

The Commercial Review

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 Donald Trump has taken direct aim at a high-ranking Indiana state senator who voted against the congressional redistricting plan by endorsing a potential Republican primary challenger.

A social media post from Trump Thursday night blasted Sen. Travis Holdman as a RINO —

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.

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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 (Hilgeford) Garke of St. Henry.

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



Garke

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
Ohio Midday	Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$20 million Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$266 million

Markets	
Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.42 Feb. corn4.44	Wheat5.01
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.42 Feb. corn4.39 March corn4.36	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.26 Feb. corn4.28 Beans10.58 Feb. beans10.60 Wheat5.01
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.36 Feb. corn4.38 Beans10.56 Feb. beans10.60	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.39 Feb. corn4.42 Beans10.29 Feb. beans10.29 Wheat4.71

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

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 EnviroForensics 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 for the Senate seat or opened a state campaign fundraising committee by midday Friday, according to Indiana Election Division online records. The candidate filing deadline for the May primary is Feb. 6.



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SERVICES

Sunday, Jan. 25
Thinnes, Merlie: 2 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W.Windsor St., Montpelier.
Spohn, Les: 3 p.m., Zechar Bailey Funeral Home, 1499 N. Broadway St., Greenville, Ohio.

Wednesday, Jan. 28
Kaiser, Doris: 10:30 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery.

Thursday, Jan. 29
Garke, Dennis: 10:30 a.m., St. Wendelin Catholic Church, 2980 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, St Henry, Ohio.

Saturday, Feb. 28
Hughes, Allyssah: noon, 205 E. 1st St., Bath, Illinois.

Service listings provided by

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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 Bihn, Jazzmynn Blalock, Raegan Blalock, Brielle Bland, Brooklynn 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 Garringer, Chloe Hamilton, Izik Hammers, Allison Hammond and Ryker Harder.

Also Ryelín Hartnagel, Porter Hatzell, Jasper Holten, Gabriel Homan, Avery Hovis, Maci Huelkamp, 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, Caydense Robbins, Tyan Rogers, Abbie Rowles, Allie Rowles, Remi Saint, River Sanderson, Claire Schmiesing, David Schoenlein and Zoe Schoenlein.

Also Alyssa Schwieterman, 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 VanSlyock and Aubrie Vinson.

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

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

Try this comforting meal

By LINDA GASSENHEIMER
Tribune News Service

It's the time of year for a warm, comforting meal, and one classic favorite came to mind, Salisbury Steak. This dish features seasoned ground beef shaped like a steak and smothered in a rich mushroom sauce. It was named after Dr. James Henry Salisbury, a Civil War physician who served it to soldiers as a hearty, nourishing meal. Salisbury steak remains a family favorite today.

To round out the dinner, I made a simple potato and green bean side dish. I was happy to find small, pre-washed potatoes ready to use, and for a time-saving shortcut, I added frozen cut green beans. They stayed crisp and paired perfectly with the tender potatoes. It's a quick, satisfying complement to the beef.

HELPFUL HINTS:

Fresh green beans can be used instead of frozen

If small potatoes aren't available, cut large red or yellow potatoes into 2-inch pieces.

Look for unsalted beef broth such as Swanson or College Inn.

COUNTDOWN:

Assemble ingredients.

Start potatoes in microwave.

While potatoes microwave, start mixing beef mixture.

When potatoes and beans are microwaved, complete beef recipe.

SHOPPING LIST:

To buy: 3/4 pound 95 percent lean ground beef, 3/4 pound small/baby potatoes washed unpeeled, 2 bag frozen cut green beans, 1 small bottle ketchup, 1 small bottle Worcestershire sauce, 4 ounces sliced mushrooms, 1 container unsalted beef broth, 1 bunch fresh chives (optional garnish), 1 can olive oil spray.

Staples: olive oil, egg, flour, salt and black peppercorns



Salisbury Steak with Potatoes and Green Beans

3/4 pound small/baby potatoes, about 2 cups
2 tablespoons water
4 cups frozen cut green beans
3/4 pound 95 percent lean ground beef

1 egg
1 tablespoon ketchup
Olive oil spray
1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons olive oil, divided use
1 tablespoon flour
1 cup unsalted beef stock
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce

4 ounces sliced mushrooms (about 1 2/3 cups)
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
2 tablespoons chopped chives (optional garnish)

Place potatoes in a microwave safe bowl with the 2 tablespoons water: Cover the bowl with a plate or plastic wrap and microwave on high for 3 minutes. Add green beans to the bowl, cover again and microwave on high for 2 minutes. Potatoes should be soft. Add another minute, if needed. Remove and set aside covered.

While potatoes are in the microwave, mix beef, egg and ketchup together and be sure to

combine all ingredients. Shape beef into two patties about 3/4-inch thick. Heat a medium size skillet over medium-high heat and spray with olive oil spray. Add the meat patties and cook 3 minutes. Using 2 large spatulas carefully turn the patties over and cook another 3 minutes. A meat thermometer should read 150 degrees for medium. Remove them to a plate. Add 1 tablespoon oil and flour to the skillet and mix well. Add beef stock, Worcestershire and mushrooms. Stir all together and simmer until thick about 3 to 4 minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve the patties on two dinner plates and spoon sauce on top. Sprinkle chives, if using, over the meat. Toss the potatoes and beans with the remaining 2 teaspoons olive oil and divide in half. Serve on the plates with the meat. Yield 2 servings.

Per serving: 618 calories (37 percent from fat), 25.2 g fat (6.4 g saturated, 11.1 g monounsaturated), 201 mg cholesterol, 49.7 g protein, 50.5 g carbohydrates, 9.1 g fiber, 280 mg sodium.

Listen to Gassenheimer on WDNA.org and all major podcast sites. Email her at Linda@Dinner-InMinutes.com.

Sibling relationship suffers more because of investment

DEAR ABBY: A few years back, my brother gave me a substantial amount of cryptocurrency. A couple of years after that, he did something that hurt me and my husband deeply and destroyed any trust I had in him. As a result, I have greatly reduced contact with him as well as my entire family.

When I explained how what he did made me feel and how it affected my life, my brother "sort of" apologized, but it wasn't genuine — and during this fake apology, he mentioned he wanted his crypto back.

Because I had had some financial difficulties, I couldn't give back the money. The cryptocurrency had been a GIFT. When he gave it to me, there was no

Dear Abby



agreement about paying him back or what to do with it. (He confessed that he had made a huge mistake by giving it to me.) When I told him I couldn't give it back, he sort of let it go. But now we are barely on speaking terms, and I feel awkward because I can feel his resentment.

I no longer trust him, and I'm not sure how to proceed. I'm not

angry; I'm just cautious because of his previous careless actions and because he lacks a verbal filter, especially toward my husband, who is sensitive. How do I deal with the fallout? — ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY

DEAR O.B.T.S.: I wish you had gone into more detail in the second sentence of your letter. If I have read it correctly, your problems with your brother have less to do with the cryptocurrency debacle and far more about how he treats your husband. As I see it, you have every right to proceed with caution where your brother is concerned. If he can't watch his mouth around your husband, some distance may be better for all of you.

DEAR ABBY: I'm retired and have discovered a love for making bags, totes and purses with my sewing machine. A few years ago, I started doing local craft shows — not because I've turned this into a business, but because it helps clear out the growing inventory. Financially, we're fine. I'm not risking money we don't have.

My husband, who still works, strongly disapproves of this. He says I've made a job out of a hobby, and he thinks it's silly since I don't really make money. He has even suggested I'd be better off throwing my creations away. In truth, after a lifetime of working and raising kids, I finally have time to do

something that makes ME happy.

I feel torn. Must I stop doing something I love to keep peace at home, or continue and risk his ongoing resentment? It's heart-breaking to feel that every time I try something new, I'm met with resistance. — STILL STITCHING IN THE SOUTH

DEAR STILL STITCHING: Your husband appears to be more than a little controlling by attempting to tell you how to spend your free time. Your hobby is what it is. It's a source of pleasure — and it's not meant to be another income stream. Continue doing what you enjoy and please do not buckle under the pressure.

Community Calendar

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

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E.

High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United

Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

THE LIFE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy, as well as help with the needs of the family. The center is located at 1209 S. Shank St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

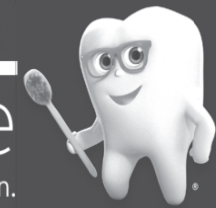
1	4	9	2	3	8	7	5	6
8	5	3	7	4	6	1	9	2
2	7	6	1	5	9	3	8	4
6	8	5	4	2	3	9	7	1
3	2	7	9	8	1	6	4	5
4	9	1	5	6	7	2	3	8
9	3	4	8	1	2	5	6	7
7	1	8	6	9	5	4	2	3
5	6	2	3	7	4	8	1	9

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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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.

.....
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 carped 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.

John Krull



Unless football players are much, much different than the male students I work with where I teach, they likely would resent being called "boys," young or otherwise.

And they're ready — no, eager — to compete with anyone.

But that's not my point.

What I loved about IU's victory was that it represented the triumph of the late bloomers, the young men who took a little while to grow into their gifts.

To discover just what their capacities might be.

Years ago, when my son played travel baseball, I had a conversation with a coach that's stuck with me.

"With some kids," he said, "you can tell they're going to be all-stars when they're getting off the bus."

He paused.

"And they're fun to coach."

Another pause.

"But the ones who are the most fun to coach are the ones who don't look like all-stars getting off the bus. They're the kids who surprise you. They're the ones who just seem to explode in front of your eyes."

One more pause.

"Those are the kids that make you want to coach."

I thought of that conversation often as the Hoosiers worked their way through the regular season and the college championship play-

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 sure-fire 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.

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

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LOUISE RONALD
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Production manager

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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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1-24 CRYPTOQUIP

UJFNIA WY HXWGL ZFC
VXNIGV ZHWP Z RWFSWYZ
PXZP SA Z VYWNUSLP RWVA
YMKZK VZKZK YMHPI
Yesterday's Cryptopips: UNSURE OF WHICH
PERSON TO PICK TO PUNISH WILL ARE THE
MAN WAS NOT WITHE A MERE DILIGENT.
Editor's Cryptopip Choice: HOSPITAL

Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

Colorful history

- 1) What Norse explorer was the father of another explorer, Leif Erikson?
- 2) Which ruler was forced to abdicate during the February Revolution?

(2) Tsar Nicholas II
(1) Erik the Red

1-26 CRYPTOQUIP

WKNMPS CEAD FWDDEJLJNNG
KXK XCD LNDL UZ AR
IDKNEU LFXNO CEJUDM MAFPI
EXTNF FOLGWXNMND
Yesterday's Cryptopips: SKELETS OF BONES
AND BONES ABOUT A LIONEL A THAT IS A
PROBABLE SHOULD BE READING PLOTTER
Editor's Cryptopip Choice: NOSPOT

CRYPTO FUN

A. 30 23 18
B. 12 18 15 21 17 20 7 34 21
C. 12 23 18 21 6 3
D. 1 23 23 20 21 11

WORLD SQUARE

TCLHEA

GUESS WHO?

kids' corner

Food FACT

This soup is traditionally smooth and creamy and often begins with a shellfish stock.

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
DOWN

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

21

LOG CABIN WORD SEARCH

WORDS

How they say that in...

English Soup
Spanish Soup
Russian Soup
French Soup
German Soup

Did You Know?

Get the PICTURE?

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
DOWN

Solution time: 26 mins.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Planning the play

East dealer
North-South vulnerable

WEST
EAST
SOUTH

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
DOWN

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

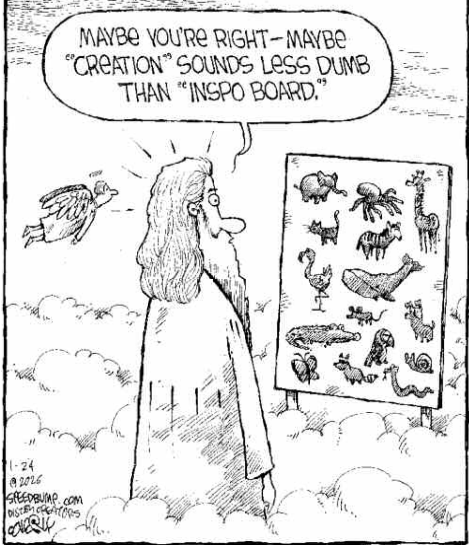
Famous Hand

West dealer
North-South vulnerable

WEST
EAST
SOUTH

Saturday's answer

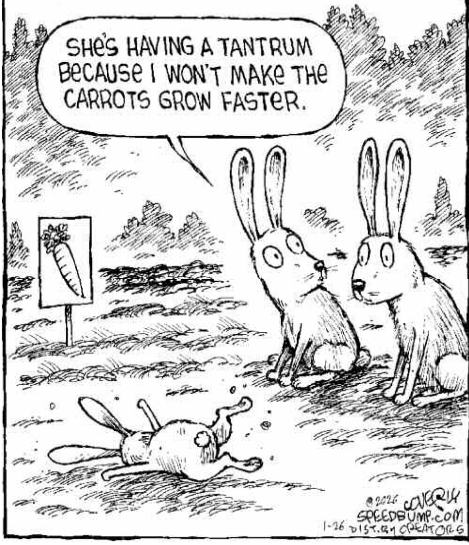
SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Rose is Rose



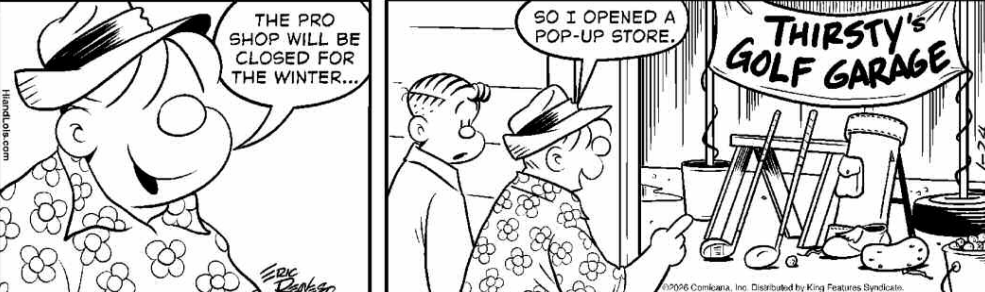
Agnes



Agnes



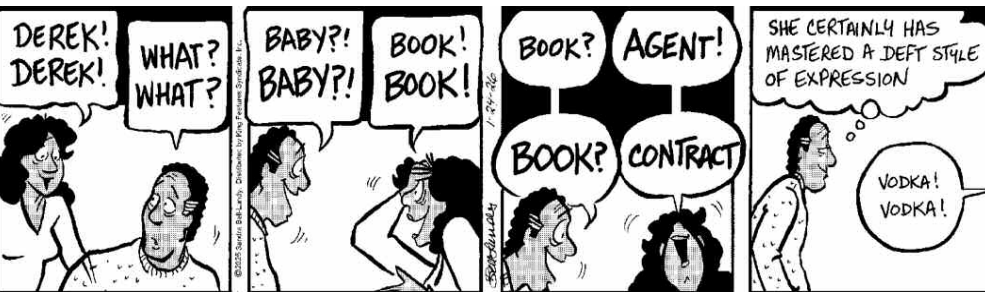
Hi and Lois



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Between Friends



Blondie



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Beetle Bailey



Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

Laughter

The Commercial Review We Deliver

00 CLASSIFIEDS

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

40 NOTICES

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

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

60 SERVICES

J. L. CONSTRUCTION
& ROOFING LLC. Amish
crew. Custom built
homes, new garages,
pole barns, interior/ exte-
rior remodeling, drywall,
windows, doors, siding,
roofing, foundations.
260-726-5062, leave
message.

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SEASON Construction-
Specializing in standing
seam metal roofs. When
Quality Counts, Count
On US. A company you
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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: Bulp Exhi-
bition 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 ñ
6i doubled handled
vase; Longaberger; Car-
nival Glass; Cranberry
candy dish; Amberina
fluted vase and tall red
vase; ; several pieces of
Pyrex; Germany plates;
Pink Depression; 1 gal-
lon wood barrel; Q gal-
lon wood barrel; light-
ning 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 Q, 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: Auc-
tion 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
AU1200131
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

90 SALE CALENDAR

Powered Wood Chipper.
Push Mowers. 1 1/2i
Pacer Trash Pump.
Apartment Sized Chest
Freezer. 5 Drawer
Dresser. Portable Dish
Washer. Other Items Not
Mentioned.
OWNERS: Randy Morgan
and Patricia Morgan
Note: Check Auctionsoft
and AuctionZip for more
photos. Online bidding
available.
SHAWVER AUCTION-
EERING AND REAL
ESTATE
AC31800004
AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587

PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday, February 14th,
2026
10:00am
OPEN HOUSE February
2nd, 4-6 PM
BLACKFORD COUNTY
HOUSE- BUILDINGS-
POND
APPROX 5 ACRES
BLACKFORD
SCHOOLS
3 BEDROOM - 2 BATH
1576 SQUARE FEET-2
CAR GARAGE
TRACT 1: Buildings-
Pond- Approx. 5 Acres
TRACT 2: Approx. 30
Acres
TRACT 3: Tract 1 & 2
Combined
Seller: JUDY KAY
WASHBURN ESTATE
IAA Auctioneer
HEARTLAND Auction &
Realty, INC.
445 E 100 N, Decatur,
IN
260-724-3499
ELLENBERGER
Auctions, Inc.
AUCTION COMPANY
NUMBER, AC30200063
PRINCIPAL AUCTION-
EER,
RON KING,
AU19500129
JESSTON NUS-
BAUMER, AU19600119
AARON SCHAEFER,
AU1160015
KENT ARNOLD,
AU19600255

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Women's
Building at the Jay
County Fairgrounds, 806
E Votaw St., Portland,
IN
Thursday Afternoon
JANUARY 29, 2026
4:30 P.M.
HOUSEHOLD GOOD -
OLD & COLLECTORS
ITEMS-MISC
9 drawer dresser with
mirror; glass door dis-
play china cabinet; 3
cushion sofa; glider

90 SALE CALENDAR

rocker with stool; end
tables; coffee table;
Kenmore dehumidifier,
NIB; Fire Sentry safe;
corner shelf; #5 crock;
Christmas figurines and
Village accessories; Fire
King; Royal Crown wood
case; Pink Depression; ;
Victrola; toys; Lefton;
child's tea sets; milk bot-
tles; Cabbage Patch; set
of Pfaltzgraff dishes; cir-
cular saw; square; saws;
wire; fuse box; nails;
screws; and other items
not listed.
MADGE SERGENT
ESTATE
Loy Auction
AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer
AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU 11200112
Kaden Khayyata AU
12400069

100 JOBS WANTED

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

110 HELP WANTED

TOWN OF REDKEY
ACCEPTING applica-
tions for Deputy Mar-
shall. Experience pre-
ferred but not mandatory.
Apply at the Redkey
Town Hall. Applications
accepted from January
12-23.

130 MISC. FOR SALE

SCRATCH PADS ARE
BACK various bundles
sizes and XL pads. \$1.25
plus tax. Pick up at The
Commercial Review
Tuesday thru Friday
10am to 4pm.

PAPER END ROLLS
FOR SALE Various
sizes and prices. Call
The Commercial Review
at 260-726-8141 for
more information.

190 FARMERS COL-
UMN

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

ARE YOU INTERESTED
IN USING soil and water
conservation practices
such as cover crops or
grassed waterways on
the ground you farm? Let
us help you! Your land
and the way you manage
it can make a positive

190 FARMERS
COLUMN

difference. The Upper
Mississinewa River
Watershed Cost-Share
Program is now accept-
ing applications, avail-
able at the following
county Soil & Water Con-
servation District
(SWCD) offices: Black-
ford, Delaware, Grant,
Jay, Randolph, and
Darke. Selected appli-
cants will be reimbursed
up to 75% of the cost of
their chosen practice(s).
This program supports
newly implemented prac-
tices; pre-existing struc-
tures and practices do
not qualify, outside of
cover crops. The maxi-
mum amount paid out for
vegetative practices is
\$5,000, and for structural
practices is \$15,000.
There are approximately
40 eligible practices,
from livestock fences to
pollinator habitat and
much more. Priority will
be given to those within
subwatersheds at Deer
Creek, Upper Big Lick
Creek, Halfway Creek,
Bush Creek, and Gray
Branch. Others may be
prioritized depending on
the number of applica-
tions received. If you
have questions about the
program, please call
Clair Burt at the
Delaware County SWCD
at 765-747-5531 ext. 3.
The application deadline
is January 31, 2026.

200 FOR RENT

LEASE SPACE avail-
able, Coldwater, OH.
Manufacturing, ware-
housing, assembly, dis-
tribution, offices, inside
and outdoor storage.
Easy access to major
highways and railroad
access with loading
docks and overhead
cranes available. Con-
tact Sycamore Group,
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www.sycamorespace.co
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RENT Starting at \$45.00
a month. 260-251-2563

2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH
Newly remodel. \$800.00
Month plus gas & elec-
tric. Prefer older couple.
1 small pet allowed. 260-
251-2563

230 AUTOS, TRUCKS

WE PAY CASH for junk
autos. We pick up at your
location. 1-765-546-
2642 or 1-765-857-1071.
Slocum's Salvage

260 PUBLIC AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION
LOCATED: 6278 W. 300 N. PENNVILLE, IN
SATURDAY
JANUARY 31ST, 2026
10:00 A.M.
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 Powered Wood Chipper. Push
Mowers. 1 1/2” Pacer Trash Pump. Apartment Sized
Chest Freezer. 5 Drawer Dresser. Portable Dish
Washer. Other Items Not Mentioned.
OWNER: Randy Morgan and
Patricia Morgan
NOTE: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for
more photos. Online Bidding Available.
TERMS ON PERSONAL PROPERTY:
CASH – GOOD CHECK – CREDIT CARD
STATEMENTS MADE SALE DAY TAKE
PRECEDENCE OVER WRITTEN AD
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL
ESTATE
AC31800004
Pete D. Shawver Zane Shawver
Lic# AU19700040 Lic# AU10500168
260-726-5587 260-729-2229
More Photos available at www.auctionzip.com
CR 1-24 NT 1-21 NG/RB 1-20-2026

PUBLIC AUCTION

Located in the Women's Building at the
Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland Indiana
on Thursday Afternoon
JANUARY 29, 2026
4:30 P.M.
HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD &
COLLECTORS ITEMS - MISC
9 drawer dresser with mirror; glass door display
china cabinet; desk; 3 cushion sofa; glider rocker
with stool; end tables; coffee table; round kitchen
table with 4 chairs on rollers; lamps; (2) wood
rockers; pictures; wall décor; Patio set: sofa, 2
chairs coffee table and stand; bookcase; Kenmore
dehumidifier, NIB; Fire Sentry safe; corner shelf; #5
crock; tablecloths; glass insulators; large amber
swag vase; bells; figurines; records; bird houses;
Corelle set of dishes; towels; Sunbeam stand mixer;
quilt tops; hen on nests; glass bowl sets; plasticware;
S & P sets; oil lamps; Carnival Glass; cups and
saucers; baking pans; decorative watering cans;
crock pitcher; porcelain pan, pitcher; baskets; Pyrex
butter dish; Christmas figurines and Village
accessories; card table; BC cookie jar; coffee pots;
Avon decanters; jars; toys; Christmas decorations;
coal hod; crocks; puzzles; yarn; fire extinguisher;
toaster oven; Fire King; Royal Crown wood case;
cookware; tablecloths; aluminum roaster; plant
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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	
Totals	20-43	14-17	55	
	.465	.824		
Def. Rebound percentage: .690				
Delta (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	
Totals	18-47	9-12	51	
	.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, HSchwieterman 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, HSchwieterman 6, Peters 5, Dirksen 3, May 3, Team 3, Newton, Lueke Magro). Delta 22 (Barr 8, Team 5, Knight 4, Linn 2, Bamidele 2, Johnson).				
Assists: Jay County 5 (KSchwieterman 2, HSchwieterman, Newton, Brunswick), Delta 12 (Knight 5, Barnes 4, Barr 2, Bamidele).				
Blocks: Jay County 5 (HSchwieterman 2, KSchwieterman, Brunswick, Peters). Delta 3 (Barnes, Knight, Barr).				
Personal fouls: Jay County 9 (KSchwieterman 4, Newton 2, HSchwieterman, Brunswick, May). 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), Isabelee 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.

Darby 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

Today
Jay County — Swim hosts Allen County Athletic Conference Championships — 9 a.m.; Girls basketball vs. Southern Wells (no JV) — noon; Junior high 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 — Boys bowling vs. Ansonia at McBo’s Lanes — 4:30 p.m.; Girls bowling vs. Ansonia at McBo’s Lanes — 4:30 p.m.; Swim in tri-meet at South Adams — 6 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball vs. New Knoxville — 6 p.m.;

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 Wapahani — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball at Wapakoneta — 6 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball at New Knoxville — 5 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
3 a.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)
7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: West Ham United at Sunderland (USA)
10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Burnley at Tottenham Hotspur (USA)
11 a.m. — College basketball: Ole Miss at Kentucky (ESPN)
12 p.m. — College basketball: North Carolina at Virginia (ESPN2); Maryland at Michigan State (CBS); Nebraska at Minnesota (FS1)
12:30 p.m. — College basketball: Villanova at UConn (FOX); Georgetown at Providence (TNT)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: AFC Bournemouth at Liverpool FC (USA)
1:30 p.m. — IMSA SportsCar Championship: Rolex 24 at Daytona (NBC)
2 p.m. — College basketball: Oklahoma at Missouri (ESPN2); West Virginia at Arizona (CBS); Houston at Texas Tech (ESPN)
2 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Villanova at St. John’s (FS1); Illinois at Nebraska (BTN)
2:30 p.m. — Track and field: New Balance Indoor Grand Prix (NBC)
3 p.m. — NBA: New York Knicks at Philadelphia 76ers (ABC)
3 p.m. — College basketball: Illinois at Purdue (FOX); Richmond at George Washington (USA)
4 p.m. — College basketball: Auburn at Florida (ESPN); Memphis at Wichita State (ESPN2); San Diego State at UNLV (CBS)
4 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Arizona at Iowa State (FS1)
4 p.m. — College gymnastics: Nebraska at Minnesota (BTN)
5 p.m. — College basketball: VCU at Davidson (USA)
5:30 p.m. — NBA: Golden State Warriors at Minnesota Timberwolves (ABC)

5:30 p.m. — College basketball: Utah at BYU (FOX)
6 p.m. — College basketball: Northwestern at UCLA (FS1); TCU at Baylor (ESPN)
6 p.m. — College hockey: Minnesota at Michigan State (BTN)
7 p.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — College basketball: Nevada at New Mexico (FS1); Kansas at Kansas State (FOX)
8 p.m. — NHL: Los Angeles Kings at St. Louis Blues (FDSN Indiana)
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Dallas Mavericks (ABC)
8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Tennessee at Alabama (ESPN)
8:30 p.m. — College hockey: Penn State at Wisconsin (BTN)
Sunday
3 a.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)
9 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Crystal Palace at Chelsea (USA)
12 p.m. — College wrestling: Maryland at Penn State (ESPN)
12 p.m. — IMSA SportsCar Championship: Rolex 24 at Daytona (NBC)
1 p.m. — College basketball: Florida

Atlantic at South Florida (ESPN2)
1 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Kansas State at Kansas (FS1)
1 p.m. — College gymnastics: Michigan State at UCLA (FOX)
2 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: USC at Michigan (BTN)
3 p.m. — NFL AFC Championship: New England Patriots at Denver Broncos (CBS)
3 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Vanderbilt at South Carolina (ESPN)
3 p.m. — Horse racing: America’s Day at the Races (FS1)
4 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: UCLA at Northwestern (BTN)
5 p.m. — College gymnastics: Utah at Iowa State (ESPN)
6 p.m. — LOVB volleyball: LOVB Nebraska at LOVB Atlanta (ESPN2)
6:30 p.m. — NFL NFL Championship: Los Angeles Rams at Seattle Seahawks (FOX)
7 p.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)
Monday
3 a.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)
3 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Everton at Leeds United (USA)

7 p.m. — College basketball: Louisville at Duke (ESPN); Penn State at Ohio State (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Atlanta Hawks (FDSN Indiana)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Arizona at BYU (ESPN)
9 p.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)
Tuesday
7 p.m. — College basketball: Arkansas at Oklahoma (ESPN); Virginia at Notre Dame (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — College basketball: Providence at UConn (TNT)
8 p.m. — NBA: Milwaukee Bucks at Philadelphia 76ers (NBC)
8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Kansas State at West Virginia (FS1)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Kentucky at Vanderbilt (ESPN)
9:30 p.m. — College basketball: Creighton at Marquette (TNT)
10 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Clippers at Utah Jazz (NBC)
10:30 p.m. — College basketball: Grand Canyon at Nevada (FS1)
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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 they’re going to give you their best shot, and they’re probably going to

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
Totals	13-38	10-20	39
	.342	.500	
Def.	Rebound	percentage:	
.686			

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
Totals	15-54	21-27	53
	.278	.778	
Def.	Rebound	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.

IT'S ALL UP TO YOU ...

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

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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

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Doctor

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Farm implement sales

Financial advisor

Florist

Funeral home

Furniture

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Greenhouse

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Restaurant (non-pizza)

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Other

(is there something that doesn't quite fit the above)

To vote, visit theocr.com, winchesternewsgazette.com or hartfordcitynewtimes.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.

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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.

"We've kind of answered those bells throughout the season so far," Rigby said. "Something isn't going our way, we've found a way to kind of overcome it, whether it's pretty or not."

No player exemplified that creed better than Patriot forward Gradin Swoveland. Despite shooting just 4-for-14 from the field and missing all five of his 3-point tries, the senior took advantage of a physical game that included 43 fouls. He shot 12-for-14 from the charity stripe, fueling a season-high 20-point performance that also included 10 rebounds.

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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

Broday Barga paced Fort Recovery, scoring all of his 11 points in the opening half. Nine of those came in the first quarter.

Colson Post tallied all of his nine points in the second half, including six of the eight for the Indians in the fourth quarter. Breaker Jutte added eight

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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