

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Contract OK'd for demo of building

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Another downtown building will come down.

Portland Board of Works on Thursday awarded a contract for the demolition of 208 and 210 N. Meridian St. to JAShroyer Group.

The board also selected Dynamic Business Solutions of Portland to install equipment for livestreaming and recording meetings in council chambers at Portland Fire Department.

The board of works opened bids — \$249,000 from JAShroyer Group and \$150,000 from WEU — for the demolition of the building in October. However, WEU did not supply the required credentials and certificate of liability insurance.

Following the bid opening, the board agreed to a request to pause the process in order to allow Portland Redevelopment Commission more time to study the building and consider whether it would be feasible to rehabilitate the building. After having engineers and architects look at the building, the redevelopment commission decided Monday that the estimated costs are prohibitive. (Estimates came in around \$700,000.)

Board of Works members Jerry Leonhard, Steve McIntosh and Mayor Jeff Westlake voted unanimously Thursday to award the demolition project to JAShroyer Group, which in the interim dropped its price to \$185,000 because it is already in the city for the demolition of the Bailey Building on Main Street. Clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips said she'd expect demolition to begin in mid-to-late February.

A handful of questions and concerns were raised during the meeting, including LeeAnn Miller asking about ownership of the shared wall between her building and the structure to be demolished.

See **Demo** page 5

State of shock

Lina Lingo of Jay County High School clasps her hands over her face after winning the 135-pound opening match over No. 9 Klaire Redwine on Friday during the Indiana High School Girls Wrestling state finals at Kokomo to clinch her first state medal. Lingo, a junior, went on to upset the second-ranked wrestler in the state en route to a fourth-place finish while her classmate Mallory Winner won her third consecutive state championship. For more on the Patriots at the state finals, see page 12.

Foundations get GIFT VIII funding

Three counties, including Jay, were awarded funding recently to address key issues.

The Portland Foundation announced Friday in a press release that it has received a \$60,000 planning grant through Lilly Endowment's Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT VIII) initiative in partnership with Blackford County Community Foundation and Commu-

nity Foundation of Grant County.

"Looking southward, the challenges to regional planning and policymaking are apparent in eastern Indiana," said Doug Inman, executive director of The Portland Foundation, in the release. "The lack of a single urban centerpiece exacerbates the challenges of successful regionalism. It's no wonder people want to turn

down the volume. When you look at it day in and day out, it becomes background noise. It is a reality that underscores the importance of our three Foundations' unwavering commitment to leading and, on occasion, turning up the volume."

The funding will be used to "tackle critical workforce challenges and enhance opportunities for students in the region."

The three community foundations have placed a focus on concerns about the aging workforce and economic disparities along with seeking to prepare students for successful careers.

The GIFT VIII funding is designed to "help community foundations collaborate with local partners to engage broad and diverse stakeholders in their communities and deepen their

understanding of their communities' highest-priority challenges and opportunities."

Project Leadership, which seeks to bridge the gap between education and employment, will facilitate the planning effort.

Lilly Endowment has allocated up to \$210 million through GIFT VIII to support community foundations across the state.

New chief, superintendent step in

Enforcement and morale are key for Mock

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Continue drug enforcement efforts and build morale.

Communicate with the public and create more community events.

These are some of the ideas Dustin Mock, Portland's new chief of police, has in mind moving forward.

"I don't know if we have any specific goals — we're just trying to build this foundation right now," said Mock. "We get



Photo provided

Portland Mayor Jeff Westlake recently appointed a new police chief and assistant chief. Pictured, Westlake (center) stands with police chief Dustin Mock (left) and assistant chief Donnie Miller after swearing them into their new roles.

a good foundation and build upon that."

Following Mayor Jeff Westlake's announcement at the Jan. 2 Portland City Council meeting about new appoint-

ments to head the city's police and street and parks departments, Mock and assistant chief Donnie Miller stepped into their new positions. See **Mock** page 2

Shauver focused on improving amenities

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Improving the city's amenities is a key focus for Matt Shauver, the new superintendent of Portland's street and parks department.

"I want to work with every department and every entity that has interest in improving the City of Portland," he said. "If there's things that we can do to help the progression of improvement, we want to be a part of it."

Mayor Jeff Westlake



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Matt Shauver, pictured, was named as the new superintendent of Portland's street and parks Department. Mayor Jeff Westlake announced the change during the Jan. 2 Portland City Council meeting.

recently appointed Shauver, the former parks manager who took over leadership from Tom Leonhard on Jan. 3. Westlake announced the change during the Jan. 2

Portland City Council meeting, during which he also noted the appointments of a new chief of police and assistant chief. See **Shauver** page 2

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 39 degrees Friday and there was about 1.5 inches of snow by early evening.

Conditions will be windy today with gusts as high as 50 miles per hour, a chance of more snow and

a high of 26. Tonight's low will drop to 3. Colder weather will keep coming, with highs of 9 Sunday, 11 Monday and 8 Tuesday. Lows will be around zero.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County had two new candidates file for office, with Jay County Council president Matt Minnich, a Republican, filing to run for re-election to his at-large seat. Also filing to run for Jay County coroner was Republican Brayden Fields. (Incumbent coroner Michael Brewster can't seek re-election because of term limits.)

Coming up

Tuesday — Results from tonight's ACAC girls basketball tournament final.

Wednesday — Coverage of Monday's Fort Recovery Village Council meeting.



Mock ...

Continued from page 1
Mock is the fourth police chief hired for the city since December 2020 when former chief Nathan Springer retired after six years in the role. Springer was replaced with Josh Stephenson, who resigned in July 2021.

Mitch Sutton took over for Stephenson but stepped down after 14 months because of health problems. Steve Schlechty first filled in as interim chief and was then named chief, heading the department until January. (Schlechty is no longer working for Portland police, having retired and then

returned as a civilian to serve as assistant chief under Sutton.) Miller, the assistant chief, has been with the department for two years. Formerly a sergeant, he assumes the position from Michael Brewster.

Addressing previous administration, Mock said he thinks the department has taken a positive direction in recent years. Hopes are to grow from here.

"I think we're on a positive track, we just need to expand on that and really concentrate," he said.

A 1999 Jay County High School graduate and Portland resident, Mock worked in a few

other professions before pursuing police work, including at the former dog food factory in Portland. He joined the department in 2004 as a reserve officer. A year later, he came on board full-time as a patrolman. Mock also served as a sergeant for about five years before shifting back to patrol a few years ago in order to work the day shift.

Although he's worked for the department for nearly 20 years, Mock's family history dates back farther. His grandfather, Raymond Mock, served 30 years on the force, with eight years as chief of police.

"I always heard the stories,

they always intrigued me," recalled Mock. "It's kind of something I always had in my mind that I'd like to do when I was older."

A positive relationship with the public, as well as between employees, is something Mock values. He hopes to foster more trust as time goes on.

"I would just like to see more positivity within the department and throughout the community when it comes to police," Mock said, referring to a negative perception of police throughout the country. "I'd like to at least locally build that positive perception."

Mock also would like to incorporate more involvement in the community, such as events crafted for Portland residents.

With little over a week as chief, Mock is still getting a handle on the job and formulating plans. Moving ahead, he said, the department plans to prioritize safety, foster trust and uphold integrity and professionalism.

"I am committed to open communication and collaboration with the community as we work together to build a safer and stronger city for all," said Mock in a text message.

CR almanac

Sunday 1/14	Monday 1/15	Tuesday 1/16	Wednesday 1/17	Thursday 1/18
9/1	11/0	8/0	18/13	22/5
Another slight chance of snow on Sunday, when the low will dip to 1 degrees at night.	Monday's forecast shows more cold temperatures, with the high near 11 degrees.	Another day of potential snow and freezing weather, when the low will be 0 degrees.	Mostly sunny and cold on Wednesday. The high temperature will be about 18 degrees.	Thursday's forecast shows a 30% chance of snow under mostly cloudy skies.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 5-5-3 Daily Four: 5-4-6-3 Quick Draw: 8-9-13-17-21-27-31-32-35-40-45-51-52-57-60-65-66-67-76-79	Pick 5: 6-2-3-6-4 Evening Rolling Cash 5: 16-22-29-33-37 Jackpot: \$150,000
Ohio Midday Pick 3: 0-9-5 Pick 4: 2-9-5-1	Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$77 million
	Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$187 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.47 Feb. corn4.47 Wheat5.16	Feb. beans12.09 Wheat5.56
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.47 Feb. corn4.47 March corn4.47	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.25 Feb. corn4.29 Beans11.99 Feb. beans12.02 Wheat5.51
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.32 Feb. corn4.32 Beans11.99	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.32 March corn4.37 Beans11.76 Feb. beans11.79 Wheat5.11

Today in history

In 1888, The National Geographic Society formed in Washington, D.C.
In 1915, approximately 30,000 people died from an earthquake in Avezzano, Italy.
In 1930, the "Mickey Mouse" comic strip was distributed for the first time. Created by Walt Disney, the character later became the mascot for Disney's animation company.
In 1942, Henry Ford patented plastic automobile parts. Originally called a "Soybean car," the model made from plants was originally unveiled a year prior at Dearborn Days in Michigan.
In 1968, Johnny Cash recorded "At Folsom Prison" in front of nearly 2,000 inmates at the facility in California. The album sold multi-millions and bolstered Cash's career as a singer and as a prison reform spokesman.
In 2000, Bill Gates stepped down from his role as CEO of Microsoft. Gates founded the company with

Paul Allen in 1975.
In 2001, an earthquake in El Salvador killed nearly 1,000 people. Another 315 or more died after another quake a month later.
In 2019, Jay County had roughly 3.5 inches of snow accumulation, marking the first significant snowfall of the winter.
In 2012, approximately 32 people on board the Costa Concordia cruise died after the ship ran aground and capsized near Giglio Island, Italy. About 4,200 passengers were on the ship.
In 2021, the House of Representatives approved an article of impeachment for Donald Trump, making him the first United States president to be impeached twice. He was accused of "incitement of insurrection" for events leading up to Jan. 6, 2021, when his supporters stormed the Capitol in an effort to overturn the 2020 presidential election results in which Joe Biden was elected president.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.
Tuesday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.	Thursday 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, Redkey Morton Park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Canvas creations

Kristine Alexander (foreground) and Pamela Straley paint Thursday evening during the Cookies and Canvas event at the Hudson Center for the Visual Arts on the Jay County Campus of Arts Place. About a dozen participants attended to paint a snowy forest scene featuring a fox.

Shauver ...

Continued from page 1
Shauver, a 1995 Jay County High School graduate, worked for Tyson Foods before shifting to a 15-year stint at Dayton Progress. He started with the city in May 2012, spending four years at the wastewater plant before transferring to his current department.

"(Former superintendent Ryan Myers) handed me a set of keys to the Portland Water Park, and he said, 'This is going to be your baby,'" he recalled. Along with other park work, Shauver has handled maintenance at Portland Water Park since it opened in 2016.

Shauver noted it may be a rough first year as he transitions into the new role, specifically when it comes to Portland Water Park. Currently there are no employees trained to take over pool maintenance operations, but Shauver plans to hire a new park manager soon.

"I don't like to be caught unprepared. That's going to be the challenge, is to replace myself and find that person," he said. "To me, it's more than just a job ... especially the water park, you have to be responsible because it's families and children and chemicals."

He has had some experience leading the department in the past, having served as interim superintendent for a short period between Myers and Leonhard. At that time, he was offered the job but declined. This time around, his wife, Christy Shauver, encouraged him to step up. When approached by Westlake, he accepted.

As superintendent, Shauver oversees all street and parks department employees. Along with handling department bills and paperwork, he plans to check in on his workers and be present in the community.

"My goal is to spend time with the guys out and about," he said. "To sit behind that desk all day, I just — I'm not doing that. A lot of it for me is going to be public relations."

His department's responsibility, he noted, is to serve the public.

"For us here, I told (our employees), you know, we're going to be held to a higher standard because we're a reflection of the City of Portland," said Shauver. "They know, take the time, if they see something out and about that doesn't look right, let's address it."

SERVICES

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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director@visitjaycounty.com for more information.

JOB OPENING
FULL TIME HEALTH DEPARTMENT SCHOOL HEALTH LIAISON
JAY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT **SALARY: \$40,003.60 per year**

DUTIES

- Partners with schools and community partners to promote whole child health, including physical, mental and student health and wellbeing.
- Work closely with schools and other educators to identify, develop and deliver educational programs geared toward student health in Pre-K through Grade 12.
- Collaborating and enhancing of current vaccination efforts to ensure childhood vaccine requirements and seasonal vaccine needs are addressed.
- Coordinate and assist schools with vision, hearing, oral, as well as other health screenings.
- Develops operational plans and policies necessary to achieve objectives and services.
- Represents the Health Department on coalitions, taskforces and committees as assigned.
- Assists with immunization clinic operations as needed

REQUIREMENTS

- Associate Degree in Nursing or completion of Nursing Diploma required and current licensing as a Licensed Practical Nurse in the State of Indiana.
- Possession of or ability to obtain certifications in TB skin testing, CPR/AED certifications, Bloodborne Pathogens, First Aid, Stop the Bleed, National Incident Management (NIMS) and/or other areas as required for public health programs/operations.
- Ability to effectively examine individuals, assess needs, and provide information, treatment, assistance, or referrals.

HOURS

- 35 hours weekly (Monday through Friday from 8:30 am -4:30 pm).
- Occasional evening and weekend hours as needed for department operations and out of town meetings.
- Follows the Jay County government office holiday schedule.

All interested applicants can submit their resume to the Jay County Health Department at:
504 W. Arch St., Portland, IN 47371
Ph. 260-726-8080 Fax 260-726-2220 Environmental@jaycountyhealthdept.org
Applications will be accepted until January 15, 2024

Practice safe winter driving

Indiana State Police this week offered tips for safe driving during winter weather.

- Ensure your tires are correctly inflated to the recommended pressures.
- Check your battery and charging system
- Check and replace windshield wipers, if needed
- Top off windshield wiper fluid with winter-grade fluid
- Have an emergency kit that includes a blanket, flashlight, jumper cables and road flares or emergency lights available
- Increase your following distance. Instead of the normal three-second distance, increase it to eight or 10 seconds on slick roadways.
- Don't crowd snowplows or

Taking Note

drive beside the truck on two-lane roads.

Seeking comment

The Indiana Broadband Office is seeking public feedback on its digital equity plan.

The plan, which is available at in.gov/indianabroadband/grants/digital-equity-plan, sets out various goals for internet access in the state. They include:

- Provide Indiana residents

with universal connectivity that is affordable, accessible, reliable, equitable and available in public and private spaces to ensure maximum adoption

- Ensure all Indiana residents have access to affordable devices needed to live, work, and thrive along with the education to utilize that technology safely and successfully

- Build digitally resilient and equitable communities by supporting new and existing ecosystems for local prosperity.

The broadband office plans to review comments and revise the plan based on the input received.

Comments or questions should be emailed to BOPublicComment@iot.in.gov.

Tips for exercise

By **SONYA GOINS**
Mayo Clinic News Network
Tribune News Service

Many people promise to exercise more in the new year, but jump-starting your workout routine can be challenging if you've been sitting on the couch for a while. It can seem like a daunting task.

Dr. Nathan LeBrasseur, director of the Robert and Arlene Kogod Center on Aging at Mayo Clinic, says it's never too late to get moving, even if you're an older adult. Starting a workout program or being physically active takes motivation and commitment. The key is to start slowly and do something you enjoy. Being active can build muscle strength and improve cognitive and cardiovascular health.

"Three percent or 30 minutes a day of our waking hours, if we commit that to physical activity, will have huge benefits," explains LeBrasseur.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends 150 minutes of moderate exercise a week.

"As we get older, dedicating time, purposeful time, to getting some form of aerobic exercise or endurance exercise, like walking or cycling or swimming, and also getting some form of strength training is critically important," says LeBrasseur.

Tips to get started and stick with a workout plan:

- Research workout routines.
- Schedule your workouts.
- Find an exercise buddy.
- Be consistent.

Relatives made promises they haven't kept

DEAR ABBY: Before we had children, my stepmother dropped many "hints" encouraging us to have kids, and promised multiple times that she would retire when we did to help out with them. We now have a 6-year-old and an 18-month-old. When we ask my father and stepmother to babysit or watch the kids, they say, "We'd love to, but now is not convenient."

They live seven minutes away, but have never offered to babysit. They watch the kids maybe once out of 20 times that we ask. They do drop by to see us as a family when it's convenient for them, and my children adore them. Whenever they drop by, we stop whatever we're doing to spend time with them because those relationships are important for us and our children.

Culturally, it's the norm for grandparents to watch children. My grandparents watched us often as children, especially after my mother died. I never expected

Dear Abby



raised your expectations and hasn't followed through. If you think she and your dad will change their ways, explain to them that you need their help. However, if it isn't forthcoming, accept that you will have to hire a babysitter on those occasions.

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Dan," died 4 1/2 years ago. We were together for 17 years. I have stayed in touch with his mother and one of his sisters. His family is politically the opposite of my daughter and me, and very religious (we are not). He had twin adult children I also stay in contact with. They are the only family I have in the area. We also have a 20-year-old daughter together.

Am I obligated to stay in contact with his family because of our daughter? They are kind and courteous when I call, but no longer invite us to visit. My mother-in-law has also stopped sending me and my daughter gifts on

special occasions. How healthy is it to stay in contact, and for how long? I feel bad because my daughter doesn't really have any family anymore. How should I continue with his side of the family? — A BIT LOST IN WASHINGTON

DEAR LOST: I see nothing to be gained by slamming any doors. Relationships evolve, and the relationship you have with your late husband's family seems to be evolving away. Keep things as cordial as you can, if only for your daughter's sake, by sending cards on appropriate occasions. Do not burn any bridges. If your daughter wants to reach out to these family members, she is old enough to do it without your help.

DEAR ABBY: I am a retired automotive worker. My employer allows me to share my company discount with close relatives. One of them has taken advantage of

my discount for the last 15 years, which has saved this person literally thousands of dollars. I don't do it to get anything in return, but I have never received even so much as a thank-you card from this relative.

This person isn't hurting financially by any means. They constantly travel and entertain. The only contact we have is when they are ready to buy another vehicle. Then they text me to say they need the authorization number to give to the dealer.

I'd like to stop this relative from utilizing my discount, but I don't know how to handle this. We see this person at holiday gatherings. — DONE WITH THE DISCOUNT

DEAR DONE: Greet this relative warmly at the next holiday gathering. When you are asked again about that discount, give them the sad news that they starved their golden goose to death, which should get the message across. And if it is requested again, ignore it.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

Monday

PORTLAND BREAK-

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

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

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through

Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

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

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

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

Tuesday

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

FRIENDS OF JAY COUNTY LIBRARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the library.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8

p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

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

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

7	5	8	2	6	1	4	3	9
2	3	4	9	8	5	6	1	7
9	1	6	3	7	4	2	5	8
3	8	2	1	5	6	9	7	4
5	4	1	7	2	9	8	6	3
6	9	7	8	4	3	1	2	5
1	7	3	6	9	8	5	4	2
8	6	5	4	3	2	7	9	1
4	2	9	5	1	7	3	8	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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WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

For Jay County Schools January 15-19

Monday: Main Entrees: Classic chicken sandwich
Alternate Entrees: Muffin, yogurt & cheese fun lunch, popcorn chicken salad base, breadstick
Sides for all meals: Smile potatoes

Tuesday: Main Entrees: Turkey corn dog
Alternate Entrees: Muffin, yogurt & cheese fun lunch, popcorn chicken salad base, breadstick
Sides for all meals: Steamed carrot & broccoli medley

Wednesday: Main Entrees: Fresh bakes biscuit, sausage gravy, scrambled eggs with bacon & cheese
Alternate Entrees: Muffin, yogurt & cheese fun lunch, popcorn chicken salad base, breadstick
Sides for all meals: Tater tots

Thursday: Main Entrees: Mashed potato & chicken bowl
Alternate Entrees: Muffin, yogurt & cheese fun lunch, popcorn chicken salad base, breadstick
Sides for all meals: Seasoned corn

Friday: Main Entrees: Classic pepperoni pizza
Alternate Entrees: Muffin, yogurt & cheese fun lunch, popcorn chicken salad base, breadstick
Sides for all meals: Seasoned peas and carrots

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Friday: 7 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. • Saturday: 7 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.
Decatur, Indiana

People's Choice is back for 2024

A year ago, The Commercial Review tried something new. We launched our first "People's Choice" special section. The concept was relatively simple:

- You vote for your favorites
- We tally the votes
- We recognize the winners in various categories in the "People's Choice" special section

The new idea received an overwhelming response, with hundreds of votes and plenty of community enthusiasm for their favorites.

The inaugural People's Choice special section ran Feb. 24. We learned some things from our first go-round with People's

Editorial

Choice and we'll be making some adjustments this time around.

But the biggest change with this year's People's Choice special section is that it will be greatly expanded. With The Graphic Printing Company's purchase of The News-Gazette (Winchester) and The News Times (Hartford City) in May,

many of our special sections are now being distributed in all of our publications. That will be true for People's Choice.

How will this work? Our intention is to print a single "People's Choice" section that will have winners broken down into the coverage areas for The Commercial Review, The News-Gazette and The News Times. That way, businesses and other entities from each of our communities get recognized and all of the winners are shared amongst all of the communities we cover.

Other changes this year:

- We will slightly modify the categories

- Rather than highlighting the No. 1 vote-getter across all categories, we will instead have a category for "overall favorite." That winner will be highlighted in the special section.
- Votes will be accepted online only. We discovered last year that it takes a tremendous amount of time to hand-count ballots. (And, though we had a good number of paper ballots, those votes did not change the outcome in any category.)
- One other detail to note: Who gets votes, who gets highlighted, who gets recognized is entirely up to you, our readers. We won't provide a list to choose from, as that leads to pitfalls of favoring

one business over another or leaving someone out. It's all up to you.

So, on another page in today's paper, you'll find the list of categories in which we are accepting votes. You can vote by going online to thecr.com and clicking on "People's Choice."

We will accept votes until Jan. 31.

So, do you have a favorite pizza joint, community event, dentist, hair stylist, etc.? Vote for them and let them know.

Last year, this new special section proved to be a great way to support and highlight local. We hope that process will only continue and grow in 2024. — R.C.

AI is being used to mislead voters

The Miami Herald Tribune News Service

The political ad aired in Iowa ahead of the country's first Republican primary. It had audio of Donald Trump attacking the state's popular Republican governor. To the unsuspecting viewer, the audio may sound like Trump's voice, but it was a fabrication by a pro-Ron DeSantis super PAC using artificial intelligence.

If fake news is a problem in American politics, AI might take "alternative facts" to a new dystopian level. Luckily, Florida is among the states that are considering regulating the use of this technology. Lawmakers have filed at least three bills ahead of the 2024 legislative session starting this month.

The most consequential of them would be Senate Bill 850. It would require that political ads using AI "to depict a real person performing an action that did not actually occur" state "prominently" that the ad was created "in whole or in part with the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI)."

The Legislature could try to ban such ads but that would likely run into free speech challenges under the First Amendment.

Lawmakers have filed other legislation to create a statewide AI advisory council and make people liable if they use AI to depict someone in a "false light."

Ideally, Congress should pass nationwide legislation to regulate the use of AI, especially with the 2024 elections around the corner. A group of Democratic U.S. senators introduced a bill similar to SB 850 in May. Given the inaction that normally afflicts a divided Congress, it will likely be up to states to crack down on technology that can further undermine Americans' trust in what they hear or see online and on TV. While AI has its many positive uses, it jeopardizes our understanding of what reality and facts — already on shaky ground — are.

In the past five years, 30 states have passed more than 50 laws addressing AI in some capacity, according to the Brennan Center for Justice. Last year, Michigan's Democratic-controlled Legislature passed a law similar to SB 850. While the Florida bill was filed by Republican Sen. Nick DiCeglie, and its House version was filed by Hialeah Republican Rep. Alex Rizo, it is unclear

Guest Editorial

Ideally, Congress should pass nationwide legislation to regulate the use of AI, especially with the 2024 elections around the corner.

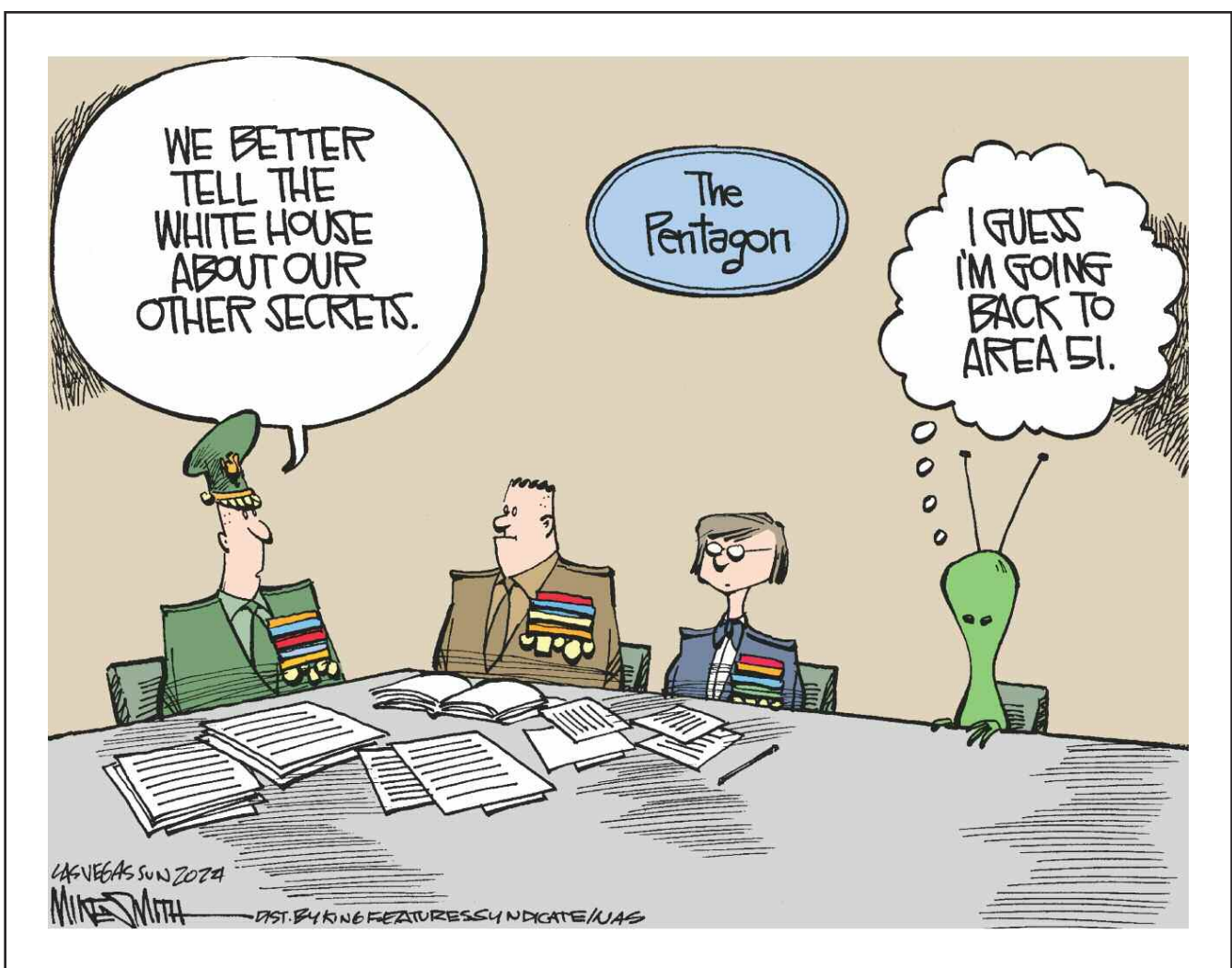
whether it will advance in the GOP-controlled Florida Legislature. No legislative committees have heard the legislation.

The ad attacking Trump by the pro-DeSantis super PAC Never Back Down was not the only time Republicans have used AI. The Republican National Committee in April released an AI-generated ad that depicted America's future under President Joe Biden.

There were fake but realistic photos of boarded-up storefronts and military patrols in the streets. There was a disclaimer that the ad was "built entirely with AI imagery" but it was small, probably on purpose. SB 850 would require those disclaimers be prominent but what that means exactly seems to be up for debate.

Given the political advantages of using AI, what, then, is the incentive for Florida Republicans to pass SB 850 when they control state government without much competition from Democrats? Certainly, they must do the right thing and protect voters from fake but realistic images and audio. But the best appeal to them may be that if they can use AI in their own ads, AI also may be used against them in ads from opponents.

Americans have caught a glimpse of where the intersection of AI and politics can lead the county. The Florida Legislature has a chance to take action. The time to prevent the most nefarious uses of this technology is now.



America seems intent on oppression

By DEREFE KIMARLEY CHEVANNES Chicago Tribune Tribune News Service

America has a race problem, and it has abandoned all pretensions to hide it. We need only to do an autopsy on 2023 to witness this toxic brew of racial animosity boil over, in full public view. The days of the so-called post-racial, colorblind America are long behind us, if they ever existed. White legislators in statehouses and boards across the U.S. seized power to institute openly anti-Black laws, resolutions and decrees.

Take, for example, the recent decision by an all-white Missouri school board to remove Black history classes and books from the district's course offerings. This act of Black scholastic erasure comes in the aftermath of the Florida Board of Education's approval of new protocols for the teaching of Black history. Those guidelines tout the benefits of Black chattel slavery, arguing enslaved people enjoyed advantages because of their conditions in bondage. As to be expected, such a mendaciously driven, and revisionism-riven, reading of American slavery history unleashed much public outcry from a chorus of Black civil rights organizations. So universal was the condemnation of the board's ahistorical account that even some prominent Black conservatives criticized the reckless move.

Any cursory reading of Black history in this country, from slavery to Jim Crow, reveals a clear historical pattern: Keep Black people away from writing their own histories by outlawing Black literacy witnessed in slavery, or explicitly impoverishing Black literacy, as observed in Jim Crow laws of "separate but equal."

Yet, America seems intent on repeating its noxious history of Black oppression. Arkansas, under Sarah Huckabee Sanders' governorship, approved similar bans on Black literature and history. Sanders ceremoniously banned the teaching of

Derefe Kimarley Chevannes



critical race theory in public schools, arguing such classes amount to indoctrination.

Other states, from Texas to Oklahoma, also banned various forms of Black literature, curriculum, history and the teaching of critical race theory. In Oklahoma, McCurtain County commissioners were caught in a recording touting the lynching and whipping of Black people. The McCurtain County sheriff's office issued a statement arguing such audio recordings are illegal and questioned the authenticity of the tapes.

Have we forgotten the lessons of Jim Crow and the tremendous damage heaped upon Black communities? History would remind us well if white officials did not outlaw it.

According to the American Library Association, Texas led the nation in book banning in 2022. The white hoods of a past era are now substituted for the corporate jacket, the judicial gavel and the legislative pen. There's an oft-repeated adage that speaks of slavery being America's original sin. But what of its contemporary sins? Has America repented of its lust for Black oppression? Put another way, when will America overcome its fondness for racial injustice?

Indeed, the times are changing. No longer is racial terror the sole work of people in white hoods but inked in this nation's history through legislators. These evolving currents of America's race problem must be voiced and documented for all to witness. Failure to name racism, in whatever form, necessarily gives full

rein for its rise and continuity in American life.

Sober reflections on America's racial injustices in 2023 also remind us of the expulsion of the two Black legislators in the Tennessee state legislature. Reps. Justin Jones and Justin Pearson were expelled because their advocacy for gun control on the floor of the chamber was deemed to be in breach of House decorum. In what can only be described as tragic comedy, one of the white representatives of the House who voted for the expulsions was accused of sexual harassment by a legislative intern. He was not expelled, even though a House ethics panel convicted him, quietly, of the misconduct. He resigned — after a news outlet confronted him. Historically, a common feature of anti-Black racism is the revelation of white hypocrisy that follows it.

All these examples of anti-Blackness in America are made possible only when white people use their legislative pens and gavels to reproduce racial oppression that they say they oppose.

The anatomy of America's longstanding racism can be dissected this way: White people are the primary source of the nation's anti-Black racism. This is an ugly truth. Yet, it must be told freely. Failure to grapple with contemporary wrongs will result in repeats of racial crises, of the sort witnessed after the 2020 police murder of George Floyd, the 2012 fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin, the 1991 near-death beating of Rodney King and the 1968 assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Banning Black literature is not an abstraction. Its costs are counted in Black graves.

Chevannes is assistant professor of political science at the University of Memphis, who teaches Black political theory and critical race theory.

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"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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Retrospect

Weather kept students on extended break



Jay School Corporation maintenance employee Larry Stultz clears the top layer of snow off sheets of ice on driveways at Jay County High School on Jan. 12, 1999.

The Commercial Review/Laurie Chen

Twenty-five years ago this week, students in Jay County were enjoying a lengthy winter break.

Jay School Corporation had planned to return to classes on Jan. 13, 1999, on a two-hour delay, but a new sheet of ice on top of frozen snow forced another closure. Schools had been closed for eight consecutive class days following winter break, leaving students out of school for three and a half weeks.

"The road conditions dramatically worsened with the freezing rain, and weather reports stated it was not going to warm up and we'd have

more of the same," said Jay Schools superintendent Tom Little. "We're taking these issues one day at a time. We know community members truly want their children in school, but we won't put buses on the road until we know it's safe for kids."

He noted that 3,112 of the school corporation's students lived in rural areas at that time compared to 827 in the county's municipalities.

"The buses are big and awkward and don't turn on a dime," said Jay Schools director of transportation Teresa Myers,

noting that safety was the biggest concern. "We don't want them in the ditch. They are carrying precious cargo."

As the missed days piled up like the snow, students faced the prospect of having days added to the end of the school year. At that point, with make-up days, school was scheduled to let out June 8.

"Students will need to make up one day for every day missed unless the state decides otherwise," said Jay Schools director of curriculum and research James Hanna.

Demo ...

Continued from page 1
(She is renovating the adjacent building at 206 N. Meridian St. to be the new home of her business Reclaiming Design.) She said she believes she should own the shared wall.

The members of the board of works agreed with that assessment, as did Jay/Portland Building and Planning director John Hemmelgarn. He also noted that he expects the wall that will be exposed will be exterior brick, as Miller's building was constructed eight years prior to 208 and 210 N. Meridian St.

"With Shroyer taking apart how they took everything apart (with the Bailey Building) in a far worse situation than what you have, I feel pretty confident for you that it's going to work out real well," said Hemmelgarn.

The board also briefly discussed funding for repairs that might be needed to the north wall of Miller's building following the demolition, with clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips reiterating city attorney Wes Schemenaur's feeling that the city should take a "wait-and-see" approach. (The board of works

DBS of Portland chosen to install recording, livestreaming equipment

approved up to \$20,000 for potential repairs to the east wall of the The Greazy Pickle bar and restaurant, which was adjacent to the Bailey Building.)

Kayla Darby, who owns Deer Park Boutique at 204 N. Meridian St., asked about the area that would be cordoned off during construction. Mike Weitzel added that Pit's Cocktail Lounge, 214 N. Meridian St., should be considered as well. Phillips said she would speak with Stan Shroyer of JAShroyer Group and communicate plans with the businesses in the area.

Leonhard, McIntosh and Westlake also awarded the contract to install livestreaming and recording equipment in council chambers to Dynamic Business Solutions of Portland at a cost of \$29,459.98. The company was the low bidder for the work, with the other two bids both coming in above \$66,000.

Phillips noted that Dynamic Business Solutions installed the equipment for livestreaming and recording meetings in the auditorium at Jay County Courthouse.

"I've been up to the courthouse. I've had (county auditor) Emily (Franks) run me through how they do things," she added. "It seems pretty straightforward."

House Bill 1167, approved during the 2023 Indiana General Assembly legislative session, requires that state and local government agencies livestream public meetings and archive recordings as well as meeting agendas, minutes and memoranda and make them accessible to the public for at least 90 days.

The board also agreed that Leonhard would continue to serve as its representative on the Jay/Portland Building and Planning board of directors.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Snow passing

Jay County's weather turned from rain to snow Friday, accumulating about an inch and a half of snow. Pictured, a no passing zone sign along Indiana 26 just outside of Portland is covered in snow Friday afternoon.



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1-13 CRYPTOQUIP

QTIN GUETN WDUGUSIYL ISK
KZFHNZK JISL HJ NTZ AHA
LUSEZD LNUSE TIFZ US

WHGGHS? AHYUWZ DZWHDKL.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SPECIAL FOOD THAT
DETECTIVES CONSUME TO HELP THEM SOLVE
DIFFICULT CRIME CASES: MYSTERY MEAT.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals P

Trivial Review
(Answers are printed below, upside down.)
Coaching questions
1) Bill Belichick ranks third in all-time NFL coach
wins. What two coaches are ahead of him?
2) What three coaches have won a Super Bowl
and a college football national championship?
(1) Don Shula and George Halas
(2) Jimmie Johnson, Barry Switzer and Pete Carroll

1-15 CRYPTOQUIP

CWDL UWD PYBDLRK CDYD
FWMQQBLE ZQ PBKW OMMKDOI
UM VD ZKDR NK VNBU, CDYD

UWDI FWZHHBLE NYMZLR?
Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHAT MIGHT CRIMINALS
AND DEVOTED FANS OF THE POP SINGER STING
HAVE IN COMMON? POLICE RECORDS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals G

CRYPTO FUN
Solve the code to discover words related to computers.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(A Hint: 1 = E)
A. 20 11 5 11
Clue: Information
B. 14 1 14 15 4 13
Clue: Storage capacity
C. 16 10 12 1 22
Clue: Containers for storing information
D. 22 1 4 17 1 4
Clue: Provides service to another computer

WORD SCRAMBLE
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to computer cleanup.
RESEA

Guess Who?
I am a singer born in England on January 12, 1993. I planned to become an English teacher, but tried out for "The X Factor" as a solo artist. I was ultimately paired with other singers to form a very successful boy band before moving on to a solo career.

kids' corner
Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.

PEOPLE FACT!
THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY ALLOWS THE BRAIN TO KEEP WORKING BUT ALSO RELAX IN A MEANINGFUL WAY.

How they SAY that in...
ENGLISH: Hobby
SPANISH: Hobby
ITALIAN: Hobby
FRENCH: Passe-temps
GERMAN: Hobby

Creative Coloring
Celebrate hobbies.
Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY
1430: PHILIP THE GOOD ESTABLISHES THE ORDER OF THE GOLDEN FLEECE, THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS ORDER OF CHIVALRY.
1812: THE FIRST STEAM-BOAT ON THE OHIO RIVER OR THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER ARRIVES IN NEW ORLEANS.
1920: THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES TAKES EFFECT, ENDING WORLD WAR ONE FOR ALL COMBATANT NATIONS EXCEPT THE UNITED STATES.

New word RECREATION
activity enjoyed when not working

COMPUTER TERMS WORD SEARCH

RYJHDPSVWCHS IGGULSD
FOSAWERCENEGILLETNI
EERUKSENFJICNHNHMEJLFU
RGLDDRDKFNPNNTCEJELT
AYIDSHEMTERWRCPORBUM
WRFROBHBORU IOTUPTUO
TVBISOUGOTPEPLYGYABO
FSEVKKRTBOHHNUPOTPAL
OAPEYETUOATEUCFCOICC
SLHMCSTRGCA CNREEFWAYK
FFJIFAANOPDKPBRSMFDY
HFFSTNSPMLRUKOLJGEJ
HFIFYUPHPLVMAFADKWL
OJPDPESPUIIYAONORLBE
HAULNRDYTCSEEPBDVDNE
BKTVISUPEAUFHSDYEVDD
FHRTDJCRTEBLJYLESHW
MHAEPNMGMIBJPCHPLGKDB
LTTDMAMJGBOPSPYROMEM
OSSYWLBLNTIABHMKFCG

WORDS
APPLE
APPLICATION
BACKUP
COMPUTER
DESKTOP
EJECT
FILES
HARD DRIVE
INPUT
INTELLIGENCE
KEYBOARD
LAPTOP
MEMORY
MOTHERBOARD
OFFICE
OUTPUT
PERSONAL
PREFERENCES
REBOOT
SLUGGISH
SOFTWARE
SPAM
STARTUP
TRASH

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 39 Performs 2 Sleeve 23 Rome
1 Second 40 Knight's type invaders
U.S. address 3 "Bow-wow!" 25 Up to
president 42 Wild 4 Tabby's 27 "May-day!"
6 Upper guess 4 Houston 29 "The
body 43 Sigma greeting Golden
11 Broccoli preceder 5 Houston Note-
bit 44 Edition ball club, book"
12 Teeing off 46 Weep briefly author
14 Totally 47 Cleanser 6 Amuses
behind brand 7 Paris 31 Zingers
15 Provide 49 Icy down- airport 32 Canyon
apparel pours 8 MGM come-
for 51 Naval rival backs
16 Computer rank 9 Hang 33 Lacking
acronym 52 Small tight a musical
17 Off-center drum 10 In the key
19 Math 53 Word heavens 34 Bro's sib
ratios on the 11 Language 36 Long
street? of Iran list's
20 Whack 54 Crept 13 Bas- shortener
22 Part of RSVF relief (Abbr.)
23 Jokes 18 Zilch 37 Com-
24 "Failure DOWN 19 Permits 21 Sweetie
— an 1 Permits 21 Sweetie

Solution time: 26 mins.
D I S C S R A M M A O
A R I A L E G G E A R
M A N L Y S U M A T R A
A M E L I A L O O N
B A T R O N A L O N G
T A R T A S I D E
S H A R I F R E G E N T
E L S I E E L B E
G R E B E M N O A A A
E I R E D E E P E N
E L E K T R A T I T L E
S E C D I S E N R O N
E S T S P Y D E A L T

Yesterday's answer 1-13
11 12 13
14 15
16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27
28 29 30
31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38
39 40 41 42
43 44 45 46
47 48 49 50
51 52
53 54

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Cards always tell a story
South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
10 8
A 10 9 3
A 7 4
K 9 6 2
WEST EAST
Q 9 7 5 4 3 2 J
7 2 6 4
J 10 9 K Q 8 5 3 2
4 J 10 7 5
SOUTH
A K 6
K Q J 8 5
6
A Q 8 3
The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 3♥ Pass
4♣ Pass 4♥ Pass
4♠ Pass 5♠ Pass
7♥
Opening lead jack of diamonds.
Declarer cannot see the opponents' cards when play begins, but he can frequently force them to reveal how their cards are divided, enabling him to achieve the optimum result.
Here is a typical example. West leads a diamond against seven hearts, and South's only real concern is that one opponent might have four (or five) clubs. All his thoughts should therefore be focused on protecting against this possibility.
In order to collect all the information he can, South wins the diamond with the ace, ruffs a diamond, cashes the K-Q of hearts and A-K of spades, ruffs a spade and then ruffs a diamond.
As a result of these machinations, declarer now knows everything he needs to know to make the contract. Since West started with seven spades (East showed out on the second spade lead), two hearts and has followed to three rounds of diamonds, he cannot have more than one club.
So South leads a club to the king, and when West follows suit, he becomes marked with a 7-2-3-1 distribution. When South then returns a club from dummy and East follows low, South fineses the eight with 100% assurance that it will win the trick.
Observe that it would not help East to play the ten on the club lead from dummy. Declarer would win with the queen, cross to dummy with a trump and then lead another club, trapping East's J-7 with the A-8. East is helpless from the outset as long as South does his homework and forces the defenders to reveal their distribution.

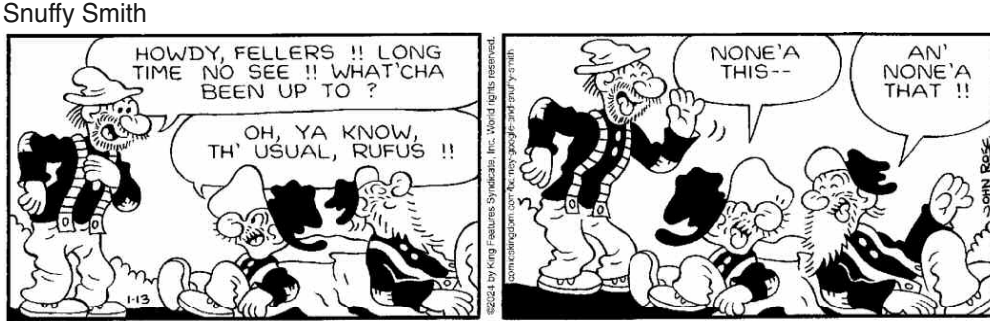
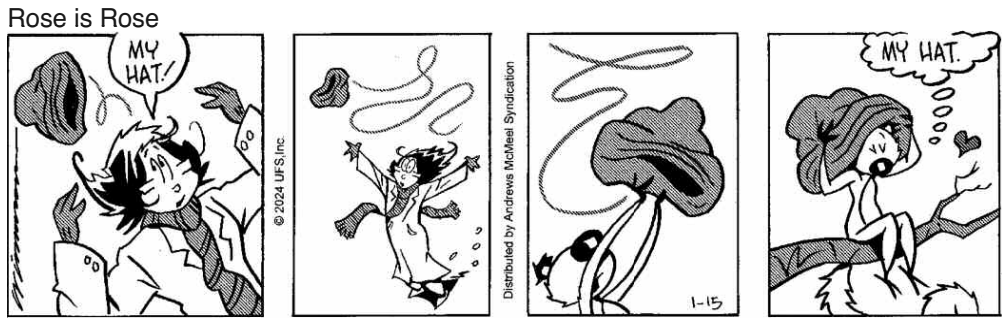
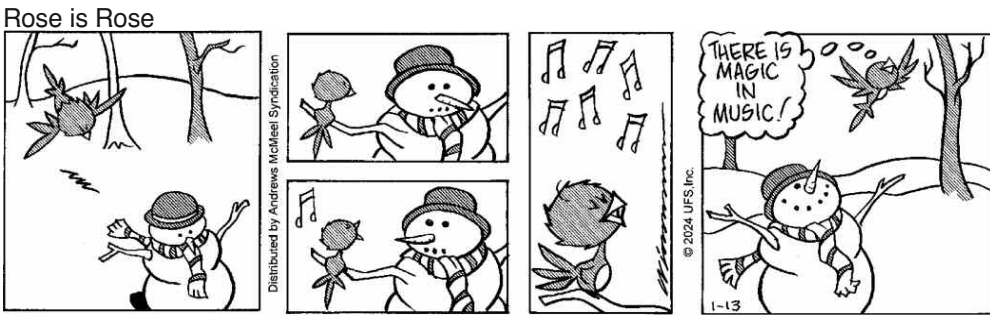
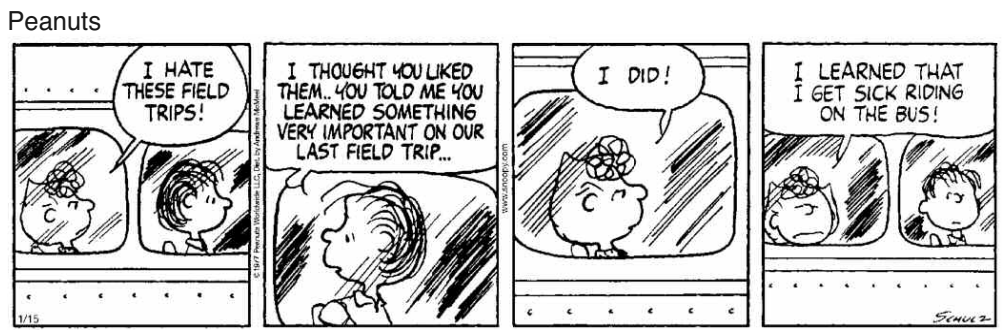
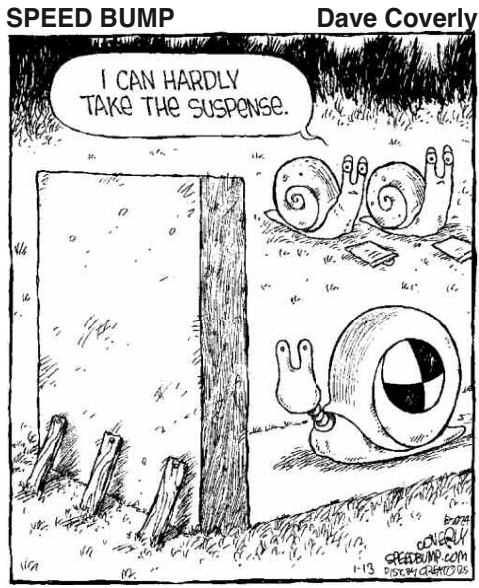
Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand
South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
J 9
8 5
A K Q J 10 8 6 2
A
WEST EAST
A K Q 7 5 4 3 10 8 6 2
9 4 10 3
6 4 3 2 J 10 9 8 7
SOUTH
—
A K Q J 9 7 6 4 2
7
K Q 5
The bidding:
South West North East
2♥ 2♣ 3♣ 4 NT Pass
4 NT 5♣ 6♣ 7 NT Pass
7♥ Pass 7 NT Pass
Pass Dble Redble
Opening lead — king of spades.
This remarkable deal occurred in the 1964 national Open Pairs. At one table, believe it or not, the bidding went as shown, and ended with South in seven notrump redoubled. Needless to say, West was not frightened in the slightest by North's redouble. He cashed his seven spade tricks, and the damage for North-South came to 4,000 points!
This catastrophe was caused in part by West's bid of five spades over South's Blackwood four-notrump bid. South interpreted his partner's six-club response as showing two aces and felt certain they were in the minor suits, in which case seven hearts would be lay-down.
South was right, but unfortunately North misread the situation and, believing his side had all four aces, decided to shoot for a top score by bidding seven notrump.
Incredibly, the same redoubled contract was reached at another table, but this time North wound up as declarer after this auction:
South West North East
2♣ 3♣ 4 NT Pass
6♥ Pass 7 NT Pass
Pass Dble Redble
Here North interpreted his partner's six-heart bid as showing two aces and a void in an unspecified suit, the treatment used by most players at the time the deal occurred.
Despite the misunderstanding, the North-South pair at this table fared a bit better. East thought his partner's double was conventional and forbade a spade lead, so he led the jack of clubs.
As a result, North made the grand slam and scored 2,930 points — 6,930 points better than the North-South pair at the other table!
Tomorrow: Haste makes waste.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 43 Not 'neath 2 Swerve 19 HBO
1 "Selma" 44 Cast a 3 Writer rival
director ballot Quindlen 21 —
DuVernay 46 More 4 "The Moines
4 Brit. sports 50 "Beloved" 5 The Simpsons 23 Globe
cars 53 Eggs 6 Big 25 Poses
7 Part of 55 Houston 7 Activity 26 "The
speech Morrison 5 Mentor Time
11 Await 56 Actor 6 Dipper Machine"
approval acronym points people
13 Ump's call 57 Documentar- 7 Activity 27 Cozy
14 Elliptical Guinness out on a 12-Down rooms
15 Elizabeth of "Jacob's 8 Night 28 Haydn
Ladder" Burns before nick-
16 Historic 58 Glitz 9 Raced 29 Yalies
time partner 10 Diner 30 En-
17 Fasting 59 Appor- 11 Title for 31 Eldest
period tion order March
18 Cafeteria 60 Con- 12 Title for 35 Earth
stack clusion 13 Title for 38 Kanga's
language 61 "Uh-huh" the federal holiday that hon- 40 Fresh
22 Sound of 1 Calendar 42 Feed the
surprise 1 Calendar 42 Feed the
24 Had a 1 Calendar 42 Feed the
hunch entry (Abbr.) furnace
28 Act 45 Tied
32 Subway 47 Actress
entrance Tyne
33 Regret- ADAMS TORSO
tably FLORET IRKING
34 Plead ALLFOR CLOTHE
36 Harrow ROM WONKY PIS
rival SWAT SIL GAGS
37 Hamelin ISNOT LESOTHO
musician OIL SOT
39 First Bible BEATLES SHEBA
book ACTS SIR STAB
41 2017 RHO ISSUE CRY
World BONAMI SLEETS
Series SEAMAN TOMTOM
winners SLANG SNUCK

Solution time: 21 mins.
Saturday's answer 1-15
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14
15 16 17
18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31 32
33 34 35 36
37 38 39 40
41 42 43
44 45 46 47 48 49
50 51 52 53 54 55
56 57 58
59 60 61



We Deliver

Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

Laughter

The Commercial Review We Deliver

A
D
V
E
R
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in
The
Commercial
Review
C
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A
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726-8141

00 CLASSIFIEDS
CLASSIFIED ADS
260-726-8141
ADVERTISING RATES
20 Word Minimum
Effective 07/01/2018:
Minimum charge....
\$12.40
1 insertion.....62¢/
word
2 insertions.....81¢/
word
3 insertions.....96¢/
word
6 insertions.... \$1.14/
word
12 insertions. \$1.52/
word
26 insertions. \$1.77/
word
Includes
Online.....FREE
Classified Display \$6.95/
per column inch
No borders or logos
allowed on Classified
Page
Card of Thanks Up to
100 words.... \$13.00
In Memory Up to 100
words.... \$13.00
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40 NOTICES
PLEASE NOTE: Be sure
to check your ad the first
day it appears. We can-
not be responsible for
more than one days
incorrect copy. We try
hard not to make mis-
takes, but they do hap-
pen, and we may not
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Dennis E. Link, Deceased
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Wes-
ley A. Schemenaur was, on the
2nd day of January, 2024, ap-
pointed Personal Representa-
tive of the estate of Dennis E.
Link deceased, who died on De-
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not now due, must file the claim
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nine (9) months after the deced-
ent's death, whichever is ear-
lier, or the claims will be for-
ever barred.
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HINKLE, RACSTER &
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121 W. High Street
Portland, IN 47371
Attorney
Jon Eads
Clerk of the Circuit Court,
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Wendel's world

Senior's 15 fourth-quarter points propel FR

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Cali Wendel entered the fourth quarter with five points as the Indians trailed the Blue Jays.

That changed in the final period as the senior made five trips to the free-throw line en route to 15 fourth-quarter points to fuel an Indians victory.

Wendel shot the lights out from the stripe in the fourth quarter to push the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team past the St. John's Blue Jays 63-53 on Thursday night.

The 51 points the Indians (4-8, 2-2 Midwest Athletic Conference) scored Tuesday against Ansonia were the most for them this season. They followed that performance with an even stronger offensive showing as the ball fell through the rim with ease in three of the four quarters Thursday.

"We were able to get shots within the flow of our offense," FRHS coach Tyler Deitsch said. "That's been the key point the last couple of games, not forcing things to try and get offense, but just taking what is there."

"It's a brand new offense for the girls coming into the year and they're figuring or have figured it out at this point."

The third quarter was the key exception.

St. John's (4-9, 1-3 MAC) held Fort Recovery to just two points in the quarter, which came off of a long two-point jump shot from freshman Cameron Muhlenkamp. The Indians kept the Blue Jays quiet as well, only giving up five points — Abby Kerner hit a three and Emma Will split two pairs of free throws — as the visitors stayed ahead by two points heading into the final period.

FRHS didn't take long to fix its offensive woes.

Makenna Huelskamp got the final period started with a layup she scored by just driving straight to the rim off of the initial inbound.

Wendel took over from there.

"In the first half, I haven't been very hot, so why not find my teammates who were hot?" Wendel said. "In the second half, I stayed calm and things just clicked for me."

Karlie Niekamp passed to Wendel on an inbound play from the baseline and the senior then drove to the hoop, drawing a foul on Megan Kerner. Wendel hit the first foul shot to take a 1-point lead with 7 minutes, 8 seconds, remaining. The second clanked off the rim, but Muhlenkamp pulled down the offensive rebound to retain possession. The freshman found Wendel, who drove back into the lane and drew another foul on Megan Kerner. Wendel hit both free throws.

She then extended the



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Fort Recovery senior Karlie Niekamp blows past Bluejay's sophomore Ava Hershey on for a layup as Megan Kerner (23) slides underneath to try and take a charge on Thursday. Niekamp recorded a double-double with 16 points and 10 rebounds in the 63-53 victory over St. John's.

lead to six points one play later as she walked into a wide-open 3-pointer near the top of the key.

Back-to-back baskets by Will cut the Blue Jays' deficit back to one possession

before Niekamp ripped down an offensive rebound and assisted Wendel on a long two-pointer. The seniors connected again 20 seconds later as Wendel assisted Niekamp

on an inbound play to push the score to 50-44.

After trading buckets, the Indians held a five-point lead when Wendel recognized they were in the bonus and chose to pull

the ball out to the volleyball line. With only two minutes left, Wendel's decision forced the Blue Jays to come out and defend her, which she took advantage of by again attacking the defenders to pick up fouls.

"When the game was getting towards the end, I knew they had five fouls early in that last quarter," Wendel said. "I knew just to keep the ball and they were going to foul because they were already down. Just make the free throws and that's an easy way to get up."

Wendel made the trip to the line four times in the final two minutes, nailing 7 of 8 freebies to push the lead to 10. Wendel finished 10-of-12 from the charity stripe to score a game-high 20 points.

"That's the difference in the game," Deitsch said. "She really iced the game, plus she defended both their best players tonight."

The game closed out with two more layups from Will, while Niekamp and Huelskamp split free throws.

Wendel was the primary defender on Will in the first half, only allowing six points before the switch allowed Will to tie Wendel for 20. In the second half, Wendel defended Abby Kerner, who had 14 first-half points on four threes. Wendel only allowed the St. John's senior to score six more points to total 20 as well.

The Indians had three levels of scoring in the game as Wendel handled the free-throw line, Niekamp patrolled the paint with seven hoops near the basket and Huelskamp torched the Blue Jays from distance.

Huelskamp was Fort Recovery's second-leading scorer with 19 while Niekamp pounded for 16.

"That gives us options so we don't have to get the ball in one spot and hope that we can get enough to score," Deitsch said. "Now teams can see that on film and hopefully they have to do a bit more to stop us at different levels."

St. John's struggled to rebound in the game as well, grabbing 14 defensive rebounds but giving up 18 offensive boards.

Niekamp and Saige Leuthold both had five offensive rebounds as they pulled down 10 and nine, respectively. The former's rebounding numbers earned her a double-double.

"Some of the struggles for us has been the 'one and done,'" St. John's coach Ian Finn said. "Sometimes I feel we play good defense but we give them two or three opportunities to get a bucket."

"In the second quarter, there was a time where (Muhlenkamp) got an 'and one,' missed the free throw, got the offensive rebound and (Niekamp)

Box score

Fort Recovery Indians vs. St. John's Blue Jays

Girls varsity summary

St. John's (4-9, 1-3 MAC)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Vonderwell	1-1	0-0	2
Fairchild	0-0	0-0	0
Wiltzie	2-3	0-0	5
Linder	1-1	0-0	2
Hershey	1-5	0-2	2
Will	8-18	4-7	20
MKerner	1-4	0-0	2
AKerner	7-11	0-1	20
Totals	21-43	4-10	53
Def. rebound percentage:	.488	.400	

Fort Recovery (4-8, 2-2 MAC)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Niekamp	7-11	2-3	16
Guggenbiller	0-0	0-0	0
Wendel	4-11	10-12	20
Leuthold	2-9	0-0	4
Muhlenkamp	2-5	1-3	4
Huelskamp	7-15	1-3	19
Totals	22-51	14-21	63
Def. rebound percentage:	.773		

Score by quarters:
St. John's 15 20 5 13—53
Fr. Rec. 13 23 2 25—63

3-point shooting: St. John's 7-20 (AKerner 6-9, Wiltzie 1-2, MKerner 0-1, Hershey 0-4, Will 0-4). Fort Recovery 6-16 (Huelskamp 4-8, Wendel 2-6, Leuthold 0-1, Muhlenkamp 0-1).

Rebounds: St. John's 22 (team 7, Will 6, Hershey 4, MKerner 2, Fairchild, Linder, AKerner). Fort Recovery 35 (Niekamp 10, Leuthold 9, Huelskamp 6, Muhlenkamp 4, Wendel 3, team 3).

Assists: St. John's 9 (Hershey 2, Will 2, MKerner 2, AKerner 2, Fairchild). Fort Recovery 10 (Wendel 4, Niekamp 3, Leuthold, Muhlenkamp, Huelskamp).

Blocks: St. John's 3 (AKerner 3, Will). Fort Recovery 1 (Wendel).

Personal fouls: St. John's 18 (Wiltzie 4, Hershey 4, Will 4, MKerner 4, Linder, AKerner). Fort Recovery 8 (Huelskamp 4, Wendel 2, Niekamp, Muhlenkamp).

Turnovers: St. John's 11. Fort Recovery 11.

got another 'and one.' Those can be momentum killers."

With the win, the Indians surpassed their conference win total from a year ago when they finished 1-8 with the sole victory coming against New Knoxville. Fort Recovery has five more MAC games, including the season finale against New Knoxville.

"It's awesome to see the improvement in everyone," said Niekamp, one of the five returning players from last year's team. "Our team isn't what we were last year. It's awesome to see our growth from last year to this year and even from the beginning of the season to the end of the season."

Junior varsity

Fort Recovery lost a low-scoring affair to St. John's in the two-quarter junior varsity game with a final of 15-12 on Thursday.

The Indians scored six points in both periods, while the Blue Jays put up seven and eight. Grace Moenter hit a pair of threes in the second, including what turned out to be the game-winner.

Muhlenkamp tied Moenter's game-high six points. Brynn Willmann added four while Sophia Guggenbiller had two.

Injuries hold Jay back

FORT WAYNE — The Patriots haven't been gifted with health this season.

That came into play and bit them as the Patriots won five of nine matches against the Spartans, but couldn't come away with the victory.

The Class 2A No. 4 Jay County High School boys wrestling team was forced to forfeit points in four matches as the Homestead Spartans beat the Patriots 41-36 in the final dual meet of the regular season.

The injury-riddled Patriots (16-4) gave up the 150-, 157-, 165- and 175-pound weight classes on forfeits while taking one at 113.

Jay County walked away with five victories. Grant Linville (106) and No. 16 Cody Rowles (126) both won matches. Linville pinned John Grimes in 1 minute, 18 seconds, and Rowles took only four seconds longer to put Kaeden Benedict's back on the mat.

No. 16 Bryce Wenk (190) and Alan Ortiz (285) won by fall to take care of the upper weight classes. Wenk only needed 47 seconds to force a fall from Henry Knipscheer while Ortiz's match went down to the wire, securing the win over Collin Grayless with only 44 seconds left remaining in the match.

Local roundup

No. 4 Tony Wood earned the other win for the Patriots, as he put Jordan Mangon on the mat at 0:40 at 138.

Defense locks down

MONROEVILLE — The Jay County Junior High School girls basketball teams held the Heritage Patriots to a combined 10 points in a pair of dominant performances on Thursday.

The seventh grade squad earned a 44-6 victory, followed by the eighth graders winning 43-4.

The eighth grade team (12-1) had three players score in double digits, headlined by 15 from Natalie May. Elizabeth Brunswick and Gabi Petro joined her with 12 and 10 points, respectively.

Karsyn Schwieterman and Charlee Peters powered the seventh graders (13-0) with 18 and 14 points, respectively. Claudia Dirksen added six.

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- Follows the Jay County government office holiday schedule.

All interested applicants can submit their resume to the Jay County Health Department at:
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Applications will be accepted until January 15, 2024

Winner ...

Continued from page 12
New Haven ran away with the title by scoring 90 points.
“It was a pretty good day for us,” JCHS coach Eric Myers said. “You know, you always want 3-of-3 ... at the beginning of the year, we were hoping to be a little bit higher team score wise, but the girls who were here today did their job. They all competed really hard and really well and we’re proud of their effort.”

That effort culminated in the 155-pound championship match for Winner (26-0) that was a rematch of the semi-state championship with Trenary (26-3).

The JCHS junior came prepared with a game plan to counter Trenary when she attacked her for a low single-leg.

“I was baiting her on it,” Winner said. “I set my leg up and as soon as she hit it, I got my feet back and sprawling and I knew I could get my two off of it.”

By focusing on her defense, Winner got easy offense on the counter, taking Trenary down once in each period.

Once Winner took control in each period, she held strong and refused to relinquish control, winning her the title.

“It feels awesome and I’m so excited,” Winner said. “My brother was always looking to get a state title for our grandpa that passed away of Alzheimer’s. I’ve been able to do it for him and that makes me really, really happy.”

Winner cruised to the championship match, wrestling a combined 6 minutes, 12 seconds, as she pinned her first three opponents. In those rounds, she took out No. 15 Sophia Rygiel (11-9) of Greenwood, No. 8 Kate McKee (29-10) of Perry Meridian and No. 3 Josie Hause (23-5) of Monrovia.

“You have a bit of a target on your back and you have to go through the grind of a season, to be able to come out today and dominate the way she did, I don’t think enough can be said for that,” Myers said. “Jay



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Mallory Winner stands atop the podium after winning the 155-pound state championship match on Friday night. The junior, who won her first two state championships at 160, will have a chance to become Jay County’s first four-time state champion in 2025.

County wrestling fans cannot take what Mallory Winner is doing for granted. You’re just not going to see that very often, being a three-time state champion with a chance for a fourth.”

Winner wasn’t the only Patriot to walk away with hardware.

Two seasons after not winning a single match and one after getting bounced in the opening round of the state

finals, Lingo pulled off a pair of upsets to collect her first state medal.

The Jay County junior drew a first-round match with Switzerland County’s No. 9 Klaire Redwine (8-6). Lingo came out aggressive, needing only 20 seconds to get on the board with a takedown. With one minute remaining, Lingo began to drive Redwine into the mat for a near fall.

Lingo wouldn’t let that open-

ing match go to a second period, pinning Redwine with five seconds remaining to pull off the upset and clinch a medal.

As she stood up after the whistle, Lingo’s hands were clasped over her mouth in shock and joy before she was announced the winner, went over to shake the opposing coaches hand and sprinted back to jump into the arms of assistant coach Troy Jacks.

“It was almost hard for me to

believe,” Lingo said. “I still don’t think it’s set in.

“If you were to tell me my freshman year that I would be where I am today, I would have laughed in your face. I would have said you’re ridiculous, but I put in all the work.

“It feels so good to see where all the work I’ve done has taken me.”

Lingo followed up her opening-round win with a 6-3 upset over No. 2 Haylee Selis (16-4) of Penn.

The first period finished tied and Lingo chose to start the second on top. With 50 seconds left, Selis pulled off a reversal to crack the scoreboard.

Lingo followed the mistake up with a reversal of her own with 11 seconds on the clock that morphed into a three-point near fall to give her a 5-2 lead.

“She tried to cradle me and I just went with her momentum,” Lingo said. “She went on her back and I kept her there.

“I felt so much relief going into the third with a lead. I just had to keep working to prevent her from getting any more points.”

Lingo did just that by getting an escape to help secure her win.

She fell to Pendleton Heights’ No. 1 Maddie Marsh (14-0) by fall in 1:13. Marsh went on to win the state title.

After two scoreless periods in the third-place match, No. 5 Sian Rodgers (26-2) of Jeffersonville flipped Lingo in an escape attempt and ran a bar to pin her 45 seconds into the final period.

No. 10 Manor also participated at state, falling to No. 1 Aleksandra Bastaic (16-6) of Highland — the defending and eventual repeat champion — by pin in 1:43 in the 145-pound opening round.

“Emily’s definitely a girl that could be on the podium,” Myers said. Manor medaled by finishing fifth in the state at 132 last season. “Just some circumstances that led up to today didn’t put her in the best spot and we didn’t get there but she gave it her all.”



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JC ...

Continued from page 12
Denton and Schwieterman followed with seven points apiece for the Patriots, who shot 48% over the final three quarters after hitting for just 25% in the first.

Schwartz was the only Adams Central player to reach double figures, scoring 10 points. Kate Fisher added six.

Jay County’s boys had a pattern continue as they struggled to find offense in the opening quarter against the Jets. They turned the ball over eight times and made just one of their eight field-goal attempts.

Isaac Schultz, who had 32 points in Adams Central’s 66-45 win last week over the Patriots, scored the game’s first points on a pair of free throws. Micah McClure followed with a 3-pointer, Schultz scored on a put-back and Ryan Tester hit a triple for a 10-0 advantage.

The Jets were up 16-2 at the quarter break and 27-14 at halftime. They pushed their advantage to 24 points on back-to-back dunks by Schultz and Trace Maller en route to their fifth consecutive win.

Schwartz finished with 22 points for Adams Central, which shot 53% after the intermission. McClure followed with 13 points and Maller had eight.

The lone loss for the Jets this season came against Belmont, which finished 11th in this week’s Associated Press Class 3A poll voting.

Jay County also had two players — Liam Garringer with 15 points and Gradin Swoveland with 11 — score in double figures. But no one else on the squad had more than four.

It’s been almost a month and a half since the Patriots’ last victory, a 55-42 win over Woodlan on Dec. 1. The job won’t get any easier Tuesday as they host Class 2A No. 3 Bishop Luers (9-1).

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today

Jay County — Girls basketball Allen County Athletic Conference tournament championship game vs. Woodlan at South Adams — 6 p.m.; JV boys wrestling regional at Tri — 9 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls bowling vs. Minster at McBo’s Lanes — 9:15 a.m.; Boys bowling vs. Minster at Versailles — 1 p.m.

Monday

Fort Recovery — Freshman boys basketball vs. St. Henry — 6 p.m.

Tuesday

Jay County — Swimming vs. Muncie Central and Union City — 6 p.m.; Boys basketball (including freshman) vs. Bishop Luers — 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at Blackford — 5:30 p.m.; Fort Recovery — Swimming dual-meet at Muncie Burris — 5:30 p.m.; Girls basketball at South Adams — 6 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball vs. Coldwater — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today

7:30 a.m. — Premier League: Fulham at Chelsea (USA)
12 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Tennessee at Georgia (ESPN2); Syracuse at North Carolina (ESPN); Northwestern at Wisconsin (BTN); Seton Hall at Butler (FS1)
12:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: VCU at La Salle (USA)
12:30 a.m. — Premier League: Manchester City at Newcastle United (USA)
1 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: St. John’s at Creighton (FOX)
1 p.m. — NHL: New York Rangers at Washington Capitals (ABC)
2 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: San Diego State at New Mexico (CBS); Kentucky at Texas A&M (ESPN); Xavier at Providence (FS1); Virginia at Wake Forest (ESPN2); Bradley at UIC (Bally Indiana)
2:15 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Penn State at Purdue (BTN)

4 p.m. — Men’s college basketball:

Kansas State at Texas Tech (ESPN2); Arkansas at Florida (ESPN)
4 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Seton Hall at Xavier (FS1)
4:30 p.m. — NFL playoffs: Cleveland Browns at Houston Texans (NBC)
4:30 p.m. — Men’s college hockey: Michigan State at Penn State (BTN)
6 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Houston at TCU (ESPN); Oklahoma State at Iowa State (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — Men’s college hockey: Notre Dame at Ohio State (BTN)
8 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Drake at Southern Illinois (ESPN2); Cincinnati at Baylor (ESPN)
8 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Indiana at Iowa (FOX)
8 p.m. — NHL: Boston Bruins at St. Louis Blues (Bally Indiana)
10 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: USC at Cal (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — Boxing: Artur Beterbiev vs. Callum Smith (ESPN)

Sunday

12 a.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)
9 a.m. — Premier League: Aston Villa at Everton (USA)
12 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Georgetown at UConn (FOX); Rutgers at Michigan State (BTN)
1 p.m. — NFL playoffs: Pittsburgh Steelers at Buffalo Bills (CBS)
1 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Memphis at Wichita State (ESPN2)
1 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Virginia Tech at Florida State (ESPN)
3 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Liberty at Louisiana Tech (ESPN2)
3 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: LSU at Auburn (ESPN)
3:30 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Denver Nuggets (Bally Indiana)
4 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Michigan State at Ohio State (BTN)
4:30 p.m. — NFL playoffs: Green Bay Packers at Dallas Cowboys (FOX)
5:30 p.m. — High school basket-

ball: Archbishop Stepinac at Don Bosco Prep (ESPN2)

7 p.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — High school basketball: Prolific Prep at Montverde (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — NFL playoffs: Los Angeles Rams at Detroit Lions (NBC)
11 p.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)

Monday

3 a.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)
12 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Ohio State at Michigan (FOX)
2:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Villanova at Marquette (FOX)
3:30 p.m. — NBA: San Antonio Spurs at Atlanta Hawks (TNT)
6 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Iowa at Minnesota (BTN)
6 p.m. — NBA: Golden State Warriors at Memphis Grizzlies (TNT)
8 p.m. — NBA: Philadelphia Eagles at Tampa Bay Buccaneers (ABC)
9 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Utah Jazz (Bally Indiana)
11 p.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)

Tuesday

3 a.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)
6:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Butler at Xavier (FS1)
7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Florida at Tennessee (ESPN); Syracuse at Pitt (ESPN2); Missouri State at Indiana State (Bally Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Denver Nuggets at Philadelphia 76ers (TNT)
8:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: St. John’s at Seton Hall (FS1)
9 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Kansas at Oklahoma State (ESPN); Wisconsin at Penn State (BTN)
9 p.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — NBA: Oklahoma City Thunder at Los Angeles Clippers (TNT)
10:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Utah State at New Mexico (FS1)

IT'S ALL UP TO YOU ...

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

The Graphic Printing Company is bringing back its People's Choice special section after its debut in The Commercial Review last year and now expanding it to include our publications in Randolph and Blackford counties. This special section gives you, our readers, the opportunity to recognize your favorites.

Here's the concept:

For the next few weeks you vote for your favorites in a variety of categories: We tally the votes.

The winners in each category will be listed in a special section to run next month, along with other top vote-getters. The winners of the "Best Overall" category will be featured in the special section. Eligibility is limited to those in The Graphic Printing Company's coverage area, which includes all of Jay, Randolph and Blackford counties, as well as portions of the adjacent counties including Fort Recovery and Geneva.

The Categories



Best Overall

- Antique shop
- Appliance sales
- Auto parts store
- Auto service and repair
- Bank/credit union
- Boutique/clothing
- Car dealership
- Chiropractor
- Coffee spot
- Community Event
- Construction
- Convenience store
- Daycare facilities
- Dentists
- Doctor
- Entertainment option
- Farm implement sales
- Financial advisor
- Florist
- Funeral home
- Furniture
- Gas station

- Greenhouse
- Gym
- Hair salon/barber
- Hardware store
- Home improvement
- Industry
- Insurance
- Landscaping
- Law office
- Nail salon
- New business
- Non-profit organization
- Park
- Photographer
- Pizza
- Real estate and auction
- Restaurant (non-pizza)
- Veterinarian and pet services
- Other
- (is there something that doesn't quite fit the above)*

To vote, visit thecr.com, winchesternewsgazette.com or hartfordcitynewstimes.com and click on the "People's choice" link. (Rather than making this multiple choice, we are leaving each category open-ended. That leaves the voting up to you, the readers, and avoids the possibility that we might leave off an option that would be worthy of the winning vote.)

Deadline to vote is Jan. 31.

Winners will be acknowledged in a special section to run in late February.

Did we miss a category?

Let us know and we'll consider adding it to the list next year.

To advertise in People's Choice ...

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

Advertising options:

- Six columns by 10.5 inches full color (limited availability): \$500
- Six columns by 10.5 inches black and white: \$300
- Three columns by 10.5 inches black and white: \$200
- 3 columns by 5 inches black and white: \$125
- 3 columns by 3 inches black and white: \$75

Sports

JC girls advance; boys fall again

MONROE — The Patriot girls found themselves in an unusual situation Friday. They were trailing.

It was a circumstance that didn't last long.

For the boys, it was more of the same.

The Jay County High School girls basketball team gave up the opening basket in their Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament semifinal game before rolling to a 56-29 over the host Adams Central Jets.

The Patriot boys had another rough start that led to a 50-35 loss to Class 2A No. 10 Adams Central as they dropped out of the tournament with their seventh consecutive loss.

Jay County's girls (16-2), who have won 14 in a row, advance to tonight's championship game at 6 p.m. at South Adams to take on Woodlan, which defeated Bluffton 47-37 in Friday's semifinal round. They beat the Warriors 60-53 on Nov. 24. It will be the girls ninth appearance in the title game in their 10 years in the ACAC and they will be looking for their fourth straight conference championship.

The boys championship will follow with Adams Central taking on Heritage, which edged Bluffton 37-35 in Friday's semifinal.

The Patriot girls gave up the opening basket of the game, but quickly reclaimed a 4-2 lead. They were up just one when Athena Schwartz hit a 3-pointer late in the first quarter before Schwieterman responded with a 3-pointer in the final 10 seconds.

The freshman's triple started a 12-0 run for the Patriots, with Bella Denton scoring the first two hoops of the second quarter, Molly Muhlenkamp coming up with a steal and pair of free throws and Sophie Saxman scoring off of a steal.

Jay County was in firm control with a 28-14 lead at halftime and stretched the advantage to 24-points after three quarters.

Saxman continued her hot streak, leading the Patriots with 19 points. (Her career high is 20 in last week's 40-24 win over Bluffton.) She has scored in double figures in seven of the last eight games, averaging 16 points per game over that span.

Muhlenkamp continued to enjoy playing the Jets. She followed Saxman with 18 points after pouring in a career-high 21 in Jay County's 62-26 victory on Dec. 8.

See **JC** page 10

Triple Winner



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School junior Mallory Winner holds No. 2 Rhaigyn Trenary to the mat during the 155-pound championship match during the Indiana High School Girls Wrestling State Finals on Friday at Kokomo High School. Time expired as Winner held Trenary in place to win 6-0 and capture her third state title. She breezed through the first three rounds of the state finals, needing just over six minutes to dispose of No. 15 Sophia Rygiel (11-9) of Greenwood, No. 8 Kate McKee (29-10) of Perry Meridian and No. 3 Josie Hause (23-5) of Monrovia all by pin.

Patriot junior earns third state championship; Lingo upsets No. 2 en route to fourth-place finish

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review

KOKOMO — Four matches.

Three titles.

Two times defeating Turtle.

One clear best wrestler in the 155-pound weight class.

Jay County High School junior No. 1 Mallory Winner dominated everyone Friday as she earned her third Indiana High School Girls Wrestling state title with a 6-0 victory over Eastside's No. 2 Rhaigyn "Turtle" Trenary in the tournament at Kokomo.

Jay County sent three girls in all to the state finals, with No. 11 Lina Lingo (24-11) breaking out and finishing fourth and No. 10 Emily Manor (21-4) falling to the eventual champion.

The three Patriot girls combined for 41 points to place seventh out of 118 teams.

See **Winner** page 10



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Lina Lingo of JCHS looks at the official while attempting to pin No. 9 Klaire Redwine in a 135-pound opening-round match at the state finals Friday. Lingo pinned Redwine with five seconds left in the first period to earn her first state medal. Lingo went on to upset Penn's second-ranked Haylee Selis in the quarterfinal round to earn herself a spot in the top four.

We have a busy schedule of special sections and pages coming up. Mark your calendar NOW.

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