

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Three file for District 33 seat

LeMaster to challenge Prescott in primary

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

In the first couple of days of filing, District 33 already had three candidates.

Incumbent Republican J.D. Prescott, Democrat John Bartlett and Republican Greg LeMaster all filed last week to run for their party's nomination for state representative in District 33.

Prescott, a rural Union City resident, had already announced that he would be seeking re-election. He will be trying for his fourth term in office.

"It's been an honor to serve," said Prescott, "and I look forward to going out and talking to the voters to seek another opportunity to do so."

A rural Union City resident, his legislation this year includes tax issues regarding 529 college savings accounts, designation of the state nickname in recognition of Harry Hoosier, a change to the way agricultural buildings are assessed for tax purposes and security of public property and decorum at public meetings.

LeMaster, a Portland-based attorney, will challenge Prescott in the GOP primary. He has ran twice for public office, falling to Democrat Wes Schemenaur for Jay County prosecutor in 2010 and 2016.

"I see issues where the state and the communities really need to start focusing on the basic building blocks of society, which are Hoosier families," LeMaster said. See Three page 2

Show-ing off



Photo provided

The Jay County High School show choirs — Patriot Edition (above) and Just Treble (below) — will hold a preview show of their 2024 competition shows at 7 p.m. Monday in the school auditorium. The event will serve as a fundraiser for the groups with admission at \$5. Both groups have advanced to the Indiana State School Music Association state finals each of the last two years.

Jay County choirs will preview their competition shows for the public as a fundraiser on Monday

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The show choirs were already looking for an additional funding source.

After inclement weather ruined their Saturday, the need is even greater.

Jay County High School's show choirs will host a competition preview show at 7 p.m. Monday to help raise money to support their annual activities. (Admission is \$5 and doors will open at 6:30 p.m.)

"What we're doing is something we've not done before," said choir director Susan Denney last week, noting that she had fewer choirs taking part in the Jay County Show Choir Spectacular that was scheduled for Saturday. (The competition was called off



because of inclement weather.) "Because of that fact that we have less choirs, we're trying to find ways to make up the money loss."

With that expected decrease in revenue — Denney said the contest has brought in about \$18,000 in previous years — she and her boosters

met to discuss options. Boosters suggested putting on a show for the community.

"Then the parents and the community and the teenagers that are friends with our kids that can't make it far away to all these competitions ... come locally and see what we're

doing," said Denney, adding that choir sponsors have been invited to the event. "I thought this might be a great idea for the community to see why we need so much money." The show choirs — co-ed Patriot edition and all-girl Just Treble — have annual expenses of about \$35,000. That breaks down to about \$11,000 for their choreographer, \$6,000 for musical arrangement, \$5,000 in contest entry fees, \$4,000 to \$5,000 in transportation, \$3,500 in copy-right fees and more than \$2,000 in backdrops and miscellaneous expenses. See Show-ing page 2

Israel: War will only end with total surrender



Tribune News Service/AFP/Getty Images/Menahem Kahana

Israeli soldiers in an armored vehicle on the Israeli border with Gaza, return from the Palestinian territory Monday amid ongoing battles between Israel and the Palestinian Hamas militant group. Israel said Monday that its military campaign against Hamas will not end until the organization offers its complete surrender.

By GALIT ALSTEIN and YOUSEF GAMAL EL-DIN
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Israel insists its campaign against Hamas won't end before the Palestinian militant organization capitulates and returns all the people it took captive over three months ago, a senior official said, despite mounting international pressure to wind down the offensive.

"We have to have the total surrender of Hamas, we have to have our hostages back," Nir Barkat, Israel's economy and industry minister, said in an interview with Bloomberg Television on Monday. "Hamas has to raise a white flag."

Israel has suggested it has little appetite to ease off the offensive in Gaza that began after Hamas attacked from the territory on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 people in southern Israel and taking around 230 hostage. The military pulled some forces out of Gaza earlier this month and said it accomplished much of what it set out to do in the northern part of the Hamas-controlled territory.

Even so, fighting continues to rage in the enclave and Israeli officials have said it could continue for months, if not longer.

Health officials say more than 24,000 people have died

Much of the Gaza Strip has been reduced to rubble and more than 24,000 people have died, according to health officials there.

Israel's focusing most of its ground and air offensive on the center and south of the strip at the moment.

Barkat, a member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party, sees "no other alternative" to the complete defeat of the group, designated as a terrorist organization by the U.S. and the European Union. Some Arab states have said signaled that, given Hamas's deep roots within Gaza and the fact it's run the territory since 2007, it will have to have some post-war role.

"We have to look at somebody out there that is going to recognize Israel, that doesn't want to slaughter and kill and wipe Israel off the map," Barkat said. Hamas is committed to

Israel's destruction and does not recognize the Jewish state.

Barkat said it's "difficult to tell" if there would be elections in Israel this year. Netanyahu's poll numbers have dived since Hamas's attack and his coalition, the most right-wing in Israel's history, contains many extremist parties unwilling to countenance any steps toward an eventual two-state solution with the Palestinians, something the U.S. and Israel's European allies are calling for.

"Leave all this to the end of the war," he said. "Everyone here understands that we're all united. We're focusing on one major thing: winning the war and bringing our hostages back."

Barkat said Israel's economy should see a quick rebound after the war, with the focus now on growth, tech investment and defense spending. The "smart money" is continue to flow into Israel, he said.

Deaths

Harry Martin, 82, Geneva
Details on page 2.

Weather

Frigid temperatures set in over the weekend with Jay County hitting a low of zero.

Tonight's forecast calls for steady temperatures around 2 with a wind chill of minus 19. Expect mostly sunny Skies Wednesday with a high in the lower 20s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County's Ag Day Committee announced that the annual Ag Day Breakfast will be held from 5 to 9 a.m. March 19 in the Bob Schmit Memorial Exhibit Hall at Jay County Fairgrounds. Visitors can purchase breakfast for \$1.

Coming up

Wednesday — Results from the FRHS boys basketball game against St. John's.

Thursday — Coverage of this week's Portland City Council meeting.

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Show-ing ...

Continued from page 1
The contest has been the largest single fundraiser for the choirs in the past. This year, they have also brought in about \$13,000 in sponsorships — that's nearly double their average. And they work at the Indianapolis 500 each spring as a fundraiser as well.

Patriot Edition's 2024 show features the songs "Just Another Day," "Runaway," "Turn the Page," "Fixing Wonderland," "Back Where I Belong" and "Home/Hold on Tight." Soloists include Hannah Laux, Madison Hambrock, Ben Heath, Ashton Castillo, Kaegan Kahligh, Laila Waddell, Inara Sanderson, Austin Curtis, Logan Doll, Skyler Esparza, Jake Weitzel, Lilly Johnson and Aubrey Millspaugh.

"It's kind of a darker, deeper message," said Denney. "It's about a girl that runs away from home and then, kind of like the

JCHS choirs have been state finalists in each of the last two years

prodigal son, comes back at the end. So it starts out dark and it turns a corner ..."

On the lighter side is Just Treble's show, which features a Barbie theme and bright pink outfits. Songs are "She's a Lady/I'm Every Woman," "Freeway of Love," "Forget About the Boy," "Rescue," "Fasionista," and "Headed for the Future/Nothing Can Stop Me Now" with soloists Jazilyn Braden, Alyssa Aker, Maddy Snow, Kenzie Huey, Ken-

zie Clayton, Waddell, Millspaugh and Hambrock.

"Ironically, (choreographer) Damon (Brown) picked the theme prior to even the movie coming out," said Denney.

The groups have a busy schedule beginning Jan. 27 at the Ball State Mid-America Show Choir Championship. They will also compete this year in the Carroll Classic (Feb. 10), DeKalb Choir Festival (Feb. 17), the Huntington North Midwest Showcase

(Feb. 24), Bishop Luers Midwest Show Choir Invitational (March 2), the Columbia City Cup (March 9) and the Noblesville Show Choirs of Indiana Championships (March 16).

Just Treble and Patriot Edition have made it to the Indiana State School Music Association Small School Finals each of the last two years — the state contest was not held in 2020 or 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic — with the former finishing fifth in 2023 and the latter placing eighth.

Denney said she sees Monday's performance as a chance to show off the skills of the show choir performers to the community.

"I'm a full believer that kids will thrive if they have something to connect to, if they have a sense of belonging, if they know that what they're doing matters," she said. "That's why it's worth it. That's why it matters."

Obituaries

Harry Arthur Martin, Geneva, July 18, 1941-Jan. 7, 2024. Services will be at 4 p.m. Thursday at Walker and Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

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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.

SERVICES

Thursday

Martin, Harry: 4 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

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

CR almanac

Wednesday 1/17	Thursday 1/18	Friday 1/19	Saturday 1/20	Sunday 1/21
22/17	24/12	17/3	15/2	20/14
Mostly sunny skies with wind gusts reaching up to 30 mph. The high will reach the 20s.	There's a 50% chance of snow on Thursday, when the low will be in the teens at night.	Another chance of snow in the morning. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low in the single digits.	More mostly sunny skies paired with cold temperatures. The low may hit a bristling 2 degrees.	Sunday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with the high around 20 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$88 million	52-53-57-61-67-69-77 Cash 5: 3-24-29-41-43 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$208 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 4-1-1 Pick 4: 2-7-8-1 Pick 5: 1-1-5-4-4 Evening Pick 3: 8-1-1 Pick 4: 6-9-5-7 Pick 5: 7-2-3-6-9 Rolling Cash 5: 19-24-25-27-28 Estimated jackpot: \$192,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 5-1-2 Daily Four: 4-7-3-3 Evening Daily Three: 8-2-7 Daily Four: 8-7-5-3 Quick Draw: 1-6-9-12-14-20-22-25-30-33-34-39-46-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.47 Feb. corn4.47 Wheat5.16	Feb. beans12.09 Wheat 5.56
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.47 Feb. corn4.47 March corn4.47	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.26 Feb. corn4.30 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 1605, the first edition of "Don Quixote," also known as "El ingenioso hidalgo Don Quixote de la Mancha," was published by Miguel de Cervantes in Madrid, Spain. The classic story follows a senile old man, Don Quixote, who sets out on adventures as a knight with his squire, Sancho Panza.
In 1793, King Louis XVI of France was sentenced to death by the National Convention. An act of the French Revolution, Louis was executed less than a week later.
In 1919, the 18th amendment of the Unit-

ed States Constitution went into effect, prohibiting the manufacture, sale or transporting of alcoholic beverages. Prohibition lasted until 1933, when the U.S. ratified the 21st amendment.
In 1991, the Persian Gulf War started. The United States led an offensive attack against Iraq, Operation Desert Storm, ultimately removing Iraqi forces from Kuwait.
In 2018, J.D. Prescott of rural Union City filed to run for the District 33 Indiana House of Representatives seat.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.	Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.
Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland	
Thursday 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.	

Three ...

Continued from page 1
"I kind of think every law that we pass needs to look at what is the effect on Hoosier families."
He noted key issues as self-driving vehicles and the impact on trucking jobs, other new technologies and housing.
Bartlett is a rural Blackford County resident who has worked in information technology for about 30 years. He lost to Prescott in the 2022 general election by a 70.2%-29.8% margin.

"When you look at the demographics, rural Indiana never recovered from the Great Recession of 2008," said Bartlett in a press release. "In fact, life has gotten worse in many aspects. The Republicans have held a majority in both houses of the legislature since 2010 and a super majority since 2012, and they have done nothing to improve the economy in rural Indiana."
He identified key issues as public health and safety, and the need to invest in the state's small towns and rural areas.

Temporary spending legislation is unveiled

By **ERIK WASSON**
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service
U.S. lawmakers released a stopgap spending bill to avert a partial government shutdown on Jan. 20, greatly reducing the chances of a closure but risking conservative Republican ire against House Speaker Mike Johnson.
The temporary spending bill would extend funds for some agencies that face a Jan. 20 deadline through March 1 and for others that face a Feb. 2 deadline through March 8. The Senate will begin procedural votes on the bill, known as a continuing resolution, on Tuesday and will require

cooperation among the 100 senators to pass it before the deadline.
"To avoid a shutdown, it will take bipartisan cooperation in the Senate and the House to quickly pass the CR and send it to the President's desk before Friday's funding deadline," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said in a statement.
While the bill preserves a bifurcated approach to the 12 annual spending bills favored by Johnson as a way to avoid a catch-all package, or omnibus, it violates the speaker's pledge in November to refuse to support any more temporary funding.

Capsule Reports

Turning crash
Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000 after a crash at the intersection of Water and Wayne streets in Portland about 3:10 p.m. Thursday.
Christopher M. Garner II, 18, was driving a 2001 Dodge Ram east on Water Street when he started to turn north onto Wayne Street. He told police he thought he had enough time to turn, but a southbound 2006 Dodge Ram driven by 36-year-old Tasha M. Coy of Portland crashed into him. The collision also caused Garner's vehicle to smash into 23-year-old Portland resident Kevin Myer's 2020 Ford F-150.

Garner's vehicle was towed.
Intersection collision
An Ohio man failed to yield the right of way to southbound traffic on Meridian Street in Portland, causing an accident about 7:25 p.m. Wednesday.
Cheyanne L. Hackler, 22, Portland, told police she was driving her 2021 Chevrolet Equinox south on Meridian Street near Votaw Street when a 2004 Honda Pilot, driven by 19-year-old Brent M. Sutter of Saint Henry, turned from 701 N. Meridian St. into her vehicle. Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Swearing-in process is delayed

By **MICHAEL McDONALD**
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service
Anti-corruption campaigner Bernardo Arevalo was sworn in as president of Guatemala more than ten hours late after his inauguration was held up by furious disputes in congress.
The King of Spain and the presidents of Chile and Colombia were among the foreign leaders kept waiting on Sunday while lawmakers screamed abuse at each other. In downtown Guatemala City, enraged Arevalo supporters stormed through a line of riot police near congress, and demanded that legislators allow the ceremony to go ahead.
For much of the day, the nation appeared to be on the brink of a constitutional crisis.

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1/4-page color ad \$324 (47% off)	Three 6x4 ads \$324 (65% off)
1/4 page black and white \$224 (45% off)	One 4x4 ad \$124 (40% off)

Rates do not apply to special sections. Ads must run in January

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

Fort Recovery releases honor roll

Fort Recovery recently announced its first semester honor roll.

On the list with all A's were seniors Myah Breen, Katie Bruns, Natalie Brunswick, Chloe Bubb, Alex Dues, Alex Evers, Megan Evers, Teigen Fortkamp, Carson Grube and Paige Guggenbiller.

Also Trevor Heitkamp, Troy Homan, Addy Jenkins, Autumn Jutte, Ella Kremer, Drew Langenkamp, Saige Leuthold, Mara Pearson, Matthew Romer, Libby Schlarman, Cole Shoemaker, Brynn Stammen and Riggs Tobe.

Making the list with A's and B's were seniors Lucas Acheson, Wes

Bechtol, Clayton Bertke, Drew Bihn, Isaac Brockman, Kenadie Ervin, Gavin Faller, Kensey Gaerke, Reece Guggenbiller, Jenna Hart, Liz Hartings, Nate Jutte, Lydia Kahlig, Conner Kaikala, Abby Keller, Evan Keller and Joscelyn LeFevre.

Also Rex Leverette, Jose Martinez, Marissa Schoen, Olivia Smith, Tiffany Taft, Britney Tebbe, Sage Wendel, Ella Westgerdes, Ellie Will and Brooklyn Weyerick.

Juniors with all A's were Drew Backs, Mason Diller, Kassidy Dues, Evan Evers, Marlee Fiely, Ava Grisez, Kayla Heitkamp, Kyle Huntsman, Emily

Lauber, Bailie Muhlenkamp, Keegan Muhlenkamp, Kennedy Muhlenkamp, Karlie Niekamp, Ben Reinhard, Anna Roessner and Ella Schoen.

On the list with all A's and B's were juniors Alivia Bergman, Layla Bihn, Madison Bihn, Samantha Brackman, Nicole Braun, Tucker Brockman, Brennan Dues, Gavin Evers, Jacob Foote, Jake Fortkamp, Sarah Fritz, Riley Grieshop, Caden Grisez, Brooke Hart and Ethan Hartnagel.

Also Eva Kahlig, Joelle Kaup, Cody Klenke, Gabe Knapke, Lindsey Knapke, Nevaeh Lennartz, Norah Meyer, Kylie Post, Olivia

Rammel, Zach Schoenlein, Bella Taft, Victoria Tchelidze, Reid Timmerman, Eowyn Vela, Mara Wenning, Emma Will and Gage Zehringer.

Also making the list with all A's were sophomores Evvie Briner, Elisa Evers, Alivia Grube, Brodie Hart, Aubrie Heitkamp, Jameson Heitkamp and Madison Heitkamp.

Also Maleiah Kaffenberger, Olivia Knapke, Brylee Kremer, Cora Kremer, Autumn Leuthold, Lily Schwieterman, Megan Weitzel, Reece Wendel, Georgia Wenning and Leah Wuebker.

Sophomores with all A's and B's were Gabe Acheson, Ella Bechtol,

Aiden Brunswick, Rylee Bubb, Emma Coleman, Kyliia Dues, Zoe Dues, Nevaeh Elsass, Luke Fortkamp, Carson Fullenkamp, Alex Gaerke, Eli Hawk, Cayson Kaikala, Reece LeFevre, Luke Lochtefeld, Anthony Roessner, Dani Schmitt and Jesse Springer.

On the list with all A's were freshmen Kenna Dues, Tyler Dues, Carter Fortkamp, Alexis Grisez, Makenna Huelskamp, Meredith Jones, Breaker Jutte, Grace Lochtefeld and Ian McCain.

Also Jake Meyer, Cameron Muhlenkamp, Isaac Roessner, Madelyn Schoenlein, Ivy Tobe, Jennifer Wendel, James

Westgerdes, Reed Westgerdes and Brynn Willmann.

Also making the list with all A's and B's were freshmen Brody Barga, Owen Boeckman, Alex Carreto, Cadence Eber, Destiny Ervin, Brady Evers, Grant Fortkamp, Ava Fullenkamp and Sophia Guggenbiller.

Also Russell Hart, Aubree Heitkamp, Madeline Heitkamp, Lily Hernandez, Sydney Jutte, Hudson McAbee, Trinity Rammel, Coby Schmitz, Emma Schmitz, Angel Serio, Cara Shoemaker, Riley Stammen, Kiera Stump, Amber Timmerman, Ava Timmerman, Will Westgerdes and Jase Wuebker.

Meeting reopens decades-old wounds

DEAR ABBY: After 35 years, I recently ran into my first love, "Cliff." His sister lost her son, and I went to the wake. She and I were good friends growing up and stayed in touch occasionally through the years. Neither of us ever brought up her brother.

Cliff and I broke up during my senior year of high school. I suspected a very good friend of mine was seeing him behind my back at the same time I was confiding in her over my broken heart. Turns out they got married. They are still married to this day.

When I saw Cliff, he looked at me from a distance with a huge smile on his face and his hand over his heart. We hugged for a good five minutes. He held me the way he did when we were together. I never got closure from our breakup because his girlfriend (now wife) wouldn't allow it.

It turns out she wasn't happy that he and I were speaking that evening. I really want closure even though all these years later I have moved on

Dear Abby



already have the closure you seek.

DEAR ABBY: My family and I love to go camping and invite friends and family to join us. No matter how large the group is, I tend to be the one cooking all the meals all the time. I actually love to cook, but some of our guests take advantage and don't help out with food prep or clean up, or the setup or take-down of camping equipment. They don't even pick up after their children.

One of them is a co-worker and good friend, and I don't know how to approach her so that there are no hard feelings. I have actually considered not inviting that family again. I'll miss their company, but my family and I think it's rude not to help in any way. — NOT A HAPPY CAMPER

DEAR NOT A HAPPY CAMPER: I agree it's rude not to offer to help one's host in the situation you have described. Before inviting your good friend and co-worker on the next campout,

have a chat with her. Explain that if she and her family decide to come along next time, you'll NEED her to assist you with those chores. That way she'll be warned and can refuse the invitation if it is not to her liking.

DEAR ABBY: I work in a supermarket in which there are several managers. One female manager is very intimidating. She criticizes me and watches me like a hawk. Last week, she had me crying at home. My home life isn't very good either.

My parent is suffering from dementia and keeps my sister and me up and down all night. Plus, I just had a milestone birthday, which only one co-worker remembered. I'm not the only one this manager intimidates. I am close to quitting or transferring to another store. What should I do? — UNHAPPY IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR UNHAPPY: Accept that because you have a

stressful home life, you may be more vulnerable at work. You and your sister should discuss your demented parent's nighttime wandering with their doctor and ask if there is a medical solution for the problem behavior. Another helpful resource would be the Alzheimer's Association (visit alz.org to find a chapter near you). Sometimes just sticking to a regular schedule can help to reduce anxiety and regulate the behavior of the affected person.

As to your problem with your female supervisor, if it is possible to transfer to another store and a less stressful environment, you should do that. If you like the job, then make that move.

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
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. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

Wednesday
WEDNESDAY MORN-

ING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend.

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.

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

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

Thursday
STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center in Portland. Show and teal is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. Helen Rouch will lead the group Thursday and present the felt poinsettia ornament. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

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.

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 19, 2024

JOB OPENING
FULL TIME HEALTH DEPARTMENT HEALTH EDUCATOR
JAY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT SALARY: \$52,015.60 per year

DUTIES

- Plans, develops, and implements health education programs and services in accordance with community needs, funding requirements, and department goals and objectives, collecting and analyzing data to identify community needs and administering fiscal resources for health education programs as assigned.
- Insures compliance with Health First Indiana core health services and develops associated key performance indicators as necessary.
- Develops, prepares, and coordinates grant/funding applications and grant/funding-related activities. Ensuring compliance with guidelines and requirements of grant/funding agencies.
- Develops, conducts, or coordinates health needs assessments and other public health surveys.
- Represents the Health Department on coalitions, task forces and committees as assigned.

REQUIREMENTS

- Baccalaureate Degree in public health, education, or related field.
- Possession of or ability to obtain certifications CPR/ AED certifications, Blood borne Pathogens, First Aid, Stop the Bleed, National Incident Management (NIMS) and/or other areas as required for public health programs/operations.
- Ability to travel off-site (active Indiana driver's license).

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 19, 2024

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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.

Residents address proposed facility

To the editor:
Let me start off by saying thank you to the Jay County Commissioners for listening to the residents of Redkey.
Next, I would like to address Mr. Cooney's editorial in the newspaper on Dec. 26.
To begin with, the residents of Redkey at no time presented themselves as having a "we're better than them" attitude. I would say that the attitudes displayed would have been best described as shocked, frustrated and greatly concerned.

Letters to the Editor

Secondly, stating that stigma is why the citizens are against the idea of a recovery house is far from the truth. We are not the cold-hearted people that were portrayed in the article.
As it had been stated numer-

ous times and at different meetings by our citizens, drugs and/or alcohol have affected the majority of us personally, emotionally and financially.
We are quite aware what is going on in and around our town. At no point did we say there isn't a possibility that drugs or alcohol are in our community because currently there is more than enough of both.
There is no objection from our community members to the need for a recovery house

and at no time was this alluded to. Our main concern as a community is and continues to be, Redkey has nothing to offer that would support a successful sobriety journey.
There were numerous concerns listed, so let me restate them in writing:
•No employment opportunities
•No ready access to a grocery store or restaurants
•No recreational spaces
•No easy access to mental health resources or quick hospital access

•No form of public transportation
•No stable police force with a strong police presence.
Again, thank you to the Jay County Commissioners for listening to our concerns and look forward to future announcements of the new sober living home.
Ronnie and Brenda Cochran, Dean and Julie Barlow, Jill Reed, Denice Work, Jeff Stinson, Vicky May, Shayne Branham, Kevin and Tami Tighe, Shelly Reynolds, and Shelia Simons Redkey

Policing won't solve youth crime

By PHYLLISA BECKER and HENRY A. J. RAMOS
Progressive Perspectives
Tribune News Service

Guest Opinion

Many recent headlines have stoked fear of a rise in youth crime. Much of this reporting stems from biased conservative media sources and pundits that often call for a return to outdated responses from the "superpredator" hysteria days of the 1990s. They often call for more policing of — and stricter penalties for — young people, as Republican legislators in Minnesota and Louisiana have recently advocated. But without understanding the context behind the fearmongering, we will just keep repeating the same failed solutions.

ing by Pew Research Center shows that in 2022, Black Americans were admitted to jails at more than four times the rate of white Americans and were detained for longer sentences for the same or similar offenses. Young people of color who are arrested once by age 26 also earn about \$5,000 less per year as adults, and this rises to nearly \$8,000 if there are multiple arrests by that age.

High-profile shootings and gun-related murders, flash mobs, robberies and school shootings all play into a persistent public impression that crime, and especially youth crime, is on the uptick. But official statistics reveal a different reality: Youth crime and violent crime are down considerably — about 20% since the year 2000, according to recent reporting by the BBC, based on FBI data.

Youth justice reform advocates have long argued for centering youth, families and communities in determining what's needed to support sustainable solutions. This approach asks young people what matters to them and listens to their responses. By examining our biases and narratives about young people, particularly youth of color, we can begin to dismantle walls built by historical inequities — the absence of safe neighborhoods, good schools, economic opportunity and meaningful pathways to rewarding futures.

The crime wave narratives, however, lead to the spread of misinformation, which, in turn, can lead to policymakers defaulting to outdated practices and models that harm youth by criminalizing them, subjecting them to adult imprisonment and foreclosing more productive, restorative justice alternatives. For example, dozens of cities, such as Chicago, Memphis and Philadelphia, are implementing curfews for young people in reaction to youth crime despite little evidence that curfews are actually necessary or effective.

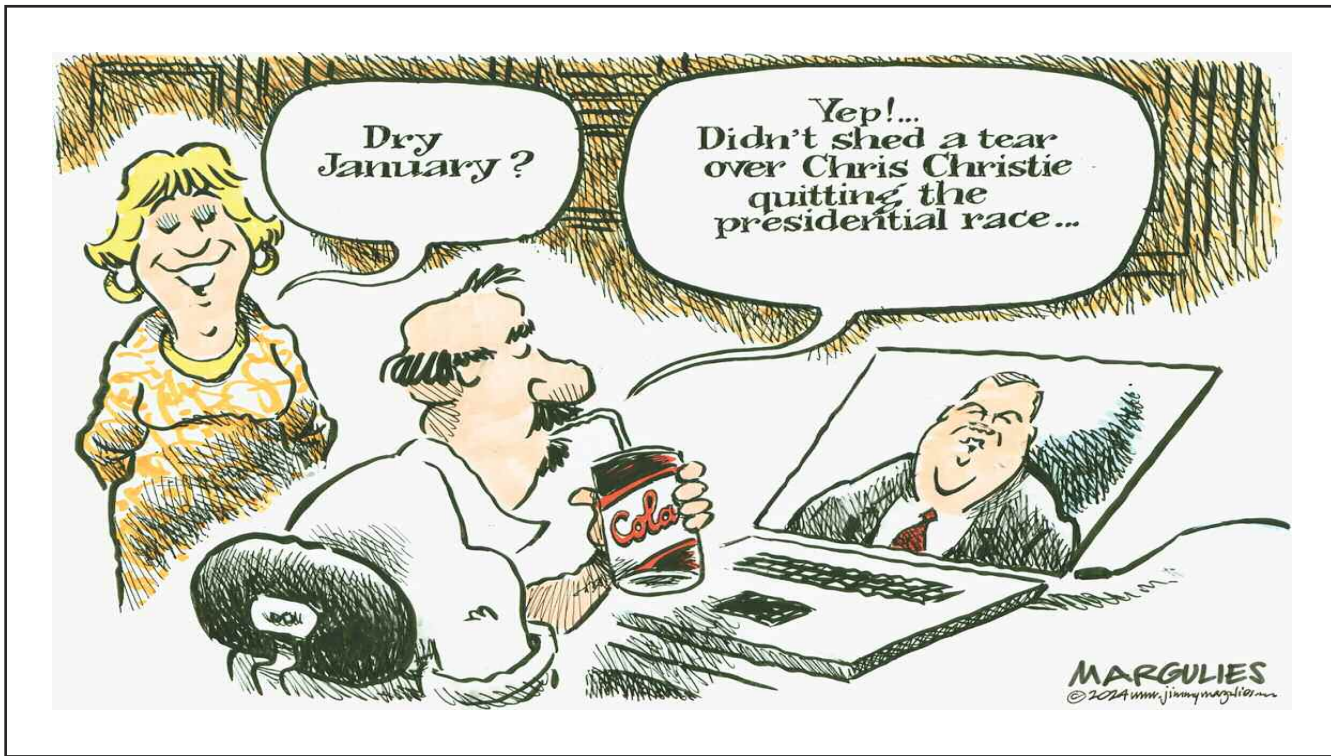
Community-based strategies that build on new investments in early childhood nutrition, family economic security, increased education, job training and placement programs will reduce barriers to success for our most challenged youth and communities. So will more early and sustained public investments in family asset building (like state-supported baby bonds programs), child care, decent and affordable housing, and literacy training. Our young people also need greater access to positive cultural and recreational opportunities and safe outdoor play spaces.

As experts in youth policy, we believe an entirely different analysis and approach is needed — one that offers an alternative to incarceration. For poor youth facing the greatest risks of early incarceration, that includes early and far more meaningful investments in child and family development, economic security, education and employment, and violence prevention programs. We want to see policies that remove the conditions that contribute to crime and more fully support the well-being of vulnerable youth facing complex issues and needs.

Young people should have what all of us deserve in a democratic society: a just system without walls that respects their full humanity and potential.

Black and Latinx rates of youth incarceration and sentencing periods continue to significantly exceed those of white Americans. Recent report-

Becker is a senior fellow at the Full Frame Initiative and a former director of the State of Missouri's Division of Youth Services (DYS). Ramos is a senior fellow at The New School Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy and a former member of the California Community Colleges board of governors.



State leaders get Bs, Cs

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Niki Kelly



Everyone has an agenda in the Indiana General Assembly. I thought I'd round them up for you — complete with a grade.
My grades will be based on key factors, such as whether the agenda makes a real impact, addresses a pressing need or ignores other critical matters.

Gov. Eric Holcomb

Holcomb's agenda includes both governing and legislative priorities. Since it's session, I am focusing on his legislative goals.
He starts with a variety of regulatory changes that could make it easier for child care providers to find staff. More staff means more seats that Hoosier parents desperately need. The lack of seats — and high prices — keep some parents out of the workforce. The changes must be balanced, though, to make sure child safety is not compromised.

Holcomb also wants to improve reading rates for Indiana's third graders. His idea to require the IREAD-3 test to be taken first in second grade is a shockingly simple change that could make a real difference. The earlier we have data, the more remediation can happen. Remediating on the front end is far better than the other option: making children repeat third grade. It's clear some children are being promoted to fourth grade when they are not ready. But holding back nearly 8,000 children seems a bit extreme. Doing so might well result in them being able to read. But studies show these children are more likely to drop out of school due to the social impacts.

Holcomb's proposal to expand awards from the State Disaster Relief Fund seems pragmatic and helpful, if not pressing.

Creating yet another task force, this one on bail reform, is yawn-worthy, though.

Overall grade: B

House GOP

House Republicans have a small but interesting agenda. The first is a simple idea that could help fill the tens of thousands of empty jobs in the state. It would allow Hoosiers to receive financial aid from the Frank O'Bannon Grant and 21st Century Scholarship to include job training and not just traditional college

coursework. Many youth aren't interested in college anymore and don't believe it's worth the money. But some kind of training, credentials and postsecondary education is necessary to make a living. This could be a nice move with the one caution that it could increase the costs of an already-expensive program.

The House will move a 13th check bill to make right a wrong from last year. To be fair, they weren't the problem. For decades lawmakers have provided an additional check or cost-of-living adjustment to public retirees. But inexplicably, the Senate blocked the move last year and thousands of public servants were left without. The money isn't an issue because it's already sitting unused in a dedicated account.

The House also has an administrative bill to "protect taxpayers and business owners who interact with state agencies." It's nebulous insider baseball. And I haven't been given any concrete examples of the problem they are trying to fix.

Lastly, a move to support Indiana's Jewish community against anti-Semitism is laudable but more complicated than it seems at first blush.

Grade: B+

Senate GOP

This caucus is helming efforts to improve literacy. Prior to the bill becoming public Thursday, there has been a lot of talk about the thousands of students who fail the state reading test and don't meet an exception but are still promoted to fourth grade.

It seems like the Senate plan doesn't materially change Indiana's retention policy because it generally codifies what is already in a State Board of Education rule while adding another exception. There is no enforcement and schools will still make the decision, but leaders clearly hope the bill's emphasis spurs a change.

They also want to give the state test in second grade for assessment and to provide more remediation

opportunities. But again, the bill stops short of meaningful change in that it doesn't require the students who are struggling to actually go to summer school.

The Senate Republican agenda does include a pretty important bill limiting the use of prior authorization. The term "prior authorization" refers to a practice used by insurance plans to require a preemptive review of a planned service before the insurance plan will agree to pay for that service. It's a big swing that would really help but I imagine it will be amended significantly.

And a bill on child care likely doesn't go far enough. It aims to reduce bureaucracy and red tape to create additional child care seats. That red tape, though, is part of making sure the children are safe. It will be an interesting balancing act. Because it's a non-budget year, there are no incentives or subsidies to help ease the problem.

Grade: C

Democrats

House and Senate Democrats are automatically at a disadvantage because they're superminorities. That means Republicans don't need their support to pass legislation, and that most of their own bills are doomed to fail immediately. So, while pushing for things like ballot measures and drug caps are philosophically honest, they also are fruitless.

I do appreciate their focus on property taxes. The rising bills have barely made a dent in discussions on the GOP side, who would rather talk about eliminating income taxes.

And the Democrats are being more realistic that the child care problem is going to take a cash infusion.

I think the best Democrat proposal is expanding access to pre-kindergarten. The program has been around now for almost 10 years but has become stagnant. It would be an obvious way to strengthen literacy. GOP lawmakers raised the income threshold to 400% of the federal free and reduced-price lunch threshold for private school vouchers. Yet, pre-kindergarten vouchers are still limited to 150% of the federal poverty level.

Grade: B-

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

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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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Workshops scheduled for JJCL

East Central Indiana Regional Planning District will host a series of workshops through the end of the month.

The free workshops at John Jay Center for Learning begin with "The Art of a Side Gig" on Wednesday. "Mental Health of Business Owners" and "How to Create a Positive Customer Experience" will follow on Jan. 24 and 31, respectively.

Ted Baker, CEO/executive director of Innovation Center in Delaware County, will lead the workshops, which will run from 5:30 to 7 p.m. each Wednesday.

For more information, visit ecirpd.org/jay-county-best-workshops.

New line

North Star Hardware & Implement Co. signed a contract last month to become a dealer of AGCO Corporation's Fendt product line.

The company now sells and services Fendt tractors, Ideal Combines, RoGator equipment and Hesston hay and forage equipment. It is one of nine such dealers in Ohio.

"We're excited to expand our line of products for our customers," said Kevin Selhorst, North Star sales manager, in a press release. "We are getting ready to celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2024, and becoming a Fendt dealer is a great way to show that we are committed to adapting to the innovations in the agricultural industry and that we plan on being a

Business roundup

steadfast business in our community for years to come."

Reid awarded

Reid Physician Associates was among several organizations announced recently to receive part of \$5.8 million in United States Department of Agriculture investment to expand telemedicine and distance learning.

The funding for Reid will go toward equipping one hub site and 10 end-user sites in Randolph, Wayne, Union, Fayette and Franklin counties in Indiana and Darke and Preble counties in Ohio. It will be used to purchase FDA-approved telemedicine carts with peripherals for comprehensive assessments to provide complete patient exams while the patients are remote.

"USDA has long been committed to assisting rural communities with infrastructure improvements, including access to high-speed internet," said USDA Rural Development state director Jonathan McCracken in a press release. "The Distance Learning Telemedicine grant program helps to bridge the 'digital divide' in rural areas by expand-

ing the availability of telemedicine and digital learning for our hospitals and schools. These federal investments will ensure that the people and communities of rural Ohio have access to the technology they need to thrive."

Telecart locations will include Pineknoll Rehabilitation Centre, 160 N. Middle School Road, and Randolph Nursing and Rehabilitation, 701 S. Oak St., in Winchester; and Union City Health Care Center, 907 Central Ave., Union City, Ohio.

Adams offering

Adams Memorial Health is offering a specialized hip spica car seat.

The seat is available for children who have hip dysplasia or a fractured hip. It will be loaned to those in need.

For more information, contact the hospital's rehabilitation department at (260) 724-2145.

Shifting to Ohio

Dr. Subha Raman is moving to OhioHealth from Indiana University Health.

OhioHealth announced last week that it has hired Raman as its new vice president of Heart and Vascular services. She previously served as IU Health's vice president for cardiovascular services and Indiana University School of Medicine's chief of cardiology.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to work with an all-star team to

deliver the highest caliber prevention, diagnostics, and treatments that provide high value for patients, care teams, and payors across the communities that we are privileged to serve," Raman said in a press release.

Before joining IU Health, she spent 17 years on the faculty at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

Offering online

Eli Lilly announced recently that it has launched a new online service to provide telehealth prescriptions and home delivery for some drugs.

LillyDirect will offer delivery of weight-loss drug Zepbound, insulin products and a migraine drug. Plans call for offering other drugs in the future.

"We've noticed that patients often struggle to manage their disease not because of the medicine itself but because the pathway to getting the medicine can be really challenging," CEO David Ricks of the Indianapolis pharmaceuticals firm told The Wall Street Journal.

"Sometimes that's the pharmacy experience where products are out of stock or markups in pricing are confusing."

Sponsoring

Dollar Tree announced Thursday that it has entered into a multi-year agreement to sponsor

Legacy Motor Club in the NASCAR Cup Series.

Dollar Tree and Family Dollar will be part of all 38 races for the 2024 NASCAR season, including some with drivers Jimmi Johnson, Erik Jones and John Hunter Nemechek.

"We are thrilled to sponsor LEGACY MOTOR CLUB and spotlight our brands to fans of the exhilarating and high-octane sport of NASCAR," said Rick McNeely, chief merchandising officer for Dollar Tree, in a press release. "Watching Dollar Tree and Family Dollar take off into one of the most-watched sports in the country is a great start to the year."

Pharmacies closing

CVS plans to close some of its pharmacies in Target stores during the first four months of 2024.

Reuters reported last week that closures will begin next month and run through April. Prescriptions from those locations will be transferred to other CVS Pharmacy locations.

The pharmacy closures are "based on our evaluation of changes in population, consumer buying patterns and future health needs," CVS said.

CVS purchased Target's pharmacies in 2015.

Temporarily closed

Tyson Foods temporarily suspended operations at its beef plants in Kansas last week because of a snowstorm.

Reuters reported that

Tyson closed as the blizzard conditions left workers stranded on highways and other spending the night at processing facilities. The closures cut production by about 25% from the previous week.

"The roads are already treacherous and now we've got lots of vehicles that are all over the place, either stranded or waiting to get in or out of these plants," Kansas Department of Transportation spokesman Steve Hale told Reuters.

Hosting events

The Central Indiana Chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals and the Indiana Chamber of Commerce will host the 2024 Indiana Safety and Health Conference Feb. 26 through Feb. 28.

Former Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback and current NFL analyst Terry Bradshaw will be the featured speaker for the conference. The event will also include the Indiana Forklift Rodeo, speakers, a 10-hour course for general industry, an innovation showcase and the governor's workplace safety awards luncheon.

For more information, or to register, call (800) 824-6885 or email events@indianachamber.com.

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

California farmers are seeing avian flu spike

By SALVADOR HERNANDEZ
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

December should have been the most profitable month of the year for Liberty Ducks, a poultry farm in Sonoma County. Instead, the 31-year-old business was suddenly face to face with a possible shutdown.

"There was never going to be a good time for this to hit, but during the holidays was especially hard," said Jennifer Reichardt of Liberty Ducks. The farm, she said, has been "crippled" by the outbreak.

In December, the farm was one of nine locations in Sonoma County infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza, also known as avian flu. As a result, poultry farmers in the county have been forced to destroy more than 1 million birds while trying to quarantine their flocks to curb the outbreak.

The outbreak has been ongoing since 2022, but its sudden surge in December has meant regional restaurants in the winery-rich region are seeing their supplies

Flocks in Sonoma County have been quarantined to curb outbreak

of poultry dwindle. Experts warn this may only be the beginning of a spike in California in the two-year-old bird flu outbreak.

"Restaurants are looking for product," said Bill Mattos, president of the California Poultry Federation.

The lingering disease has yet to affect prices or supply across the state as a whole, Mattos said, given the poultry available from other counties and outside the state. But restaurants, stores and other wholesalers who prefer to use local sources are suddenly seeing their supply dwindle.

"Everyone is looking to see what they can do to prevent it even more," Mattos said.

Liberty Ducks supplies ducks to Bay Area restaurants and

more than 200 wholesalers. But because the company's locations are under quarantine, the farm can't start new production, Reichardt said.

"Our business will be at a standstill for at least two months until the quarantine is lifted or we find other locations," she said.

Poultry companies have been feeling the effects of the avian flu since February 2022, when the U.S. Department of Agriculture first detected the virus in commercial and backyard flocks.

Since then, more than 79 million birds across the U.S. have been affected in 47 states. In California, the virus has affected 37 commercial and 22 backyard flocks, totaling 5.4 million birds,

according to U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Nearing two years since the outbreak began, the avian pandemic has not gone unnoticed by consumers either.

Last year, the outbreak helped make egg prices skyrocket across the country. In January 2023, a dozen large eggs jumped to a high of \$7.37, when compared to \$2.35 the year before. The USDA said that while demand for eggs was surging in December 2022, the avian flu was cutting the supply; in the last week of that month, there were about 29% fewer eggs than at the beginning of 2022.

A higher incidence of highly pathogenic avian influenza is common during this time of year because of the migratory patterns of wild birds, which carry the virus as they fly from the Arctic to California, said Dr. Maurice Pitesky, associate professor at UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine whose research focuses on the disease.

Unfortunately, the same cli-

mate and geography that makes poultry farming popular in some areas is what draws in wild birds like ducks and geese, carrying the flu with them into the state. The virus can pass from one animal to another through saliva, mucus or feces.

"Wildlife can bring this virus into their farms because the virus is so infectious," Pitesky said.

Farmers have tried to keep their flocks safe through biosecurity practices, such as requiring clean footwear before workers enter a farm to keep feces from contaminating the area under the shoes, Mattos said. Several big farms also try to reduce risk by prohibiting their workers from owning backyard flocks.

This past month, however, poultry farmers in Northern California have been particularly hit by the virus.

"I'm not sure if it's a more virulent strain or what," Mattos said. "The industry expects it to come and show up, we just didn't expect it to be in big numbers."



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<p>Fortkamp Foam 3216 Wabash Road Fort Recovery, OH 45846 419-852-1390 Fortkampfoam.com</p>	<p>Hopkins Repair, LLC Auto & light truck repair Mon-Fri. • 7am-4pm Call Scott Hopkins 260-251-0459</p>	<p>J Wood Products For Sale Sawdust & Firewood Call or Text 260-251-1154. 415 W Water St. Portland. 7:00 am-3:00 pm.</p>
<p>All Weather Heating and Air Conditioning (260)726-4822 24 hr Emergency Service Serving Portland & Surrounding Areas</p>	<p>Vormohr Family Dentistry 1413 W. Votaw St., Portland 260-726-7822</p>	<p>Display Craft Signs 630 E. Votaw St. Portland, IN 260-726-4535</p>
<p>All Circuit Electrical, LLC 5510 N. US 27, Bryant, IN 260-997-8336 www.allcircuitelectrical.com</p>	<p>Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition 100 N. Meridian St., Portland, IN 47371 260-251-3259 Email: jcdpcccontact@gmail.com</p>	<p>Dunn Family Dental Care 110 W. North St. Portland, IN 47371 260-726-8007</p>
<p>Brigade You're safer with us 1976 W. Tyson Road, Portland, IN 47371 (260)766-4343 brigade-electronics.com/en-us</p>	<p>Williams Auto Parts, Inc. 1127 Detroit Ave. Portland, IN 8-5:30 Mon-Fri, Closed Sat & Sun. Used auto parts since 1951 (260) 726-8001 www.williamsautoparts.com</p>	<p>Ohio Valley Gas 129 E. Main St., Portland 260-726-8114 www.ovgc.com</p>
<p>This local business listing runs 4 times a month with packages of either \$25, or \$50. Give us a call at 260-726-8141 to be included</p>	<p>Baird Freeman Funeral Home 221 N. Meridian St. Portland, IN 260-726-7171</p>	<p>Home Idea Center 901 Industrial Dr. Ft. Recovery, OH 419-375-4951 www.ehomeidea.com</p>

SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Against the grain

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

won the trick with the ace! The purpose of this seemingly extravagant play was to turn dummy's ten of spades into an additional entry. South next led the queen of clubs, covered by the king and ace. Clubs were continued, and, as declarer expected, the ten won the trick. This was where South's play at trick one came home to roost. South led a low spade toward dummy and, after West followed low, finessed the ten. The nine of clubs was then conceded to the jack and, with the king of spades as an entry to dummy, declarer now had nine tricks: three spades, four clubs, a heart and a diamond.

The bidding: East 1NT, South Pass, West 3NT, North Pass. Opening lead — six of spades.

On rare occasions, both the declarer and a defender must make plays that are completely contrary to normal procedure. Today's deal provides an example.

West led the six of spades against three notrump, and declarer saw immediately that his best route to nine tricks was to try to score four club tricks. This could be achieved against several different lies of the opposing clubs, but even if one of these existed, there might well be an entry problem later in the play.

Anticipating this problem, declarer played low from dummy at trick one and, after East followed low,

However, West could have thwarted South's plan by making an unusual play of his own when declarer led a low spade toward dummy's K-10. Had he put up the queen, he would have blocked the suit and denied South a second spade entry to dummy, after which the clubs could not be utilized.

Note further that declarer cannot circumvent this entry-killing play by leading the jack of spades instead, hoping West will play the queen. In that case, West violates a different rule by refusing to cover an honor with an honor, and South again goes down to defeat.

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

Peanuts



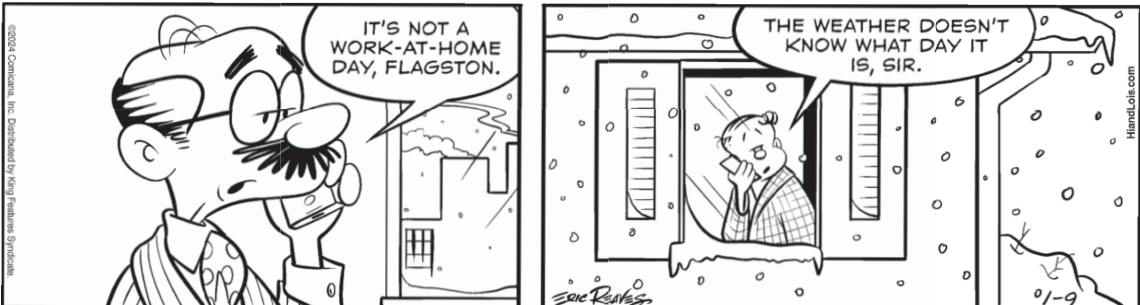
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



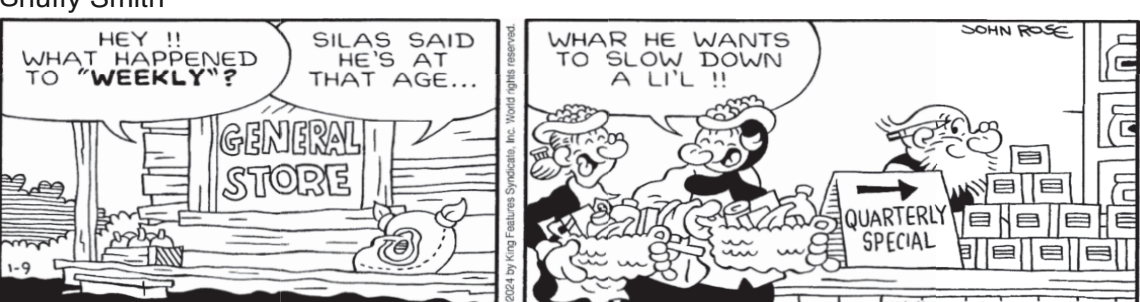
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

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

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

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals Y

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Skip wool, 5 Crow's cry India, 8 Antelope's playmate, 12 Queen of Carthage, 13 MLB stat, 14 Sailor's saint, 15 More formal, 17 Crooner Perry, 18 Bro or sis for one, 19 Ohm, 21 Sped, 24 "Hi, sailor!", 25 Love god, 26 More elegant, 30 Id counterpart, 31 Planet's path, 32 Sault — Marie, 33 More down-to-earth, 35 Michael of "The Martian", 36 Villa d'—, 37 Gather wool, 38 City of India, 41 24 horas, 42 Operatic solo, 43 More awkward, 48 Branch, 49 Bond rating, 50 Wry Bombeck, 51 Egyptian deity, 52 Online guffaw, 53 Fill up, DOWN: 1 Quirky, 2 Soviet space station, 3 Chemical suffix, 4 Coin flips, 5 Early bed, 6 Rush-more, 7 Terrier type, 8 Fake drakes, 9 Carolina college, 10 TV trophy, 11 Leeway, 16 "Ice Age" sloth, 20 Blog entry, 21 Coral formation, 22 Jason's ship, 23 "Neato!", 24 "Tiny Alice" playwright, 26 All-important, 27 "Got it", 28 Sicilian spouter, 29 Bring up, 31 Greek mountain, 34 Skewered entrees, 35 Stages, 37 — card (cell phone insert), 38 Niger's neighbor, 39 "Exodus" author, 40 "La Boheme" role, 41 Two-way, 44 Asian language, 45 401(k) alternative, 46 911 responder, 47 "The Lovebirds" star, 48 Issa

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-9

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Champs ...

Continued from page 8
“I’ve just practiced free throws so much in high pressure situations that it’s just automatic now,” Saxman said. “I really should have got out of my head on the bunnies but it didn’t affect (my free throws).”

JCHS finished 15-for-21 (71.4%) at the free throw line as Woodlan only managed four trips to the stripe in which it shot 8-for-9 (88.9%).

In the first half, Jay County lived off of turnovers. They forced the Warriors to cough up the rock 10 times in the first half – 17 total – which led to four baskets. Five more points were scored within the first few seconds of crossing the timeline in the first half.

Hallie Schwieterman ended up the benefactor of many of these quick opportunities to help her score a game-high 19 points.

“When some of those seniors were struggling in the first half, I thought Hallie kept us alive,” McIntire said. “She played a really nice and smart game. She had good shot selection so very pleased with her tonight.”

When Woodlan and Jay County met on Nov. 24, Taylor Kneubuhler led the Warriors with 16 points. The Patriots cut her scoring in half on Saturday, only giving up eight points, four of

Box score			
Woodlan Warriors vs. Jay County Patriots		Score by quarters: Jay Co. 18 14 13 16—61 Woodlan 14 11 10 5—40	
Girls varsity summary			
Jay County (17-2)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Mhinkmp	4-8	1-2	10
Saxman	3-14	11-14	17
Schwtrmn	8-18	2-3	19
MDirksen	1-4	0-0	3
Carreno	1-1	0-0	2
Sibray	0-0	0-0	0
Denton	1-3	1-2	3
BDirksen	3-6	0-0	7
May	0-3	0-0	0
Newton	0-0	0-0	0
Totals	21-57	15-21	61
	.368	.714	
Def. rebound percentage: .553			
Woodlan (12-8)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Widenhoefer	4-12	0-0	12
Smith	0-0	0-0	0
Anderson	6-13	3-3	15
BKneubuhler	1-9	0-0	2
Peppler	0-0	0-0	0
McDaniel	0-0	0-0	0
Jacquay	1-3	1-2	3
TKneubuhler	2-9	4-4	8
Gaff	0-6	0-0	0
Elwood	0-0	0-0	0
Goble	0-0	0-0	0
Totals	14-52	8-9	40
	.269	.889	
Def. rebound percentage: .556			
3-point shooting: Jay County 4-11 (Muhlenkamp 1-1, BDirksen 1-2, MDirksen 1-3, Schwieterman 1-4, May 0-1). Woodlan 4-21 (Widenhoefer 4-9, Gaff 0-2, BKneubuhler 0-4, TKneubuhler 0-6).			
Rebounds: Jay County 40 (Saxman 14, Schwieterman 7, MDirksen 5, Muhlenkamp 4, Denton 4, BDirksen 3, team 3). Woodlan 36 (Anderson 16, team 6, BKneubuhler 4, Gaff 4, TKneubuhler, Widenhoefer, Smith, Thullner).			
Assists: Jay County 12 (Saxman 4, Schwieterman 3, BDirksen 2, MDirksen, Denton, May). Woodlan 5 (Anderson 2, BKneubuhler 2, Widenhoefer).			
Blocks: Jay County 1 (Schwieterman). Woodlan 4 (Anderson 3, TKneubuhler).			
Personal fouls: Jay County 12 (Muhlenkamp 4, Saxman 3, Schwieterman 2, BDirksen 2, Sibray). Woodlan 15 (Widenhoefer 3, BKneubuhler 3, TKneubuhler 3, Gaff 2, Smith, Anderson, Jacquay, Goble).			
Turnovers: Jay County 7. Woodlan 17.			



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Bella Denton (24) of Jay County uses her body to shield off Woodlan's Alyssa Anderson (4) for a bunny shot during the ACAC championship on Saturday.

which came on free throws.

Alyssa Anderson and Reagan Widenhoefer kept Woodlan alive with 15 and 12 points respectively. Anderson dominated the offensive glass, pulling down eight offensive rebounds – she had 16 total – four of which led to points.

“She’s just a tough matchup for all these teams we play because she’s so long,” Cobb said. “I asked her in the first quarter ‘How are you

doing?’ she said she’s okay and I said ‘Good, because you’re not coming off the floor.’

“We’re lucky to have her.”

On the other hand, Widenhoefer shot well from beyond the arc with four 3-point shots.

Woodlan started to fall behind as they quieted down. Widenoefer didn’t hit a shot in the second half and Anderson couldn’t suck in any offensive boards in the fourth quarter.

Sage Wendel breaks own school record

CELINA — The Indians don’t have enough boys to be competitive as a team this season, but the ones they do have, have been strong.

One of them just broke his own school record.

Sage Wendel of the Fort Recovery High School swim team broke his school record in the 200-yard freestyle in the Celina Lions Invite at the Celina YMCA on Saturday.

The Fort Recovery girls team scored 115 points to tie for fourth place with Bluffton, while Ottawa Glandorf ran away with the victory at 274 points. The boys scored 32 points to finish 11th out of 16 teams.

The FRHS senior finished the 200 freestyle in fifth place, but his time of 1 minute, 59.56 seconds set a new school record. He also finished fourth in the 100 freestyle.

The girls team’s top point getter was Teigen Fortkamp. A

Local roundup

time of 2:10.84 earned her the top spot in the 200 freestyle. Fortkamp placed fifth in the 100 butterfly.

She also swam in the 200 freestyle relay that earned a third-place finish and the 200 medley relay that placed fifth. Autumn Leuthold, Allison Knapke and Paige Guggenbiller joined Fortkamp in the freestyle relay and Joelle Kaup replaced Knapke in the medley relay.

Guggenbiller also had a high individual finish as she placed fifth in the 100 breaststroke.

Still undefeated

VERSAILLES — The Fort Recovery girls bowling team

dominated the Minster Wildcats 2,374-1,997 at McBo’s Lanes on Saturday to remain perfect on the season.

The top three Indians outpaced the Wildcats’ leading bowler: Julia Mullins averaged 172 pins per game for Minster (4-5, 2-3 Midwest Athletic Conference). Brooklyn Wyrick, Ella Schoen and Emily Lauber all surpassed that mark with average pinfalls of 194, 183 and 179.5 respectively.

Schoen rolled the highest game of the match, knocking down 211 pins in the first regular game. Mullins shot Minster’s high-game of 189 pins.

Both teams struggled in the baker games, with the Indians (5-0, 5-0 MAC) coming out on top by 74 pins. The third game was Fort Recovery’s highest at 169.

Indians outperformed

VERSAILLES — Fort Recovery’s boys bowling team didn’t have enough firepower to take

down the Minster Wildcats at McBo’s Lanes on Saturday, falling 2,839-2,553.

Minster (6-3, 3-3 MAC) had two bowlers – Xavier Kitzmiller and Rylan Edwards – average over 200 pins per game. The former averaged 226 pins while the latter threw a 218 per game. Kitzmiller also rolled a match-high 245 pins.

In a single game, Gabe Acheson knocked down 194 pins to secure the Indians’ best average.

Austin Steinbrunner took out the most total pins for Fort Recovery (5-3, 3-3 MAC) with 381 pins between the two games.

Lucas Acheson threw the best individual game for the Indians, throwing a 204 in the second regular game.

An opening game of 204 pins held Minster beat Fort Recovery in baker play 864-828.

Junior varsity tops

STRAUGHN — The Jay County High School junior varsity

wrestling team won four matches to take the top spot at the Tri High Invitational on Saturday.

The Patriots won all four matches as they beat Tri 54-30, Wapahani 54-6, Northeastern 36-33 and Rushville 54-28.

Four Jay County wrestlers went undefeated on the day. Syllas Wenk won three matches in the 113-pound weight class while Jason Landers matched that mark in the 132 matches.

Landers pinned all three opponents with the quickest coming against Rushville’s Giovanni Norvell who was pinned in 1 minute, 33 seconds.

Wenk pinned two of his opponents and beat Wapahani’s Kroben Smith in a 9-6 decision.

Gabe Ardizzone (138) and Hayden Ison (144) were both victorious in their only match of the day. Ardizzone pinned Northeastern’s Johnny Bird in 3:13 while Ison only needed 46 seconds to get the fall on Rushville’s Parker Smiley.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
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
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 basket-

ball: 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)

Wednesday

3 a.m. — Australian Open tennis

(ESPN2)
7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Creighton at UConn (FS1); Mississippi State at Kentucky (ESPN2); Nebraska at Rutgers (BTN)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Milwaukee Bucks at Cleveland Cavaliers (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — NHL: Chicago Blackhawks at Buffalo Sabers (TNT)
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Los Angeles Lakers (ABC)
9 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Providence at DePaul (FS1); Maryland at

Northwestern (BTN)
9 p.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: USC at Arizona (ESPN)

Local notes

Tryouts scheduled
Tryouts for A League of Our Own Independent Baseball League is hosting a tryout at the Mojo-Up Sports indoor Complex in Noblesville on Jan. 30.

Anyone 19-years-old or older that is looking for the opportunity to continue playing baseball can try out.

The league begins play on Aug. 31 and runs through Oct. 19, playing 50 games in 50 days.

To sign up or for more information on the league, visit www.aloo0247.com, call (205) 264-1468 or email 411@aloo0247.com.

To have an event listed in “Sports on tap,” email details to sports@thecr.com.

90 SALE CALENDAR

47TH ANNUAL COLDWATER YOUNG FARMERS CONSIGNMENT AUCTION
Saturday February 10, 2024

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
2024 TERM
In the Matter of the
Unsupervised
Administration
of the Estate of:
Zona Cook, Deceased
No. 38C01-2401-EU-000002
NOTICE OF
ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Clara Skeens was, on the 9th day of January, 2024, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Zona Cook deceased, who died on December 18, 2023. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 9th day of January, 2024.
HINKLE, RACSTER & SCHEMENAUR
121 W. High Street
Portland, IN 47371
Attorney
Jon Eads
Clerk of the Circuit Court,
For Jay County, Indiana
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Tourney champs

Jay County wins fourth-straight ACAC championship over Woodlan 61-40

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review

BERNE — The Patriots hadn't lost a game since Nov. 17 as they built a 14-game winning streak going into Saturday.

They haven't lost in the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament since the 2020-21 season.

The Patriots took down the Warriors in the past two tournaments as well.

All three of those streaks grew.

Three times wasn't the charm for the Woodlan Warriors as the Jay County High School girls basketball team won its fourth-straight ACAC tournament championship with a 61-40 victory in Saturday's championship game at South Adams.

"It was fun," JCHS coach Sherri McIntire said. "Walk away tonight feeling like we played well. ... I felt like we had good leadership from our seniors, a great atmosphere tonight and it will help us get ready for the tournament."

The victory extends Jay County's winning streak to 15-straight games, as it hasn't suffered a loss for just under three months. It also has a higher Sagarin rating than the final three teams — Delta (58.23), Southern Wells (36.5) and Heritage (34.94) — with a rating of 81.26.

The win also secures the Patriots (17-2) their fourth consecutive ACAC tournament title, the last three have all come against the Warriors (12-

8). In 2022, Woodlan got clobbered 58-27 and fell 38-31 in 2021.

"They're a good team," Woodlan coach Gary Cobb said. "They play good team defense. They put a lot of pressure on the ball. They force you to make plays."

"There's no shame in losing to that team. I think it's their fourth year in a row they've won it and that's no accident. It's not just they got lucky. It's because a lot of those girls have been in this moment before and they were ready for it."

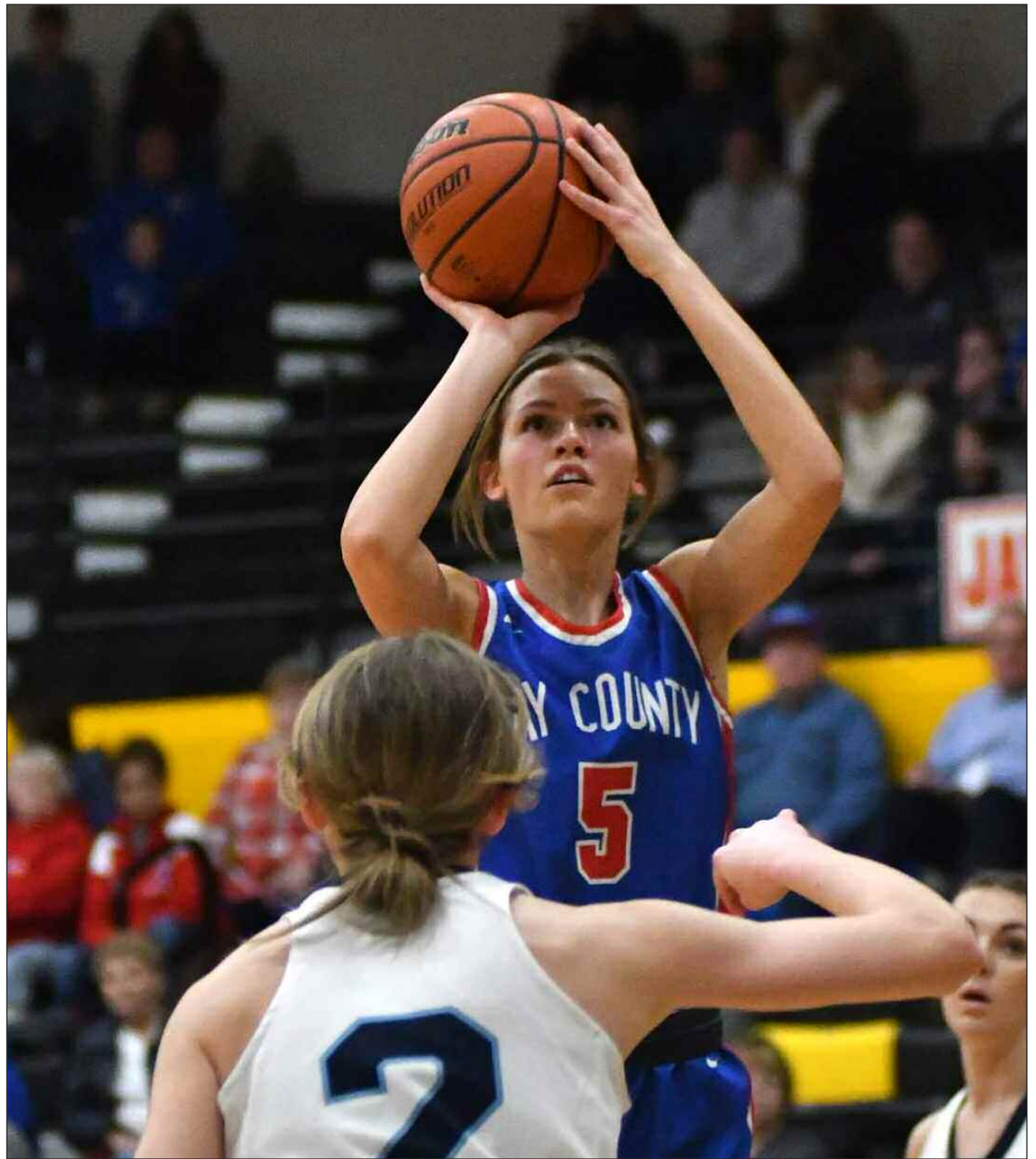
Along with the tournament trophy, another Patriot brought home some hardware as Sophie Saxman was named the tournament Most Valuable Player. Through two games in the tournament, Saxman scored 36 points, 29 rebounds, eight assists and eight steals.

"I'm definitely not used to this stuff," Saxman said. "I'm proud of myself but also know I owe a lot of it to my teammates."

The senior had a double-double against Woodlan with 17 points and 14 rebounds, including 12 second-half points as Jay County pulled away.

Saxman struggled from the field, only shooting 21.4% (3-14), but she consistently drew fouls on the Warriors defenders to get to the free-throw line. The bulk of her points came at the charity stripe, sinking 11-of-14 shots (78.6%).

See **Champs** page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Molly Muhlenkamp of the Jay County High School basketball team fires up a shot during the Allen County Athletic Conference tournament championship on Saturday. The Patriots won the tournament for the fourth year in a row as they took out the Woodlan Warriors for the second time this season.

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