# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

## 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 Commis-Monday sioners on 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 à 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 for ward with creating a uniform rifles for all officers.

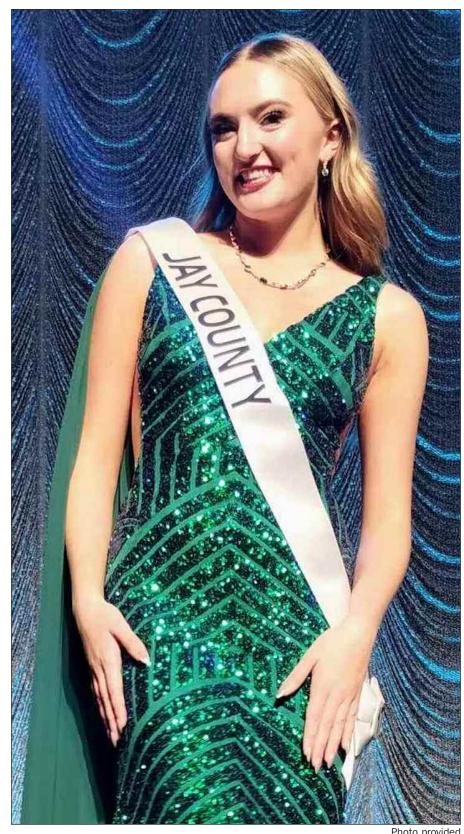
"We need to carry department-issued guns, department-issued setup," said Newton. "Everyone (should) carry the same exact patrol rifle. You know, back in the days, the shotgun was a big thing. Then they started bringing in rifles. Shotguns have went away, now it's patrol rifles, and (we're) just trying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



## **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 Oueen 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 Theurer-Miller, Inman, Engineering (Indianapo- Johnston and Teeter, lis) and SEBREE Architects (Carmel), Mike agreed with that assess-Schwartz of Limberlost ment. Construction (Geneva)

also walked through the structure and offered an opinion. His informal estimate came \$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 prohibi-

"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 absent Mike Simons.

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 ses-

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 parup and go to school in the morn-

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 conversaent doesn't require the child to get tion is going to take center stage,

at least on the house side, during most tax issues will be deferred the first half of the session."

Local legislators identify chronic absenteeism

and reading proficiency as key areas for discussion

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

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

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

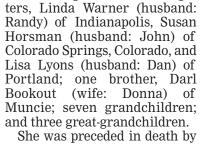
Sept. 8, 1931-Jan. 4, 2024 Vecil Heniser, age 92, of Portland, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie.

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 First Presbyterian active Church member and a past Delta Theta Tau sorority presi-



Surviving are three daugh-

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

Condolences 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 daugh-

ter of Fred and Emma (Blevins) Chadwick. She worked at Daniels Brothers Slaughtering, 3M in Hartford City and Jay Garment. Freda was a member of Chapel Union

Church in rural Bryant and the Pennville American Legion Auxiliary.

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

Survivors include:

Bob Daniels, Pennville, Indiana Children — Mike Daniels (wife: Kristy), Pennville, Indiana, and Kirk Daniels (wife: Christina), Pennville, Indiana

Her husband of 62 years -

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

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 expressed at williamsonspencer.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 time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary serv-

## CR almanac

Heniser

Wednesday 1/10	Thursday 1/11	Friday 1/12	Saturday 1/13	Sunday 1/14
Mostly cloudy on Wednesday, when wind gusts will reach as high as 35 mph.	shows a chance of snow in the morning and a chance of rain	40/22 There's a 70% chance of rain and snow on Friday under mostly cloudy skies.	28/11  Mostly cloudy skies are expected Saturday, when the low at night may reach 11.	Another chance o snow Sunday At night, the low tempera ture may diginto single
	at night.			digits.

#### **Lotteries**

#### **Powerball**

Estimated jackpot: \$46 million

#### Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$165 million

#### Hoosier

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** 

Corn.....4.52

Feb. corn ......4.52

Wheat ......5.31

Corn.....4.52

Feb. corn ......4.55 March corn ......4.57

**Richland Township** 

Corn ......4.47

Feb. corn ......4.47

began. Joan had liber-

ated Orleans and suc-

tured by Duke Bur-

heresy, witchcraft and

"violating divine law"

and she was burned at

equestrian Philip Ast-

ley opened a riding

ern circus for his per-

afternoon shows.

the stake in May 30.

Today in history

In 1431, the trial William in 2011, and

Cambridge.

against Joan of Arc became the duchess of

ceeded in other victo- introduced by Apple as

ries against the English a digital media player

gundy's forces in 1430. candidates filed for the

She was put on trial for Dunkirk mayoral elec-

for dressing like a man, can, was running for a

In 1768, British Robbins and Sandra

school in London. He ballot in November.

later became known as Robbins went on to face

the father of the mod- off against Ritter, earn-

formance tricks during Robbins secured a sec-

ton was born in Read- decades-long streak of

ing, Birkshire, Eng- Dunkirk mayors being

land. She famously limited to a single term.

Citizen's calendar

Prince

In 1982, Cate Middle- 2023, doing away with a

before she was cap- application.

The Andersons

**POET Biorefining** 

**Portland** 

Cooper Farms

**Fort Recovery** 

56-61-63-72-73-77-79 Cash 5: 5-16-34-36-45 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000

#### Ohio

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:

Feb. beans .....12.42

Wheat ..... 5.71

Feb. beans .....12.32

Wheat ......5.65

Corn......4.39

March corn ......4.44

Beans .....12.09

Feb. beans ......12.12

Wheat ......5.26

In 2001, iTunes was

In 2019, three local

tion. Incumbent mayor

Gene Ritter, a Republi-

second term in office,

with Democrats Jack

(Lawhorn) Rollins seek-

ing a nomination to the

ing 58% of the vote.

ond term in November

—The CR

**ADM** 

Montpelier

Heartland

St. Anthony

Continued from page 1 commission be moving forward. attorney Citv

> Moving forward, Curtin building involved with buildings sooner so as to avoid them reaching the point of needing heavy investment

"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

## **Education**

Daniels

Continued from page 1 The districts allow communities to provide additional liquor licenses at a lower cost and are intended to help drive economic develop-

ment 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

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 leftover 529 dollars to be rolled 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

The decision did not require a formal vote. The instead informed Mayor Jeff Westlake that it would not

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 the project was Main Street.

in order to be salvaged.

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 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 JAShroyer Group, which building codes, city ordiagreed to reduce its ini- nances and potential tial bid by \$60,000 to incentives or penalties to \$189,000 because it is encourage building ownalready in the city work- ers to make necessary ing on the demolition of repairs. Portland Fire the Bailey Building on Chief Mike Weitzel noted that fire department inspections suggested planning to get 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 report with those details.

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

#### **SERVICES**

Today Stroble, Evelyn: 12:30 p.m., Spring Hill Cemetery, Fort Recovery.

Territo, John: 6 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

#### Wednesday

Velasco, Tammy: 10:30 a.m., First Mennonite Church, 566 W. Main St., Berne.

Heniser, Vecil: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

#### Friday

Daniels, Freda: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Sunday Williams, 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 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.

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## **Today**

married

5:30 p.m. — Portland St.

#### 6 p.m. — Jay County

Wednesday

Park Board, fire sta- Council, auditorium, tion, 1616 N. Franklin courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

## Former resident loves, misses Indiana

My wife Gosia and I are Alaska residents, but we still have a house we love in Union City.

We're renting now in Fairbanks. Buying a house here is risky as the Fairbanks housing market skyrocketed. The Alaska equivalent of our Randolph County "manse" would set us back \$300,000.

Selling the Union City house and even our 20 acres of remote Alaska land would cover less than twothirds that price tag. The last thing I need at age 77 is a 30-year mortgage.

I joke to Gosia that we'd probably be fine with mortgage payments the first 23 years, but those last seven years of payments would be a killer to meet.

At any rate, the likeli-campus. Gosia has an

Far from Randolph County



hood is that at some point we'll be back home again in Indiana.

Here are things we love and miss.

First, the people, and that's true of Fairbanks as well. It will be one vear since we set foot in Fairbanks after a wild, scary drive through winter blizzards on the Alaska Highway. We've been welcomed by the community, and I have another lead in a third theater play next March on the University of Alaska accounting job she loves, and the former Warsaw gal is a proud part of the Polish expatriate community.

That said, Gosia misses her Girls Night Out pals in Union City, and in 2023 she was in Union City a couple times to participate in games, chat and laughter. I miss the friendly folks in their electric carts who stopped by to chat.

I liked the closeness of the community.

I liked that I knew many of the Union City police officers by their first names, and that they waved when they spotted my white van with its familiar "Moby Van" vanity plate.

I liked that a local real estate agent spent weeks to find us our dream house. That when we moved in, neighbors carried boxes

inside from the rental once, a flock of wild turkey truck. Many U.C. folks hens. Since I was raised on invited Gosia and me to be Facebook friends.

Because Gosia liked making her own butter and cheese, we bought an interest in a cow named Twinkle on the Amish farm of a couple named Reuben and Anna. In addition to fresh whole milk, we also bought cabbage for Polish-style sauerkraut, plus corn, salad fixings, beets and strawberries.

We bought two dozen eggs from a farmer named John every week, and now and then accepted his invitation to pet the rare goats he raised.

To get to the farms of John and the Amish, we passed fields where occasionally we spotted a male gobbler and, more than

a Polish grandfather's farm who had draft horses, on every trip I slowed our car down to admire the fine horses.

Since good food is a passion of Gosia's and mine, we miss the authentic Mexican meals at Taqueria Luz Tacos where the friendly waitresses brought me unsweetened tea without asking.

I definitely miss Zanzibar Chocolate ice cream served in a wafer cone at the Motley Shoppe. Gosia threatened to enroll me in a Zanzibar Chocolate 12-step program.

The list goes on and on. Special treatment to customers at the U.C. post office, knowledgeable clerks at Didier Home and

Hardware, the Christmas light shows in Union City, the bargains on furniture in the antique stores, and browsing for trinkets at the and Kaup Pharmacy.

Corner Cupboard, Art Hub We also loved the friendly folks at Save A Lot where Gosia gave first aid to an elderly gentleman who col-

lapsed in the checkout line. I could go on and on, but I'll just end with a big "Happy New Year" to y'all in east central Indiana.

Nuwer, a former Randolph County resident, is writing full-time as he completes a biography of Kurt Vonnegut in Fairbanks, Alaska. He has taught journalism during his career, including for Ball State University and Franklin Col-

## Brother cuts off contact after mom's death

DEAR ABBY: My brother, who I will call "Alan," has cut me off. We each received 50% of our mother's estate, as specified by her will. Our respective inheritances amounted to a considerable amount of money. Alan thinks I stole \$8,000 from him. This is both untrue and impossi-

Alan spoke with the only remaining relative of our generation, our cousin "Jay," who subsequently contacted me and told me Alan will never speak to me again. This is terribly painful.

Alan has been using medical marijuana to deal with back pain, and his habit has taken over his life. I believe it has distorted his mind. He's also living with a woman I believe is his

I have my theories as to what is actually going on, but I have no proof to back up my suspicions. What would you advise in this situation? Is it redeemable? I miss the close relationship we and accept that your brother

Dear Abby



once enjoyed, but I can't compete with the drugs. — DISILLU-SIONED IN OHIO

DEAR DISILLUSIONED: I find it peculiar that cousin Jay was the person who delivered that message to you, than Alan, which rather have provided an opportunity to defend your-

Have you actually tried to contact your brother and been rebuffed? If you have done so, and have really been accused grand theft, consider defending your reputation with the help of an attorney

chooses to remain estranged conversations. I want to ask her either to work or to a bar to from you.

DEAR ABBY: I am a single man in good health. I'm intelligent, friendly, funny and have been told by more than one woman that I don't look my age. But I do have one exasperating personality trait. I can't tell whether a woman is just friendly or romantically interested in me.

I have no clue. None. I met a very attractive single woman, relatively close to my age, a couple years ago. Over time, she has seemingly become more enthusiastic about saying hello to me when I visit her workplace to deliver items every week. She always smiles when we speak to each other. Conversations have gone from short and clipped to longer and more personal. I like her very much. How can I tell if a mature woman is flirting with me or just being personable? She often works small

straight out if she is flirting, but if she says no, I'd be very embarrassed. I need your good advice. - CLUELESS IN MICHIGAN

**DEAR CLUELESS:** If the woman didn't like you, she would keep those conversations short and strictly business. Do not ask her if she is flirting. DO ask if she'd like to have lunch sometime because your conversations are always too short. If she says yes, you will know your interest in her is reciprocated.

DEAR ABBY: I have a brotherin-law I have no contact with because he is jealous of my success and has made violent threats toward me. Every holiday and family function, when my mom asks me to attend, I ask if "Mr. Violent" is going to be there. Her answer is always, "I can't tell him he is not invited."

It always turns out that my compliments about me into our wife and kids attend, and I go

watch sports because I don't want to be around this person whom I cannot stand. Any advice on how I should handle this? I am considering moving far away from my family. — LOATHING IN FLORIDA

DEAR LOATHING: Your brother-in-law's jealousy is his problem; you have made it yours. That was a mistake. If an alcohol or drug problem has caused his threats of violence, your entire family should be urging him to get into treatment. If he has actually acted out, the police should have been called to discourage it from happening again. Moving may be an expensive solution to your inlaw problem. A more practical one might be to accept that you will never have a close relationship with this brother-in-law, allow him to "enjoy' his jealousy and pretty much ignore him.

## **Community Calendar**

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

TORS AND CHAPLAINS more information, call 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 - BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faithbased recovery group for substance abuse. Meal ING BREAKFAST CLUB starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 the p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk, For

Notices will appear in more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-MOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. JAY COUNTY PAS- High St., Portland. For Meet at 11:30 a.m. on (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-

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

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORN-Will meet at 8 a.m. in east room Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

PING PONG — Will be

played from 11 a.m. to West Jay Community Center.

BRYANT/NEW CORY-DON SENIOR CITIZENS Will meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Bryant 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-

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

**Thursday** 

CELEBRATE RECOV-ERY — 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.

**GRIEF** SHARE Meets from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursdays from Jan. 4 to March 28 at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. Grief Share is a weekly grief support group for those needing to find hope and healing after the death of a loved one. To register, call (260)

726-8832 or email zionnoon on Wednesdays at lutheranportland@gmail

.com INDIANA UNIVERSI-TY HEALTH JAY HOSPI-TAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday Community Center for a of each month in Indiana carry-in dinner. Meat is 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.

JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB — Will meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

## JUST RELEASED: AMERICAN LOG HOMES is assisting estate and account settlement on houses

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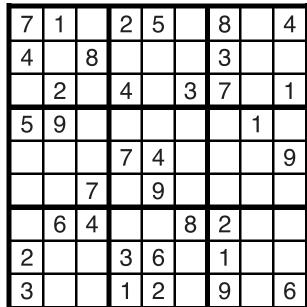
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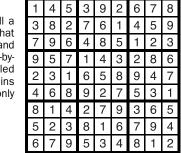
## Sudoku



Level: Beginner

**Saturday's Solution** 

The objective is to fill a nine-by nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-bythree boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.





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**Contact Lindsey at** L.Cochran@thecr.com or (260) 726-8141

Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Deadline for ads is Jan. 17

Our brides special section will be distributed in The Commercial Review (Portland), The News-Gazette (Winchester), The News Times (Hartford City) and The News and Sun (Dunkirk)

# 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 sup-

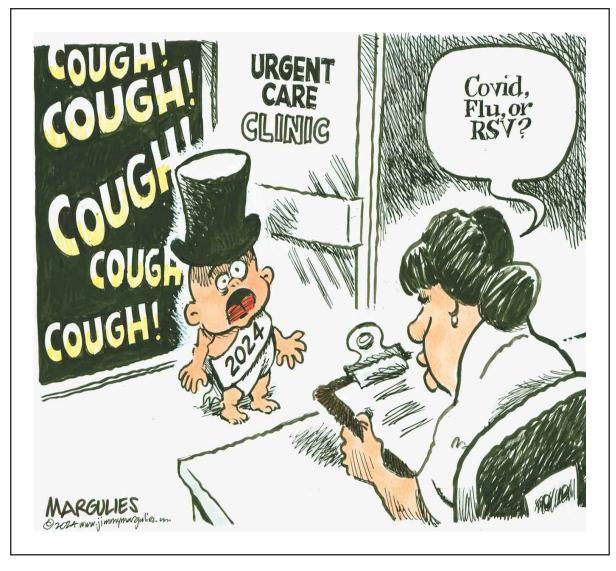
Recently our new facility was chosen top 10 of newsworthy items for 2023 by The Commercial Review. I understand that.

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

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 Oxy-Contin, 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 Oxy-Contin 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 prescrip-

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") around revolves 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 Whatever the court decides, of Purdue Pharma, testified this case should bury once and that Wright asked the compa- on this country.

ny 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 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 heroin and, 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

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

## 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 vou 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 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 crack-

ers 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

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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.

**RAY COONEY** 

President, editor and publisher **TONIA HARDY** 

Business manager

**LOUISE RONALD** Board chair

**BRIAN DODD** 

Production manager

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Home delivery problems: C. T.

"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** 

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 roundup 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

## **Business**

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 rapidchanging 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.

Hoffmever has been with association since August 2202 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 Bulletin made the shift to CEO, in a press release. "In vice president of growth

the nearly one-and-a-half and emerging markets will financial officer, in a press 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 Jav 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 lownitrogen natural gas sup-

#### **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 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 our stores, Steve (Deckard) has consistently shown his ability to deliver results strong 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 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

"Elizabeth's release. 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. Guertin He was previously chief financial officer for Surgery Partners Inc.

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

Guertin will step down from his roles effective May

"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 news to share? Email us at health care delivery strategy. There is real innovation included in our weekly busiand value to be unlocked as *ness roundup*.

Mike unifies our clinicbased 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 Ball-

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 We. 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, events@indicontact anachamber.com or (800) 824-6885.

Does your business have news@thecr.com to be

# IEDC reports nearly \$29B investments

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle 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.

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 gover-

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.

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

reported for the agency since it was established in 2005.

"Indiana is achieving unprecedented economic momentum that ing dividends – all while advancwill catapult economic and coming high-tech industries to ensure the site."

opportunities Hoosiers for decades to come,' said Gov. Eric Holcomb in the Those numbers are the highest release. "Our efforts to attract new investments and jobs, catalyze entrepreneurship and invest in quality of place are paythat 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

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

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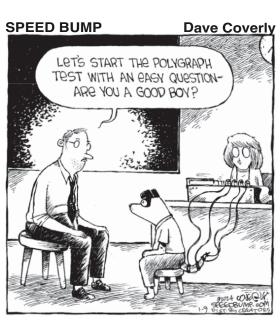
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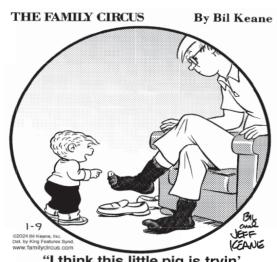
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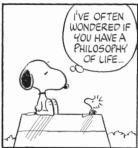
901 Industrial Dr. Ft. Recovery, OH 419-375-4951 www.ehomeidea.com





"I think this little pig is tryin" to go to market."

#### **Peanuts**









Rose is Rose TONIGHT I WILL SHIVER...THE SNOW WILL BE BLANKET







Agnes











Between Friends

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Beetle Bailey





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Contract 🌧 Bridge 🏖 By Steve Becker Bridge

#### Against the grain

won the trick with the ace! The purpose of this seemingly extrava-gant 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 biase of conductions.

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.

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

spade entry to dummy, after which

the clubs could not be utilized. The play of the queen violates the age-

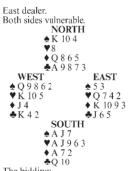
old principle of "second-hand low.

but in this case it lays declarer low.

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 Pass South 1 NT West 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

1-9

31 Planet's

path

Marie

earth

35 Michael

of "The

Martian"

**32** Sault

33 More

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SYK SAOPJ LWZBNP LWZBNWO

BAPPNWVONT YWHN YWJ

TGLGPWZ GJNWT? H N Z K

VZNWR LGLNT RYGFI 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	37 Gather	3 Chemical	•
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12 Queen of	43 More	<b>7</b> Terrier	28 Sicilian
Carthage	awkward	type	spouter
<b>13</b> MLB	48 Branch	8 Fake	29 Bring up
stat	<b>49</b> Bond	drakes	31 Greek
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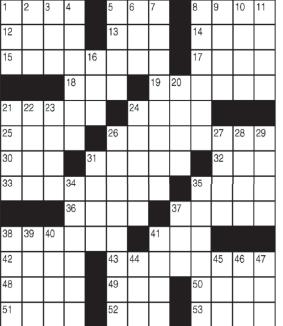
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## **Schultz**

Continued from page 8 "He's the best player in the conference," JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt said. "He was last year and he is again. He's gotten bigger and stronger...

"It's kind of like playing defense before the pass gets there or before the play is made instead of the play being made and then playing after. You can't do that.

The 6 foot, 7 inch, 210pound senior scored the Jets' first five points, all of which came on free throws. His first field goal came with 5 minutes, 20 seconds, in the first quarter when he caught a lob from Micah McClure and laid it in from midair.

Schultz converted two more buckets in transition and hit another pair of free throws to score 13 of the 22 ACHS first-quarter points.

"He got some scores in transition and some offensive rebounds for put backs but he does a good job sealing," Jets coach Aaron McClure said. "With the size we have, we were able to toss it in there.

"We've got guards that can make those plays. If you don't have guards that can make the pass then it doesn't do you much good. Fortunately, we were able to get the ball in there and take advantage of it.'

Micah McClure, Ryan Tester and Trace Maller had a majority of those post feeds, finishing with five, four and three assists, respectively.

Outside of nine first-



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Trevin Dunnington, a senior at Jay County, puts up a baby-hook middle during the Patriots' blowout loss at Adams Central on Saturday.

offensive end of the floor.

some improvements on the including a pair of 3-pointers. Thirteen of those Gradin Swoveland had a points came in the second period turnovers for the strong game, finishing half when the JCHS

with 12 points in the third quarter and 14 in the fourth.

The Patriots also successfully attacked the offensive glass, snagging 16 offensive rebounds, five of which resulted in second-chance points.

"We keep telling (Swoveland), in this scenario with the guys we've got playing right now he's got to be a scorer for us,' Bomholt said. "He's been getting better in practice but he hasn't really showed it in the game. ...

played "He good tonight. This is how he's got to play for us to be at least a factor. We're still playing a lot of young kids and not ready yet to jump in and score 70 points yet.'

While Bomholt would have liked to contain Schultz more, he said he was pleased with the improvements his team made and the effort from the players who were on the floor.

Jay County's next game will be on Jan. 12 when it hosts the winner of South Adams and Adams Central (6-1, 2-0 ACAC) in the ACAC tournament, potentially setting up a rematch with the Jets.

"I was happy with the second half we battled, we finally showed a little bit of gumption," Bomholt said. "We'll build on this for next week hopefully."

#### **Junior varsity**

Monroe with a 46-43 over-Patriots, Jay County had with 16 points on 6-for-13, offense started picking up time win over Adams Cen-rim.

Jay County Patriots vs. **Adams Central Jets** Boys varsity summary

Adams Central (X-X) FG-FGA FT-FTA PTS McClure 2 Van De Weg 0-1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 6 0 0 0 5 32 0-0 Johnson 4-4 0-0 Maller Steele 0-0 0-0 Deathe Bllnbchr 0-0 Littler Schultz 11-14 10-12 5-7 3-6 **22-42 18-24** Totals Def. rebound percentage: .400

Jav County (x-x) Mhlnkmp 2 3 12 1-5 0-0 Fugiett Garringer 5-11 2-2 5 6 0 Dunnington 2-8 2-7 Crouch 2-4 Phillips 0-0

1-2 0-0

6-12 .500 18-47 .383 Def. rebound percentage: .567

0-0 Swoveland 7-13

Bihn

**Totals** 

#### **Box score**

Ad. Cent. 22 12 8 20—66 Jay Co. 9 8 12 14—45

**3-point shooting:** Adams Central 4-15 (Reber 2-3, Littler 1-1, McClure 1-2, Hamilton 0-1, Steele 0-1, Deathe 0-1, Schultz 0-1, Malle 0-2, Tester 0-3). Jay County 3-16 (Swoveland 2-5, Fugiett 1-2).

Rebounds: Adams Central 28 (Schultz 9, team 5, Maller 4, McClure 3, Tester 3, Reber 2, Steele, Littler). Jay County 24 (Muhlenkamp 6. Swoveland 5. Crouch 4. Dunnington 4, Phillips 2, Bihn 2, Garringer).

Assists: Adams Central 13 (McClure 5, Tester 10, Maller 12, Schultz). Jay County 4 (Garringer 3, Crouch).

Blocks: Adams Central 3 (Schultz 2, Reber). Jay County 4 (Crouch 2, Phillips, Swoveland).

**Personal fouls:** Adams Central 10 (Hamilton 3, McClure 2, Schultz 2, Reber 2, Litller). Jay County 17 (Bihn 4, Crouch 3, Garringer 2, Dunnington 2, Phillips 2, Swoveland 2, Muhlenkamp).

Turnovers: Adams Central 14. Jay

tral in the junior varsity game.

Drew Schemenaur opened the overtime period with a three and Kade Sommers added a jump shot from the elbow to take a 44-43 lead with 10.3 seconds left. Schemenaur forced a jump ball that turned into a turnover and Eli Dirksen iced the game away with a pair of bonus free throws.

Dirksen led all the Patriots (7-2) with 17 points while Sommers added 10. Deathe's half-Jay County escaped court attempt to tie came up just short, hitting the

#### Freshman

The Adams Central Jets came crashing down in the storm the Jay County freshman team brought on Saturday afternoon in a 45-20 Patriot win.

Despite scoring zero points in the fourth quarter, the Patriots hit double digits in the first three while holding Adams Central to seven or less in all four periods.

Brock Wasson Boston Barnett fueled the JCHS assault with 16 and 12 respectively. Barnett hit four triples while Wasson poured in seven bas-

## FR second at invite; Patriots finish fifth

small roster.

They still find a way to score big chunks of points.

Fort Recovery High School's girls swim team had five finishes in the top four Saturday, including a pair of wins, as it finished third in a field of 16 teams at the Jay County Invita-

The Indians scored 213 points to finish nine ahead of fourthplace Coldwater and 11 ahead of the fifth-place host Patriots. Ver- advantage for a win by more boys with runner-up efforts in the Beiswanger and Wentz were third al last year," Slavik added.

Oak Hill (332) in second.

The Jay County (105.5) and Fort Recovery (90) boys were ninth and 11th, respectively. Bluffton's 493 points gave it the championship over Oak Hill

The Tribe girls started strong, getting a fast start from Teigen Fortkamp on the first leg of the 200-yard medley relay. Paige Guggenbiller, Joelle Kaup and Makenna Huelskamp kept the

The Indians have a relatively sailles scored 374.5 to win, with than a second over Versailles in 100 butterfly (58.26) and 100 back- in the 200 medley relay in 2:08.08 2 minutes, 2.56 seconds.

Fortkamp also owned the 100 backstroke for FRHS as she won by 1.5 seconds over Lydia Hect of Versailles in 1:02.5. She added a time of 56.81 for second in the 100 freestvle.

Autumn Leuthold, Fortkamp, Kaup and Huelskamp were third in the 200 freestyle relay at 1:53.66, and Kaup added a fourth-place finish at 26.7 in the 50 freestyle.

Sage Wendel paced the FRHS

stroke (1 minute flat).

Sixth-place was the high-water mark for the Jay County girls in individual races. Aubrey Millspaugh did it first in the 500 freestyle in 6:25.65 and Zion Beiswanger matched the placement in the 100 breaststroke in 1:20.12. Others in the top eight were Sophia Hoevel (seventh – 200 freestyle) and Avery Wentz (eight

100 backstroke). Morgan DeHoff, Lauren Fisher, Joseph Dow in the 200 freestyle

and Matthew Fisher in the 100 backstroke shared the best finish for the Patriot boys, both placing

"Avery Wentz had an outstanding day today," said JCHS coach Matt Slavik. "Emma Ransom had a great day today." (Ransom was 18th in the 500 freestyle.)

"Matthew Fisher knocked out a couple really good times, improving from where he was at section-

## Sports on tap

#### Local schedule

Today Jay County — Swimming at Yorktown – 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball at Northside – 5 p.m. Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. Ansonia -

6 p.m.; Middle school basketball vs. Ansonia - 5

p.m.; Middle school basketball at Delphos St. John's – 5:30 p.m.

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#### TV sports

Today 6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Mary-

land at Michigan State (BTN) Hall at Georgetown (FS1)

7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Houston Iowa State (ESPN2); Missouri at Kentucky

- Women's college basketball: Min-8 p.m. esota at Michigan (BTN)

8 p.m. — NHI: Florida Panthers at St. Louis Blues (Bally Indiana)

8:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball:

Marquette at Seton Hall (FS1) 9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Duke at Pitt (ESPN); Texas A&M at Auburn (ESPN2) Men's college basketball: New

Mexico at UNLV (FS1)

#### Wednesday

2 p.m. — Super Cup soccer: Atletico Madrid at Real Madrid (ESPN2)

— Men's college basketball: Provi-6:30 p.m.

dence at St. John's (FS1); Northwestern at Penn

Men's college basketball: Clemson 7 p.m. at Virginia Tech (FSPN2) 7 p.m. — NBA: Washington Wizards at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)

NHL: Minnesota Wilds at Dallas Stars (TNT)

- Men's college basketball: North Car-8 p.m. -

olina at N.C. State (ESPN) 8:30 p.m. — NBA: New Orleans Pelicans at Golden State Warriors (ABC)

8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: UConn at Xavier (FS1): Wisconsin at Ohio State (BTN)

9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Oklahoma at TCU (ESPN2)

10 p.m. — NBA: Denver Nuggets at Utah Jazz

10 p.m. — NHL: Vegas Golden Knights at Col-

orado Avalanche (BTNT) Men's college basketball: 10:30 p.m. — Men's co Washington State at USC (FS1)

#### Local notes

Tickets for sale The Jay County High School athletic department will have tickets for the boys and girls Allen County Athletic Conference basketball tournament for sale through Friday, Jan. 12 at 12 p.m.. Tickets for a single session will only be sold at the door for \$6.

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www.thecr.com Page 8 **The Commercial Review** 

# 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 Taye 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 Bellmont 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 1minute, 34 seconds. Wood, the 2023 state medalist who is ranked fourth at 138 pounds, needed just 42 seconds to pin Erik Hunt at

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 happy with his effort here today.'

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

## Supersized **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 shoot-

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

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

See Schultz page 7



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