively.

Allie Evans was the only Flipster to compete at the Xcel Platinum Sr division. She finished fourth with 35.6 all-around points.

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Thursday**

Jay County — Girls basketball at Delta — 6 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball vs. Mississinewa — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball at South Adams — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high wrestling at Adams Central — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball vs. South Adams — 6 p.m.; Junior high swim vs. New Castle — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls basketball at Coldwater — 6 p.m.

### TV schedule

**Today**

3 a.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)  
7 p.m. — NBA: Cleveland Cavaliers at Charlotte Hornets (ESPN); Indiana Pacers at Boston Celtics (FDSN Indiana)  
7 p.m. — College basketball: Maryland at Illinois

(BTN); Notre Dame at North Carolina (ESPN2); Xavier at Creighton (FS1)

7 p.m. — NHL: Detroit Red Wings at Toronto Maple Leafs (TNT)

9 p.m. — College basketball: Cincinnati at Arizona (BTN); Washington at Nebraska (BTN)

9 p.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)

9:30 p.m. — NBA: Oklahoma City Thunder at Milwaukee Bucks (ESPN)

9:30 p.m. — NHL: New York Islanders at Seat-

tle Kraken (TNT)

11 p.m. — College basketball: Northwestern at USC (BTN); San Diego State at Grand Canyon (FS1)

**Thursday**

3 a.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)

6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Michigan at Rutgers (BTN); Iowa at Maryland (NBC)

7 p.m. — College basketball: South Florida at UAB (ESPN2); Wisconsin at Penn State (FS1)

7:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: South Carolina at Oklahoma (ESPN); UConn at Georgetown (TNT)

8 p.m. — Women's college basketball: USC at Michigan State (BTN)

9:30 p.m. — NHL: Detroit Red Wings at Minnesota Wild (ESPN)

.....

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

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Tribe bowling teams competed at King's Classic, see roundup below

FRHS girls basketball faces Coldwater on Thursday, see Sports on tap

# Into the Hall

Former JCHS baseball coach to be inducted into Indiana Hall of Fame

By **ANDREW BALKO**  
The Commercial Review

A lot can happen in a career over the span of four-plus decades.

For Lea Selvey, he found no shortage of success with countless stories of milestones, wins, losses, great times and uncomfortable situations.

But for him it was always about staying connected to the sport of baseball and cultivating relationships throughout his community and beyond.

Now the baseball community is paying its respects to him.

Selvey, the former Jay County High School baseball coach of 34 years, is being inducted into the Indiana Baseball Hall of Fame as part of the class of 2026 on Friday.

“It’s really humbling to tell you the truth,” Selvey said. “I know several guys that I looked up to as a young coach and I thought, ‘Man, how do you ever get there?’”

“I wasn’t sure I was ever going to get there, to be honest with you, but it truly is an honor. It’s humbling and I’m very grateful.”

Selvey got started with baseball at a young age, often playing with dad’s gear after practice. He then played for his dad, Don Selvey, at Redkey High School before getting the chance to play college ball at University of Evansville.

He became an assistant coach under Ted Habegger at Jay County in 1983.

Selvey took over for Habegger in 1988 and led the Patriots for 34 seasons with no shortage of success. During his tenure, he went 526-351 (59.9%) to be the all-time wins leader at JCHS, led the Patriots to three regional championships and seven sectional championships and earned six conference titles. Five of the conference titles came in the Olympic Conference, which also named him the coach of the year three times, and the final was as a part of the Allen County Athletic Conference.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Lea Selvey high fives Toby McCallister while rounding third base following a two-run home run to lift Jay County to an 11-7 win over Bluffton to close the 2013 regular season. Selvey is being inducted to the Indiana Baseball Hall of Fame on Friday for his 34 years spent as the Patriots head coach. He led JCHS to three regional titles, seven sectionals and is the winningest baseball coach in school history at 526-351.

He retired from Jay County in 2022 but came back to coaching for Delta High School, originally under Devin Wilburn and now assisting Jacob Van Pelt. In his time with the Eagles, the team has made two semi-state appearances.

While he has been a part of enough games to last a lifetime, it’s not specific scores that he remembers, but rather the small moments from career milestones and personal relationships he’s made over the years that have mattered more.

“If you asked me the score of

a game, I probably couldn’t tell you,” Selvey said. “It’s the connections you make with people, from the groundskeepers, to the officials, to your own guys.”

While Selvey won’t be able to recite the scores to you, the most memorable games from his career came during his 300th, 400th and 500th wins.

Josh, his oldest son, was a part of his 300th win, while Kyle, his younger son, threw a no-hitter to claim his 400th victory. Selvey did note that the no-hitter made it feel more spe-

cial because he was bound to get the 400th win at some point, but to have his son involved in such an intrinsic way. His 500th career victory caught him off guard. After the game he was flooded with support and a bevy of signs celebrating his milestone. Both his sons were a part of his coaching staff for that game.

“Those milestones of having either one or both of (my sons) was really neat,” Selvey said.

For every story Selvey has of a game he won, he has another for how it helped him or others

grow as people. It has allowed him to see players at some of their most vulnerable moments and rise up out of adversity to succeed.

One example of this that immediately stood out to Selvey was a former player of his who was struggling with the health of his father. Right as the Patriots were getting on the bus, Selvey got to witness the kid share the news that his father didn’t have cancer and in turn hit a pair of home runs off of Delta to win the game.

See **Hall** page 7

## Tribe girls finished third

BELLEFONTAINE, Ohio — The Indians each played their part to help the Tribe climb up the standings.

The Fort Recovery High School girls bowling team finished third at the King’s Classic Tournament on Monday hosted by Bellefontaine at T-P Lanes.

The Indians finished with a pincount of 3,427 to take third in the 11-team field, while host Bellefontaine won the tournament with 4,056. Northmont just edged FRHS by 12 pins.

Lilah Thien had the strongest day for Fort Recovery, rolling games of 148, 178 and 205 pins to make her way onto the all-tournament team.

Deanna Brown, who won

### Local Roundup

the bowl off competition, finished just behind Thien with a 518 series. Jadyn Wierick was the only other Indian to roll three games, knocking over 477 pins.

Elizabeth Kahlig threw a new career-high 168 pins in her second game. (She also had a game of 150 pins.)

Other individual scores for FRHS came from Liliana Williams with 322 pins, Claire Gaerke with 136 and Malia Grisez with 156.

See **Roundup** page 7

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