

The Commercial Review

New website launches today

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Newspaper readers will have a different online experience beginning today as The Commercial Review launches a new website.

The web address will be the same — thecr.com — as it has been since our original site went online more than two decades ago. But the site will have a new look and many new features with our new website host, BLOX Digital.

The site change is another step in the integration of The News-Gazette (Winchester) and The

Updated thecr.com will feature upgraded e-edition

News Times (Hartford City) into The Graphic Printing Company. When we purchased those papers, they were already using BLOX Digital. The Commercial Review was with a different site host.

With all of the changes and challenges that come along with purchasing two newspapers, it didn't make sense to add another in the form of a new website. Now that we have a better handle on operating three newspapers, the time was right.

The change will not only mean a new look for thecr.com. It will mean updated websites across the company. With thecr.com now updated, winchesternewsgazette.com and hartfordcitynewstimes.com will follow with updates to the new system as well. Using one platform will help us post faster and support subscriptions across all three papers.

Changes for readers

Probably the biggest change visitors to our website will see is that there will be metered access. Each visitor will have access to

a limited number of articles per month. (That amount may change from month to month.) This accommodates those who are only visiting to look at a single obituary or article.

Once a visitor to the site has reached their limit on articles for the month, they will be prompted with a subscription offer.

Another major change will be to our "Today's edition," which will now be known as the e-edition. For years we have simply uploaded a PDF of the daily paper that folks could read and download.

See **Website** page 2

Couple's house destroyed in a fire

Flames started on Saturday afternoon

By BAILEY CALL
The Commercial Review

A fire destroyed a rural Portland couple's home over the weekend.

The home of Kevin and Denise Degler, 2574 E. 400 North, caught fire Saturday afternoon and burned for about five hours.

Local emergency personnel received a call about a fire at the home at about 2:47 p.m. Saturday. Flames started on the outside of the house and worked up to the attic.

Portland, Bryant and Pennville fire departments responded to the scene and fought the fire for about five hours. The flames reignited about 8:30 a.m. Sunday, taking another three hours to extinguish.

No one was hurt in the fire, according to Portland Fire Department. Officials suspect it may have started from a wood stove, but the cause is still under investigation.

Donations are being accepted for Kevin and Denise Degler by their family. For more information, visit Joni Johnson's Facebook page.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Fish fry fundraiser

Wyatt Foster of the Jay County High School baseball team serves a dinner roll to Phil Frantz while assistant coach Josh Atkinson scoops some green beans during the program's fish fry on Saturday. The JCHS baseball team sold over 800 meal tickets as part of a fundraiser before the boys basketball team's 75-62 victory.



Glen Pine Photography

The McCartney Project lights up the stage during a performance. The band focuses on playing hits from over the course of Paul McCartney's career and loves to interact with members of its audience. The group will perform at 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 14, at the Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland. Tickets are \$20 and are available at myartsplace.org, by visiting the Jay County Campus of Arts Place at 131 E. Walnut St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-4809.

'Project' performs Feb. 14

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Tony Burlingame always wanted to be a Beatle.

For more than a decade, he has lived out that dream as the frontman for The McCartney Project.

But why Paul? Why not John, George or Ringo?

"I'm a fan of the Beatles, and Paul was my favorite Beatle all those years," Burlingame said. "But the true reason is because I'm left-handed naturally, and I can look like him and sound just like him."

Burlingame will show off those abilities when The McCartney Project visits Arts Place for a Valentine's Day concert of the Eric R. Rogers Performing Arts Series at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14.

The band isn't a direct Beatles tribute, instead focusing more on McCartney. It does per-

Group highlights hits from throughout McCartney's career

form Beatles hits, with a focus on tunes that McCartney wrote, but also covers his solo work and hits from his other band, Wings.

Everything the band plays is well known, Burlingame said.

"We don't really dwell on B-sides and rare stuff," he added. "Everything we play was a hit. We stick to the hits. ..."

"It's almost a 50-50 mix of Paul McCartney Beatles numbers and then his solo material. ... Just a couple of '80s Paul tunes and the rest of it is all '70s Wings. And I'd say about 45 to

50% is his best stuff from the Beatles, like 'Yesterday' and 'Lady Madonna' ... 'Let it Be,' 'Hey, Jude.' Everybody needs to hear 'Hey Jude' for an encore."

Portraying McCartney really was a little bit more than just being left-handed. Burlingame got his love of music from his father Nick, a singing drummer, and older brother John, a guitar player. He had been involved in various musical projects portraying the British Invasion and knew John Scherer, who managed various groups in Ohio.

See **'Project'** page 2

Deaths	Weather	In review	Coming up
<p>Vickie Hiday, 68, Salamanca</p> <p>Peter Shawver, 55, Farmland</p> <p>Details on page 2.</p>	<p>Jay County had a high temperature of 23 degrees Sunday. The low was 9.</p> <p>The forecast calls for a low of 5 tonight. Expect partly cloudy skies Wednesday with a high around 20 again. Highs will stay in the 20s through Thursday.</p> <p>See page 2 for an extended outlook.</p>	<p>Jay County Public Library will launch its new program — The Invisible String Group for Kids — on Thursday. The series for children kindergarten and older will focus on lessons and activities in the book "The Invisible String Workbook: Creative Activities to Comfort, Calm, and Connect." Advance registration is required.</p>	<p>Wednesday — Details from this week's Portland City Council meeting.</p> <p>Thursday — Results from the Jay County girls basketball sectional opener.</p> <p>Friday — New barber shop opened recently in Pennville.</p>

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Obituaries

Vickie Hiday
Aug. 19, 1957-Jan. 31, 2026
Vickie Hiday, age 68, a resident of Salamonia, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026, at her daughter's home in Portland.

Vickie was born Aug. 19, 1957, in Portland, Indiana, the daughter of Dale and Theda (Masonbrink) Arnold. She worked at Stoneridge in Portland.

Her greatest joy was time with her children and grandchildren, always making sure they were loved and cared for.

Vickie married Harry "Tim" Hiday on May 8, 1972, and he passed away on Sept. 20, 2024.

Survivors include:



Hiday

Her children — Kimberly Hiday, Salamonia, Indiana, Todd Hiday (wife: Misty), Monroe, Indiana, and Dutchess Hiday (Andy Koons), Portland, Indiana

Her siblings — Steve Arnold (wife: Lisa), Redkey, Indiana, Mike Arnold (wife: Becky), Portland, Indiana, and Deb Nielsen (husband: Gary), Sheraton, Michigan

Eleven grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren

Visitation will be held on Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. on Wednesday at the funeral home.

Pastor Steve Arnold will officiate and burial will follow at Gravel Hill Cemetery, west of Bryant.

Condolences may be

expressed at williamson-spencer.com.

Peter Shawver
Dec. 30, 1970-Jan. 29, 2026
Peter M. Shawver, age 55, a resident of Farmland, Indiana, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie.

Peter was born on Dec. 30, 1970, in Portland, Indiana, the son of Merle and Helen (Jellison) Shawver. He graduated from Jay County High School in 1989 and earned his bachelor's degree from Ball State University in Muncie in 1993. While at Ball State, Peter was a member of Beta Alpha Psi and Sigma



Shawver

Iota Epsilon, serving as treasurer.

Peter was actively involved in his community and held memberships with Friends of the Jay County Library, serving as treasurer; Jay County Historical Society and Bluff Point Friends Church. He worked as an accountant at Muncie Imports and Classics in Muncie, Indiana.

Through organ and tissue donation, Peter was able to help save many lives, leaving a lasting legacy of generosity and compassion.

Survivors include:

His siblings — Tammy Shawver, Portland, Indiana, Nancy Shawver, Portland, Indiana, Jeff Shawver (wife: Alana), Portland, Indiana, and Karen Shawver, Portland, Indiana

Nieces and nephews — Dawn,

April, Britney, Bryan, Leanna, Hannah, Caleb, Adrian and Alivia.

Several great-nieces and great-nephews, and great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews






He was preceded in death by his parents, Merle and Helen Shawver; and two siblings, Diane Shawver and Jim Shawver.

Visitation will be held on Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday at the funeral home. Pastor Kyle Holt will officiate and burial will follow at Bluff Point Cemetery, south of Portland.

Memorials may be directed to Indiana Donor Network.

Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.com.

CR almanac

Wednesday 2/4	Thursday 2/5	Friday 2/6	Saturday 2/7	Sunday 2/8
 22/10 Wednesday looks to be partly cloudy with temperatures dipping to near 10 degrees late.	 24/19 Thursday's forecast shows cloudy skies with temperatures in the upper teens and low 20s.	 33/8 Snow is possible Friday under cloudy skies. The high may reach just above freezing.	 24/15 Mostly sunny skies on Saturday. The low temperature may drop to 15 late.	 31/19 Sunday's weather looks like mostly sunny skies with a high around 31 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$30 million	18-21-32-34-37-38-49-50-52-59-60-65-67-71-73-74 Cash 5: 7-20-26-33-36 Estimated jackpot: \$539,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$285 million	
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 7-1-9 Daily Four: 4-1-2-4 Quick Draw: 1-6-10-14-15-17-19-24-34-35-39-46-48-52-57-70-72-76-77-78 Evening Daily Three: 3-0-0 Daily Four: 6-3-6-6 Quick Draw: 3-7-15-16-	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 8-1-4 Pick 4: 1-7-7-0 Pick 5: 2-8-4-8-1 Evening Pick 3: 7-1-6 Pick 4: 7-9-9-9 Pick 5: 1-5-9-3-9 Rolling Cash 5: 1-6-15-16-32 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.45 March corn4.47	Wheat4.92
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.46 March corn4.42 April corn4.37	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.29 March corn4.31 Beans10.56 March beans10.60 Wheat5.12
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.38 March corn4.49 Beans10.55 March beans10.57	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.43 March corn4.45 Beans10.33 March beans10.33 Wheat4.82

Today in history

<p>In 1943, the U.S. transport ship SS Dorchester, which was carrying troops to Greenland, sank after being hit by a German torpedo in the Labrador Sea during World War II.</p> <p>In 1917, the United States broke off diplomatic relations with Germany after the SS Housatonic, an American cargo ship, was sunk by a U-boat off Britain after the crew was allowed to board lifeboats.</p> <p>In 1959, rock-and-roll stars Buddy Holly,</p>	<p>Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson died in a small plane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa.</p> <p>In 1966, the Soviet probe Luna 9 became the first manmade object to make a soft landing on the moon.</p> <p>In 2022, an additional 8 inches of snow fell in Jay County after it saw 4 inches the previous day, shutting down schools and putting the county under a travel warning as it worked to dig out.</p> <p>— The CR</p>
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Citizen's calendar

Tuesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Jay/Portland Building Department Inter-local Joint Board, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.	7 p.m. — Salamonia Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center. Thursday 5:15 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
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Website ...

Continued from page 1

The e-edition will represent an upgrade. Readers will still be able to download the newspaper in PDF form as they always have. But the e-edition will offer more interactivity, allowing readers to search by keyword or name within the document library if they are looking for something specific.

We encourage readers to take some time with the e-edition and explore the new features.

Beyond those two items, the site will have a new design. It is intended to provide a better display of our top recent stories while still keeping access to news, sports, family (now known as "lifestyle"), opinion and obituary content on the main page.

Changes for staff

On our end, the management of the website is much more user-friendly. It allows us to customize stories, add photos more seamlessly and, hopefully, create a better reader experience.

The site also improves the process of optimizing our site for search engines. When folks interested in the news of Jay County and the surrounding area

go hunting on a search engine, we want them to find our site at the top of the list. The SEO tools built into our new site will help with that process.

The site will also provide us with vastly more data about our website than has been available in the past. We'll be able to instantly see a snapshot of what's being read most. This will help us guide decisions about content as we move forward.

How to gain access

Subscribers already have full digital access and will just need to activate their login.

They will log in for the first time by entering their phone number and their last name in all capital letters. Once logged in, they will be prompted to create a password.

We will not have access to passwords, so make sure to keep track. There will be a "forgot password" tool on the site for those who need it.

Anyone who has trouble logging in should call us at (260) 726-8141. We anticipate there will be challenges with the launch. There typically are. We're ready to help you work through the process.

'Project' ...

Continued from page 1

Scherer was interested in putting together a McCartney tribute, and Burlingame, who had done some Beatles stuff but never a solo McCartney, threw his hat in the ring.

The experience with just a backing band made him realize he wanted his own group, so he and Scherer pulled together a roster.

It started with Burlingame shifting to bass guitar to truly match Paul and filling in the band around him with Robb Anagnostis on vocals, guitar and keyboard, Lar Wolkan on guitar, Phil Stearns as the drummer and Sara Reat serving as the "Linda" of the group.

"We've been going strong for quite a few years," Burlingame said.

The McCartney Project has traveled all over the country, including venues in Dallas and Los Angeles. Now it focuses mainly on Ohio and adjacent states.

Tickets are \$20 and are available at myartsplace.org, by visiting the Jay County Campus of Arts Place at 131 E. Walnut St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-4809. Shows typically run two hours with a short intermission.

Next weekend's concert will be the group's second visit to Jay County. It played at Jay County High School as part of Jay County Music Foundation's lineup in 2017.

Beyond the music itself,

Tickets for Feb. 14 concert available at myartsplace.org

Burlingame enjoys performing for the opportunities it provides.

"It gives me a reason to talk to people," he said. "We talk to fans at the show."

The band learns what audience members have been going through, and its members enjoy the adrenaline rush of sharing memories and appreciation for the songs and the impact they can have.

"We see a lot of Beatles fans and they always tell me their Beatles memory," said Burlingame. "Like, 'Oh, I went to the theater to see 'A Hard Day's Night' or 'I saw Paul in his very first tour in '71.' They'll tell me their story and I can relate to all that stuff. It's healing, very healing, for the audience and the band alike."

The Valentine's Day concert is the first in the series that will also feature magician Brenden Trojan on March 7, Lee Alverson's Tribute to Elton John on April 11 and cover artist Kaitlyn Schmit & Friends on April 25.

1911 - Madonna Kraner - 1996

"Memories of Mom"

*Three little girls, Three little boys
Six little "Angels" known for noise
While Mom worked hard to
keep us all in place
All day long Mom hid her tears
A million times in sixty years
No place for those on
Mama's smilin' face*

*Always home and always cool
When we came runnin' in from school
Helped us with our studies every night
Would hear the things we heard today
Then smile when we'd go out to play
And pray to God we all knew
wrong from right*

*Each time we're hurtin' Mom did too
But always knew just what to do
Many times just wash away the dirt
A little kiss and little squeeze
And we'd forget the skinned up knees
And all the dried up tears
on Mama's skirt*

*Then that "Special Thought" from her
"Box Car Children" what we were
That's what she used to call us everywhere
Because two bedrooms all we had
But then we found that ain't too bad
'Cause Mama said she'd be our "Engineer"*

*And then to church we'd
walk two blocks
With leaky boots and soggy socks
Sit 'side Mom and bow
our heads to pray
Headin' home right after prayers
Mom and her "Six Millionaires"
The richest kids in town,
no need to say*

*Other kids had store bought stuff
We'd think we wasn't rich enough
But then we found, that's
our big mistake*

*Round peppermints and pudding, too
And homemade bread
and then we knew
She'd top it off with "Special Midnight Cake"*

*Still many things to talk about
All the stuff we went without
What others had would
almost make you cry
But later on we realized
That Mama was our "Big Surprise"
And what we had
"Money couldn't buy"*

*So, it's been a year, --
We said "Goodbye"
With God in charge we don't ask why
All the "Box Car Grandkids"
miss you, too
And as we sit and reminisce
Give our best to "Little Sis"
We "Love You Mom"
and really do miss you both!*

"Your Millionaires"
Joe, Rex, Sarah, Roger, Wanda

**Get The Commercial Review delivered at home every day.
Call us at (260) 726-8141 or visit our website at thecr.com.**

Mother Nature deals dose of reality

By JAMES FULKS

The Commercial Review

For several winters now, we have been lulled into an illusion.

Mother Nature has been decidedly in one of her better moods and has seen fit to take it relatively easy on us.

It's been so many winters since we've had enough snow to warrant plows and blowers that several of my personal "go to" friends and acquaintances have sold or gotten rid of them.

This past weekend, someone or something stirred the old

Fulksy
Mayhem



anything I've personally seen in many years.

A swath of snow stretching more than 2,000 miles ran from New Mexico to Maine, covering well over three-quarters of the population in the continental U.S.

I recall those huge piles of plowed and bulldozed snow in shopping center parking lots after the Blizzard of 1978.

This storm, although it didn't produce the same totals here locally, covered more territory.

It's certainly going to be a while before we dig our way out of this one.

I was stranded after a late Saturday evening delivery between Louisville and Indianapolis and had to wait it out. The snow totals were higher to the south but eventually covered a vast swath of the U.S.

Bitter cold followed and is still a nuisance this morning as I work alongside a river in West Virginia on Wednesday morning.

The allure of beautiful waterfront property sure hits differ-

ent at 9 below zero when you're out working in a balmy breeze blowing across the frozen river than it does on a lazy summer day.

I don't know who or what upset her so badly, but Mother Nature can just calm down. This was a reality check that we still indeed live in a winter-weather climate, and she decided not to let us forget it this year.

Message received loud and clear as I chip ice out of my beard and mustache this morning!

Juniors, seniors make FRHS honor roll

Fort Recovery High School recently announced its second quarter honor roll.

On the list with all As were seniors Evvie Briner, Rylee Bubb, Nevaeh Elsass, Elisa Evers, Mallo-ry Evers, Alivia Grube, Aubrie Heitkamp, Madison Heitkamp, Maleiah Kaffenberger, Olivia Knap-ke, Dani Schmitt, Lily

Schwieterman, Drew Stammen and Georgia Wenning.

Earning As and Bs were seniors Gabe Acheson, Ella Bechtol, Doug Bihn, Alexis Braun, Parker Brunswick, Ryker Brunswick, Emma Coleman, Garrett Diller, Zoe Dues, Luke Fortkamp, Car-son Fullenkamp, Ray Grube, Brodie Hart, Isabell

Hartings and Drew Heitkamp.

Also Jameson Heitkamp, Lillie Heitkamp, Caden Homan, Jenna Homan, Cayson Kaikala, Wes Keller, Dylan Klenke, Brylee Kremer, Cora Kre-mer, Reece LeFevre, Autumn Leuthold, Matthew Marchal, Elena Matsuda, Russell Pohlman, Colson Post,

Troy Post, Anthony Roess-ner, AJ Sieftring, Hayden Sieftring, Clete Timmer-man, Lane Ward, Reece Wendel, Tyler Wendel and Koda Will.

Also making the list with all As were juniors Ashlyn Cantu, Tyler Dues, Carter Fortkamp, Alexis Grisez, Russell Hart, Makenna Huelskamp, Meredith Jones, Breaker Jutte,

Grace Lochtefeld, Ian McCain, Cameron Muh-lenkamp, Isaac Roessner, Emma Schmitz, Angel Serio, Amber Timmerman, Ivy Tobe, Jennifer Wendel, Kaylor Wendel, James Westgerdes and Brynn Willmann.

Earning As and Bs were juniors Brody Barga, Dean-na Brown, Carley Buck-land, Kendall Buckland,

Alex Carreto, Reese Diller, Kenna Dues, Cadence Eber, Destiny Ervin, Brady Evers, Ava Fullenkamp, Aubree Heitkamp, Maddie Heitkamp, Lily Hernandez, Theresa Hipple, Addy Homan, Jake Meyer, Mad-die Schoenlein, Cara Shoe-maker, Riley Stammen, Kiera Stump, Reed West-gerdes, Will Westgerdes and Jase Wuebker.

Mother feels left out of family gatherings with son

DEAR ABBY: My daughter-in-law, "Louise," died of cancer five years ago. She was 45; my son, "Pete," was 48. They'd been married for 15 years and had no children.

Three years ago, Pete met "Shelly" through a mutual friend, and they were immediately attracted to each other. Within a year, they were living together and seem very happy. Shelly has two grown children and three grandchildren. Her mother is also in the picture. I have met her a few times, and she was very pleasant.

What bothers me is that Pete's "new family" doesn't include me. They're aware that I'm on social media and can see all the photos they post — doing things with the kids and their great-

Dear
Abby



grandma — which is lovely. I'd just like to be included once in a while.

This past weekend, I saw another post of all of them, with photos captioned: "Enjoying a leisurely brunch with the whole family." I was stunned when I realized they were in a cafe that is literally across the street from my apartment, but I wasn't asked to join them. I won't bring it up because I'm afraid I'll be

seen as a whiny, insecure old lady. But still, it felt like a delib-erate snub.

I have kept a low profile and tried not to be "that" relative who always finds things to med-dle in or gripe about. Is there a way to express my feelings with-out a "poor pitiful me" attitude? — SNUBBED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR SNUBBED: It is pos-sible that the dominant per-son in your son's household is his lady friend, and she arranges their activities. Talk to your son. Ask if you might have said or done something that has put Shelly off, which is why you have been sidelined. And then, instead of waiting to be asked, start doing some of the inviting yourself. (Be

sure to include Shelly's moth-er when you do.)

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DEAR ABBY: I'm stuck with an alcoholic husband. I do love him, but it's complicated. I don't have any family. My mom is 96, and I would never burden her with my problems. His family is in denial or whatever you call it. I have only my disability check, which isn't much. I can't find part-time work because of my age (I am 63). When my husband drinks, he becomes impossible to be around, packs up his stuff and leaves, and then demands that I apologize for his mistakes. I'm trapped. What can I do? — PRISONER IN TEXAS

DEAR PRISONER: Go online and search for the location of the nearest Al-

Anon meeting (al-anon.org/info). Al-Anon is an offshoot of AA. There are many meetings, so it should-n't be too hard to find one near you. These meetings are free; they do not charge. Once there, start listening and share what you are going through. If you do, you may learn methods for coping with your alcoholic husband. You may think you are alone right now, but you will soon realize you are far from it.

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Dear Abby is written by Abi-gail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was found-ed 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

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 ANONY-MOUS — 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 MORN-ING 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 Cen-ter for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

SINGLES AND SEPA-RATES SUPPORT GROUP

— For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an ill-ness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednes-day of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Musel-man Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more informa-tion, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

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

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Begin-nings, 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 infor-mation, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE – BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faith-

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

Thursday

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those strug-gling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feel-ings and behavior, and liv-ing a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Out-patient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

CELEBRATE RECOV-ERY — A 12-step Chris-tian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridi-an St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

JAY COUNTY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP — Will

meet from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at Jay County Can-cer Society's office, 227 N. Meridian St., Portland. Open discussion for can-cer patients, survivors, family members or any-one interested in helping with the group. For more information, contact Linda Metzger at (260) 726-1844.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for par-ents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vin-cent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in commu-nity room 1.

Friday

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addi-tion Support Team recov-ery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each

Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coali-tion office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. To learn more informa-tion, please call (260) 251-3259.

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for any-one suffering from memo-ry loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fire-place Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more informa-tion, call (260) 589-3173.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-MOUS — 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.

ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more infor-mation, call (260) 726-8463.

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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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Keep the research pipeline in place

By **JESSE CROSSON**

Decades ago, a Hoosier State Senator spearheaded a consequential law at the behest of an enterprising Purdue engineer that helped spawn many of the country’s most impactful products and valuable companies. The law is commonly referred to as the Bayh-Dole Act — named after its bipartisan co-sponsors, including Indiana’s long-serving U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh. It allows and incentivizes nonprofit organizations and small businesses to patent discoveries they make with federal funding and license them to private companies that have the ability to turn those initial lab breakthroughs into life-saving, economy-growing products. Unfortunately, this entire research system is now under threat. The Commerce Department is considering confiscating half of the revenue that universi-

Jesse Crosson



ties receive from licensing their federally-supported discoveries. That would upend the system that the Bayh-Dole Act created. Take, for example, a revolutionary pocket-sized arrhythmia monitor invented by Purdue researchers in the 1980s. Thanks to Bayh-Dole, Purdue was able to patent and license the discovery. Other companies have gone on to use the technology as a jumping board, and today, nearly two-thirds of Americans use some device to regularly monitor their heart rate. The University of Notre Dame

recently received a patent for a method to configure multiple emergency response drones for a mission. Meanwhile, Indiana University has launched over 70 spinout companies and generated almost 560 licenses on its 1,340 patents in the last 15 years. It’s not just Hoosier schools and companies that are thriving thanks to the law. Nationwide, university discoveries that were subsequently licensed to the private sector have contributed more than \$1 trillion to the U.S. gross domestic product, supported 6.5 million jobs and spawned over 19,000 startups since 1996. Before Bayh-Dole, the government owned the patents on any discoveries that were made with the help of federal grants. But government officials typically didn’t understand the potential of the patented discoveries they owned and had little incentive to

seek out private-sector firms that could further develop the technologies into marketable products. As a result, the government licensed less than 5% of the 28,000 patents it held. In 1980, Senator Birch Bayh pointed out the obvious: “It is folly to think that a taxpayer is getting any benefit from the tax dollars invested in research if these ideas do not reach the marketplace.” And so, that year, Congress passed the Bayh-Dole Act, giving nonprofit organizations and small businesses — not the federal government — ownership of those patents. The law enabled and incentivized contractors to license those patents to private companies in return for royalties. Confiscating half of universities’ licensing revenue on inventions that received federal funding is not simply unfair: it would make it harder for schools to jus-

tify the time and money spent on finding private-sector licensees. Without the promise of meaningful royalties, many universities would scale back their “tech transfer” efforts — and Americans would lose out on new jobs, new products and economic growth that result from the current tech transfer process. Although I cannot and do not speak on behalf of my employer (who itself is No. 4 in the nation in new patents yearly!), I can speak as a political scientist. In an era so rife with bitter partisanship, a unilateral unwinding of such a successful example of bipartisanship seems especially unwise. ***** Crosson is an associate professor in the department of political science at Purdue University and is co-director of Purdue’s Program on American Institutional Renewal (PAIR).

Congress should rein in campaign

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

The killing of 37-year-old intensive care nurse Alex Pretti in Minneapolis by federal agents underscores a growing crisis facing the White House: Its reckless deportation campaign has spun out of control. If congressional Republicans don’t start holding the administration to account, they’ll be putting public safety at even greater risk — and more Americans will needlessly lose their lives. Agents for Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement perform difficult, dangerous and — yes — essential jobs. Requiring violent criminals who are in the country illegally to face deportation proceedings should be a principle that both parties support. But the administration, in its militant zeal for deportations, is too often failing to distinguish between criminals and honest, hardworking people.

Government figures show that only about a quarter of those detained by ICE have criminal convictions. Another quarter face pending charges. Only 5% have been convicted of a violent crime; combine that with property crime, and the figure climbs to 8%. By casting too wide a net, the administration is at times sweeping up American citizens in its dragnet — a serious affront to civil liberties. In St. Paul, ICE agents with guns drawn battered down the front door of a naturalized U.S. citizen, handcuffed him, dragged him out into the cold in his underwear; and detained him for lengthy questioning before releasing him without, his family says, even the courtesy of an apology. The president brushed away concerns about such errors, saying of ICE, “They’re going to make mistakes.” The more immigration agents act without disciplined restraint, the more they will err, sometimes violently — and the more people will lose confidence in them. A recent poll found that while the country is split nearly evenly on deportations, 61% of voters believe that ICE has “gone too far” in attempting to carry them out. That poll was taken after the killing of Renee Good, a US citizen and Minneapolis mother of three, but before agents killed Pretti. Both incidents raise troubling questions about

Guest Editorial

whether agents are following basic policing procedures. Although ICE and Border Patrol agents are law enforcement officers, they differ from local police in numerous ways. Most important, they generally lack the training required to patrol local communities effectively. Yet the administration seems unbothered by possible negligence and misconduct. Indeed, its language has all but invited it. White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller has wrongly claimed that agents have “immunity” in the conduct of their duties. Vice President J.D. Vance went further, stating that the agents have “absolute immunity.” In fact, agents have only what is called qualified immunity, which offers them significant but limited protection against lawsuits. It does not insulate them against criminal prosecution. An agent who commits a crime while in uniform can be arrested and prosecuted. Vance later backtracked, acknowledging that it’s “absurd” to think that “officers who engaged in wrongdoing would enjoy immunity.” That’s a message administration officials should have been hammering home to ensure that agents don’t think they have free rein to ignore the law and the rights of citizens. Instead, after Pretti’s killing, they continued to offer knee-jerk defenses of agents’ actions while also slandering Pretti with the same epithet they hurled at Good, calling him a “domestic terrorist.” The parents of Pretti, who worked at a Veterans Affairs hospital, called the accusation “reprehensible and disgusting.” They’re right, and the White House has wisely stopped repeating it, though the administration has yet to issue an apology.

Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy, who called the Pretti shooting “incredibly disturbing,” is demanding a “full joint federal and state investigation.” More Republicans should join him before the body count from this misguided and mismanaged campaign climbs higher.



License proposal needs scrutiny

By **NIKI KELLY**

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

I remember getting my driver’s license the day I turned 16 — and promptly locking my keys in the car. But it’s such a different time now. Younger members of Generation Z are either entirely opting out of getting their license or delaying the process, according to a 2024 USA Today article. Since 2000, the number of 16-year-olds with driver’s licenses has decreased nearly 27% nationwide. That’s why a small section in an Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles bill caught my attention recently. House Bill 1200 walks back part of the Indiana graduated driver’s license system put in place in 1999. Right now, Hoosier teens must wait until they are 16 years and 90 days to get a license if they pass a driver’s education course. The bill would drop that to just 16 years old. If you don’t take driver’s education, it would remain at 16 years and 270 days. And according to BMV data, about 75% of new licensees don’t take driver’s ed. If teens are waiting longer to get their licenses, why are we moving up when they can get them? Rep. Jim Pressel, R-Rolling Prairie, authored the legislation and had this to say in committee on why he inserted the change: “I’ve never really understood why it’s 16 years and 90 days... It’s been kind of all over the place. So, this just lowers it to 16 years of age.

Niki Kelly



“I have had nobody push back on this idea,” he said. “It just seems to be consistent.” More than 30 states have 16 as the age for a license — not a learner’s permit — and a few are even at 15. No one was there to testify for or against it because the bill itself is mostly agency inner-workings. The state legislature took aim at the problem of teen driving fatalities in 1998 by passing Indiana’s graduated driver’s license law, which limits the freedom 16- and 17-year-old drivers have in the car. They pushed back when teens could get a permit, how long they had to hold it, required a practice log of hours and limited when a teen could drive and who could be in the car. They also delayed when a driver’s license could be obtained, which meant adding maturity to the process. The law was strengthened again in 2009. A large body of research has found that graduated licensing systems have substantially reduced the rates of crashes, injuries, and deaths of 16- and 17-year-old drivers, according to the AAA.

And yet, here we are in 2026, and teens are still dying. Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows that in 2023, there were 151 traffic fatalities involving traffic crashes with drivers aged 15 to 20. Of those, 65 were the teen drivers. And Indiana ranks seventh-highest in the country for teen involvement in fatal crashes. So, it probably is time to see if all those changes made a difference. But I’m not sure what the need is to revert — especially when fewer teens are driving now than ever before. The change will likely be an administrative hassle for the BMV. This type of provision should be debated in a standalone bill with all stakeholders weighing in, including traffic safety experts, parents, kids and the insurance and driver’s education industries. Many of these people had no idea this change even existed, and in the second half of session I hope to see some more attention paid to rolling back a key part of Indiana’s graduated driver’s license system. I know that my own teen driver needed that extra time, and pointing to a state law helps parents set limits. ***** 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.

The Commercial Review



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First Bank of Berne recently donated \$2,670 to Jay Community Center to support programs including its Summer Day Camp, 5K runs, Boomer Sports, Senior Day and the Boys & Girls Club.

Mercer Health offers scholarships

Mercer Health is offering multiple scholarship opportunities.

The MED Foundation Scholarship is open to seniors at schools in Mercer County who are interested in improving the health of the citizens in Mercer County and the surrounding area.

The Mercer Health Volunteer Association Scholarship is for current or past Mercer Health volunteers or current employees who are furthering their education in any profession at Mercer Health.

Mercer Health also offers its Medical Student Summer Internship & Exploration Program for college students who are considering applying for medical school and have completed at least two years of college and job shadowing opportunities for local high school students.

To apply, visit merc-health.com. The deadline for scholarship applications is Sunday, March 1.

New members added

Jay County Chamber of Commerce has added Amy Sprunger Photography as a new member.

For more information about the chamber, visit jaycounty-chamber.com.

Seminar set

Purdue University's Mitch Daniels School of Business

Business roundup

will host the seminar AI and Resilience in Manufacturing and Supply Chain on Friday, Feb. 20, at 16 Tech, 1220 Waterway Blvd., Indianapolis.

The event will feature Jay Wirts, CEO and president of Conexus Indiana, and Kevin Murry, vice president of supply chain at Red Gold. The event from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. is free to attend. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

For more information, visit business.purdue.edu.

Adding facility

Eli Lilly announced plans Friday for a new pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in Fogelsville, Pennsylvania.

The planned \$3.5 billion plant will manufacture Lilly's injectable weight-loss medications. It is the fourth new U.S. manufacturing site the company has announced since February 2025.

"Our mission starts with patients and delivering the medicines they need," said David A. Ricks, Lilly chair and CEO, in a news release. "To meet increasing demand, we're expanding our U.S. manufac-

turing network, with Lehigh Valley adding capacity for next-generation weight-loss medicines. We're creating high-quality jobs and collaborating across the region — with suppliers, educators, and workforce-development partners — to make critical medicines in the U.S. That's our commitment — to patients, to our new Pennsylvania home and to our country."

Programs recognized

Six Ball State University online education programs have been ranked among the top 25 by U.S. News & World Report.

BSU's business analytics program (MBA concentration) was the top-ranked for the school, coming in at No. 8. Other top programs included its master's of special education (11th), master's in educational administration and supervision (13th), master's of business administration (14th), master's of curriculum and educational technology (15th) and bachelor's in psychology programs (25th).

"These results reflect the intentional way our faculty and staff design online learning at Ball State — rigorous curriculum, responsive support, and the flexibility adults and working professionals need to keep moving forward," said Trudi Weyermann, assistant provost for learning ini-

tiatives at Ball State, in a news release. "Expanding access to high-quality graduate education and lifelong learning is central to our University's strategic plan, and we're proud to see that commitment recognized at the national level."

Nominations open

Indiana Manufacturers Association is accepting nominations for its 2026 Manufacturing Excellence Awards.

The awards honor Indiana companies and individuals for their outstanding work, exceptional contributions and impact on the future of manufacturing. They are open to all manufacturers in the state.

Awards that will be presented this year include the Community Impact, Emerging Leader, Lifetime Achievement, Manufacturing Talent Champion, Outstanding Woman Leader in Manufacturing, and Safety Champion.

Anyone can make a nomination by visiting indianamfg.com/2026-manufacturing-excellence-awards. The deadline is April 30.

Grant cycle open

Applications are open for CenterPoint Energy Foundation's grants supporting non-profit programs and initiatives focusing on literacy, STEM and workforce development.

Grants are available for non-profit organizations located in

CenterPoint's service area. Priority is given to programs serving low-to-moderate income families and under-resourced communities.

The deadline is Feb. 13. For more information, visit CenterPointEnergy.com/Foundation.

ServSafe classes set

John Jay Center for Learning in Portland will host a pair of ServSafe training courses in the spring.

Training will be available on Tuesdays, March 24 and May 19. John Jay is located at 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

For more information, call (260) 729-5525.

Courses scheduled

Indiana Chamber of Commerce will host its annual safety and health conference next month.

The Indiana Safety and Health Conference & Expo will be held from Feb. 23 through 25 at the Indiana Chamber of Commerce Conference Center in Indianapolis. It will feature a variety of speakers as well as more than 60 educational sessions.

For more information, visit indianachamber.com.

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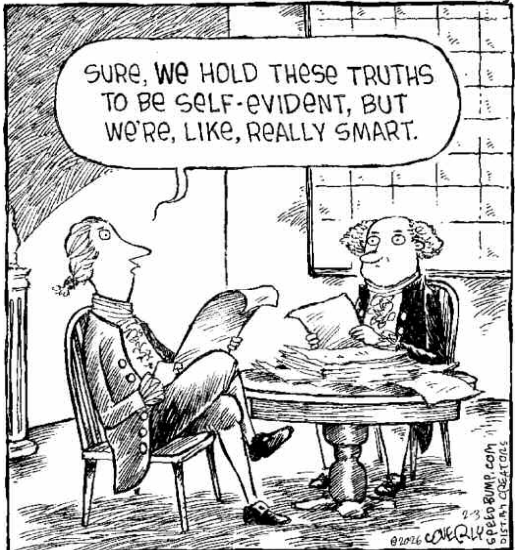
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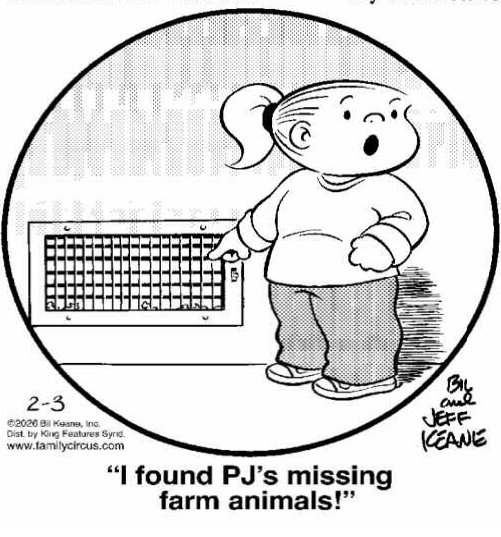
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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The art of visualization

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH	
♠ Q 6	
♥ 6 4 3	
♦ K J 8 3	
♣ K 7 6 5	
WEST	
♠ K 10 5	
♥ K J 10 9 2	
♦ 10 5	
♣ A J 8	
EAST	
♠ 9 8 4 3	
♥ 8 7	
♦ 7 6 2	
♣ 10 9 4 2	
SOUTH	
♠ A J 7 2	
♥ A Q 5	
♦ A Q 9 4	
♣ Q 3	

The bidding:
West 1♥ North Pass East Pass South Dble
Pass 2♦ Pass 2NT
Pass 3NT

Opening lead — jack of hearts.
Declarer would surely play more accurately if he could see the defenders' cards. In some deals, though, it is not necessary to see the adverse cards; declarer can visualize them just as if he were looking directly at them, because the bidding or plays already made tell him everything he needs to know.
Consider this case where West

leads the jack of hearts against three notrump. South wins with the queen and can credit West, who opened the bidding, with every one of the missing 11 high-card points. So all declarer has to do is to utilize this information to assure scoring nine tricks.

This should not be difficult once South puts his mind to the task. At trick two, he leads the spade deuce toward the queen. If West goes up with the king, South has nine tricks consisting of three spades, two hearts, and four diamonds.

If West plays low at trick two, dummy's queen wins, giving South eight tricks: two spades, two hearts and four diamonds. He then leads a club to get his ninth.

A lazy declarer who makes no effort to diagnose where the missing high cards are located could easily misplay the hand. For example, he might cross to dummy with a diamond at trick two in order to try a spade finesse.

West would then win with the king and force out the ace of hearts, and South would eventually go down one as a consequence of his failure to think things out at the beginning.

Tomorrow: Planning the play.
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2-3

CRYPTOQUIP

I U Z Y J Z T P N V E D Z K N N U V G H B

W V G P R O P D Y Z A F J Z H N H F T P

D V I N Z A B V R P A Y V Z H I Z W N

O K P E P K ? D Z Y Y H P - W Z T N .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE VEHICLES USED FOR MOVING EXTREMELY HEAVY BOXES AROUND IN A BACON-MAKING PLANT ARE PORK-LIFTS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals H

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37 Imam's holy book	2 Book-spine abbr.	22 Sagan who wrote "Cosmos"
1 Athletic shoe brand	38 Arm's-length pic	3 Debtor's letters	23 Video-streaming brand
5 Ninny	41 Little lie	4 Reddit co-founder	24 Cafeteria stack
8 50%	42 Actress Falco	5 Pinnacle computer note	26 Ex-changed
12 Chuckle-head	43 Chess-playing IBM	6 Scale	27 Deceitful person
13 "Ulalume" writer	48 Departed	7 Traitors	28 Arm bone
14 Spoken hyacinth	49 Anger	8 Mingle	29 Flair
17 Small snack	50 Greek vowel	9 Desert-like	31 California town
18 Tic-tac-toe loser	51 Pot starter	10 Tardy	34 Soft and weak
19 Touched down	52 Rebellion leader	11 Skedad-died	35 Thread holder
21 Rx, for short	Turner	16 Jazzy style	37 Olympian runner
24 Takeout request	53 Russian refusal	20 Pulitzer winner	Keino
25 Cambodia neighbor	DOWN	James	38 Actress Ward
26 Loyal	1 Home for mil. jets	21 Thick chunk	39 Biblical garden
30 Noah's craft			40 Boost
31 Emulate Oprah			41 Shoe fillers
32 Under the weather			44 Time line period
33 Colorful birds			45 Myrna of film
35 "Hulk" actor Eric			46 Multi-purpose truck
36 Crazy			47 "Mangia!"

Solution time: 22 mins.

JAB	SHEAR	NBC
ANT	HALLE	OOO
NOW	ORRIES	END
	HID	XERXES
GENOME	ALEC	
UDO	PST	LAUDS
NIKE	TAC	LSAT
KEIRA	BOT	ENE
	DIGS	LEASES
INDEEP	DXI	
MAI	NOCOMMENT	
ANN	DONNE	WAS
NAG	ANNEX	EYE

Yesterday's answer 2-3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
			18			19	20			
21	22	23				24				
25				26				27	28	29
30				31				32		
33			34					35		
			36					37		
38	39	40				41				
42				43	44			45	46	47
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

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words.... \$13.00
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Nine ...

Continued from page 8
Of the five Jay County wrestlers who closed their days with victories in third-place matches, two avenged losses from earlier in the day by completely flipping the script.

Senior 150-pounder Jacob Robinson dropped his opening match of the sectional by pin to Bluffton's Parker Nash in 5:26 before winning the third-place rematch with a pin in 1:01. Sophomore Alex Rivers suffered an 11-2 major decision defeat to Norwell's Crete Edwards in his opener at 126, then came back to blank Edwards 7-0 to close the day.

Also adding third-place finishes were:

•Jason Landers (29-6) with a 4-3 decision over Braxtyn Hough of South Adams at 138

•Alan Ortiz (23-7) with a pin of Bellmont's Blake Christner in 2:25 at 215, which earned him his 100th career victory

•Spencer Smitley (20-7) by pinning Adams Central's Ryan Beer in 2:29 at 285

Adding fourth-place finishes for the Patriots were Corbin Lothridge at 106 and Caleb Sibray at 165.

Five ...

Continued from page 8
Later in the period, the Patriots led by six when Overton picked Leggett's pocket and scored in transition. On the next possession he hit a final triple on a swing from Comer to go up 11 points on Blackford.

"(It's) the adrenaline, man," Overton said. "It's tiring guarding him the whole game, but that adrenaline just keeps you going. I found it and made (the shots). That's really it."

While Overton managed to overcome some exhaustion for the fourth-quarter points, all five Patriot starters, who played nearly the entire first, third and fourth quarters, found ways to contribute.

Comer powered the offense early to finish with 15 points.

Swoveland had a strong second half, getting to the rim and the free throw line to finish with a team-high 26 points.

Phillips only hit one three at the buzzer to end the half, but he guarded Blackford's second-leading scorer, Mason Kitterman, holding him to just eight points, none of which were scored on him.

Cole Forthofer patrolled the paint to deter the other Bruins from driving, grabbed 12 rebounds and had 15 points on post ups and transition baskets.

"They were hard to guard," Daniels said. "We tried to run Comer off the 3-point line because he's a great shooter. We struggled early and lost him a couple times and did a great job late, but then they had other kids step up. Gradin Swoveland was fantastic. We could not keep them off the boards. ... We gave up way too many second chance opportunities and they were able to capitalize on them."

Outside of Leggett, Blackford scored just 20 points, six of which came on assists from Leggett. The Bruins didn't have any bench points, while Jay County got four from Brock Wasson. (All three Patriots off the bench had assists as well.)



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Cole Forthofer of the Jay County High School boys basketball team swats a shot from Blackford's Mason McFeely during Saturday's 75-62 win. Forthofer had a 15-point, 12-rebound double-double.

Jay County has now won 11 games in a row and hasn't lost since Dec. 6 at Fort Recovery. After consecutive wins against teams with records at or above .750 and with Patriot ties they will get some rest before an Allen County Athletic Conference matchup with Southern Wells.

"We've won 11 in a row, but I wouldn't even know that if other people didn't tell me," Rigby said. "It's, we want to be better than the last time we were out and it's been that way since day one I was here. We're just trying to build every single time."

Roundup ...

Continued from page 8
Tribe wins

FORT RECOVERY — Fort Recovery's girls team led the entire match as it beat Fort Loramie 2,737-2,431 on Saturday at Miracle Lanes.

Liliana Williams rolled the best series of the Indians (11-3) as games of 190, 178 and 166 totaled 534 pins. Elizabeth Kahlig was the only other Indian to bowl three

games, finishing with a 377 series.

Jadyn Wyerick had the best individual game of the day at 201 pins. That coupled with a 165 made for a 366-pin series.

Claire Gaerke, Lilah Thein and Malia Grisez all rolled two games, recording 334, 290 and 274 pins, respectively. Deanna Brown had a 199 in her lone game.

The Tribe also beat Fort

Loramie in the two Baker games 363-281.

Tribe takes seventh

CELINA, Ohio — Both Fort Recovery swim teams placed seventh at the St. Henry Invite at Celina YMCA on Saturday.

The girls team scored 30 points, while the boys totaled 24. Lebanon ran away with the girls title as it racked up 136 points,

while 88 was enough for New Bremen to top the boys' field.

Carson Fullenkamp and Caleb Smith both placed second in one event and fourth in another. Fullenkamp's better finish came in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 1 minute, 1.17 seconds. His fourth-place finish came in the 200 freestyle at 2:11.71.

A 1:08.45 swim earned Smith the runner-up spot in the 100

breaststroke, while he finished fourth in the 200 individual medley with a time of 2:23.21.

Most of the girls' points came from the 200 freestyle relay team that placed third. Aubrey Shuttleworth, Liza Knapke, Autumn Luethold and Livy Timmerman combined to swim a 2:02.29 time in the event.

Timmerman also placed fifth in the 50 freestyle in 28.32.

90 SALE CALENDAR

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.
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ELLENBERGER Auctions, Inc.
AUCTION COMPANY NUMBER, AC30200063
PRINCIPAL AUCTIONEER,
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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
CASE NO.38C01-2511-DN-98
Mariseli Cisneros
PETITIONER
VS
Francisco Javier Cisneros Gaitan
RESPONDENT
SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE OF SUIT
TO:
You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above-named.
The nature of the suit against you is a Divorce This summons by publication is specifically directed to Francisco Javier Cisneros Gaitan residence unknown.
You must answer the Petition or Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before 1-29-26, the same being within 30 days after notice of suit, and if you fail to do so, a judgment will be entered against you for what the Petitioner has demanded.
The name and address of the Petitioner is:
Mariseli Cisneros
Melissa Elliot,
CLERK OF JAY COUNTY
CR 2-3-2026-HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Dunkirk Civil City, Jay County, Indiana
Cash & Investments Combined Statement - 2025

Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg. Cash and Inv. Bal. Jan 1, 2025		Receipts	Disbursements	End Cash and Inv. Bal. Dec 31, 2025
Governmental Activities						
01	GENERAL FUND	\$3,649,735.34	\$2,084,537.30	\$1,358,127.36	\$4,376,145.28	
76	ARP RECOVERY FUND	\$167,359.54	\$7.07	\$161,899.24	\$5,467.37	
01	MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY	\$440,721.51	\$217,886.27	\$232,802.88	\$425,804.90	
02	LOCAL ROAD AND STREET	\$56,767.97	\$16,584.96	\$499.50	\$72,853.43	
03	MOVH RESTRICTED (SUBFUND OF MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY)	\$13,955.61	\$46,550.87	\$56,447.15	\$4,059.33	
11	PARK NONREVERTING OPER.	\$70,897.50	\$17,991.12	\$653.64	\$88,234.98	
18	PLANNING AND ZONING	\$180.55	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$180.55	
28	POLICE CONT EDUCATION	\$29,572.57	\$2,586.00	\$0.00	\$32,158.57	
36	RAINY DAY	\$23,203.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,203.75	
40	LIT-PUBLIC SAFETY	\$206,688.73	\$165,356.00	\$99,790.10	\$272,254.63	
43	FIRE NONREVERTING	\$0.00	\$30,940.38	\$1,000.00	\$29,940.38	
56	OPIOID SETTLEMENT- UNRESTRICTED	\$3,386.12	\$749.40	\$0.00	\$4,135.52	
57	OPIOID SETTLEMENT- RESTRICTED	\$3,001.88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,001.88	
70	NONREVERTING REPAIR/MAIN	\$3,185.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,185.00	
75	USER FEE FUND	\$6,875.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,875.00	
00	POLICE DONATION FUND	\$6,923.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,923.85	
01	COMMUNITY CROSSINGS GRANT FUND	\$0.00	\$111,057.00	\$111,057.00	\$0.00	
21	LIEN PAYMENTS	\$3,010.99	\$4,437.03	\$4,437.03	\$3,010.99	
01	CUMULATIVE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT - CIGARETTE TAX	\$20,512.00	\$3,216.58	\$7,936.50	\$15,792.08	
10	FIRE EQUIPMENT - REPORTS	\$3,190.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,190.38	
36	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCOME TAX (EDIT)	\$107,601.02	\$163,822.00	\$137,120.00	\$134,303.02	
71	DTR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$16,722.21	\$37,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$28,722.21	
74	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$838.58	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$838.58	
76	DUNKIRK-BLIGHT ELIMINATION PROJECT	\$8,962.67	\$3,657.00	\$795.00	\$11,824.67	
00	INDOT FED GRANT - CFDA 20.205	\$26,337.52	\$0.00	\$22,608.51	\$3,729.01	
02	BONY-WATER UTILITY BOND & INTEREST SINKING	\$52,834.58	\$164,346.61	\$160,462.40	\$56,718.79	
02	SEWAGE UTILITY BOND AND INTEREST SINKING	\$2,904.31	\$296,632.18	\$0.00	\$128.44	
04	STORM WATER	\$455,814.17	\$172,404.68	\$2,550.00	\$286,539.07	
04	TRASH AND GARBAGE PICKUP	\$296,503.74	\$179,645.42	\$160,853.78	\$21,695.95	
07	BONY-WATER DEBT RESERVE	\$116,684.39	\$7,916.29	\$0.00	\$197,538.87	
08	SEWAGE DEBT RESERVE-BONY	\$189,622.58	\$19,018.17	\$0.00	\$474,832.34	
09	SEWAGE BOND & INT INVEST	\$11,930.70	\$8,792.61	\$0.00	\$20,723.31	
10	SEWAGE IMPROV INVESTMENT	\$193,777.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$193,777.12	
02	POLICE PENSION	\$75,212.47	\$22,290.08	\$22,480.20	\$75,022.35	
52	CASH ON HAND	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	
01	PAYROLL	\$7,683.80	\$1,333,598.00	\$1,343,325.11	-\$2,043.31	
76	CREDIT CARD CLEARING ACCT	\$3,150.00	\$486,584.83	\$486,583.77	\$3,151.06	
01	SEWAGE UTILITY OPERATING	\$1,905,599.73	\$1,368,194.81	\$1,381,797.02	\$1,891,997.52	
11	SEWAGE OPERATING INVEST	\$700.09	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$700.09	
31	SEWAGE IMPROVEMENT	\$2,673,547.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,673,547.54	
34	SEWAGE B&I- ARGENT INSTITUTIONAL TRUST	\$18,628.91	\$348,550.81	\$347,157.50	\$20,022.22	
01	WATER UTILITY OPERATING	\$664,318.62	\$1,046,140.62	\$915,329.16	\$795,130.08	
03	WATER UTILITY DEPRECIATION	\$1,083,401.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,083,401.46	
04	WATER UTILITY METER DEPOSIT	\$55,334.04	\$13,394.12	\$11,964.92	\$56,763.24	
Total All Funds		\$12,084,421.06	\$8,373,888.21	\$7,052,677.77	\$13,405,631.50	
CR 2-3-2026 - HSPAXLP						

Box score

Blackford Bruins
at Jay County Patriots

Boys varsity summary

Blackford (14-3)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Leggett	16-26	3-5	42	
McPhaul	0-0	0-0	0	
Barry	0-1	0-0	0	
McFeely	3-9	0-0	6	
Kitterman	2-6	3-4	8	
Dillon	2-4	2-3	6	
Morgan	0-1	0-0	0	
Duren	0-1	0-0	0	
Totals	23-48	8-12	62	
	.479	.667		
Def. Rebound percentage:	.684			

Jay County (13-2)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Overton	4-7	1-2	12	
Comer	5-10	2-2	15	
Barnett	0-0	0-0	0	
Wasson	1-3	1-2	4	
Forthofer	7-7	1-2	15	
Phillips	1-2	0-2	3	
Swoveland	6-12	13-14	26	
Sommers	0-0	0-0	0	
Totals	24-41	18-24	75	
	.585	.750		
Def. Rebound percentage:	.778			

Score by quarters:
Blackford 7 20 18 17—62
Jay Co. 18 16 14 27—75

3-point shooting: Blackford 8-22 (Leggett 7-12, Kitterman 1-4, Barry 0-1, Duren 0-1, McFeely 0-4). Jay County 9-17 (Overton 3-4, Comer 3-5, Phillips 1-1, Wasson 1-2, Swoveland 1-5).

Rebounds: Blackford 19 (Kitterman 6, McFeely 4, Duren 3, Team 3, Dillon 2, Barry). Jay County 27 (Forthofer 12, Comer 3, Phillips 3, Swoveland 3, Team 2, Overton, Barnett, Wasson, Sommers).

Assists: Blackford 8 (Leggett 3, McFeely 3, Dillon, Duren). Jay County 10 (Comer 3, Overton 2, Barnett, Wasson, Forthofer, Phillips, Sommers).

Blocks: Blackford 0. Jay County 4 (Forthofer 2, Comer, Swoveland).

Personal fouls: Blackford 20 (McFeely 5, Dillon 4, Duren 4, Kitterman 3, Morgan 3, Leggett). Jay County 13 (Overton 3, Swoveland 3, Comer 2, Forthofer 2, Barnett, Phillips, Sommers).

Turnovers: Blackford 16. Jay County 14.

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Nine to regional

Fields, Wenk lead group of qualifiers for Jay County

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

With three top-10 teams in the field, the Patriots knew how fierce the competition would be just to make it to the next level of the tournament.

They came up just short of hitting their first-year coach's target for the day.

Host Jay County High School was shut out of individual championships but had nine wrestlers, including runners-up Sylas Wenk and Bryan Fields, earn regional berths with top-four finishes in Saturday's sectional tournament.

"Definitely had some ups and downs," said JCHS coach Tyler Leonhard, adding that entering the day he felt his team could pick up 11 regional berths in 14 weight classes. "We had some kids wrestle really well. We had some kids that lost to the kid that they beat in the placement round. So, you have some good ones there and then took some tough losses as well.

"But all in all, I feel like it is a good day."

The top four wrestlers in each weight class advanced and will return to Jay County for the regional tournament at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 7.

Jay County, which closed the year 11th in the Class 2A poll, scored 166.5 points to place fourth in the nine-team field. It trailed champion Class 2A No. 3 Belmont (273.5), which won six individual titles, runner-up Class 1A No. 5 Adams Central (250) and third-place Class 1A No. 10 South Adams (199).

Both of the Patriots' championship matches ended in pins.

Fields, a junior in his first year with JCHS, shot early in his 175-pound title match, but Xander Schwartz (35-3) of Adams



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School junior Bryan Fields sits on Belmont freshman Owen Shane while controlling their sectional semifinal match Saturday at 175 pounds. Fields advanced to the finals, where he lost by pin to Adams Central's Xander Schwartz.

Central fought him off. Schwartz caught a single leg and eventually finished the takedown for the first points of the match.

An escape made it 4-0 before Schwartz finished the match in 3:02.

Wrestling at 120 pounds, Wenk looked like he might gain the upper hand as he nearly scored a takedown in the first 10 seconds against Max Adams (30-3) of South Adams. But the action went out of bounds, and after the reset Adams hit a double-leg takedown to take control.

Wenk was unable to muster any offense, falling behind 7-0 on a pair of reversals before Adams pinned him with just one second left in the final period.

"Bryan, we keep talking about he's a lot better when he's offensive rather than defensive," said Leonhard. "He took more shots compared to when he wrestled that kid in ACAC, and ... I personally thought he wrestled a heck of a lot better."

"And then Sylas just, he's got to keep the match under control, take his shots. And when he's on top, don't give the other guy a chance to score ... He's a dog on top, so we've got to work to our strengths."

Wenk (24-6) was dominant en route to the finals, pinning Blackford's Benjamin Rose-nauer and Bluffton's Roberto Rodas both in the first period.

Fields (21-7) needed just one victory to make the championship match, as he beat Belmont freshman Owen Shane by an 18-7 major decision.

See **Nine** page 7

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Five on one

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

Gabe Overton drew the tough responsibility of guarding a 27-point scorer in Mari Leggett.

The Bruin sophomore managed to get his own. Overton made every single point difficult. But he still had the legs to hit some big shots to lift the Patriots in the final period.

Despite guarding the Class 2A No. 10 Blackford Bruins' leading scorer, the Overton scored nine fourth quarter points to lift the Jay County High School boys basketball team to a thrilling 75-62 victory in front of a packed gym on Saturday night.

"I'm super happy for the guys," said JCHS coach Tyler Rigby. "They played really hard. They executed what we asked them to do at a high level. (Bluffton and Blackford) are two really good teams and really well coached teams, so it's not easy to do in back-to-back nights."

Leggett wouldn't let the Bruins (14-3) go down easy.

Patriot starters all play key roles in win over Blackford

All of Blackford's offense ran through the sophomore guard, who averages 26.9 points per game. In an effort to slow him down, the Patriots employed a man-to-man defense with Overton matched up with Leggett and allowed the other guards to sag off their assignments to help on a moment's notice.

Leggett rarely got easy looks, but either found ways to the rim, or used his 6-foot, 5-inch frame to rise up over Overton to get a shot off. He finished with a career-high 42 points on an efficient 16-of-26 (61.5%) from the field.

“He had 42 tonight, but it felt like 70, because he had to work so hard for every single basket,” said BHS coach Aaron Daniels, who is a Jay County graduate. “They really put a good defensive game plan together.”

Overton guarded Leggett the entire second half. He had to fight through screens, attempt to keep his feet in front of Leggett on drives and rise up on the drop of a dime to contest jumpers.

But he still found the legs to knock down some key shots.

Overton's first three of the fourth quarter came at 5:49 with a 50-47 advantage — Jayden Comer drove baseline, threw it out to Aiden Phillips who fired it to Overton in the corner. Overton got the chance to leak out in transition on the next play and split a pair of free throws to put Jay County (13-2) up seven points.

See **Five** page 7

Tribe boys beat Dixie

NEW LEBANON, Ohio — The Tribe let the Greyhounds hang around for the first half, but pulled away in the final 16 minutes.

The Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team outscored the Dixie Greyhounds by 28 points in the second half en route to a 65-32 victory on Saturday.

The Indians (11-6) took off for 19 points in the third quarter and followed it up with 23 in the fourth.

Hudson Overman and Brodie Barga dropped 16 apiece for the game high. Colson Post also broke double digits with 11 points.

Breaker Jutte followed with eight, Douglas Bihn added six, Grant Fortkamp had two and Braylon Dilworth and Carter Fortkamp both had one basket.

Brayden Puckett was the only double-digit scorer for Dixie (4-13). He hit four triples as he totaled 14 points.

Acheson leads

FORT RECOVERY — Gabe Acheson

Fort Recovery Roundup

posted the high series to lead Fort Recovery's boys bowling team past Fort Loramie 3,304-2,976 at Miracle Lanes on Saturday.

Acheson rolled games of 239, 195 and 201 pins for a 635 series. Reece LeFevre also had a pair of games above 200 pins for 584 pins.

Anthony Roessner was the only other Indian to roll three games, finishing with a 571 series.

Garrett Diller shot the best single game of the day at 268 pins. Troy Post's best individual game came in at 222 pins.

Fort Recovery (11-4) only rolled two Baker games, recording another 399 pins.