

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Sheriff's office to get new rifles

*Some old equipment date back to '60s and '70s*

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Jay County Sheriff's Office will be purchasing new rifles this year.

Jay County Commissioners on Monday approved spending up to \$24,640.69 — the funding will be paid for using state dollars and other money accrued by the department — for 17 patrol rifles for Jay County Sheriff's Office.

Jay County Sheriff Ray Newton explained the department's old patrol rifles — the M16 rifles were sold last year — likely dated back to the 1960s and '70s. Their age and corresponding red tape that came with them prompted the department to look into other options.

With the new SIG M400 Pro rifles, officers will be outfitted with the same weapons across the board. (The department still has a few semi automatic rifles, but currently patrol officers use their personal rifles, explained deputy Ben Schwartz.)

"It's just kind of a hodgepodge of whatever they have, and I think it's time to get on board so everyone has the exact same setup across the board so it all makes sense," said Schwartz.

All accessories on the 5.56 caliber rifles will be the same, including features such as mountable flashlights and slings.

Newton also cited liability as a reason to move forward with creating a uniform rifles for all officers.

"We need to carry department-issued guns, department-issued setup," said Newton. "Everyone (should) carry the same exact patrol rifle. You know, back in the days, the shotgun was a big thing. Then they started bringing in rifles. Shotguns have went away, now it's patrol rifles, and (we're) just trying to get everyone on the same thing."

Jay County Sheriff's Office has received about \$30,000 so far from the state in dollars allocated by the Indiana General Assembly — the amount each participating entity gets is based on what it made in personal protection permits in 2020, with Jay County's at just under \$10,000. (An additional \$10,000 is expected sometime this year.) Plans are to use a portion of those funds as well as the \$13,000 received from the weapons sold in 2023.

"We've been budgeting this money for the last, well, since last year," explained Newton. "This is money that is all set up to be used for this reason."

The purchase includes plans to trade in six of the department's 5.56 millimeter Rock River AR-15 semi automatic rifles for \$1,950.

See Rifles page 2



Photo provided

## Top 10

Miss Jay County Fair Queen Rachel Heitkamp was named a top 16 semifinalist and then top 10 finalist this weekend at the Indiana State Fair Queen competition at Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. She became just the fourth competitor from Jay County to make the top 10, joining 1986 Indiana State Fair Queen Tina Schwieterman, Beth Ninde (1978) and Jessica Howell (2006).

## Commission: Building repairs are too costly

*Former Hunt's site likely headed for demolition*

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

Another downtown building is likely headed for demolition.

Portland Redevelopment Commission during a special meeting Monday agreed that it would not take any additional action in an effort to save the building at 208 and 210 N. Meridian St.

The process toward demolishing the structure, which has significant problems with its roof and west wall, began in August, with Portland Board of Works declaring it unsafe. The board subsequently approved it for demolition and received bids, but subsequently agreed to give the redevelopment commission time to study the building and consider whether it is interested in getting financially involved to save it.

Redevelopment commission president Rusty Inman reported to the board Monday that in addition to the assessments from Silver Creek Engineering (Indianapolis) and SEBREE Architects (Carmel), Mike Schwartz of Limberlost Construction (Geneva)

also walked through the structure and offered an opinion. His informal estimate came to \$577,000, with an additional \$100,000 in contingencies, to stabilize the structure, install electricity and utilities and remove the damaged floor from the north section of the building.

Joe Johnston of the redevelopment commission noted that those numbers are similar to a previous rough estimate of \$700,000.

That led fellow redevelopment commission member Dave Teeter to ask about what the value of the building would be after such repairs. All agreed it would not come close to the amount spent to stabilize it.

"I just hate to see that go, but it doesn't make sense," said Teeter.

LeAnn Miller, who is renovating the adjacent building as the new home for her business Reclaiming Design, asked if there was a possibility of partnering on such a project with Portland City Council or another entity.

Consultant Ed Curtin of CWC Latitudes, who advises the redevelopment commission, said his preference would be to save the building but that the cost is prohibitive.

"In my mind, I can't justify the commission expending those kind of dollars to deal with this structure," he said. "My recommendation would be that the commission not pursue this any further."

Redevelopment commission members Reda Theurer-Miller, Inman, Johnston and Teeter, absent Mike Simons, agreed with that assessment.

See Costly page 2

## Education will be top issue

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

Education will be a key topic.

That was the consensus among local legislators as the Indiana General Assembly prepared to begin the 2024 legislative session, which started Monday.

State Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle), who represents Jay, Adams, Wells and Blackford counties and part of Allen County, State Rep. J.D. Prescott (R-Union City), who represents the southern two-thirds of Jay County, all of Randolph and Blackford counties and part of Delaware and Henry counties, and State Rep. Matt Lehman (R-Berne), who represents the northern third of Jay County as well as all of Adams and Wells counties, all pointed to education issues as key for the session.

Holdman noted chronic absenteeism as a key issue the legislature will look to address this year. State data shows about 40% of students missed 10 or more days of school and almost 20% missed 18 days or more. He called those numbers "alarming."

"We've got to get control of that," said Holdman. "It really relies on the parents to get the kids to school. I think therein lies part of our problem. It's really a case of child neglect from an educational standpoint that the parent doesn't require the child to get

up and go to school in the morning.

"I think we just need to put some pressure on local school corporations to come up with a plan for what they're going to do, some creative ways they can think of to get the kids out of bed and get them to school in the morning."

On education issues, Prescott pointed to third grade reading scores and Indiana Reading Evaluation and Determination (IREAD-3) testing data. Indiana Capital Chronicle reported last month that 81.9% of Indiana third graders passed the 2023 IREAD-3 test, about the same as the previous year and well short of the state department of education's goal of 95%.

"Our elementary students are just not reading to grade level like they should be," said Prescott. "What the answer is and the solution for that, it's just going to have to be worked through and discussed. ... I know that conversation is going to take center stage,

at least on the house side, during the first half of the session."

Lehman also started his education discussion with I-READ scores, noting that they are just too low. He said he's heard a theme in his conversations with educators about the issue.

"What I'm finding is third grade might be too late to really be tracking what track they're on," he said, noting that in-class assessments used to be done in first and second grade. "I think we'll probably see some language around maybe bringing some of that back, to start assessment earlier, even into the pre-K."

Lehman also called for taking some of the pressure off of schools when it comes to reporting and other regulatory issues.

All three legislators also noted the projected Medicaid shortfall the state is facing, with Lehman noting that health care will likely follow as part of that discussion.

Holdman, who chairs the tax and fiscal policy committee, said

most tax issues will be deferred until next year's budget session after a study committee is able to make recommendations. But, he added, that the maximum levy growth quotient — it sets the amount of increased levy local units of government can take — needs to be addressed. Based on a six-year average, it is slated to go up to 5.6% in 2026. (The legislature put a two-year freeze on it last year at 4% for 2024 and '25.) He said the legislature will look at keeping the freeze in place or setting a new freeze at a rate somewhere between 4% and 5.6%.

"So if we don't do something to control the local level, it will be a 40% increase in levy that locals can take from the local taxpayer," said Holdman.

"I think we've got to control local spending," he added.

One of the bills Holdman authored came at the request of his hometown to expand districts to towns.

See Education page 2

### Deaths

Vecil Heniser, 92, Portland  
Freda Daniels, 85, Pennville  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

The temperature in Jay County hovered between 32 and 34 degrees Sunday. There was about an inch of snow over the weekend.

Tonight's forecast calls for rain and snow, with minimal accumulation, winds gusting to 40 miles per hour and a low of 30. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Several Indiana school corporations, including Adams Central, were closed or implemented e-learning Monday because of bomb threats. Jay School Corporation superintendent issued a statement this morning indicating that "Jay Schools have not received any threats at this time."

### Coming up

Wednesday — Preview of JCHS at the girls wrestling state finals.

Thursday — Coverage of this week's Portland Park Board meeting.



# Obituaries

## Vecil Heniser

Sept. 8, 1931-Jan. 4, 2024  
Vecil Heniser, age 92, of Portland, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie.

She was born in Bryant, Indiana, on Sept. 8, 1931, the daughter of Cleo and Kathleen (LeFavour) Bookout. She was married on Dec. 26, 1948, to Gerald "Mus" Heniser, who passed away on Nov. 12, 2015.

Vecil was a bookkeeper for Heniser Motor Sales in Portland for many years. She was an active First Presbyterian Church member and a past Delta Theta Tau sorority president.



Heniser

Surviving are three daughters, Linda Warner (husband: Randy) of Indianapolis, Susan Horsman (husband: John) of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Lisa Lyons (husband: Dan) of Portland; one brother, Darl Bookout (wife: Donna) of Muncie; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Hurley Bookout.

Visitation will be on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024, from 1 to 2 p.m. and service will begin at 2 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home. Burial will be in the Green Park Cemetery with no graveside service.

Memorials can be made to the choice of the donor.

The family would like to thank the staff of The Waters of Dunkirk for their wonderful care.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

## Freda Daniels

Sept. 3, 1938-Jan. 6, 2024  
Freda Daniels, age 85, a resident of Pennville, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, at her home in Pennville.

Freda was born Sept. 3, 1938, in Lynch, Kentucky, the daughter of Fred and Emma (Blevins) Chadwick. She worked at Daniels Brothers Slaughtering, 3M in Hartford City and Jay Garment. Freda was a member of Union Chapel Church in rural Bryant and the Pennville American Legion Auxiliary.



Daniels

Freda married Robert "Bob" Daniels on Feb. 10, 1961.

Survivors include: Her husband of 62 years — Bob Daniels, Pennville, Indiana Children — Mike Daniels (wife: Kristy), Pennville, Indiana, and Kirk Daniels (wife: Christina), Pennville, Indiana

Siblings — Hazel Taylor (husband: Dave), Pennville, Indiana, Wanda Schafer (husband: Bob), Venice, Florida, Elizabeth Brown (husband: Larry), Portland, Indiana, Don Chadwick (wife: Jan), Jacksboro, Tennessee, and Jim Chadwick (wife: Betty), Bushland, Texas

Eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren She was preceded in death by her parents, Fred and Emma Chadwick; and her siblings, David Chadwick and Thelma Huey.

Visitation will be held on Fri-

day, Jan. 12, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pennville Chapel of Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. on Friday at the funeral home. Pastor Paul VanCise will officiate and burial will follow at IOOF Twin Hill Cemetery in Pennville.

Memorials may be directed to Union Chapel Church.

Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.com.

.....  
*The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.*

*There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.*

## CR almanac

Wednesday 1/10	Thursday 1/11	Friday 1/12	Saturday 1/13	Sunday 1/14
<b>34/28</b>	<b>38/26</b>	<b>40/22</b>	<b>28/11</b>	<b>19/8</b>
Mostly cloudy on Wednesday, when wind gusts will reach as high as 35 mph.	Thursday's forecast shows a chance of snow in the morning and a chance of rain at night.	There's a 70% chance of rain and snow on Friday under mostly cloudy skies.	Mostly cloudy skies are expected Saturday, when the low at night may reach 11.	Another chance of snow Sunday. At night, the low temperature may dip into single digits.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$46 million	56-61-63-72-73-77-79 Cash 5: 5-16-34-36-45 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$165 million	<b>Ohio</b> Sunday Midday Pick 3: 3-1-8 Pick 4: 4-3-7-4 Pick 5: 1-4-4-3-2 Evening Pick 3: 6-5-0 Pick 4: 5-4-4-4 Pick 5: 9-4-6-3-9 Rolling Cash 5: 14-18-24-26-32 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Sunday Midday Daily Three: 9-1-9 Daily Four: 6-9-9-8 Evening Daily Three: 4-7-4 Daily Four: 6-6-3-2 Quick Draw: 2-7-11-23-24-28-30-31-37-38-44-47-55-	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.52 Feb. corn .....4.52 Wheat .....5.31	Feb. beans .....12.42 Wheat ..... 5.71
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.52 Feb. corn .....4.55 March corn .....4.57	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.38 Feb. corn .....4.42 Beans .....12.29 Feb. beans .....12.32 Wheat .....5.65
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.47 Feb. corn .....4.47 Beans .....12.32	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.39 March corn .....4.44 Beans .....12.09 Feb. beans .....12.12 Wheat .....5.26

## Today in history

In 1431, the trial against Joan of Arc began. Joan had liberated Orleans and succeeded in other victories against the English before she was captured by Duke Burgundy's forces in 1430. She was put on trial for heresy, witchcraft and "violating divine law" for dressing like a man, and she was burned at the stake in May 30.

In 1768, British equestrian Philip Astley opened a riding school in London. He later became known as the father of the modern circus for his performance tricks during afternoon shows.

In 1982, Cate Middleton was born in Reading, Berkshire, England. She famously married Prince

William in 2011, and became the duchess of Cambridge.

In 2001, iTunes was introduced by Apple as a digital media player application.

In 2019, three local candidates filed for the Dunkirk mayoral election. Incumbent mayor Gene Ritter, a Republican, was running for a second term in office, with Democrats Jack Robbins and Sandra (Lawhorn) Rollins seeking a nomination to the ballot in November. Robbins went on to face off against Ritter, earning 58% of the vote. Robbins secured a second term in November 2023, doing away with a decades-long streak of Dunkirk mayors being limited to a single term. —The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Today</b> 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.	<b>Wednesday</b> 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
---	--

## Education ...

Continued from page 1  
The districts allow communities to provide additional liquor licenses at a lower cost and are intended to help drive economic development in the downtown area.

"Right now, cities have the opportunity to develop a riverfront district but towns do not," said Holdman. "I'm not sure why that was done that way."

He has also authored legislation that would extend "lemon laws" to protect those who purchase recreational vehicles (RVs).

Among legislation he has authored, Prescott noted House Bill 1096 that would adjust state rules for 529 College Savings Accounts. He explained that federal law has changed to allow some leftover 529 dollars to be rolled

over into a retirement account. His legislation would allow Indiana residents to take advantage of that option without a clawback for the tax credit they received for contributing to the 529 account.

He noted that constituents can reach him at h33@iga.in.gov.

Lehman's main piece of legislation (House Bill 1158) seeks to clarify the relationship between county sheriffs and county commissioners when it comes to signing contracts. He noted that in practice sheriffs have entered into contracts for a variety of services, but there was a Lake County court case in which commissioners sued the sheriff over such contracts. The court sided with the sheriff, but acknowledged that state statute is not clear on the issue.

"What my bill does is breaks it into public safety and non-public safety," said Lehman. "It requires commissioners to take action within a certain period of time, but it also allows the sheriffs to sign the contracts on their own ..."

"It doesn't shift any powers away or to anybody really. It just clarifies what has been in practice ..."

Prescott said he plans to run for a fourth term this year. Lehman said he'd like to see how the first week of the session goes before finalizing his decision but that he also expects to run for another term, which would be his ninth. Holdman is not up for re-election this year.

All legislation can be reviewed by legislator or subject by visiting iga.in.gov.

## Costly ...

Continued from page 1  
The decision did not require a formal vote. The commission instead informed Mayor Jeff Westlake that it would not be moving forward.

City attorney Wes Schemenaur said the board of works would likely look at holding a special meeting this week to select a bid for the demolition of the building. The only qualified bidder for the project was JAShroyer Group, which agreed to reduce its initial bid by \$60,000 to \$189,000 because it is already in the city working on the demolition of the Bailey Building on Main Street.

Moving forward, Curtin suggested planning to get involved with buildings sooner so as to avoid them reaching the point of needing heavy investment in order to be salvaged.

"I think this can be a learning, teachable moment for us, that we can maybe be a little more aggressive than we've been," said Inman.

Schemenaur noted that the problems with the buildings currently being removed did not happen in just a few years.

"It's unfortunate that we're the group of people that gets left holding the bag, but it's because prior administrations, prior leaders didn't step up to the plate and deal with the problem," he said.

Theurer-Miller and Johnston suggested setting up action steps and a timeline moving forward in order to make sure other buildings do not get ignored. Curtin suggested looking at unsafe building codes, city ordinances and potential incentives or penalties to encourage building owners to make necessary repairs. Portland Fire Chief Mike Weitzel noted that fire department building inspections could also be part of the process.

The redevelopment commission also heard its financial report, which showed a new tax draw of \$172,890.16 bringing its total balance to \$1.03 million. Johnston asked about how much of those funds are already encumbered. Portland clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips said she would send redevelopment commission members a report with those details.

## SERVICES

<b>Today</b> <b>Stroble</b> , Evelyn: 12:30 p.m., Spring Hill Cemetery, Fort Recovery. <b>Territo</b> , John: 6 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>Velasco</b> , Tammy: 10:30 a.m., First Mennonite Church, 566 W. Main St., Berne. <b>Heniser</b> , Vecil: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
<b>Friday</b> <b>Daniels</b> , Freda: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
<b>Sunday</b> <b>Williams</b> , Helen: 4 p.m., New Life Ministries, 415 S. Helen St., Portland.

Service listings provided by  
**PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS**  
120 N. Meridian St.  
Portland, Indiana 47371  
(260) 726-9201  
progressiveofficeproducts.com

## Rifles ...

Continued from page 1  
In related business, commissioners Brian McGalliard, Chad Aker and Rex Journay also OK'd purchasing two 2023 Dodge Durangos at \$41,827 apiece and a 2023 Dodge Ram pickup at \$38,467 from Thomas Dodge Chrysler Jeep of Highland for the sheriff's office. Their approval was contingent upon whether the business could provide the vehicles immediately. (If not, they plan to revisit quotes, including a potential offer from Glass Capital Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM of Dunkirk that was not presented at the meeting Monday.)

Newton also pointed out the department is currently in need of another deputy for the sheriff's office and four correctional officers for Jay County Jail.

.....  
*For more commissioners news, see Wednesday's newspaper.*

Two Sided Quality Mattresses... Affordably Priced!

**I'M FLIPPABLE**

Made in Muncie

Mattress Sets starting at \$399  
Affordably priced everyday!

Making quality mattresses for over 69 years

**Holder Bedding**

1815 N Granville Ave, Muncie  
**765-747-8103**  
Open M-F 9:00a-5:30p;  
Saturdays 10:00a-3:00p  
www.holderbedding.net

**Swiss Village**

**NOW SEEKING: SKILLED TRADES MAINTENANCE WORKER**

The Skilled Trades Maintenance Worker will be responsible for painting throughout the Swiss Village community, as well as installation, operation, and upkeep of equipment and systems. This position will be 40 hours/week, Monday – Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm with rotating on-call requirements. Qualified candidates must have painting experience. Preferred candidates will also have electrical, plumbing, carpentry, OR remodeling experience. Seeking candidates with good work habits, the ability to efficiently use materials and equipment, and committed to following policies and procedures. This position is eligible for benefits including health, dental, vision, and life insurance, Paid Time Off (PTO), and 403(b) retirement plan participation.

**Apply online at www.swissvillage.org or send Resume to:**

Taylor Lehman, Vice President of HR  
Swiss Village, Inc.  
1350 W. Main St., Berne, IN 46711  
careers@swissvillage.org

**Connect Anywhere, Anytime.**

**Enjoy Free Internet Data on Your Mobile Devices with ACP**

You qualify today for the Government Free Internet Program if a household of two has an income of less than \$39,440, or if you receive:

- Medicaid
- SNAP
- SSI
- WIC
- Veterans Pension
- Survivors or Lifeline Benefits
- Tribal Assistance Program
- Housing Assistance

**maxsip**  
TELECOM

Get a subsidized 4G Android Tablet for \$20

**CALL TODAY (866) 981-3302**



# Really think about facility

To the editor:  
This is not a blast on The Commercial Review, the newly built animal shelter or the recently proposed sober living facility. It is simply another point of view.

I find it interesting that Jay County was able to fund and build a new animal shelter to temporarily house discarded, abandoned, troubled animals. Living creatures that are known to have a past life filled with many struggles. Some have been or would be currently homeless without the facility. Some others made poor choices and attacked their owners, a near-by neighbor or a stranger. However, through caring treatment, compassion and proper medication many have overcome.

These animals are now someone's best friend, loved one or bonus family member. They are there for company, companionship, security, help, service and hope.

I totally respect pets and those who care for them.

## Letters to the Editor

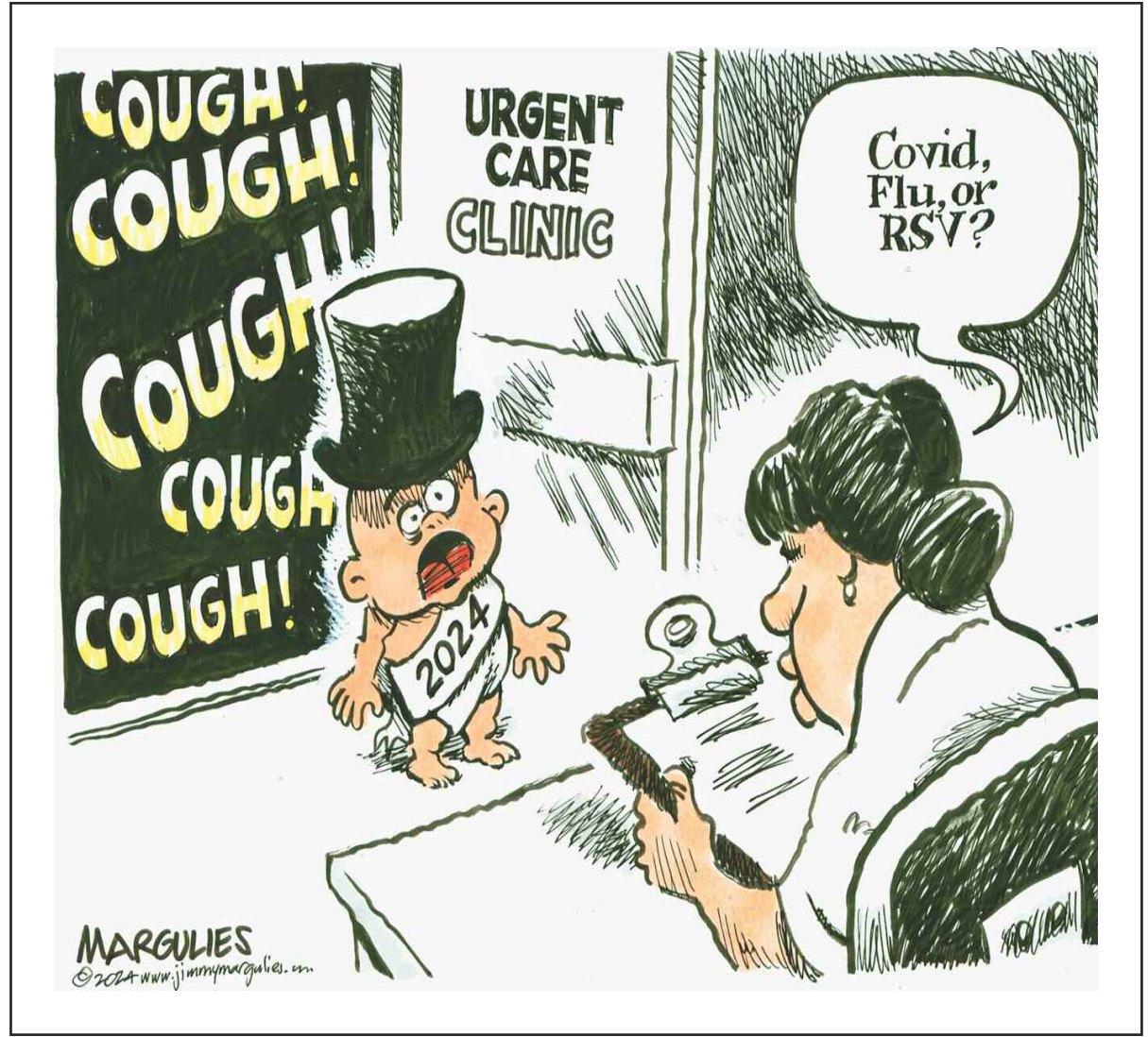
Thanks to all that provide support.

Recently our new facility was chosen top 10 of newsworthy items for 2023 by The Commercial Review. I understand that.

Now for my thoughts on the sober-living facility. Re-read the above and you will see where I stand. My goal with this letter is to get you thinking instead of being told what to think.

According to a quote by Don Marquis, such an attempt can be dangerous. "If you make people think they're thinking, they'll love you; but if you really make them think, they'll hate you."

Thanks Ray Cooney for making us think.  
Randy Davis  
Redkey



# Is one settlement enough?

By **ROBIN ABCARIAN**  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

Last month, the Supreme Court heard arguments in the bankruptcy case of Purdue Pharma, whose owners, the Sackler family, have become synonymous with the carnage wreaked on American families by the profligate and dishonest marketing and distribution of OxyContin and other opioids.

In exchange for giving up ownership of Purdue and paying up to \$6 billion over the next 18 years that would be used to address the crisis they helped cause, the Sacklers, understandably but shamelessly, want to be shielded against any other civil lawsuits from victims who are not parties to the current litigation. Most of the victims who are part of the settlement — state governments, Native American tribes and individuals — agreed to the terms.

But should it be legal to grant the Sacklers protection from future lawsuits?

The U.S. Trustee Program, an arm of the Justice Department that oversees the administration of bankruptcy cases, argues that it is not.

Why should the Sacklers, who personally have not declared bankruptcy, be entitled to the protections that bankruptcy offers? And why should potential victims who are not part of the mega-settlement be prohibited from filing lawsuits in the future?

One argument in the Sacklers' favor: Failing to immunize the family will tank the settlement, dismantling years of complex negotiations and depriving victims and their families of agreed upon and timely compensation. (Which, by the way, is not particularly handsome, ranging from about \$3,500 to \$48,000, the highest sums to be paid out over 10 years.) The U.S. trustee argues that individual victims going forward might be able to negotiate a better deal.

"Forget a better deal. There is no other deal," said Washington lawyer Pratik Shah, who represents a number of plaintiffs in the case, including states, tribes, hospitals and individuals.

During oral arguments, the Supremes seemed torn but leaning toward approving the settlement.

Whatever the court decides, this case should bury once and

**Robin Abcarian**



for all the lie that drug misuse and addiction stem only from bad personal choices.

The American people were victimized by a family of heedless billionaires who lied and cheated to get their product, up to twice as powerful as morphine, into our bloodstreams for profit.

In 1995, the Food and Drug Administration approved OxyContin, a time-release version of the painkiller oxycodone. Incredibly, the agency allowed Purdue to claim that because it was a long-acting drug, it was safer and less likely to be abused than rival painkillers such as Percocet and Vicodin. Was this claim based on findings from clinical trials? Nope. It was based on the nonsensical theory that drug abusers would prefer the quicker-hit high of fast-acting narcotics.

In a 2007 plea deal with the government, Purdue admitted that it trained its sales representatives to tell doctors that Oxy was less addictive and less prone to abuse than its competitors, which we now know to be lies.

Internal documents that came to light in the Justice Department's investigation showed that the company knew as early as 1999 that OxyContin users were exchanging tips on how to crush and snort the pills for a faster high, and that some doctors were being charged with selling prescriptions.

One familiar plot point here for anyone who has read the many excellent books about Purdue and the opioid crisis or watched their screen adaptations (including the critically acclaimed Hulu mini-series "Dopesick" and the current Netflix series "Painkiller") revolves around Curtis Wright, the FDA examiner who approved Purdue's package insert asserting the drug's safety. Wright claimed he was approached by Purdue for a job after leaving the FDA. But in 2015, Richard Sackler, former president and chairman of Purdue Pharma, testified that Wright asked the com-

pany to hire him before he left the FDA. For appearance's sake, Purdue thought it best to wait a couple of years before bringing Wright on at more than double his government salary.

In November, during an interview with a local New Hampshire TV station where he lives, Wright said, "It is a difficult, terrible situation, and I am so sorry for the people who are hurt and for the patients who can't get good pain relief now."

So why, exactly, can't those people get good pain relief anymore?

After Purdue and other drug manufacturers flooded the country with opioids in the 2000s, sparking a dramatic rise in overdose deaths (and oh by the way, turning the Sacklers into multibillionaires), alarmed states passed laws limiting the prescribing and dispensing of the pain pills.

And with doctors dramatically reducing the opioid prescriptions they wrote, addicted users turned to street drugs such as heroin and, when heroin became scarce, to the much more dangerous fentanyl.

It's fair to say that in recent years, the American street drug supply has essentially been poisoned by OxyContin's illicit grandchild, fentanyl. In 1999, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says, 3,442 Americans died of opioid-involved overdose deaths. In 2021, the number had soared to 80,411. More than 70,000 involved synthetic opioids, mostly fentanyl.

And so, what about Purdue and the Sacklers?

Purdue is to become a public trust, overseen by an independent board that would steer the company's profits to addressing the crisis it helped cause.

If the Supreme Court approves the bankruptcy plan, the Sacklers will be out the \$6 billion they've agreed to, but by any standards, they will remain fabulously rich. Their infamous name will be erased from dozens of cultural and medical institutions in the U.S. and the U.K., a good thing.

But not one of them will serve a single day in prison or otherwise be much discomfited for the death and social destruction they have wreaked on this country.

# Sometimes you go back to basics

By **HANNAH SWARD**  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

When I was on meth, I was busy. Very busy. There was gardening to do, color-coding the closet, taking apart doorknobs, trying to put doorknobs back together and trips to Home Depot at 3 a.m. to look at light fixtures and nails. I had things to do, and whatever I was doing I was very interested in. Until I wasn't, leaving the bathroom doorknob on the floor and moving on to some other project.

Time on meth is very different from time with no meth.

No more gardening or trips to Home Depot. Everything stops. Imagine. You've been busy not sleeping, not eating, not living in real time for a decade. Then one day you stop. How do you live?

For example, it's 10 p.m. and you brush your teeth and wash your face, you get ready for bed. Yes, bed. Then, you take it a step further and get into bed. At 10 p.m. It's dark out. Which is how it's supposed to be when people go to bed. You turn off your light and lie there.

After a decade of not sleeping, sleep feels good. Really good. So you sleep for 24 hours. Then another 24 hours, then another. After 3½ days you're hungry.

Hungry. After a decade of not eating you are very hungry. So you go to IHOP and order breakfast, lunch and dinner. Then you don't feel so good but that's OK, you're used to not feeling good. A decade of meth will do that.

So you've slept, eaten and now, well, you could sleep some more. So you do. For another couple of days and you think to yourself, I can do this. I can do this living sober thing.

Now, it's week two. Now, when you go to sleep you no longer need 72 hours, so you do what normal people do and you wake up in the morning. And now, at week two, things get real.

You've woken up and it's time to get up, get out of bed. You think about the day ahead. It's overwhelming. It's scary. And you're depressed. Really depressed. After a decade of meth there is no dopamine left in your body.

You try to go back to sleep. But you can't. So you get up. Open the curtains. Which means you closed the curtains the night before. When was the last time you closed and then opened your curtains? You stand there, looking out the window with the curtains open. Then you close them and open them again. The birds are singing. You start crying.

**Hannah Sward**



Everything is overwhelming. Going to bed. Getting up. Closing the curtains. Opening the curtains. Standing at the window looking out and now the birds, it's all too much. You can't do it. You're exhausted.

Coffee.  
That's a good idea. You think: I can do this sobriety thing. Coffee sounds good. But there is no coffee. There is not even a coffee maker because of the meth.

Now, it's next level — time to get dressed and go to the store. Black-belt sobriety. This is deliberate. A choice. The store. Coffee.

You're seized with anxiety. You decide you can't, so you don't, and you force yourself back to bed because getting dressed, going to the store, it's all too much.

Fast forward to later when you have dressed and made it to Ralphs. Entering is another whole thing. But let's fast forward again and say you have gone in and you have a handheld basket and there are 14 aisles. And the only aisle visible is the wine aisle. And even though meth was your thing, alcohol was part of it too.

Things get blurry. You feel dizzy. Your heart is thumping, palms sweaty. You put down the basket and walk out of the store. You faint. You come to and you're sitting on the steps with some nice lady rubbing your back and handing you a bottle of water.

You go home, and it already feels like a day. You look at the clock. 11:10 a.m. You're exhausted. How are you going to get through this day?

It's unbearable, but somehow you do. And you do it again and again. And each day you add something in. And some days you don't. Some days you may not even get out of bed.

But then the next day you have made it to Ralphs and there's coffee in your basket and a can of soup. Lentils. You love lentils. Maybe you even have some crackers and a banana.

Some days, even with years of sobriety, you have to go back to basics. Open the curtains, look out the window, listen to the birds, make a cup of coffee.

.....  
Sward is a writer living in Los Angeles.

# The Commercial Review



US PS 125820

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus  
JOHN C. "JACK" RONALD (1948-2022), Publisher Emeritus

The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to [letters@thecr.com](mailto: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.

**RAY COONEY**  
President, editor and publisher  
**TONIA HARDY**  
Business manager

**LOUISE RONALD**  
Board chair  
**BRIAN DODD**  
Production manager

VOLUME 150—NUMBER 162  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024

[www.thecr.com](http://www.thecr.com)

"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."  
—Thomas Jefferson

Subscription rates  
Internet-only: Three days - \$3; Monthly auto-pay - \$10; 13 weeks - \$32; six months - \$60; one year - \$108.  
City (walking - where available): Monthly auto-pay - \$11; 13 weeks - \$36; six months - \$68; one year - \$122.  
Motor route (where available): Monthly auto-pay - \$12; 13 weeks - \$44; six months - \$74; one year - \$140.  
Mail: Monthly auto-pay - \$13; 13 weeks - \$49; six months - \$80; one year - \$151.  
Home delivery problems: Call (260) 251-9588

# John Jay hosting ServSafe training

John Jay Center for Learning is offering a series of ServSafe training sessions.

The courses for those in the food-service industry are scheduled for Feb. 27, March 26, April 23, May 21 and June 18. Each runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at John Jay, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

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

**Chamber moving**  
The Greater Muncie Chamber of Commerce is moving.

The chamber recently announced a move to 104 E. Main St., Suite A, Muncie. Its current location is at The Horizon Convention Center, 401 S. High St., Muncie.

"We are excited to embark on this new chapter in the history of the Greater Muncie Chamber of Commerce," said Elizabeth Rowray, chamber president and CEO in a press release. "This move comes on the heels of a successful and innovative 2023. We are ringing in the new year with a fresh and modern rebrand, a brand-new website, and now a new office space. We believe that these moves show our commitment to growth and innovation. This is part of the Chamber's strategic initiative to be more community-facing and accessible for our members."

**Shifting to mail**  
The Anderson Herald Bulletin made the shift to

## Business roundup

100% mail delivery on Jan. 2.

Editor Scott Underwood announced the change in his weekly column. In conjunction with the change, the paper is shifting to a Tuesday through Saturday publishing schedule.

"Having struggled for months to find enough delivery carriers, we've decided after long deliberation to shift all home print delivery to the U.S. Postal Service," Underwood said in the column. "We just reached a point, in a rapidly changing economy, where we couldn't contract enough carriers to get the job done for our subscribers."

**IBA promotes VP**  
Indiana Bankers Association announced recently that Evan Hoffmeyer has been promoted to vice president of communications.

Hoffmeyer has been with the association since August 2002 as its assistant vice president of communications. He previously worked with other trade associations and also spent 12 years as a journalist.

"Evan came to the IBA with big shoes to fill, and he has more than risen to the occasion," said Amber R. Van Til, IBA president and CEO, in a press release. "In

the nearly one-and-a-half years he has been with the Association he has proven himself as a gifted communicator, and I'm confident he will continue to serve the IBA and the Indiana banking community well."

**NextEra sells**  
The closing for NextEra Energy Partners' sale of its South Texas assets to Kinder Morgan on Dec. 28.

The sale, which includes a high pressure natural gas pipeline system, came in at \$1.815 billion according to World Pipelines.

NextEra owns and operates Bluff Point Wind Energy Center in southern Jay County and northern Randolph County.

"We are pleased to add these assets to our natural gas portfolio to serve growing LNG, industrial, Mexico export and power generation demand markets on the US Gulf Coast," said Kinder Morgan president of natural gas pipelines Sital Mody. "These assets integrate well with our existing South Texas footprint and extend our direct connectivity in the lean area of the Eagle Ford Basin, allowing us to offer LNG customers greater access to desirable low-nitrogen natural gas supply."

**New EVP named**  
Dollar General on Friday announced that executive vice president of store operations Steve Sunderland plans to leave the company Jan. 19 and executive vice president of growth

and emerging markets will expand his role to take over Sunderland's duties.

Deckard has worked for Dollar General for 18 years and was promoted to his current position in June. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Indiana University.

"Since joining Dollar General in 2006 as a leader in our stores, Steve (Deckard) has consistently shown his ability to deliver strong results while remaining focused on our customer," said Dollar General CEO Todd Vasos in a press release. "As we get back to the basics across all functions at DG, we are confident Steve's proven leadership, deep understanding of our operations, and commitment to our mission position him uniquely to drive our stores' success today and into the future."

**Advance adds**  
Advance Auto Parts on Friday named Elizabeth Dreyer as its senior vice president, controller and chief accounting officer. The appointment is effective today.

Dreyer most recently served as chief accounting officer and controller for biotechnology firm Amyris. She previously worked in similar roles for Travel + Leisure Co., Edgewood Personal Care and Hillenbrand.

"I'm excited to welcome Elizabeth to the Advance family as our new chief accounting officer," said Ryan Grimsland, executive vice president and chief

financial officer, in a press release. "Elizabeth's breadth of experience in financial management will greatly strengthen our finance organization and help us to further build a best in class accounting function. I look forward to working with her closely as we begin this next chapter for Advance."

**Appointments made**  
CVS Health on Friday announced the appointments of Tom Cowhey as chief financial officer and Mike Pykosz as president of health care delivery.

Cowhey had been serving as interim chief financial officer since October, when Shawn Guertin began a leave of absence. He was previously chief financial officer for Surgery Partners Inc.

Pykosz joined CVS Health when his company Oak Street Health was acquired in May.

Guertin will step down from his roles effective May 31.

"We are fortunate to have someone of Tom's caliber and experience already within CVS Health today and ready to take on the role," said Karen S. Lynch, CVS president and CEO, in a press release. "His experience in health care is deep and broad, and he will drive continuity for our strategy and delivering on our commitments."

"Mike is a natural fit to lead the execution of our health care delivery strategy. There is real innovation and value to be unlocked as

Mike unifies our clinic-based and home health assets. The board and I are fully confident in Tom and Mike."

**Trainings scheduled**  
Indiana Chamber of Commerce will host several safety training sessions next month.

A forklift safety training session is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Feb. 7. There will also be an Occupational Safety and Health Association recordkeeping and reporting course from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 8. Both sessions will be at Indiana Chamber Conference Center in Indianapolis and will also have a virtual option.

The chamber will also 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](mailto:events@indianachamber.com) or (800) 824-6885.

.....  
*Does your business have news to share? Email us at [news@theocr.com](mailto:news@theocr.com) to be included in our weekly business roundup.*

# IEDC reports nearly \$29B investments

By WHITNEY DOWARD  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
[indianacapitalchronicle.com](http://indianacapitalchronicle.com)

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) and top state leaders touted its 2023 successes as the year closed, claiming a "seventh consecutive record-breaking year" of investments and business commitments that included nearly \$29 billion in investments from 208 companies.

The quasi-governmental organization had a major leadership change in 2023, with Brad Chambers stepping down as Secretary of Commerce in August after two years to run for governor.

His successor, David Rosenberg, hailed commitments from "high-growth industries," such as semiconductor and electric vehicle manufacturers as well as clean energy producers in a Wednesday release.

"Indiana is thinking long-term and taking bold action to put Indiana at the forefront of critical innovations and to create a more prosperous future for Hoosiers,"

said Rosenberg. "... Paired with unprecedented investments in entrepreneurship and quality of life, Hoosiers can look forward to more supportive and vibrant communities, more in-demand career opportunities and more opportunities to create generational change."

Numbers from the annual report are regularly used by supporters to defend spending taxpayer dollars on often secretive business deals and hefty spot bonuses. The entity faces unprecedented pushback due to the LEAP development in Boone County, including the use of state dollars to purchase farmland above market value and the need for hundreds of millions of gallons of water piped in from Tippecanoe County.

The lengthy IEDC release said 208 companies committed to locating or expanding in the state for a combined investment of over \$28.7 billion, a 29% increase from 2022's \$22.2 billion. Those promises include the creation of 21,866 new jobs with an average hourly wage of \$36.07 or \$75,025



Indiana Economic Development Corporation

Indiana Secretary of Commerce David Rosenberg touts the achievements of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation in 2023.

annually — 3.9% higher than 2022's efforts and 10.2% higher than the national average wage.

Those numbers are the highest reported for the agency since it was established in 2005.

"Indiana is achieving unprecedented economic momentum that will catapult economic and com-

munity opportunities for Hoosiers for decades to come," said Gov. Eric Holcomb in the release. "Our efforts to attract new investments and jobs, catalyze entrepreneurship and invest in quality of place are paying dividends — all while advancing high-tech industries to ensure

that Indiana is at the center of tomorrow's global economy."

However, according to a 2023 analysis of employment data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 91 of Indiana's 92 counties made less than the \$70,343 national average wage — despite more than a decade of IEDC efforts.

In particular, the IEDC report highlighted recent and somewhat controversial moves from the General Assembly to expand its "toolkit," including a site development fund and land acquisition fund — both of which have been used to purchase and develop land in Boone County for potential investors.

The IEDC said it had identified 417 "nationally competitive" sites throughout the state, ranging from 30 acres to 3,000 acres. Eli Lilly, the only announced tenant for the LEAP project, broke ground on its facility in April with a promised \$3.7 billion investment but the IEDC claimed it had another \$58 in potential investment "in the pipeline for the site."

# Local Businesses & Services

This local business listing runs 4 times a month with packages of either \$25, or \$50. Give us a call at 260-726-8141 to be included

<p><b>Fortkamp Foam</b> 3216 Wabash Road Fort Recovery, OH 45846 419-852-1390 <a href="http://Fortkampfoam.com">Fortkampfoam.com</a></p>	<p><b>Hopkins Repair, LLC</b> Auto &amp; light truck repair Mon-Fri. • 7am-4pm Call Scott Hopkins 260-251-0459</p>	<p><b>J Wood Products For Sale</b> Sawdust &amp; Firewood Call or Text 260-251-1154. 415 W Water St. Portland. 7:00 am-3:00 pm.</p>
<p><b>All Weather Heating and Air Conditioning</b> (260)726-4822 24 hr Emergency Service Serving Portland &amp; Surrounding Areas</p>	<p><b>Vormohr Family Dentistry</b> 1413 W. Votaw St., Portland 260-726-7822</p>	<p><b>Display Craft Signs</b> 630 E. Votaw St. Portland, IN 260-726-4535</p>
<p><b>All Circuit Electrical, LLC</b> 5510 N. US 27, Bryant, IN 260-997-8336 <a href="http://www.allcircuitelectrical.com">www.allcircuitelectrical.com</a></p>	<p><b>Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition</b> 100 N. Meridian St., Portland, IN 47371 260-251-3259 Email: <a href="mailto:jcdpcccontact@gmail.com">jcdpcccontact@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Dunn Family Dental Care</b> 110 W. North St. Portland, IN 47371 260-726-8007</p>
<p><b>Brigade</b> You're safer with us 1976 W. Tyson Road, Portland, IN 47371 (260)766-4343 <a href="http://brigade-electronics.com/en-us">brigade-electronics.com/en-us</a></p>	<p><b>Williams Auto Parts, Inc.</b> 1127 Detroit Ave. Portland, IN 8-5:30 Mon-Fri, Closed Sat &amp; Sun. Used auto parts since 1951 (260) 726-8001 <a href="http://www.williamsautoparts.com">www.williamsautoparts.com</a></p>	<p><b>Ohio Valley Gas</b> 129 E. Main St., Portland 260-726-8114 <a href="http://www.ovgc.com">www.ovgc.com</a></p>
		<p><b>Baird Freeman Funeral Home</b> 221 N. Meridian St. Portland, IN 260-726-7171</p>
		<p><b>Home Idea Center</b> 901 Industrial Dr. Ft. Recovery, OH 419-375-4951 <a href="http://www.ehomeidea.com">www.ehomeidea.com</a></p>

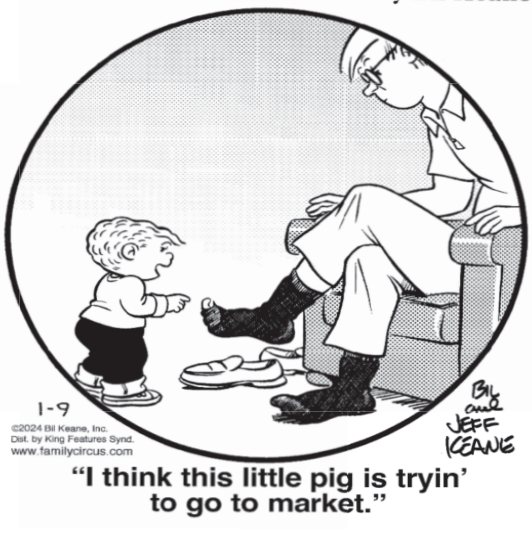
SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Against the grain

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: ♠K 10 4, ♥8, ♦Q 8 6 5, ♣A 9 8 7 3. WEST: ♠Q 9 8 6 2, ♥K 10 5, ♦J 4, ♣K 4 2. EAST: ♠5 3, ♥Q 7 4 2, ♦K 10 9 3, ♣J 6 5. SOUTH: ♠A J 7, ♥A J 9 6 3, ♦A 7 2, ♣Q 10.

won the trick with the ace! The purpose of this seemingly extravagant play was to turn dummy's ten of spades into an additional entry. South next led the queen of clubs, covered by the king and ace. Clubs were continued, and, as declarer expected, the ten won the trick. This was where South's play at trick one came home to roost. South led a low spade toward dummy and, after West followed low, finessed the ten. The nine of clubs was then conceded to the jack and, with the king of spades as an entry to dummy, declarer now had nine tricks: three spades, four clubs, a heart and a diamond. However, West could have thwarted South's plan by making an unusual play of his own when declarer led a low spade toward dummy's K-10. Had he put up the queen, he would have blocked the suit and denied South a second spade entry to dummy, after which the clubs could not be utilized. Note further that declarer cannot circumvent this entry-killing play by leading the jack of spades instead, hoping West will play the queen. In that case, West violates a different rule by refusing to cover an honor with an honor, and South again goes down to defeat.

The bidding: East 1NT, South Pass, West 3NT, North Pass. Opening lead — six of spades. On rare occasions, both the declarer and a defender must make plays that are completely contrary to normal procedure. Today's deal provides an example. West led the six of spades against three notrump, and declarer saw immediately that his best route to nine tricks was to try to score four club tricks. This could be achieved against several different lies of the opposing clubs, but even if one of these existed, there might well be an entry problem later in the play. Anticipating this problem, declarer played low from dummy at trick one and, after East followed low,

Tomorrow: The pause that refreshes. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

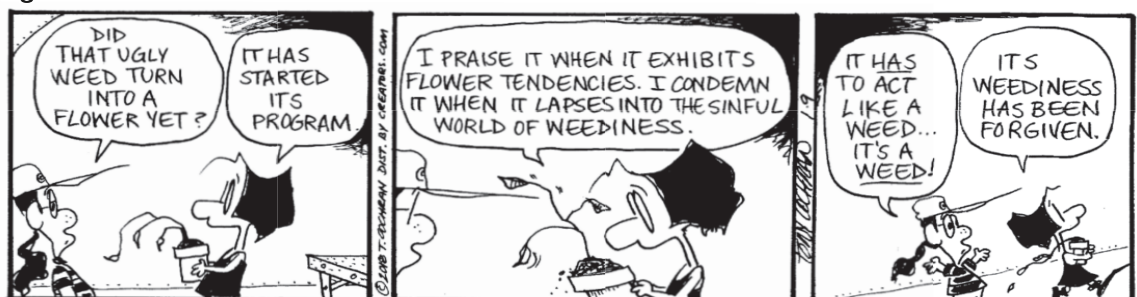
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



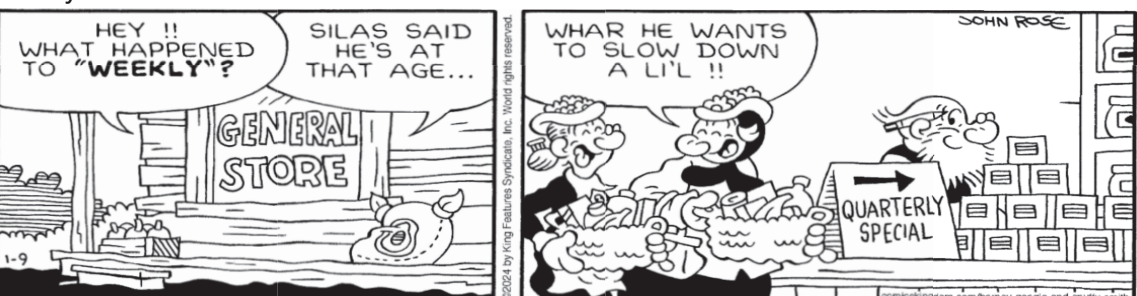
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

SYK SAOPJ LWZBNP LWZBNWO  
WFJ BAPPNWWONT YWHN YWJ  
HNZK TGLGPWZ GJNWT?  
VZNWR LGLNT RYGFJ WPGIN.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ARTISTIC FELLOW WERE CREATING SKETCHES OF DRINKING TUBES, HE WOULD BE DRAWING STRAWS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals Y

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Skip wool, 5 Crow's cry India, 8 Antelope's playmate, 12 Queen of Carthage, 13 MLB stat, 14 Sailor's saint, 15 More formal, 17 Crooner Perry, 18 Bro or sis for one, 19 Ohm, 21 Sped, 24 "Hi, sailor!", 25 Love god, 26 More elegant, 30 Id counterpart, 31 Planet's path, 32 Sault — Marie, 33 More down-to-earth, 35 Michael of "The Martian", 36 Villa d'—

DOWN: 37 Gather, 38 City of, 41 24 horas, 42 Operatic solo, 43 More awkward, 48 Branch, 49 Bond rating, 50 Wry Bombeck, 51 Egyptian deity, 52 Online guffaw, 53 Fill up, 1 Quirky, 2 Soviet space station, 3 Chemical suffix, 4 Coin flips, 5 Early bed wright, 6 Rush-more important, 7 Terrier type, 8 Fake drakes, 9 Carolina college, 10 TV trophy, 11 Leeway, 16 "Ice Age" (cell phone insert), 20 Blog entry, 21 Coral formation, 22 Jason's ship, 23 "Neato!", 24 "Tiny Alice" playwright, 26 All-important, 27 "Got it", 28 Sicilian spouter, 29 Bring up, 31 Greek mountain, 34 Skewered entrees, 35 Stages, 37 — card, 38 Niger's neighbor, 39 "Exodus" author, 40 "La Boheme" role, 41 Two-way, 44 Asian language, 45 401(k) alternative, 46 911 responder, 47 "The Lovebirds" star

Solution time: 22 mins. Yesterday's answer 1-9

11x11 crossword grid with numbers 1-51 indicating starting positions for clues.

00 CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS 260-726-8141 ADVERTISING RATES 20 Word Minimum Effective 07/01/2018: Minimum charge... \$12.40 1 insertion.....62¢/word 2 insertions.....81¢/word 3 insertions.....96¢/word 6 insertions.... \$1.14/word 12 insertions. \$1.52/word 26 insertions. \$1.77/word Includes Online.....FREE Classified Display \$6.95/ per column inch No borders or logos allowed on Classified Page Card of Thanks Up to 100 words.... \$13.00 In Memory Up to 100 words.... \$13.00 Advertising Deadline is 12:00 p.m. the day prior to publication. The deadline for Mondays paper is 12:00 p.m. Friday. Pre-Payment required for: Rummage sales, business opportunities, jobs wanted, boats and sporting equipment, wanted to rent, motorized vehicles, real estate and mobile homes.

40 NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one days incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mistakes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.

60 SERVICES

AMISH CONSTRUCTION CREW Building new & remodeling. Garages, Pole Barns, Roofing, siding, windows, ect. Call 567-279-2591 J. L. CONSTRUCTION & ROOFING LLC. Amish crew. Custom built homes, new garages, pole barns, interior/ exterior remodeling, drywall, windows, doors, siding, roofing, foundations. 260-726-5062, leave message. "SEAMSTRESS NAN" HOMEMADE Sewing and Alterations, Quilts, Baby Blankets, Appliqué, Zippers, Hemming, Memory T-Shirt, Special Orders, Wedding & Prom Gowns. 260.766.9334 GOODHEW'S ALL SEASON Construction- Specializing in standing seam metal roofs. When Quality Counts, Count On US. A company you can trust. Member of the BBB. New Installation and repairs. Call Rodney Thornbury, owner 765-509-0191

90 SALE CALENDAR

47TH ANNUAL COLDWATER YOUNG FARMERS CONSIGNMENT AUCTION Saturday February 10, 2024 The Coldwater Young Farmer Association will be conducting their annual farm machinery consignment auction at the Coldwater football stadium parking lot in Coldwater, Ohio. For more information on consigning your farm machinery please call: Dusty Uhlenhake 419-733-3096 Rick Uhlenhake 419-852-0800 Machinery consigned by January 17, 2024 can be advertised

100 JOBS WANTED

AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.

THE CLASSIFIEDS Find it Buy It Sell It! (260) 726-8141

Little JJ's Tree Service Tree Trimming, Removal, Stump Grinding. Firewood available 765-509-1956

GABBARD FENCE FARM • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL RESIDENTIAL • VINYL SINCE 1969 rgfence@yahoo.com (765) 546-8801

Bricker's Flowers & More 414 N. Meridian St. Portland Call or text to order 260-703-0304 Open 9:30-5:00 Monday - Friday 9:30-3:00 Saturday

Wendel's Carpets & Upholstery Cleaning Von Schrader Dry Foam Cleaning For Quick Drying, Residential & Commercial Dave Wendel Ph. 260-726-4520 Cell 260-729-2797

E and E Construction Amish Crew BARN RESTORATION Specializing in metal roofs, decks & more FREE Estimates 260-301-1777

Out The CR Classifieds www.thecr.com

Dave's Heating & Cooling Furnace, Air Conditioner Geothermal Sales & Service 260-726-2138 Now accepting MC/Disc/Visa

BOOLMAN'S Auto Sales & Service, Inc. Highway 67 W, Portland, Indiana 260-251-9735

SCHWARTZ HOME IMPROVEMENT LLC All types of construction ✓ New Homes ✓ Garages ✓ Additions ✓ Post Frame Barns Exterior Finishing • Roofing • Siding • Windows • Doors Leave Message 260-301-1805

BAIL BONDS Travis Weaver 260-726-3189 across street from Jail

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD in The Commercial Review CALL 726-8141



# Sports

## Third in 2A

*Patriots win rematch with Western during team state duals*

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

With two of their key cogs still out with injuries, the Patriots held their spot.

The No. 3 seed heading into Saturday's Indiana High School Wrestling Coaches Association Class 2A team state tournament, host Jay County fought through a rematch of last year's final for a 37-34 victory over Western to finish in third place.

The win over the Panthers, who upset the Patriots for the 2023 Class 2A team state title, finished off a day that saw JCHS mix up the lineup in an effort to find points with Tave Curtis and Cameron Clark still sidelined.

"If you asked me at the beginning of the school year, I'm a little bummed. Today, I'm pretty happy," said Myers, who also lost Christian Wittkamp (transfer) and A.J. Myers (injury) prior to the season. "I felt like we had gust top to bottom in the lineup that wrestled hard, the hardest I've seen the wrestle all year — battling in every position, fighting off their backs, winning big matches. It was really a fun day for us."

After a bye in the opening round, Jay County knocked off Oak Hill 38-32 in the quarterfinal before falling to second-ranked and second-seeded Delta 56-15 in the semifinal. The Eagles went on to take out No. 1 Belmont 39-28 in the championship match.

There were upsets across the state for championships Saturday, with No. 3 Rochester knocking off No. 1 Adams Central in Class 1A, No. 3 Floyd Central topping No. 1 Terre Haute South in Class 3A and No. 2 Crown Point beating top-ranked Brownsburg in Class 4A.

With Myers strategically shifting his lineup, the Patriots



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School's Grant Linville holds down Jack Hunter of Western for a near fall as a part of his 17-8 major decision victory in Saturday's third-place match during the Class 2A Indiana High School Wrestling Coaches Association team state duals. Linville also came up with a key pin for a win against Oak Hill in the quarterfinals.

trailed 29-22 after giving up a forfeit to 13th-ranked Lye Tishner at 132 pounds. Their next three wrestlers delivered what was needed.

A.J. Heskett and Tony Wood each bumped up a weight class, with the former first finishing off Chase Sullivan with a pin in 1 minute, 34 seconds. Wood, the 2023 state medalist who is ranked fourth at 138 pounds, needed just 42 seconds to pin Erik Hunt at 144.

With a five-point lead in the team score, any kind of win from Jacob Robinson would finish off the match. After a scoreless first period, he got an escape followed by a take down 10 seconds later in the second. A three-point near fall in the third secured a win for

both him and the team. (Myers then gave up a forfeit in the final weight class for the 37-34 final score.)

"We were able to get some people in the right spots, juggle around our lineup a little bit," said Myers. "I'm hoping our lineup will be fully back intact by the sectional. ... I'm not gonna mind not having the stress of trying to piece together a lineup. But I'm able to piece it together because we've got guys that come out and work hard. They're able to fill in the spots ... I'm really proud of our effort today and I'm proud of our guys."

Jay County is now 16-3 with two losses to Delta and one to Adams Central.

Bryce Wenk, ranked No. 17 at

215, and Wood were the only Patriots to go 3-0 on the day. Grant Linville, a 106-pounder, was 2-0 with a pair of victories that were key to each of the JCHS wins.

With the Patriots trailing 19-15 to Oak Hill in the quarterfinal, Linville caught Manuel Mora with a far-side cradle for a pin in just 46 seconds. Later against Western, this time with the score tied, he used a series of near falls for a 17-8 major decision over Jack Hunter.

"His pin against Oak Hill was enormous," said Myers. "And then it took him a little while to wake up here again Western, but in the second half of that match he really put it on the kid. I'm happy with his effort here today."

## Super-sized Schultz

*Patriots can't slow down Schultz inside the paint*

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

MONROE — The Patriots have given up at least 25 points to one of the opposing players in their last five losses.

New Castle's Colin Taylor and Class 2A No. 1 Wapahani's Isaac Andrews did it with distance shooting.

D'Amare Hood of Class 3A No. 6 Delta utilized his athleticism and got out in transition.

Muncie Central's Demarkus Cole dominated the offensive glass.

Saturday night, Isaac Schultz outsized the Patriots and dominated them in the paint and the free throw line.

Schultz's 32 points led the Adams Central Jets to a 66-45 blowout win over the Jay County High School boys basketball team.

The loss pushed the Patriots' losing streak to six and was their first conference defeat.

Throughout the game, the Patriots (2-7, 1-1 Allen County Athletic Conference) were playing one step behind Schultz, who got whatever he wanted in the paint finishing 11-of-14 from the floor. Fouling the big man wasn't a viable strategy either as he knocked down 10-of-12 free throws.

See Schultz page 7



**Portland's Largest Selection of FRESH CUT QUALITY MEAT**



**AWARD WINNING MEATS**

While supplies last, no rain checks

Fisher Gift Cards available for purchase! They can be used at either Portland or Muncie locations and never expire.

Center Cut Pork Chops \$3.39 lb	Top Sirloin Steak \$7.99 lb
Bone In Country Style Ribs \$2.99 lb	Center Cut Chuck Roasts \$6.99 lb
Pork Sirloin Roast \$2.89 lb	Cube Steaks \$5.69 lb

Frozen Ground Chicken Breast \$4.99 lb

**From Fisher's Smokehouse**

Spicy Andouille Smoked Sausage \$3.99 lb	Smoked Brats original and jalapeno & cheddar \$2.99 pkg	Premium Hot Dogs \$3.39 pkg
--	---	-----------------------------

\*while supplies last, no rain checks, sale prices reflected at the register

**300 W. Walnut St., Portland, IN**  
(260) 726-7355  
Monday - Friday 8 am-5 pm • Saturday 8 am-1 pm • Closed Sunday

*Call your order in today!*

Freezer bundles are also available. They offer the perfect mix of our most popular cuts of meat in quantities small enough to not crowd your freezer or cramp your budget. Save time and energy with call ahead ordering and have your order ready to go when you arrive.

[www.fishermeats.com](http://www.fishermeats.com)



**Arnold Lumber Co.**




*Serving Indiana, Ohio, Southern Michigan and Northern Kentucky*

**We will build any size**

Hours: Monday thru Thursday: 7A.M. to 5 P.M.  
Friday: 7 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. • Saturday: 7 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.  
Decatur, Indiana

**260-724-3108**  
**1-800-903-4206**

[sales@arnoldlumberinc.com](mailto:sales@arnoldlumberinc.com) check us out on Facebook 