

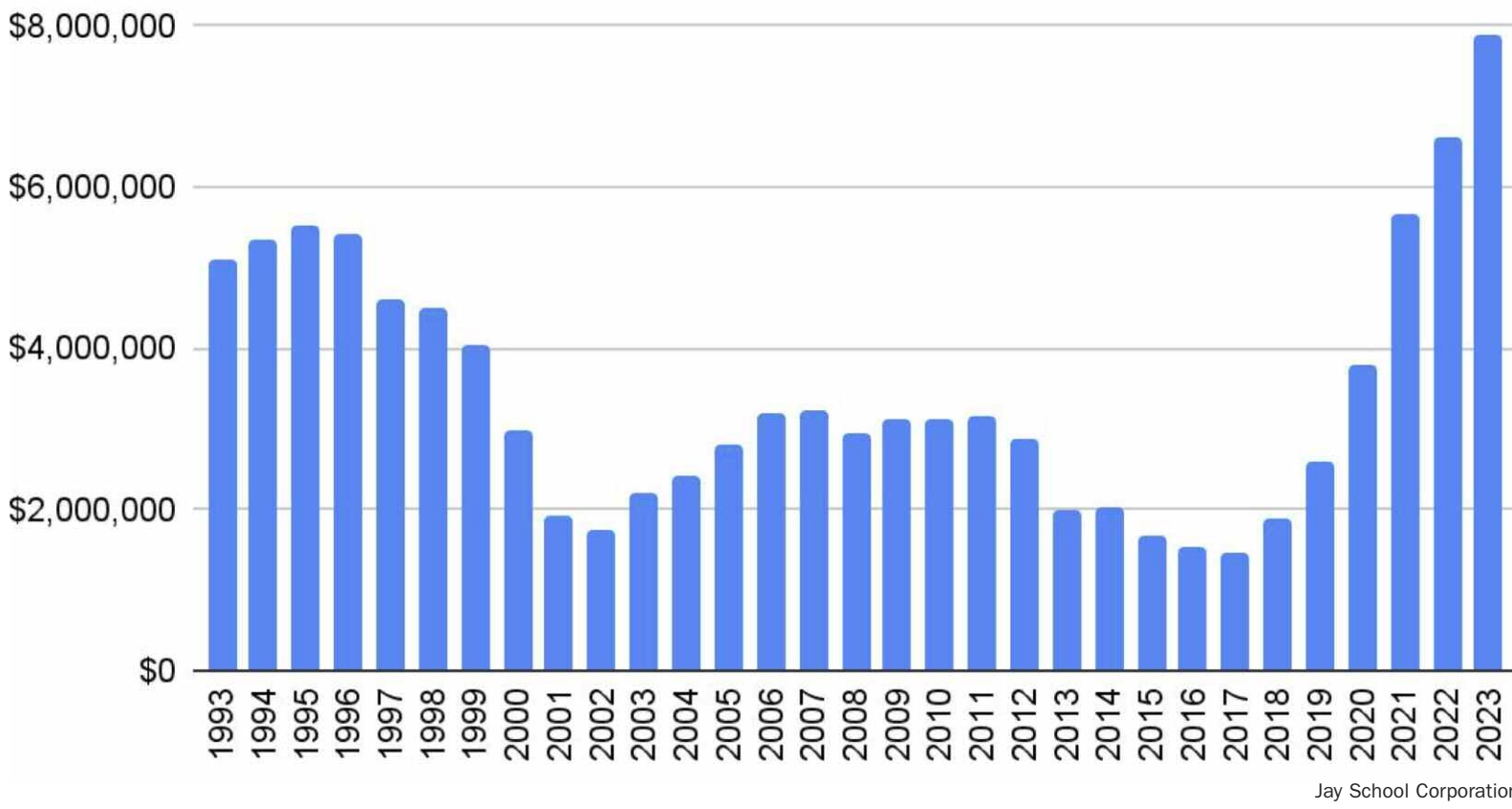
The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Strong \$\$\$



Jay School Corporation

The above graph shows Jay School Corporation's year-end cash balances in the education fund, formerly known as the general fund, for the last 30 years. The 2023 year-end balance of \$7.9 million was up about \$1.1 million from the previous year. It has been on a steady climb since dipping to below \$1.5 million at the end of 2017.

Jay School Corporation has largest year-end balance in at least three decades

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Jay Schools are in strong financial shape.

A presentation Monday during a Jay School Corporation Board of Finance meeting, which immediately followed Jay School Board's organizational meeting for 2024, board members learned 2023 surpluses in both the education and operations funds pushed year-end balances to their highest marks in at least three decades.

Also Monday, the school board approved advertising for bids for a new heating, cooling and ventilation (HVAC) system at West Jay Elementary School.

Business manager Shannon Current presented a report to the board of finance that shows the school corporation with year-end cash balances of \$7.9 million in its education fund (formerly known as the general fund) and \$4.68 million in the operations fund. Those are up

by about \$1.1 million and \$1.6 million from the previous year, respectively.

Jay School Corporation superintendent Jeremy Gullely and Current attributed the large increases to several factors, including Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds from federal coronavirus relief packages, school consolidation and interest.

Current also noted that the school corporation's rainy day fund finished 2023 at \$1.82 million and its food service fund at \$1.34 million.

In all cases, the increases continued a trend. The education fund has steadily climbed from just under \$1.5 million in 2017, the operations fund from less than \$100,000 in 2015, the rainy day fund from \$70,782 in 2016 and the food service fund from \$113,867 when Chartwells took over management in 2019. "You're fiscally as strong as

you've been since 1993," Gullely told the board. "You're fiscally strong. Your wages are improving for your employees. And you're investing dollars into your facilities that are good for the long term."

He also noted that some teaching positions that have been funded by ESSER dollars, which come to an end this year, will shift back into the education fund moving forward.

Current also shared enrollment and staffing numbers.

Jay Schools enrollment was at 2,900 students as of Jan. 1. That's down from about 6,000 when Jay County High School opened in 1975, but the number has been relatively stable over the last three years.

The school corporation currently has 422 employees, up slightly from a low of 413 in 2021. The number's recent peak was 540 in 2013.

During the school board meeting, board members Ron

Laux, Donna Geesaman, Phil Ford, Jason Phillips, Vickie Reitz and Chip Phillips, absent Marcie Vormohr, gave Current permission to advertise for bids for a renovation of the HVAC system at West Jay. As was noted at last month's meeting, the system has experienced various maintenance issues this year.

Architecture and engineering firm Barton Coe Vilamaa estimates the project cost will be \$480,000. Because it is expected to cost more than \$150,000 it must go through a formal bidding process.

The school corporation will accept sealed bids for the work until 2 p.m. Feb. 6. The board is expected to consider awarding the project at its Feb. 12 meeting.

The board plans to use ESSER funds from federal coronavirus relief dollars to pay for the project.

See Strong page 2

Dunkirk looking at water options

City will test wells that are out of use

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — The city is seeking greater water capacity.

Before it considers other options, it will look at old sources.

Dunkirk City Council on Monday approved flow testing and video inspection of a pair of existing wells that have been out of service for years.

Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins during his reelection campaign last year — he became the city's first mayor to earn a second term since 1991 — noted the need for the city to add to its water capacity in order to be able to attract new housing and industry.

Tim Hill of Peerless Midwest, a well-drilling contractor based in Mishawaka, explained to council Monday that future well options have some limitations. Most of the city is built over rock while sand/gravel areas more likely to be suitable for wells are further out and would require either running a water main to the treatment plant or having a small plant on site. Both options would be costly. (Hill estimated \$70,000 to \$80,000 to drill a new well and about \$1 million per mile of water main.)

Hill instead suggested looking at two existing wells.

Dunkirk Well No. 3 was drilled in 1981 and has been out of service since 2002. Its current pump is capable of 150 gallons per minute.

Dunkirk Well No. 2 has been out of service since 2014 and was producing 61 gallons per minute the last time it was tested.

See Dunkirk page 5

Commissioners mull future of Rescue 19

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

County officials are considering whether it may be time to end a local volunteer emergency service.

Jay County Commissioners discussed the viability of Rescue 19 during their meeting Monday.

They also asked Jay County Development Corporation executive director Travis Richards to share more details of his organization's financial records, with Richards noting he would need to seek board approval for the matter.

Commissioners president Chad Aker brought up Rescue 19 during a briefing on upcoming emergency service trainings with Jay County Emergency Management

Agency director Samantha Rhodehamel.

In recent years, explained Rhodehamel, there have been difficulties with getting volunteers to do regular training courses. Currently, the service has 10 members on the roster, about half of whom are active.

Timing is another issue. Rescue 19 vehicles are kept at the annex building near Jay County Sheriff's Office, meaning if volunteer responders live outside of Portland, they must travel into the city before responding to a call with a Rescue 19 truck.

"The biggest issue we have is during the daytime," said Rhodehamel. "We do have people responding, but they're in their personal vehicles,

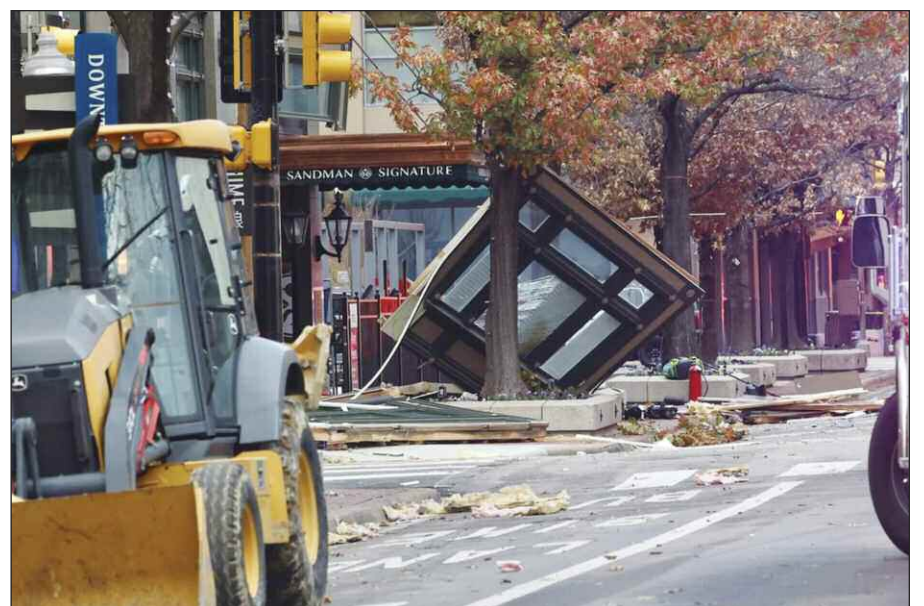
and it doesn't necessarily do a lot of good when they get there if they don't have a truck with tools to do anything."

Often, Rescue 19 responders will help with traffic control, she added.

Aker pointed out that without regular training, volunteers can become a liability for the county. The same goes for tools that haven't been used in months. A firefighter at Portland Fire Department, Aker noted in the past Rescue 19 has been helpful to other fire departments across Jay County.

"But here lately, I know at Portland we're manned 24/7, and there's been multiple times that, you know, we're responding," he said.

See Mull page 5



Tribune News Service/Fort Worth Star-Telegram/Amanda McCoy

Explosion injures

An explosion Monday afternoon blew out the ground floor of the Sandman Signature Hotel in downtown Fort Worth, Texas. The toll of the injured remained at 21, one of whom was critically injured and four seriously. The others suffered minor injuries.

Deaths

Dixie Mann, 83, Geneva
Angela Imel, 55, St. Henry, Ohio
Daniel Schwartz, 81, rural Bryant
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 37 degrees Monday. The low was 32.
Tonight's forecast calls for a low of 30 with a slight chance of snow after midnight and winds gusting to 30 miles per hour. Windy conditions will continue Thursday with a high in the mid 30s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Commercial Review is looking for a new Family page columnist or columnists to replace Diana Dolecki, who stepped away at the close of 2023. Interested, write a column — 400 to 700 words — and email to r.cooney@thecr.com.

Coming up

Thursday — Results from the FRHS girls basketball game against Ansonia.

Friday — Coverage of this week's Jay County Council meeting.



CR almanac

Thursday 1/11	Friday 1/12	Saturday 1/13	Sunday 1/14	Monday 1/15
37/27	38/22	27/6	19/2	10/-3
Thursday's forecast shows a chance of snow in the morning and a chance of rain at night.	There's a 90% chance of rain and snow on Friday under mostly cloudy skies.	Saturday's forecast shows a 50% chance of more snow in the morning.	Another chance of snow Sunday. At night, the low temperature may be below five degrees.	Monday's forecast shows a slight chance of snow. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 7-17-28-40-45 Power Ball: 2 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$60 million	Daily Four: 0-4-6-5 Quick Draw: 8-10-14-17-25-28-30-32-35-38-44-48-51-56-58-59-60-63-51-56-58-59-60-63-71-76 Cash 5: 5-19-26-33-39 Estimated jackpot: \$105,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$165 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 0-8-2 Pick 4: 9-9-6-2 Pick 5: 9-0-8-0-1 Evening Pick 3: 9-7-0 Pick 4: 6-1-4-6 Pick 5: 2-6-7-0-1 Rolling Cash: 6-8-25-34-39 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 7-7-3 Daily Four: 8-3-4-8 Quick Draw: 3-5-7-12-16-19-20-21-24-27-30-32-37-40-43-45-54-61-62-70 Evening Daily Three: 0-4-4	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.59 Feb. corn4.59 Wheat5.28	Feb. beans12.31 Wheat 5.70
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.57 Feb. corn4.57 March corn4.59	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.35 Feb. corn4.39 Beans12.19 Feb. beans12.22 Wheat5.63
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.45 Feb. corn4.45 Beans12.31	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.45 Feb. corn4.50 Beans11.98 Feb. beans12.01 Wheat5.25

Today in history

In 1776, Thomas Paine published the 50-page pamphlet "Common Sense." It called for a war of independence from Great Britain and sold more than 500,000 copies within a few months.

In 1861, Florida seceded from the United States during a convention in Tallahassee. During the following month, it was one of six states to form the Confederate States of America.

In 1901, the first major Texas oil field was discovered near Beaumont.

In 1920, The League of Nations was established in Geneva, Switzerland. Created after World War I to solve international disputes, it later dissolved in 1946 and was replaced with the United Nations. The United States never joined the League of Nations.

In 1945, singer/songwriter Rod Stewart was born in London. He released his first solo album in 1969, with two songs, including "Maggie May" reaching No. 1. Rolling Stone named him "rock star of the year."

In 1946, the general assembly of the United Nations met for the first time in London. The organization was developed following World War II in an

effort to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" among other goals.

In 1946, NASA detected radar signals bouncing off the moon for the first time.

In 1949, boxer George Foreman was born in Marshall, Texas. He is a two-time boxing world heavyweight champion. He won his second title in 1994 at the age of 45, making him the oldest world champion in history.

In 1972, local farmers met in the fourth of a series of luncheons to discuss Jay County's crop crisis. John Jaqua Sr., who organized the meeting, said cash receipts from soybeans were expected to be 70% of normal and from corn 75% of normal.

In 1984, after a break of more than 100 years, diplomatic relations were established between the United States and the Vatican.

In 2020, the Jay County High School girls swim team lost the Jay County Invitational by a single point to New Bremen. Juniors Ashlyn Dow and Eliza Bader picked up the wins for the Patriots, with the former taking the 100-yard breaststroke and the latter the 100 butterfly.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Monday 7:30 p.m. — Fort	
Tuesday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.	

Obituaries

Dixie Mann

Dec. 16, 1940-Jan. 4, 2024
Dixie J. Mann, 83, of Geneva, Indiana, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, at 7:28 p.m. at Envide of Berne, Indiana.

She was born on Dec. 16, 1940, in Huntington, Indiana, to William and Alice (Phillely) Lafferty.

Dixie attended St. Mary's Parochial School and graduated from Huntington High School in 1958. She chose a career in business and was employed as a corporate executive secretary with Memcor/LTV ElectroSystems of Huntington, Indiana, and Magnavox G&I Division, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Her business career led to diverse experience in public relations, marketing and sales. Dixie's artistic interest expressed through self-employment as an independent skincare and cosmetic consultant/manager over 30 years with two corporations, Finelle Cosmetics and Jeunique International.



Mann

On Nov. 28, 1970, she married the love of her life, John L. Mann, in Fort Wayne. Together, the two of them shared a lifetime of love and memories.

In 1975, Dixie, her husband and sons moved to Portland, Indiana, where she resumed her business interests as a freelance reporter and director of public relations and marketing for Citizens Bank & Travel of Portland. She was a 10-year member of Portland Beta Theta Chapter, Tri-Kappa Sorority, and served as recording secretary and president of the chapter.

In 2000, a move to Geneva, Indiana, provided her opportunities in business and helping others, becoming a real estate sales associate with Mann Realty. She joined

Geneva Proud with her husband John and served on the board of directors and second president of the renewed Geneva Chamber of Commerce. As a member of Geneva Proud, she authored a new guest column for Geneva in local newspapers. She designed Geneva Notes, which led to a page dedicated by a county paper as Geneva Today. Dixie's interest in art and photography provided nature photos for her beloved family, friends, and local papers over the years. She was a supporting member of Friends of the Limberlost and Arts Place. She was a member of First Missionary Church in Berne and enjoyed sharing faith stories with family and friends. Dixie became a member of Wired4Life.com in 2005 as a guest columnist for the new website newsletter designed for women members who had received implanted cardiac devices.

Dixie enjoyed nature and wildlife photography, interior design, sharing inspirational emails with shut-ins and friends, landscape gardening and caring for pets. Her love of nature's wildlife was of great enjoyment in a rural country setting of Geneva's Limberlost area, south Adams County, where she called home.

Loving survivors include her husband, John L. Mann, of Geneva, Indiana; sons Richard M. Mann, Jeffersonville, Ohio, and Justin L. Mann, of Worthington, Indiana; sister Marilyn (Larry) Shellenbarger, of Huntington, Indiana; and grandchildren Austin Mann, of Sabina, Ohio, and Kaleigh and Kiera Mann both of Worthington, Indiana.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, located at 100 N. Washington St., Geneva, from 2 to 6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 12, 2024. A service to celebrate Dixie's

life will follow at 6 p.m. with Pastor Rick Schwartz officiating. Inurnment will take place at a later date in Riverside Cemetery, Geneva.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, Geneva.

Angela Imel

Aug. 5, 1968-Jan. 5, 2024
Angela M. Imel, age 55, of St. Henry, Ohio, died Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, at Hospice of Central Ohio in Columbus.

She was born Aug. 5, 1968, in Niceville, Florida, to Larry and Pat (Romer) Balster. On April 12, 1997, she married Mark Imel. Angela's parents and husband all reside in St. Henry.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, at St. Henry Church in St. Henry. Following the funeral mass, burial will take place in St. Henry Cemetery. Friends may call from 4 to 8 pm on Friday, Jan. 12, and 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday at the Hogenkamp Funeral Home in St. Henry.

Memorials may be made to assist children in need in the Dayton Public Schools or to The Cancer Association of Mercer County in Celina, Ohio.

Condolences for the family may be expressed at hogenkampfh.com.

Daniel H. Schwartz, rural Bryant, April 14, 1942-Jan. 9, 2024. Services will be at 9 a.m. Friday at the D.L. Schwartz residence, 6836 E. 900 North, Bryant.

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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.

Strong ...

Continued from page 1
In other business during the school board meeting, board members:

- Re-elected Laux as president, Geesaman as vice president and Ford as secretary.

- Heard Gulley appoint Reitz, Geesaman and Chip Phillips to the board's insurance committee; and Laux appoint himself, Geesaman and Ford to the negotiations committee and Reitz as the board's legislative delegate.

- Heard Rob Weaver of WPGW radio thank the school corporation for hosting events such as the Indiana High School Wrestling Coaches Association Class 2A team state finals and Jay County Invitational swim meet that were held Saturday. He noted that large events serve as an economic driver for the county.

- Appointed the following: Josh Atkinson of Coldren, Frantz & Sprunger and Amy Matthews of Church, church, Hittle & Antrim as legal counsel; Shannon Current as treasurer and Irene Taylor as deputy treasurer; Trent Paxson, Current and Taylor as authorized users of the safe deposit box; Current and Taylor as small claims court representatives.

- Were reminded to fill out and sign conflict of interest statements.

In other business during the board of finance meeting, board members:

- Elected Laux and Ford as president and secretary, respectively.

- Approved First Bank of Berne and First Merchants Bank as depositories.

SERVICES

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
Schwartz, Daniel: 9 a.m., D.L. Schwartz residence, 6836 E. 900 North, Bryant.
Daniels, Freda: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
Mann, Dixie: 6 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Saturday
Imel, Angela: 10:30 a.m., St. Henry Catholic Church, 272 E. Main St., St. Henry, Ohio..

Sunday
Williams, Helen: 4 p.m., New Life Ministries, 415 S. Helen St., Portland.

Service listings provided by
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Portland, Indiana 47371
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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

Thank You
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Harry Long
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Photo provided

Community champions

Jayland Partners recently recognized Cindy Denney (left) and Heidi Bowman with the Larry Grier Community Champion Award. This annual award recognizes community members who value the interest of people with disabilities by promoting community access and inclusion. Pictured are Denney and Bowman at the Jayland Partners 2023 Jingle & Mingle Christmas Party.

Red Cross has blood shortage

The American Red Cross is in an emergency blood shortage.

In response, the Red Cross and the National Football League are partnering on a program to encourage donations. Those who donate blood in January will be entered for a chance to win a trip for two to the Super Bowl in Las Vegas.

Blood drives scheduled this month include:

- Randolph County — 1 to 7 p.m. Jan. 31 at Farmland Friends Church, 8311 W. Indiana 32, Farmland
- Adams County — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 14 at St. Mary Catholic Church, 414 Madison St., Decatur; and 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Jan. 22 at Riverside Center, 231 E. Monroe St., Decatur
- Delaware County — noon to 4:30 p.m. Jan. 28 at Riverview Church of the Nazarene, 2600 E. Willard St., Muncie; and 9 a.m. to 2

Taking Note

p.m. Jan. 31 at Delta High School, 3400 E. Indiana 28, Muncie

•Wells County — 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 15 at First Presbyterian Church, 215 E. Dustman Road, Bluffton

Senior Honors

Jay County Junior-Senior High School's annual senior honors night will be held at 7:00 p.m. April 29.

If you're interested in adding a scholarship or award for the Class of 2024, please contact the guidance office Jay County Junior-Senior High School or stop by the school to pick up forms, which are due Feb. 5.

Sudden retirement shakes up marriage

DEAR ABBY: With no discussion, my husband decided to retire two years ago. He said he would just take Social Security and we'd be fine. He failed to take into account that he was underage for Medicare, and all of his dental and medical bills would become my responsibility since I'm still working. Luckily, I convinced him to leave SS alone, and to roll his 401(k) into an IRA.

There have been bumps. He spent several months sitting all day long unless I asked him to do something specific. I finally put my foot down, and he's now

Dear Abby



responsible for evening meals, cleanup and laundry. Unfortunately, he does little beyond that. Most of our conversations begin with, "I watched a video today ..."

Abby, I have been working since I was 13, and I'm tired of

working, too. I find myself angry and jealous of my husband's laziness. I have started eating and drinking more than I used to, and we have no sex life. I have no energy to garden, go out after work or do anything on the weekends.

Any ideas about how to rid myself of the jealousy? I think if I could do that, I'd start to feel better about the rest. — WORKING GIRL IN TEXAS

DEAR WORKING GIRL: Although you identify your problem as "jealousy," I'm not sure that's what I'd call it. Some classic symptoms of

depression are ones that you listed in your letter — exhaustion, losing interest in things you used to enjoy, lack of energy, overeating, drinking, etc.

It's time to consult your doctor about these symptoms, as well as the fact that you have now been forced to carry more responsibility in your marriage. You may need counseling or medication, and your doctor can refer you to someone who can provide them.

It also wouldn't hurt to encourage your husband to

get out of the house and exercise his brain and talents by volunteering in the community. If nothing else, it would enable him to bring more interesting dialogue into your conversations. Exposure to people with other interests and opinions could stimulate him, and you.

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

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

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

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

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Cen-

ter for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

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

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information,

call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday

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

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 zion-lutheranportland@gmail.com.

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

and learn about the latest products and information.

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

Friday

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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

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Brides

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)

full-page color - \$625
full-page B&W - \$525
1/2-page color - \$425
1/2-page B&W - \$325
1/4-page color - \$275
1/4-page B&W - \$225

Big business card (3x3.5) - \$100
Business card (2x2) - \$52

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

Deadline for ads is January 17

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

A better 2024 starts with you

The News Courier
(Athens, Ala.)
Tribune News Service

We've been through a lot together since the turn of the decade.

The pandemic. Political upheaval. Inflation. Climate change. Mass shootings. Culture wars. War in the Middle East.

Wouldn't it be great if 2024 offered a respite?

Let's just imagine for a minute that the world were at peace.

That vicious political attacks turned to polite political discourse.

That everyone started talking things out rather than pulling guns.

Pie in the sky stuff, huh?

Well, here in Limestone County, in our little corner of the world, we can't control what happens in Ukraine, in the Gaza Strip, in Washington, D.C., or even in Alabama.

But we can do something that we are naturally good at — mind our own homes.

That's where it all starts, right?

If we look out for one another, really care about one another, 2024 can be a better year.

Whether it's a blood relative, a close friend, a colleague or a neighbor, providing a kind word and, when needed, a hand up will not only help them but also make you feel better about yourself.

Paying it forward with kind-

Guest Editorial

ness will put you at peace and put a spring in your step, which is something all of us could use going into the new year.

Here are 12 ways, among the thousands, to make someone's day. Most cost little or nothing, and most don't take long.

- Give a smile
- Send a thank you email
- Call to see how they're doing
- Cook a meal
- Tell a good joke
- Give a special book
- Offer praise in public
- Listen, really listen
- Spend time with them
- Tell them you're proud of them
- Share a care package
- Share your successes

You can come up with a lot of other ways to brighten the day for others and for yourself.

While this approach won't lead to a cease fire or induce Washington politicians to play nicely, you'll be adding a little bit of peace and kindness in a world that could use all the good stuff it can get.

And, as we try to put the past few difficult years behind us, a little bit of kindness can indeed go a long way.



Identify sources of happiness

By CASSIE HOLMES
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

We tend to look to the new year as a new beginning, as an opportunity for a fresh start. Aspiring for something different, something better, we devise resolutions in hopes of making ourselves healthier, more productive, more successful ... but really, the end goal is to be happier: to feel satisfied rather than wanting at this same time next year.

We seek ingredients for this new and better life from magazine headlines and "how to" experts promising that a new year might indeed transform each of us into a "new you." However, nobody needs outside guidance or expertise to identify their sources of satisfaction. We don't have to search for something new and different. The best indicator of what will make us happy is what has made us happy.

I teach a course to UCLA graduate business students and executives called Applying the Science of Happiness to Life Design. The objective of the 10-week elective is straightforward: to guide students toward enjoying greater satisfaction in their days, careers and lives overall. I introduce them to a multitude of findings from academic research across the fields of psychology and behavioral decision-making, but the students' most important lessons come from the assignments that push them to reflect on their own experiences.

One of these assignments is remarkably simple. It takes only a few minutes, and you could do it right now. Reflecting over your past year, what were the times when you felt the greatest joy? Think about it for a moment, and

Cassie Holmes



the most rewarding. Even though you might have thought of evening TV watching as a prize and you have dreaded exercise, your data could very well reveal your couch time as meh and exercise as energizing or even fun, especially when done in a particular setting or with a particular workout buddy.

These assignments are more useful than broad "top New Year's resolution tips" drawn from the experiences of swaths of people, many of whose circumstances and preferences are quite different from yours. Your own prior experiences offer far more information and precise guidance about what will make you happy going forward.

A similar strategy can guide your approach not only to the year ahead but for many years to come. To find what is likely to produce lasting happiness in your life, you could ask someone who is closer to the end of theirs to look back. Yet another assignment I give my students is to ask an elder who has lived a good life — someone who is happy and views their past with satisfaction instead of regret — to reflect on their sources of pride. Ask an elder you admire what brought them the greatest joy over the years. Their past experiences, much like your own, can inform your future decisions.

Take a look back to identify your sources of happiness, and resolve for these next 12 months to protect time for them amid the busyness of life.

.....
Holmes is a professor of marketing and behavioral decision-making at UCLA's Anderson School of Management.

McGalliard addresses question from meeting

To the editor:

I would like to clarify something that appeared in your newspaper.

The Jay County Development Corporation recently had a meeting that I did not attend. My board appointment with this corporation ended on Dec. 31.

Commissioner Chad Aker conveyed to me that he was planning on attending this meeting.

Yes, I know this was a public meeting. The issue is that there are ongoing contract negotiations with this organization. Contract discussions were on the agenda.

If two commissioners are in the same meeting, that constitutes a quorum. Anything that we would have agreed to at that meeting could possibly be legally binding.

Our county attorney has

Letters to the Editor

advised us numerous times to avoid this kind of situation. Being involved with contract discussions without the third commissioner or our county attorney present would have been a very bad decision on my part.

I think that it is only right for you to publish my response in your newspaper so that your readers will have a better understanding of these issues.

Best regards,
Brian R. McGalliard
Jay County Commissioner

Through the ice, the job got done

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Jan. 12, 2005. The ice storm is one of those events those who went through it will never forget. It also displayed Jack's dedication to getting the news out to our readers, whatever it took. That's an attitude we plan to carry forward as we continue to serve readers in all of our communities.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

What does the boss do when his employees look at him as if he has lost his mind?

That's the question I was faced with Thursday morning, standing in the dark and chilling offices of the newspaper in Portland. At that early hour, only a handful of employees had made it in.

But it was a pretty remarkable handful. Pressman Brian Dodd had driven all the way from

Back in the Saddle



Daleville because we had been scheduled to unload a truck of newsprint that morning. He didn't see a single electric light burning during the whole drive to work. Classified advertising representative Helen Rouch was there, even though there was no way to take a classified ad; instead, she showed up with a pot of coffee, thanks to a generator at home.

Huddled together in the dark, they looked more than skeptical about getting the paper out.

No power. No hope for power soon. Their look

told me they thought I needed to get a better grip on reality.

But then a few pieces of the puzzle fell into place.

First, I used my wife's cell phone to try to find an operating printing press. Our usual back-up is Winchester; we printed their paper a few months back when they had press problems. But they had no power either.

The next call was to my old friend Frank Snyder in Celina. His father, Parker, and my dad had been cronies; and Frank and I have known each other since childhood.

The huddled group was only slightly less dubious when I returned to say I'd found a press.

Earlier, I'd gone looking for a generator. But my brother Bruce Hosier told me he thought that Community Home Improvement had sold its last one Wednes-

day afternoon and was awaiting a new shipment.

I decided to take a leap. Nothing ventured. Nothing gained.

Walking into Mayor Hosier's morning meeting with his department heads, I asked if there was some space in one of the city's generator-powered buildings where we could set up an emergency newsroom on a temporary basis. The hands of more than one department head shot up, ready to help.

At the urging of Police Chief Bob Sours, we soon took over a conference room on the second floor of city hall.

With local electricity and a place to print, the employee skepticism evaporated. Suddenly, it was all systems go, although everyone had to discover new roles and new ways of getting the job done.

People whose regular

jobs had been upended and interrupted by the power outage grabbed new chores and offered to help. Commercial printing manager Carl Ronald soon found that his new job was as technical support for the temporary newsroom. Sports editor Ray Cooney, with no sports to report on, was suddenly a photographer and photo editor.

It was a clumsy process. With just two computers in place that first day, people stood in line to write, then stood in line to edit, then stood in line to work with photographs and build pages.

But we got out an abbreviated four page edition and soon were flying to Celina.

There, Frank's staff greeted us like family, doing everything possible to get the paper printed and in the van headed back to Portland.

It was only slightly easier Friday, when three more laptops eased the computer crunch but the generator at city hall began to overheat. During one two-hour period, the news staff was only able to work about 20 minutes, and that came in chunks of three or four minutes at a time.

Managing editor Barbara Wilkinson, news editor Mike Snyder, sports editor Ray Cooney and reporters Jennifer Tarter and Rachele Haughn did a whale of a job.

Was it perfect? Of course not. And there were still enormous hurdles involved in getting the papers delivered. Some folks didn't see the Thursday edition until days later because of downed trees and blocked roads.

But the important thing, it seems to me, is that the job got done.

The Commercial Review



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BRIAN DODD
Production manager

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We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to editor@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.

"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

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Mail: Monthly auto-pay - \$13; 13 weeks - \$49; six months - \$80; one year - \$151.

Dunkirk ...

Continued from page 1
Hill suggested flow testing and video inspecting each of those wells to determine if they would be worth bringing back into use in order to provide the city some additional water capacity. While he acknowledged that the two wells combined would likely not get the city to where it would like to be — water superintendent Brock Farmer said he'd like to see an additional 300 gallons per minute — it might be the most cost-affective option in the short term.
"It's worth looking at," he said.
"We need to really be looking, if we're going to have housing and maybe another business, we really need another well," said Robbins. "I think these tests we need to do."
City council members Jesse Bivens, Christy Curts, Dan Watson, Donna Revolt and Randy Murphy unanimously approved the flow testing and video inspecting at a cost of \$5,150 for each well.
Hill noted that if the wells are not viable, he would suggest capping

them in order to avoid potential contamination.
In related business, council members approved payment of \$12,826 to Peerless Midwest for the replacement of a pump on Dunkirk Well No. 6. It also approved the purchase of a new data collector — it is used to read water meters — at a cost of \$11,600. (The previous data collector, which was from 2010, was no longer working and the city was borrowing one from Albany in the interim.)
Also Monday, council members awarded a paving project that will be mostly funded through an Indiana Department of Transportation Community Crossings grant to Brooks Construction of Fort Wayne. Brooks was the lowest of four bidders for the work at \$116,039.
In November, Dunkirk was awarded a \$132,093.75 Community Crossings grant to go toward paving the streets in Quincy Place — Hart Drive, Merry Court and Shrack Lane — as well as Washington Street from the railroad tracks west to Indiana Street. The city's match for

the work, for which bids came in lower than expected, will be about \$29,000.
In other business, council:
•Heard Robbins welcome new council members Watson, Revolt and Murphy.
•Re-elected Bivens as president for 2024.
•Briefly discussed an ordinance that would require utility firms making cuts in streets to repave if there are three or more cuts within a single block. Bivens brought up the ordinance, following up on the topic from last year. Using a similar document from Muncie as a guide, city attorney Wes Schemenaur said he would draw up an ordinance and have it available at the next council meeting.
•Heard from Robbins that the former Glass Capital Grill on Commerce Street has been purchased by Firehouse BBQ & Blues of Richmond. He said the new owners have begun the process of seeking the necessary permits but are probably several months away from opening in the Dunkirk location.
•Learned Robbins is

bringing back the system of having council members serve as liaisons with city departments. He assigned Bivens to the water department, Curts to the fire department, Watson to the wastewater department, Revolt to the parks department and Murphy to the street department. The mayor will work with the police department. Robbins also appointed Afton Ridgway to the city's park board to replace Kenci Grayson and named Kodi Mumbower as zoning administrator to replace Al Curts.
•Approved the following: a \$500 sponsorship for Dunkirk Community Food Pantry and a \$200 sponsorship for West Jay Community Center; the closure of Commerce Street between Main and Indiana streets on Aug. 17 for the Glass Days festival; a request to vacate the alley to the west of Mt. Tabor Community Church, 216 W. Pleasant St.; and payment of claims totaling \$904,756.86.
•OK'd water bill adjustments of \$339.30 for 335 Lincoln Ave., \$152.95 for 711 S. Franklin St. and \$59.54 for 357 W. Jay St. because of water leaks.

Capsule Reports

New members

Fort Recovery School Board swore in its newly elected members Monday.
President Don Wendel returned for another term, along with Greg LeFevre, who previously served from 2016 through 2019. Also joining the school board is new member Mitch Fullenkamp.
In other business, school board
•Elected Sean Kahlig as vice president.
•Accepted assistant cook Norma Pottkotter's resignation effective at the end of the school year. Pottkotter has worked for the district for 17 years.
•Approved athletic contracts with girls softball assistant coach Lauren Day and track assistant coaches Shane Stein and Matthew Kuess for the 2023-24 school year
•OK'd hiring high school softball assistant coaches Abbie Monnin, Ryan Thien and Renee Evers as volunteer coaches for the 2023-24 school year

man turned in front of oncoming traffic on Indiana 67, causing a collision about 7:56 a.m. Friday.
Andrew W. Mundt-Davis, 38, was driving his 2002 Toyota Camry and leaving the Jay County Junior-Senior High School parking lot. He told police a school bus in the turn lane blocked his view, and he wasn't able to see the southbound 2014 Toyota Tundra driven by 29-year-old Taylor G. Hatzell of Dunkirk headed in his direction. He turned onto the highway, causing both vehicles to collide.
Mundt-Davis' vehicle was towed because of bumper damage. No injuries were reported.

Backing accident

A Portland man backed into a gas pump at Village Pantry about 10:30 a.m. Sunday.
Jesus Rosas, 33, was backing up a 2010 Ford Escape in the parking lot when he crashed into the pump at 704 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Turning accident

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Dunkirk

Mull ...

Continued from page 1
"They'll get paged once, they'll get paged a second time, we get no response, and we go."
Likewise, the equipment Rescue 19 specialized in, such as tools to extricate individuals from vehicles, are now more readily available.
"All the departments now have the equipment. I think we're almost to the point, I hate to say this, but (Rescue) 19 may not be needed at this point," said Aker.
According to Jim Bruner, a now-retired founding member of the volunteer service, Rescue 19 has been in action since 1965.
Rhodehamel noted she doesn't want to lose all the volunteers, pointing out they are helpful to her department for weather emergencies and other events. She added that she worries about potential liabilities with Rescue 19.
Commissioners took no action on the matter Monday.
Also, commissioners asked for a more detailed look into all Jay County Development Corporation's financial information, such as a day-by-day list of checks sent out.
Aker explained on behalf of commissioners he asked for a compilation of bank statements, CD balances, monthly claims, the balance of all checking and saving accounts and other information. In response, he noted, JCDC asked him to attend its meeting last week.
"I reluctantly attended the meeting, and as I expected, it was pretty much 31-1," he said, pointing to his concerns with financial oversight and balances not lining up with those posted on the state website. "I was then told by a lot of the JCDC board members that you need to stop micromanaging,

you need to concentrate on commissioner business, and JCDC is not-for-profit organization, and they don't have to disclose the info."
He expressed concern with the board not looking more closely at claims and other financial information, and he pointed out JCDC is funded largely by the county through economic development income tax (EDIT) dollars.
Richards said he's sent the commissioners balances and a presentation document, asking if there's more beyond bank statements they would like to see. Aker asked for a list of claims, such as information provided to commissioners monthly from Jay County Solid Waste District. He asked for information dating back at six months or a full year.
Commissioner Rex Journay also voiced his desire to see the information, noting he would show Richards the document Jay County Solid Waste District provides monthly.
"It's going to be a board decision whether or not we all look at every individual bill and check because that will take a significant amount of time for the staff to prepare all that," said Richards. "That is not something that I can stand here and tell you, 'Yep, I'm going to do it,' or 'Nope, I'm not.'"
He also pointed to differences between public agencies and non-profit organizations, while acknowledging that JCDC is significantly funded via EDIT dollars.
Richards and Jay County Chamber of Commerce director Tabby Sprunger asked commissioners to provide cost estimates or other figures for the county's development of its 68 acres, which commissioners marked as

the county's priority for the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) 2.0 program. McGalliard noted the county should be receiving details from engineering firm RQAW this week.
Commissioners also OK'd Jay County highway superintendent Eric Butcher to propose two options for the next round of Community Crossings grants offered through Indiana Department of Transportation, which are due before the end of the month.
Butcher proposed replacing Seventh Street bridge over the Salamonie River between Blaine Pike and Meridian Street, but he explained an adjoining property owner has refused granting right-of-way access for the project. He suggested looking into a "plan B," such as reconstructing about five miles of road along portions of county roads 100 South, 150 South and Knox Road. West of Indiana 1, the roads are regularly used by drivers during flood events on the highway, noted Aker.
In other business, commissioners Rex Journay, Chad Aker and McGalliard:
•Heard from consultant Mike Kleinpeter about the owner-occupied rehabilitation program, a \$1 million project aimed at helping low-income local residents make essential repairs to their homes. Jay County is contributing \$90,000 in American Rescue Plan Act dollars to the program, which is mainly funded through Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. During a public hearing for the project Monday, Kleinpeter noted plans to submit the county's final application to OCRA on Jan. 19, with expectations to hear back by the end of February. The program could get

started by early March or early April.
•Approved changes to the personnel policy, which include adding in a workplace relationship disclosure. It states "consensual romantic relationships" between employees must be disclosed to supervisors or the Jay County auditor "as soon as the relationship begins" and gives the county the right to transfer or reassign employees involved in such a relationship "to avoid direct or indirect supervision of one involved employee over the other." Other changes include adjusting Jay County Highway Department's work hours — commissioners OK'd the department to close Fridays, instead working 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. or 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays depending on the season — and compensating all Jay County Sheriff's Office and Jay County Jail employees for eight hours of holiday pay at their standard hourly rate on holidays. For the latter, if employees are required to work on the designated holiday, they will be compensated at a rate 1.5 times their standard rate for all hours worked.
•Tabled a decision on an economic development agreement with Hodson Energy, which is planning a solar farm on approximately 220 acres in Richland Township, including the area around The Andersons grain elevator. Jay County Council recently approved a 10-year abatement with the company in exchange for Hodson Energy to provide \$2.156 million in economic development funds to the county over four years after construction on the project has been completed.
•OK'd spending \$3,387 to purchase hard drive upgrades to Jay

County Courthouse's video security system. Security officer Monte Shrack noted plans to increase one digital video recorder's hard drive to 31 terabytes and another digital video recorder's hard drive to 32 terabytes. Commissioners also gave Shrack approval to look into installing another camera in the auditorium for security purposes.
•Approved an update to the fair housing ordinance, which now includes language stating it's unlawful "to discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions, or privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling ... because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin."
•Elected Aker as president and McGalliard as vice president of commissioners and appointed Todd Skirvin to replace Adam Westgerdes on Jay County Plan Commission.
•Learned from treasurer Paula Miller the county earned \$629,492.87 in interest on investments in 2023.
•OK'd Kristie Delaney — she is taking care of administration responsibilities for Jay County Country Living since former director Melissa Blankley's formal resignation last month — to get a bigger dumpster for the facility. The dumpster is shared with Jay County Highway Department. They also approved Delaney access to use the county's credit card to make purchases for Jay County Country Living and accepted \$3,675.60 in donations to Jay County Country Living.
•Paid a December claim for \$1,023.60 in administration fees through Indiana Bond Bank for its fuel budget program.

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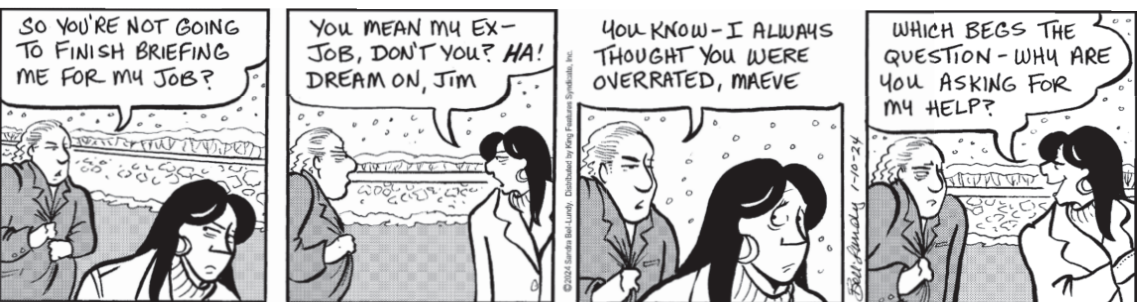
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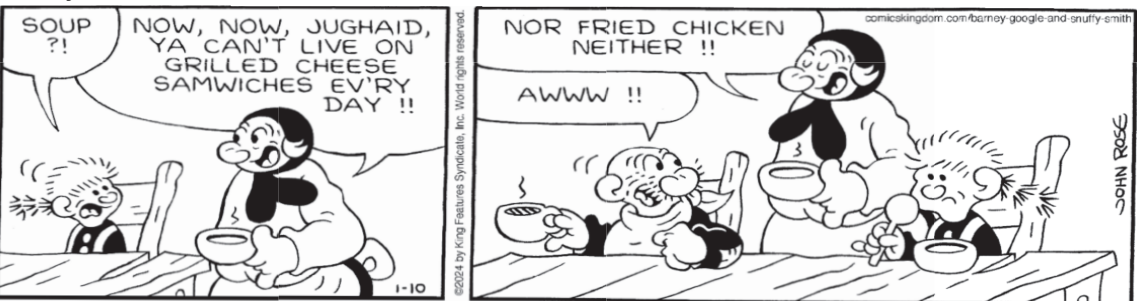
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The pause that refreshes

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: A J 9 6, J 10 5, A Q 7 3, 7 4. WEST: 8 4, A K 7 4, 5 2, Q J 9 6 2. EAST: K Q 10 5 3 2, Q 9 6 3 2, 4, 5. SOUTH: 7, 8, K J 10 9 8 6, A K 10 8 3. The bidding: South West North East: 1 diamond Pass 1 diamond Pass, 2 clubs Pass 3 clubs Pass, 4 NT Pass 5 hearts Pass. Opening lead — king of hearts.

of going down one. West led the K-A of hearts. Declarer ruffed the second heart, drew two rounds of trump and cashed the A-K of clubs. When East showed out on the second club, declarer was in trouble. He couldn't ruff his three club losers with dummy's two remaining trumps, so he eventually lost a club and went down one. By drawing two rounds of trump, South in effect staked the outcome on a 4-2 or 3-3 club division — an 84% probability. But it did not protect against a 5-1 club division, a 15% probability. To guard against this possibility, declarer should have drawn only one round of trump and then played the A-K of clubs. Had he done this, he could have ruffed three clubs in dummy and made the slam.

A conscientious declarer tries to guard against all possible distributions of the adverse cards. Even when a contract seems certain, he should ask himself, "What can defeat me?" This habitually cautious approach can pay handsome dividends. Had South been a practicing member of this school, he would have made six diamonds on today's deal instead

The basis for choosing this line of play is that only a bad club break can defeat the slam. But if the player with the singleton club started with only one trump, the slam can still be made. It is true that if the defender with one club has more than one trump, this line of play will fail. But in that case, the slam is highly unlikely to make no matter how declarer proceeds.

Tomorrow: Killing defense. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

1-10 CRYPTOQUIP

HU J YHLX HUPJFHLLTW FX PGQBTB, H HSNHUT LPT TZTYLTLW ZTJWQ SHNPL FT YJZZTW SJXGQ UTHNPTQ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHY WOULD MARCEL MARCEAU AND COLLEAGUES HAVE HAD VERY SIMILAR IDEAS? GREAT MIMES THINK ALIKE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals H

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Edge, 5 Garden area, 8 "Les États—", 12 Mine find, 13 Ginger —, 14 Ship-shape, 15 Log-on need, 17 PC picture, 18 Road curves, 19 Predicament, 21 Research sites, 24 Author Brown, 25 Actress Liu, 28 Church area, 30 "The Joy Luck Club" author Tan, 33 Equal (Pref.), 34 Sasha or Malia, 35 Soviet space station, 36 Pop, 37 Andean land, 38 Coop group, 39 Compass dir., 41 Sicilian spouter, 43 New York tribe, 46 Egypt's Sadat, 50 Serb or Croat, 51 Label on a folder, 54 Marathoner's stat, 55 Shock partner, 56 Battery fluid, 57 Crystal gazer, 58 Scepter, 59 "Bonanza" son, 1 A primary color, 2 Historic flag, 3 Mid-month date, 4 Just call, 6 Shade tree, 7 Profound, 8 City near Syracuse, 9 "Honest Abe" or "Old Hickory", 10 Teen fave, 11 "Auld Lang —", 16 Intel-licence org., 20 Concept one, 22 Innocent one, 23 Extra, 25 Cover, 26 Olympics chant, 27 Spy's moniker, 29 Lewd material, 31 Hr. fraction, 32 Decade parts (Abbr.), 34 Oil cartel, 38 "Splash" star Daryl, 40 "Forget it!" author, 42 Dundee denial, 43 Bygone fleet, 44 Writer Wiesel, 45 Miles away, 47 Texas city, 48 "Lucky Jim" author, 49 Cincinnati team, 52 — Jima, 53 Went first

Table with crossword clues and solutions. Includes words like COOP, COMPASS, SICILIAN, NEW YORK, EGYPT, SADAT, SERB, CROAT, LABEL, MARATHONER, SHOCK PARTNER, BATTERY FLUID, CRYSTAL GAZER, SCEPTER, BONANZA, ABE, HICKORY, AULD LANG SYNE, INTELIGENCE, DUNDIE, BYGONE, WRITER, MILES AWAY, TEXAS CITY, LUCKY JIM, CINCINNATI, JIMA, WENT FIRST.

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-59 indicating starting positions for clues.

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READ THE CR THEN RECYCLE

Patriots have state matchups set for Friday, see story below

Jay boys wrestling travels to Homestead on Thursday, see Sports on tap

Sports

Slow first half costs Indians

FORT RECOVERY — The Indians exploded offensively in the second half.

Despite scoring 37 second-half points, it wasn't enough to cover the deficit created in the first half.

The Fort Recovery boys basketball team's offense struggled to get going, scoring just six points in the first two quarters as the Botkins Trojans took advantage for a 58-43 on Saturday.

Troy Homan had a pair of baskets to score four points in the first quarter. Rylyn Paul hit one shot and hit 2-of-4 free throws in the first quarter for Botkins (8-1) to keep the game tied at 4-4.

The engine started for the Tro-

Fort Recovery roundup

jans in the second, as four 3-pointers fell to develop a 18-6 lead at the break as the Indians (4-8) only managed one basket also coming from Homan.

Fort Recovery started to find some flow offensively in the third quarter with Rex Leverette scoring six, Briggs Overman five and Gavin Faller four points. The

offensive effort was countered with a barrage of threes from the Trojans, four of which were scored by Collin Doseck.

Fort Recovery won the fourth quarter 20-15, but it wasn't enough to overcome the deficit developed in the second quarter.

Doseck led all scorers with 24 points, 21 of which came from beyond the arc.

Overman led FRHS in scoring with 11, hitting his first field goals in the fourth quarter and adding five free throws in the third.

Still perfect

NEW BREMEN — The Fort

Recovery girls bowling team remained undefeated as it took out Coldwater at Speedway Lanes on Saturday morning 2,448-2,260.

Kayla Heitkamp led the way with a 172.5 average pinfall, while Deanna Brown recorded the highest game of 187 pins. Emily Lauber, Brooklyn Weyerick and Brown all tied for second with an average pinfall of 165.5.

Brittany Burden of Coldwater averaged 192.5 pins, but it wasn't enough as the depth of the Indians and 54-pin margin in the baker games carried Fort Recovery (4-0, 4-0 Midwest Athletic Conference) to victory.

Acheson leads

NEW BREMEN — The Fort Recovery boys bowling team dropped its second conference game as the Coldwater Cavaliers came out on top 3,017-2,743 at Speedway Lanes on Saturday.

Lucas Acheson (219) and Riley Grieshop (216.5) both averaged over 200 pins a game, but it wasn't enough as Coldwater's Caleb Wedel (225) and Nick Wehrman (207) matched them.

Acheson rolled the best game of 228 for Fort Recovery (5-2, 3.2 MAC).

Baker play did the boys team in as they fell short by 82 pins.



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Prep time

Brackets for girls state wrestling tournament have been released

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review
The brackets have been released.

One Patriot got a tough draw.

One Patriot is looking to earn her first medal.

One Patriot is looking for a three-peat.

One thing is the same; all three Patriots have been here before.

No. 10 Emily Manor, No. 11 Lina Lingo and No. 1 Mallory Winner of the Jay County High School girls wrestling team, will compete in the state finals this Friday at Kokomo.

"I just hope they go out there and compete to the best of their ability," coach Eric Myers said. "All three have been there before, so the hope is to not get caught up in the pageantry of it and just go out there, focus and wrestle hard."

The Patriots are looking to win their first matches to guarantee a top-eight finish and a medal at state. Once they win their first matches, they will only need to win three more to be crowned state champions.

In the 155-pound bracket, Winner (22-0) matches up with 15th-ranked Sophia Rygiel (11-8) of Greenwood — Rygiel was previously unranked heading into the semi-state event. While the two-time defending state champion will be a heavy favorite to win the match and secure a spot on the podium and feels confident that she is set up for success, she doesn't want to take any opponent for granted.

"I'm really happy with the draw," Winner said. "We were waiting all weekend for it to come out and then were really, really happy with what we got. There will be a lot of hard matches Friday morning for some of the other girls, but fortunately I got a good draw where I can make it to the finals in a reasonable manner. ..."

"Rankings at this point don't matter. I just have to go out there and wrestle and not take anyone for granted."

After Rygiel, Winner would face the victor between eighth-ranked Kate McKee (26-9) and 14th-ranked Madison Raper (20-5). Also on her side of the bracket are No. 3 Josie Hause (21-3) and No. 5 Kaily Bussard (26-4), who will face off in the opening round. Bussard took Winner into the

third period before getting pinned in the semifinal at Rochester.

Potential opponents in the championship include No. 2 Rhaigyn Trenary (23-2), No. 4 Maylie Skinner (22-2) and No. 6 Grace Hiroms (21-4). One of Heroism and Skinner will be taken out in the opening match by the other. Trenary lost to Winner in a 9-6 decision in the semi-state championship.

As Winner starts to bounce back from an illness she battled during the semi-state tournament, she is confident that she can bring back a third straight state championship to Jay County.

"I know if I wrestle who I am and wrestle how I do in practice, there's nobody out there that can stop me," Winner said. "I've just got to go out there and do what I do and do what I've done the past few years."

Last season, Lingo (22-9) fell short of medaling at state.

This year, she likes her 135-pound first-round draw.

Despite finishing third at the semi-state, Lingo's opponent is only ranked two spots higher as she is set to square off with Switzerland County's No. 9 Klaire Redwine (8-5). (Redwine was unranked going into the semi-state meet in Mooresville, but the second-place finish bumped her up.)

Lingo has already started looking at film on Redwine to learn more about her style of wrestling to prepare for Friday's match. A win against Redwine secures her a medal, which is her primary goal.

"It's a big deal to me," Lingo said. "As a freshman who didn't win any matches, I remember going home that night and all I thought after watching that match was, 'What does it feel like to be on that podium?' I just wanted to feel that."

"It's so exciting for me and a little nerve-wracking. I just feel so accomplished and proud of myself for getting where I am today."

With a victory, Lingo would likely face No. 2 Haylee Selis (15-1) in the quarterfinal match. Also on her side of the bracket is top-ranked Maddie Marsh (10-0). The other side features No. 3 Kaylee Smith (24-3), No. 4 Katy Vardaman (5-1) and No. 5 Sian Rodgers (23-1).

See Time page 7

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