

The Commercial Review

Flo Rida to headline fair

Cochren & Co. will be featured for Christian music concert

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The big concert at the Jay County Fair has traditionally featured country music. Occasionally, like when comedian Jeff Foxworthy headlined the 2016 event, the pattern has been broken. The fair is headed in another different direction for 2024.

Jay County Fair Board during

its annual meeting Saturday announced that Flo Rida will be the featured performer July 12 during the fair.

“It’s pop music. It goes across several generations. It’s not just rap,” said fair board president Aaron Loy. “It’s still very relevant to the younger crowd and even older crowd. ... And it’s a clean family show.”

Cochren & Co. will headline the Christian music concert on Thursday, July 11, at the fair.

Tickets will go on sale Saturday to stockholders and Dec. 19 to the general public. They will be available at jaycountyfair.com.

Flo Rida, a rapper from Miami Gardens, Florida, broke out with his debut album “Mail on Sunday” in 2008 that featured the hit single “Low,” featuring T-Pain. It reached the No. 1 spot on Billboard’s Hot 100 chart.

See **Flo Rida** page 2

Flo Rida will be the headliner for the big concert Friday, July 12, during the 2024 Jay County Fair. The rapper broke onto the music scene with his single “Low,” featuring T-Pain, in 2008. He’s been nominated for multiple Grammy awards. Tickets will go on sale Saturday for stockholders and Dec. 19 for the general public at jaycountyfair.com.



Photo provided



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

JCDPC pursuing recovery residence

Commissioners OK funding for study, earnest money

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

A location has been selected as the potential site for a recovery residence in Jay County.

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition is moving forward with purchasing a house in Redkey. If acquired, plans are to renovate the building to meet standards for a sober living facility.

Jay County Commissioners approved two requests for opioid settlement funds — \$35,060 for a feasibility study on the building and \$2,500 in earnest money — during their regular meeting Monday.

As part of the National Opioid Settlement, Indiana is receiving about \$507 million over an 18-year period. The dollars are being split between the state and local entities. Jay County has about \$171,800 available so far from the settlement. (According to Next Level Recovery Indiana — in.gov/recovery — the county is expected to receive nearly \$1.33 million over a 15-year period. Each municipality will also receive funding, varying between \$1,000 for Salamonina to \$52,500 for Portland.) Those dollars are subject to change with pending lawsuits, legislation and other factors.

Approximately \$143,000 of the county’s allotment so far are restricted funds, meaning they must follow specific guidelines outlined in the settlement agreement.

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition formed a task force per commissioners’ request to determine how to spend the allocated dollars.

See **Recovery** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

’Tis the season

The weekend was full of holiday-related activities, with Jay County High School’s music department holding its Christmas concert Sunday evening, Fort Recovery Schools’ Choral Christmas Concert on Sunday evening and a variety of other events. Pictured above, WPGW Radio’s Rob Weaver reads a version of “A Christmas Carol” as part of the JCHS concert band’s performance. Weaver joked that he is probably the oldest ever to perform at the JCHS Christmas concert. At left, Yaneth Esparza sings during the Fort Recovery concert, which featured songs including “A Very Merry Christmas,” “Christmas Comes Again ... In About Three Minutes” and “Irving Berlin’s Christmas.” At right, Myles Davis, 3, reacts to his new pirate toy while Daxton Davis helps him finish unwrapping it Saturday at Dunkirk Moose Lodge. Through local contributions and fundraising, the organization purchased gifts for 95 children in the community this year. For more photos from the weekend’s Christmas activities, see The Commercial Review later this week.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Deaths

William Hicks, 84, Portland
Aileen Nelson, 85, rural Decatur
Ronald Duke, 67, Hartford City

Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 41 degrees Sunday. The low was 32.

The forecast calls for a low in the lower 20s tonight and winds gusting to 20 miles per hour. Skies will be partly cloudy Wednesday with a high in the upper 30s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Junior High School’s winter band concert is scheduled for 7 p.m. tonight. It is free and open to the public.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of tonight’s Dunkirk City Council meeting.

Thursday — Results from the JCHS girls basketball game against Blackford.



Flo Rida ...

Continued from page 1

He also won a Teen Choice Award for the song that year, and it was nominated for the Grammy for best rap/sung collaboration.

The album “R.O.O.T.S.” was nominated for best rap album and album of the year for the 2010 Grammy Awards, and “Wild Ones”, a collaboration with Sia, was nominated for best rap/sung collaboration at the 2013 Grammy Awards.

In 2022, Flo Rida released a pair of country rap singles — “High Heels” featuring Walker Hayes and “No Bad Days” featuring Jimmy Allen.

His other hit songs include “Whistle,” “My House” and “Good Feeling.”

“If you listen ... at every ball game, pretty much, one of his songs is played,” said fair board treasurer Travis Theurer.

“It’s high-intensity,” he added. “It’s just going to be a great show.”

Loy explained that with Country Concert in nearby Fort Loramie, Ohio, scheduled for July 10 through 13, 2024, many of the country artists the fair might typically consider were unavailable. Not wanting to compete for artists and con-

cert-goers with the massive three-day event, the board began to consider other options, ranging from classic rock to pop.

“It’s something completely different that we’ve never done before,” Loy said. “Every year people say, ‘Let’s not do country. Do something different.’ Here’s our chance.”

The Friday, July 12, show will open with opener DJ Kronik taking the stage at 8 p.m. (Doors will open at 6 p.m.)

Tickets will be \$40 for general admission. Reserved grandstand seating, which has been expanded this year, and track

will be \$45, with pit at \$65 and box seats at \$75.

Michael Cochren, born and raised in southern Indiana, headlines Cochren & Co., a band he created with friends and that now includes his wife Leah. The band plays Christian music that seeks to blur the line between pop/rock and soul/blues.

Cochren & Co.’s debut album “Don’t Lose Hope” was released in 2021, and the group was nominated for the Gospel Music Association’s Dove Award for new artist of the year.

Tickets for the show will be

\$20 for grandstand, \$25 for box and track and \$30 for pit.

The rest of the grandstand entertainment schedule, also released Saturday, features demolition derbies on Saturdays July 6 and 13. Other events are as follows:






Sunday, July 7 — Figure 8 races

Monday, July 8 — Auto cross

Tuesday, July 9 — MICHINDOH truck and tractor pulls

Wednesday, July 10 — 3 Bar J Rodeo

Prices for tickets outside of the Thursday and Friday concerts at the fair are \$10 for grandstand and \$20 for box. (Tickets for children 5 and younger are \$5.)

CR almanac				
Wednesday 12/13	Thursday 12/14	Friday 12/15	Saturday 12/16	Sunday 12/17
				
39/21	44/26	48/29	47/31	51/32
Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast for Wednesday, when the high will be in the upper 30s.	Thursday looks like sunny skies and a high temperature climbing into the mid 40s.	Temperatures will continue to climb Friday under mostly sunny skies. At night, the low may hit 29.	Mostly cloudy skies are expected Saturday, with the low near the freezing point at night.	Sunday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a high temperature of 51 degrees.

Lotteries	
Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$20 million	36-42-46-54-68-78 Cash 5: 5-17-27-41-43 Estimated jackpot: \$90,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$477 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 5-4-7 Pick 4: 0-3-1-4 Pick 5: 1-6-5-5-7 Evening Pick 3: 3-7-7 Pick 4: 3-5-3-8 Pick 5: 4-2-9-3-7 Rolling Cash 5: 2-10-19-20-38 Estimated jackpot: \$262,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 7-8-8 Daily Four: 0-6-4-2 Evening Daily Three: 0-4-6 Daily Four: 0-9-6-2 Quick Draw: 1-2-3-4-7-9-15-17-21-22-23-25-30-32-	

Markets	
Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.51 Jan. corn4.71 Wheat5.25	Jan. beans13.19 Wheat 5.70
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.51 Late Dec. corn.....4.61 Jan. corn4.71	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.36 Jan. corn4.53 Beans13.06 Jan. beans13.12 Wheat5.68
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.56 Jan. corn4.66 Beans13.09	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.42 Jan. corn4.47 Beans12.84 Jan. beans12.92 Wheat5.10

Today in history	
In 1745, John Jay was born in New York City. Jay later served as a delegate to the First and Second Continental Congresses, debating whether the American colonies should become independent of Great Britain. Among other activities, Jay helped in negotiations with the Treaty of Paris and served as the secretary of foreign affairs.	Shore fractured his skull.
In 1915, Frank Sinatra was born in Hoboken, New Jersey. Sinatra became one of the world’s best-selling singers, marking 35 academy awards for his music and acting career. Some of his most popular pieces include “My Way” and “Fly Me to The Moon.”	In 1964, Kenya became a republic. The day also marked its first anniversary as an independent entity, having previously been governed by Britain.
In 1933, Ace Bailey of the Toronto Maple Leaf team had his career cut short after National Hockey League star Eddie	In 1974, Sara Jane Moore plead guilty to an assassination attempt on president Gerald Ford, earning her a life sentence. (Moore was released after serving 32 years.)
	In 1977, “Saturday Night Fever” premiered. Starring John Travolta, the film and its accompanying soundtrack from The Bee Gees became a hit.
	In 2000, the United States Supreme Court named George W. Bush as president in its Bush v. Gore decision, effectively ending the chance of a ballot recount in Florida.
	— The CR

Citizen’s calendar	
Wednesday 8 a.m. — Upper Wabash River Basin Commission, Wells Co. Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St., Bluffton. 1 p.m. — Jay County	Sheriff’s Office Merit Board, sheriff’s conference room, sheriff’s office, 224 W. Water St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St.

Obituaries

William Hicks
Aug. 15, 1939-Dec. 7, 2023

William B. Hicks, age 84, a resident of Portland, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, at Randolph Nursing Home in Winchester.

William was born Aug. 15, 1939, in Nanty-Glo, Pennsylvania, the son of William J. and Emma (Morgan) Hicks. William was a veteran of the U.S. Army and worked at Strick in Monroe. He was a member of the American Legion Post #211 and enjoyed fishing, camping, cars and car shows.



Hicks

He married Linda Lee on Feb. 13, 1960, and she passed away on Nov. 19, 2014.

Survivors include:

Two daughters — Corinna Elwood (husband: Tony), Portland, Indiana, and Annette Stults (fiancé: Mike Brenner), Portland, Indiana

Siblings — Catherine Bessesen, Ridgeville, Indiana, Jerry Hicks (wife: Lorraine), Portland, Indiana, Eddie Hicks (wife: Judy), Portland, Indiana, Darrell Hicks (wife: Linda), Berne, Indiana, and Diane Debolt (husband: Terry), Decatur, Indiana

Eight grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren

He was preceded in death by his wife, Linda Hicks; his parents, William J. and Emma Hicks; son William “Billy” Hicks; and daughters Linda Herriford and Della.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday from 5 to 7 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will be held on Thursday at 1 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Pastor Hugh Kelly will officiate and burial will follow at Antioch Cemetery, southeast of Portland. American

Legion Post #211 will conduct military graveside rites.

Memorials may be directed to Jay County Cancer Society.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

Aileen Nelson
April 8, 1938-Nov. 23, 1958

Aileen Jeanette (Smith) Nelson, 85, of rural Decatur, passed away Saturday morning, Dec. 9, 2023, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Born on April 8, 1938, in Jackson, Michigan, to Homer and Helen (McCoy) Smith, Aileen married Gerald Junior “J.R.” Nelson on Nov. 23, 1958, at the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bryant. They celebrated 59 years of marriage before Junior passed away on Dec. 11, 2017.

Aileen graduated from Bryant High School in Jay County in 1956. After high school, she went to work at Lincoln Life Insurance Company until she decided to stay at home to raise her four children. After her children were in school, Aileen worked as a secretary for Adams Central Schools for 13 years before retiring.

After marrying, Aileen and Junior settled in Bryant but later raised their children in Monroe. They moved to Bluffton in 1999, and following Junior’s death in 2017, Aileen moved into her daughter’s home, where she enjoyed regular visits from many of her great-grandchildren.

Aileen was a member of the Christian faith, and a former member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bryant. She later attended Pleasant Dale Church of the Brethren in rural Decatur. She loved God, her family, reading, crossword puzzles, coffee, playing (winning) euchre, holding



Nelson

Aileen was preceded in death by her husband and parents.

Visitation will be Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Goodwin – Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton. Services will be held Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at Pleasant Dale Church of the Brethren in Adams County, with one hour of visitation prior to the service at the church. Burial will follow at Pleasant Dale Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Adams Central Youth for Christ or LifeWise Academy of Adams Central.

Condolences may be expressed at goodwincaleharnish.com.

babies and eating pie. She was an excellent cook and would spoil her family with her pies (the secret is the homemade crust).

Survivors include a daughter, Julie (David) Soldner of Decatur; three sons, David (Teresa) Nelson of Metamora, Illinois, Daniel (Laura) Nelson of Bluffton and Michael (Laura) Nelson of Bluffton; eight grandchildren, Caleb (Allison) Soldner of Fort Wayne, Joshua (Elizabeth) Soldner of Parker, Colorado, Sarah (Jordan) Grandlienard of Decatur; Isaac Soldner of Decatur; Alex (Samantha) Nelson of South Elgin, Illinois, Audrey (Jeremiah) Moser of Washington, Illinois, and Amber and Autumn Nelson of Bluffton; two step-granddaughters, Ashley (Conor) Jackson of Bluffton and Jennifer (Michael) Schaffner of Fort Wayne; eight great-grandchildren, Claire, Gabriel, Annie, and Emily Soldner; Eli and Ivy Grandlienard, Quinn Soldner; and Elizabeth Nelson; a step great-granddaughter, Isobel Jackson; and a brother, Alan (Joan) Smith of Portland.

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Condolences may be expressed at goodwincaleharnish.com.

Ronald Jay Neal Duke, Hartford City, a Portland native, Aug. 22, 1956-Dec. 8, 2023. There will be no services at this time.

Recovery ...

Continued from page 1

The group decided on a recovery residence, which falls under the settlement’s guidelines for restricted funds. It will be operated by Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition, specifically with folks who have experienced addiction managing the residence.

Kimbra Reynolds, executive director of Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition, explained Monday that the task force recently made an offer on the home at 319 N. Meridian St., Redkey, and the offer has been accepted. (On property selling website Zillow, the home is priced at \$224,900.) Before moving forward with closing on the property, the next steps include conducting a feasibility study on the house and obtaining additional grant dollars.

Part of the process of developing a sober living facility also includes getting certified by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction, which has certain structural guidelines in place such as allotments for sleeping space and amenities for residents. Plans are to create a facility for men and, if it’s successful, someday look into offering services at another location for women. (The closest recovery residence to Jay

County is Fresh Start Recovery Center, a Winchester facility for women.)

Commissioner Brian McGalliard — he’s a member of the task force — noted the property needs to be large enough to house 15 to 16 residents. Reynolds explained that occupancy limit would fulfill financial sustainability needs.

At just over 6,500 square feet, the building currently has three bedrooms and three bathrooms. Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition plans to contract with RQAW for \$35,060 to learn how much work will need to be done.

Commissioner Chad Aker and McGalliard both voiced support for the project.

“This is something that’s badly needed in Jay County,” said Aker, noting his own experience as a firefighter in Portland. “Just asking (folks) questions, and it’s just like, ‘Well, I get out of jail, I’ve got no place to go, so I go right back to my same buddies, that’s who will take me back in’ ... we need to break that cycle, and especially if you’ve got somebody who really wants to get clean, this is the best option for them.”

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For more commissioners news, see Wednesday’s newspaper.

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Christmas season is now in full swing

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

The Christmas presents are showing up on our doorstep and in the mailbox. It seems that most of the shopping this year has been done at that great gift warehouse online.

I miss shopping in person. I like hearing Christmas carols in the background while I shop. I miss shopping with my mom. I am of the age that I want to touch whatever I am considering buying. I realize that is no longer an option and that it is a sign that I am not getting old but rather that I am already old.

Since my brothers and I have given up on getting each other presents, I have found several things that

As I See It



would be something I think they would actually like. In past years when I had found what I thought was the perfect present for them I was always wrong. Very wrong. They would look at me like I was crazy when they opened their packages. I would explain my reasoning and they would nod in such a way that I knew I had disappointed them once again.

To be honest, I often had the same reaction to their purchases. I have more

garden statuettes and signs that I have places for them. On the other hand, I truly love the hyacinths and paperwhites my husband gets for me. I like the colors he picks, the ritual of placing them in their special glasses, placing them in the fridge to give them a bit of winter and finally bringing them out of the fridge and watching them grow into beautiful, fragrant flowers to brighten the wintery temperatures outside.

My niece, Jane, gave me an early present. She asked me to write a Santa letter for her daughter, Molly, who is 5-years-old and cute as a button. Since I am one of Santa's official scribes I wrote out a letter referencing the igloo that

their elf on the shelf had made out of rolls of toilet paper.

It seems the other elves thought that looked like fun and tried to make one out of marshmallows.

It didn't work out so well for them.

I was the weird kid in English class who actually liked writing, especially when I could dive into a land of my own making. I tried selling Santa letters once but barely made enough money to pay for the classified ad. Having Jane ask for a letter was a Christmas project that I enjoyed doing.

When I am asked if I am ready for Christmas I always answer no. No matter how many gifts I wrap or cookies I bake,

there is always one more present to buy or chore to do.

For instance, this is the second time I have typed this column. I had it finished last night and wanted to proofread it this morning. Proofreading isn't as easy as it looks. We tend to read what should be there instead of what is actually on the page.

I opened the document this morning, thinking it would only take a few minutes to make sure it was acceptable ... I expected to go over the column one more time before sending it wafting through the sky to land in the proper email folder at the newspaper. Why, oh why do I even bother?

And, no, I do not have any idea what I wrote the last time. Those words are lost for eternity.

I am debating on whether or not to send Christmas cards this year. I usually think of the cards as a way to catch up with friends and family. My handwriting has gone downhill to the point where it is completely illegible unless I concentrate very hard on each and every letter.

It seems that Christmas cards are going the way of shopping in actual stores. It is just one more chore instead of a way to catch up with loved ones.

Now if you will excuse me, I need to get this mis-sive sent before it disappears again.

Husband concerned about wife's treatment hopes

DEAR ABBY: My wife is a very attractive 56. For years she has wanted Botox treatments. Recently, it has become more serious because she feels she looks like a grandmother. I (and others) continue to tell her how great she looks, especially when she dresses up.

I also tell her Botox is a short-term fix and will require subsequent treatments. Additionally, with each treatment, she will risk potential problems of infection, allergic reaction or medical mistakes. I remind her of the treatments that have gone wrong and that none of those women went to their doctors asking to look like a retired boxer.

At this point, I'm concerned she may be depressed about aging and wants to do something to improve her looks, but I'm standing in her way. I love her just as she is, and I don't want her to do anything that

Dear Abby



ultimately could do damage. To me, the ultimate "depression" would be doing something harmful that can't be corrected. Please advise me. — LOVES HER THE WAY SHE IS

DEAR LOVES: You clearly adore your wife and want what is best for her. That's why you should consider scheduling a consultation for BOTH of you with a board-certified dermatologist who can explain the benefits and risks of using Botox. It may put some of your concerns to rest.

When administered by a

medical professional, there is little risk of a bad outcome. While you are correct that the effects last only a few months, Botox is popular among women in her age group and those even younger. The only drawback is that it isn't cheap. (During your discussion, you may also want to ask about other products that are available and last longer, such as fillers.)

.....

DEAR ABBY: I let a friend who was going through a hard time stay on my couch when he would get too drunk to drive. Eleven years later, he's still here. I told him from the beginning not to get hooked or fall in love with me, because I knew I would never feel the same.

He has taken over my home with his collections but won't sell anything. He also doesn't pay any bills. I do not like his

drinking. I am sober. He yells and screams for sex, but I don't give in. I told him he needs to move on.

I'm on disability and a fixed income. Legal eviction? Restraining order? He has threatened to walk away and leave me to deal with all his junk. Help! — INVADED IN MISSOURI

DEAR INVADED: You have been too kind for far too long. Before doing anything, talk with an attorney because of the length of time you have allowed this person to live with you (rent-free). If you can't afford legal counsel, reach out to your local Legal Aid or Legal Services office.

If the freeloader agrees to go, leaving his "collections" behind, you may be able to sell or donate the items. Should he refuse to leave your home, you may have to formally evict him which,

depending upon the laws in your state, could be complicated without legal guidance.

.....

DEAR ABBY: My niece just had a baby. She's going to marry a man who has two children. I will be sending money to her child on birthdays and Christmas. Should I do the same for her husband's children? — UNCLE J. IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR UNCLE J.: That would be a lovely gesture. If you didn't, it could cause resentment when the children become old enough to realize they were being treated as "less than."

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

Community Calendar

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

Today

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call

Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

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

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

BRYANT/NEW CORY-

DON SENIOR CITIZENS — Will meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Bryant Community Center for a carry-in dinner. Meat is provided.

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE — Holds its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the boardroom at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

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

JAY COUNTY SCOUT FACILITY — Hosts its annual meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the lodge. For more information, call (260) 726-5511.

Thursday

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

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

7	1	4	6	5	9	3	8	2
5	9	3	8	2	7	4	1	6
6	2	8	1	3	4	5	9	7
4	8	5	7	6	1	9	2	3
2	7	9	3	4	5	1	6	8
1	3	6	9	8	2	7	4	5
8	5	7	4	9	6	2	3	1
3	4	1	2	7	8	6	5	9
9	6	2	5	1	3	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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Loneliness is at epidemic level

To the editor:
There is a loneliness epidemic happening all around us.
Here's how you can fight it.

Did you know there are different types of loneliness:

- 1. New-situation loneliness
- 2. I'm different loneliness
- 3. No-sweetheart loneliness
- 4. No-animal loneliness
- 5. No-time-for-me loneliness
- 6. Untrustworthy friends loneliness
- 7. Quiet presence loneliness

The definition of lonely is being without company. Loneliness is being in distress or discomfort when someone perceives a gap between their own desires.

Regardless of the type of loneliness, the lonely person feels just that. Lonely.

Here are some things that you can do to make someone's day better:

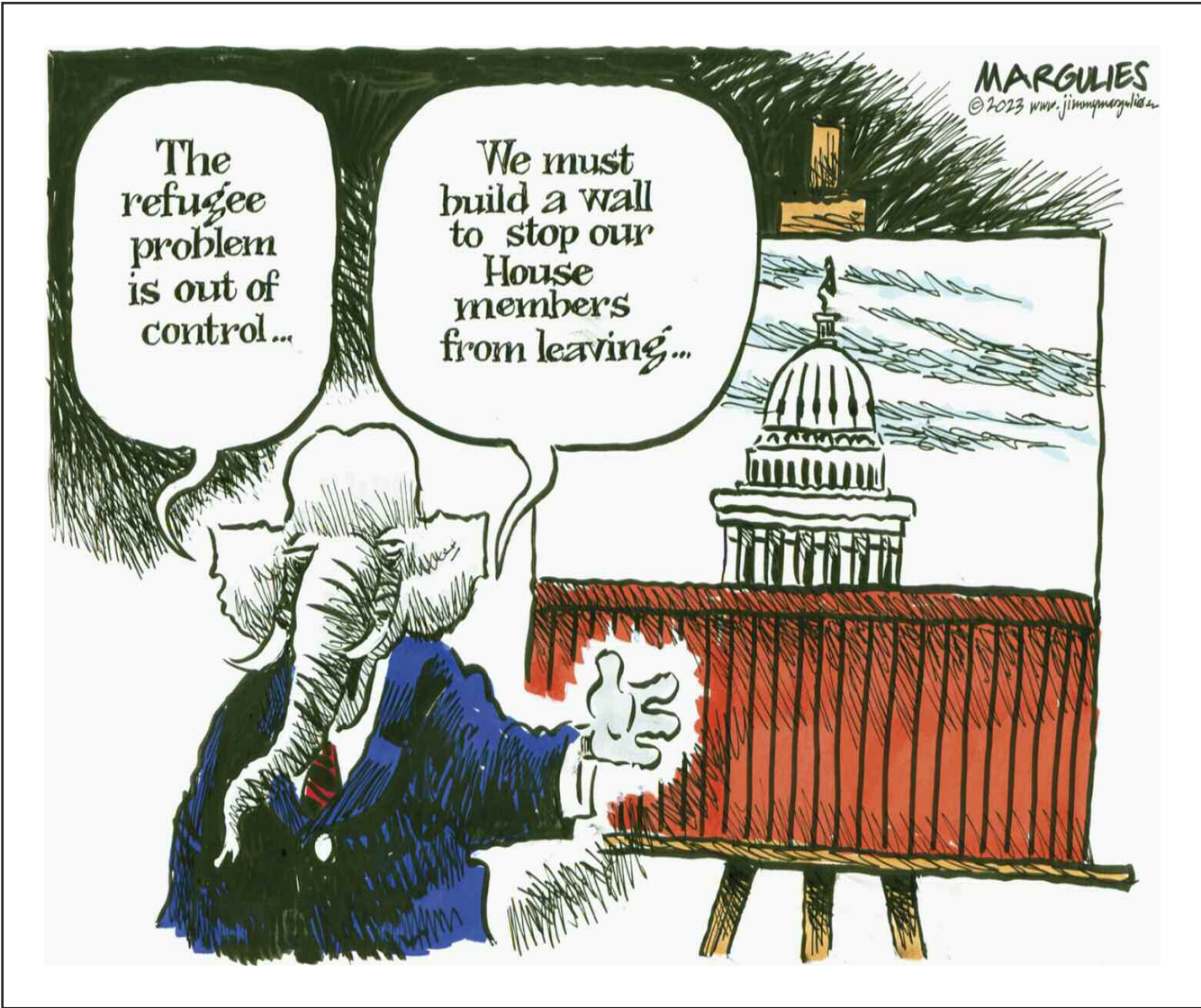
- 1. Just make small talk

Letters to the Editor

with them. Being sincere and present with face-to-face interactions will do wonders to make their day better as well as yours.

- 2. Smile and acknowledge people when you pass them. A smile and wave can go a long way to make someone's day.
- 3. Get to know people who live alone. Introduce yourself and ask them if they would like to have a cup of coffee or just sit out on the porch and converse.
- 4. Check on your own relatives. This is a busy time of year for most people, but for those that have no one, it can be one of the worst times of the year for them.

Stephanie Patterson
Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition



Tree's impact is small

By CURTIS VANDERSCHAAF
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Every year, Americans buy somewhere between 35 million and 50 million Christmas trees, and many more pull an artificial tree out of storage for the season. In all, about three-quarters of U.S. households typically have some kind of Christmas tree, surveys show.

People often ask which is more sustainable — a real tree or an artificial one? It's a big debate, and the answer depends on who you ask and which factors you consider.

A more useful question is: How do I find the most sustainable tree of the kind I want to get?

I'm a forestry professor who works on issues of sustainability. There are advantages and disadvantages to both cut trees and artificial trees. Here are some tips to consider for each.

When Christmas trees are alive and growing, they pull carbon dioxide from the air and use it as the building blocks of their wood. That keeps the greenhouse gas out of the atmosphere, where too much carbon dioxide contributes to global warming.

This process stops once the tree is harvested. And at some point, the cut tree begins to decompose and releases that carbon again.

On the positive side, the tree's root systems will continue to store carbon for some time, and new trees are typically planted to continue the cycle.

So, how do you find the most sustainable live tree?

If you live in Mississippi, like I do, buying a noble fir (Abies procera) means your tree probably came from the Pacific Northwest. That's a long drive, and transportation is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. However, in a truck with several hundred trees, each individual tree's transportation emissions are pretty minor.

The most common Christmas tree varies by region: Douglas-fir is also common throughout the Mountain West. Scotch pine and balsam fir are regularly grown in the Great Lakes states. Fraser fir is also popular there but dominant in North Carolina. Leyland cypress and Virginia pine are common in the Southeast.

There are many other wonderful species grown locally. Of course, the lowest-impact cut tree is the one you cut from your own yard.

Also, look for local nurseries

Curtis Vanderschaaf



that protect their soils from erosion and minimize harm to surface and groundwater from runoff that can include fertilizers or pesticides.

What you do with your tree after the holidays also matters.

Recycling is far better than leaving the wood to decompose in a landfill. Because of the nature of most landfills, anaerobic conditions will ultimately exist, and decomposition will result in the release of methane gas, which is many times more potent than carbon dioxide at warming the atmosphere.

Look for a community or retailer that offers to chip the tree or shred it to create mulch or for use in animal stalls. This keeps it out of landfills and serves a purpose.

Composting is another option. Trees can be used as an erosion barrier for sand or soil or as fish habitat in lakes. They can even be donated whole to zoos, where the trees provide entertainment for animals while eventually decaying outside of a landfill, or they can be tossed into a bio-burner to provide heating for buildings. Some people even feed trees to goats.

Alternatively, consider cutting the tree into smaller pieces and letting it rot in the open, placing it in an out-of-the-way place in your yard. It will provide a temporary home for many insects, birds and wildlife.

Artificial trees also have advantages — they can last for years and require almost no maintenance. However, they are mostly a petroleum-based product, and when you throw one out, it can take hundreds of years to decompose.

If you plan to buy an artificial Christmas tree — maybe you have allergies like I do, or you're concerned about cost — here are some suggestions to reduce your carbon footprint.

The No. 1 way to reduce emissions with an artificial tree is to reuse it for years. Reuse avoids the carbon impact of producing, packaging and shipping a new one. The break-even point — when your artificial tree's emissions match the emissions of buying a live tree

each year — varies from as little as four years to as many as 20 years, depending on the factors considered.

Many artificial trees are built to last 30 years or more. My family has had one for 25 years. To lengthen its life span, take care when putting it up and storing it. If the tree gets damaged, see if you can find replacement parts rather than replacing the entire tree.

About 80% of artificial Christmas trees are manufactured in China. Shipping is pretty efficient, but the tree still needs to get to and from the ports. You can also look for one manufactured nearby instead.

Some manufacturers are making trees out of recycled materials, at least in part, which helps reduce the tree's carbon footprint. Shorter artificial trees, or designs with less foliage, also use less plastic.

The type of plastic used also affects the amount of petroleum used. Some research has suggested that plastic foliage made from polyethylene plastic molds may have a lower impact than traditional foliage made out of polyvinyl chloride, or PVC.

If you no longer like your artificial tree — maybe it's too big for a new home — try reselling the tree or donating it to a charity, thrift store or nursing home so that others can continue to use it.

You can also get creative and repurpose the old tree limbs into decorative wreaths, garlands or toy trees for a hobby train set.

With any holiday tree, be judicious about turning off lights when no one is around and at night. Consider using fewer lights. LED lights are more energy efficient than incandescent lights.

In the grand scheme of the holidays, with people traveling and buying and returning gifts through the mail, the carbon footprint of your Christmas tree is a lesser concern. A round-trip flight from Los Angeles to Boston can produce more than 30 times the lifetime emissions of a typical artificial Christmas tree. Still, it's fairly easy to make more sustainable choices and reduce your carbon footprint when you can.

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VanderSchaaf is Assistant Professor of Forestry at Mississippi State University.

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

It is time for free birth control

By RAEGAN MCDONALD-MOSLEY
Progressive Perspectives
Tribune News Service

In 2010, the Affordable Care Act emerged as a ray of hope for the 64 million women in the United States now entitled to no-cost preventive services. With their health insurance, it promised no-cost access to birth control, a vital component of health care.

This pledge was a significant milestone in the struggle for affordable contraception. No-cost contraception empowers people to make informed choices about their reproductive health, enhancing their educational opportunities, career prospects and economic stability.

It also saves money. In the first year of the ACA, for example, women saved \$1.4 billion in out-of-pocket expenses; per person, that's \$255 each.

But this promise has yet to be fully realized. Despite the ACA's mandate and repeated government directives emphasizing free access to all FDA-approved contraceptives, insurers and pharmacy benefit managers have not fully adhered to these guidelines.

Now, in 2023, birth control is still inaccessible for many people who need it. Countless women are struggling to obtain no-cost birth control that they are legally entitled to. The "Secret Shopper" report by Power to Decide and the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Reform reveals a grim reality.

The report exposes how insurance companies nationwide routinely violate the ACA's requirement for plans to cover all FDA-approved contraception options with no out-of-pocket costs. These violations have left an untold number of women still paying out-of-pocket costs for birth control.

This noncompliance has far-reaching consequences. It hampers innovation in reproductive health care and exacerbates health inequities. The impact of these denials falls hardest on historically marginal-

Raegan McDonald-Mosley



ized communities and those struggling to make ends meet.

The federal government must act swiftly to ensure coverage for all FDA-approved contraceptives lacking therapeutic equivalent generics with firm penalties for noncompliance. Therapeutic equivalent generics are FDA-approved drugs that are identical in active ingredients, dosage form and administration route, meeting stringent quality and safety standards. The FDA's Orange Book lists these drugs, guiding insurers and providers in recognizing interchangeable medications for optimal patient care.

The denial of no-cost birth control is not just a policy issue; it is a profound betrayal of trust and a flagrant violation of people's rights. It is an affront to reproductive autonomy and agency and a stark reminder of the systemic injustices that continue to plague our society.

But there is hope. Together, we have the power to bring about change. The struggle for no-cost birth control is a collective one, requiring our active engagement. We can raise our voices, assert our rights, and stand in solidarity with all those still denied access. We can support resources like CoverHer.org, and play an active role in shaping a future where everyone has the autonomy to control their destiny.

So, let us not be silent. Let us not be passive. Let us seize this moment, take action and fight for a world where reproductive well-being is not a privilege but a right.

.....
McDonald-Mosley is the CEO of Power to Decide, which has a mission to advance sexual and reproductive well-being for all.

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

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Hardwick reappointed to board

A Dunkirk native has been reappointed to the Ball State University Board of Trustees.

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb appointed Mark Hardwick, a 1989 Jay County High School graduate, to a new four-year term on the board. He will serve through 2027.

Hardwick joined the Ball State board in 2020 and chairs its audit committee. He is a 1993 graduate of BSU and went on to earn his master's degree in business administration in 1999.

"I am pleased and honored to serve another term on the Ball State Board of Trustees," said Hardwick, CEO of First Merchants Corporation, in a press release. "Since joining the board in 2020, our University has not only met the challenges of a global pandemic, but we have emerged even stronger. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue representing and serving Ball State and our wonderful students, faculty, staff, and alumni."

The governor also appointed William "Craig" Doggs as a new member of the BSU board. Dobbs is head of The Dobbs Group and institutional consulting director at Graystone Consulting, a business unit of Morgan Stanley.

Hospital adds

Adams Memorial Hospital recently announced

Business roundup

the addition of Dr. Michael Ryskin to its staff.

Ryskin is an obstetrician/gynecologist who will practice at the Adams Memorial Hospital medical office complex providing services in the maternal and newborn clinic. A native of the former Soviet Union, he completed his residency at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City and most recently worked in Nebraska.

Planning to fly

Commercial air service will return to West Lafayette/Purdue University Airport for the first time in two decades.

Purdue and Surf Air Mobility have agreed to begin scheduled community air service with O'Hare International Airport in Chicago beginning during the second quarter of 2024. The Purdue airport has not had commercial service since 2004.

"Purdue and the neighboring community are pleased to welcome Southern Airways Express to the Purdue University Airport," Purdue president Mung Chi-

ang said in a press release. "With the economic growth momentum here, I know that Purdue faculty, staff, students and alumni will be thrilled for the university and local communities to once again have direct access to the global aviation network after 20 years without scheduled commercial airline service."

Commercial air services was a goal of the Purdue Flies initiative that also includes expanding Discovery Park District.

I&M donates

Indiana Michigan Power recently donated thousands of LED light bulbs in partnership with food banks in southwest Michigan.

The company donated 8,000 four-packs of bulbs to be distributed to those in need. It also gave 10,000 three-packs of window insulation kits and more than 10,000 door and window weatherstripping.

The donations are part of the company's effort to promote energy efficiency. In a press release, it indicated that the bulb donation will result in a savings of more than \$675,000 annually.

Developing offshore

Invenergy last week announced the formation of Jersey Link, an effort to expand renewable energy transmission.

The company, which is developing Skycrest Solar in northwest Jay County, bought the project previously known as Atlantic Power Transmission from Blackstone Infrastructure Partners. Jersey Link is planned as a high-voltage direct current transmission solution to allow for up to 3,600 megawatts of new offshore wind energy production.

"This announcement underscores Invenergy's continued commitment to building the critical infrastructure required to advance the offshore wind and transmission goals of New Jersey, and the US at large," said Robert Taylor, senior project director for Jersey Link in a press release. "Invenergy's deeply experienced team will ensure Jersey Link cost-effectively delivers offshore wind power to shore, invests in coastal and inland communities, and advances workforce development opportunities throughout the state."

Eyewear line added

Walmart recently partnered with eyewear line Karun.

The new brand made from traceable recycled materials including fishing nets, metals and other plastics, is available at Walmart Vision Center locations. It features 18 styles, including aviators,

round, rectangle and square frames.

"At Karun, our mission is to create eyewear that helps protect nature," said founder and CEO Thomas Kimber. "Through our Karun Traceability System, we enable customers to learn where their eyewear materials were collected, how far they traveled and where they were produced. We chose to work with Walmart as our U.S. national retailer to expand access to more sustainable eyewear options."

Zepbound available

Eli Lilly announced last week that its obesity treatment Zepbound is now available in U.S. pharmacies.

Zepbound was recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for weight loss. It is from a class of drugs traditionally used to treat type 2 diabetes. It has been shown to reduce food cravings and cause the stomach to empty more slowly, according to a report from Reuters.

CEO honored

Indiana Society of Association Executives last week named Indiana Bankers Association president and CEO Amber R. Van Til as its Association Executive of the Year.

Van Til joined the Indiana Bankers Association as a lobbyist in 2002. She held several other posi-

tions before being named president and CEO in 2017.

"I am the daughter of two community bankers," Van Til said in her acceptance speech. "It is an honor to get to work every day for an industry that I am so passionate about, and to support the industry's work in helping Hoosiers in their communities achieve their dreams of homeownership, starting their own business and so much more."

Dinner scheduled

Indiana Chamber of Commerce will hold its Chamber Day Dinner at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, at the Indiana Roof Ballroom.

Richard Haass, author of "Bill of Obligations: 10 Habits of Good Citizens," will be the keynote speaker for the event. He served in the U.S. State Department under Presidents George W. Bush and Ronald Reagan, in the White House under Presidents George H.W. Bush, and at the Pentagon under President Jimmy Carter.

For more information, or to register for the event, contact events@indianachamber.com or (800) 824-6885.

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

Southwest attendants reject agreement

Contract would have provided a 20% raise

By ALEXANDRA SKORES

The Dallas Morning News
Tribune News Service

Southwest Airlines flight attendants have rejected a contract agreement with the Dallas-based carrier, a deal that would have ended five years at the bargaining table.

The contract would have given more than 20,000 flight attendants represented by Transport Workers Union Local 556 a 20% raise to start the new year. It would have made Southwest flight attendants the highest paid in the industry — 16% more than their counterparts at Delta Air Lines.

Flight attendants voted on the agreement from Nov. 16

through Friday. The results were announced to the union's membership on Friday.

"After five long years of negotiations, which have included fighting both pay cuts and furloughs, enduring historic operational failures, and working without raises to combat inflation or compensate for the extensive duties our members have to perform, the flight attendants of Southwest Airlines have made it clear that this proposed contract is not going to heal the hurt," said Lyn Montgomery, president of TWU Local 556, in an email.

Montgomery said union leaders plan to go back to the bargaining table.

Adam Carlisle, vice presi-



Tribune News Service/The Dallas Morning News/Lola Gomez

dent of labor relations at Southwest Airlines, said the company will await the next steps.

"We are disappointed the industry-leading agreement reached between the negotiat-

ing committees was not rati-

fied," Carlisle said. "Our flight attendants will continue to be covered under their current contract and we'll await next steps from the National Mediation Board and TWU 556."

In June, the union's executive board voted down a tentative

Southwest Airlines flight attendant Dixie Cunningham, middle, during a picketing at the Dallas Love Field Airport in March.

contract, leaving the airline and union in mediation until an agreement was reached.

The carrier also continues to negotiate in mediation with its pilots and in direct talks with ramp, operations, provisioning and cargo agents.

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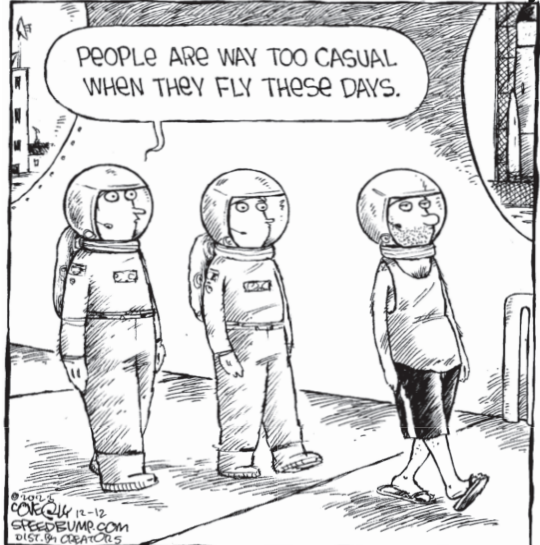
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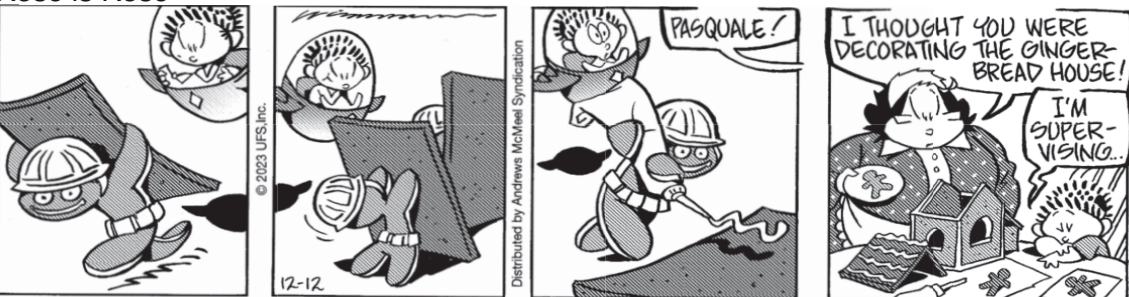
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



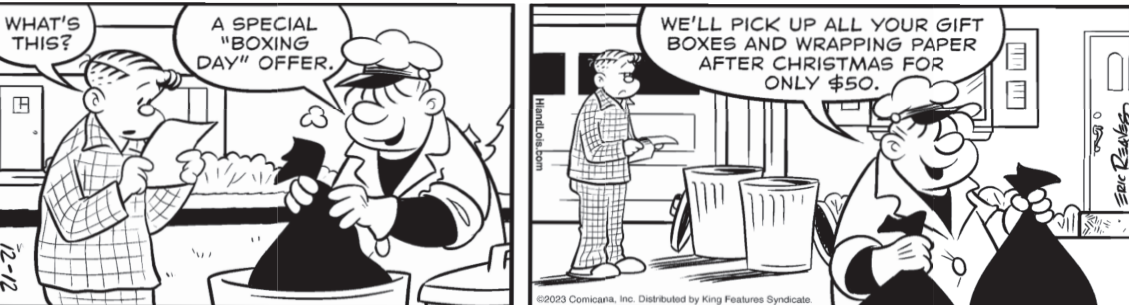
Rose is Rose



Agnes



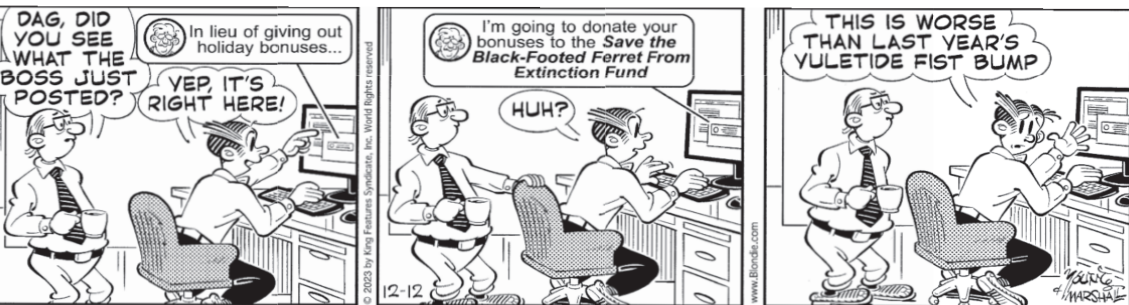
Hi and Lois



Between Friends



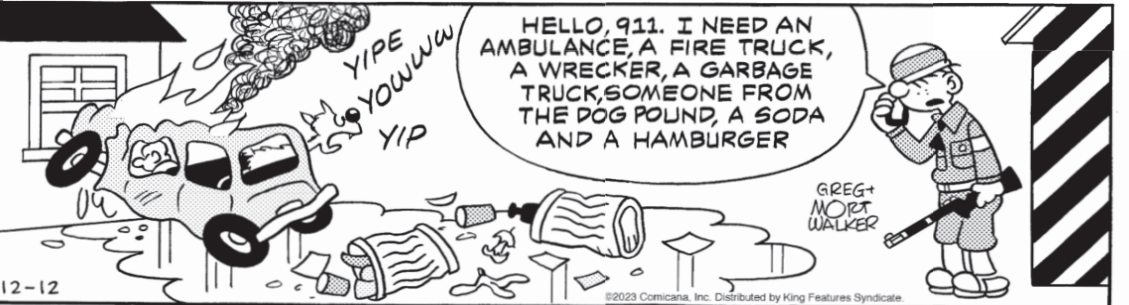
Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

It all adds up

West dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 6 2
♥ Q 10 9 3
♦ A K 7 6
♣ A K

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

EAST
♠ 7 5
♥ 6 5 4
♦ 9 8 4
♣ J 10 8 3 2

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 8
♥ A 8 2
♦ Q 10 3
♣ 9 7 6 4

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

Opening lead — four of spades.
As the play progresses and each defender follows or fails to follow suit, declarer is gradually able to develop an accurate picture of the opponents' hands. In fact, early in the play of many hands, declarer can place virtually every key card held by each defender.

Consider this deal where South is in three notrump and West, who opened the bidding with one spade, leads the four of spades. By assuming that West has made a normal fourth-best lead, it is obvious that he was dealt at most five spades (with the deuce in dummy, the three

is the only spade lower than the four that West can have).
South wins the spade with the eight and sees only six other cashable tricks. He plays the A-Q-K of diamonds and, after everyone follows suit, cashes dummy's fourth diamond, East discarding a club, West a heart and South a spade.

Now only one trick away from his goal, declarer cashes the A-K of clubs, West following suit with the 5-Q. It is here that South should pause to take stock of what he has learned about the opposing hands thus far.

He starts by assigning the king of hearts to West, who could scarcely have an opening bid without it. South also knows that West started with five spades and three diamonds, and that he probably had only two clubs — partly because of the fall of West's queen, and partly because East would not have discarded a club earlier unless he had five of them.

South can therefore reasonably conclude that West must have started with three hearts, one of which he has already discarded. So at trick eight, South leads a spade from dummy! This allows West to cash four spade tricks, but he must then lead a heart from his K-J, allowing dummy's queen and declarer's ace to score the game-going tricks.

Tomorrow: Fortune favors the brave.
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12-12

CRYPTOQUIP

XDW'J RB QD FZGLJFBWJ JD

QBB ILJBY RBLXFWC DW JTB

ZDYWFWC CYLQQ. FJ IFOO

TLGGBW FW XBI JFZB.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: LARGE CITY WHERE EVERY PERMANENT DWELLER HAS THE SAME GIVEN NAME AS ACTOR DAMON: MATT-ROPOLIS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Treaty
5 Showbiz job
8 Stinging insect
12 Approximately
13 Notre Dame coach
14 Evoking an "Ugh!"
15 Aspen headwear
17 Hide-away
18 "Blue Bloods" extra
19 Using the Internet
21 Sum
24 Lost traction
25 "Cat on — Tin Roof"
26 Cozy spot in Sun Valley
30 Mafia boss
31 Song-writer
32 Bagel variety
33 Vail feature
35 Knitting stitch

DOWN
36 Chantilly, e.g.
37 Port of Nigeria
38 Hudson River feeder
41 Fix illegally
42 "The Good Earth" heroine
43 Footwear at the Alps
48 Chinese dynasty
49 Mil. morale booster
50 Gloomy
51 Tennis star
52 Place
53 Chopping tools

21 Tiny amounts
22 "Hmm, I guess so"
23 Collette of "The Staircase"
24 Video chat format
26 Buys by the case
27 Pharmaceutical
28 Greek deli order
29 Morays
31 Cabbage salad
34 Like "phat"
35 Asian temple
37 Freedom, for short
38 NYC gallery
39 Actress
40 Royal flush, e.g.
41 Laugh-a-minute
44 Sch. near Topeka
45 Tic-tac-toe loser
46 Calendar abbr.
47 Soon-to-be grads

Solution time: 22 mins.

D	U	A	C	O	N	C	H	F	R	A
E	S	S	A	F	I	R	E	A	O	K
F	A	I	R	S	F	A	I	R	R	B
B	A	F	F	L	E	S	S	E	R	M
B	A	F	F	L	E	S	S	E	R	M
A	L	I	E	T	E	N	U	R	S	E
T	O	N	E	S	A	D	L	E	O	N
H	E	A	R	D	T	A	P	S	O	D
L	A	R	S	N	I	G	H	T	S	
C	A	F	T	A	N	I	F	S		
O	R	O	F	A	C	E	F	A	C	T
L	I	U	T	R	O	L	L	E	O	N
E	A	R	S	E	N	S	E	O	W	L

Yesterday's answer 12-12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
			18			19	20			
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38	39	40				41				
42				43	44			45	46	47
48				49			50			
51				52			53			

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School’s Parker Nichols floats up a layup on New Castle defender Isaac Madden on Saturday evening. The Patriots struggled to defend the Trojans from three as they fell 56-44.

Roundup ...

Continued from page 8
The 200 medley relay team of Fortkamp, Guggenbiller, Kaup and Allison Knapke finished fourth.
Kaup added a pair of third places in the sprint freestyle and backstroke while Guggenbiller was fifth in the sprint breaststroke.

Bowlers start strong
COLDWATER, Ohio — The Fort Recovery bowling teams both took down the Parkway Panthers at Pla-Mor Lanes in Coldwater on Saturday. The boys throttled the Panthers 2,701-2,145 while the girls won

2,068-1,785 to open up Midwest Athletic Conference play.
The boys team (2-0, 1-0 MAC) had four bowlers average more than 200 pins for the individual games. Lucas Acheson led the way with a 219.5 average while Austin Steinbrunner had a 207.5. Bowling one game each, Gabe Acheson rolled a 219 while Riley Grieshop shot a 211.
The Indians also outshot the Panthers (0-1, 0-1 MAC) in baker 866-734.
Ella Schoen led the girls (1-0, 1-0 MAC) for the Tribe’s season opener with a 188.5 average.
The Indians trailed the Pan-

thers in baker play 660-644 but the strong individual games from Schoen (190, 187), Deanna Brown (159, 146), Kayla Heitkamp (129, 145) and Emily Lauber (124, 144) made up for it.
Tankers dominate
The Jay County Winter Swim team dominated the Jay Winter Invite on Saturday, winning 40 of 48 events.
Three Jay tankers led their respective age groups, with Cooper Glentzer dominating the 13-14-year-old boys, Elly Byrum handling the 11-12-year-old girls and Addisyn Champ winning the 9-10-year-old girls.

Glentzer and Byrum both won five events at the meet. Both conquered the 50-yard freestyle, butterfly, 200 freestyle and the backstroke. Glentzer’s other victory came in the 100 freestyle while Byrum’s was in the breaststroke.
Champ was nearly as successful, claiming the 50 freestyle, 50 backstroke, 100 freestyle and 200 individual medley.
Runkle leads
INDIANAPOLIS — The JC Flipsters of JC Tumbling and Gymnastics competed in the Hoosier Cup at the Indiana State Fairgrounds over the weekend.
Charlie Runkle earned the

highest finish of all Flipsters. A pair of second-place finishes on vault (9.0 points) and on the floor (9.5) combined with a third-place finish on the bars (9.2) fueled her to 36.4 points in total and third place in the all-around competition at the bronze level.
Jordyn Champ, of the gold division, boasts the only top finish at the event. She took the top spot on the vault with a score of 9.175. She also finished fourth on the balance beam to help her to sixth place all-around (34.925).
The Flipsters’ top performer from the silver level was Charli Stephens, who placed sixth all-around with 36.5 points.

Sports on tap

Local schedule					
Today Jay County — Girls basketball vs. Blackford – 6 p.m.; Swimming at Delta – 6 p.m.; Boys wrestling at Norwell – 6 p.m. Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. Fort Loramie – 6 p.m.; Swimming vs. Minster and Marion Local at South Adams – 6 p.m.; Middle school	boys basketball at South Adams – 5 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball vs. Parkway – 5 p.m.	Duke (ESPN2); Alcorn State at Maryland (BTN) 7:30 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Dallas Mavericks (TNT) 7:30 p.m. — NHL: Detroit Red Wings at St. Louis Blues (ESPN) 8:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Coppin State at Georgetown (FS1) 10 p.m. — NBA: Golden State Warriors at	Phoenix Suns (TNT) 10 p.m. — NHL: Chicago Blackhawks at edmonton Oilers (ESPN)	Bucks (Bally Indiana) 8 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Chicago State at Northwestern (BTN) 10 p.m. — NHL: Buffalo Sabers at Colorado Avalanche (TNT)	
	TV sports Today 6:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Monmouth at Seton Hall (FS1) 7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Hofstra at		Wednesday 7:30 p.m. — NHL: Boston Bruins at New Jersey Devils (TNT) 8 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Milwaukee		<i>To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@theocr.com.</i>

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JAY COUNTY
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WILLIAM P. OSBORNE, Deceased
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that DEWEY L. OSBORNE and VIRGINIA M. GUINGRICH were, on the 1st day of December, 2023, appointed personal representatives of the estate of WILLIAM P. OSBORNE, deceased, who died on October 30, 2023, and was authorized to administer said estate without court supervision. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of this court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 4th day of December, 2023.
Jon Eads
Clerk, Jay Circuit Court
Kristin L. Steckbeck
Attorney No. 27029-02
DALE, HUFFMAN & BABCOCK
30 Premier Avenue
Bluffton, Indiana 46714 (260) 824-5566
Attorney for Estate
38C01-2312-EU-000027
CR 12-12,19-2023 HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
RESOLUTION NO. 2023- RESOLUTION DESIGNATING ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA
WHEREAS, the Town of Pennville desires to designate certain areas located within its jurisdiction as an "economic revitalization area", as that term is defined by I.C. § 6-1.1-12.1-1, in order to encourage development and rehabilitation of property located therein. NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF PENNVILLE, INDIANA AS FOLLOWS:
Pursuant to Indiana Code § 6-1.1-12.1-1 et seq., the Town of Pennville does hereby declare and designate all of the Town of Pennville within its jurisdictional limits as an economic "revitalization area"
The owners of real estate and tangible personal property located within this "economic revitalization area" shall be entitled to all qualified deductions for new manufacturing equipment and redevelopment or rehabilitation of real estate located therein.
The Town Council may designate and authorize one or more individuals to execute any and all documents necessary to substantiate applications by owners of qualifying real or personal property for tax deductions pursuant to the statute cited herein.
This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon passage.
ALL OF WHICH IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY the Council for the Town of Pennville, Indiana this 5th day December, 2023.
Alicia Corwin, Josh Miller, Brandy Manns
Attested: Krista M. Scholer, Clerk/Treasurer
CR 12-12-2023 HSPAXLP

Jay second in duals

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Before the season, the Patriots lost one key contributor to injury and another to a transfer.

Having three additional regulars out of the lineup this weekend proved too much to overcome.

The Class 2A No. 1 Jay County High School boys wrestling team was unable to repeat as the Allen County Athletic Conference Duals champion, finishing second as it came up short in a 47-16 loss to Class 1A No. 2 Adams Central.

"I thought we had an outside shot in that match," said Myers, whose team was without seventh-ranked 150-pounder Cameron Clark, Taye Curtis and Conner Specht. "We've got some lineup adjustments that we're gonna make in the next few weeks. Our lineup is gonna look significantly different by the time we get to the ACAC tournament ..."

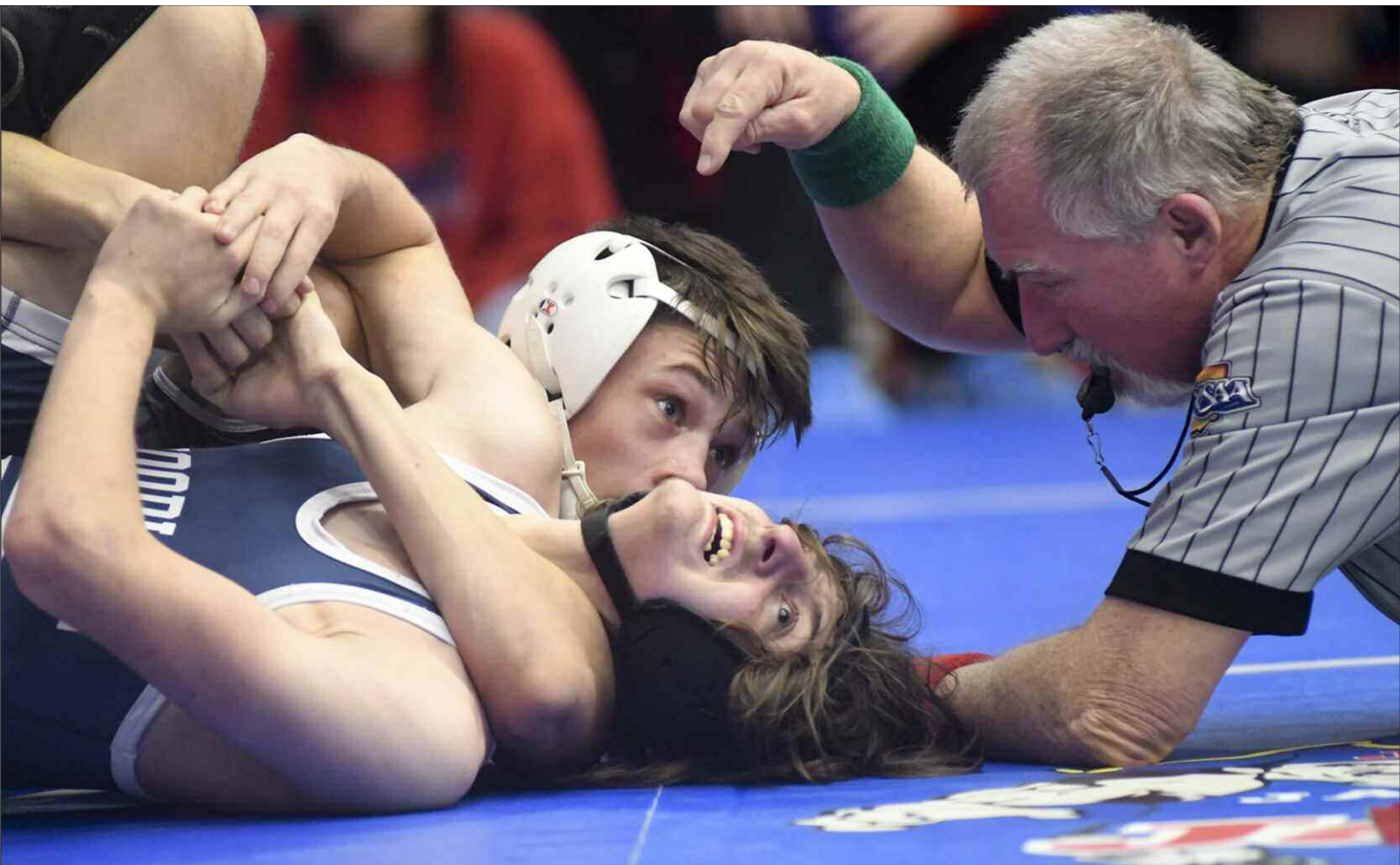
The Patriots fought off Class 1A No. 5 South Adams in their only close match of the weekend, 41-33. They also beat Woodlan 64-12, Bluffton 66-12 and Southern Wells 72-12 on Saturday after topping Heritage 66-18 Friday night.

Adams Central finished undefeated, with its closest victory coming by a 42-36 score over South Adams on Friday night.

"As the day went on, we wrestled better and better," said ACHS coach Tony Currie. "I'm pretty pleased with that last performance. Jay County is a formidable opponent."

Bryce Wenk highlighted the meet for the Patriots (12-2) as he earned his 100th career victory in the match that sewed up the team win over South Adams.

Wenk's milestone win came with his team leading just 35-33 over the Starfires in the match that turned out to decide the runner-up spot in the conference duals. He left no doubt, picking up Bryan Roll of South Adams and slamming him to the mat just



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

The referee points to where Woodlan's Preston Munster isn't quite stuck as Cooper Glassford of host Jay County tries to finish him off with a pin Saturday during the Allen County Athletic Conference Duals. Glassford went on to a 17-7 victory in the 120-pound match for the Patriots, who finished second in the seven-team field.

eight seconds into their 215-pound match. He went on to record the victory by pin in 52 seconds.

"It's pretty awesome," said Wenk, who joined current teammates Tony Wood and Cody Rowles and became the 12th 100-match winner in JCHS history.

"It's pretty hard to get 100 wins. ... I'm just really excited to get it."

And while the team fell short

against Adams Central, Wenk came through in a big way.

He trailed most of the way, falling behind 5-4 early in the third period when Wayne McAfee got a quick escape. Wenk struggled to find any offense until the closing moments, converting a high crotch into a takedown with just four seconds left.

"I got a high crotch and I tried to go off to a double," said Wenk, noting that he was struggling to get shots because of McAfee's

lower body strength. "He didn't really sprawl on me or anything, so I just took it as far as I could and made two out of it."

Finishing undefeated on the day for Jay County were Jacob Robinson (150) at 6-0, Wenk at 5-0 and No. 4 Tony Wood (144) and Jason Landers (138) both at 3-0.

The day for Landers included an 11-10 victory over Braxton Krichner of South Adams that helped turn the match in the Patriots' favor.

"We had some guys step in," said Myers. "Jason Landers is one that jumps out right away. He won 11-10, huge match for us. We throw him in to his first varsity action and he comes away with a big win for us."

Also with winning records in contested matches were Cody Rowles (132) at 5-1, Griffin Byrum (113) at 3-1, Juaquin Flores (190) at 4-1 and Alan Ortiz (285), Cooper Glassford (120) and A.J. Heskett (126) all at 3-2.

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Three-point party

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

NEW CASTLE — The 3-point line was implemented in high school basketball in 1987.

The Trojans couldn't be more thankful for the invention, as they rained in 14 threes against the Patriots.

The Jay County High School boys basketball team was blitzed from beyond the arc in Saturday's 56-44 loss to the New Castle Trojans.

To combat Jay County's 1-2-2 zone, New Castle (3-2) wanted to attack from distance, and it worked out well. It shot 14-35 (40.0%), which accounted for 75% of its points. The Trojans ended up hitting more 3-point shots than the total amount of attempts they took from inside the arc (11).

"Even when we're in a zone, our guys know they need to run them off the three and make them dribble into their shot," JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt said. "There wasn't one 3-point shot they made, that they dribbled into. Every-

thing they made was on a pass against our zone."

Colin Taylor hit most of the Trojans' threes, knocking down eight on 16 attempts. Supporting his efforts were Mason Miller who hit four and Clay Butler and Caden Blackford who added one each.

The Trojans had great ball movement and shared the rock well. Of their 20 made field goals, 15 were assisted. Butler and Cade Logston led the way with six assists each.

New Castle needed everyone to pitch in on the offensive end, as it was without its leading scorer Landon Thompson, who suffered a season-ending injury the night before.

"For us, this was like dress rehearsal and the main act, all on the same stage." NCHS coach Daniel Cox said. "We've practiced with Landon for a couple of months and all preseason. When you take away a guy like that who's averaging 17 (points) and eight (rebounds) for us, you just don't know what you're going to look like.

See Party page 7

Tribe escapes with win

FORT RECOVERY — The Railroaders put up 13 points in the fourth quarter. The Indians scored 12.

Fortunately for the Tribe, that's all they would need to escape with a win.

The Fort Recovery boys basketball team narrowly beat the Bradford Railroaders 50-49 on Saturday.

Three Indians scored in double figures. Newcomer Gavin Faller was the leading scorer with 13 points, including two free throws in the final period. Faller made it to the line eight times in the game, knocking down 7 of 16 attempts.

Troy Homan and Rex Leverette put up 10 points each. All of Leverette's points came in the second half, for Fort Recovery (2-0).

Bradford's leader was Hudson Hill, who dropped 20 points by spraying in five threes. Owen Canan added 14.

The Indians dominated the first and third quarters with 16 points apiece, while Bradford (2-2) owned the second quarter with 15.

Rowles tops
LEBANON — The Jay County girls wrestling

Local roundup

team finished 12th out of 50 teams at the Lebanon Invitational on Saturday.

Katie Rowles was the Patriots' sole champion, taking the 100-pound weight class. After a first-round bye, she beat North Central's Victoria Duenas Zelaya in a 4-2 decision. She pinned Kokomo's Amaris Garling in 56 seconds. In the championship, she beat Tri-County's Sydney Stoller 4-0.

Lina Lingo earned third place for Jay County in the 135 bracket, taking down Kelsee Powers out of Hamilton Heights in 58 seconds.

Other placements came from Willow Hardy (fourth), Maleah Parsons (fifth), Sophie Thomas (seventh), Madison Gage (seventh) and Tessa Miller (ninth). Calie Yates and Emily Manor both competed as well, but did not place.

Finishing third
TROTWOOD, Ohio — The Fort Recovery swim teams competed at the Trotwood Invitational on Saturday.

The girls team scored 165.5 points to finish third out of 24 teams. Beating it for the top two spots were Tippecnoe with 198 points and Versailles with 169.

The boys earned 63.5 points to place ninth out of 27 teams. Little Miami topped the field with 165.

Teigen Fortkamp and Sage Wendel both won an event. Fortkamp's time of 56.99 seconds was good enough for first in the 100-yard freestyle, while she was 0.17 seconds away from first place in the 100 individual medley.

Wendel claimed the 100 free as well with a time of 54.18 seconds. He placed third in the 50 butterfly as well to be the top point-getter for the boys.

The girls 200 free relay of Makenna Huelskamp, Joelle Kaup, Paige Guggenbiller and Fortkamp finished 1.25 seconds behind first place.

See Roundup page 7
Continued from page 7