

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Choice One to assist with paving

Redkey received \$163,686.75 for work on streets

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

REDKEY — More paving is on the horizon for next year.

Redkey Town Council approved a \$6,000 service agreement Thursday with Choice One Engineering for bidding and grant administration services for paving planned in 2024.

Redkey was awarded \$163,686.75 on Nov. 7 from the Community Crossings grant program through Indiana Department of Transportation. Redkey, Dunkirk and Portland all received funding from the program for paving projects, with Redkey receiving the largest amount. (The funding requires a 25% local match, putting Redkey's commitment at about \$55,000.)

The following streets are on the schedule to be resurfaced next year: Union Street between Main to Lake streets and between High to Mitchell streets, Mitchell Street between Union Street to Meridian Avenue, Oak Street between Main to Railroad streets, Delaware Avenue between Meridian to Washington streets and Washington Street from Delaware Street to Bell Avenue.

Council briefly discussed the December deadline imposed by Indiana Department of Environmental Management to come up with a plan for eliminating its combined sewer overflow (CSO) that originates in a rural part of the county just north of town.

See Assist page 2

HoliJays continue

Cruis'n the HoliJay Lights at the Fairgrounds continues tonight and Saturday at Jay County Fairgrounds. The drive-thru holiday light display will be open every Friday and Saturday through Christmas as well as Thursday, Dec. 21. There is no admission fee, but free-will donations are accepted.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Finances continue to look strong

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — The school's finances continue to trend in a positive direction.

Although inflation and building repairs impact the budget, it's still looking healthy in the long-term.

Fort Recovery School Board heard its five-year financial forecast Monday.

The school district is projected to finish fiscal year 2024, which ends June 30, with a budget surplus of more than \$1.48 million, bringing its year-end cash balance before encum-

brances to just over \$11 million. That's an increase of \$1.8 million from projections made in May.

Fort Recovery Local Schools' budget surpluses are now expected to continue years into

the future, with the forecast projecting the district's income will outpace its spending in 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028 by approximately \$1.6 million, \$1.1 million, \$728,000 and \$232,000, respectively.

FR schools project surpluses through 2028

High inflation continues to impact the state, country and globe, Deanna Knapke wrote in her five-year forecast document handed out at the meeting. Inflation as of August is at 3.4%, affecting prices for goods, fuel, building materials and other items. (She has built in rising costs to the budget, including for the purchase of textbooks in coming years.)

Additionally, Ohio has grown economically in the last three years, with the state's current rainy day fund at \$3.7 billion, a record high.

See Finances page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Winterfest Snow

Jay County Chamber of Commerce hosted its Little Miss Winterfest 2023 pageant Saturday at Fellowship Baptist Church. Pictured, Josey Snow, left, answers a question and prompts a laugh from host Gage Sims and Little Miss Winterfest 2022 Aria Barnett.

Revisiting reading

Lawmakers will reconsider holding back those who are below appropriate skill level

By WHITNEY DOWNARD and LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Too many Hoosier third-graders can't read at an appropriate skill level — and some shouldn't be going on to fourth grade, Indiana lawmakers said Tuesday during the ceremonial start to the legislative session.

They're also planning to tackle student truancy, antisemitism and more during the non-budget session, which will begin in earnest Jan. 8 and must end by mid-March. Leaders elaborated on what they won't pursue during a legislative preview Monday.

"We're adversely affecting any student that we pass along (because) they can't read at the appropriate level," said House Speaker Todd Huston, R-Fishers.

He emphasized that low literacy is connected to a greater likelihood of incarceration and use of government assistance, adding, "That's just not fair to the kid."

Third grade is typically the point at which children shift from learning to read to using reading itself as a tool to learn other information. In Indiana, third-graders who fail a reading exam can be held back unless they've already been retained twice — with additional exceptions if a child is disabled or an English-language learner and a committee decides to promote them.

But legislative leaders said those exceptions have been misused.

"There have been exceptions created and the exceptions have gotten broader and broader and broader," Huston said.

"There may be some opportunities for waivers under the right circumstance, but it seems like an awful lot of kids are getting into fourth grade and then we're not keeping an eye on them to make sure that they do later become proficient," Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray said.

"Will it make some parents mad? Yeah, I suppose so," Bray, R-Martinsville, added. "But they need to be vested in their child's education ... so we hope that they'll be partners with us."

See Reading page 2

In review

The Portland Foundation is now accepting applications for its winter grant cycle, the Pen-ville Endowment Fund grant, winter teacher creativity mini grants and scholarships. Applications are available at portlandfoundation.org. For more information, email jcook@portlandfoundation.org or call (260) 726-4260.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 52 degrees Tuesday. The low was 41.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the lower 20s. Expect partly cloudy skies Saturday with a high of 40.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available Saturday. Trailers will be open from 9 a.m. to noon in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, and Dunkirk City Park.

Coming up

Saturday — Results from tonight's JCHS girls basketball game at Woodlan.

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.



Assist ...

Continued from page 1
The line lets out into the creek near Main and George streets. Council member Gary Gardner noted himself and town employee Randy Young have touched base with county officials. Gardner expressed concerns with what the town legally can and can't do on county property, such as water testing. Young told the town council it needs to decide how it will handle the problem.

Young also reminded council members about the town's other requirement to report water line inventories to IDEM by October 2024. He said he plans to start gathering the information, and his first step will be to send questionnaires to residents. Also Tuesday, council noted Chad Pusey — the board agreed to hire him as town marshal in October — turned down the town's offer. Council members

agreed to resume advertising for the position, which has been vacant since September. (Police officer Zach Moser has been filling in the department's duties since former marshal Kyle Denney resigned.) In other business, council members Erik Hammers, Floyd Life, Chance Retter and Gardner, absent John Pierce: •OK'd purchasing a new motor for the wastewater department's

grit classifier from FACO for \$2,086.50. The cost doesn't include shipping from its location in Pennsylvania, which will be tacked onto the bill later. •Heard Santa Claus will be visiting the town's gazebo at 6 p.m. Friday. •Tabled a decision on the animal control service agreement with Jay County Humane Society, noting they would like to discuss it with town attorney Wes

Schemenaur before taking action. (Redkey allotted for the contract in its 2024 budget, but the town council hasn't decided yet whether to move forward with the agreement.) •Made \$958.90 in water bill adjustments, with clerk-treasurer Mary Eley pointing out the new meter system being installed should allow the town to catch leaks faster. •Paid \$113,991.38 in claims.

CR almanac

Saturday 11/25	Sunday 11/26	Monday 11/27	Tuesday 11/28	Wednesday 11/29
40/23	39/23	36/19	37/24	41/22
Saturday's forecast shows mostly cloudy skies and a low of 23 degrees at night.	There's a slight chance of rain or snow on Sunday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high of 39.	The high will be in the mid to upper 30s with a low of 19 under mostly sunny skies.	Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast for Tuesday, when the high will be in the 30s.	Wednesday looks to be partly cloudy with a high of 41 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball
19-26-30-39-63
Power Ball: 13
Power Play: 2
Estimated jackpot: \$313 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$308 million

Hoosier
Wednesday
Midday
Daily Three: 8-2-9
Daily Four: 9-7-3-9
Quick Draw: 1-5-15-23-24-25-28-29-30-37-42-47-48-53-55-57-63-66-74-75
Evening
Daily Three: 1-9-6

Daily Four: 4-5-8-2
Quick Draw: 5-11-13-14-17-21-22-23-29-38-42-47-50-59-60-63-64-67-68-73
Cash 5: 1-9-11-23-30
Estimated jackpot: \$100,000

Ohio
Wednesday
Midday
Pick 3: 9-3-3
Pick 4: 2-9-7-6
Pick 5: 1-9-1-1-7
Evening
Pick 3: 7-5-5
Pick 4: 0-6-6-3
Pick 5: 3-1-8-6-8
Rolling Cash: 7-9-16-36-37
Estimated jackpot: \$100,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery
Corn.....4.41
Dec. corn.....4.51
Wheat4.80

POET Biorefining Portland
Corn.....4.31
Early Dec. corn.....4.61
Late Dec. corn.....4.61

The Andersons Richland Township
Corn4.16
Dec. corn4.46
Beans13.18

Dec. beans13.43
Wheat 5.18

ADM Montpelier
Corn.....4.15
Dec. corn4.55
Beans13.27
Dec. beans13.42
Wheat5.17

Heartland St. Anthony
Corn.....4.31
Dec. corn4.41
Beans13.13
Dec. beans13.18
Wheat4.88

Today in history

In 1642, Abel Janszoon Tasman, a Dutch navigator, discovered Tasmania while sailing from Batavia (now Jakarta, Indonesia) to investigate the possibility of an eastern sea passage to Chile and to explore New Guinea.

In 1784, President Zachary Taylor was born on Montebello plantation near Gordonsville, Virginia. He was elected as a member of the Whig Party, serving only 16 months before he died in office.

In 1859, Charles Darwin published "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection." It is considered the foundation of evolutionary biology and was formulated after a voyage on the HMS Beagle that included a visit to the Galapagos Islands.

In 1963, Jack Ruby, a Dallas nightclub owner, shot and killed Lee Harvey Oswald in a Dallas police station. Oswald had been arrested for the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

In 1971, D.B. Cooper hijacked a plane shortly after it left Portland, Oregon. He later parachuted out with ransom money. He was never identified or caught.

In 1972, Sheller-Globe Corporation reported record sales for its fiscal year that ended Sept. 30. Pre-tax earnings were nearly \$1 million higher than the previous year, coming in at \$11.5 million. Net sales were \$229.3 million.

In 2001, Turkey's Grand National Assembly ratified changes to its legal code with a focus on women's equality.

In 2014, the Jay County High School girls swim team rolled to a 221-76 victory over Adams Central in its first meet as a member of the Allen County Athletic Conference. The Patriots took first and second place in every event. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday
9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St.
3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District Board, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.
6 p.m. — Dunkirk

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

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

Finances ...

Continued from page 1
Inflation is expected to continue through 2024, although Knapke noted the United States Federal Reserve projects inflation to shrink to closer to 2% sometime next year. During the meeting, Knapke walked school board members through each aspect of the district's revenues and expenditures. Mercer County is expecting an increase in residential/agricultural values, which is estimated between 20% to 30%. (Knapke incorporated a 10% valuation increase into the budget. Real estate taxes make up approximately 18% of the school district's revenue annually.) Fort Recovery Local Schools is also seeing an increase in its state fund-

ing, jumping from \$5.9 million to \$6.7 million, or about \$790,000 additional dollars, explained Knapke. The district will also receive another \$185,000 on top of that amount. Superintendent Tony Stahl and Knapke noted plans to save some funding for permanent improvement repairs at Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School in the next few years. The building is approximately 23 years old with original doors, windows and other amenities installed when it was first constructed. Recent work on the building has included replacing the gym roof and the school's chiller system. In other business, school board members Anne Guggenbiller, Sean Kahlig,

Jake Knapke, Nick Wehrkamp and Don Wendel: •Recognized instructional aid Jill Ranly, who was awarded as an Ohio Middle Level Association Regional staff member recently at the group's conference in Sandusky, Ohio. Ranly launched Fort Recovery Local Schools' Beyond the Books program, which has offered free transportation for students to the library over the last two summers. •Learned the elementary and middle school together raised more than \$9,400 for the Sawyer Overman Ninja Park project. •Heard student appreciation night will be hosted during the basketball game Friday, Dec. 15, at Fort Recovery High School. •Approved a resolution

authorizing Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council to seek bids for natural gas services. The school district's current contract ends in June 2025. •Approved contracts with several athletic department staff members, including Carrie Schoen as high school girls softball coach and Bob Heitkamp as junior high track coach. •Accepted donations, including \$500 from Midwest Electric Community for the cheerleading team. •Established the compensation for each board member in 2024 at \$80 per meeting, with a maximum of 20 meetings per year. •Accepted part-time cook Sheri Kerns' resignation, effective Nov. 8.

Reading ...

Continued from page 1
State law refers to retention as "a last resort." But if lawmakers create a bottleneck at third grade, schools could struggle to staff enough teachers.

Large class sizes also have negative effects on students. The focus on education could extend to student truancy. Nearly 20% of Hoosier students were chronically absent from school

last year — meaning that they missed 18 days or more — according to the Indiana State Board of Education. Bray called that a "horrific statistic."

Capsule Reports

Drunk driving

A Portland man was arrested Sunday after he crashed a car in a ditch along U.S. 27 about 11:30 p.m. Saturday. Jose V. Mendez Lopez, 29, was driving a 2002 Honda Civic north on the highway. He told police the car broke down, causing him to drive onto a property owned by Mary Howell. Police noted in a Jay County Sheriff's Office report that Mendez Lopez smelled of alcohol and he admitted he had consumed two beers. His preliminary breath test results showed a blood alcohol level of 0.164%, more than twice the legal limit of 0.08%. He was arrested for operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. Mendez Lopez was being held in Jay County Jail on a \$1,000 bond.

Dog hit

A dog ran in front of an Indianapolis woman's car along county road 250 West, causing an accident about 5:40 p.m. Tuesday. Elizabeth A. Thompson, 38, was driving her 2011 Dodge Durango north on the road near county road 400 North when a dog ran in front of her path. She wasn't able to avoid hitting the animal, causing between \$1,000 and \$2,500 in estimated damage. The dog belonged to Amanda Smith of rural Portland.

Turning confusion

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000 after a crash at the intersection of Indiana 67 and county road 125 South about 7:30 a.m. Friday. Alixandra Englehardt, 18, Fort Recovery, was driving south on Indiana 67 and planning to turn the 2006 Honda CR-V she was driving east onto county road 125 South, but instead chose to turn west. Donald Gilstrap, 67, Albany, was driving behind Englehardt

and noticed her left turn signal. He didn't realize she decided to turn right until crashing into her with his 2016 Nissan NV. Gilstrap's vehicle was towed.

Hit Wendy's

A Union City woman crashed into the Wendy's building in Portland about 4:42 p.m. Sunday. Phyllis J. Bradburn, 81, Union City, was backing out of a parking space in the parking lot at 514 N. Meridian St. when her purse fell on the floor, according to a Portland police report. She bent over to pick it up and accelerated, causing her to drive into the restaurant. Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Wrecked sign

Damage is estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500 after a South Carolina man crashed into a sign at the

SERVICES

Today
Parrett, Lisa: 1 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Saturday
Grabau, Jerry: 3 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 1217 Clark St., Berne.

Tuesday
Osborne, Dorothy: 11 a.m., Cornerstone Church of Pennville, 190 W. Main St., Pennville.

December 6
Rains, Paula: 11 a.m., Hillcrest Cemetery, Redkey.

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Photo provided

Aparicio honored

Ramses Anaya Aparicio, a junior at Jay County High School, received the "I am a Pol-IN-Glot" award at the Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association annual fall conference in the Global and Multi-IN-gual Celebration of Success Gala. The award recognizes high school and college students who are learning a world language but also speak one or more languages. Aparicio speaks Spanish and English and is learning German.

Scholarship is open

Applications are open for the Indiana Commission for Higher Education Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship.

The scholarship can provide up to \$40,000 in financial aid for those who are seeking to become teachers. To earn the scholarship of up to \$10,000 per year, applicants must commit to teaching in Indiana for at least five years.

To qualify, students must rank in the top 20% of their high school class, score in the top 20 percent on the ACT or SAT, or have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a four-point scale.

Applications are available at ScholarTrack.IN.gov. The deadline is Jan. 31.

Taking Note

Exhibits ready

Two new exhibits are on display.

Jay County Center of Arts Place is currently hosting the Steve McClung Memorial Exhibit and the Alcove Artists and Friends Holiday Art Show and Sale.

The Alcove exhibit features two- and three-dimensional artwork created by artists from Jay County and the surrounding region. Proceeds from the sale will go to Arts Place.

The McClung exhibit features the work of Steve McClung, who died in September. He was a self-taught artist, winning awards in Indiana and Ohio, a member of Alcove and a teacher at Arts Place.

For more information, email visualarts@myartspace.org or call (260) 726-4809.

Tom Cherry

Tom Cherry's Old Time Radio Show will return to Farmland Community Center at 3 p.m. Nov. 25.

The show on Thanksgiving weekend will feature an original radio play by local playwright Cliff Lowe.

Tickets are \$1. For more information, call (765) 468-7631.

Wife's admission damages husband's trust

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my high school sweetheart for 30 years. Recently, she shared details of two infidelities that she had with other men.

The first was with an individual on the staff of our church who held himself out to be my friend. My wife says it was an unprovoked attack, where he forced himself upon her. But when I asked why she didn't resist or fight him off, she said she didn't know and that maybe, deep down, she wanted it to happen. The second was someone she met at a bar and had developed a relationship with. When I was away on business trips, she stayed with him overnight on four occasions.

She tells me these things happened more than 20 years ago and she's been faithful since, but to put it bluntly, I am

Dear Abby



devastated and unconvinced that that's the entire story. I believed my wife to be faithful during our marriage.

I guess I was naive because, over the years, she was jealous and accused me of something nefarious if I even looked at a woman, although I never strayed. Now I'm doubting everything. Did we live a fictional life? Were we ever truly happy? How can I believe that she's been faithful since?

The fact of the matter is I DON'T BELIEVE HER. I still love her, but every time I look

at her, I think about what she told me, and I'm having a hard time coping with this information. I don't think I will ever get over this. What should I do? — DOESN'T BELIEVE HER IN FLORIDA

DEAR DOESN'T BELIEVE: I can feel your pain, and for that, you have my sympathy. You may need the help of a marriage and family counselor to figure out the answers to the questions you are asking yourself. Once you have started on that path, ask your wife to join you. Solid marriages are built on trust. Only if that can be reestablished will your marriage be healed.

.....
DEAR ABBY: Three months ago, I lost my dear, loving wife (the best part of me) to cancer, COVID-19, pneumonia and

heart problems. We had a great marriage, not perfect, but the happiest times of our lives. In disbelief, carrying a burden of grief, sorrow and pain, I am lonely and alone, but it is getting lighter with each passing day. I know I don't want to spend the rest of my remaining time this way.

We were together 40 years, rearing a blended family of four children. Then, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren came along. How long should I wait before considering looking around, dating and searching for someone to share my life with? I am being bombarded with interest from women I do not know, which I did not expect. — ALONE IN ALABAMA

DEAR ALONE: Please accept my sympathy for your loss. Your loneliness, pain and vulnerability are

palpable. This is why, when you start dipping your toe into the dating pool, it's important to take your time and not rush into any "quickie" entanglements.

Realize that as a senior widower, you are now a hot commodity. You will meet many women as the weeks go on. There's a good reason why folks are advised not to make any serious decisions for a year after a loss such as the one you have experienced. Take your time and avoid jumping into any serious commitments in the coming months.

.....
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

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

Today

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, 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 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

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

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

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

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

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

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

Tuesday

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard's Restaurant.

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each

Tuesday. The public is welcome.

JAY COUNTY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in conference room C at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital. Open discussion for cancer patients, survivors, family members or anyone interested in helping with the group. For more information, contact Linda Metzger at (260) 726-1844.

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.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Wednesday's Solution

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

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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Response to bullying must evolve

The News Courier (Athens, Ala.)
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Students today have more to deal with than ever before.

Getting good grades, playing sports, applying to colleges, dealing with personal and romantic relationships: it's a roller coaster of emotions day in and day out.

What can make those days exponentially more challenging is having to deal with bullies.

Bullying is a problem that is as old as going to school itself. But today, the problem has evolved.

Rather than incidents on the playground, today's bullies are doing their damage remotely.

The internet and social media have provided entirely new avenues for tormentors to seek out their victims with instant access to information and pathways to inflict damage.

It appears that bullying was the cause of what could have been a serious incident at a

Guest Editorial

school in a New York school near Cooperstown last month when a student was discovered with a gun on school grounds.

While police were able to respond to the incident, it shined a glaring spotlight on an issue that many across the country felt has been unaddressed for too long.

Concerned parents and others took to Facebook to point out that this was only the most recent case of a pervasive, unacknowledged problem of bullying in the district.

It's unfortunately representative of an all-too-common issue in modern classrooms.

The statistics surrounding

bullying across the country are striking.

According to the National Center for Educational Statistics, one out of every five students reports being bullied. Those numbers are slightly higher among females (24%) than males (17%).

Reports of bullying are most common in middle schools with numbers reaching nearly 30%.

Perhaps most notable, and concerning, is that less than half of students who say they have been bullied have notified an adult at their school about the incident, speaking to the level of fear and shame that bullying can produce in a victim.

Cyberbullying has become especially pervasive in the age of social media.

Thanks to the anonymity provided by certain platforms, victims are subject to name-calling, rumor spreading, receiving unwanted explicit images,

physical threats and constant harassment.

The motives for bullying haven't changed much, if at all.

Bullies seek revenge for having been bullied themselves. They do it out of a sense of jealousy or inferiority. Sometimes, they do it simply because they're bored and it provides them with a sense of excitement.

The methods, however, have changed. It's easier than ever to find out anything you want to know about a person and pinpoint their greatest insecurities.

Teens who say they are constantly online are more likely to be harassed online as well as being more likely to face multiple forms of online abuse.

Enforcing punishment for bullying is something that's often easier said than done.

While many students believe enforcing permanent bans from social media for bullies would be effective, it brings into question tricky matters of free speech.

Studies have shown that when it comes to confronting being bullied, students have far more faith in parents to take action than other authority figures like law enforcement, elected officials and social media companies.

Parents and teachers alike need to take it upon themselves to help kids understand what bullying entails and the negative effects it creates.

This means opening lines of communication and keeping them open, encouraging kids to do what they love and emphasizing the need to treat others with respect.

If this means punishing those who resort to bullying by taking away certain privileges, so be it.

It's become harder than ever to combat bullying and it doesn't figure to get any easier in the future. But the steps to combat this problem are as simple as can be. They simply require the proper follow through to make a positive impact.

Science of reading has paid off in Texas

By ROBERT ROGERS

Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Tribune News Service

For the past few years, we have been inundated with "gloom and doom" stories about failing public schools, both locally and nationally.

Worries were dramatically heightened as we observed the setbacks from school closures during the pandemic.

As a literacy advocate, I have been particularly concerned about the number of students in the Fort Worth ISD who are not learning to read proficiently. This year's STAAR reading tests revealed that only 32% of FWISD third-graders were reading at grade level, improving to only 41% in fifth grade. We sent more than 2,800 students to middle school this year who were not prepared to succeed because of their inadequate reading skills.

Despite these depressing statistics, there are some bright spots to celebrate in the Fort Worth district. At De Zavala Elementary, Principal Marlette Martinez and her staff have taken a group of third-graders in which only 29% were reading at grade level in 2021 (the first year of STAAR testing post-pandemic) to a group of fifth-graders in 2023 in which 80% were reading at grade level.

That's right: Among the same group of students, nearly three times as many reached grade-level reading in three years, in a school where over 80% of the students qualify for free and reduced lunch. This is truly a phenomenal accomplishment for the staff and the students of De Zavala, and they should be congratulated.

I had the opportunity to interview Martinez, the principal at De Zavala. The school's success is the result of hard, focused work by both staff and students. She and her staff have embraced the use of evidence-based reading instruction, commonly referred to as the "science of reading," and are effectively implementing the district's recently adopted high quality reading curriculum.

Staff members are compulsive about ensuring student attendance, and they work diligently to involve parents in the edu-

Guest Opinion

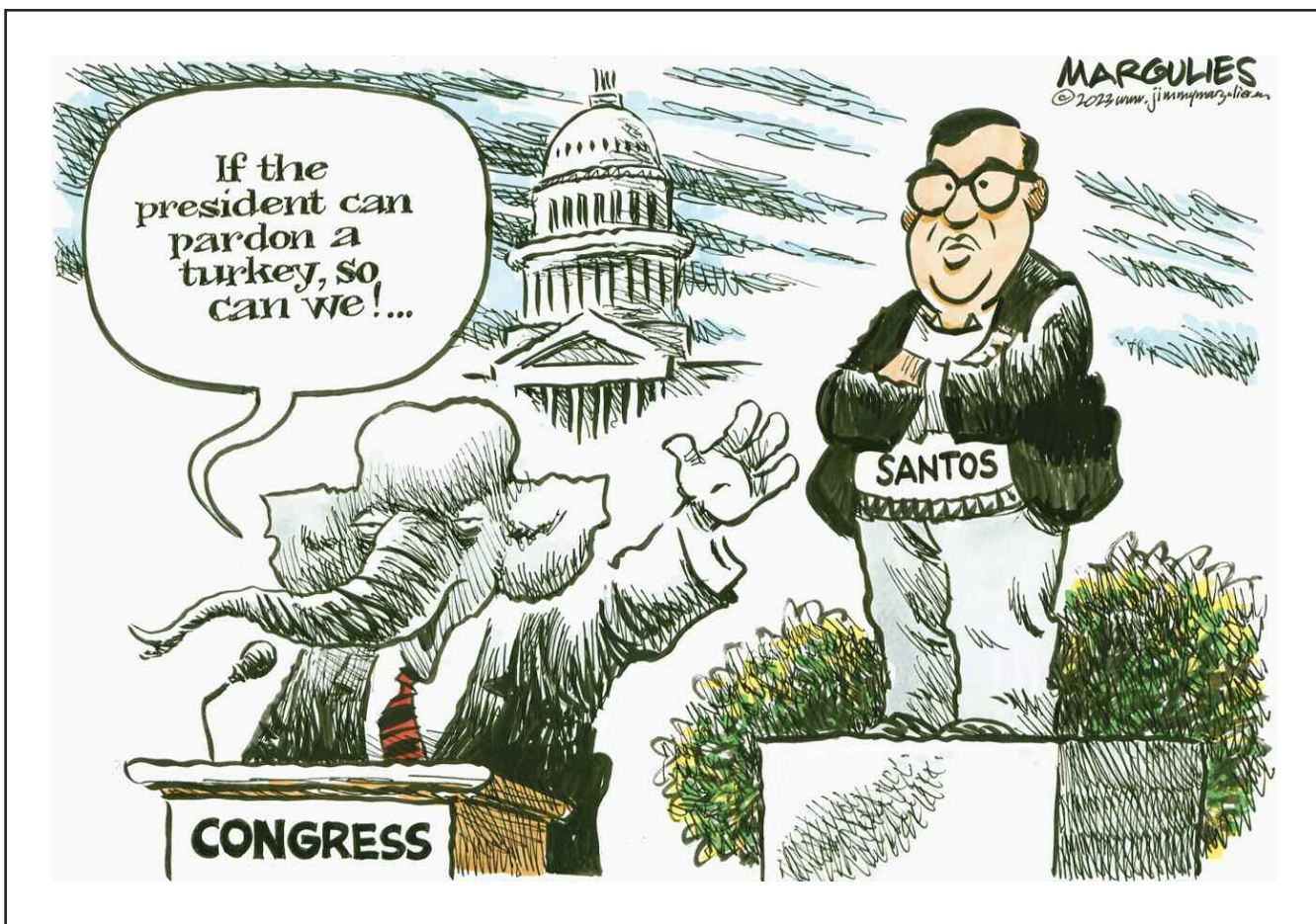
cation of their children. This school shows us that the techniques of instruction matter, and that all children, no matter their circumstances, can be taught to read in our public schools.

Other FWISD schools are making excellent gains in reading. The fifth-graders at Alice D. Contreras, George C. Clarke, Carroll Peak, Hubbard, and Worth Heights elementaries had grade-level STAAR reading scores more than 15% higher than the district average, and each of these schools has a student population where almost all students qualify for free and reduced lunch.

I mention the economic status of these schools because many argue that we cannot expect students in high-poverty neighborhoods to succeed academically. These excellent schools are proving otherwise and inform us that we should have high expectations for all students. Nine other FWISD schools with fewer students living in poverty also have more than 55% of fifth-graders reading at grade level.

Imagine how our city would change if all elementary schools in the Fort Worth ISD were so effective that no family would be tempted to move, either to certain neighborhoods in Fort Worth or to the suburbs, in search of a better school for their children? How would that affect residential real estate and the attraction of new businesses to the central city? Would teacher satisfaction improve, and might more young adults decide to become teachers because it is so fulfilling and fun to teach children who are succeeding?

Best of all, consider the gifts and talents that would be added to our city when our students are not artificially restrained by their inability to read. If 80% of our students could read at grade level instead of 40%, it would be transformative. It can be done — just ask Ms. Martinez!



Make maternal care a priority

By CATHY RITCHIE

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Let's call it what it is. "Maternal mortality" is a clinical term that really means women dying while pregnant, giving birth or before their baby is a year old.

It's sobering that more women die like this in Indiana than in 47 other states.

It's sobering that more Black and Brown women die this way — two- to three-times more — than others.

It's even more sobering that these deaths could be prevented. In fact, in one recent year, 79% of the pregnancy-associated deaths in Indiana were preventable according to the Indiana Maternal Mortality Review Committee's report on 2021.

That's why Women4Change Indiana is focusing on maternal mortality as one of its key areas to improve the state for women.

In recent months, women from across Indiana have joined us for discussions, planning and strategizing. Last summer we hosted a Listen, Connect, Participate session with a panel of experts, including Indiana Maternal Mortality Committee Chair Dr. Mary Abernathy and State Rep. Andrea Hunley and Whitley Yates, director of diversity and engagement with the Indiana Republican Party.

Another day, Hoosier women dedicated hours to hearing insights from people working in the trenches, including an obstetrician/gynecologist, an IU School of Medicine professor, a legal expert and a professional midwife. Following the lectures, attendees participated in roundtable discussions about what to do.

Finally, our fall State of Women conference brought together a variety of leaders and women with lived experiences to share.

Cathy Ritchie



All of this is to prepare for Women4Change's advocacy work and determine best bets for making the change needed.

State of Women keynote speaker Nina Martin, a journalist specializing in women's legal and health issues for more than 30 years, summed up the sorry state of affairs when she said about Indiana, "This is what happens when you don't take care of women."

In 2000, when her sister nearly died after giving birth and the healthcare staff insisted that what happened to her was exceedingly rare, Nina was suspicious. She had reason to be.

After interviews with more than 5,000 women over several years, she and a colleague produced the "Lost Mothers" project, which in 2017 illuminated a national disgrace: The U.S., which spends more per capita on health care than any other country, also has the highest rate of women dying as a consequence of pregnancy and childbirth in the developed world.

Previously, there was incomplete data and a lack of awareness about the scope of the problem, especially in the postpartum period. It also exposed how providers turned a blind eye to social inequities and racism. By exposing the problem, the project led to change to maternal health policy at the state and federal levels.

Martin's take on Indiana is dire. The maternal mortality crisis plus

an abortion ban means perinatal health is about to get worse. Reproductive healthcare providers will retire or move. Already, fewer OBGYN residents are coming here to study.

Despite the bad news, Martin found hope.

- Medicaid has become a real safety net, as most states (Indiana included) have extended coverage 12 months postpartum.

- There's a wider use of telehealth, including growing acceptance for reproductive care.

- We're seeing more activism around improving birth experiences and outcomes in communities of color.

- The medical community is seeking more innovation about how to provide and improve care.

Last year, we saw some progress. Indiana HB 1140 expanded postpartum coverage and removed limitations for pregnancy-related medical services, and HB 1294 limited the use of restraints on pregnant incarcerated people.

Some low-hanging fruit would be for the Indiana General Assembly to create a line item in the state budget for doula care for Medicaid recipients, something that has proven to reduce maternal deaths.

Indiana passed legislation in 2019 to permit this, and in 2022 created a doula advisory panel, but so far no budget has been allocated for it.

Ritchie is interim CEO of Women4Change, a nonprofit working to achieve better outcomes in health, economic stability and personal safety for women in Indiana.

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Tar spot is farmers' new foe

By EMILY MATCHAR
Purdue Ag News

The strange black circles began appearing on corn leaves in Indiana's Cass and Carroll counties in 2015. It looked almost as if someone had dipped a brush in black paint and flicked it on the corn. Farmers had never seen anything quite like it, but it gave them a bad feeling.

Researchers at the Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Lab (PPDL) soon identified the problem: tar spot. The disease, caused by a fungus, was well known in Mexico, Central and South America, where it had damaged corn for over a century. But until 2015, it had never been seen in the United States. Now it was here — and it was spreading.

"It can be a pretty devastating disease in terms of corn," says Daniel Quinn, Purdue's Extension Corn Specialist and assistant professor in agronomy. "It can cause significant yield reductions if you don't manage it properly."

Since tar spot's arrival in this country, Purdue researchers have been on the front lines of the fight against the disease. They're developing new ways of tracking and treating the disease, an effort which reaches across disciplines and national borders.

"If you don't know your enemy, it's hard to combat the threat," says Christian Cruz, an assistant professor in the Botany and Plant Pathology Department.

One of the biggest unknowns about corn tar spot is how it got here — understanding how plant pathogens spread involves thinking multidimensionally across disciplines. You need to understand botany, of course, but also things like global trade, international relations, weather patterns and more.

To illustrate, Cruz uses the example of wheat blast, another plant disease



Purdue Agricultural Communications/Tom Campbell

Daniel Quinn, assistant professor in the Department of Agronomy and Purdue Extension's Corn specialist, advises growers across Indiana early detection of tar spot, as well as how and when to treat infected crops.

caused by a fungus. Since its discovery in Brazil in 1985, wheat blast had only been found in the Americas (though not in the U.S.). But in 2016, it suddenly appeared in Bangladesh and in 2018 in Zambia. Why?

The answer appears to reach back to 2014 when Russia invaded and annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. Suddenly, the region's massive wheat crop was difficult or impossible to export.

"Countries were desperately looking for sources of wheat," Cruz says "Brazil was not a major exporter of wheat, but that year it became one. Before shipping, grain might have gotten infected at the farm, and blast infections are sometimes hard to spot. Some of that might have ended up in Bangladesh."

Researchers are still unsure how tar spot got to the Midwest — it's now spread from Indiana and Illinois to more than a dozen states across the Midwest, Eastern seaboard and South. But now that it's

here, they need to be able to spot outbreaks quickly. To this end, Cruz and his collaborators, both in the U.S. and abroad, are using a variety of data-collection technologies.

"Drones, robotic platforms, IoT devices, weather sensors, people doing visual assessments or using cell phones to collect imagery," Cruz lists.

Cruz and his team have been looking at quantifying disease intensity using multispectral imaging — capturing image data within certain wavelengths. Using Red-Green-Blue (RGB) images of affected leaves also seems promising as a way to distinguish tar spot quickly. These imaging technologies could be used in field trials of new hybrids or new fungicides, "looking" for tar spot among test plots to see which hybrids or fungicides fare best.

Cruz's lab is also looking at using field sensors with an algorithm to detect and quantify the size and extent of tar spot outbreaks.

"Very recently, we start-

ed collaborating with people in engineering — robotics, imaging and sensing technologies, mathematics, artificial intelligence, and Extension; cooperation is vital," he says.

Ultimately, Cruz hopes to help develop a decision-making framework for growers and researchers. "If you're an end-user, you'd be interested in the level of tar spot, so you can decide to spray a fungicide or not or recommend a different hybrid or cultivar next year," he says.

"I started at Purdue in 2018," says Darcy Telenko, a field crop plant pathologist in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology. "The first call I got was about a field that turned brown almost a month before it should have."

During that first year Telenko's team documented tar spot in about half the counties in Indiana. Now tar spot of corn has been confirmed in almost all the state's 92 counties.

"This disease is pushing the limits of our fungicides," Telenko says.

Telenko and her team are actively looking for solutions: better fungicides, more precise timing for application of fungicides, and more resistant corn.

Currently, when tar spot shows up in early July, farmers will need to stave off disease for two months, until the crop reaches maturity. This may mean two applications of fungicide are necessary, which is expensive and time-consuming. Telenko hopes to figure out the ideal window for application, while working with growers' logistical constraints, such as when aerial applicators (crop dusters) are available.

Knowing when to apply fungicides means having data about initial infections. So, like Cruz, Telenko is involved in developing better detection and prediction methods. She's partnered with a team at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, to develop a tar spot application. The app uses weather data to predict when infections are likely to occur in areas with a history of tar spot.

But there are still many unknowns. Scientists understand that tar spot infection requires the presence of moisture, but how much and when are still unanswered questions.

"The leaves can't just be continuously wet," Telenko says. "There may need to be a fluctuation in moisture or humidity conditions. In Indiana, there are many mornings with a morning dew that then dries off during the day, and this might be the ideal situation for tar spot spores to gain access."

Telenko and others are also working on methods for rapidly sampling these spores in the field. Her team currently samples sites regularly, and is helping create tools for evaluating those samples more quickly.

The unpredictability of

tar spot year to year is one of the most difficult things for growers, Telenko says. Some years — 2021 was one — bring widespread outbreaks. Other years, the disease only appears in hotspots.

"I have growers from 2018 who, this year, feel like they finally got a handle on this," she says. "The big problem is, it continues to spread."

When farmers find leaves affected by what looks like tar spot, Quinn encourages them to send it in to Purdue for diagnosis. There are several things that can look like tar spot, he explains, so don't panic just because you see black speckles on the corn.

"One of the most common mimics is insect poop," he says. "So we always recommend, if you can scratch it off then it's not tar spot, but if it's raised and stays it can be."

Quinn and his colleagues do regular outreach to educate farmers about tar spot and its management. This includes podcasts, webinars, meetings, public field days, local media spots, and more.

If a grower has a confirmed case of tar spot, Quinn's advice will depend on the season, the weather, and the extent of the spread.

"If it's showing up early, we always think about making fungicide applications to corn in mid-July when corn is tasseling," he says. "That's a critical period. If you're seeing it at that point in time, it's probably going to be a severe year."

Knowing they cannot eliminate tar spot entirely, all the Purdue researchers hope to greatly reduce its impact on grain production.

"Maybe in 10 years we can say 'oh that was a big problem, but it's a minor issue now,'" says Telenko.

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1. You are West, and the bidding has gone:
 South West North East
 1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass
 3 NT

NORTH
 ♠ 73
 ♥ K Q J
 ♦ Q J 10 8
 ♣ 7 6 4 2

WEST
 ♠ Q 9 8 6 2
 ♥ 9 2
 ♦ K 7
 ♣ A Q 8 3

You lead the six of spades, and declarer wins partner's ten with the jack. South leads a heart to dummy's jack and returns the queen of diamonds, which you win with the king. How would you continue?

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Notrump, and North leads the ten of hearts. How would you play the hand?

WEST
 ♠ A 7 4 2
 ♥ K J 3
 ♦ A K 4
 ♣ K 9 5

EAST
 ♠ K 6
 ♥ A Q 4
 ♦ Q 10 2
 ♣ A 10 8 7 6

1. From the play thus far, it is clear that South's opening notrump bid (15 to 17 points) included the ace of hearts, ace of diamonds and A-K-J of spades (your partner cannot have the ace or king of spades, given his play at trick one). It follows that South cannot have the king of clubs, which would give him 19 points.

You should therefore shift to the club three at this point, confident that partner will win with the king. If partner has another club to return, you will defeat the contract. If you fail to lead a club and instead woodenly return a spade, declarer will score three spade tricks, three diamond tricks and at least three hearts to make the contract.

2. The only problem is how to handle the club three to give yourself the optimal chance for four tricks in the suit. Best is to win the heart in dummy, lead the club six and play low if South plays low. (If the six wins, continue with the seven.) If the six loses to North's jack or queen, win any return and play the king of clubs. The slam becomes certain if North follows suit to the king.

The only time this line of play fails is when North has been dealt the singleton jack or queen. If you alternatively attacked the clubs by first cashing the king or ace, you would go down if the next player was either void of clubs or held a low singleton. These cases outnumber those where North started with a singleton honor.

Tomorrow: The step-by-step approach.
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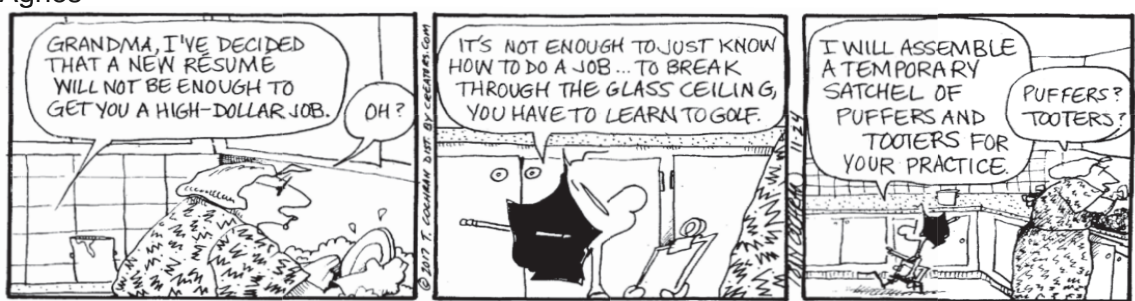
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



11-24

CRYPTOQUIP

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 VQCLHJT MGW MIAJW "FMG
 Y SJD M WTMYG FPJFA?"

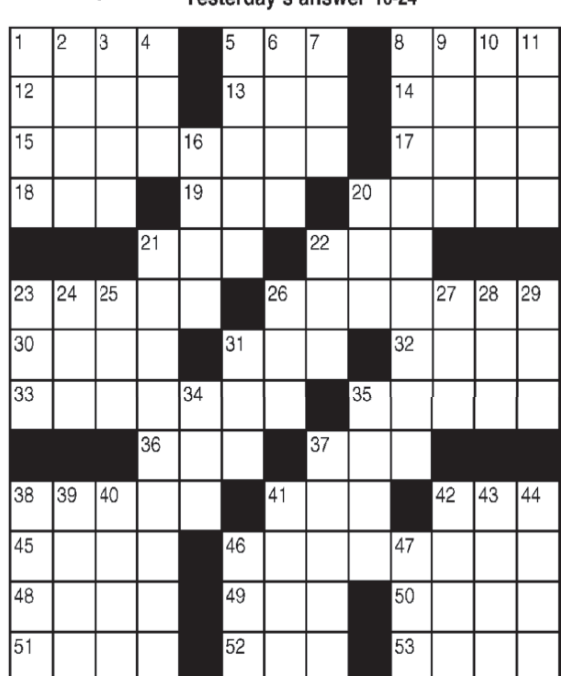
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL A GLASGOW RESIDENT WHO'S ALWAYS HANGING AROUND? A SCOTTISH TARRIER.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals C

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Dud	1 Pugilist's
5 "Succession" airer	2 Valentine border
8 Pretzel seasoning	3 Folklore monster
12 "Othello" villain	4 Luau dish
13 — Lingus	5 Custom
14 Crossword hint	6 Phone inventor
15 Write quickly	7 Raw rock
17 Hamburger holder	8 Sacred writings
18 Casual shirt	9 Oodles
19 Squeak stopper	10 Temporary calm
20 Boxer's dream	11 Conference leader?
21 Posed for a portrait target	16 Fluffy scarves
22 Balm	20 Up to
23 Dealer's foes	21 Copyist of yore
26 Drooping	22 Fleur-de- —
30 "Firestorm" author Nevada	23 Co. with a peacock logo
31 Possesses	24 Bond rating
32 Taxi alternative	25 Train lines (Abbr.)
33 Betting settings	26 Existed
	27 "Dig Blue"
	28 "The Matrix" character
	29 Fido's warning
	31 Short trip
	34 Prohibit
	35 Against
	37 Hardly hip
	38 Sacred bird of Egypt
	39 Schnozz (out)
	40 Hand
	41 Swindle
	42 Help a hood
	43 Home improvement pro Bob
	44 Artist Warhol
	46 Hotel amenity
	47 Spa sounds

Solution time: 22 mins.

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ARCH	MAN	CUTE
RESET	YOGI	
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ATLANTA	ALOHA	
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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Trevor Dunnington (right) of Jay County blocks Jayden Mullins shot while Cole Forthofer contests from the front on Monday night.

Plow ...

Continued from page 8
Freshman Jayden Comer torched the Panthers (0-1) with 18 points. He knocked down five threes for Jay County (1-0), including two in both the second and third quarters.

Elwood's leading scorer was Corbin Leavell with eight. He hit a three in the first and second quarter and converted a two-point-er in the third.

Four more Patriots tied or exceeded Leavell's mark. Post players Cole Forthofer and Kade Sommers provided a lift from the front court, with 10 points each. The 6-foot, 8-inch Forthofer put up eight points in a dominant first quarter, while Sommers spread his points out over the first three quarters.

Eli Dirksen was one point away from double digits with, while a pair of fourth-quarter free throws and buckets helped Carter Fugiett match Leavell.

Elwood Panthers vs. Jay County Patriots			Score by quarters:						
			Jay Co.	18	9	13	16	56	
			Elwood	6	9	2	2	19	
Boys varsity summary			3-point shooting: Jay County 8-16 (Dunnington 3-4, Garringer 3-5, Edwards 1-2, Swoveland 1-2, Nicholes 0-3), Elwood 1-11 (Brandon 1-1, Gallegos 0-1, Leavell 0-1, Davenport 0-2, Ward 0-2, Blackford 0-4).						
Jay County (1-0)	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	Rebounds: Jay County 19 (Swoveland 6, Dunnington 3, Forthofer 3, Nichols 2, Garringer 2, Bihn 2, Phillips 1), Elwood 10 (Davenport 3, Ward 3, Mullins 2, Casas 1, Etchison 1).			Assists: Jay County 14 (Nichols 4, Swoveland 4, Garringer 3, Edwards 2, Dunnington 1), Elwood 3 (Mullins 1, Brandon 1, Blackford 1).		
Nichols	2-5	0-0	4	Blocks: Jay County 3 (Swoveland 2, Dunnington 1).			Personal fouls: Jay County 11 (Bihn 3, Garringer 2, Dunnington 2, Nichols 1, Forthofer 1, Phillips 1, Swoveland 1), Elwood 11 (Blackford 3, Ward 3, Davenport 2, Gallegos 1, Etchison 1).		
Muhlenkamp	0-0	0-0	0	Turnovers: Jay County 7. Elwood 17.					
Edwards	1-2	0-0	3						
Garringer	6-11	0-1	15						
Dunnington	3-6	0-0	9						
Forthofer	2-3	1-1	5						
Phillips	0-1	0-0	0						
Bihn	4-4	2-3	10						
Swoveland	4-6	1-1	10						
Totals	22-38	4-6	56						
	.579	.667							
Def. rebound percentage: .529			Elwood (0-1)						
FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	Mullins	0-4	2-2	2			
Mullins	0-4	2-2	2	Davenport	0-2	0-0	0		
Davenport	0-2	0-0	0	Casas	0-0	0-0	0		
Casas	0-0	0-0	0	Gallegos	0-1	0-0	0		
Gallegos	0-1	0-0	0	Leavell	1-2	0-0	2		
Leavell	1-2	0-0	2	Brandon	1-2	0-0	3		
Brandon	1-2	0-0	3	Blackford	0-4	0-0	0		
Blackford	0-4	0-0	0	Etchison	0-1	0-0	0		
Etchison	0-1	0-0	0	Ward	4-7	4-4	12		
Ward	4-7	4-4	12	Totals	6-23	6-6	19		
Totals	6-23	6-6	19		.261	1.000			
	.261	1.000		Def. rebound percentage: .563					

Irsay blames 2014 arrest on police prejudice

By GEOFFREY C. ARNOLD
oregonlive.com
Tribune News Service

Indianapolis Colts' owner Jim Irsay says his 2014 arrest for driving under the influence was a result of police prejudice against him for being white and a billionaire. "I am prejudiced against because I'm a rich, white billionaire," Irsay told Andrea Kremer on "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel." "If I'm just the average guy down the block, they're not pulling me in, of course not."

Irsay, son of former Colts' owner Robert Irsay, was saying he was profiled. Kremer, looking taken aback by Irsay's comments, gave him a chance to walk back his statements. "Do you know what it's going to sound like if people hear you say they're prejudiced against a rich, white guy?" Kremer asked. Irsay doubled down. "I don't care what it sounds like. It's the truth," Irsay said. "You know, Andrea, I could give a damn what people think how anything sounds or sounds like.

The truth is the truth and I know the truth." Irsay, age 55 at the time, was stopped by police in Carmel, Indiana under suspicion of DUI after officers observed him driving erratically, according to a report. The report added that Irsay was "unstable" and two officers had to continuously help Irsay to prevent him from falling over. Police officers searched Irsay's vehicle and found numerous prescription drugs and \$29,000 in cash. Irsay later pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a misdemeanor: A toxicology

report showed Irsay had the painkillers oxycodone and hydrocodone as well as alprazolam, which is used to treat anxiety, in his system at the time of his arrest. Irsay, 64, has admitted he had prescription painkillers and a sedative in his system at the time, but insisted he was not under the influence of alcohol. Irsay said the reason he was unsteady walking during a field sobriety test was because he had undergone hip surgery and had trouble walking. When Kremer asks him why he pleaded guilty to the mis-

demeanor, Irsay says he just wanted to put the situation behind him as quickly as possible. The Carmel Police Department responded Tuesday to Irsay's accusation in a statement to The Indianapolis Star. "We are very sorry to hear that comment about our officers and our department," Lt. D.J. Schoeff wrote in an email to IndyStar.com. "We have a very professional agency consisting of officers that strive to protect our community with integrity and professionalism."

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Girls basketball at Woodlan - 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball scrimmage at Kalida - 10 a.m.; Girls basketball at Crestview - 6 p.m.
Saturday
Jay County — Boys basketball vs. Richmond - 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. Arcanum - 6 p.m.

12 a.m. — College basketball: BYU vs. Arizona State (ESPN2)
12 p.m. — College basketball: Bryant at Xavier (FS1)
12 p.m. — College football: Iowa at Nebraska (CBS); Miami at Boston College (ABC); TCU at Oklahoma (FOX); Memphis at Temple (ESPN)
2 p.m. — College basketball: Manhattan at UConn (FS1)
3 p.m. — NFL: Miami Dolphins at New York Jets (CBS)
3:30 p.m. — College football: UTSA at Tulane (ABC)
4 p.m. — College football: Missouri at Arkansas (FS1); Nebraska at Wisconsin (BTN)
6 p.m. — NHL: Pittsburgh Penguins at Buffalo Sabers (TNT)
6:30 p.m. — College football: Purdue at

Michigan (BTN)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Penn State at Michigan State (NBC); Texas Tech at Texas (ABC)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Miami Heat at New York Knicks (ESPN)
8 p.m. — NBA: Detroit Pistons at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)
8:30 p.m. — College football: Oregon State at Oregon (FOX)
8:30 p.m. — NHL: Colorado Avalanche at Minnesota Wild (TNT)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Western Illinois at Illinois (FOX)
10 p.m. — NBA: San Antonio Spurs at Golden State Warriors (ESPN)
Saturday

5:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix (ESPN2)
10 a.m. — Premier League: Brighton & Hove Albion at Nottingham Forest (USA)
12 p.m. — College football: Ohio State at Michigan (FOX); Texas A&M at LSU (ESPN); Indiana at Purdue (BTN); Navy at SMU (ESPN2); Kentucky at Louisville (ABC); Houston at UCF (FS1)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League: Arsenal at Brentford (USA)
2 p.m. — College football: Southern at Grambling (NBC)
3:30 p.m. — College football: Northwestern at Illinois (BTN); Wisconsin at Minnesota (FS1); James Madison at Coastal Carolina (ESPN2); Arizona at Arizona State (ESPN); BYU at Oklahoma State (ABC)
4 p.m. — College football: Washington State at Washington (FOX)
7 p.m. — College football: West Virginia at Baylor (FS1)
7 p.m. — College basketball: South Alabama at Maryland (BTN)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Georgia at Georgia Tech (ABC); Kansas at Cincinnati (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — College football: Iowa State at Kansas State (FOX)
8 p.m. — College football: Dartmouth at Saint Louis (Bally Indiana)
10:30 p.m. — College football: Cal at UCLA (ESPN); Fresno State at San Diego State (FS1)
.....
To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@theocr.com.

TV sports

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 2023 9:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 3430 W State Road 67, Portland, IN or 3 1/2 miles west of Portland at the corner of Hwy 67 and County Road 200 South.
FARM TRACTORS—FARM EQUIP.—CONSTRUCTION EQUIP.—TRUCKS—TRAILER-VEHICLES—RIDING MOWERS—ATVS—ATTACHMENTS—MISC. NOW ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS UNTIL 5p.m. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023. Statements made sale day take precedence over written ad.
TERMS: CASH OR GOOD CHECK NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR NO SHOWS
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Indiana Sales Tax will be collected at this auction. AREA CONTRACTORS & FARMERS OWNERS AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587
www.auctionzip.com — Auctioneer ID #4243

90 SALE CALENDAR

FARM ITEMS
20' 10,000 lb Trailer. Int. 311 pull-type rotary mower. 1 bottom walking plow, EZ-GO gas golf cart, Platform scales. Cement mixer mounted on steel wheels. Brass grain tester. 24" and other steel wheels. Several items not mentioned.
TERMS
All items sell as-is. Full settlement day of the sale.
OWNER: Ramona J. Lee
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC31800004
Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587
Check AuctionZip for more photos.

PUBLIC AUCTION

TUESDAY DECEMBER 19TH, 2023 TIME 5:00 P.M.
LOCATED: 4023 S 800 W, Redkey IN
296 Acres offered in tracts and combinations.
Tract 1: 116 Acres in section 7 Jefferson Township, Jay County with 74.83 acres tillable balance being confinement buildings, shop buildings, house, and wooded.
Tract 2: 120 Acres in section 7 Jefferson Township, Jay County with 90 acres tillable balance being wooded and road frontage.
Tract 3: 31 Acres in section 8 Jefferson Township, Jay County with 30.4 acres tillable balance being road frontage.
Tract 4: 27.5 Acres in section 11 Richland Township, Jay County all tillable.

90 SALE CALENDAR

Note: Open House Dates: Saturday Nov 25th from 1-4pm, and Friday Dec 1st from 3-5pm.
Or for private showing phone auctioneers.
COURT ORDERED AUCTION
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC31800004
Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587
Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.

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110 HELP WANTED

spd. Can get \$91000 yearly/ \$0.70/Mile including drop wages. 3 yrs. CDL exp. req. RGN, SD exp. helpful. All miles, drops, downtime, and weekends are paid if out. Interested? 260-273-1245

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Class A with a tanker endorsement, part time and full time hours. Call Allen at CJR trucking 260-726-5522

PORTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

is taking applications for a full time Dispatcher. Now til Dec 1 at 5pm. Start date will be Jan 1, 2024. benefits: vacation pay after 1 year, holiday pay, sick pay and insurance benefits. Applications can be picked up at the Portland Police Department.

130 MISC. FOR SALE

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

130 MISC. FOR SALE

ALUMINUM SHEETS 23"x30", .007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side. .35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.

190 FARMERS COL-UMN

AG RENTAL Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. 2 p.m. — Texas A&M at LSU (ESPN); Indiana at Purdue (BTN); Navy at SMU (ESPN2); Kentucky at Louisville (ABC); Houston at UCF (FS1)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League: Arsenal at Brentford (USA)
2 p.m. — College football: Southern at Grambling (NBC)
3:30 p.m. — College football: Northwestern at Illinois (BTN); Wisconsin at Minnesota (FS1); James Madison at Coastal Carolina (ESPN2); Arizona at Arizona State (ESPN); BYU at Oklahoma State (ABC)

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

ORDINANCE 2023-15
ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 110 OF THE JAY COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES
BE IT ORDAINED that chapter 110, horse-drawn vehicles, is hereby amended as follows.
Section 110.03 (A) is amended as follows: There is imposed upon each horse drawn vehicle using the highways or roads in the county a license fee in the sum of \$120.00.
Section 110.03(B) is amended as follows: Each owner of each horse-drawn vehicle shall pay the license fee attributed to the horse-drawn vehicle, as set forth by this chapter, to the Jay County Auditor on or before May 15 of each year and each owner shall receive from the Auditor a numbered metallic tag for each horse-drawn vehicle. Each owner who shall fail to pay the license fee set forth herein before May 15 of each year shall be assessed a late fee of \$25.00 in addition to the license fee set forth in paragraph A, above.
All other provisions not amended hereby shall remain in full force and effect.
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Jay County Commissioners on the 13th day of November, 2023.
Chad Aker, President
Jay County Commissioners
Attest: Emily Franks,
Jay County Auditor
CR 11-17.24-2023
NS 11-22.29-2023-HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE:
NOTICE OF UPDATES TO OHIO VALLEY GAS CORPORATION AND OHIO VALLEY GAS, INC. RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO GAS SERVICE.
Ohio Valley Gas Corporation and Ohio Valley Gas, Inc. (OVG) have filed a request with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) to update their Rules and Regulations Applicable to Gas Service. Updates to the rules and regulations include: (1) changes to OVG-Owned Piping and Equipment where the service line is defined from the main to the gas meter within the customer's property and eliminating the yard line; (2) specifying that all supplied gas be of "pipeline quality" and that the delivery point for such gas be installed and maintained by supplier; (3) permitting recovery of a Reconnection Charge that includes monthly minimum charges for services inactive for less than 12 months; and (4) changing Budget Billing adjustment from bi-annually to annually; and (5) other less substantive changes. A copy of the proposed updated Rules and Regulations can be found at ovgas.com or the local OVG office. OVG is seeking approval of these changes through the IURC's expedited 30-day filing process.
ANYONE WISHING TO OBJECT TO OVG'S PROPOSED UPDATES may contact the Secretary of the IURC at PNC Center, 101 W. Washington Street, Suite 1500 E, Indianapolis, IN 46204, or the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor by calling (888) 441-2492 or (317) 232-2494.
CR 11-24-2023-HSPAXLP

200 FOR RENT

LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamoreospace.com

NEED MORE STORAGE?

PJ's U-Lock and Storage, most sizes available. Call 260-726-4631.

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

NOTICE OF RIGHT OF REDEMPTION
Notice is given pursuant to IC 6-1.1-25.4.5) to Great Future LLC, any unknown heirs and any person who has a substantial interest in the following described real property located in Jay County, Indiana that it was sold at the Jay County Tax Sale on September 7, 2023 pursuant to judicial order for non-payment of property taxes and assessments:
Legal Description: 105.5" x 130' BLK 29 OP ADDRESS: 320 N. Indiana Dunkirk, IN 47336
Parcel Number: 38-09-08-101-113.000-014
Tax ID Number: 382300009
The name of the purchaser is REBECCA ELY. A petition for tax deed will be filed on or after September 7, 2024. The purchaser is entitled to receive a tax deed for the real property if it is not redeemed before SEPTEMBER 7, 2024. The owner or person with a substantial interest of public record or any person is entitled to redeem the real property. The real property has not been redeemed. The amount required to redeem the real property includes delinquent taxes, title search costs, attorney fees and interest and the total shall be determined by the Jay County Auditor. The purchaser is entitled to reimbursement for additional taxes or special assessments on the real property paid subsequent to the tax sale and before redemption and any additional costs incurred. The date of expiration of the period of redemption is SEPTEMBER 7, 2024 and if the real property is not redeemed by that date then the owner of record at the time of the tax deed is issued may have a right to any tax sale surplus. The attorney representing the purchaser is Joshua A. Atkinson, 940 N. Meridian Street, Portland, IN 47371.
CR 11-17.24.12-1-2023-HSPAXLP

230 AUTOS, TRUCKS

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

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

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CR 11-17.24.12-1-2023-HSPAXLP

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Patriots plow Panthers



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School senior Liam Garringer goes up for a layup while he fights through contact by Elwood's Cam Gallegos on Tuesday. Garringer led all scorers with 15 points as the Patriots won the season opener 56-19.

Jay only allows one field goal in the second half to outscore Elwood 29-4

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

ELWOOD — The Patriots built a 12-point lead in the first half.

Coach Jerry Bomholt wanted them to throw that out and worry about winning the second half. His team stepped up to the challenge, choking out the Panthers.

The Jay County High School boys basketball team's defense suffocated the Elwood Panthers in the second half in a 56-19 victory during Tuesday evening's season opener.

"We talked to them and wanted to treat the second half like the score was tied 0-0," said Bomholt, an Elwood graduate. "We came out and took immediate control of the game in the first five minutes. We wanted it to be over. Our kids responded to that, and I was real proud of them."

The defensive pressure ramped up in the second half.

The most consistent offense the Panthers (0-1) found in the first half came from post touches by forward James Ward. He was 4-for-4 on layups through two quarters and had two free throws as well, scoring 10 of Elwood's 15 first-half points.

The Patriots (1-0) put enough ball pressure on the Panthers' guards to prevent them from getting any entry passes to Ward in the post.

"Jay County has tremendous length and did a really good job of playing long, and getting their hands on a lot of deflections and steals," said Elwood coach Ryan VanSkyock, a 2003 JCHS graduate. "I felt like

we went away from (Ward). We don't have the firepower from outside. ... He's got to touch the ball, every possession for us to even have a chance to be successful."

Ward only got two looks the entire second half inside the 3-point line, one of which he missed and the other he drew a foul and knocked down a pair of free throws for the Panthers' only points in the third quarter.

In the second half, the Patriots forced 11 turnovers, while only allowing Elwood to take 12 shots from the field, seven of which were threes.

Jay County only allowed one field goal off of a broken play when the ball got deflected before Beau Brandon picked it up from the short corner and sent it in, late in the fourth quarter.

"In the second half, we turned a notch up with intensity on the defensive end," Bomholt said. "All in all, it was a good opener. We got a lot of deflections, a lot of good things out of our traps, and good conversions on the other end."

While offense was hard to come by for Elwood in the second half, it flowed the entire game for Jay County.

The Patriots lit things up from beyond the arc in the first half, splashing five threes and matching Elwood's total score. Senior Liam Garringer led the way through the first two quarters 11 points and three triples.

"Some nights I'm hitting, some nights I'm not," Garringer said. "Tonight just happened to be one of the nights I was hitting."

Garringer also found suc-

cess when he caught the ball on the wing and drove to the baseline. The senior continuously got past the initial defender and with the weak-side help coming late, he beat them to the rim for a pair of easy buckets.

He finished with a game-high 15 points.

In the second half, Bomholt wanted to see the ball go inside the 3-point line more often and wanted some extra production out of Gradin Swoveland. The sophomore was silent during the first half, missing the only two shots he took in the first quarter.

In the second half, he started to pick up the pace, knocking down four shots and a free throw to finish with 10 points.

"Obviously always looking to attack, but I started off a little slow," Swoveland said. "(I) wasn't happy with how I came out the first half. Came out second looking to score. So I've got to work on those things."

Swoveland is one of two players with significant varsity experience for the Patriots. The other, Ben Crouch, was not dressed as he is returning from an illness that kept him out of the early practices.

While Swoveland wasn't scoring much in the first half, he still contributed by pulling down rebounds, dishing out assists, blocking shots and deflecting passes. He ended up leading the Patriots in rebounds (six), assists (four) and blocks (two).

Junior varsity

The Jay County junior varsity team also dominated Elwood in a 64-21 victory. See **PLOW** page 7

Junior high stays hot

UNION CITY — The Patriots have gotten off to a hot start this season.

They expanded upon that, making a statement earlier in the week.

The Jay County Junior High School girls basketball teams both held the Union City Indians to single digits on Monday evening. The eighth grade team beat Union City 47-6 while the seventh graders came out on top 50-2.

The seventh graders (3-0) had a new scoring leader, as Charlee Peters put up 16 points. Karsyn Schwieterman wasn't far behind as she poured in 14.

Claudia Dirksen was one bucket away from double digits, as she contributed eight points. Both Avery Snow and Kendall Schemenaur added six.

Elizabeth Brunswick led the eighth graders (2-1) with 11 points and was the only Patriot to hit double figures. A trio of girls dropped eight points on the Indians, those being Amelia Heath, Raylin Hummer and Natalie May.

Rounding out the scoring was Gabi Petro with six points, Stella Skirvin with five and Kylie Shannon with one.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Senior signing

Jay County High School's Tony Wood inked his commitment to wrestle at West Liberty University in college on Monday. Pictured from left are sister Lindy Wood, dad and assistant coach Bruce Wood, Tony Wood, mom Sylvia Wood and coach Eric Myers.

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