

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Ideas floated for Main Street building

*Study on structure expected to be complete in February*

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Plans for a new music venue died late last year.

Portland Redevelopment Commission is discussing ideas for the building.

Consultant Ed Curtin shared some possibilities for the building at 105 W. Main St. during the commission's meeting Friday.

The redevelopment commission is considering purchasing the building from Smutstock Entertainment and rehabilitating it for commercial use after plans for a music performance venue fell through in October. Last month, the commission approved a \$15,200 contract with consulting firm Synthesis Incorporated to evaluate, develop a concept and estimate construction costs for the building.

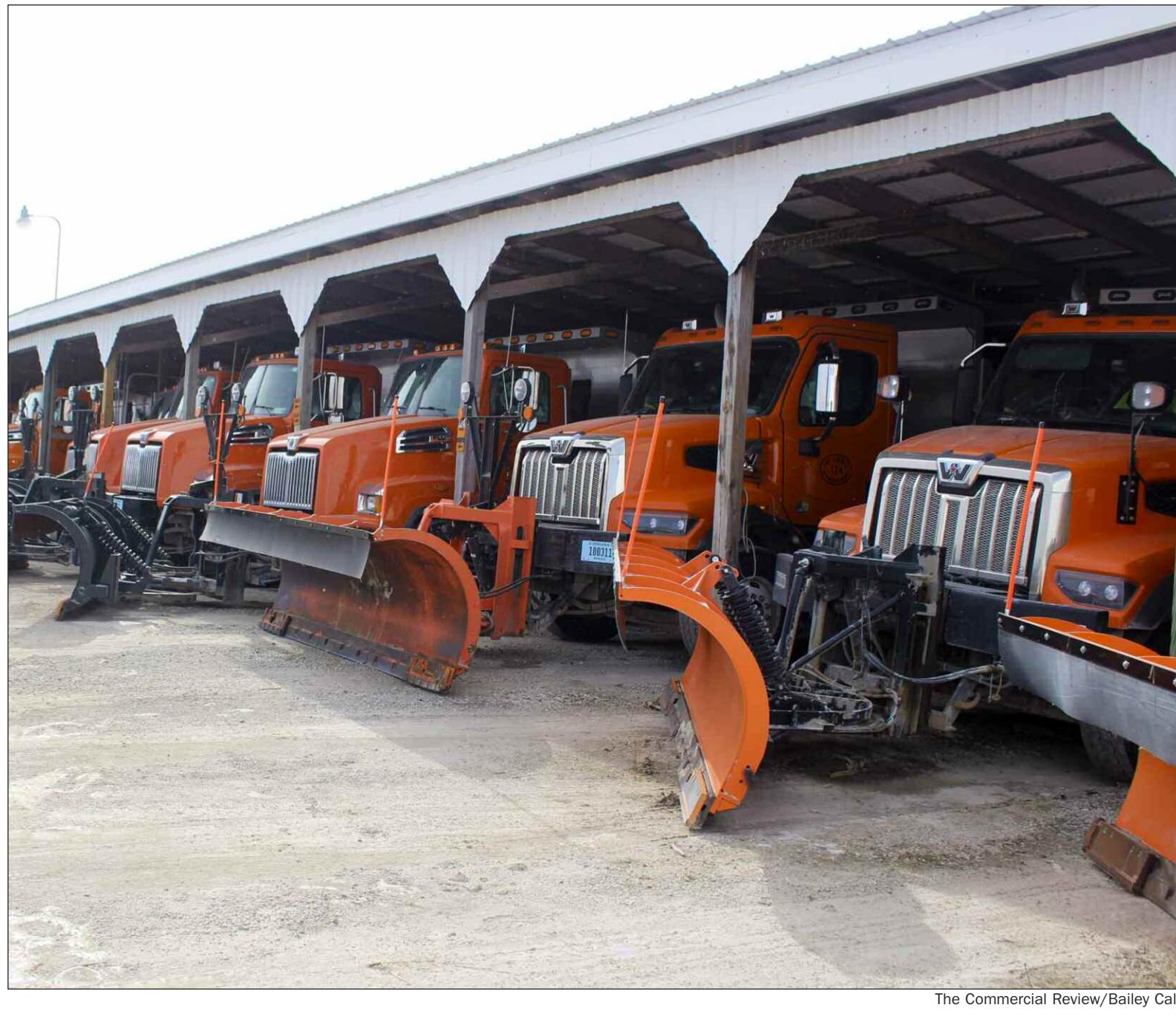
Curtin of CWC Latitudes shared details about the former Sears building in Columbus that is now being used as a winter market. He said during a recent visit he learned there were 45 vendors, a playground space, refreshments and live music.

"They were able to do a lot in that space," he said.

Curtin suggested that a similar idea on a smaller scale, likely filling the winter gap when the outdoor Locals' Market is not operating, could be a possibility for the first floor of the building at 105 W. Main St.

He added that the traffic a winter market could bring might also help with eventually selling the building.

See Building page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Call

## Ready for snow

Plow trucks sit in line Friday at Jay County Highway Department. County employees prepared vehicles Thursday for extreme cold and snow this weekend. The forecast calls for 10 to 15 mph winds and snow starting to fall tonight, when the low may hit 8 degrees. Sunday's low may dip to 2 degrees, with as much as 10 inches of snow possible.

## Trump backs possible Holdman foe

By TOM DAVIES

Indiana Capital Chronicle

indianacapitalchronicle.com

**President posts support for Bluffton council member who has not yet filed to run**

Republican in name only — "who, for whatever reason, voted against Redistricting in Indiana, in a District that I won by 39 points, which puts the

United States Congress in jeopardy."

Trump's post said he would give "my Complete and Total Endorsement" to

Blake Fiechter, a Bluffton

City Council member whom the post called "a True America First Patriot."

Holdman, who has been in the Senate since 2008, is the chamber's third-ranking member as majority caucus chair and also is chair of the influential Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee.

Holdman is seeking reelection in Senate District 19 that includes all or parts of Adams, Allen,

Blackford, Jay and Wells counties in northeastern Indiana.

Trump, Vice President JD Vance, Gov. Mike Braun and other redistricting supporters have repeatedly threatened political vengeance against Republican legislators who opposed Trump's demand for a redrawing of Indiana's U.S. House maps aimed at helping the GOP win all nine seats.

See Backs page 2

## Retrospect

## Patriots won OAC wrestling championship

Twenty-five years ago this week, the Patriots were celebrating a conference title.

The Jan. 22, 2001, edition of The Commercial Review featured coverage of the Jay County High School wrestling team winning the Olympic Athletic Conference championship. The Patriots defeated Huntington North, Connersville, Anderson Highland and Muncie Southside en route to the title.

JCHS dominated its way to its first conference title in more than a decade, with the closest score coming in a 54-29 victory over Huntington North.

Five individuals won championships for the host Patriots, who ran their record to 20-4 in dual meets one week ahead of the sectional tournament that was also to be contested at Jay County.

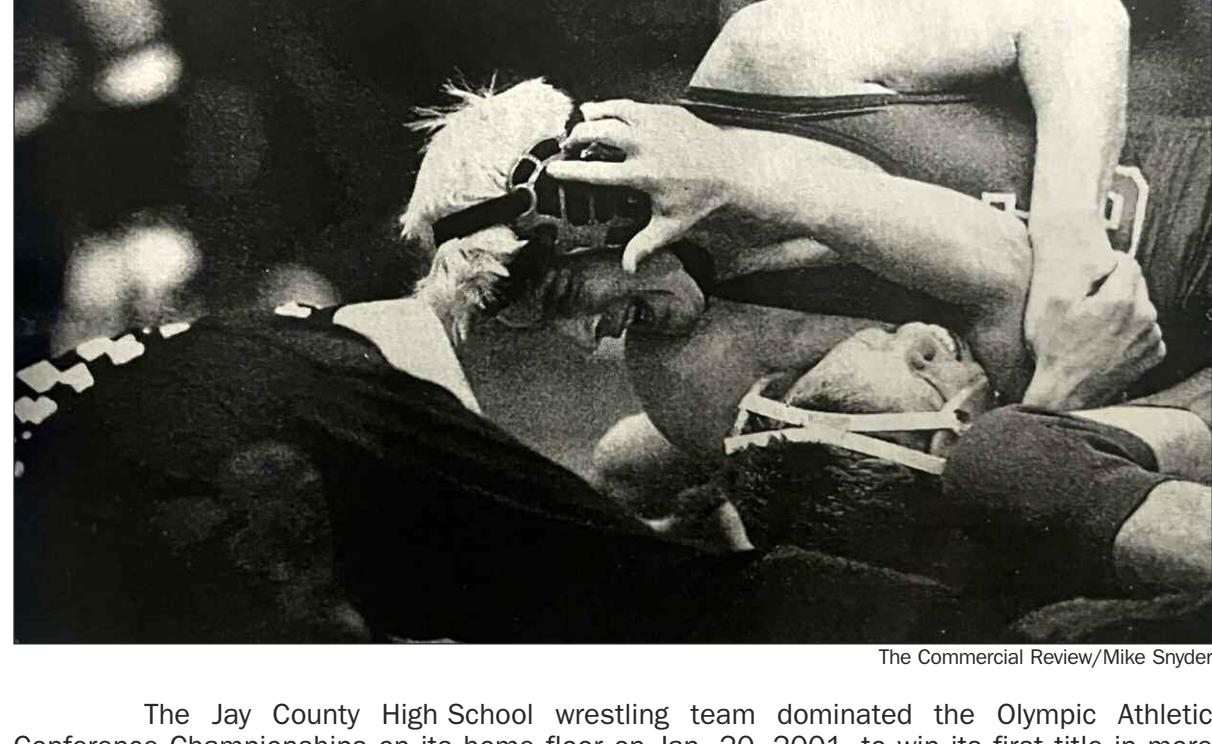
"To come out the way we did Saturday, it says a lot for us and it's going to help us," said JCHS coach Craig Campbell.

"It's going to help our momentum for the sectional. You never know what to expect sectional day ... but we're used to being home."

Jeremy Johnson (145 pounds), Chris Myers (152) and Randy Timmerman (135) each racked up four pins en route to earning individual conference championships. Johnson's victory was especially big for the Patriots as he had suffered a knee injury two weeks earlier that the team feared would end his season.

Also going undefeated to finish in first place were Dustan Howell (160) and Joe VanSkyock (112). Howell had the fastest pin of the day for Jay County, ending his match against Connersville in just seven seconds.

Adding runner-up finishes for the Patriots were Adam Mock (103), Scott Aspy (140), Nick Timmerman (171) and Cory Ward (189), all with 3-1 records.



The Commercial Review/Mike Snyder

The Jay County High School wrestling team dominated the Olympic Athletic Conference Championships on its home floor on Jan. 20, 2001, to win its first title in more than a decade. Five Patriots won individual titles to lead the way.

## Deaths

**Dennis Garke**, 65, Fort Recovery  
**Doris Kaiser**, 86, Fort Recovery

Details on page 2.

## Weather

The high temperature was 20 degrees early Friday. The low dipped zero late in the day.

Today's high will be near 10, with snow expected beginning about 4 p.m. The low will be 8. A total of 4 to 10 inches of accumulation is possible this weekend.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

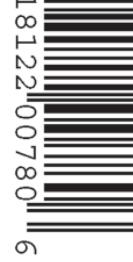
## In review

The Commercial Review will be upgrading its website soon.

Subscribers will need to have a phone number on file with us to use to log in for the first time, after which they will be able to set up their own password.

If you do not have a phone number on file with us, or if you are not sure, please call us at (260) 726-8141.

Our target launch date for the new site is Feb. 3.



# Obituaries

## Dennis Garke

Sept. 26, 1960-Jan. 22, 2026  
Dennis M. Garke, age 65, of Fort Recovery, Ohio, passed away peacefully at his home on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026.



He was born on September 26, 1960, in Coldwater, Ohio, to Ray and Joan (Hilgefond) Garke of St. Garke.

In addition to his parents, Dennis is survived by his wife of 29 years, Sherry (Smith) Garke, whom he married on June 29, 1996; his children, Christy (fiancé, Aaron Ruble) Garke of New Haven, Indiana, and Samantha (Nick) Heitkamp of Maria Stein; his grandchildren, Raelynn, Rhett, and Rayce

Heitkamp; his sister, Sharon (Jim) Vaughn of Fort Recovery; his in-laws, James Smith of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Larry (Karen) Smith of East Palestine, Ohio, and Brenda (Dennis) Kaup of Fort Recovery; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Dennis was preceded in death by his brother and sister-in-law, Dave "Goose" and Linda Garke; and his father and mother-in-law, Max and Mary Smith.

Dennis was a 1978 graduate of Fort Recovery High School. He continued his education at Sinclair Community College and Wright State University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in business. Dennis returned home to Mercer County, where he built a long and dedicated career with Cooper Farms. He served as purchasing manager for 38 years, a role he took great

pride in and carried out with integrity and commitment.

Deeply rooted in his Catholic faith, Dennis was a devoted member of St. Wendelin Catholic Church and the Fort Recovery Knights of Columbus. Prayer was an important part of his daily life, and he found comfort and strength in it. He would often say, "Let's pray," gathering everyone together before leading them in an Our Father.

Dennis found joy in many simple pleasures. He loved watching NASCAR, attending Indianapolis Colts games and keeping an eye on the Cincinnati Bengals — especially when they were winning. He enjoyed golfing and treasured wine nights spent laughing and visiting with friends. Above all else, Dennis loved his family deeply.

He cherished every moment spent with them and always looked forward to the next visit, holding those times close to his heart.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026, at St. Wendelin Catholic Church, with Father John Grusenmeyer celebrating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Guests may visit with Dennis' family on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026, from 2 to 7 p.m. and again on Thursday from 9 to 9:45 a.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery.

Memorial contributions may be given to EverHeart Hospice, 1350 N. Broadway Street, Greenville, OH 45331, Cancer Association of Mercer County, P.O. Box 624, Celina, OH 45822, or the Parkinson Foundation of

Northwest Ohio, 150 W.S. Boundary, PMB #202, Perrysburg, OH 43551.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockmanboeckmanfh.com.

**Doris Jean Kaiser**, Fort Recovery, Aug. 9, 1939-Jan. 23, 2026. A Mass of Christian Burial is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church in Fort Recovery. ....

*The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.*

*There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.*

## CR almanac

Sunday 1/25	Monday 1/26	Tuesday 1/27	Wednesday 1/28	Thursday 1/29
14/2 Sunday has a 90% chance of snow with temperatures in the single digits.	5-2 Monday's weather looks like mostly sunny skies with the low sinking to -2.	17-2 Mostly sunny skies on Tuesday when the low at night will again hit negative numbers.	12/3 Mostly cloudy skies with temperatures again sinking to 3 degrees late.	17/1 Thursday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a high around 17.

## Lotteries

### Hoosier

Midday Daily Three: 5-4-1 Daily Four: 3-8-0-8 Quick Draw: 4-5-9-15-16-23-24-34-39-41-56-57-58-59-60-66-73-74-78-80

Pick 3: 7-0-9  
Pick 4: 3-4-1-5  
Pick 5: 2-6-4-5-9

### Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$20 million

### Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$266 million

## Markets

### Cooper Farms Fort Recovery

Corn.....4.42  
Feb. corn.....4.44

Wheat .....5.01

### ADM Montpelier

Corn.....4.26  
Feb. corn.....4.28

Beans .....10.58

Feb. beans .....10.60

Wheat .....5.01

### POET Biorefining Portland

Corn.....4.42  
Feb. corn.....4.39

March corn.....4.36

### The Andersons Richland Township

Corn .....4.36  
Feb. corn .....4.38  
Beans .....10.56  
Feb. beans .....10.60

### Heartland St. Anthony

Corn.....4.39  
Feb. corn .....4.42  
Beans .....10.29  
Feb. beans .....10.29

Wheat .....4.71

## Today in history

In 41, Roman emperor Caligula was murdered by Cassius Chaerea, Cornelius Sabinus and others at the Palatine Games.

In 1848, mill worker James W. Marshall discovered gold at Sutter's Mill in what is now Coloma, California, igniting the California Gold Rush and accelerating the rapid growth of the American West.

In 1940, the movie "The Grapes of Wrath" premiered. It was an adaptation of the classic John Steinbeck novel.

In 1984, Apple released the original Macintosh, a landmark personal computer that helped popularize the mouse-and-graphics approach that soon became standard in everyday computing.

In 2011, Jay County

Solid Waste District hired Bettie Jacobs as its educator. Jacobs, who also served as the educator for Jay County Soil and Water Conservation District, was contracted to work 20 hours a month promoting recycling and other waste reduction initiatives.

In 2022, Jay School Board approved a one-year contract with ESS, an education management and staffing firm, in an effort to help recruit substitute teachers during a nationwide shortage.

In 2025, Maddy Snow, Avery Wentz and Cooper Glentzer won Allen County Athletic Conference championships as the Jay County High School swim teams each finished in second place.

—The CR

## Citizen's calendar

### Monday

9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

3:45 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.

6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St.

7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

### Tuesday

5:15 p.m. — Redkey Town Council executive session, cabin, Morgan Park, 50 Mooney St.

6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, cabin, Morgan Park, 50 Mooney St.

6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

### Wednesday

6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

Heitkamp; his sister, Sharon (Jim) Vaughn of Fort Recovery; his in-laws, James Smith of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Larry (Karen) Smith of East Palestine, Ohio, and Brenda (Dennis) Kaup of Fort Recovery; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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## Capsule Reports

### Two file

Two new candidates filed Tuesday morning to run in the May primary election.

James Schortgen of Dunkirk and Lenny Muhlenkamp of rural Portland filed to run for Republican State Convention Delegate.

Offices up for election this year include Jay County Commissioner and four county council

seats. The filing deadline is Feb. 6.

### Parking crash

A Portland man crashed into another Portland man's vehicle in the Arby's parking lot about 12:30 p.m. Friday.

David C. Ennik II, 33, was driving a 2019 Dodge Grand Caravan through the parking lot at 701 N. Meridian St. At the same time, Francis D. Ford, 65,

was driving his 2016 Honda Odyssey and turning into the parking lot. Ford crashed into Ennik's vehicle.

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

### Backing accident

A Portland woman backed her vehicle into oncoming traffic along Helen Street about 1:45 p.m. Friday.

Tracy Sutton, 49, was driving her 2016 Chevrolet Equinox and backing it out of her driveway at 701 S. Helen St. She didn't see the northbound 2016 Chevrolet City Express driven by 82-year-old Joe Sommers of Portland and backed into it.

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000. The vehicle is registered to Warsaw Automotive Supply.

## Building ...

Continued from page 1

Another idea, Curtin said, would be something similar to the innovation center in South Bend. He added that anything like a makerspace or co-working area would be a positive.

Redevelopment commission member Reda Theurer-Miller said she likes the idea of a multi-use facility.

Curtin told commission members Rusty Inman, Mike Simons, Dave Teeter and Theurer-Miller that Synthesis has visited the building and a report is expected by the end of February. The commission plans to hold a special meeting after the report comes in to discuss whether to purchase the building.

Also Friday, Curtin reported that testing by EnvironForensics for vinyl chloride in the Hood Building, home of The Commercial Review, came back negative. He said work continues toward an agreement with a potential developer.

The redevelopment commission purchased the building for potential development in late 2023, with the newspaper leasing the first floor and basement.

In other business, the commission:

• Re-elected Inman as president and Theurer-Miller as vice president.

• Heard the financial report, which shows a balance of \$1.08 million.

• Received an update from Theurer-

Miller regarding Portland Main Street Connect activities. She noted that all planters are back in place in the downtown area and benches will be placed in the spring. With veteran banners installed from May through November, the commission also discussed utilizing other banners it had purchased in city parks and along the RiverPath Trail. She also noted a collaboration with Jay County Trails Club on creating recordings about local history that would be available in conjunction with historic markers.

• Approved the purchase of \$1,504.61 in equipment from Coppersmith to fix an electrical issue with light poles in the downtown area.

## Backs ...

Continued from page 1  
"We could have easily picked up two seats in Indiana, so Holdman, an America Last politician, put our Majority in the House of Representatives at risk, thereby putting our Country in a very dangerous position in losing some of the magnificent gains that we have made over the last year," Trump's post said.

Holdman did not immediately reply Friday to messages from the Indiana Capital Chronicle seeking comment.

Holdman made himself a Trump target in November by announcing: "The message from my district has been clear — they do not support mid-cycle redistricting, and therefore I cannot support it."

He was among 21 Republicans who joined all 10 Democratic senators in

opposing the redistricting plan when it failed in a 31-19 vote on Dec. 11.

Trump's endorsement of Fiechter is the first the president has made since he started making his political threats months ago.

Fiechter is a real estate broker who is in his first term as an at-large member of Bluffton's city council after winning election in 2023.

Fiechter did not immediately respond to email messages seeking comment about his political plans.

He had not filed a candidacy

## Seventh graders make honor roll

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

Seventh graders making the list were Emalee Aker, Ivy Alt, Brady Armstrong, Karson Arnold, Kolcen Bailey, Mason Bailey, Brody Barlow, Aria Barnett, Samuel Benirschke and Landry Besser.

Also Weston Bice, Sawyer Bihm, Jazzmynn Blalock, Raegan Blalock, Brielle Bland, Brooklyn Brewster, Adalyn Broering, Isabelle Byrum, Casey Carpenter, Kendall Carr-Beaty, Jay Carter, Londyn Cavanaugh, Rylieann Clark and Kyndal Coats.

Also Benson Collins, Haley Comer, Lilly Cooke, Delmy Corcio-Galvez, Ella Crump, Marlea Crump, Takoda Curtis, Cruz Darby, Veronica Dirksen, Janessa Drake and Chloe Ellingwood.

Also Kristle Elzey, Kendall Farr, Ethan Fifer, Blaine Finch, Anna Fisher, Koltyn Garris, Chloe Hamilton, Izik Hammers, Allison Hammond and Ryker Harder.

Also Ryelin Hartnagel, Porter Hatzell, Jasper Holten, Gabriel Homan, Avery Hovis, Maci Huelskamp, Blake Jellison, Calvin Jessup and Easton Johnson.

Also Karle Kirby, Cody Klopfenstein, Nathan Kunkler, Benton Langenkamp, Raelyn Laswell, May Lavrey, Kollin Lawhead, Taylor Lee, Jonathan LeMaster and Madilynn LeMaster.

Also Remi LeMaster,

Andrew Lopez, Grant Lowrance, Gerardo Marentes Diaz, Carter May, Jacob McCarty, Brooklynn McGill and Maverick McGill.

Also Hedras Mejia Lopez, Madison Meyer, Ayden Miller, Lochland Mills, Kyler Morehous, Andrew Muhlenkamp, Bailey Muhlenkamp, Charlotte Muhlenkamp and Sofia Ochoa-Arias.

Also Waylon Odom, Adria Paro, Ethan Paxson, Mason Paxson, Carsten Penrod, Gretchen Petro, Carson Pfeifer, Blake Phillips, Nicholas Pintos Perod, Carter Poore, Ryker Price, Harleigh Rhum, Adalee Rigby, Carter Robbins, Caydene Robbins, Tyan Rogers, Abbie Rowles, Allie Rowles, Remi Saint, River Sanderson, Claire Schmiesing, David Schoenlein and Zoe Schoenlein.

Also Alyssa Schwierterman, Eli Shannon, Alexander Sharp, Evelyn Skirvin, Sawyer Smitley, Danielle Somers, Wyatt Spencer, Emma Stephen, Lillian Stephen, Charlotte Stephens, Dakota Swartzentruber, Carly Tapley, Leeah Taylor, Kendrick Teegarden, Henry Teeter, Kodiak Thompson, Bryce VanSkyock and Aubrie Vinson.

Also Maximus Ward, Parker Wasson, Bryn Weaver, Drayden Weaver-Foster, Leighton Wellman, Makenna Wellman, Maggie Westgerdes, Zaylee White, Caden Wright, Aubrey York and Tamaria Young.

High school juniors and seniors will be published at a later date.

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# Don't take our freedom for granted

The Dallas Morning News

Tribune News Service

So much for the land of the free and the home of the brave.

From the White House down to city halls and county seats in the U.S., weak-kneed government officials are becoming increasingly intolerant of criticism from their own constituents. In the worst cases, they are deploying law enforcement to silence and intimidate people who call them out.

As election season nears, we should ask ourselves about the character and values of the people we might elevate into office.

In the most high-profile case in recent days, the FBI raided the home of Washington Post reporter Hannah Natanson, who has extensively cov-

## Guest Editorial

ered the firings of federal workers under the second Trump administration. Authorities seized her work and personal devices.

For generations, our country has benefited from a robust legal tradition of protecting journalists and their exercise of the First Amendment, including reporting on leaked information and documents. According to The Post, Natanson was told she wasn't the focus of the investigation, and

that authorities had zeroed in on a federal contractor.

But statements by Trump officials betray an animus toward journalists. Attorney General Pam Bondi and FBI Director Kash Patel both drew attention to The Post reporter. Patel suggested that Natanson had published information that endangered "warfighters."

The Trump White House's attempts to make the raid a matter of national security strike us as dishonest given the administration's indifference toward the conduct of its own secretary of defense. Last year, Pete Hegseth used a commercial messaging app to disclose sensitive information about an impending military operation to a group of people, with another official inadvertently including

the editor of The Atlantic in the chat. Hegseth violated his own department's policies about the handling of nonpublic information, but the president and his allies didn't bat an eye.

A man got cuffed in Texas for a lot less. A Hood County resident and military veteran, Kolton Krottinger, was arrested last year and charged with online impersonation, a felony, in connection to a meme on Facebook. A local activist had complained about the post to county officials. Prosecutors declined to hear the case because of "insufficient evidence," and now Krottinger is suing county officials in federal court claiming false arrest among other things, according to the Texas Scorecard.

Florida Man won't be left

behind. A woman who posted on Facebook to criticize the mayor of Miami Beach and call him racist received a visit from local police, who said her words "could probably incite somebody to do something bad." The Miami Beach Police Department told a reporter that they were making sure there was no threat to the mayor.

This editorial page has argued for civility in our political discourse. But unless it's a threat of violence, criticism of an elected official is protected speech.

Many governments around the world throw dissidents in jail as a routine matter, and there's nothing anyone in those countries can do about it. We shouldn't take our First Amendment for granted.

## Let's reconsider lengthy sentences

By DEVIN A. GIORDANO

Progressive Perspectives

Tribune News Service

For people, myself included, who are serving long prison sentences in New York, years pass, circumstances change and lives take on dimensions that were not discernible at the time of sentencing. Yet under current law, no judge has the power to revisit a sentence once it has been imposed, no matter how much time has passed or circumstances have changed.

This is not due to a lack of information. New York's prison system collects decades' worth of records on behavior, age, health and risk. The problem is more basic than that. Judges are legally barred from reconsidering long sentences, even when the facts on which those sentences are based no longer exist.

Among those calling for a different approach is Rowan Wilson, the chief judge of the state of New York. Judges, he argues, should be able to revisit those predictions later, based on new information.

New York's proposed Second Look Act, currently before the state legislature, would provide a means to this end. The bill, which has been endorsed by the New York State Justice Task Force, which works to prevent wrongful convictions, would allow people who have served long sentences to apply for judicial review after at least 10 years or half their sentence. Judges would be permitted to reassess the sentence. The law would not mandate release or erase accountability. It would simply restore discretion.

That kind of discretion already exists elsewhere in the system. Judges routinely reassess people's circumstances when making decisions about bail, probation, parole violations or resentencing after appellate reversals. What the Second Look Act proposes is extending that same logic to the longest sentences, the ones most likely to outlast the assumptions that produced them.

Other states, including California, Washington and Maryland, have already adopted versions of second look or resentencing laws, often with age-based or youth-based provisions. At the federal level, the 2018 First Step Act expanded mechanisms for sentence reductions. These policies have not produced waves of violence or judicial chaos.

Devin A. Giordano



Still, resistance remains strong. Many Americans believe that long sentences, by themselves, make society safer. The longer people are incarcerated, the thinking goes, the less harm they can cause.

But in fact, research consistently shows that the likelihood of violent offending declines sharply with age, particularly after a person's 30s and 40s. Someone sentenced at 19 is not the same person at 49, whether or not the system chooses to acknowledge this.

Second Look does not deny the reality of harm or the seriousness of crime. It asks whether a system that claims to value safety should be willing to test its own conclusions. A hearing does not guarantee release. Judges can deny applications when they believe someone still poses a risk. What a hearing does do is require the system to justify continued incarceration using present facts rather than historical fear.

I was sentenced in New York in 2017 to 20 years to life under New York's felony murder law, based on events that occurred when I was 19. I am now 31, having spent more than a decade incarcerated. Under current law, no judge has the authority to reconsider my sentence, even to determine that it should remain exactly as it is. The original prediction about the person I would become is treated as final.

That rigidity has consequences beyond any individual case. It produces aging prison populations and rising costs. Most importantly, it prevents courts from honestly answering a basic question: Does continued incarceration still serve public safety?

If long sentences truly make society safer, judges should be able to confirm that through review. If they do not, the system should be able to adjust. The question is not whether punishment should exist. It is whether judgments made at sentencing should go untested forever.

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Giordano is an incarcerated writer and college student in New York.



## Title was worth the wait

By JOHN KRULL

TheStatehouseFile.com

When the Indiana University Hoosiers won the national college football championship, I celebrated.

I was happy because I love underdog stories.

Even though they roared through the season undefeated, the Hoosiers never seemed like the favorites. The losingest major college football program in history, they had to fight and scrap for the signs of respect naturally and normally offered to other schools with more illustrious gridiron histories.

Even though I am not an IU alum nor, for that matter, much of a college football fan, I found it easy to root for a school and a fan base that had hung in there and battled through disappointment after disappointment.

They deserved this moment in the sunshine.

But there was another, deeper reason I was pulling for IU. That reason also had its roots in my affection for underdogs.

As the season went on, I began to read and hear from some sports commentators who were complaining about the age of the players on IU's roster.

The Hoosiers had many fourth, fifth and sixth-year seniors on their squad. The team's average age was 23.

In the eyes of the critics, this somehow seemed unfair. They carp that it was like having grown men compete against young boys — a contention that managed to insult both the IU players and those against whom they competed.

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Giordano is an incarcerated writer and college student in New York.

John Krull



offs. I remembered it when they mowed down schools that have been football powerhouses ever since Red Grange wore cleats.

Many of those rosters were loaded with players who were blue-chip prospects, football prospects who had been recruited so determinedly by big-name universities that one would think they were bringing cures for cancer and surefire plans for world peace to campus rather than skill at playing a game.

I don't begrudge those guys — the players who looked like all stars getting off the bus — their free rides. Anything that helps a young person who wants a college education to get one I'm in favor of.

But I'd be lying if I didn't say that my heart was with the other guys.

The ones who didn't look like all-stars getting off the bus.

The ones who had to prove themselves starting on day one and had to keep proving themselves every day after that.

IU didn't have a single blue-chip player — not a single top-tier recruit — on its roster. They fought their way onto the bus, then onto the field.

And — ultimately — into the champions' circle.

It takes a little longer for life's late bloomers to taste success.

My guess, though, is that the guys on IU's football team would tell you that it was worth the wait.

.....

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

# The Commercial Review



US PS 125820

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"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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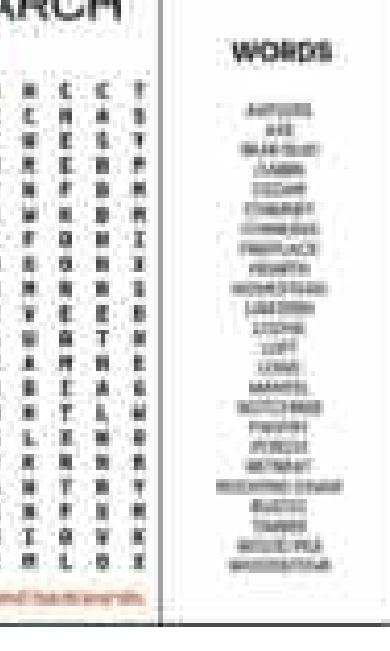
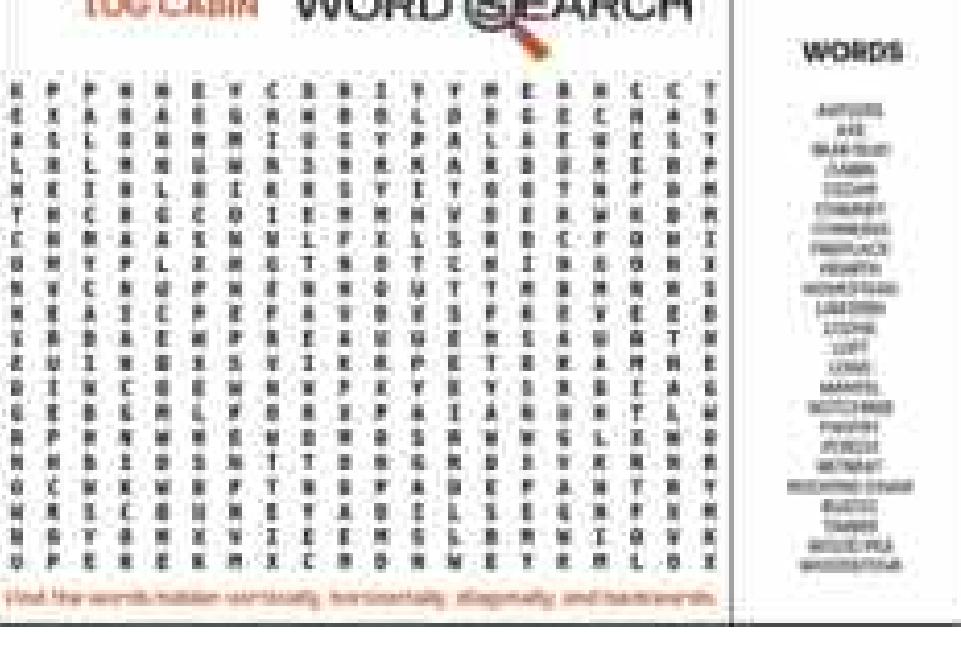
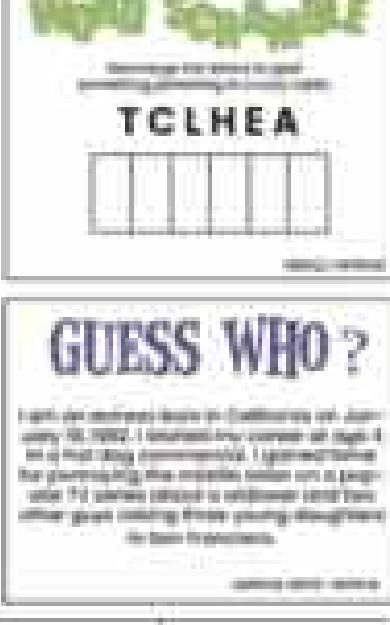
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[www.thecr.com](http://www.thecr.com)

## 1-24 CRYPTO QUIZ

1. JENIA 2. WY 3. NEW WGL 4. ZFC  
5. MIST 6. A 7. B 8. Z 9. RWEFSMZ  
10. EXP 11. A 12. NEW 13. LIP 14. RWM  
15. YMK 16. XZER 17. ZM  
**Yesterday's Cryptquip: UNSURE OF WHICH**  
PIECE TO EAT, I PREFER TO EAT THE WHOLE PIE.  
MAYBE I'LL EAT THE WHOLE PIZZA.  
Ed. & Cryptquip Club Hostess



## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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## 00 CLASSIFIEDS

## CLASSIFIED ADS

260-726-8141  
ADVERTISING RATES  
20 Word Minimum  
Effective 07/01/2018:  
Minimum charge....

\$12.40  
1 insertion.....62¢/  
word

2 insertions.....81¢/  
word

3 insertions.....96¢/  
word

6 insertions.... \$1.14/  
word

12 insertions. \$1.52/  
word

26 insertions. \$1.77/  
word

Includes

Online.....FREE  
Classified Display \$6.95/  
per column inch  
No borders or logos  
allowed on Classified  
Page

Card of Thanks Up to  
100 words.... \$13.00

In Memory Up to 100  
words.... \$13.00

Advertising Deadline is  
12:00 p.m. the day prior  
to publication.

Pre-Payment required  
for: Rummage sales,  
business opportunities,  
jobs wanted, boats and  
sporting equipment,  
wanted to rent, motor-  
ized vehicles, real estate  
and mobile homes.

## 40 NOTICES

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

FREE TO PLAY POKER  
PERIL

Tournament. Saturday,  
January 24, 2026 7:00  
PM. Located: Vineyard  
at Evergreen Farm,  
4949 Siegrist Jutte Rd,  
Coldwater, OH

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## 60 SERVICES

**J. L. CONSTRUCTION  
& ROOFING** LLC. Amish  
crew. Custom built  
homes, new garages,  
pole barns, interior/ exterior  
remodeling, drywall,

**GOODHEW'S ALL  
SEASON** Construction-  
Specializing in standing  
seam metal roofs. When  
Quality Counts, Count  
On US. A company you  
can trust. Member of the  
BBB. New Installation  
and repairs. Call Rodney  
Thornbury, owner 765-  
509-0191

**SEAMSTRESS NAN  
HOMEMADE** Sewing  
and Alterations, Quilts,  
Baby Blankets,  
AppliquÉ, Zippers, Hem-  
ming, Memory T-Shirt,  
Special Orders, Wedding  
& Prom Gowns.  
260.766.9334

## 90 SALE CALENDAR

## PUBLIC AUCTION

Located: Bubb Exhibi-  
tion Hall at the Jay  
County Fairgrounds, 806  
W Votaw St., Portland,  
IN

Saturday Morning  
JANUARY 24, 2026  
9:30 A.M.

**ANTIQUES - OLD &  
COLLECTORS ITEMS**  
Jewelry; brass book-  
ends; Bakelite handled  
cutlery; Roseville 946 n  
61 doubled handled  
vase; Longaberger; Carni-  
val Glass; Cranberry  
candy dish; Amberina  
fluted vase and tall red  
vase; ; several pieces of  
Pyrex; Germany plates;  
Pink Depression; 1 gal-  
lon wood barrel; 2 gal-  
lon wood barrel; lighting  
rods with balls; St

Marys OH oil can;  
Wapak #2, #8 and #9  
irons; 9 pt. brass light-  
ning rod top; US Army  
compass; skeleton keys;

**Bedrock PLANES:**  
Stanley #605 and #606,  
Bailey #5 Ø, Stanley  
#113, Stanley #68, Stan-  
ley #80, Stanley #5,  
Stanley #71, Stanley  
Bailey #5, Millers Falls  
#68, #603 and Stanley  
#68 to name a few;  
American Electric wall  
telephone; Wilhelm Tele-  
phone Co. wall phone;  
advertising oil cans;  
soda and medicine bot-  
tles; 100# brass front  
scale; manuals; brass

school bell; pipe  
wrenches; files; chisels;  
wedges; screw jack; stir-  
rups; feed sacks; car  
books; tractor books;  
and other items not list-  
ed.

Auctioneers Note: Auction

Preview will be held  
starting at 8:00 a.m. day  
of auction. Please  
visit Auction Zip for pho-

tos.

**RICHARD STACHLER**

Loy Auction  
AC#31600027

Auctioneers

Gary Loy AU01031608

Travis Theurer  
AU11200131

Aaron Loy AU11200112

Kaden Khayyata  
AU12400069

## PUBLIC AUCTION

SATURDAY

JANUARY 31ST, 2026

TIME 10:00 A.M.

LOCATED: 6278 W.

300 N. PENNVILLE, IN

BACKHOE-TRACTOR-

CAMPER-TRAILER

Allis Chalmers I-400

Loader Backhoe. Allis

Chalmers WD45 Tractor.

1997 Prowler Fifth

Wheel Camper. 2010

Single Axel Utility Trailer

w/ Ramp. 2001 Dodge

Dakota 4x4 (rough).

Small Portable Chicken

House. Charcoal Hog

Roaster on Transport.

Troybilt Pony Rototiller.

Cushman Scooter. Mini

Bikes. Bicycles. Gas

Crates. Haulers. Gas

Boat Trailers. Gas

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# Sectional message

**Patriots prove they are a tournament title contender by beating Delta**

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

MUNCIE — The Patriots have suffered some disappointments recently.

First they dropped the Allen County Athletic Conference tournament championship to a Bluffton team they previously beat by 18 points in the regular season.

The Patriots got walloped by the eighth-ranked team in Class 4A in their next game.

But after the two losses, the Patriots came together to pull off a win against a strong sectional opponent.

A strong second half helped the Jay County High School girls basketball team pick off the Delta Eagles 55-51 to escape Muncie with a victory on Thursday.

The Eagles (15-6) got the better of Jay County in 2024-25. Delta beat the Patriots (13-7) by 31 points in the regular season before ending their year with a 21-point defeat in the sectional semifinal.

"I just felt like our kids gritted it out," said JCHS coach Sherri McIntire. "It was not a real pretty first half, we did not get off to a good start. We're down five at half to a team that beat us last year twice and I feel like our kids just kept plugging away."

"We played much better in the second half. ... I'm just super proud of the kids. They beat a nice ball club tonight. There were a couple of times where we were down seven and just kept plugging away and showed a lot of grit."

"That sectional is going to be a competitive sectional and I hope our kids, after tonight, believe that we're one of those teams that can win it."

The Patriots had to battle the first 16 minutes just to be down 26-21 at half-time. Jay County got the drop on the Eagles coming out of the locker room.

On the first possession of the third quarter, Raylah Newton drilled a 3-point shot on a short drive and kick from Karsyn Schwieterman.

Jillian Barr, who led Delta with 22 points, got the Eagles back up by four points on a post up move, but the Patriots responded with a 10-0 run.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Claudia Dirksen of the Jay County High School girls basketball team extends her arm up to try and grab a rebound away from Delta's Elizabeth Bamidele during Thursday's 55-51 victory. While the Schwieterman sisters combined for 33 points to fuel the Patriots, JCHS needed a full-team performance to pick off the sectional foe.

The run started with an Elizabeth Brunswick hoop. She was isolated on the right side of the floor, drove on Elizabeth Bamidele and hit a spin move to get right in front of the rim.

Karsyn Schwieterman, who led JCHS with 18 points on 8-of-11 shooting, scored next by beating Jacquelyn Linn off the bounce. Brunswick scored

her second bucket on an offensive rebound and came back down the floor, got Bamidele in the air on a pump fake and went up-and-under for a bunny.

The run capped off with Karsyn Schwieterman beating Linn on another drive.

"With (Addison) Barnes on Hallie (Schwieterman), that opened up some room for us," Brunswick said. "I

think they were a little skeptical that Karsyn would drive the ball so well. So when I got the ball, I knew I had to take it to the rim and just take it up with power to see what I could do with it."

Both teams made small runs, but Jay County held a 10-point advantage with 2:37 remaining.

Delta had one more run left in it. Griffyn Knight

hit her first shot of the day on a floater from 10 feet away. Addison Barnes then broke her dry spell with a banked-in 3-pointer and hit a pair of free throws to cut the deficit to 49-46.

Jay County's freshman center stepped up down the stretch.

Charlee Peters first scored after an Eagle basket as Hallie Schwieterman raced down the court before getting the ball to her for a layup.

On the other end of the floor, Barnes hit another triple to pull Delta within two points.

The Patriots killed 15 seconds before Newton took a three that came up short. Peters came up big to rip down the offensive rebound, keeping the possession alive and allowing McIntire to call a timeout with 27.3 seconds left.

"I think rebounding is one of my biggest specialties and that's what I'm really good at," said Peters, who grabbed five boards off the bench. "That ball, the other girl wasn't going to grab it, so I thought, 'I'm getting this ball whether I have to get on the ground or not.' I knew we needed another possession."

Out of the timeout, Newton went to the charity stripe to knock down a pair of free throws to make it a two-possession game. JCHS got two more points on free throws by Hallie Schwieterman — she went 9-for-9 from the line en route to 15 points — and Barr made one last shot for DHS.

Delta made multiple runs throughout the game, but never found a way to put the Patriots to bed. The Eagles opened the game on a 7-0 run, scored 10 straight in the second period after trailing for the first time in the game, had a 7-2 run late in the third to pull within a point of the Patriots and had the late push fueled by Barnes.

"Jay County is a great team and I told (my kids) they were a good team and you need to come ready to play," said DHS coach Ty'Ronda Benning. "So it's nothing against them, my team was just super

## Box score

**Jay County Patriots at Delta Eagles**

**Girls varsity summary**

Jay County (13-7)			
FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
KSchwtrmn 8-11	2-4	18	
Newton 2-3	2-2	7	
HSchwtrmn 3-18	9-9	15	
Brunswick 4-5	0-0	8	
Dirksen 0-0	0-0	0	
Lekue Magro 0-0	0-0	0	
May 0-3	0-0	0	
Peters 3-3	1-2	7	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20-43</b>	<b>14-17</b>	<b>55</b>
	.465	.824	

**Def. Rebound percentage: .690**

## Box score

**Jay County (15-6)**

**FG-FGA FT-FTA PTS**

Jay County (15-6)			
FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Barnes 3-13	3-4	11	
Linn 1-4	0-0	2	
Marshall 1-2	0-0	3	
Timmerman 0-1	0-0	0	
Bamidele 3-6	1-2	8	
Trosper 0-0	0-0	0	
Johnson 0-2	2-2	2	
Knight 1-6	1-2	3	
Barr 9-13	2-2	22	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18-47</b>	<b>9-12</b>	<b>51</b>
	.383	.750	

**Def. Rebound percentage: .542**

**Score by quarters:**

**Jay Co. 13 8 16 18-55**

**Delta 16 10 9 16-51**

**3-point shooting:** Jay County 1-6 (Newton 1-2, HSchwtrmn 0-4). Delta 6-19 (Barr 2-4, Barnes 2-8, Bamidele 1-1, Marshall 1-2, Knight 0-1, Linn 0-3).

**Rebounds:** Jay County 31 (Brunswick 7, HSchwtrmn 6, Peters 5, Dirksen 3, May 3, Team 3, Newton, Lekue Magro). Delta 22 (Barr 8, Team 5, Knight 4, Linn 2, Bamidele 2, Johnson).

**Assists:** Jay County 5 (HSchwtrmn 2, HSchwtrmn, Newton, Brunswick, Peters). Delta 3 (Barnes 4, Barr 2, Bamidele).

**Blocks:** Jay County 5 (HSchwtrmn 2, HSchwtrmn, Brunswick, Peters). Delta 3 (Barnes, Knight, Barr).

**Personal fouls:** Jay County 9 (HSchwtrmn 4, Newton 2, HSchwtrmn, Brunswick, Peters). Delta 15 (Barnes 4, Barr 3, Linn 2, Knight 2, Marshall, Timmerman, Trosper, Johnson).

**Turnovers:** Jay County 17. Delta 14.

lackadaisical and they weren't, as far as intensity goes, there for the entire four quarters. They had good sparks but they need to put the whole entire game together."

Jay County is now 3-1 against sectional opponents. It beat Delta, New Castle and Yorktown, fell to Hamilton Heights and won't see Connersville, which has the highest Sagrin rating in the group, during the regular season. With the sectional bracket being released on Sunday, McIntire is hoping her team will have confidence with whoever it draws.

## Tribe girls secure first MAC win over Coldwater

COLDWATER, Ohio — It's been a rough go for the Indians, but they just picked up their biggest win of the season.

Fort Recovery High School's girls basketball team picked up its first Midwest Athletic Conference victory of the season over the Coldwater Cavaliers on Thursday 48-46.

The Indians (4-12, 1-5 MAC) got 12 or more points from a trio of juniors. Makenna Huelskamp led the way with 16 points, Cameron Muhlenkamp added 13 and Bridget Homan had 12. Huelskamp, Homan and Paisley Hart came up big in the fourth quarter to hold the lead by knocking down 11-of-13 free throws.

The only other points for Fort Recovery came from Maddie Schoenlein on a three in the first quarter.

### Local Roundup

Coldwater (5-11, 2-4 MAC) also had three players in double figures. Brylee Knapke led the way with 15 points, while Harlow Heyne had 13 and Mia Knapke added 11. Ava Smith had the other three.

#### Girls win opener

The Jay County Junior High School girls swim team earned a 155-105 victory over New Castle in Thursday's season opener, while the boys fell 143-75.

The Patriot girls (1-0) picked up

eight victories, including all three relays.

The other wins belonged to Emalee Aker in the 200-yard freestyle (2 minutes, 35.96 seconds), Kynlee Homan in the 50 freestyle (29.54), Jordyn Champ in the 1-meter diving (116.6), Isabeele Byrum in the 50 butterfly (34.84) and Anna Fisher in the 100 freestyle (1:15.31).

The boys' sole first-place finish came from Sam Gibson in an uncontested diving competition. He scored 67.7 points in the event.

The girls had nine runner-up finishes, while the boys added seven.

#### Derby leads

BERNE — The Jay County Junior High School boys basketball teams beat up on the South Adams Starfires on Thursday.

The eighth grade team remained undefeated on the year with a 47-26 victory.

Abram Lee led the squad with 13 points and Finn Hemmelgarn added 12. Roman Clamme supported with six points, while Bentley Comer and Job Dirksen each had five. Eli Homan, Lyle Beiswanger and Jenson Edwards rounded out the scoring with one bucket each.

Cruz Darby went off from deep, hitting 6-of-7 threes for 22 points in the seventh graders' 45-42 win.

The remaining scoring came from Sawyer Smitley (seven), Henry Teeter (six), Carson Pfeifer (five), Benson Collins (three) and Carter May (two).

#### Girls sweep

Jay County Junior High School's girls basketball teams

swept the South Adams Starfires on Thursday.

The eighth grade team picked up a 33-11 win while the seventh graders defeated the Starfires 27-16.

Arabella Link led the eighth grade team (11-4) with 13 points. Boo Towell provided a nice lift with six points.

Kinze Homan and Brenna Weitzel both scored four points while Gabby Friddle, Emmi Clark and Mackenzie Coy rounded out the scoring with two apiece.

Gretchen Petro had the highest mark of the seventh graders (14-1) with nine points.

Makenna Wellman scored five points while Haley Comer and Adalee Rigby weren't far behind four. Alyssa Schwieterman added three points and Brooklyn McGill found the basket once.

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

Tuesday

Middle school boys basketball vs. New Knoxville — 5 p.m.

Tuesday

Jay County — Swim vs. Blackford/Muncie Burris — 6 p.m.; Girls basketball at Heritage — 6 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball at Adams Central — 9 a.m.; Junior high wrestling at Noblesville — 9 a.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls bowling vs. Coldwater at Community Lanes — 9 a.m.; Girls basketball (varsity first) vs. Franklin Monroe — 10 a.m.; Boys bowling vs. Coldwater at Community Lanes — 1 p.m.; Boys basketball at Mississinewa Valley — 2:30 p.m.

Monday

Jay County — Junior high girls basketball in Allen County Athletic Conference tournament at Woodlan — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball in Allen County Athletic Conference tournament at home — 5:30 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls bowling vs. Coldwater at Community Lanes — 4:30 p.m.; Girls basketball (varsity first) vs. Ansonia at McBo's Lanes — 5:30 p.m.; Girls bowling vs. Ansonia at McBo's Lanes — 4:30 p.m.; Girls basketball vs. Ansonia at McBo's Lanes — 6 p.m.; Freshmen boys basketball vs. New Knoxville — 6 p.m.;

Wednesday

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

## Streak ...

Continued from page 10  
"Just got to stay aggressive," Swoveland said. "We know there's going to be contact any time out, so the more aggressive we are, the easier it is to get to the line and get some points when we need it."

In addition to thriving on the game's physical nature on the offensive end, Swoveland also asserted his presence without getting into foul trouble. He picked up just two fouls while thwarting the Starfires (3-8, 0-4 ACAC) with six blocks.

"You've just got to stay straight up," Swoveland said. "A lot of the time, guys will bump you, you kind of flinch, your arms will drop. You've just kind of got to take it and stay as straight up as you can."

Most of Swoveland's solid day came in the absence of another key member of the Patriot frontcourt. Center Cole Forthofer, who rocked the rim with an and-one dunk early in the contest, exited in the opening quarter and did not return to the game. The senior returned to the bench with his right foot in a boot.

"I don't know a lot," Rigby said. "Our trainer's going to re-evaluate him on Monday. He didn't seem like it was super serious, but you never know with those things. We'll give it a couple days and see what happens."

Regardless of Forthofer's status, the Patriots will seek to regroup, with Friday's scare serving as a reminder that the team's active nine-game winning streak will continue to bring out the best in their opponents.

"I told them in the days that we didn't practice well, I said, 'It's a different animal when you've



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Brock Wasson of the Jay County High School boys basketball team attempts to separate from the South Adams Starfires' Nolan Colpaert during the Patriots' 53-39 victory on Friday night. Wasson missed his only 3-point attempt during the contest as the Patriots shot just 2-for-23 from beyond the arc.

got a good record by your name," Rigby said. "People come in here and

play even better than what they really are."

Jay County will have plenty of time to rectify its practice struggles before preparing for

another team's best shot on Jan. 30 at Bluffton.

"I think it was good for us to go through this as a team and as a group, get through that adversity,"

Swoveland said. "So we've got a big week coming up, so hopefully we can have some good practices, string them together and come back together Friday."

## Box score

South Adams Starfires at Jay County Patriots

Boys varsity summary

South Adams (3-8, 0-4 ACAC)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Roe	3-6	0-2	8
McKean	2-7	3-3	7
Herring	2-4	3-6	7
Colpaert	1-3	2-4	5
Lehman	2-8	0-1	4
Fields	2-4	0-0	4
Craig	1-4	0-0	2
Weaver	0-0	2-4	2
Wanner	0-2	0-0	0
O'Dell	0-0	0-0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13-38</b>	<b>10-20</b>	<b>39</b>
Def. Rebound	.342	.500	
percentage:			
.686			

Jay County (11-2, 3-0 ACAC)

FG-FGA FT-FTA PTS

Jay County (11-2, 3-0 ACAC)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Swoveland	4-14	12-14	20
Comer	6-17	0-0	12
Overton	2-11	4-6	9
Barnett	2-5	2-2	7
Forthofer	1-1	1-1	3
Phillips	0-5	2-4	2
Wasson	0-1	0-0	0
Sommers	0-0	0-0	0
Wiggins	0-0	0-0	0
Snow	0-0	0-0	0
Miller	0-0	0-0	0
Monroe	0-0	0-0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15-54</b>	<b>21-27</b>	<b>53</b>
Def. Rebound	.278	.778	
percentage:			
.778			

Score by quarters:

S. Adams 6 11 12 10 — 39

Jay Co. 13 14 7 19 — 53

3-point shooting: South Adams 3-14 (Roe 2-3, Colpaert 1-1, McKean 0-4, Craig 0-3, Lehman 0-2, Herring 0-1). Jay County 2-23 (Overton 1-5, Barnett 1-2, Comer 0-10, Swoveland 0-5, Wasson 0-1).

Rebounds: South Adams 30 (Herring 8, Lehman 7, Roe 5, Craig 3, Fields 3, McKean 1, Colpaert 1, Wanner 1, Weaver 1). Jay County 32 (Swoveland 10, Comer 6, Barnett 5, Overton 4, Phillips 4, Sommers 2, Forthofer 1).

Assists: South Adams 9 (Wanner 4, Herring 2, McKean 1, Craig 1, Lehman 1). Jay County 6 (Barnett 2, Overton 1, Comer 1, Wasson 1, Swoveland 1).

Blocks: South Adams 2 (Craig 1, Herring 1). Jay County 6 (Swoveland 6).

Personal fouls: South Adams 24 (McKean 4, Roe 4, Herring 3, Lehman 3, Craig 2, Colpaert 2, Wanner 2, Fields 2, O'Dell 1, Weaver 1). Jay County 19 (Barnett 5, Sommers 4, Overton 3, Wasson 2, Phillips 2, Swoveland 2, Comer 1).

Turnovers: South Adams 19. Jay County 4.

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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
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(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.

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# Streak continues



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Gabe Overton of the Jay County High School boys basketball team sprints past South Adams' Derek McKean after a steal during the Patriots' 53-39 win over the visiting Starfires on Friday. Jay County forced 19 South Adams turnovers while only committing four of its own.

## Jay County victorious despite difficult evening

By ETHAN OSKROBA

The Commercial Review

The good news: the Patriots extended their winning streak to nine games.

The bad news: pretty much everything else.

The Jay County High School boys basketball team shot just 28% from the field and 9% from three against a South Adams Starfires team that is winless against teams over .500, but still escaped with a 53-39 home victory on Friday.

"We just mentally weren't ready to go tonight," said Jay County coach Tyler Rigby. "And that falls on me. I didn't have them ready, but even

pregame, I told the radio, we didn't have a great week of practice. We weren't really locked into us. I don't know what was going on, but not mentally focused like we usually are as a group ... Luckily, you get out of it with a win and it doesn't hurt you too terribly bad, but we've just got to be better."

Jay County (11-2, 3-0 Allen County Athletic Conference) salvaged the victory with an inspired closing burst. After leading by 10 at halftime, the Patriots saw their lead dwindle to one point late in the third quarter. They responded by outscoring South Adams 24-11 to close out the contest.

See *Streak* page 9



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Jay County High School boys basketball's Benson Barnett evades the block of South Adams' Nolan Colpaert and fires up a shot in the Patriots' 53-39 triumph over the Starfires on Friday night. Barnett led all non-starters on both teams with seven points and made one of Jay County's two 3-pointers.

## Indians' defense locks down in 4th quarter

FORT RECOVERY — Any hope of a Cavalier comeback faded as the Tribe defense clamped down.

The Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team held the Coldwater Cavaliers to four fourth-quarter points on Friday night to secure a 44-36 Midwest Athletic Conference victory.

The game was tight and relatively low-scoring throughout, with the Indians (9-5, 3-2 MAC) up by two after the opening quarter. That remained the margin as the home team took a 23-21 advantage into halftime before pushing the lead to four heading into the final quarter.

### Local Roundup

points, and Hudson Overman added five.

Caleb Schroer of the Cavaliers (7-6, 2-3 MAC) matched Barga with 11 points. He hit two 3-pointers in the first half.

Landon Kanpke followed with seven points, and Nolan Gruss scored six.

#### Grisez sets bests

FORT RECOVERY — Malia Grisez turned in the best evening of her career to lead the Fort Recovery girls bowling team to a massive win, 2,000-1,561 Friday over the Mississinawa Valley Blackhawks at Miracle Lanes. Grisez rolled a career-best 179

in her opening game. She was even better with a 184 in her second for a 363 series.

Deanna Brown was a dozen pins behind her at a 351 series, including a 180 opening game. Lilah Thien had a 177 in her lone game, and Claire Gaerke rolled a 342 series.

Elizabeth Kahlig added a 273 series and Jadyn Wyerick had a 161 in her lone game.

Fort Recovery also won both Baker games for a 333-297 advantage.

#### Wilson leads

FORT RECOVERY — Leland Wilson turned in the top series

Friday as the Fort Recovery boys bowling team defeated the Mississinawa Valley Blackhawks 2,846-2,514.

Wilson was the only Indian to clear 200 pins in both games, finishing with a 460 series. He had a 255 in his opening game.

James Westgerdes had the best individual game with a 258 to open the night and finished with a 438 series. Riley Stammen finished with a 416 series and Kale Diller had a 391.

Jake Homan and Pete Guggenbiller had individual games of 148 and 140, respectively.

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