

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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\$1

## National presentation

### Jay County coalition will share at leadership forum

By BAILEY CALL

The Commercial Review

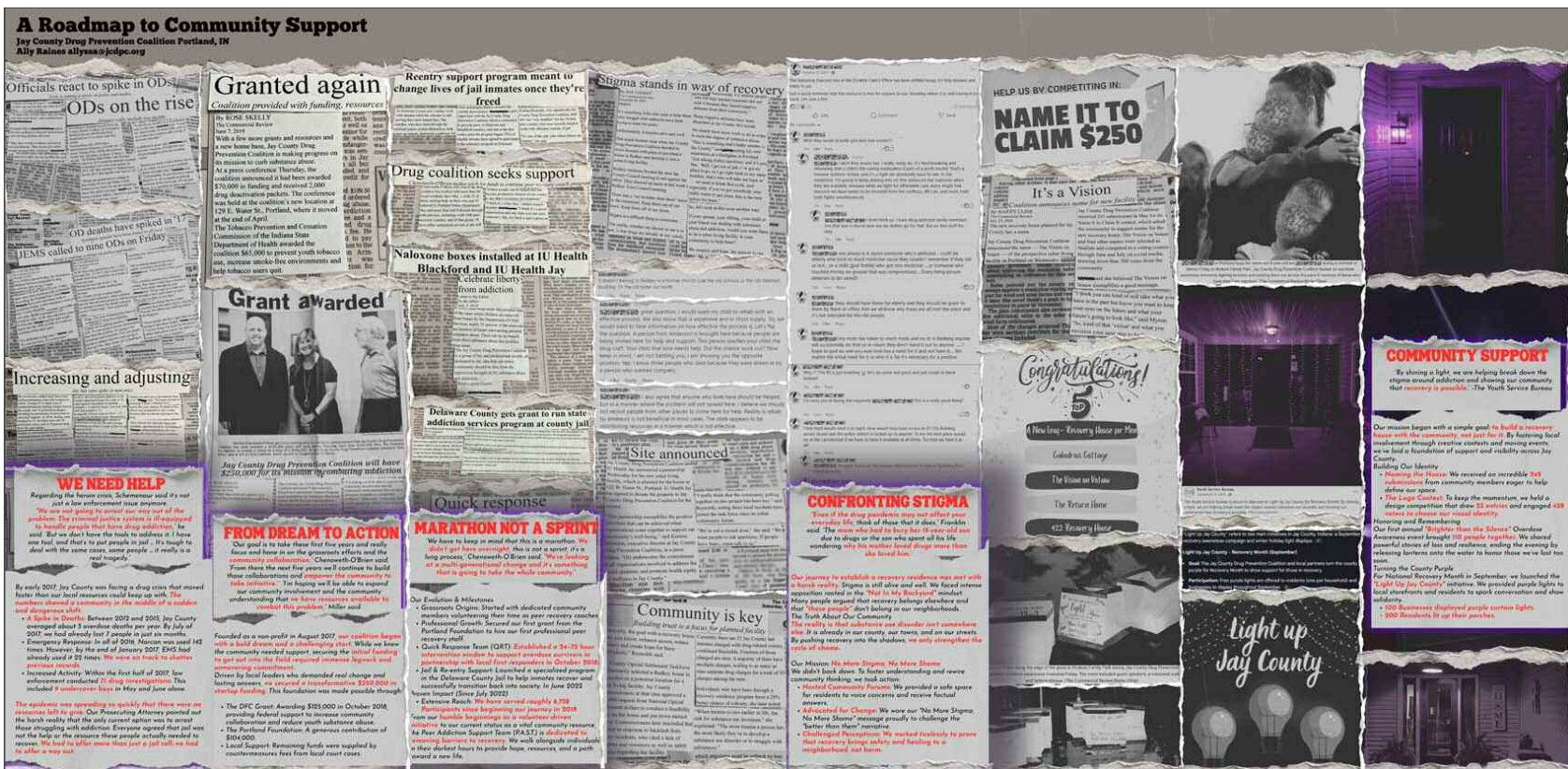
A local organization will represent Jay County on the national level next week.

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition will share an educational session and a poster presentation at the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) National Leadership Forum.

The nationwide event, hosted in National Harbor, Maryland, kicks off Monday and continues through Feb. 5. It serves as the United States' largest gathering aimed at substance use prevention, treatment and recovery.

"This is a great honor to be selected to present," Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition executive director Kimbra Reynolds said. "They receive thousands of requests to present, so we're honored to be able to show CADCA what the community has been able to do together."

Reynolds will present a session called, "Turning Loss Into Action," which explains how the organization's suicide and overdose fatality reviews have been used to identify system gaps, strengthen coordination and inform data-driven community solutions.



Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition

The Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition poster pictured above will be part of the organization's presentation next week at the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) National Leadership Forum. It walks through a timeline of Jay County's progress in the addiction prevention and recovery fields.

Reynolds has also been selected to serve as chair of the Indiana coalitions during the forum's state delegation meeting. "Our coalition has become a leader in the state for the suicide and

overdose fatality review process ... the community, kind of came together and looked at their gaps to make some changes to help reduce suicides and overdoses," Reynolds said. Those changes have

included major projects such as the prospective recovery home, The Vision on Votav, as well as efforts like connecting individuals who are leaving incarceration to the services they need.

Overdose fatality reviews, she said, are not about pointing fingers when it comes to identifying and filling gaps in services. "That's never the thought process behind a

review — it's about where in our community can we fill in gaps so that individuals don't fall through the cracks, and we don't have to attend a funeral," she said. See Presentation page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Call

## Jay Co. rate is lowest in 32 months

The local unemployment rate came in at 2.5% in December

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The unemployment rate continued to drop through the end of 2025.

Jay County's unemployment rate for December came in at 2.5%, the lowest in more than two and a half years, according to estimates Indiana Department of Workforce Development released Wednesday.

The local unemployment rate went down by 0.8 percentage points last month after coming in at 3.3% in November. The last time the rate was as low as 2.5% was April 2023.

It has been below 4% since July. It has gone down in each of the last three reports after hitting 3.9% in August. There was no report in October because of the federal government shutdown.

Jay County's rate was down by 1.2 percentage points from December 2024.

Unemployment numbers were down throughout the region, with every county adjacent to Jay seeing drops of 0.5 percentage points or more.

See Rate page 2

## Travel conditions have improved

By BAILEY CALL

and RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Plow drivers have been making progress on snow-covered county roads.

Things were beginning to get back to normal Thursday, with Jay School Corporation students returning to in-person classes after Jay County's status was downgraded to a travel advisory Wednesday evening.

Heavy snow and windy conditions made for a challenging situation plowing this week for Jay County Highway Department, as high winds Tuesday caused blowing and drifting snow that quickly erased progress.

With calmer wind conditions Wednesday, the department started making significant headway.

"Most everything is two lanes (now)," said Jay County Highway Department superintendent Bob Howell on Thursday morning. "They're out there working on just pushing (the snow) back and cleaning intersections."

### County reduced to advisory, schools go back to in-person

Snow began falling about 5 p.m. Saturday and continued throughout the day Sunday, totaling about 11.5 inches in Jay County. That led to hazardous conditions and the county twice instituting a travel warning, which calls for refraining from all travel. It shifted to a travel watch at 10 a.m. Wednesday and was down to a travel advisory, the lowest level in Indiana, by that evening.

Howell pointed to the vast amount of snow as well as slick spots on the roads as continuing challenges. Plans were to re-evaluate after the highway department finished plowing Thursday evening.

Jay County Highway Department workers have been plowing

from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Along with fighting the wind and snow to keep roads clear, the department also had five trucks break down this week — all but one were back on the road as of noon Thursday — because of the extreme conditions.

"We're ready for a reset," Howell said.

While winds that had caused problems with drifting snow covering roads that were previously cleared have calmed down, frigid temperatures continued. Wind chills reached as low as minus 16 degrees this week, and the National Weather Service projected tonight's low at minus 7 with wind chills reaching minus 16 again.

Temperatures are not expected to climb back into the 20s until Monday.

Jay School Corporation returned to in-person classes Thursday after missing four school days because of frigid temperatures on Jan. 23 and the weekend storm that followed. Fort Recovery Local Schools, which were on a three-hour delay Wednesday, held classes on a two-hour delay Thursday.

Adams, Wells, Blackford, Randolph and Delaware counties were also on travel advisories as of noon Thursday.

Jay County Emergency Management Agency director Samantha Rhodehamel cautioned residents to drive slowly this week, pointing to slick roads. She also asked residents to be mindful of those around them and check on neighbors and pets amid the frigid temperatures.

"We should all just be good neighbors and citizens and help each other out," she said.

### Deaths

Carlton Rhoades, 83, Fort Recovery  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

The high temperature Wednesday in Jay County was 16 degrees. The low was minus 3, with wind chills as low as minus 20.

The forecast calls for a low of minus 7 tonight. Skies will be partly cloudy Saturday with a high of 12.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

The Commercial Review will be upgrading its website soon. Subscribers will need to have a phone number on file with us to use to log in for the first time, after which they will be able to set up their own password. If you do not have a phone number on file with us, or if you are not sure, please call us at (260) 726-8141. Our target launch date for the new site is Feb. 3.



# Obituaries

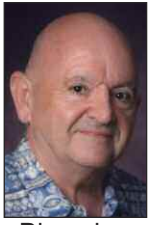
## Carlton Rhoades

Oct. 19, 1942-Jan. 27, 2026  
Carlton "Ram" Rhoades, age 83, of Fort Recovery, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026. He was born on Oct. 19, 1942, in Greenville, Ohio, to the late Hiram and Mary (Cline) Rhoades.

In addition to his parents, Carlton was preceded in death by his siblings, Ralph Rhoades, Mary Jean and Norval Brigner, Royce (Jeanette) Rhoades, Norman Rhoades, Marvin Rhoades and Marlene Rhoades; his sister-in-law, Margaret Rhoades; his

brother-in-law, Jack Cummings; his father- and mother-in-law Dana "Pinkie" and Mabel (Hoffman) Gebele; and his in-laws, Jeanette and Roy Emery, Helen Gebele and Larry Stone.

Carlton is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary (Gebele) Rhoades, whom he married on Sept. 28, 1968; his son, Kevin Rhoades of Columbus, Ohio; his siblings, Richard Rhoades of Greenville, Ohio, Donald (Judy)



Rhoades

Rhoades of Tipp City, Ohio, and Ilene Cummings of Union City; his sisters-in-law, Rosemary Rhoades of Winchester; and his in-laws, Jeannine Kemper of St. Henry, Ohio, and Irene Stone of Fort Recovery.

Carlton worked for Westinghouse for many years and then for R&R Fabrication, where he retired. Carlton had a lifelong passion for sports, especially Ohio State University sports, and was a loyal supporter of the Fort Recovery Indians, rarely missing an opportunity to watch their basketball and baseball games. He also enjoyed har-

ness racing, watching the Little Brown Jug and looked forward each year to attending the Great Darke County Fair. One of his favorite pastimes was mushroom hunting, something that he was a pro at.

A celebration of Carlton's life will be held at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026, at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery. Burial will take place in St. Mary's Cemetery at a later date.

Guests may visit with Carlton's family on Sunday from 2 p.m. until the start of the service at 5:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be given to the American Heart Association.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting [brockmanboeckmanfh.com](http://brockmanboeckmanfh.com).

*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

Saturday 1/31	Sunday 2/1	Monday 2/2	Tuesday 2/3	Wednesday 2/4
<b>16/0</b>	<b>20/9</b>	<b>23/15</b>	<b>27/19</b>	<b>26/17</b>
Cloudy skies on Saturday when the low may dip to right at zero degrees.	Sunday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a high around 20 degrees.	Cloudy skies with temperatures in the mid 20s on Monday.	Tuesday's forecast shows cloudy skies with temperatures in the upper 20s.	There's a 50% chance of snow on Wednesday when the high may reach 26.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> 21-35-40-46-68 Power Ball: 11 Power Play: 10 Estimated jackpot: \$57 million	Daily Four: 9-7-7-6 Quick Draw: 4-10-11-12-15-16-23-34-39-41-45-48-55-58-59-60-61-70-78-80 Cash 5: 14-18-30-32-40 Estimated jackpot: \$443,500
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$303 million	<b>Ohio</b> Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 1-6-7 Pick 4: 3-4-4-6 Pick 5: 0-0-3-2-2 Evening Pick 3: 3-4-7 Pick 4: 9-1-6-7 Pick 5: 5-8-8-0-4 Rolling Cash: 1-16-19-26-31 Estimated jackpot: \$192,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 9-6-7 Daily Four: 5-1-9-3 Quick Draw: 1-2-4-10-11-19-21-26-31-32-37-39-40-42-50-51-52-53-58-65 Evening Daily Three: 7-6-6	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.50 Feb. corn.....4.50	Wheat ..... 5.04
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.50 Feb. corn.....4.50 March corn.....4.45	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.34 Feb. corn.....4.34 Beans.....10.67 Feb. beans.....10.67 Wheat .....5.24
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn.....4.43 Feb. corn.....4.43 Beans.....10.67 Feb. beans.....10.67	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.48 Feb. corn.....4.48 Beans.....10.36 Feb. beans.....10.36 Wheat .....4.94

## Today in history

In 1649, England's King Charles I was publicly executed outside the Banqueting House in Whitehall, London, after being convicted of treason during the English Civil War. His death helped usher in a brief period without a monarchy, known as the Commonwealth.

In 1933, Adolf Hitler was named chancellor of Germany by then-president Paul Hindenburg. Initially intimidated by Hitler's popularity, Hindenburg originally refused to put him into power. After a round of elections and negotiations, he caved. Hitler's rule led to World War II and the murder of some 6 million Jews and other victims of the Holocaust.

In 1948, Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in New Delhi, India during a prayer vigil. Shot by Hindu extremist Nathuram Godse, Gandhi was known for his nonviolent protests leading to India's independence from Britain. A year later, approximately 100,000 people prayed at the site in remembrance of Gandhi.

In 1969, the Beatles gave their famous rooftop performance atop Apple Corps headquarters in London, joined by keyboardist Billy Preston.

In 2015, Dallas Dudelston and Andy Kohler of Jay County won their first sectional titles, bringing the Jay County wrestling team to a third-place finish at its tournament that weekend. Dudelston had also won the Allen County Athletic Conference about a week prior.

— The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Monday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St., Portland. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 Main St.	<b>Tuesday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Jay/Portland Building Department Interlocal Joint Board, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.
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# Presentation ...

Continued from page 1  
Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition director of prevention services Ally Raines and peer recovery coach Cara Cramer will present a poster highlighting the county's progress from rising overdose deaths in 2017 to developing long-term strategies for prevention. Director of recovery services Sara Mann and prevention coordinator Mason Edwards will also join the Jay County team next week.

Raines said she feels blessed to be able to present at the forum, explaining that it speaks volumes to the organization and community's progress in combating the opioid epidemic.

"I think that just shows where we're at and how

much growing we've done since we started," she said. "It's just great to be recognized for something we do, because in the moment, we think what we're doing is so small, but in the grand scheme, it's like, you look at the bigger picture and see all of the impact we have made in the last few years."

The poster she, Cramer and coalition marketing coordinator Mekayla Nichols created walks through a timeline of Jay County's progress in the addiction prevention and recovery fields. It starts with the rising number of overdoses in 2017 and points to the Drug-Free Communities grant awarded to the coalition the following year to help

with prevention. The poster also mentions various programs and fundraising opportunities made available in Jay County over the last nine years, including its September overdose awareness memorial event at Hudson Family Park in Portland.

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition has attended the forum for multiple years and presented once before. This year, the coalition was chosen through a national review process, with the organization submitting its abstract, lesson objectives and other materials in July. It learned in October it would be presenting.

According to its website, the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's

upcoming forum is anticipated to have more than 4,000 attendees from across the globe. It also includes more than 100 workshops, sessions and various professional development opportunities.

Creating the poster put the coalition's work into perspective for Raines.

"In the moment, sometimes you don't feel like you're making a difference, but then you look back at it and you're like, 'Whoa, look at where we've come,'" she said. "I just think it's huge, and then being able to share that on the national level, it's just overwhelming, but it's wonderful, you know? Just being able to show what a little county can do is huge."

# Rate ...

Continued from page 1  
Wells County matched Jay County for the largest decline in the region of 0.8 percentage points and was tied for the third-lowest rate in the state.

Union County continued to lead the state with the lowest unemployment rate of 1.7%. Dubois County was next at 2%.

Howard County again posted the highest rate in Indiana at 4%. Starke County (3.7%) was the only other county above 3.5%.

Area unemployment rates are as follows:

Adams County: 2.4%, down 0.7 percentage points, tied for 22nd-lowest

Blackford County: 3.1%, down 0.6 percentage points, tied for 12th-highest

Delaware County: 3%, down 0.5 percentage points, tied for 15th-highest

Grant County: 3%, down 0.6 percentage points, tied for 15th-highest

Henry County: 2.8%, down 0.6 percentage points, tied for 25th-highest

Jay County: 2.5%, down 0.8 percentage points, tied for 36th-lowest

Randolph County: 2.8%, down 0.7 percentage points, tied for 25th-highest

Wayne County: 2.7%, down 0.8 percentage points, tied for 31st-highest

Wells County: 2.1%, down 0.6 percentage points, tied for third-lowest

# Capsule Reports

### Intersection crash

Two Indiana residents were injured after a crash at the intersection of Indiana 67 and county road 125 South about 7 a.m. Tuesday.

Joachim Jean Jacques, 71, was driving a 2021 Toyota Highlander south on Indiana 67. Emily L. Richards, 42, Dunkirk, was driving her 2017 Ford Explorer and stopped in front of Jean Jacques before turning left onto county road 125 South. Jean Jacques' vehicle crashed into the back of Richards' car. His vehicle then went left of center and struck a northbound 2016 Ford Escape driven by 19-year-old Cohen C. Henry of Redkey on Indiana 67.

Jean Jacques was transported to IU Health Jay for head pain. Henry was taken by family to the hospital as well for a minor head injury.

The vehicles Henry and Jean Jacques were driving were towed. Damage is esti-

mated between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

### Lost control

A Fort Wayne man lost control of his vehicle and crashed into the truck an Ohio man was driving at the intersection of county road 200 West and 300 North about 9:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Seth M. Krumma, 25, was driving his 1988 Ford F-150 north on county road 200 West when he tried to stop at its intersection with county road 300 North. He told police he couldn't stop because of the slick road surface, and his truck drove into a westbound 2022 Chevrolet Silverado driven by 43-year-old Joseph D. Posada of Celina, Ohio.

Both vehicles were towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000. The truck driven by Posada is registered to Homan Incorporated of Maria Stein, Ohio.

# Felony arrests

### Burglary

A Bryant man was arrested Tuesday for burglary.

Brayden M. Andrews-Reinhard, 18, 206 N. Hendricks St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 4 felony.

He was being held in Jay County Jail on a \$15,000 bond.

### Marijuana

A Muncie man was arrested Wednesday for possession of marijuana.

Andre L. Washington, 19, 309 N. Jefferson St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony.

He was released on a \$3,000 bond from Jay County Jail.

## SERVICES

Sunday, Feb. 1

Rhoades, Carlton: 5:30 p.m., Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, 308 S. Wayne St., Fort Recovery.

Monday, Feb. 2

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

Saturday, Feb. 28

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

Service listings provided by

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## Duck donations

Jay County High School student council raised \$700 for Jay County Cancer Society this year with its “Quack Attack” and “Chuck-a-Duck” activities. Students accepted donations for one week at lunchtime to “Quack Attack” a teacher’s classroom, leaving rubber ducks in their wake. Student council also set up an event, “Chuck-a-Duck,” at Jay County High School’s boys basketball game against South Adams Jan. 23, with participants throwing balloons decorated like ducks for a chance to win prizes.

# Learn about heart health

An opportunity to learn about heart health comes next month.

Mercer Health will host Community Health Education: Heart Disease Diagnosis and Treatment at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, at its Marion Campus, 8106 Booster Drive, Maria Stein, Ohio.

The event will include cardiologists Dr. Jerry Boley and Dr. Todd Brophy as well as emergency medical physician Dr. Craig Dues. They will provide information on heart and coronary artery disease, how doctors identify it and what can be done to prevent and treat it.

For more information, email [myhealth@merc-health.com](mailto:myhealth@merc-health.com) or call (419) 678-5247.

Mercer Health Moms Support Group is also entering its second year in support of mothers and young children. It will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays, Jan. 26, Feb. 23, March 9, April 20, May 18 and June 8.

For more information, contact the Mercer Health Childbirth Center visit [merc-health.com](http://merc-health.com) at (419) 678-5670.

### Scholarships ready

Indiana Sheriffs’ Association is awarding scholar-

## Taking Note

ships to students in the criminal justice field again this year.

The association grants college scholarships to qualified high school seniors or college students who are pursuing a degree in criminal justice. Scholarships are \$1,000. Indiana Sheriffs’ Association plans to award approximately 40 students throughout the state.

To qualify, applicants must live in Indiana, serve as a member of the association or a dependent child or grandchild of an association member, attend an Indiana college or university as a full-time student and major in a law enforcement field.

Applications are available at Jay County Junior-Senior High School, Jay County Sheriff’s Office and [indianasheriffs.org/programs/scholarship-program/](http://indianasheriffs.org/programs/scholarship-program/).

They must be completed and received by the association on or before April 1.

### Exhibit open

The exhibit Emmett Till & Mamie Till-Mobley: Let the World See is open at Minnetrista Museum & Gardens in Muncie.

The exhibit examines the life and legacy of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old who was murdered in 1955, and his mother Mamie Till-Mobley. It features images and first-hand narratives about Till-Mobley’s effort to tell the world what happened to her son.

“Emmett Till’s story is not distant history — it continues to shape the world we live in,” said Sebastián Encina, director of curation and exhibition at Minnetrista. “This exhibition asks visitors to sit with the reality of what happened, to understand the courage of Mamie Till-Mobley, and to recognize how memory, truth, and responsibility are deeply connected. Remembering is not passive work — it requires attention, care, and action.”

The exhibit will run through April 12.

### Dean’s list

A Pennville resident recently made the dean’s list at a Maryland college.

Terri Thompson earned the honor for the fall semester at University of Maryland Global Campus.

# Relatives ignored girl for years, until now

DEAR ABBY: I am a 38-year-old woman with a 21-year-old daughter, “Penny.” I got pregnant at 16 and was very much alone, with little help from those around me. For a variety of reasons, I decided not to involve the father or his family. They knew I was pregnant but chose to remain uninvolved and haven’t helped in any way. I worked hard to build a life for Penny and myself, and I have remained single all this time. Her father has since passed away, but he had several other children, and his parents still live in our same small town.

I thought my secret (and right to privacy) had been respected, but I recently found out that someone told Penny about her “other family” several years ago. On my daughter’s 21st

## Dear Abby



birthday, her paternal grandma called her and told her she had a birthday gift for her. This “birthday gift” was a paternity test. Come to find out, Grandma is in poor health, and her other granddaughter was her primary caregiver, but the young woman has now moved across the country. I suspect Grandma wants Penny to assume this role.

Penny is angry with me for not being honest about her history and angry that her grandmother, who has known about

her for many years, is choosing to acknowledge a relationship only now. I am furious that they are putting my daughter in this situation. Am I wrong? How can I smooth this over? — SECRET’S OUT IN COLORADO

**DEAR SECRET’S OUT:** Apologize to Penny for keeping the information about her father from her. Explain that you did it because the story is ugly and you hoped to spare her the pain you experienced as a teenager. Because you live in a small town, it was unrealistic to think that this kind of secret would not come to light one day. That Penny’s grandmother would introduce herself in this way was selfish and cruel, and I hope

your daughter will not allow herself to become ensnared.

DEAR ABBY: I am in multiple online groups (such as academia, work, etc.) that insist on using my full first name. They require my full first name for legal reasons and do not offer an area to input the name I actually use. I know many people have far worse problems, but it gets on my nerves that everyone I interact with calls me by a formal name I have never used.

Even when I sign my emails and texts with the correct name (which is simply cutting six letters off the end of the formal name), people still call me by my whole name. I have tried emailing, “You can just call me XXX,” but it is often ignored. It really gets under my skin.

Is there a polite way to correct them, or must I try harder not to care? I have considered changing my name legally, but it is far more trouble than it’s worth. — MISNOMER IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR MISNOMER:** Because being called by a name you don’t like bothers you to the extent that you would write about it to me, my advice is to stop grinning and bearing it and MAKE the time to have your name legally changed.

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](http://DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

# Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

### 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., Port-

land. 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 – BRI-

ANNA’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.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

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 Unit-

ed 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. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

### Tuesday

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 – BRI-ANNA’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.

# Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

### Thursday’s Solution

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

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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# Can Indiana find a way to thrive?

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Hoosiers feel pride when one of their own does well. IU football, a previously unknown activity, was discovered just recently. Hence, IU shirts and caps abounded on Hoosier heads statewide as the team kept winning deep into the postseason.

But internally, jealousy and disdain dominate. Indianapolis is treated as a burden upon the rest of the state, accused of stealing its growth via manipulations in the Legislature. However, Marion County has been denied, by that same set of Solons, much of what it has needed over the years.

A unified local government was never created. "Independent" Lawrence, Beech Grove and Speedway continue their

**Morton J. Marcus**



parasitic existence. Ten silly towns (including Clermont, Crows Nest, Meridian Hills and Williams Creek) remain as taxing units without any meaningful functions in the county. Public transit must stop at the county line (except where it may bring workers to selected locations).

Some say all this is racism, rampantly resisting reality. Yes, but it's more than that alone. It is

also anti-urbanism. It is the American nightmare of single-family, owner-occupied housing with none of the amenities of urban life.

Despite these conditions, Marion and its eight adjacent counties had 74% of the state's population growth over the past 10 years. Those nine counties grew by 11.6% and the balance of the state by only 1.8%.

Among the 92 townships of the Indianapolis area, there were considerable disparities of change. Just eight townships accounted for 52% of the population growth.

Each of them (four in Hamilton County, two in Marion, and one each in Hendricks and Johnson) added more than 10,000 resi-

dents. Those townships alone provided more than half of the growth experienced by the 67 growing townships. Another 25 townships, together, lost just 4,800 residents.

Shelby County saw eight of its 14 townships lose population, but that was offset by three townships growing sufficiently to keep the county in the positive growth column.

While we don't have space for more detail, the essential policy questions remain: What, if any, population policies should Indiana and its counties have on the type and distribution of housing?

Indianapolis and its suburbs have been the story of the past decade. The interstate highway

system has been a major part of that story. Other significant cities all had their interstates avoid downtown. Indianapolis has no natural boundaries, but it does have hostile governments surrounding it.

Can Indiana cities and the state develop a consensus on development, or will all those decisions be made elsewhere? Can we find a way to prosper, or are we destined to be a flyover state?

Remember, to win, IU had to import a coach, his staff and his team?

\*\*\*\*\*

Marcus is an economist formerly at the IU Kelley School of Business. Contact him via email at [mortonjmarcus@gmail.com](mailto:mortonjmarcus@gmail.com).

## Keep notices in newspapers

Pharos-Tribune

(Logansport)

Tribune News Service

An Indiana House bill focused on reforms involving regulated industries like horse racing, riverboat gaming and alcohol also includes a change that would impede the public's right to know in advance of important information that could impact their community.

House Bill 1052, titled Various Administrative Law Matters and authored by Rep. Ethan Manning (R-Logansport), covers a lot of ground. According to the bill's official summary, it seeks to:

- Add sports wagering certificate holders to the voluntary exclusion program;

- Define and establish civil and criminal penalties for conducting a "sweepstakes game;"

- Establish requirements for the wholesale sale and distribution of tobacco products and electronic cigarettes; and

- Add additional information an applicant must provide to the alcohol and tobacco commission when applying for a tobacco sales certificate.

In regard to the last item, one of the changes the bill makes is to remove the requirement that notice of alcohol applications be printed in the newspaper. If the bill becomes law, the notice requirement can be satisfied by posting on the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission's website for free instead of paying for a public notice in the newspaper.

The bill was assigned to the Public Policy Committee, which is chaired by the author and heard last week. Manning held the bill for additional amendments and it has yet to be taken up again as of Jan. 22.

The Hoosier State Press Association has since learned of three instances in which the ATC made errors in public notice, including one which caused a permittee to have to close operations and restart the permitting process. Based on the HSPA's understanding, these were errors by the ATC, not the newspaper.

The HSPA conveyed this information to Manning this month and suggested that it demonstrated the continued need for checks and balances, including having notices published at the local level, not just on the agency website.

A similar bill, House Bill 1283, would have the Indiana Office of Technology

## Hoosier Editorial

establish a state public notice website which would allow a person or business to satisfy any notice statute. Public notices currently have to be printed in a newspaper, including print edition or electronic edition. It also requires the Indiana archives and records administration to establish standards and guidelines and enter into memoranda of understanding with agencies for the transfer and preservation of public notices from the state public notice website to the administration to preserve public notices for historical purposes.

House Bill 1283 passed the Government and Regulatory Reform Committee on Jan. 14 but no action has been taken since.

If it is the will of the legislature to remove public notices from newspapers, that discussion should not take place ad hoc agency by agency.

During debate of HB 1283, several people representing local government testified in favor. Their reasonings included the number of papers that don't publish every day, fewer people receiving the newspaper, and the fact that everything is online. Several HSPA members also testified, focusing on concerns about diluting the public's ability to see notices and the fact that not everyone has easy access to the internet, a point which seemed to resonate with some committee members.

We realize the goal of these bills is to save money and create efficiency, but would that actually happen?

The proposed state website would have one person managing the public notices for the entire state. Currently, dozens of public notice experts are employed by newspapers around the state. The HSPA has also supported many changes to reduce costs, including waiting to print public notices until there are multiple notices and supporting legislation that would allow notices to be published on a newspaper's website first before print publication.

Manning's HB 1052 will help Hoosiers if passed into law, but the provision on alcohol applications must be dropped.



## As D.C. debates, Iran is bleeding

By JAMES STAVRIDIS

Bloomberg Opinion

Tribune News Service

Even as the world focuses on the future of Greenland, the Trump administration has effectively walked away from events in Iran. Following the largest protests in the country since the 1979 revolution, President Donald Trump put the theocratic regime on notice that further killing of protesters would provoke a U.S. response. He later appeared to accept assurances that the executions had been halted — claims that many observers doubt. Credible human rights organizations believe that thousands, perhaps as many as 5,000 to 10,000 dissenters, have been killed in recent weeks.

Meanwhile, a U.S. carrier strike group, centered on the massive nuclear-powered warship USS Abraham Lincoln and its embarked air wing of nearly 80 combat aircraft, is reportedly heading from the South China Sea to the North Arabian Sea. If the ayatollahs return — as they likely will — to large-scale, indiscriminate killing of protesters, what options are available to the president?

Let's start with the carrier itself. I commanded a carrier strike group in those waters at the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism, just over two decades ago. I was a newly promoted one-star admiral, and we launched strikes against Iraq, Afghanistan and terrorist targets in the Horn of Africa during our six-month deployment. Even a single carrier strike group is capable of considerable combat power, as the Venezuelans recently learned. And, most importantly, unlike land-based forces, no "host country" has veto authority over the six acres of sovereign U.S. territory represented by our huge carriers.

If the president chose to use kinetic capability from the deck of the carrier, he could conduct precise strikes against Iranian air defenses using both bombs and electronic warfare. The F/A-18 Hornets aboard the carri-

**James Stavridis**



er could also strike high-value leadership targets (including the mullahs); command-and-control facilities of the Revolutionary Guards and the conventional military; the logistics supply chains of both the military and the civilian police — including the ironically named "morality police;" or critical elements of the Islamic Republic's energy infrastructure such as maritime installations, refineries and port facilities.

Operating alongside the carrier and its potent air wing would be U.S. Navy surface ships — primarily cruisers and destroyers — equipped with long-range Tomahawk land-attack missiles. These cruise missiles with a 1,500-mile range are highly precise and could be used against the same targets. They would likely be launched before manned aircraft to decimate Iranian air defenses.

These strikes would almost certainly be conducted alongside U.S. Air Force operations from our bases in the region. Reportedly, at least one squadron of F-15 Strike Eagle aircraft has already arrived in Jordan, and additional support — aerial refuelers and cargo aircraft — could deploy to the logistics support base at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. Air strikes from Al Udeid Air Base in Doha, Qatar, are also likely, although several Gulf Arab states may be reluctant to permit strikes to launch from their soil.

In addition to U.S. forces, we have an asset in the region that does not exist in the Caribbean against Venezuela: Israel. Israel provides the largest and best-defended set of airfields in the region. The Israel Defense Forces would likely partici-

pate in any major mission, particularly one directed at decapitating Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. The U.S. and Israel, operating as an integrated joint force, have an enormous array of kinetic options to deploy against Iran.

There are also non-kinetic options the Trump administration could select. At the top of the list is offensive cyber activity, again potentially conducted in concert with Israel's cyberwarriors. Targets could include Iran's energy sector, consumer supply chains, military command and control nodes, police and Revolutionary Guard facilities, telephone systems, and military production infrastructure — notably facilities that produce drones and ballistic missiles.

Information operations would likely be part of these cyber efforts. This could include taking control of Iran's internet infrastructure — blocking all regime use while enabling the opposition to better coordinate their efforts and illuminate the atrocities that are almost certainly occurring. Such actions would support the dissenters and help their psychological campaign to mobilize the population and further weaken the rotten theocracy that leads Iran.

While the U.S. and most of its European allies are understandably absorbed by the drama surrounding a potential U.S. move on Greenland, a far larger strategic game is underway in the Middle East. Trump has a comprehensive array of options to come to the aid of Iran's brave protesters. Acting now may be the best opportunity in decades to effect an internal regime change in Iran. The question is whether the brave opposition can once again capture the wavering attention of Washington. Let's hope they do.

\*\*\*\*\*

Stavridis is dean emeritus of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He is on the boards of Aon, Fortinet and Ankura Consulting Group.

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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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# 'Natural thermometer'

## Study looks at how plants adapt as temps drop

Iowa State University

AMES, Iowa — The mystery of how plants survive freezing temperatures and rebound after winter has long fascinated scientists, including Iowa State University professor of horticulture, Rajeev Arora, an expert in the cold physiology of plants.

Arora is particularly interested in the "fascinating phenomenon" of cold-induced "thermonasty," characterized by the curling and drooping of leaves, which some plants use to adapt to cold temperatures.

"More thermonasty means more cold-hardiness," Arora said. "Though it is not common, it does happen in several species of broad-leaved Rhododendron, a large family of woody evergreens popular as landscape plants."

Could the extent of thermonasty under freezing temperatures be employed by breeders as a screening tool to identify more freeze-tolerant genotypes in their efforts to breed stress-resilient cultivars?" Arora wondered.

To better understand this complex and poorly understood process, he wanted to study the way these changes take place in a natural setting in real time. To do so, Arora worked with David Livingston, a USDA Agricultural Research Service scientist, located at North Carolina State University. They conducted detailed time-lapse infrared thermography of Rhododendrons under natural freezing episodes to track the progressive dynamics of the nighttime freezing process and thermonasty. Because energy in the form of heat is released during freezing, infrared thermography can pinpoint subtle changes that occur precisely when and where ice forms in plant tissues.

Their results showed that, as the soil froze, ice formation was initiated at different locations within the stems and trunks of the rhododendron shrubs. It started predominantly at about 25 to 28



Iowa State University/Paul Christiansen

degrees, affecting the upper portions of the stem and then spread in both directions. In the leaves, ice formed initially in the tissues of the midrib, then moved through the plant's vascular, or circulatory, system via veins within the leaves. The recordings also captured the point — at one or two degrees colder than the freeze-initiation — when leaves began to roll inward from the midrib. As air temperatures dropped, the leaves continued to roll and curl downward into a more vertical position. In the morning, as air temperatures rose above freezing, the leaves slowly unfurled, regaining their pre-frozen configuration. Short videos of the process can be viewed in a publication in the scientific journal *Physiologia Plantarum*, where the

researchers share their findings.

For the first time, their study demonstrated that freezing precedes thermonasty, supporting earlier theories by Arora and others that it serves as a "natural thermometer."

"We propose that thermonasty functions as a photoprotective strategy to reduce light absorbance, preventing cell damage from frigid conditions. Otherwise, the large leaf surface area of these Rhododendrons would harvest radiation beyond their capacity to utilize it when freezing temperatures cause sluggish photosynthetic biochemistry. Such surplus energy can release undesirable free radicals and damage tender plant cells from freezing" he said. "We hypothesize that thermonasty can also

prevent damage from too-rapid thawing."

The researchers also wanted to better understand what controls the rolling and movement of leaves during thermonasty. For this, they examined the cellular dynamics of movement in the anatomy of the plants' leaf blades and stalks and devised additional tests, including a cellulose-based paper experiment that allowed them to simulate the rolling effect. The results suggest that, along with a physiological cause, thermonastic movement is also driven by mechanical processes caused by the non-uniform contraction of cellulose fibers of cell walls in the upper versus lower cells of leaf blades.

"Cells contract as they lose water, which changes to ice crystals inside the vascular

Iowa State professor of horticulture Rajeev Arora looks at a couple of Rhododendron hybrids displaying rolled and drooping leaves typical of cold-weather thermonasty. Arora is working with David Livingston, a USDA Agricultural Research Service scientist, at North Carolina State University on time-lapse infrared thermography of Rhododendrons under natural freezing episodes to track the progressive dynamics of the nighttime freezing process and thermonasty.

system and outside the cells," Arora said. "This leads to a more pronounced contraction of the lower cells relative to the upper ones, causing the leaves to roll with the stiff midrib serving as a brace. Similar behavior — but from uneven expansion of cellulose fibers — can lead to warping of wooden planks under humid conditions."

Arora and his co-authors believe it may be possible to use the larger and more easily observed leaves of Rhododendron as a model to study thermonasty in crop plants, including maize, wheat, rye, oats and barley, which behave similarly under freezing and drought stress, with hardier crops (like rye) rolling significantly more when frozen than less hardy plants (like oats).

## Purdue names a new extension director

Purdue Ag News

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Bernie Engel, the Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agriculture, has appointed Angie Abbott as associate dean and director of Purdue Extension, effective immediately. Abbott has 22 years of experience with Purdue Extension.

"Angie is an incredible champion for the Extension mission," Engel said. "Extension is in the right hands moving forward as we enter a time of transition and opportunity."

Abbott earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Ball State University and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Creighton University. She began her career in Extension as a director and Extension specialist for the Nutrition Education Program.

That led to her appointment to leadership positions for Health and Human Sciences Extension and then to assistant dean in 2017.

She has served as interim associate dean during the last two years as Extension underwent an internal strategic review process.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to work with the dedicated Purdue Extension professionals who make an impact across Indiana each day," Abbott said. "Together we can build on Purdue Extension's strong foundation, expand our reach, and advance innovative approaches to support our youth, farmers, families and communities."

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SOMEONE'S BEEN USING MY PHONE, TOO, AND THEY ORDERED TWO MATTRESSES, A CHAIR AND PORRIDGE TAKEOUT.

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bill Keane

1-30  
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**"All present and accounted for! Four children and eight mittens!"**

**Contract Bridge** By Steve Becker

**Test your play**

This is a double-dummy problem, which means it is entirely proper to look at all four hands as you seek a solution. Players who enjoy solving double-dummy problems will get a kick out of this one, but be forewarned: This is not an easy problem.

South is declarer at Seven Hearts, and West leads the jack of spades. South is to make the contract against best defense by East-West.

**NORTH**  
♠ A K  
♥ A 10 8  
♦ A Q 8 6 3  
♣ Q 5 4

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

**SOUTH**  
♠ 7 3 2  
♥ K Q 7 6 5 2  
♦ K  
♣ A 10 7

cash the ace of clubs, then lead a trump to dummy's ace and cash the ace of diamonds, discarding a club. This is now the position:

**North**  
♠ A  
♥ Q  
♦ Q 5

**West**  
♠ 10 9  
♣ J 9

**South**  
♠ 7 3  
♥ 7  
♦ 10

Cash the queen of diamonds, discarding your ten of clubs. East cannot afford to discard a club on this trick since you could then ruff the five of clubs, felling the king, to make the contract. So let's assume East discards a spade.

West also cannot find a satisfactory discard on the diamond queen. First, let's assume he discards a spade. In that case, you would cash the ace of spades and score your 13th trick with the seven of spades.

So let's say West discards the nine of clubs in the diagrammed position. You would then counter by leading the queen of clubs from dummy, collecting East's king and establishing dummy's five. Thus, whether East elects to cover the queen or not, you score an extra club trick to make the contract.

Here is the solution. Win the spade lead with dummy's king and play a diamond to your king. Then lead a low trump and finesse the eight.

Ruff the six of diamonds with your queen and return a low heart to dummy's ten. After ruffing the eight of diamonds with your king,

Tomorrow: Clubbed into submission.  
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**Peanuts**

IT IS DAWN ON THE WESTERN FRONT...

A LOW FOG COVERS THE AIRFIELD... ALL IS QUIET...

WHOP!!

WHAT'S A PAPERBOY DOING ON THE WESTERN FRONT?

**Rose is Rose**

IF THERE'S A ROMANTIC COMEDY ON... SIMPO WILL DOZE OFF.

1-30  
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HOW CAN ROSE SLICE THROUGH A ZOMBIE LOVE STORM?

**Agnes**

THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE REQUIREMENT TO GET INTO OUR EXCLUSIVE CLUB. WHAT?

YOU HAVE TO LOATHE EXCLUSIVE CLUBS. THAT'S IT?

...AND BE WILLING TO BRING COOKIES TO CLUB EVENTS. WHEW... I'M GLAD WE DON'T HAVE TO HATE COOKIES.

**Hi and Lois**

CHIP HAS BEEN IN THE SHOWER FOR ALMOST HALF AN HOUR. I'LL GET HIM OUT.

I JUST BROKE ONE OF YOUR GUITAR STRINGS. WHAT?!

LIFE IS MAGIC

**Between Friends**

ONE DAY AND MY ENTIRE LIFE IS CHANGED... I HAVE A GRANDSON... I HAVE A BOOK DEAL... I HAVE A WHOLE NEW IDENTITY... IT'S HARD TO COMPREHEND... I'M HEADING INTO MY SIXTIES... MY LIFE ISN'T SLOWING DOWN... IT'S EXPLODING IN A GREAT NEW DIRECTION!

LIFE IS MAGIC

**Blondie**

WOW! I'M SURPRISED TO SEE YOU HOME BEFORE YOUR CURFEW. I HAD NO CHOICE.

I RAN OUT OF GOOD EXCUSES

I RAN OUT OF GOOD EXCUSES

**Snuffy Smith**

YA EVER DAYDREAM 'BOUT BEIN' A CONGRESSMAN, SNUFFY? NOPE !!

BUT IT DOES POP UP IN MY NIGHTMARES EV'RY NOW AN' THEN !!

BUT IT DOES POP UP IN MY NIGHTMARES EV'RY NOW AN' THEN !!

**Beetle Bailey**

I CAME UP WITH A NEW SYSTEM TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR MY PARENTS TO SEND MONEY. "BEETLE BUCKS"?

HOW DOES THAT WORK?

HOW DOES THAT WORK?

**1-30 CRYPTOQUIP**

FXBEXR GOO VMFHEXC DMR  
BFSGDEFXV FQ QFBIV HMF GZR  
SAZZRXDBP SGDSMEXC QFZDP

HEXIV: CFFCBR XGOV.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE FOOD SHOP I RUSHED TO CLAIM THE LAST GROUP OF GRAPES, BUT SOMEONE BEAT ME TO THE BUNCH.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals P

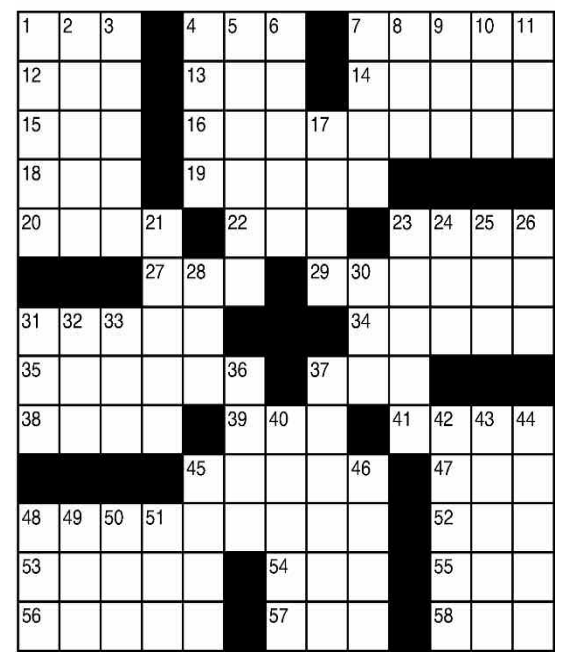
**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 NFL six-pointers
  - 4 Jackson 5 hit song
  - 7 Analyze grammatically
  - 12 Humorist
  - 13 "Humbug!"
  - 14 Perfect
  - 15 Mineral suffix
  - 16 Casino card game
  - 18 Canonized Fr. woman
  - 19 Tolerate
  - 20 Commotion
  - 22 Magic, on scoreboards
  - 23 Entreaty
  - 27 Sheep's cry
  - 29 "Reckon so"
  - 31 Preceding
  - 34 Tennyson's "— Arden"
  - 35 California motto
  - 37 Dog doc
  - 38 Della's role on "Touched by an Angel"
- DOWN**
- 2 "Same here"
  - 3 Trusty horse
  - 4 "Waterloo"
  - 5 Pacific Ocean discoverer
  - 6 Desk go-with
  - 7 Toll road
  - 8 Wd. modifier
  - 9 "The Crying Game" actor
  - 10 Pouch
  - 11 Yellowstone grazer
  - 17 451, to Nero
  - 21 English horn cousins
  - 1 Plot surprise
  - 23 Football kicks
  - 24 Zodiac cat
  - 25 Computer key
  - 26 Blond shade
  - 28 Deluge refuge
  - 30 "My word!"
  - 31 Favorite
  - 32 Regret
  - 33 1040 org.
  - 36 Genesis shepherd
  - 37 Zipper substitute
  - 40 Diarist Nin
  - 42 Tuscany setting
  - 43 "White Teeth" author
  - 44 Precise
  - 45 Some corp. recruits
  - 46 Fine
  - 48 Poke
  - 49 From — Z
  - 50 —
  - 51 Family

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-30



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# Foundation ...

Continued from page 8  
Due to a variety of factors such as health problems and distance — some of the members of the first team live in Florida, Texas, North Carolina and other states — there will only be three players, two assistant coaches and the cheer coach in attendance. Theurer and Frank Vormohr both still live in Portland, while Brian Grady plans to travel down from Cleveland.

Assistant coaches Habegger and Randy McGriff — they were assistants and freshmen coaches back then — are also planning on being in attendance. McGriff's wife, Nancy, was also the cheer coach.

Along with the first Jay County basketball team being in attendance on Saturday, JCHS will host the Patriot youth basketball teams. The past, present and future of

*'It was kind of amazing how the whole school was able to mesh together and become Jay County.'*

—Ted Habegger

the Jay County Patriots will all be at the game.

"One of the funnest things that I get to do, one of the things that brings me the most joy ... is I'm working, doing something on the floor and I look up and it's just 20, 30, 40 kids just watching," Griffin said. "Just watching as a spectator, or as a school, there's no bet-

ter feeling because that is our future.

"We're getting people in the right places and they're starting to see that buzz is there. I think constantly showing these kids, this is what our program is, these are the people, we want to recognize you and show you what it's like to be a Patriot.

"We want to recognize those people from our past too and to show these kids, it doesn't go away."

The Patriots will look to take down a one-loss Blackford team and grow closer to a squad that can claim a sectional championship. But for at least a portion of the day, the attention will be turned away from the right now to focus on those that came before the current Patriots.

"I'm pleased that they think it's a big priority to keep our history and so forth," Theurer said.

# Clash ...

Continued from page 8

And there's the difficulty of impartiality. I don't care who wins, but I don't want anybody to feel that type of pain that I know all too well. And the last thing I want to do when I see that pain is to ask a kid for an interview or take a picture of them in their moment of agony. I genuinely just want to give them some encouraging words or a hug.

It can be tough

sometimes, but I continue to thank God that I get to be a part of the stories of these athletes and the communities that root them on. And I know the pain isn't forever, and the callouses it creates builds up tough, resilient people. I just hope folks know that when I grab a losing coach or player for a few postgame questions, I don't want to talk about it any more than they do.

# State approves Bears bill

By ALEXANDRA KULKULKA

Post-Tribune (Merrillville, Ind.)

Tribune News Services

The Indiana Senate approved a stadium authority bill that would help bring the Chicago Bears to Northwest Indiana Wednesday.

Senate Bill 27, authored by State Senators Ryan Mishler, R-Mishawaka, and Chris Garten, R-Charlestown, would establish the Northwest Indiana stadium authority to "acquire, construct, equip, own, lease, and finance" a sports stadium.

The bill would establish a three-member board: the director of the office of management and budget, the public finance director or designee and another member appointed by the office of management and budget.

The authority would work toward acquiring, financing, constructing and leasing land and capital improvements. It would also have the power to finance, improve, construct, reconstruct, renovate, purchase, lease, acquire, and equip land and capital improvements, according to the bill.

The bill would require a National Football League team to enter into a lease for the stadium for at least 35 years. After the term of the lease, the lessee would have the option to purchase the capital improvement for \$1 if certain conditions are met.

Under the bill, the authority could issue bonds, and the lease rental payments could be made from local excise taxes, food and beverage tax and innkeeper's tax.

The Senate Appropriations Committee amended the bill to remove the authority's goal of 15% participation by minority businesses and 5% participation from women's businesses to participate in the procurement and contracting process.

"This bill just creates the framework. There's a lot of other details that will need to be added as well. For instance, we'll have to add locals to the board. There'll be some requirements from the local units. We're continuing discussions with them," Mishler said Wednesday.

When the bill was heard on second reading Tuesday, five amendments were filed for the bill, but none of the amendments were moved for consideration by the Senate. That means the bill moved forward for final consideration without being amended by the whole Senate.

One of the amendments was to reinstate the participation percentages for minority businesses and women's businesses. Two amendments increased the number of people on the board appointed by a combination of the Speaker of the House, the Senate President Pro Tem and minority floor leaders.

State Sen. Lonnie Randolph, D-East Chicago, said the bill would benefit the entire state. While it's not clear if the Chicago Bears will come to Northwest Indiana, it is important for the state to support the region in trying to court the team, he said.

"I think it adds a dual component. We already know the contributions and the benefit that the Indianapolis Colts has to the southern part and the mid part of the state. That same kind of benefit could develop in Northwest Indiana," Randolph said. "The more support that we show for this bill, the better chance that reality could very well occur."

The Senate passed the bill 46-2, with State Sen. Liz Brown, R-Fort Wayne, and State Sen. Gary Byrne, R-Byrneville, voting against the bill. The bill moves forward to the House. After the vote, Gov. Mike Braun

issued a statement calling the Senate's vote "the next critical step in the right direction to bring the Chicago Bears to the Hoosier State and to grow Indiana's economy."

"Indiana is open for business and the Chicago Bears have taken notice," Braun said.

With the filing of Senate Bill 27, the City of Gary has proposed three locations for a potential Chicago Bears stadium.

With Indiana legislation filed to support financing a northwest Indiana stadium, Gary officials identified three "plug-and-play" sites: Gary West End Entertainment District, Buffington Harbor and Miller Beach, according to a press release.

On Jan. 10, Bears President and CEO Kevin Warren and Chairman George McCaskey took NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell on a tour of the Arlington Heights site the team owns, and two sites in Northwest Indiana, including one near Wolf Lake in Hammond, the Chicago Tribune reported.

The tour took place before the Bears' epic come-from-behind victory over the archrival Packers. The visit is significant because the National Football League may loan \$200 million or more for the stadium project, if it is approved by league owners, according to the Chicago Tribune.

During his state of the state address Jan. 14, Braun touted Indiana's strong business environment as part of the reason that the Bears have looked to Northwest Indiana to build a stadium.

"We are working hard to bring the Chicago Bears to the Hoosier State so they can really see what a great place is to have a business. We'll work hard to do it. Let's get it across the finish line," Braun said.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

## Then and now

Jay County High School boys basketball player Jayden Comer fires up a shot during the Patriots' 50-41 win over Heritage in the Allen County Athletic Conference tournament championship game. Comer leads Jay County with 14.8 points per game, a slight uptick from the 13.4 scored by Cevin Collins in Jay County's inaugural year.

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Boys basketball (including freshman) at Bluffton — 5 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Boys bowling vs. Dayton Ponitz — 5:30 p.m.; Girls bowling vs. Dayton Ponitz — 5:30 p.m.; Boys basketball at New Knoxville — 6 p.m.

**Saturday**  
Jay County — Boys wrestling hosts sectional — 8:30 a.m.; Boys basketball vs. Blackford — 6:30 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball in Allen County Athletic Conference tournament at South Adams — 10 a.m.; Junior high girls basketball in Allen County Athletic Conference tournament at South Adams — 10

a.m.  
Fort Recovery — Boys bowling vs. Fort Loramie — 9 a.m.; Girls bowling vs. Fort Loramie — 9 a.m.; Wrestling at Vandalia Butler — 9 a.m.; Swim in St. Henry Invite at Celina YMCA — 11 a.m.; Boys basketball at Dixie — 6 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball in seventh grade MAC tournament at Marion Local — 5 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball in eighth grade MAC tournament at St. John's — 5 p.m.

## TV schedule

**Today**  
3:30 a.m. — Australian Open tennis semifinal: Aryna Sabalenka vs. Elina Svitolina (ESPN)  
5 a.m. — Australian Open tennis semi-

final: Jessica Pegula at Elena Rybakina (ESPN)  
12 p.m. — PGA Tour: Farmers Insurance Open (ESPN)  
6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Kansas at TCU (ESPN); Michigan State at Purdue (BTN)  
7 p.m. — College basketball: Colorado at Iowa State (FS1)  
8 p.m. — College basketball: Florida Atlantic at Memphis (ESPN2)  
8 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Louisville at Stanford (ESPN); Wisconsin at Ohio State (BTN)  
8 p.m. — NHL: Florida Panthers at St. Louis Blues (FSDN Indiana)  
10 p.m. — College volleyball: Ohio State at UCLA (ESPN2)  
10:30 p.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN)

**Saturday**  
3 a.m. — Australian Open tennis women's final (ESPN)  
12 p.m. — College basketball: Duke at Virginia Tech (ESPN); Cincinnati at Houston (FOX); Texas Tech at UCF (ESPN2); Georgetown at Butler (TNT)  
1 p.m. — NHL: Colorado Avalanche at Detroit Red Wings (ABC)  
1 p.m. — College basketball: San Diego State at Utah State (CBS); DePaul at Xavier (FS1)  
1 p.m. — College hockey: Michigan State at Penn State (BTN)  
2 p.m. — College basketball: SMU at Georgia Tech (ESPN); Ohio State at Wisconsin (FOX); Texas at Oklahoma (ESPN2)  
3 p.m. — Premier League: Liverpool FC at Newcastle United (NBC)  
3 p.m. — Women's college basketball:

Colorado State at UNLV (ESPN)  
3 p.m. — PGA Tour: Farmers Insurance Open (ESPN)  
3:30 p.m. — NHL: New York Rangers at Pittsburgh Penguins (ABC)  
4 p.m. — College basketball: Baylor at West Virginia (ESPN2)  
4:30 p.m. — College basketball: BYU at Kansas (ESPN)  
5 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Oregon at Maryland (BTN)  
6 p.m. — College basketball: Oklahoma State at Utah (ESPN2)  
6:10 p.m. — NASCAR: Cook Out Clash (FS1)  
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Kentucky at Arkansas (ESPN)  
7 p.m. — NBA: Atlanta Hawks at Indiana Pacers (FSDN Indiana)  
8 p.m. — College basketball: UConn at

Creighton (FOX); South Florida at Temple (ESPN2); Washington at Northwestern (BTN)  
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Houston Rockets (FSDN Indiana)  
8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Auburn at Tennessee (ESPN)  
9:30 p.m. — College basketball: Colorado State at Wyoming (FS1)  
10 p.m. — College basketball: Louisiana Tech at Sam Houston (ESPN2); St. Mary's at Gonzaga (ESPN)

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

## 90 SALE CALENDAR

**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 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. OWNERS: Randy Morgan and Patricia Morgan Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos. Online bidding available. SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE AC31800004 AUCTIONEERS**

## 90 SALE CALENDAR

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 AUCTIONEER,**

## 90 SALE CALENDAR

RON KING, AU19500129 JESSTON NUSBAUMER, 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-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; Leffon; child's tea sets; milk bottles; Cabbage Patch; set of Pfaltzgraff dishes; circular saw; square; saws; wire; fuse box; nails; screws; and other items not listed.MADGE SERGENT ESTATELoy AuctionAC#31600027Auc-**

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### Public Notice

Notice  
In accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR 403.8 (f)(2)(viii), chapter 51.019(B)(23) of the Dunkirk City Code, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit number IN0021491, the City of Dunkirk hereby publishes those industrial users of the City of Dunkirk sewer system that were found in significant noncompliance with federal, state, and/or local pretreatment regulations during the last quarter of calendar year 2025 (October 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025). Ardagh Group Dunkirk, was issued a notification of violation for noncompliance with requirements. Ardagh Group Dunkirk has also been issued a compliance schedule to become compliant for their excessive discharge of chlorides to the Dunkirk POTW. At this time, Ardagh Group Dunkirk is still in significant non compliance for their discharge of Chlorides. Steven Gillette, Superintendent Dunkirk Wastewater Treatment Plant Dunkirk, Indiana 765-768-6401 CR 1-30-2026-HSPAXLP

### Public Notice

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION TO CREDITORS  
ESTATE NO. 38C01-2601-EU-000003  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JAY COUNTY  
Notice is hereby given that SAMUEL C. CRUMP was on the 13th day of January, 2026, appointed as Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF LILLIAN E. CRUMP, deceased, who died on the 16th day of October, 2025.  
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the Office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.  
DATED AT PORTLAND, INDIANA,  
THIS 13th DAY OF January, 2026  
Melissa Elliott  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR  
JAY COUNTY, INDIANA  
CR 1-30, 2-6-2026-HSPAXLP

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# Sports

## Laying the foundation

Jay County's first boys basketball team to be honored Saturday

By ANDREW BALKO  
The Commercial Review

The Patriots are in pursuit of their 18th sectional title and the first in 15 years.

But it all had to start somewhere for the Patriots. And the team and school will honor those that paved the way.

For the 50th anniversary of the opening of Jay County High School, the Patriots will honor those from the very first basketball team in school history on Saturday during their matchup with the Blackford Bruins.

"From an athletic department, all of our teams, we want to celebrate that 50th mark of the first teams and the establishment of Jay County," said JCHS athletic director Alex Griffin. "We have a few of the coaches ... some of the players ... they are going to come out and be recognized. They're going to come and spend some time ... show them where the school is today and take a few minutes at halftime to bring them out and recognize them."

Prior to the 1975-76 school year, there were five high schools that all got consolidated into Jay County High School.

The Patriots didn't have the prettiest season to start with as students from Bryant, Dunkirk, Pennville, Portland and Redkey went from county rivals to playing for the same team.

"It wasn't as difficult as you'd think it would be," said former freshman



The Commercial Review

Pictured is the first Jay County High School boys basketball team from the 1975-76 season. From left are coach Bob Collins, Frank Laux, Cevin Collins, Randy Weisel, Dean Hunt, Kurt Keller, Tom Dunnington, Brian Grady, Frank Vormohr, Dave Hedges, Scott Smith, Mike Walters, Dean Theurer and assistant coach Don Alexander. JCHS will host members from the first team during Saturday's game against Blackford to celebrate 50 years of Patriot athletics.

coach Ted Habegger. "I think they developed a team unity and so forth. ... It was kind of amazing to me how the whole school was able to mesh together and become Jay County."

The Patriots had some ups and downs throughout the year. While they managed to win their holiday tournament in which they hosted South Adams, Bluffton and Belmont — the Braves were undefeated to that point in the season — they only managed

to finish the season with an 8-12 record.

They started to click toward the end of the season.

Back then, Jay County hosted the sectional tournament that included the Monroe Central Golden Bears, the Union City Patriots and the Winchester Community Golden Falcons. The Patriots rolled through MCHS in the first round and beat the Indians to claim their first sectional champi-

onship in the school's first year in existence.

JCHS wasn't done there, but continued on to the regional at New Castle and upset Tri in the semifinal before eventually falling to Richmond in the final.

"Winning the sectional championship was the most memorable," said Dean Theurer, a senior from the first JCHS boys basketball team. "I never had that opportunity before. Growing up, that

was always a big thing, the sectional championship and the pride of the school.

"Then I'd always heard about New Castle's gym, but had never been in anything like it. ... Getting to play at New Castle and the packed gym is the highlight I can remember."

That first Patriots team set the standard and paved the way for Jay County. Since the 1975-76 season, the Patriots have won another 16 sectional titles,

won one regional championship and participated in one state tournament game.

"I think it was important because all the county schools used to play the sectional at Blackford because they had a bigger gym," Theurer said. "When they built Jay County High School, they made sure the gym was a little bit bigger. ... I think coming together for the new school, we were all kinda united."

See **Foundation** page 7

## Impartiality, emotion often clash in sports

By ETHAN OSKROBA  
The Commercial Review

It didn't take long after I arrived in July to realize that high school sports meant something here.

I had expected that to be the case. It was a huge part of what lured me out of the Chicago suburbs to take a chance on a community I knew next to nothing about. But as someone who played my high school ball at a tiny institution in an area inundated by professional sports and bigger high schools, the concept still caught me off guard.

I'm fully aware that I'm supposed to be impartial. It's my job. But when I see half the town clapping along in the bleachers as The Force of Win-

Deep dish and deeper dives



chester welcomes the Black Attack to the field on a Friday or glance way up in the balcony seating to see a legion of Jay County fans roaring as their team takes the court, I can't help but feel something.

That's the blessing and the curse of being around people who care. Athletes who care, coaches who care and communities that genuinely back their teams. I start to care too. Not

because I'm a fan of any of the nine teams in the Graphic Printing Company coverage area, but because I'm uniquely positioned to witness the ups and downs of the teams and the athletes that play for them.

It's all well and good when you get to soak in the elation of a Randolph Southern boys basketball team that just won its first county championship in nearly 30 years. Heck, the victory meant so much to the community that even late on a frigid night, the team celebrated with a victory parade around Lynn. When I saw the smiles etched onto the faces of players, coaches and fans and got to speak to the seniors who had just delivered the title, I couldn't help but share in their joy just a little bit.

But for every winner, there has to be a loser. On that particular night, I also had to come face-to-face with the devastation of a Winchester team that had fought tooth and nail to erase a significant halftime deficit and was unable to convert a game-winning 3-pointer as time expired.

That's the challenging paradox of covering sports for a living. You're asked to report without inserting your own emotion, but there's no way you're not going to feel it. Capturing the emotion of the players and coaches is key, and I always strive to work that into my stories. But being stoic and impartial in a scenario charged with feelings will never be easy.

Sometimes, that challenge is intensified by the fact that I know exactly what it feels like to come up short. Sure, I probably didn't ever feel the weight of a community on my shoulders like some athletes here do. But I still put an immense amount of pressure on myself during my athletic career, and that made my brushes with failure excruciating.

I remember losing a baseball game in high school in large part because I sailed a throw on a dropped third strike, leading to a rally from the opposition. Even after the hour-and-a-half bus ride back, I was still in tears and seething with frustration in the garage when I finally arrived at home.

See **Clash** page 7

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