

Grile, oldest in state, died at age 110

Pennville woman was lifelong resident of Jay County

The Commercial Review

The oldest woman in Indiana died Friday.

Ilah Faye Ogan Grile of Pennville died about 10:40 a.m. Friday at the age of 110 at her home.

Her family said she had been confirmed as the oldest living resident in the state. She assumed that position following the death of Ruth MacNeil of South Bend at the age of 111 on Dec. 7.

Ilah became something of a celebrity around Pennville in recent years, receiving hundreds of cards on her birthdays.

Born on Feb. 27, 1915, in Pennville, she was a lifelong Jay County resident. She graduated from Pennville High School in 1933 and attended her 90th reunion in 2023 at the age of 108.

On that evening, she said she had always been up for challenges, recalling once climbing a fire tower at a park in Bluffton shortly after a hospital visit.

"Anytime anybody asks me to do anything, if I thought at all I could be a part of it, I was always willing to try it, and I've been mostly all successful," said Ilah. "I guess I got kind of tired of people saying I can't do this and I can't do that and I can't do the other. I always tried."

She grew up on a 40-acre farm owned by her parents William Albert Ogan and Alice Arvilla (Stewart) Ogan just outside of Pennville. She married her husband, Willard, in Jay County on April 6, 1941.

See Oldest page 2

Wind concerns



The Commercial Review/Bailey Call

Portland Street Department superintendent Matt Shauver spreads salt on the sidewalk Monday morning in front of Portland City Hall. City and county crews were out throughout the day Sunday and again Monday in an effort to clear snow from roads and streets after 11.5 inches of snow fell Saturday and Sunday. With winds forecast to gust to 30 mph on Monday night, local officials expressed concern that drifting would continue to cause travel problems.

After nearly a foot of weekend snow in Jay Co., local officials worry about problems with drifting

By BAILEY CALL and RAY COONEY The Commercial Review

Nearly a foot of snow fell in Jay County over the weekend.

Weather conditions were not expected to make clearing roadways easy this week.

Jay County was under a travel warning, the highest restriction level in Indiana, from 6 p.m. Sunday through noon Monday, with the courthouse and schools closed after a winter storm dumped as much as 11.5 inches of snow from Saturday evening through Sunday.

The county shifted back to a

watch — only essential travel is advised, such as for work or emergencies — at noon Monday, but wind was already causing a problem.

"Currently the (roads) that they have been down are drifting back across out of the west," said Jay County Highway Department superintendent Bob Howell. "We're going to continue to work on them diligently and we'll see what happens later tonight with the winds picking up."

The highway department worked throughout the day Sunday and started plowing again at 5 a.m. Monday. Howell

noted the wind picked up around 9:30 a.m. Monday.

North-south roads were the most problematic for travel Monday morning.

The forecast was not expected to do any favors in terms of improving conditions, with the area under a cold weather advisory.

The forecast called for wind chills as low as minus 20 Monday night and winds gusting to 30 mph.

Windy conditions were expected to continue Tuesday, with a high of 18 and wind chill values as low as minus 15.

Highs are expected to stay in single digits or teens all week, with overnight lows below zero through at least Friday. Temperatures are not projected to reach the 20s until Sunday.

"I just ask that (residents) make sure that they check on their neighbors, take care of their pets, make sure they're leaving their water drip and all of the preparedness things so we can make it through the week," said Jay County Emergency Management Agency director Samantha Rhodhamel.

See Concerns page 2

Exhibits on display at Arts Place locations



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

The Jay County Campus of Arts Place is featuring its first Staff & Family Show in the Weaver Community Gallery. The show includes pieces from visual arts director Allison Smiley of Ridgeville, head receptionist Teresa Penrod of Portland and staff members' spouses and children. Pictured is a display of decorative plates made by Penrod, who attends six craft shows each year.

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

One features the work of local enthusiasts.

The other asks a question about life.

Arts Place recently launched its first Staff & Family Show at its Jay County Campus while Kate Homan's Proximity & im(Permanence) shifted from the Portland location to Blackford County Arts Center in Hartford City.

The regional arts organization has never had a display focused on its own employees. But when visual arts director Allison Smiley had a gap in the Weaver Community Gallery schedule, she had an idea.

"I was like, well, I give everybody else in the community the chance to display their work, but I haven't really asked anybody from Arts Place," said the Ridgeville resident. "So I thought, well, we'll just see if anybody's interested."

When head receptionist Teresa Penrod mentioned that her daughter is a photographer, the idea expanded to

include the families of the staff as well.

"Everyone was really excited," said Smiley. "I started off with just a couple people that I knew did craft shows and it was really positive from them. So then I just asked everybody if anyone had anything they wanted to put in, they could."

That request brought in a wide variety of items, from the photography of Penrod's daughter Melinda Byers and Arts Place receptionist Greg Ashley to a mug painted by Ella Roussey, whose mom Shawnda is the Jay County center director, to an ice-dyed scarf from executive director Carolyn Carducci.

Penrod brought quite a bit of variety all by herself, including dozens of ceramic ornaments,

angel ornaments, pot holders, scrubbies, blankets and jar openers that she makes out of her leftover fabric.

"Because I hate to throw it away," she said. "Same way with the necks on the little scarves, on the little snowman ornaments."

Her items also feature decorative plates — she starts with a glass plate, then covers it with fabric and then decorates it with Mod Podge.

"I make it because I do craft shows," said Penrod, explaining that she got started with the local Delta Theta Tau show, took a break for a while and then returned. "I do six craft shows a year. ... And I really enjoyed doing it. It's a hobby I like to do."

See Exhibits page 2

Deaths Weather In review

About 11.5 inches of snow fell in Jay County on Saturday and Sunday. The high temperature Sunday was 16. The low was 9. The area is under a cold weather advisory, with tonight's low at minus 7 and wind chills as low as minus 15. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

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

## Ilah Grile

*Feb. 27, 1915-Jan. 23, 2026*  
Ilah Faye Ogan Grile, age 110, of Pennville, Indiana, passed away at 10:40 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 23, 2026, at her home with her family by her side.  
Ilah was confirmed the oldest living person in the state of Indiana.  
She was born on Saturday, Feb. 27, 1915, in Pennville, Indiana. She married Willard Herbert Grile on Sunday, April 6, 1941, in Jay County, Indiana.  
Ilah graduated from Pennville High School, Class of 1933. She

was a lifetime resident of Jay County. She sold candy door to door as a child, growing up on her parents' 40-acre farm just outside of Pennville. In her early years she discovered her love of baking.  
In 1933, she attended the World's Fair in Chicago by hitching a ride on a flatbed truck of a friend of a friend's father.  
Ilah and her husband, Willard, loved to travel, often camping across the United States. They



Grile

had been to the Badlands National Park, Yellowstone National Park and Branson, Missouri.  
Beginning in 1969, she co-owned the I&M Foodliner grocery store in Pennville with her son, Mike, for just around 18 years. Ilah was a member of the Sugar Grove Church of the Nazarene, where she taught Sunday School for over 50 years.  
Ilah will be forever missed by her son, Michael (Gilda) Grile, Pennville, Indiana; grandchildren Ryan M. (Cindy) Grile, Ossian, Indiana, and Jeff D. Grile, Pennville, Indiana; great-grand-

children, Michael, Cathryn and Allison, all of Ossian, Indiana; and several nieces and nephews.  
She was preceded in death by her husband, Willard Herbert Grile; father, William Albert Ogan; mother, Alice Arvilla (Stewart) Ogan; and siblings, Raymond Ogan, George Ogan, Keith Ogan, Edna Trythall, Mable Austin, Eva Ogan, Atha Ogan and Ruby Shoemaker.  
Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, located at 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier, Indiana, on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026, from 2 to 6 p.m. and

one hour prior to services on Monday, Feb. 2, 2026.  
A service to celebrate Ilah's life will be at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home at 11 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 2, 2026, with Pastors Dan Sickles and Mike Heckman officiating. Interment will follow in the Pennville I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Pennville.  
Preferred memorials can be made to Sugar Grove Church.  
Arrangements are being handled by Walker & Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier.  
Condolences may be expressed at glancyfuneral-homes.com.

CR almanac

Wednesday 1/28	Thursday 1/29	Friday 1/30	Saturday 1/31	Sunday 2/1
<b>12/-3</b> Wednesday's forecast shows a high around 12 degrees under mostly sunny skies.	<b>14/-1</b> The high temperature may reach up to 14 degrees Thursday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	<b>12/1</b> Mostly cloudy on Friday when temperatures are expected to hover as low as 1 degree late.	<b>16/2</b> Saturday's weather looks like mostly cloudy skies with a high of 16 degrees.	<b>18/10</b> Temperatures may begin to increase Sunday, with the high reaching up to 18.

Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$30 million	22-25-26-29-32-36-40-42-49-51-57-59-63-66-72-78-80 Cash 5: 11-18-33-36-44 Estimated jackpot: \$386,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$285 million	
<b>Hoosier</b> Sunday Midday Daily Three: 9-5-8 Daily Four: 0-4-6-8 Quick Draw: 11-16-17-18-25-27-29-32-33-47-48-52-54-59-61-64-65-67-68-76 Evening Daily Three: 7-3-3 Daily Four: 0-5-9-7 Quick Draw: 11-12-17-	<b>Ohio</b> Sunday Midday Pick 3: 8-7-1 Pick 4: 8-4-9-0 Pick 5: 3-3-0-1-6 Evening Pick 3: 8-5-9 Pick 4: 4-5-6-0 Pick 5: 8-0-3-1-7 Rolling Cash 5: 6-16-17-19-33 Estimated jackpot: \$160,000

Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.46 Feb. corn .....4.48	Wheat .....4.87
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.46 Feb. corn .....4.46 March corn .....4.40	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.32 Feb. corn .....4.32 Beans .....10.60 Feb. beans .....10.60 Wheat .....5.07
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.38 Feb. corn .....4.40 Beans .....10.56 Feb. beans .....10.60	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.46 Feb. corn .....4.46 Beans .....10.29 Feb. beans .....10.29 Wheat .....4.77

Today in history

In 1756, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart in Salzburg, Austria.

In 1880, Thomas Edison patented the incandescent lamp. He and English physicist Sir Joseph Wilson Swan developed light bulbs independently, with litigation leading to the formation of a joint company three years later.

In 1944, the army of the Soviet Union pushed German and Finnish forces out of Leningrad (now St. Petersburg). The victory ended an 872-day siege of the city.

In 1955, Chief Justice John Roberts was born in Buffalo. He served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and he has served as Chief Justice since being appointed by President George W. Bush in 2005.

In 1973, the Paris Peace Accords were

Citizen's calendar

<b>Tuesday</b> 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., Redkey. <b>Wednesday</b> 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.
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Oldest ...

Continued from page 1  
Ilah co-owned the I&M Foodliner grocery store in Pennville with her son, Mike, for about 18 years. Her first job was at Ted Langlo's shoe store in Portland and she also worked at other grocery stores, Jay Garment Company and McDonald's.  
She attended Sugar Grove Church of the Nazarene, where she was honored in 2013 for teaching Sunday School for more than 50 years.

Concerns ...

Continued from page 1  
Howell indicated several plow trucks would continue to be "staged," meaning the department sends trucks home with employees living in various parts of the county in order to plow those areas quicker.  
"We're giving it our 100% effort," said Howell.  
Portland residents spent Sunday and Monday clearing snow from sidewalks and around vehicles while city plows cleared streets, parking lots and driveways. Portland Street Department employees, including superintendent Matt Shauver, shoveled and salted the sidewalk Monday morning in front of Portland City Hall.  
"We are doing our best," Shauver said. "The guys have a heart, they want to do a good job."  
Problematic areas in Portland on Monday morning included Tyson Road, Industrial Drive and Creagor Avenue.  
Jay County Sheriff Ray Newton said his department only received a

Exhibits ...

Continued from page 1  
Homan is an Indianapolis-based artists who grew up in Portland just a few blocks from Arts Place. She works in watercolor, acrylic, and ink to wood-working and hand-engraved glass.  
She said the style of her work in Proximity & im(Permanence) helped me meditate on the question, "How do we face what overwhelms us?"  
"Painting block by tiny block reminds me that we meet whatever comes not just with grand and immediate gestures but also with ongoing, deliberate steps, making perhaps small but intentional contributions to progress every single day," she added. "Working

SERVICES

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.

Monday, Feb. 2  
**Grile**, Ilah: 11 a.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

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

Service listings provided by  
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<b>LEE ALVERSON'S TRIBUTE TO ELTON JOHN</b>	<b>SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH @ 7PM</b>	\$20.00
<b>KAITLYN SCHMIT &amp; FRIENDS</b>	<b>SATURDAY APRIL 25TH @ 7PM</b>	\$15.00

JAY COUNTY CAMPUS, HALL-MOSER THEATRE  
131 E. WALNUT ST., PORTLAND, IN 260-726-4809  
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WWW.MYARTSPPLACE.ORG

Bollenbacher & Associates, LLC, Dennis & Marianne Horn,  
Dr. Joe Trimmer in memory of Carol Trimmer

# Traveling isn’t fun without family

**By CHRIS SCHANZ**  
The Commercial Review

While I haven’t had many opportunities throughout my life, I love to travel.

I envy my friends who get to go on vacations to far away places. I heard the other day that someone I know through work, who is now retired, went to 47 countries last year.

That’s the life. I was fortunate enough to travel a handful of times on business for a previous job that took me to Texas, New Jersey and even Dubai.

Those trips were fun, of course, but at the time I was single, on my own and was just able to hop on a plane and do my own thing.

It’s different now. I have a wife and a daughter with whom I had

## Parental Ponderings



never been apart from for more than five days; trips to Las Vegas for work each of the last two Septem-

bers. Last week, though, was hands down the hardest time I’ve had as a father. My employer hosts a National Sales Seminar each year for our roofing contractors. It’s an all-hands-on-deck event that requires planning and coordination from multiple departments: market-

al sessions and various parties for 2,000 of our contractor partners. This year the event was in Nashville, Tennessee. Coincidentally, the largest trade show we attend as exhibitors, the International Roofing Expo (IRE), happened concurrently with our Seminar. Less than ideal to plan our two biggest events at the same time. While 95% of the above-mentioned departments were in Nashville, IRE was in Las Vegas and I, as the trade show coordinator, had to attend. In my role, I coordinate all of our trade shows, from planning the booth layout, to securing services and exhibit items, as well as a myriad of other tasks. And, this year I had to

go to IRE for the three days of setup, the three days of the show and then one full day of tear down. I’d check in on Jan. 17 and leave eight days later. Seven nights in Las Vegas sounds like a fun time, right? It is, just not when you leave your entire world back home 1,000 miles away. Chrissy and I made it a plan to video chat each night prior to Baby Schanz going to bed. Our daughter is just at the age where she can recognize faces on the phone, and it melted my heart the first time she saw my face come up and immediately said “Da-da!” Sometimes, the time difference made that video call a bit difficult because bedtime is right as the expo ended for

the day or around dinner time. On two occasions, I was with my team walking back to the hotel and I had to break off to hop on a quick video call before my daughter went to bed. It was so hard being away from her for that long. She’s had difficulty sleeping in her own bed recently so she’s been joining my wife and I in ours at night. That meant I was waking up every morning with my daughter next to me. It warms my happy heart to see her first thing each day. But in a dark Vegas hotel room, I was waking up by myself, still tired from the day before. I just wasn’t getting quality sleep, partly because I was sick for the fifth time in six weeks. The first couple of

nights were OK to get through. But by night five and six, the expo itself was over; the rest of my team left for their respective parts of the country and I was left by myself again after spending the first two nights without my team. I just wanted to be home with my wife and daughter. They are my world — the reason I get out of bed each day. Seven nights being away from home is long enough as is. Being gone from my girls for that long is seven nights too many. \*\*\*\*\* Chris Schanz is a former CR Sports Editor who loves to travel, just not without his family. Email him at christopher.schanz@gmail.com.

# Partner pays more to support grandsons

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship for seven years. My significant other, “Gabe,” and I bought a home together. We are also raising three of his grandsons. I pay half of the mortgage, utilities, food, maintenance and personal necessities. We both pay for our own insurance, car loans and gas. Abby, there are four of them and one of me. This means utilities and food are used more by them than by me. I’m always after the boys to turn off the lights when not in use and to shut the doors after entering and leaving the house. We live in Arizona, so you can imagine electric bills during the summer, especially in a very large home. Because Gabe earns more money than I do, I have tried talking to him about the cost. I

## Dear Abby



feel he should pay a higher percentage. Each time, I give him the monthly amount that I spent. He then goes through it with a fine-tooth comb and pays only what he thinks he should pay for. We argue about it every single month. It’s driving me nuts, and the upfront costs are breaking me. Please advise. — PAYING MORE THAN ENOUGH DEAR PAYING: That Gabe earns more than you do should have been taken into

consideration at the time you began living with him and his grandsons. Financial counseling might help you to determine what such an adjustment would mean in terms of dollars. The National Foundation for Credit Counseling is a reliable resource. Because these monthly financial disagreements could erode your relationship, please consider couples counseling in order to work out a plan that is fair for all parties concerned. \*\*\*\*\* DEAR ABBY: I’m having problems dealing with the death of my fiancé, who died by suicide 10 months ago. I blame myself partly for his death. While I realize I didn’t buy the medicine that killed him, I did move out

of the house we shared because of his attitude toward me. I can’t seem to come to terms with his death. I feel responsible because I left the home we shared. I am seeing a counselor, but I’m not making the progress I was wishing I could. Do you have any advice for me and others who’ve gone or are going through this? — SPIRALING IN FLORIDA DEAR SPIRALING: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your fiancé. When someone dies by suicide, survivors are often shocked and traumatized. You didn’t mention if your fiancé suffered from depression, job loss, a physical ailment or some other condition that may have caused him to act out. If he was abusive to you, you did the RIGHT thing by mov-

ing out. This is nothing to feel guilty for. I’m glad you are receiving counseling. Many survivors have been helped by talking things through with a licensed psychotherapist. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, established in 1987, lists worldwide suicide bereavement support groups as a public service to loss survivors. It can be accessed at afsp.org. Please don’t wait to reach out. \*\*\*\*\* Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

# Community Calendar

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

**Tuesday**  
JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard’s Restaurant.  
COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.  
A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA’S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for

substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.  
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.  
**Wednesday**  
WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.  
PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.  
EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.  
COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.  
PORTLAND EAGLES — Will meet at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eagles’ lodge, 320 N. Meridian St., Portland.  
AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St.,

Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.  
A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA’S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.  
**Thursday**  
SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.  
CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

**Friday**  
PAST RECOVERY

SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. To learn more information, please call (260) 251-3259.  
**Saturday**  
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.  
**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. Walk-ins accepted.  
BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.  
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

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

Level: Beginner

## Saturday’s Solution

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

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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6370

# Many now feel politically homeless

Chicago Tribune  
Tribune News Service

A record 45% of American adults now identify as political independents, according to new Gallup polling — up from 33% in 1990. That’s a big change.

As the ranks of the politically homeless grow, the share of Americans who call themselves Democrat or Republican continues to shrink. That’s hardly surprising.

Both parties increasingly reward the loudest, angriest voices within their coalitions, leaving many voters unwilling to claim a label that no longer reflects how they see themselves. Gallup found that many independents still lean toward one party; nonetheless, their reluctance to wear a partisan badge is telling.

It points to a broader problem: Our political leaders are

## Guest Editorial

mistaking a small but furious online minority for the country itself.

There’s a name for the system that thrives on that confusion: the rage economy.

It’s a concept increasingly used by voices such as TV journalist Chris Cuomo and state legislators such as Texas state Rep. James Talarico who discussed the term in a Jan. 13 conversation with Ezra Klein of The New York Times.

Talarico, a Texas Democrat, is in a high-stakes U.S. Senate primary against U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett. In his con-

versation with Klein, Talarico rails against billionaires who he describes as profitting off of news networks, social media platforms and algorithms that divide us instead of bringing us together.

“Because anger sells. Hate sells. Fear sells,” he said. “These billionaires and their platforms are engineering our emotions so they can profit off our pain. They are selling us conflict, and they’re calling it connection. It’s almost like feeding someone empty calories, and I think it has left people starving for actual community, for real relationships.”

Sounds about right, and we expect that such a raw expression of frustration and, yes, outrage, over a media universe hellbent on making us hate each other resonates with most people, especially that growing percentage of Ameri-

cans identifying as independent.

The online outrage cycle has intensified a kind of pendulum politics, swinging sharply from one administration to the next — two nonconsecutive Trump presidencies sandwiching a Biden era shaped by COVID and cultural battles that often felt overamplified and out of touch with how regular, reasonable people feel.

As we approach the 2026 midterm elections, the signals should be clear: More voters appear to be searching for a return to moderation and common sense. Will politicians take heed? We’re hopeful, but skeptical at the same time.

Both parties are unpopular at the moment. Recent RealClear-Polling averages say 52.5% of Americans regard the Republican Party unfavorably. That’s slightly better than the Democ-

rats who stand at 56.2% when it comes to those unimpressed.

Perhaps what we should learn about partisanship during the second Trump era is that while Democrats and Republicans are engaged in mudslinging, a growing number of Americans — especially younger Americans — want no part in it. Most Gen Z voters — and roughly half of millennials — identified as independents in 2025, according to Gallup. We suspect they realize that attack ads and one-upmanship does nothing to benefit the American people.

As both parties worry about how to come out ahead in 2026, we’d encourage less power-grabbing and more soul searching. Winning at the ballot box is step one, and step two is delivering a country — or a state or a city — that works for the people who live there.

## Republicans should behave like Reagan

By MATT WYLIE

The Charlotte Observer  
Tribune News Service

When Ronald Reagan looked at America, he saw a country rooted in liberty, anchored in the rule of law and sustained by a faith in unlimited potential and boundless opportunity.

At the heart of conservatism was Reagan’s simple truth: “The greatness of America doesn’t begin in Washington; it begins with each of you — in the mighty spirit of free people under God.”

One year into Trump’s second act, it is clear that he sees a very different America. Trump doesn’t see a free people; he sees enemies. He doesn’t see dissent; Trump sees disloyalty. He doesn’t see a republic to serve; Trump sees a country to command.

That is why Trump has turned the Justice Department into a political weapon — raiding reporters’ homes, investigating governors and bullying an independent Federal Reserve.

And when intimidation fails, the next step is force. Trump threatens to invoke the Insurrection Act while masked ICE agents roam neighborhoods, confronting Americans on their own streets and demanding identification — treating citizens like suspects in their own country.

Joe Rogan was 100% correct when he said: “You don’t want militarized people in the streets just roaming around, snatching up people.”

A government that uses fear to silence voices is not restoring order — it is dismantling freedom.

And, where is Congress? Instead of acting like a co-equal branch, it has become a protection racket for the president.

Speaker Mike Johnson and Republican leaders have been gutless, behaving like palace staff that’s terrified of offending the man they are supposed to restrain.

When Trump issued a flood of executive orders — a clear abuse of power that sets a dangerous precedent for future presidents to bypass Congress and rule by decree — Republicans did nothing.

When Trump bypassed Congress and imposed sweeping tariffs — a massive tax on the American people that replaces competition with political favoritism — Republicans did nothing.

David  
Bottorff



And now, when Trump threatens new tariffs on NATO allies to force Denmark to surrender Greenland, Republicans offer only condemnations while the president uses economic coercion to claim an independent country.

A Congress that refuses to check a president’s power becomes his accomplice. If you find yourself defending any of these actions or finding ways to justify them, you are not a Republican.

At the Republican retreat a few weeks ago, Trump joked that “If we don’t win, they’ll find a reason to impeach me. I’ll get impeached.”

That single line explains Trump’s first year of his second term.

For him, governing is not about ideology or conservative principles. It’s not about the country or the Constitution. It is about Trump — his protection, his power, his survival.

Trump understands that if he loses control, the legal and political reckoning he fears becomes real. So, he governs like a man building a fortress, not a president serving a republic.

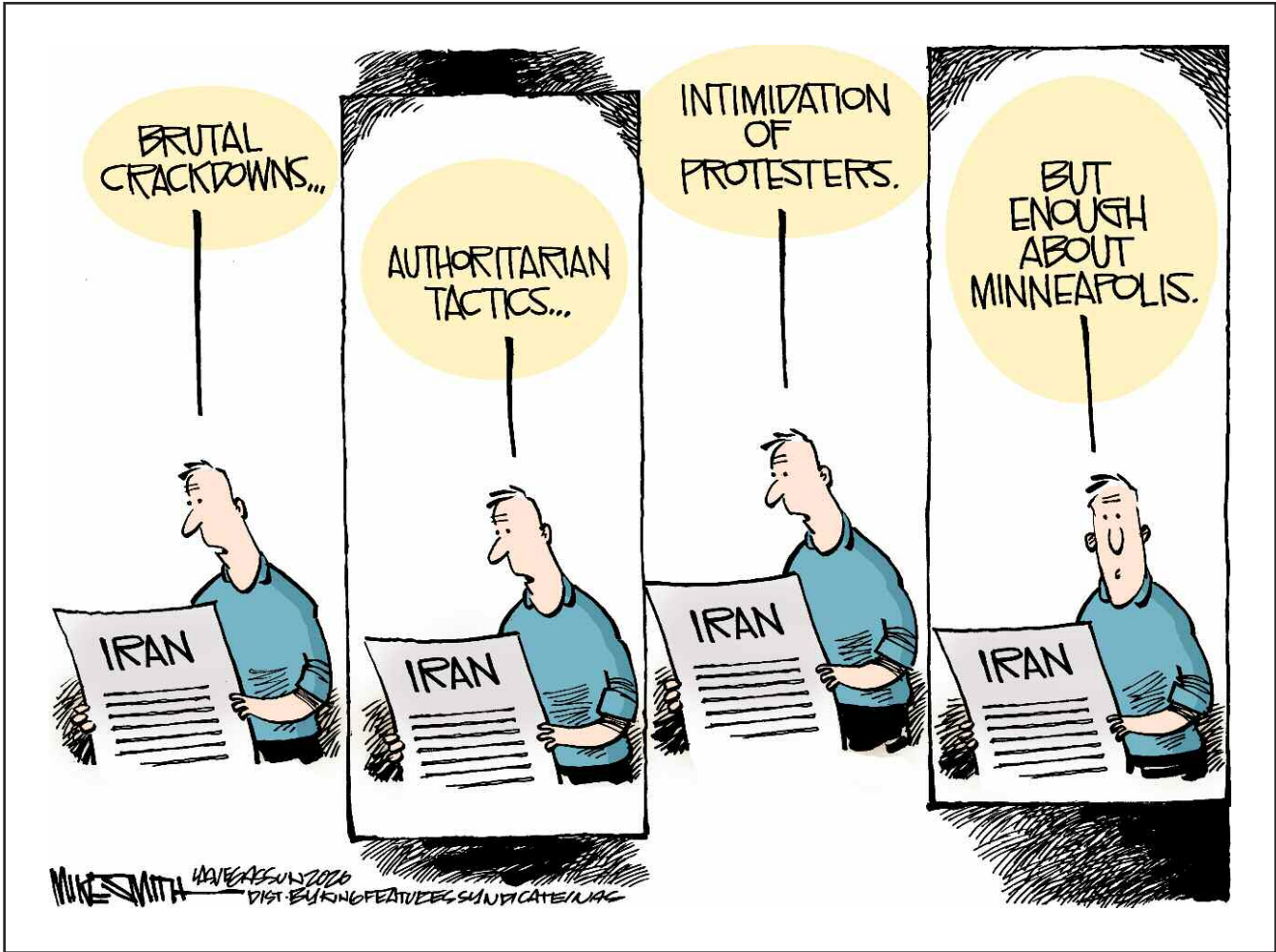
Perhaps that’s why, on the eve of our 250th birthday, we find ourselves arguing not about policies, but about power — and whether one man should wield it like a king.

America has faced moments like this before, and we have always found our way home. We have endured because we are a free people governed by consent, not by force. We are a nation ruled by laws, not by men, and a Republic built to restrain power so liberty can flourish.

It is time for Republican members of Congress to rediscover the courage and conviction of Reagan — to trust the people, to defend liberty and to remember that their first loyalty is to the Constitution and to the country it protects.

America is strongest when freedom is unleashed and government answers to the people.

Wylie is a South Carolina-based Republican political strategist and analyst.



## Affordability push is worthy effort

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Like many of you, I have watched our utility bills creep up the last three years through no fault of our own. Indeed, my husband is a hawk at turning off lights, watching the thermostat and making energy-efficient decisions.

But our bill has still ballooned — with the cooling and heating seasons delivering truly astounding bills.

One analysis found that bills from Indiana’s five investor-owned electric utilities went up 17.5% in one year, or \$28 a month on average statewide.

So, I was excited to hear that House Republicans would be tackling utility affordability.

But the bill won’t help all Hoosiers.

The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission oversees eight electric utilities and 17 natural gas utilities in the state, according to the commission. However, more than 100 municipal and Rural Electric Membership Cooperatives have withdrawn from the commission’s rate jurisdiction. That includes my provider.

Kerwin Olson, executive director of the consumer-focused Citizens Action Coalition, estimates up to 20% of Hoosiers aren’t protected by regulators — about one in five Hoosiers.

“The rationale is largely that those customers are taxpayers and constituents or voting members and can take complaints directly to the utility. Their only recourse really is common courts if they are not satisfied,” he said.

Olson thinks it’s fair in the context of investor-owned utilities needing more oversight. He does wish some

Niki  
Kelly



of the state rules on deposits, late fees, reconnect charges and efficiency programs applied to all utilities.

But that’s a fight for another day. The rest of you should be watching House Bill 1002.

Most of the bill doesn’t do anything to reduce or control your gas and electric bills. It instead provides ways to cope with them. But that doesn’t mean those provisions aren’t important.

The bill would do the following:

- Require an electricity supplier that is under the jurisdiction of the IURC to offer a low-income customer assistance program that provides financial assistance to low-income residential customers for the payment of monthly bills for utility service.

- Block service shut-offs to those customers during dangerously hot months. This protection already exists for cold-weather months — another time when bills jump but disconnection could harm Hoosiers.

- Put all ratepayers on predictable billing plans. These plans level out your monthly bills so that your costs are more consistent. But they don’t control or lower them. And ratepayers could opt out of the program if they want.

The one section that could have a positive future impact is performance-based ratemaking.

It’s a newer concept, under consid-

eration in other states, that would tie future rate increase requests to specific metrics. The Indiana bill would pair the new multi-year rate plans with performance metrics and incentives tied to customer affordability and service restoration.

Lawmakers may also look at peak load demand or environmental sustainability.

It’s unclear if the incentives would be enough to truly impact future rate increases, and customers wouldn’t see change for several years. But it’s a worthy discussion to have as Hoosiers struggle with higher costs.

Gov. Mike Braun is hoping to move the needle by revamping IURC’s membership and targeting rate hikes that pad company profits at the expense of ratepayers.

“Affordability is why I support Rep. Alaina Shonkwiler’s bill to hold investor-owned utility companies accountable to provide affordable energy before they can increase their profit margin,” he said during his State of the State speech.

“And it’s why I appointed three ratepayer-conscious members, now constituting a majority, to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission — to make decisions in the public interest to ensure utilities provide service at just and reasonable rates.”

Between the executive and legislative efforts, it’s my hope that Hoosiers will start to see the cost curve bend to a more reasonable level after years of increases.

Kelly, editor-in-chief of Indiana Capital Chronicle, has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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# Minnetrista reorganizes leadership

Minnetrista Museum & Gardens of Muncie has developed a new leadership model, with Brian Statz to remain CEO and Lindsey Horan to step into the new role of president.

Statz has been with Minnetrista since January 2023. He was previously vice president of operations and general counsel for The Children's Museum of Indianapolis.

Horan joined Minnetrista as vice president of philanthropy in 2019 and has served in various roles since then.

"This model allows Minnetrista to lead with both strategic clarity and operational strength," said Statz in a news release. "By intentionally sharing leadership at the highest level, we are better positioned to advance our mission and respond to the evolving needs of our community."

"This structure reflects the collaborative leadership culture that already exists at Minnetrista," Horan added. "I am honored that the Board has asked me to step into this role, and I look forward to

## Business roundup

expanding my partnership with Brian to continue delivering meaningful experiences to our community."

### Leaders named

Indiana Manufacturers Association has named Paul Perkins as its chair for 2026.

Perkins is president and co-founder of Amatrol. Matt Smorch, president and CEO of CountryMark, was selected as vice chair.

"The IMA's Executive Committee and Board of Directors are key to keeping the voice of Indiana's manufacturers at the center of our mission," said Andrew Berger, president and CEO of the Indiana Manufacturers Association, in a news release. "I am thankful for our volunteer leaders who contribute their time, expert-

ise and vision. I look forward to working with each of them this next year to continue to make Indiana the best state for manufacturing."

### Launching program

Indiana Chamber of Commerce's Wellness Council of Indiana is working with Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's Division of Mental Health to launch Recovery at Work.

The new program is a statewide training series designed to help employers build supportive workplaces for those struggling with substance use disorder. The two-part training sessions will be held in seven counties.

"Employers play a critical role in both preventing and addressing substance misuse, yet many feel unsure of where to start or how to expand their efforts," said Wellness Council of Indiana executive director Ashley O'Rourke in a news release. "Whether you're just getting started or expanding your efforts,

this training series will provide valuable insights to move forward.

"Substance use disorder impacts every workforce in some way, regardless of industry or size. Recovery at Work is designed to give employers practical tools, trusted partnerships and clear next steps to build recovery-ready workplaces that support their people while strengthening business stability and performance."

The training sessions are free and open to the public. Sessions in Allen County will be held April 8 and 29. Sessions in Marion County are slated for September.

### Expanding team

Shafer Leadership Academy announced last week that it will expand its facilitation team for programs in east central Indiana.

The organization said there has been increased interest from employers in manufacturing, health-care and financial services. It will add a new facilitator to support leadership programs, including

design, evaluation and continuous improvement.

"Our partners are asking for leadership development that is relevant to their people and their environment, not one-size-fits-all programming," said Tisha Gierhart, chief facilitation officer at Shafer Leadership Academy, in a news release. "Expanding our facilitation team allows us to deliver more customized experiences while maintaining the depth, quality, and intentionality our participants expect."

Shafer is a nonprofit organization that provides leadership development training through programs, facilitation and assessment.

### VP retires

Christina M. Bennett has retired from Indiana Bankers Association.

Bennett had been with the organization for 35 years. She was most recently vice president for its education department.

"The IBA has long been proud of the education we provide for our members'

employees, and Chris has been one of the key factors behind that," said Amber R. Van Til, president and CEO of the bankers association, in a press release. "She was the driving force behind our Mega Conference, which, with nearly 1,300 attendees annually, continues to set the standard for state bankers associations nationwide. We wish her the best in her well-earned retirement."

### Hosting drive

Menards stores are holding a pet supplies drive through the end of March.

Supplies needed include food, treats, feeders, collars and beds. Items collected will be donated to local humane associations.

Donation boxes will be near the doors at Menards locations, including in Muncie, Richmond and Celina, Ohio.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Does your business have news to share? Email us at news@thecr.com to be included in our weekly business roundup.*

# More could join competition for casino

By TOM DAVIES

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Three more counties would get a chance at landing a new Indiana casino under changes made to a bill moving in the Legislature.

Revisions adopted Thursday to House Bill 1038 added northeastern Indiana's DeKalb and Steuben counties and Wayne County in eastern Indiana as casino contenders with Fort Wayne's Allen County.

The original version had Allen County as the sole possible location for transfer of the casino license from the Ohio River city of Rising Sun.

The revised proposal would require the company building the new casino to spend at least \$500 million on the project within five years of the doors opening to gamblers.

### More competition

House Public Policy Committee Chair Ethan Manning, R-Logansport, said Allen County would be the most-likely site for such an investment but that the additional counties would provide more competition.

"These counties are included because they have in one way or other, raised their hands as being interested," Manning said. "They've got a significant amount of alignment within their local governments."

Wayne and Steuben county leaders pitched their communities as attractive locations for the new casino.



Metro

Indiana House Bill 1038 passed the House Public Policy Committee on a 9-1 vote Thursday. It opened the door for Wayne and Steuben counties to join Allen County in competition for a new casino. The House was set to take up the bill Monday.

Steuben County Commissioners President Wil Howard told the committee that the county in the state's far northeastern corner would draw in gamblers from Michigan and Ohio.

"In the past month, we've gained a lot of ground in terms of community support and cohesion for Steuben County being included," Howard said.

The current Rising Star Casino— owned and operated by Las Vegas-based Full House Resorts — generates the least casino tax in the state and has seen revenues plummet since casinos opened in Ohio and gambling expanded in Kentucky.

Full House has for several years sought permission to move the casino to a new location, but the revised bill would allow all operators of Indiana's current 13 state-regulated casinos to submit proposals for the license transfer.

### Other considerations

A study released by the Indiana Gaming Commission in October found that Indianapolis was the top location for a casino relocation, followed by northeast Indiana.

While the Indianapolis region would bring the state more tax revenue, the study found it would also hurt the two casinos nearby

in Shelbyville and Anderson that also have horse tracks and help support the horse racing industry. The Fort Wayne area was seen as more of an open market, impacting casinos in Ohio and Michigan.

Among details of the proposal: •The Indiana Gaming Commission would select the new casino operator by April 15, 2027.

•While a city mayor and board of county commissioners would need to endorse any casino proposals for a site in their communities, the bill doesn't provide for a voter referendum on local support as many previous casino projects have required.

•The company winning the project would pay a \$50 million fee to the state over a five-year period.

•If Full House doesn't obtain the transferred license, the winning company would have to pay the fair market value of the Rising Star Casino as determined by an independent consultant hired by the gaming commission.

Another provision calls for the new casino's operator to pay a total of \$30 million to the city of Rising Sun and Ohio County as compensation for their lost casino tax revenue.

Rising Sun City Attorney Andrew Baudendistel said that compensation level was inadequate as the city and county have averaged about \$5 million in annual casino tax revenue in recent years. He suggested the city and county receive a small percentage of the new casino's revenue in perpetuity.

Baudendistel also said the bill should include requirements for assisting with redevelopment of the casino site "to ensure an abandoned lot and riverboat aren't the first thing you see when entering our city."

Some Indianapolis legislators have pushed for a downtown casino in the city, but have been rebuffed.

"That remains very difficult for me to square, based on the evidence as studies have consistently shown Indianapolis would be the most productive location for a casino," said committee member Rep. Blake Johnson, D-Indianapolis.

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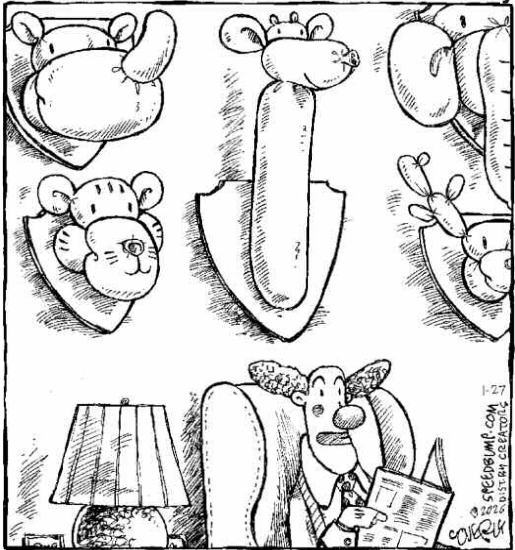
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First things first

South dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ K 8 2  
♥ K 8 7 3  
♦ 5 4 2  
♣ Q J 5

**WEST**  
♠ A 10 9 3  
♥ 5 4  
♦ Q J 9 7  
♣ 10 7 3

**EAST**  
♠ 7 6 5 4  
♥ A Q  
♦ 10 8 3  
♣ 9 8 4 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ Q J  
♥ J 10 9 6 2  
♦ A K 6  
♣ A K 6

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass  
3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass

Opening lead — diamond queen.

did made no difference in the actual hand — and then played low from dummy. East won with the queen and returned a diamond. Declarer eventually went down one, losing a spade, two trumps and a diamond.

South should have made the contract, however. The fault lay in the order of his plays. Instead of leading a trump at trick two, he should have led a spade, preferably the jack. The best West can do in that case is to rise with the ace and lead another diamond.

South wins with the king and cashes the queen of spades. He then crosses to dummy with a club and discards his diamond loser on the king of spades. The only tricks declarer loses on this line of play are a spade and two trumps.

Note that the critical difference between the two methods of play is the question of timing. The recommended line of play allows declarer to establish a spade winner before the defenders can establish a diamond winner, allowing declarer to win the race against time.

While it is true that in the majority of deals, declarer tackles the trump suit as soon as possible, it would be wrong to do so in the present case, as it unnecessarily jeopardizes the contract.

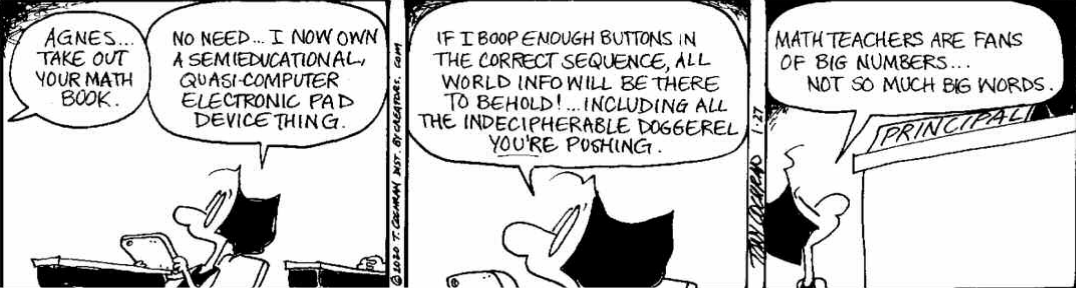
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



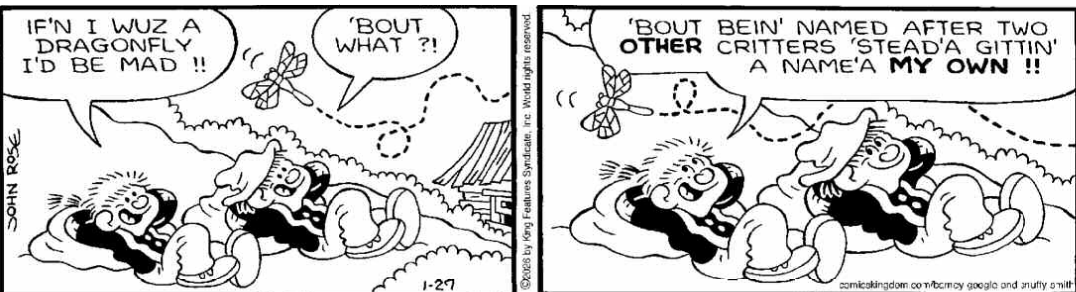
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



1-27

CRYPTOQUIP

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W S W B I U P C I Q J D H G D C V N F X N  
W H W X C F B W V W B G P C, D I

Z W N Q P P C N J S P B - N P P G P G .  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PRODUCT MADE SPECIFICALLY FOR THE CLEANING OF CERTAIN CURLY-HAIRED DOGS' COATS: SHAMPOODLE.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals D

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Impudent  
5 Tibetan monk  
9 La-la lead-in  
12 Norwegian saint  
13 United — Emirates  
14 Klutz  
15 Highest accolades  
17 Links org.  
18 Farm heavy-weights  
19 More mature  
21 Bonkers  
24 Crunchy cookie  
25 Oodles  
26 Cute word for pets  
30 Econ. measure  
31 Dessert wines  
32 Luau garland  
33 Vintage wrinkle removers  
35 Made into lumber  
36 Agitate  
37 Lyrics

**DOWN**

38 "Blue" singer  
40 Detail, in short  
42 "Yucky!"  
43 Hush-hush  
48 Count starter  
49 Holly-wood's Kazan  
50 Eternities  
51 Lith., once  
52 Cozy rooms  
53 Castle  
54 Fury  
55 Off in the distance  
56 Tic-tac-toe loser  
57 Meadow  
58 Really  
59 Whirl  
60 Ad  
61 Council ads, briefly  
62 Flamenco cheer  
63 Kanga's kid  
64 Rock producer  
65 "For shame!"

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

Yesterday's answer 1-27

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word  
3 insertions.....96¢/  
word  
6 insertions.... \$1.14/  
word  
12 insertions. \$1.52/  
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26 insertions. \$1.77/  
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# ACAC ...

Continued from page 8

“I think we just came together as a team,” Westgerdes said. “Especially during practice, we really put the work in and we were hyping each other up. I feel like that led to the big time drops.”

Glentzer wasn’t done as he broke the ACAC record in the 500 freestyle. Daniel Burson of South Adams previously set the record of 5:14.89 in 2015. Glentzer shaved over four seconds off that time with a 5:10.13.

Glentzer was tied with Bluffton’s Graham Linderwell 175 yards into the race, but by the next time down the pool he had a 10-yard lead he’d never give up.

“He did scare me, I’ll admit that,” Glentzer said about realizing Linderwell was gaining on him. “Then I realized he’ll just be pushing me harder, so I could hopefully go faster and hopefully get the ACAC record by even more than what I was hoping.”

The only other win for the boys came from Warvel in the 100 butterfly with a time of 55.11.

The 100 butterfly was a big race for the girls as well. While the Patriots claimed nine of 12 victories, their depth supported the team championship effort. Jay County swept the top three spots with Elly Bryum winning with a time of 1:05.18, Brooklynn Byrum, her sister, took second in 1:07.66 and Kaitlyn Fisher placed third in 1:07.90.

“It was great,” Brooklynn Byrum said. “Slavik went through and looked at everyone’s times and found ways to get the most points, so he decided all three of us, we could sweep it. ... It helps tremendously because if



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County freshman Grady Warvel swims the butterfly leg of the 200-yard medley relay during the ACAC Championship Meet that the Patriots took second place in with 352 points. Warvel, along with Cooper Glentzer, Carson Westgerdes and Peyton Yowell, set a new ACAC record in the relay at 1 minute, 43.83 seconds.

you win every single event, but your next-placed person in fifth you aren’t going to win. Having multiple people that are good, or at least decent, in an event helps rack up more points.”

The Byrum sisters claimed wins in their other events as well. A strong breaststroke leg helped Brooklynn Byrum grit out a victory in the 200 individual medley with a 2:34.31. A 26.48-second swim had Elly Byrum sitting atop the 50 freestyle field.

Joining Elly Byrum with multiple first-place finishes was Maria Laux. The JCHS freshman grabbed her first victory in the 100 freestyle with a time of 57.64 seconds. Three events later, Laux swam a 1:06.32 in the 100 backstroke to hit the wall first.

The only other individual victory came from Lauren Fisher in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:19.62.

Jay County also claimed all three relays. Laux, Lauren Fisher, Brooklynn Byrum and Elly

Bryum combined for the 200 medley relay (2:00.58), Sophia Hoevel replaced Brooklynn Byrum for the 200 freestyle relay (1:48.44) and the winning squad for the 400 freestyle relay (4:13.02) consisted of Brooklynn Byrum, Kali Wendel, Ariel Beiswanger and Hoevel.

The success at the ACAC tournament came despite a disruption to the normal mid-year training for Jay County. Due to a problem with the pool’s heater, the Patriots didn’t swim as much

yardage as previous seasons during winter break and even had to cancel a few dual meets.

“Our first conversation we had this year was about resilience,” Slavik said. “What are you going to do to overcome? We’ve spent time focusing on the mental side of things. ... With high school kids, they can physically do this stuff, but it’s a matter of what they’re going to tell themselves to do it. I think that’s a big aspect of staying as consistent as possible.”

# FRHS ...

Continued from page 8

Despite the loss, Deanna Brown put together a great performance, rolling games of 235 and 225 pins for a 460 series. Lilah Thien also beat all of the Cavaliers with a 397 series off the back of a 204-pin first game.

Outside of the top two bowlers, the Tribe (10-3, 5-1 Midwest Athletic Conference) had some struggles. Malia Grisez finished with a 296 series, Jadyn Wyerick rolled a 261 and Claire Gaerke added a game of 129 pins.

The Indians couldn’t make up the ground in the Baker games as Coldwater (10-2, 6-0 MAC) outscored it 936-897.

The Cavaliers remain perfect in the MAC, while the Tribe gets its first loss. FRHS will need to make up for it in the MAC tournament to share the conference crown.

**Cavs roll**

MINSTER, Ohio — Despite two Indians turning in series above 430 pins, Fort Recovery’s boys bowling team fell to the Coldwater Cavaliers 3,253-3,013 at Community Lanes on Saturday.

Anthony Roessner shot the high game and series for the Indians (10-4, 4-3 MAC). He opened with a 209 before knocking down 234 pins in the second for a total of 443.

Gabe Acheson also put in a strong day with games of 204 and 231 for a 435 series.

Carter Miller led Coldwater (12-1, 7-0 MAC) with a match-high 257 pins in the first game and 245 in the second for 502. All five Cavaliers produced a series of 425 pins or better as only two of the 10 individual games fell under 200.

The remaining scores for the Tribe came from Reece LeFevre (386), Garrett Diller (384) and A.J. Siefring (348).

Fort Recovery outpaced CHS in the Baker series 1,017-930, but it wasn’t enough to come all the way back.

# JCHS ...

Continued from page 8

**Sisters secure win**

The Schwietermans ran amok on the Southern Wells Raiders in the Jay County High School girls basketball team’s 71-35 victory on Saturday.

Hallie Schwieterman scored with ease in the first half, finding the hoop eight times for 17 of her game-high 24 points.

Karsyn Schwieterman also put together a strong 16 minutes to open the game with 15 points, including a pair of threes for Jay County (14-7, 4-1 Allen County Athletic Conference).

Southern Wells (12-7, 2-4 ACAC) couldn’t slow the rest of the Patriots as six more scored in the contest with Elizabeth Brunswick leading the rest of the group with seven points. Claudia Dirksen scored a career-high six points with three made shots.

Raylah Newton hit a triple in the fourth quarter and had a pair of free throws in the first for five points. Araitz Lekue Magro and Natalie May each found the basket twice and Charlee Peters scored one bucket in the win.

**Third in ACAC**

BLUFFTON — Three Patriots finished as the runners-up in their weight classes as the Jay County High School boys wrestling team placed third at the Allen County Athletic Conference tournament hosted by Bluffton on Friday.

The Patriots racked up 212 points, finishing behind ACAC champion Adams Central with 270.5 and runner-up South Adams with 224.

Sylas Wenk, Bryan Fields and Spencer Smitley all came within one match of the championship.

Wenk pinned Adams

Central’s Owen Macklin in one minute to reach the 120-pound final. He lasted into the second period against Max Adams of South Adams before falling.

Fields secured a 12-3 major decision over Ryker Dollar of Southern Wells in the 175 semifinal, but lost by technical fall to Alexander Schwartz of ACHS 21-1 in the championship.

Smitley had to go through two opponents to reach the 285 title match, but still couldn’t secure the win. He lost to Heritage’s Junior Vallejo in a 4-2 decision.

JCHS also had eight wrestlers take third place. They were Corbin Lothridge (106), Alex Rivers (126), Cooper Glassford (132), Jason Landers (138), Gabe Ardizzzone (144), Jacob Robinson (150), Caleb Sibray (165) and Alan Ortiz (215).

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

**Today**

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.

**Wednesday**

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.

## TV schedule

**Today**

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)

**Wednesday**

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

6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Baylor at Cincinnati (FS1)

7 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Cleveland Cavaliers (ESPN); Chicago Bulls at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)

7 p.m. — College basketball: Texas at Auburn (ESPN2); USC at Iowa (BTN)

7:30 p.m. — NHL: Philadelphia Flyers at

Columbus Blue Jackets (TNT)

9 p.m. — College basketball: Houston at TCU (ESPN2); Minnesota at Wisconsin (BTN)

9:30 p.m. — NBA: San Antonio Spurs at Houston Rockets (ESPN)

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

11 p.m. — College basketball: UCLA at Oregon (BTN)

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

<div><div>90 SALE CALENDAR</div><div><div>PUBLIC AUCTION</div><div>Saturday, February 14th, 2026</div><div>10:00am</div><div>OPEN HOUSE February 2nd, 4-6 PM</div><div>BLACKFORD COUNTY HOUSE~</div><div>BUILDINGS~POND APPROX 5 ACRES</div><div>BLACKFORD SCHOOLS</div><div>3 BEDROOM ~ 2 BATH</div><div>1576 SQUARE FEET~2 CAR GARAGE</div><div>TRACT 1: Buildings~ Pond~ Approx. 5 Acres</div><div>TRACT 2: Approx. 30 Acres</div><div>TRACT 3: Tract 1 &amp; 2 Combined</div><div>Seller: JUDY KAY WASHBURN ESTATE</div><div>IAA Auctioneer</div><div>HEARTLAND Auction &amp; Realty, INC.</div><div>445 E 100 N, Decatur, IN</div><div>260-724-3499</div><div>ELLENBERGER Auctions, Inc.</div><div>AUCTION COMPANY NUMBER, AC30200063</div><div>PRINCIPAL AUCTIONEER,</div></div></div> <div><div>90 SALE CALENDAR</div><div><div>RON KING, AU19500129</div><div>JESSTON NUS-BAUMER, AU19600119</div><div>AARON SCHAEFER, AU1160015</div><div>KENT ARNOLD, AU19600255</div></div><div><div>PUBLIC AUCTION</div><div>Located: Women's Building at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 E Votaw St., Portland, IN Thursday Afternoon-JANUARY 29, 2026</div><div>4:30 P.M.HOUSEHOLD GOOD - OLD &amp; COLLECTORS ITEMS-MISC9 drawer dresser with mirror; glass door display china cabinet; 3 cushion sofa; glider 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 bottles; Cabbage Patch; set of Pfaltzgraff dishes; cir-</div></div></div>	<div><div>190 FARMERS COLUMN</div><div><div>AG RENTAL</div><div>Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery</div><div>419-852-0309</div></div></div> <div><div>200 FOR RENT</div><div><div>LEASE SPACE</div><div>available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamorespace.com</div></div><div><div>STORAGE UNITS FOR RENT</div><div>Starting at \$45.00 a month. 260-251-2563</div></div><div><div>210 WANTED TO RENT</div><div><div>2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH</div><div>Newly remodel. \$800.00 Month plus gas &amp; electric. Prefer older couple. 1 small pet allowed. 260-251-2563</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>230 AUTOS, TRUCKS</div><div><div>WE PAY CASH</div><div>for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocum's Salvage</div></div></div> <div><div>250 PUBLIC NOTICE</div><div><div>Public Notice</div><div>Town of Pennville Ordinance Number 2025-30 Vacate Public Right Away Description of the Public right away: Alley running north and south between Kentucky St and Illinois St. East of Meridian St and West of Union St. Parcels of subject are 38-01-27-402-003.000-011 lot 6 &amp; 7 38-01-27-402-004.000-011 lot 5 and 38-01-27-402-002.000-011 lots 30, 31 &amp; 32 Alley is unimproved/undeveloped for public passing. Alley is abutted by one property owner on all sides. Property abutting the alley is owned by sole property owner. To abandon through public access between the parcels listed above. I.C. 36-7-3-16 provides that a vacation of property does not deprive a public of the use of all or part of the vacated property if the utility is occupying and using the vacated property for its operations. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Town Council and publication, as required by law. Passed and Adopted by the Council of the Town of Pennville, this 30th day of December, 2025. Michael Armstrong Branda Mannis Attest: Krista M. Scholer, Clerk-Treasurer CR 1-27-2026-HSPAXLP</div></div></div> <div><div>250 PUBLIC NOTICE</div><div><div>Public Notice</div><div>NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF LAND OCCUPIERS TO BE HELD FOR THE JAY COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT To all occupiers of lands lying within the boundaries of the Jay County Soil and Water Conservation District, notice is hereby given that on the 25th day of February 2026, beginning at 6:00 P.M, an annual meeting will be held for the purpose of making a full and due report of their activities and financial affairs since the last annual meeting and to select a supervisor for the Jay County Soil and Water Conservation District of the State of Indiana. All land occupiers and other interested parties are entitled to attend. The meeting will be held at the Bob Schmit Memorial Building, Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland, Indiana. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Kurt Theurer – Chairman Barry Miller – Vice Chairman Carl Walker – Secretary Rick Imel – Treasurer Betty Drinkut – Supervisor Steve Rines – Associate Supervisor CR 1-27-2026-HSPAXLP</div></div></div>
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# Titles and times

## Patriot girls reclaim ACAC championship; boys set meet records

By **ANDREW BALKO**  
The Commercial Review

The Patriot girls ran the table to reclaim the conference title. The boys could only muster a second-place finish, but had some promising swims to get excited about.

The Jay County High School swim team had a lot to be excited about as it hosted the Allen County Athletic Conference Championship Meet on Saturday.

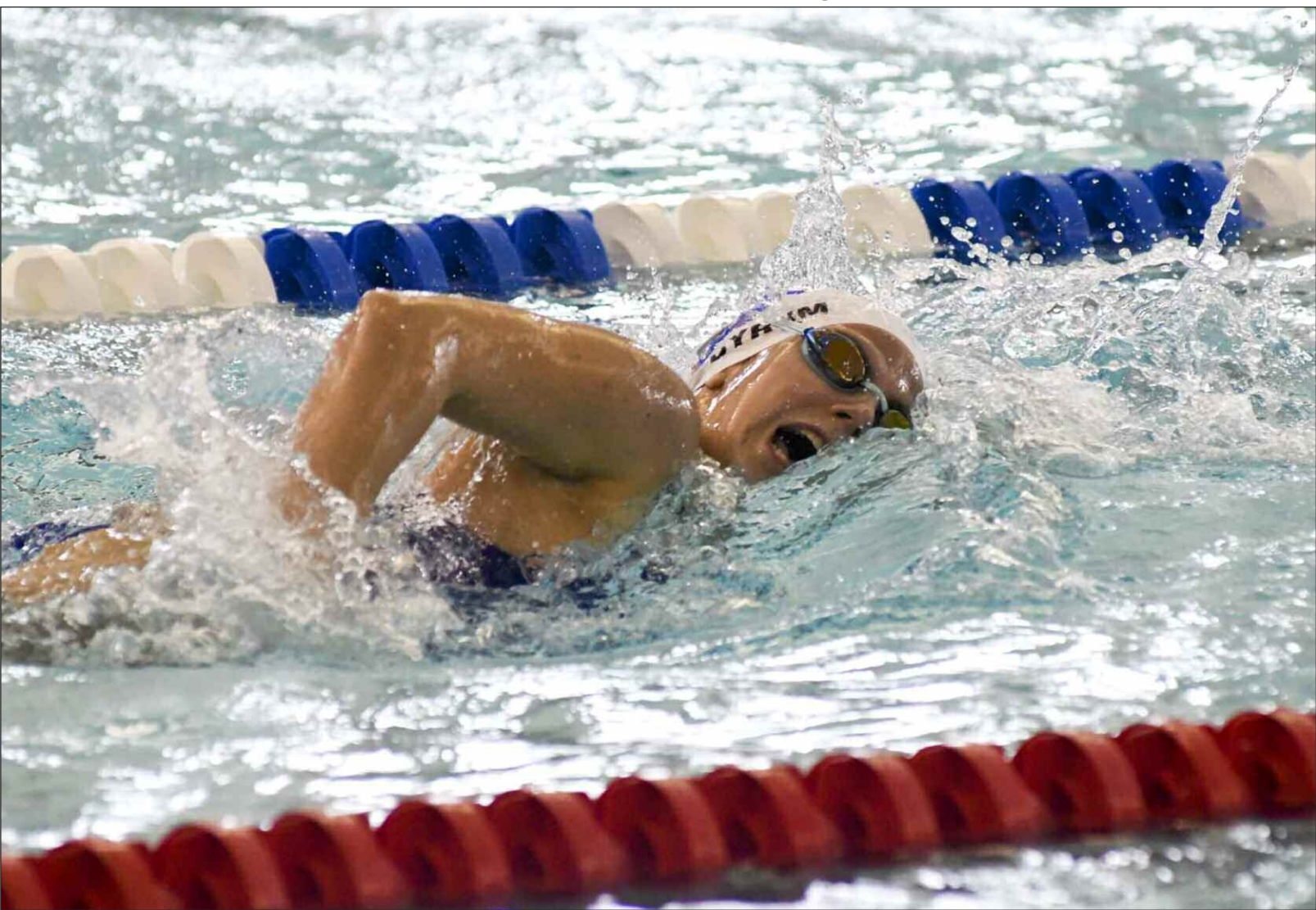
The Patriot girls claimed the top spot in nine events, had five runners-up and five third-place finishes to rack up 452 points for the victory. Bluffton took second with 343 while defending ACAC champion South Adams fell to third with 171 points.

“The girls had an amazing day today,” said JCHS coach Matt Slavik. “If we were to look across the board, I think we’d find 95% best times. Between winning events and placing deep in events, the girls had a phenomenal day. Everybody swam as good as we could have hoped. ... I’m pretty happy for them.”

The boys won three events en route to 352 points for second place. Bluffton dominated with eight wins and 473 points for the ACAC crown, while the only other victory went to third-place Adams Central (273).

“The boys were phenomenal today,” Slavik said. “Two of the five records broken today came from our boys. ... I told the boys, I couldn’t have scripted it any better than what they swam. They outperformed what my expectations were and anytime that happens, you know something’s clicking.”

The boys set a pair of ACAC meet records. It started with the 200-yard medley relay.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Brooklynn Byrum, a sophomore on the Jay County High School girls swim team, finishes out the 200-yard individual medley with the freestyle leg during Saturday’s Allen County Athletic Conference Championship meet hosted in the Patriots’ pool. Byrum won the event in 2 minutes, 34.31 seconds and was on two relays that claimed first to help JCHS bring the conference title back to Portland with 452 points after it spent the last year with South Adams.

Cooper Glentzer led off with the backstroke and gave the Patriots an early lead against Bluffton. Carson Westgerdes and Grady Warvel held a small

lead over the Tigers during the breaststroke and butterfly legs of the race and Peyton Yowell finished off the freestyle portion.

All four Patriots dropped time in the event for a swim of 1 minute, 43.83 seconds. Bluffton’s 200 medley relay team from 2020 held the previous record, which

was 0.4 slower. Westgerdes and Yowell dropped the most time, shaving nearly two seconds off of their respective legs.

See **ACAC** page 7

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# JCHS girls draw New Castle in opener

The Patriots just picked off the defending champion of their sectional and may get to see them again soon.

The IHSAA released the Class 3A Sectional 24 tournament bracket, which will be hosted by Yorktown, on Sunday.

The Jay County High School girls basketball team drew a first round game against the New Castle Trojans (13-7) at 6 p.m. on Feb. 3. The Patriots have already beat the Trojans by 17 points on Dec. 18.

Should JCHS beat New Castle in the tournament opener, they will face defending sectional champion Delta (15-7) for the 6

p.m. semifinal on Feb. 6. The Patriots recently visited Muncie and managed to beat the Eagles by four points after having their season ended by Delta in 2025.

On the opposite side of the bracket, Connersville (15-6) and Hamilton Heights (14-6) will face off in an opening round game for a shot at host Yorktown (9-10) in the semifinal. Jay County beat Yorktown by

seven points to close out 2025, fell to HHHS by 16 early in the year and have not faced off with the Spartans.

The Championship game will be held on Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m.

The sectional appears to be wide open with five teams that have Sagarin ratings of 71 points or higher. Based on the Sagarin ratings, Connersville (88.33) would be the favorite with Jay County (79.18), New Castle (75.36) and Delta (74.47) not far behind. Hamilton Heights and Yorktown aren’t far behind either with ratings of 71.96 and 67.64, respectively.

See **JCHS** page 7

# FRHS girls build three game win streak

FORT RECOVERY — The Tribe found a soft spot in their schedule against South Adams. Then the Indians grabbed a big win against Coldwater. They rode that wave of momentum as they had no trouble with the Jets.

The Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team picked up its third consecutive victory with a 53-16 victory over the Franklin Monroe Jets on Saturday.

Maddie Schoenlein had a career day for the Indians (5-12). She scored 14 points, including 11 as part of a 20-point first quarter for the Tribe. Other Indians to score in the opening period included Paisley Hart with a three, Makenna Huelkamp with a bucket and two free throws and Cameron Muhlenkamp with one hoop.

Huelkamp led all scorers in the game with 17 points. FRHS had 10 players find the basket.

The defense showed up as Franklin Monroe (2-13) didn’t hit a single field goal in the second or fourth quarters. Alivia Addis led the Jets with 10 points, while Caydance Nichols added four and Kyra Brandt had two.

**Tribe falls**

UNION CITY, Ohio — Fort Recovery’s boys basketball team faltered in the fourth

**Fort Recovery Roundup**

quarter during Saturday’s 34-32 loss to the Mississinawa Valley Blackhawks.

The Indians held a 22-20 advantage heading into the final eight minutes, but were outscored by MVHS 14-10.

Hudson Overman scored the high mark for Fort Recovery (9-6) with 13 points, followed by Breaker Jutte’s nine.

Colson Post and Braylon Dilworth each sank a 3-point shot, while Brody Barga and Grant Fortkamp found the basket once.

Cling Scott led the Blackhawks (9-7) with 12 points, including four fourth-quarter points. Cole McGlothlin followed with seven.

**First loss**

MINSTER, Ohio — The Fort Recovery girls bowling team suffered its first conference loss of the season to the Coldwater Cavaliers on Saturday at Community Lanes 2,696-2,574.

See **FRHS** page 7