

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Second lawsuit filed against dean

Milleman has been placed on administrative leave

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

A second lawsuit has been filed against the Jay County Junior-Senior High School dean.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana on Tuesday filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court Northern Division of Indiana (Fort Wayne) against Brad Milleman and nurses Rebecca Hudson and Nancy Snyder alleging two separate searches were invasive and violated a girl's rights against unreasonable searches and seizures by the government.

Milleman has been placed on administrative leave.

Last week, Milleman and Hudson were named in a similar lawsuit filed by the ACLU of Indiana on behalf of a junior high student.

"The searches being conducted at Jay County Jr. Sr. High School are completely unreasonable and have caused emotional harm to these young girls," said Ken Falk, legal director at the ACLU of Indiana, in a press release. "Schools are not constitutional dead zones and we are hopeful that the court will hold these school officials accountable."

Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley said assistant principal for curriculum and instruction James Myers will take over dean duties on an interim basis. Myers served as dean from 2014 through 2022.

Jay County Junior-Senior High School principal Chad Dodd informed parents and staff via email Friday morning about Milleman's administrative leave "for the duration of this legal review and investigation," though his name is not mentioned in the email.

See **Lawsuit** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Sled spray

Snow sprays in the face of Phynox Storie while sledding with friends Friday afternoon at Hudson Family Park in Portland. A few inches of snow fell between late Thursday and Friday morning. Some additional light snow is expected today, with patchy blowing snow Monday night followed by rain for the next several days.

Fines have totaled \$86,575

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Charging a \$25 fee for trucks leaving the designated route in Portland didn't seem to be enough of a deterrent.

Considering the two highway construction projects in 2023, Portland officials decided to increase that fine substantially.

Portland police stopped hundreds of semis that left the designated detour during the six-month period last year in which major projects shut down Indiana 26 and U.S. 27 through the city. Fines have generated \$86,575, not including

Police wrote more than 360 tickets for vehicles being off the truck route

court costs, as of Thursday, with more still on the way.

From the end of June through December, police cited more than 360 truck drivers for the ordinance violation, issuing more than double the amount of

tickets written in 2015 during the less than seven-month street, water and sewer construction work along Water Street (Indiana 26).

"It was quite an influx of citations. Our officers

were busy all three shifts writing tickets, redirecting traffic," said newly appointed Portland police chief Dustin Mock, who worked as a patrol officer during that time.

Former Portland City Council member Janet Powers suggested raising the fine by a significant amount in April. She referenced the amount of citations written during construction on the Indiana 67 bridge on the north side of Redkey in 2022. During the projects, she noted there would essentially be one way in and one way out of Portland for semi drivers.

"I live on a side street, and I didn't want a Walmart truck coming down my street," she explained this week. "(I didn't want them) cutting the corners where little kids ride their bikes and everything. I thought we needed to put some teeth in it to deter them from doing it."

Council agreed in April to increase the ordinance violation fee for first offenses to \$275 — 11 times the original amount. (Additional violations would incur a \$500 fine plus court costs.)

See **Fines** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Redkey Town Council approved a request from Marshal Zach Moser on Thursday to purchase new pistols for police. Council met Thursday for the first time in 2024, with three new members — "Watermelon" Jim Phillips (pictured), Brenda Beaty and Dave Dudelston — joining the group.

Buying new firearms

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

REDKEY — New board members, new marshal, new pistols.

Redkey Town Council approved a request Thursday from Marshal Zach Moser to purchase six Glock 9mm pistols from Kiesler Police Supply of Jeffersonville for just under \$1,000.

Moser, who was promoted to marshal about a month ago, proposed trading in the department's current weapons — three Glock 22 Generation 3s and three Glock 27 Generation 3s — for .40-caliber, 9mm models at a cost of \$982.80.

Jay County officials approved the purchase of 50 Glock 17 pistols from the same Jeffersonville business for Jay County Sheriff's Office in October.

"The sheriff's department is going to be switching to 9mm this year," explained Moser. "I think it's a good idea to kind of stick with what they do, since, you

know, the ammo's cheaper, they're easier to shoot."

Council vice president Chance Retter added that many departments are switching to 9mm pistols, and he made a motion to approve the request.

Council members approved the decision unanimously.

Also Thursday, Moser proposed town council give him permission to pursue K-9 training to certify his dog as a police canine.

"Portland is the only town in the entire county that has a canine dog," said Moser. "I pull a car over, and I think a dog needs

to run it, it's not going to happen."

A United States Marine Corps veteran, Moser previously trained a police dog specializing in explosives. He asked council in June to consider allowing him to train and handle a canine specializing in narcotics apprehension and tracking. Because of his military service and the G.I. Bill of Rights, Moser added, the training cost would be covered. If OK'd, he plans to raise funds to accommodate the department's police vehicle for a canine.

See **Firearms** page 2

Deaths

Linley Lawrence, 78, Bryant
Judy Eglan, 62, Portland
Alex Neal, 79, Geneva
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 25 degrees Friday. The mercury dropped through the day into the low teens.

Today's forecast calls for partly cloudy skies with a chance of snow showers. Sunday's high will be in the low 20s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Jay County High School show choirs will host their competition preview show at 7 p.m. Monday in the school auditorium. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$5.

Coming up

Tuesday — Results from tonight's JCHS girls basketball game at Southern Wells.

Wednesday — Coverage of Monday's Dunkirk City Council meeting.



Parents ignoring personal boundaries

DEAR ABBY: I am uncomfortable about being touched. I have been this way all my life. As a child, my parents forced me to hug and kiss relatives, and if I protested, I was reprimanded. I remember being dragged and pushed toward people.

Dear Abby



After I became an adult, I decided to tell people I no longer want to be hugged or kissed. While most people respect that, my parents do not. They hug me even more often now, and think it's funny. They laugh as they do it and say, "Oh, you don't like this, do you?!"

When I protest, they start with the guilt trip, telling me they are my parents and they are allowed to touch me. My mother gives an exaggerated sigh and looks down like a child who's been deprived of a toy.

They can't get it through their heads that this is about me and not them. They have told me that I've "gone weird," but this isn't new. As a child, I couldn't speak up because I was

chastised for it. How can I get them to respect my boundaries? I don't want to start a feud, as they are good to me in every other way, but I'm starting to dread seeing them. — KEEP OFF IN SCOTLAND

DEAR KEEP OFF: Some parents don't understand that what they do can affect their children for the rest of their lives. Your parents are a prime example. A way to get the message across to them would be to explain it to them just as you have to me: You were young and defenseless, and in spite of your protests, they forced you into physical contact with people. Tell them you realize that it had everything to do

with their egos and how they wanted you to be perceived instead of accepted as the individual you were and are. NO ONE has the right to touch you if you do not want to be touched.

If your parents continue forcing their physical demonstrations of "affection" (which seem to me more like demonstrations of dominance) over your protests, recognize it for what it is — a mild form of sadism (no, I'm not kidding). See them less often, and be sure they know why.

DEAR ABBY: I'm in my 30s, and my father recently remarried. I have no negative feelings about his new wife or their marriage. But now he has forgotten to wish me a happy birthday and speaks to me less often. They seem to always have plans, and he no longer has time to stop by for even a few minutes to say hi to his grandkids.

I don't want to burden him. I'm happy he has

found the love he deserves. I just always assumed I would still be in the picture. Should I tell him I really need to spend time with him, or am I now too old for the father/daughter moments? — RECONNECTING IN TEXAS

DEAR RECONNECTING: No one who is lucky enough to have a father on this side of the sod is "too old" for father/daughter or father/son moments. I see no harm in telling your father you are happy he has found love again, but that you wish he would schedule some time to see you and the grandchildren. He may be distracted now by the honeymoon phase of his new marriage, so be prepared to be patient.

DEAR ABBY: A month ago, I reconnected with a woman, "Fran," I have known since seventh grade. We are both divorced (I, 20 years; Fran, four years) with grown children and live 90 minutes apart. We

have enjoyed hour upon hour of telephone conversations and have spent two weekends together. We have been very emotionally intimate, but not sexually, by choice, as to not distort the "purity" of our relationship.

My problem is, Fran has a large, high-energy dog that has free roam of her home (and her bed). "Goliath" travels with her virtually everywhere she goes, including when she visits me.

Goliath is good-natured and extremely fond of me, but I don't have pets, nor do I care to have her dog jump onto the furniture and sleep with us in my bed. She thinks it's cute, but Goliath sheds black hair ALL OVER the place, including in my bed (I have white bed linens so the contrast makes it all the more obvious).

I care deeply for Fran and will likely be in an exclusive, meaningful relationship with her for a long time. But I don't want her dog to be a reason for anger

and frustration. How do I politely "enforce" any restrictions on her beloved pet without possibly creating friction between us over Goliath "just being a dog"? — VACUUMING AGAIN

DEAR VACUUMING: The way to "politely enforce" restrictions in YOUR home is to have the conversation you were afraid to have with Fran the first time she and Goliath came to visit. TELL her that while you adore her, you are not as much of a dog person as she is, and you are not comfortable having Goliath share a bed with the two of you. (Notice I didn't say jump on your couch, because a compromise may be necessary.)

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.

How to handle ex's family reunion gatherings

By JANN BLACKSTONE
Tribune News Service

Q. My child's father and I have been divorced for 20 years. We have a daughter who is now 23. He remarried and also has another daughter, age 18. The girls are quite close. My daughter came home from college with an invitation to her father's family reunion and she has asked me to attend with her. I have not talked to a relative of his since the divorce, but my daughter is begging me to go. She tells me her father and his wife have said they have no problem with my attending.

Ex-Etiquette



This seems awkward to me, but there are some relatives I would like to see. What's good ex-etiquette?

A. Family reunions can be a lot of fun, but they can also be a source of ridicule and gossip, so beware. If dad and his wife

have given their OK, then attending the family reunion is just fine. It's when your attendance would upset family members that going might be questionable.

If you do choose to attend, even though it appears you have not spoken to your daughter's father in years, I recommend you personally check with dad, and especially his wife, just to make sure they are not offended by your presence. It would not be surprising if your daughter has not really checked with her father and is just expecting that you are wel-

come. If you are anticipating awkwardness, personally checking (an email might be the best mode or communication) with your ex's wife demonstrates respect for her position and will hopefully pave the way for easier interaction if you do choose to attend.

As a side note, stay away from family members looking for gossip. Even though it's been a long time, provocative subjects often come up. There's always that relative looking for information who finds it amusing to stir things up. They want to rehash the bad stuff, get the gossip. So,

set strong boundaries and don't get pulled in. This is not only your daughter's family reunion, but everyone's who is in attendance. Respect for the comfort of the other family members is imperative. That's good ex-etiquette.

Jann Blackstone is the author of "Ex-etiquette for Parents: Good Behavior After Divorce or Separation," and the founder of Bonus Families, bonusfamilies.com. Email her at the Ex-Etiquette website exetiquette.com at dr.jann@exetiquette.com.

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. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

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 BREAKFAST 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.

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

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard's Restaurant.

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each

Tuesday. The public is welcome.

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.

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

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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 22-26

Monday: Main Entrees: Classic cheeseburger in bun
Alternate Entrees: PB&J fun lunch, ham & cheese salad, breadstick, **Sides for all meals:** BBQ baked beans

Tuesday: Main Entrees: Beef nachos **Alternate Entrees:** PB&J fun lunch, ham & cheese salad, breadstick, **Sides for all meals:** Vegetarian refried beans

Wednesday: Main Entrees: Golden crispy chicken sticks
Alternate Entrees: PB&J fun lunch, ham & cheese salad, breadstick, **Sides for all meals:** French fries

Thursday: Main Entrees: Mini stuffed ravioli **Monday: Main Entrees:** Classic cheeseburger in bun **Alternate Entrees:** PB&J fun lunch, ham & cheese salad, breadstick, **Sides for all meals:** Roasted broccoli

Friday: Main Entrees: Classic cheese pizza **Alternate Entrees:** PB&J fun lunch, ham & cheese salad, breadstick, **Sides for all meals:** Savory green beans

WJCC WEST JAY COMMUNITY CENTER

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Ask about our Memberships & Room Rental

Decorum bill should become law

Representatives of the Association of Indiana Counties, Indiana County Commissioners and Accelerate Indiana Municipalities, as well as Indiana Public Access Counselor Luke Britt were among those testifying in favor of Indiana House Bill 1338 on Tuesday morning.

Add us to the list of supporters.

The bill, authored by State Rep. J.D. Prescott (R-Union City), would allow governing bodies to designate a time for attendees to speak, set a time limit and take reasonable steps to maintain order. Such rules would need to be posted or announced.

Attendees who break those rules would be subject to warnings, after the third of which they could be asked to leave the meeting or removed by law enforcement.

To be clear, the goal of the bill is not to silence. Rather, it is to maintain order.

Fortunately in Jay County, this has not been a major issue,

Editorial

though some meetings are allowed to become much more of a free-for-all than they should be. But in Randolph County, Winchester City Council has been hamstrung by this problem for more than a year. The same handful of individuals have sought to monopolize meetings, to the detriment of the council getting anything done and to others who are seeking to observe and/or express their own concerns.

Former Jay County Commissioner Jim Zimmerman was outstanding at handling such difficult situations. While he was never president of commissioners, Zimmerman chaired Jay County Plan Commission

during a period when contentious topics such as confined feeding operations and wind farms were being discussed. He made sure everyone got their say, but was not afraid to tell someone they were out of line if they were talking out of turn, being disrespectful or interrupting others.

Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins also earns high marks for making sure residents get to have their say but also being willing to tell them it's time to move on, thus making sure city council can conduct its necessary business.

It's worth clarifying that there is a difference between a public meeting and a public hearing. A public meeting — regular city council, commissioners, board of works meetings, etc. — is a business meeting conducted for the public to observe. While it is good practice for such groups to allow public comment, it is not required. Public hearings, on the other hand, are specifically

designed to hear public comment on a particular issue.

You'll find no bigger advocate for the First Amendment — Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances — than us. But none of those rights are unlimited. You can't yell incite panic or make true threats of violence against an individual. We, as a newspaper, cannot commit libel.

Nor should any individual, or group of individuals, be allowed to monopolize or constantly disrupt a government meeting.

If House Bill 1338 becomes law, we'd suggest all local units of government:

•Hold a public comment period at or near the beginning of their meeting (forcing those with concerns to wait through

sometimes lengthy meetings discourages participation).

•Limit each individual's comment time — three minutes seems fair; five at the most — after which the governing body may or may not respond or ask questions.

Simple. The bill made it through second reading in the Indiana House this week and is headed for a third reading Monday. If approved, it would then move to the Senate.

It should continue to progress and be signed by the governor.

We hope, once implemented, it will make for a smoother process for all local units of government, a process in which constituents are able to address their elected officials and the business of our towns, cities, counties and other government units can be effectively conducted.

Freedom of speech. Orderly effective government.

Both are essential to our way of life. — R.C.

Expect changes on property taxes

By DAVID BOTTORFF

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

During the 2023 General Assembly much of the discussion centered on providing property tax relief to homesteads. Lawmakers' efforts will result in much more modest tax increases for these owner-occupied homes on 2024 property tax bills.

According to a presentation by Dr. Larry DeBoer at the Indiana County Commissioners Association conference, net assessed values in 2022 increased by 21% over the previous year. Market-driven forces created the increase and the historic increases in values contributed to the higher property tax payments in 2023.

The average net assessed value increase for homesteads grew on average by about 21% in 2022, which was paid in 2023.

Local debt spending, including voter approved referenda, contributed to the increased payments too.

Multiple provisions in House Enrolled Act 1499 provides relief to all classes of property but most of the relief was aimed at homesteads, or primary residences. The net assessed value for homesteads increased only about 3.6% in 2023 and those values will be used for the property taxes paid in 2024.

The more moderate increase is due to the slowing increase in homestead values, but more influential was the statutory, temporary increase in the homestead supplemental deduction from 35% to 40%.

The increase in the supplemental deduction will result in an 8 to 10% reduction in the growth of net assessed value of homesteads.

Without the temporary increase in the supplemental deduction, the net assessed value of homesteads would have increased between 11 to 13%.

The 2023 net assessed values for all properties increased nearly 6%; therefore homesteads property tax liability will

David Bottorff



grow slower than most all other classes of property.

Overall, in 2023 homesteads absorbed a much greater portion of the overall property tax burden but in 2024 business real property will grow the slowest followed by homesteads.

Another provision approved in 2023 that will prevent property taxes from growing as fast in 2024 is a 20% reduction in the property tax growth factor. The change in the growth factor from 5% to 4% for taxes due in 2024 will also influence the growth in property taxes.

Indiana's property tax system results in one of the lowest average tax bills in the country for homesteads. All of Indiana's neighbors have higher property taxes for homesteads. Once 2024 property tax bills are calculated and mailed, "normalcy" should return for homeowners as it relates to property taxes.

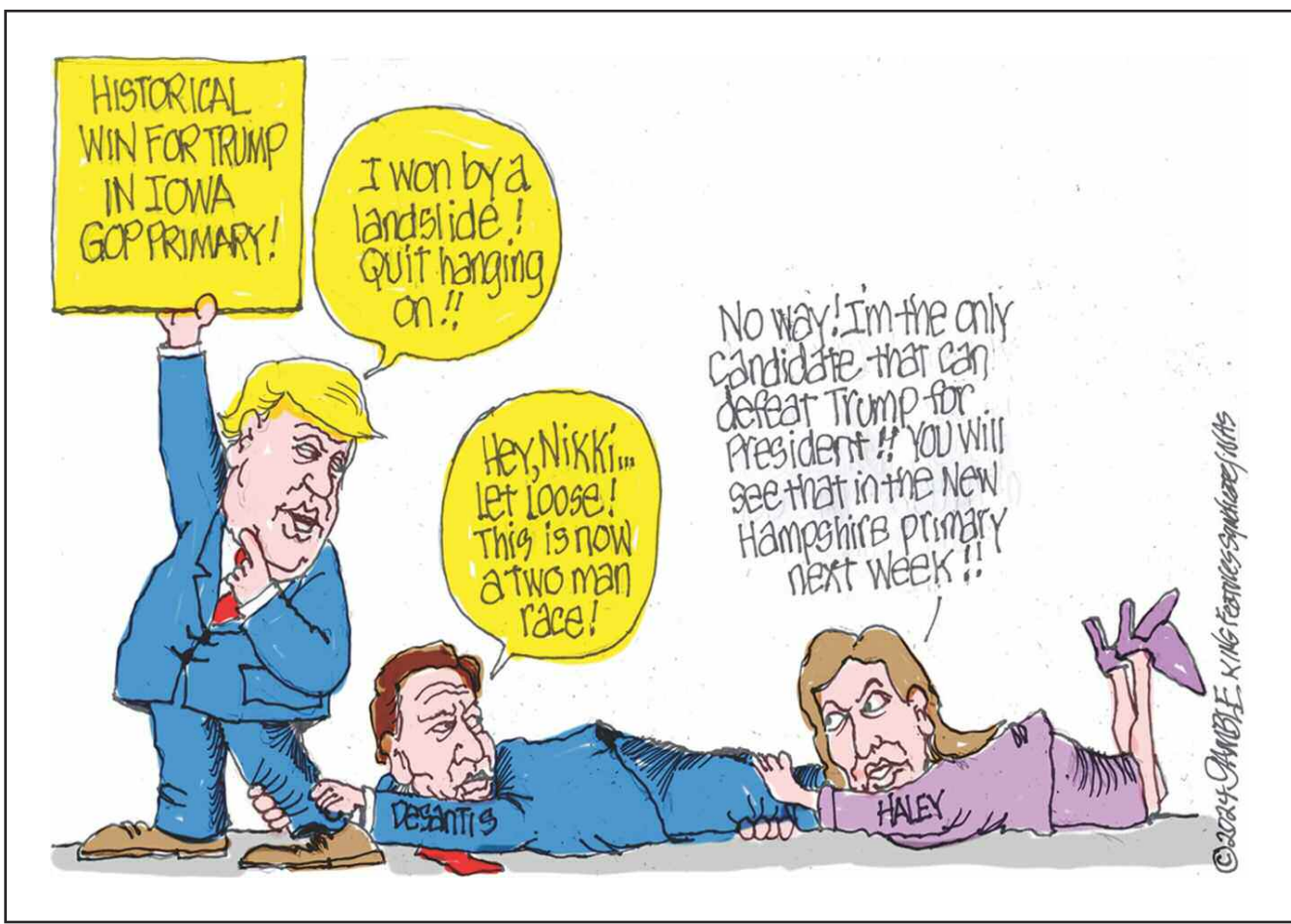
So what class of property will grow the fastest in liability in 2024 and perhaps seek relief?

Farmland property tax bills are expected to grow the fastest as the base rate will increase from \$1,900 to \$2,280. This assessed value increase is once again due to market factors. The last time the assessed value for farm ground was above \$2,000 was in 2015. That resulted in a statutory change in the formula used to determine the value of farm ground.

It is unclear if lawmakers will act in the 2024 session to impact agriculture property taxes.

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Bottorff is the Executive Director of the Association of Indiana Counties, an organization representing county government and county officials.

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What have we done to deserve this?

LZ GRANDERSON
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

The 118th Congress — who is responsible for this train wreck of a legislative body?

Is it them or is it us? Because to quote Erykah Badu, I think we "made a wrong turn back there somewhere."

How is it possible that the same caucus that drove Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-California, out of office is thinking of a sequel because their hand-picked replacement in the speaker's chair, Rep. Mike Johnson, R-Louisiana, is daring to try to govern? It's as if they expected him to just obstruct until November, while the nation's business ground to a halt. "No compromise" might be a powerful slogan on the campaign trail, but democracy by definition is compromise.

Yet here we are, with the far-right fringe of the House GOP back to shut down the government if that's what it takes to get everything they want. Even after we've all seen what happens when the Matt Gaetz actually get what they want.

So really, who is responsible for this Congress?

Think about it: The same day the MAGA wing fired McCarthy, Hunter Biden was in a federal court in Delaware pleading not guilty to gun charges. Yet because Gaetz, the Republican representative from Florida, and company chose to lead an uprising that day, the only thing anyone talked about was the historic firing of McCarthy. Gaetz took focus away from the president's son and placed it squarely on himself. Narcissism aside, that was just painfully shortsighted. He didn't even have the foresight to wait 24 hours to throw his tantrum.

The same political squandering

LZ Granderson



happened again Tuesday as members of the House were considering holding Hunter Biden in contempt for refusing to testify behind closed doors.

Suddenly, the president's son walks in. And what happens? Egos, meltdowns, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Georgia, declaring she's not an expert on porn.

It was clear from the moment Hunter Biden appeared that the MAGA wing hadn't even considered the possibility that he would show up to the contempt hearing. This despite him already showing a more aggressive strategy a month ago, when he held an unexpected press conference outside of the Capitol in defiance of their subpoena. Hunter Biden's confrontational approach is what inspired these lawmakers to gather Tuesday, yet, apparently, no one in that brain trust was prepared for him to try to pull anything similar.

And this is the caucus the 118th Congress is allowing to cause all of the ruckus?

Who is responsible for this? Do we blame the George Santoses of the world for manipulating voters, or the Republicans who support his ilk just for parroting Trump?

Since 2001, the approval rating of Congress has steadily fallen. It's an anemic 15% now. After what we've witnessed this week, I'm surprised it's that high. The country's military involvement in the Middle East is

escalating, child care is unaffordable, the climate is in chaos — you name it, there's plenty of work to be done. Yet Greene is talking about pornography. Why? Because she brought nude pictures of Hunter Biden to the Capitol. And the reason she was able to do that is that Georgians in District 14 believe she's the best person for the job.

So, who is responsible for the ineptitude of the 118th Congress?

We are. District 1, down in Florida — that's a political mastermind you got there in Gaetz. If he or one of his colleagues gets antsy for attention, they're likely to go after Johnson — and then go through the roster looking for the next politician foolish enough to take on that thankless speaker job.

I'm not a fan of Johnson's policies, but I can appreciate his political nimbleness. The revered House speakers of the past all demonstrated an ability to work across the aisle and negotiate deals. "Compromise" was not always a toxic word. In fact, it's how we forge a way to live together.

Who is responsible for this Congress? It's tempting to point at them, but the answer is always us. The reason the approval rating of Congress is so low is simply this: For decades now, we've been sending our anger and fears to Washington. We need to get back to sending thoughtfulness, maybe even compassion. Some strategic thinking certainly couldn't hurt.

In the meantime, whatever Congress is doing, or not doing, is what we voted for. Of course we don't approve. The collective ugliness we see at the Capitol is a reflection of our worst impulses.

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Granderson is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Cryptogram

YESTERDAY'S COMPAGNIE... HISTORICAL...
 BURIED...
 BOARD...
 YESTERDAY'S COMPAGNIE... HISTORICAL...
 BURIED...
 BOARD...

Trivial Review
 (Answers are printed below, upside down.)

Golden in nature

- Before the Gold Rush in California, all gold coins issued by the U.S. Mint were produced by gold from what state?
- From how far away can a lion's roar be heard?

(1) North Carolina
(2) Five miles

Cryptogram

YESTERDAY'S COMPAGNIE... HISTORICAL...
 BURIED...
 BOARD...
 YESTERDAY'S COMPAGNIE... HISTORICAL...
 BURIED...
 BOARD...

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to slow cooking. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 16 = E)

A. 12 9 10 12 23
 Clue: Vessel

B. 18 19 10 8
 Clue: Opposite of fast

C. 18 3 20 20 16 9
 Clue: Liquid kept below boil

D. 1 16 15 17 16 9 3 21 16
 Clue: Soften fibers

Answers: A. crock B. slow C. simmer D. tenderize

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to slow cooking.

ROKCOE

Answer: Crocker

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in New York on January 16, 1980. I started my musical career in a comedy hip hop group. I have achieved immense fame after creating groundbreaking Broadway musicals and contributing to movie soundtracks.

Answer: Lin-Manuel Miranda

kids' corner

BOOK FACT!

A CHILD BETWEEN THE AGES OF 9 AND 11 WHO READS THIS MANY BOOKS IN A YEAR IS CONSIDERED A FREQUENT READER.

ANSWER: 44

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Page
SPANISH: Página
ITALIAN: Pagina
FRENCH: Page
GERMAN: Seite

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- Resting
- Represented
- Food enjoyed on Tuesday
- Short novel

DOWN

- Enjoying a book
- Illumination providers
- Type of flower
- Path

Answers: 1. Reading 2. Lamps 3. Gladia 4. Depicted 5. Trail
6. Relaxing 7. Taco

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

JAN 15

- 1759: THE BRITISH MUSEUM OPENS TO THE PUBLIC.
- 1870: A POLITICAL CARTOON DEPICTS THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY WITH A DONKEY FOR THE FIRST TIME.
- 1889: THE COCA-COLA COMPANY, THEN KNOWN AS THE PEMBERTON MEDICINE COMPANY, IS INCORPORATED IN ATLANTA.

New Word

GLOSSARY

alphabetical list of terms in a book

SLOW COOKING WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- BUSY
- CROCK
- DESSERT
- DIGITAL
- ENJOY
- FONDUE
- HOURS
- INGREDIENTS
- KITCHEN
- LADE
- LOW
- NONSTICK
- POT
- ROAST
- SAVORY
- SEASONINGS
- SIMMERING
- SLOW COOKER
- SOUP
- STEW
- TEMPERATURE
- TIMER

Did You Know?

THE FIRST BOOK TO SELL ONE MILLION COPIES IS BELIEVED TO BE "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN" BY HARRIET BEECHER STOWE. IT WAS WRITTEN IN 1852.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: STACK OF BOOKS

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- June 10th
- 40 Mar-
- 41 New
- 45 Available
- 48 Award
- 50 Fudic
- 51 Rolo's
- 52 Victory
- 53 Haa
- 54 Tokem
- 55 Hassy
- DOWN**
- 1 Sale-
- 16 1 a whar
- 20 Seasons
- 1 mander
- 21 Sate-
- 20 Seasons
- he ber

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer:

2 Dene wit
3 va ley
4 Hainc
5 Hainc
6 Namc
7 Hainc
8 Noya
9 Namc
10 Hainc
11 Hainc
12 Adress
13 Mages
14 Gash
15 Shadic
16 1 a whar
17 Vagha
18 Goodca
19 Farmily
20 Seasons
21 Giall peg
22 Phing
23 Hainc
24 Unusual glass
25 Rop- 104
26 Tectle
27 D. ing
28 Look
29 alier
30 Saiger
31 Waiical
32 Waiical
33 G. 10
34 G. 10
35 Chese
36 J. uen ca
37 Cal'oo
38 10 gald
39 10 gald
40 10 gald
41 New
42 10 gald
43 Hovase
44 Conca-
45 10 gald
46 10 gald
47 10 gald
48 10 gald

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Test your play

L. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the K-Q of clubs, which you duck, and then the jack, on which South shows out. How would you play the hand?

WEST
 ♠ K J 10 5
 ♥ A K 8
 ♦ A Q
 ♣ A 9 4 2

EAST
 ♠ Q 8 2
 ♥ Q 6 5 4
 ♦ J 7 4 3
 ♣ 8 6

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Hearts, and North leads the five of hearts. You win South's nine and return a high heart. North takes the ace and returns the heart eight, which you win. South having discarded two diamonds. How would you play the hand?

WEST
 ♠ K 10
 ♥ K Q J 10 4 3
 ♦ K 6
 ♣ 8 6

EAST
 ♠ J 7 5
 ♥ 7 6 2
 ♦ A 4
 ♣ A K 10 9 3

3. If North has the ace of spades, you cannot make the contract, so you must assume South has the ace. However, it would be wrong to lead a spade at this point because South would win and most likely return a diamond. You would then be faced with the critical decision of whether to take the diamond finesse or rely on a 3-3 heart break

Tomorrow: A different kind of squeeze.
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1. Only a...
4. Fromer...
4. Fromer...
2. Dene wit
3. va ley
4. Hainc
5. Hainc
6. Namc
7. Hainc
8. Noya
9. Namc
10. Hainc
11. Hainc
12. Adress
13. Mages
14. Gash
15. Shadic
16. 1 a whar
17. Vagha
18. Goodca
19. Farmily
20. Seasons
21. Giall peg
22. Phing
23. Hainc
24. Unusual glass
25. Rop- 104
26. Tectle
27. D. ing
28. Look
29. alier
30. Saiger
31. Waiical
32. Waiical
33. G. 10
34. G. 10
35. Chese
36. J. uen ca
37. Cal'oo
38. 10 gald
39. 10 gald
40. 10 gald
41. New
42. 10 gald
43. Hovase
44. Conca-
45. 10 gald
46. 10 gald
47. 10 gald
48. 10 gald

Solution time: 20 mins.

Yesterday's answer:

1 10 gald
2 Dene wit
3 va ley
4 Hainc
5 Hainc
6 Namc
7 Hainc
8 Noya
9 Namc
10 Hainc
11 Hainc
12 Adress
13 Mages
14 Gash
15 Shadic
16 1 a whar
17 Vagha
18 Goodca
19 Farmily
20 Seasons
21 Giall peg
22 Phing
23 Hainc
24 Unusual glass
25 Rop- 104
26 Tectle
27 D. ing
28 Look
29 alier
30 Saiger
31 Waiical
32 Waiical
33 G. 10
34 G. 10
35 Chese
36 J. uen ca
37 Cal'oo
38 10 gald
39 10 gald
40 10 gald
41 New
42 10 gald
43 Hovase
44 Conca-
45 10 gald
46 10 gald
47 10 gald
48 10 gald

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A different kind of squeeze

North dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ Q J 10 4
 ♥ Q
 ♦ K 3 5 2
 ♣ A K 10 3

WEST
 ♠ 3 5
 ♥ K 10 9 7 6 4 2
 ♦ J 3
 ♣ 9 7

EAST
 ♠ 7
 ♥ 8 3
 ♦ A Q 10 9 7 6
 ♣ Q 8 5 4

SOUTH
 ♠ A K 9 6 3 2
 ♥ A J 5
 ♦ 4
 ♣ J 6 2

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
 4 ♠ Pass 6 ♠

Opening lead: jack of diamonds.

There is a play in bridge called a trump squeeze. The opportunity to use it seldom occurs, but when the proper setup arises, the trump squeeze can be applied with devastating effect.

Consider this deal where West led the jack of diamonds against six spades. Declarer played low from dummy and ruffed West's diamond continuation at trick two. At this point, it might seem that South will need a successful club finesse to make the slam, but he decided not to put all his eggs in this one basket.

Instead he cashed the ace of hearts at trick three, then ruffed a

heart with dummy's ten. A low trump to the nine was followed by the jack of hearts, ruffed with dummy's jack as East discarded a diamond. South then overtook the queen of trump with the king and cashed the ace of trump, discarding a club from dummy as East discarded another diamond. This was now the position:

North
 ♠ K 8
 ♥ A K 10

West
 ♠ 10 9 7
 ♥ 9 7

East
 ♠ A Q
 ♥ Q 8 5

South
 ♠ 6 3
 ♥ J 6 2

By this time, declarer knew that East had started with precisely one spade, two hearts, six diamonds and, therefore, four clubs. This meant that East was subject to a trump squeeze, and that it did not matter whether he had the queen of clubs or not.

Accordingly, South led the spade six and discarded the club ten from dummy, placing East in an untenable position. If East discarded a club, declarer would cash the A-K of clubs to establish his jack; if East discarded the diamond queen instead, declarer would cross to dummy with a club and ruff the eight of diamonds to establish the king. Either way, the contract was home.

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A different kind of squeeze

North dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ Q J 10 4
 ♥ Q
 ♦ K 3 5 2
 ♣ A K 10 3

WEST
 ♠ 3 5
 ♥ K 10 9 7 6 4 2
 ♦ J 3
 ♣ 9 7

EAST
 ♠ 7
 ♥ 8 3
 ♦ A Q 10 9 7 6
 ♣ Q 8 5 4

SOUTH
 ♠ A K 9 6 3 2
 ♥ A J 5
 ♦ 4
 ♣ J 6 2

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
 4 ♠ Pass 6 ♠

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 ♥ A K 10

West
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 ♥ 9 7

East
 ♠ A Q
 ♥ Q 8 5

South
 ♠ 6 3
 ♥ J 6 2

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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



Peanuts



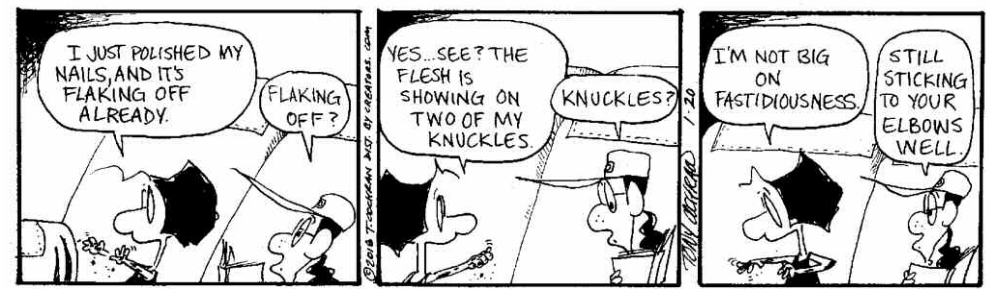
Rose is Rose



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Between Friends



Blondie



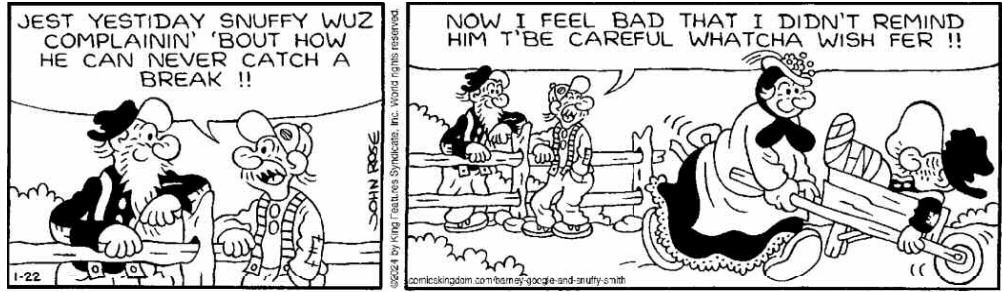
Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Beetle Bailey



We Deliver

Laughter



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.

A
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ment, and 1977 police
and fire retirement fund.
Must be 21 years of age
and no older than 40
years of age by date of
appointment. Agility tests
to be announced for non-
members of 1977 police
and fire retirement fund.
Applications can be
picked up at the Portland
Police Department.

JAY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY - Applications
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requires working with
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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED
REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, ss:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
JAY COUNTY
PORTLAND, INDIANA
CAUSE NO: 38C01-2310-MF-000022
NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING
PLAINTIFF
vs
IGNACIO BERMUDEZ CARMONA;
NATIVIDAD DEJUSUS BERMUDEZ
DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
By virtue of an Order of Sale, directed to me from the Clerk of the
Jay Circuit Court and pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure en-
tered on 12/01/2023, I will expose to public sale to the highest bid-
der for cash in hand, at the office of the Sheriff of Jay County, in Jay
County, Indiana, located at Courthouse, 3rd Floor, Portland, IN
47371 on 2/22/2024, at 10:00 AM Local Time, the fee simple title to-
gether with the rents, profit, issues and income or so' much thereof
as may be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, interest, costs and ac-
cruing costs of the following described real estate located in Jay
County, Indiana, to-wit:
Lot Number 14 in Westview Addition to the City of Dunkirk, In-
diana, according to the recorded plat thereof, in the Office of the
Recorder of Jay County, Indiana.
Commonly known as: 618 Walsh Court, Dunkirk, IN 47336
State Parcel Number: 38-09-08-304-021.000-014
This sale is to be made in all respects pursuant to an act of the Gen-
eral Assembly of the State of Indiana, approved March 7, 1931, and
entitled An act concerning proceedings in actions to foreclose real
estate mortgages, providing for the sale and custody of the mort-
gaged premises and repealing all laws conflicting therewith (see
Indiana Code).
It is further provided by law that there shall be no redemption from
such sale, and the purchaser at such sale, upon complying with the
terms of his purchase, shall be entitled to immediately receive
from the undersigned, Sheriff of Jay County, a deed conveying to
him, the purchaser, the fee simple title in and to said real estate.
Taken as the property of the Defendant(s) stated above at the suit
of NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing. Said sale to be
without relief from valuation and/or appraisal laws.

Larry R. Newton, Jr., Sheriff of Jay County
Attorney for Plaintiff
Codilis Law, LLC 8050
Cleveland Place
Merrillville, IN 46410
(219) 736-5579
15-23-01355

NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector.
1-20.27.2-3-2024-HSPAXLP

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF LAND OCCUPIERS TO BE HELD FOR THE JAY COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

To all occupiers of lands lying within the boundaries of the Jay County Soil and Water Conservation District, notice is hereby given that on the 28th day of February 2024, beginning at 6:00 PM, an annual meeting will be held for the purpose of making a full and due report of their activities and financial affairs since the last annual meeting and to select a supervisor for the Jay County Soil and Water Conservation District of the State of Indiana.

All land occupiers and other interested parties are entitled to attend. The meeting will be held at the Bob Schmit Memorial Building, Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland, Indiana.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Kurt Theurer - Chairman
Barry Miller - Vice Chairman
Carl Walker - Secretary
Rick Imel - Treasurer
Betty Drinkut - Supervisor
Steve Rines - Associate Supervisor
CR 1-20-2024-HSPAXLP

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260-301-1805

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO.
38C01-2401-EU-000001
IN THE MATTER OF THE
UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF
JAMES H. BERGDOLL, JR.,
DECEASED.

NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that
Brant E. Bergdoll and Loree O.
Everette, on this date 1/4/2024,
were appointed as co-personal
representatives of the estate of
James H. Bergdoll, Jr., de-
ceased, who died on December
9, 2023, leaving a will. The estate
will be administered without
Court Supervision.
All persons having claims
against said 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 publi-
cation of this notice, or within
nine (9) months after the deced-
ent's death, whichever is ear-
lier, or the claims will be forever
barred.
Dated 1/4/2024
Clerk of the Jay County
Circuit Court
John B. Bishop
Cohen Garelick & Glazier
Attorney L.D. No. 31592-49
8888 Keystone Crossing,
Suite 800
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240
(317) 573-8888;
(317) 574-3855 (fax)
jbishop@cglawfirm.com
CR 1-20.27-2024-HSPAXLP

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
MARY E. GUNTER
No. 38C01-2401-EU-000004
NOTICE OF
ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that
Bobbie J. Siegrist was, on the
17th day of January, 2024, ap-
pointed Personal Representa-
tive of the estate of Mary E.
Gunter deceased, who died on
January 3, 2024
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 publi-
cation of this notice, or within
nine (9) months after the deced-
ent's death, whichever is ear-
lier, or the claims will be for-
ever barred.
Dated at Portland, Indiana,
this 17th 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
CR 1-20.27-2024-HSPAXLP

Public Notice

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF LAND OCCUPIERS TO BE HELD FOR THE JAY COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

To all occupiers of lands lying within the boundaries of the Jay County Soil and Water Conservation District, notice is hereby given that on the 28th day of February 2024, beginning at 6:00 PM, an annual meeting will be held for the purpose of making a full and due report of their activities and financial affairs since the last annual meeting and to select a supervisor for the Jay County Soil and Water Conservation District of the State of Indiana.

All land occupiers and other interested parties are entitled to attend. The meeting will be held at the Bob Schmit Memorial Building, Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland, Indiana.

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First ...

Continued from page 10
Jay County only committed 11 turnovers, six of which came in the fourth quarter when Bomholt started to mix and match lineups and empty his bench.

Along with snapping the losing streak, the win gives Jay County the opportunity to gain some momentum as it moves into a lighter stretch of its schedule. Bomholt will look for another strong performance from his team as it hosts 2-6 Hagerstown at noon today.

"We wanted to get everybody involved and have a nice balanced effort," Bomholt said. "We did that. Now we get back to business tomorrow."

Junior varsity

Stout defense helped Jay County roll to a 47-13 victory over the Starfires.

The Patriots (8-3) only gave up five points in the first half, while scoring 22 points themselves. Brady Jetmore was the leading scorer in the first half, putting up all nine of his points in the first two quarters.

Carter Fugiett owned the

game-high in scoring as four 2-point buckets, a three and a free throw earned him 12 points. Cole Forthofer had the next highest scoring total with 10 points.

Easton O'Dell had the most points of any Starfire with five.

Freshmen

The Patriots had a massive third quarter in a 50-15 blowout of South Adams.

Brock Wasson exploded for 11 of his 16 points on three 3-point shots to fuel a 17-point period. Eli Petro put the ball through the rim two times while Joe Geesaman connected once in the quarter as well.

The Starfires were held to zero points in the third quarter as they struggled from the floor and Hunter Fields missed the only free throw attempts.

Craig Landis had the most points for SAHS with six, all of which came in the opening period on a pair of three-point plays.

Benson Barnett followed Wasson with 12 points for the Patriots, Petro tallied nine, Geesaman had eight and Wyatt Foster added five.

Jay County High School's Lauren Fisher swims the breaststroke leg of the 200-yard medley relay Friday night during the Allen County Athletic Conference Championships. Maddy Snow won diving and Fisher was second in the 200 IM and the 100 butterfly to lead the Patriots to their seventh consecutive ACAC title.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Strength ...

Continued from page 10
The girls scored 405 points to finish 108 ahead of runner-up South Adams, which won four events compared to the Patriots' one. Adams Central followed with 274 and Bluffton was last with 183.

Jay County's boys were third with 270 points, finishing 15 behind runner-up Adams Central and well ahead of last-place South Adams (134). Bluffton easily took the boys title as it racked up nine victories and 508 points.

Snow highlighted the day for the Patriots, winning diving easily despite returning to the lineup for the first time after more than six weeks off. She racked up 196.4 points to easily outdistance runner-up Kaylynn Grush (122.85) of South Adams.

"I'm glad to be back and I'm glad that I could do the best that I could with an easier (dive) list today," said Snow, who had not competed since Dec. 7 because of a partially torn labrum.

"It was pretty good," she added. "It obviously wasn't to the level that I was before, but I'm really excited for

the next few weeks and getting ready for sectional."

Third- and fourth-place finishes from Naraa Zugasti and Lucy Mace gave the Patriots a jump-start on the competition.

"Without a doubt, that's huge," said Slavik. "Coming in now and carrying over into the tournament series, in Indiana high school swimming you have to have a dive team if you're trying to score team points. ... Having Maddy back and only being off four points from her best performance after the month-and-a-half break ... is pretty tremendous. She looked really good tonight."

The Patriots' strength in numbers showed up in the pool:

- 100-yard breaststroke — Zion Beiswanger second and Morgan DeHoff third
- 100 backstroke — Avery Wentz second and Kenzie Huey third
- 200 individual medley — Lauren Fisher second and Hannah Laux fourth
- 100 butterfly — Fisher second and Kenzie Clayton fourth

•200 yard freestyle — Aubrey Millspaugh third and Sophia Hoewel fourth

Millspaugh was also third in the 500 freestyle and DeHoff finished fourth in the 50 freestyle.

Jay County narrowly missed victory in the 200-yard medley relay as Brooke Thomas of Adams Central out-touched Beiswanger at the wall for a winning time of 2 minutes, 4.25 seconds, just 15 hundredths faster than the Patriot squad that also included Fisher, DeHoff and Wentz.

Joseph Dow recorded the top finish for the boys team as he placed third in the 200 freestyle. He was also fourth in the 500 freestyle, and Lincoln Clamme added a fourth-place finish in the 100 breaststroke.

"All the way across the board they were solid," said Slavik. "Grayson Swoveland dropped a ton of time tonight. Joseph Dow scored some nice points. Matthew Fisher had some nice swims. In general, it's hard to point out any one person."

Box score				
Jay County Patriots vs. South Adams Starfires				
Boys varsity summary				
South Adams (1-11, 0-3 ACAC)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
McKean	0-1	0-0	0	
Vasquez	0-1	0-0	0	
JWanner	0-5	0-0	0	
Schwartz	0-0	0-0	0	
OWanner	3-11	2-3	8	
Dee	0-0	0-0	0	
Lehman	2-9	3-5	9	
Hunley	0-0	0-0	0	
Fear	0-0	0-0	0	
Zeigler	1-1	0-0	2	
Totals	6-28	5-8	19	
	.214	.625		
Def. rebound percentage: .545				
Jay County (3-9, 2-1 ACAC)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Nichols	1-1	0-0	2	
Mhinkmp	2-4	1-2	5	
Edwards	0-0	0-0	0	
Fugiett	0-0	0-0	0	
Garringer	5-12	2-3	12	
Dunnington	2-3	0-0	5	
Crouch	2-6	1-2	5	
Dirksen	3-5	1-2	7	
Forthofer	0-0	0-0	2	
Phillips	1-1	0-1	2	
Bihn	2-3	1-1	5	
Swoveland	5-10	0-0	9	
Totals	23-45	8-11	54	
	.511	.727		
Def. rebound percentage: .864				
Score by quarters:				
So. Ada.	2	7	5	5 —19
Jay Co.	17	15	15	7 —54
3-point shooting: South Adams 2-15 (Lehman 2-8, McKean 0-1, JWanner 0-2, OWanner 0-4). Jay County 2-11 (Dunnington 1-2, Swoveland 1-2, Muhlenkamp 0-1, Crouch 0-1, Garringer 0-5).				
Rebounds: South Adams 16 (team 7, OWanner 3, Hunley 3, Dee 2, Lehman). Jay County 29 (Garringer 5, Dirksen 5, Bihn 4, team 4, Muhlenkamp 3, Dunnington 3, Crouch 2, Swoveland 2, Phillips).				
Assists: South Adams 3 (OWanner 3), Jay County 8 (Garringer 2, Crouch 2, Muhlenkamp, Dunnington, Phillips, Swoveland).				
Blocks: South Adams 3 (OWanner, Lehman, Hunley). Jay County 2 (Crouch, Dirksen).				
Personal fouls: South Adams 14 (OWanner 3, Lehman 3, Hunley 3, Fear 3, McKean, JWanner). Jay County 8 (Bihn 3, Phillips 2, Muhlenkamp, Fugiett, Garringer).				
Turnovers: South Adams 23. Jay County 11.				

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys basketball vs. Hagerstown — 12 p.m.; Girls basketball vs. Southern Wells — 6 p.m.; JV boys wrestling state at Noblesville West — 9 a.m.; Junior High boys basketball at Adams Central — 9 a.m.; Junior high wrestling at Noblesville West — 9 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls bowling vs. Marion Local at Pla-Mor Lanes — 9:15 a.m.; Swimming Cav Invite "MAC" at Jay County — 12 p.m.; Boys bowling vs. Marion Local at Pla-Mor Lanes — 1 p.m.

Monday
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball at Indian Lake — 6 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball vs. Celina — 5 p.m.

Tuesday
Jay County — Swimming vs. Blackford and Muncie Burris — 6 p.m.; Girls basketball at Richmond — 6 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball at Wapahani — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Swimming dual-meet at South Adams — 6 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball at Marion Local — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today
3 a.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)
7:30 a.m. — Premier League: Crystal Palace at Arsenal (USA)
12 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Baylor at Texas (ESPN); Marquette at St. John's (FOX); Penn State at Ohio State (BTN); Creighton at Seton Hall (FS1)
12:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Rhode Island at Dayton (USA)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League: Nottingham Forest at Brentford (NBC)
1 p.m. — Men's college basketball: San Diego State at Boise State (CBS)
2 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Purdue at Iowa (FS1); USC at Arizona State (FOX); Belmont at Bradley (Bally Indiana)
2 p.m. — LPGA Tour: Hilton GV Tournament of Champions (NBC)
2:15 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Northwestern at Nebraska (BTN)
2:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Duquesne at Saint Joseph's (USA)
3 p.m. — International friendly soccer: Slovenia at United States (TNT)
4 p.m. — Men's college basketball: DePaul at Butler (FS1)

4:30 p.m. — NFL playoffs: Houston Texans at Baltimore Ravens (ABC)
6 p.m. — Men's college basketball: BYU at Texas Tech (ESPN2)
6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: San Jose State at San Diego State (FS1)
8 p.m. — Men's college basketball: UConn at Villanova (FS1)
8 p.m. — NHL: Washington Capitals at St. Louis Blues (Bally Indiana)
8 p.m. — Men's college hockey: Ohio State at Minnesota (BTN)
8 p.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)
8:15 p.m. — NFL playoffs: Green Bay Packers at San Francisco 49ers (FOX)

Sunday
12 a.m. — UFC: Sean Strickland vs. Dricus Du Plessis (ESPN)
3 a.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)
9 a.m. — Premier League: West Ham United at Sheffield United (USA)
11:30 a.m. — Premier League: Liverpool at AFC Bournemouth (USA)
12 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Michigan State at Maryland (CBS)
12 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Iowa at Ohio State (NBC); Providence at Butler (FS1)

1 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Rutgers at Illinois (BTN); Memphis at Tulane (ESPN2)
3 p.m. — NFL playoffs: Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Detroit Lions (NBC)
3 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Oregon at Utah (ESPN); Chattanooga at East Tennessee State (ESPN2)
5 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Indiana State at Murray State (ESPN2)
5 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Arkansas at LSU (ESPN)
6:30 p.m. — NFL playoffs: Kansas City Chiefs at Buffalo Bills (CBS)
7 p.m. — USA: Latin America Amateur Championship (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN)
8 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Phoenix Suns (Bally Indiana)

Monday
3 a.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)
2:45 p.m. — Premier League: Wolverhampton at Brighton & Hove Albion (USA)
6:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: St. John's at Seton Hall (FS1)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Wake Forest at North Carolina (ESPN)
8:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball:

Kansas State at Baylor (FS1)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Cincinnati at Kansas (ESPN)
9 p.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)

Tuesday
3 a.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Butler at Georgetown (FS1)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Texas at Oklahoma (ESPN); Wisconsin at Minnesota (BTN); Florida State at Syracuse (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: New York Knicks at Brooklyn Nets (TNT)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Xavier at Creighton (FS1)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: TCU at Oklahoma State (ESPN2)
9 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Minnesota at Wisconsin (BTN)
9 p.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Los Angeles Clippers (TNT)
10:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Boise State at Fresno State (FS1)

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First in 49

Jay clobbers Starfires to end losing streak

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

The Patriots have played a brutal schedule so far this season.

It had been 49 days since they last experienced a win.

They refused to let that number tick over to 50.

The Jay County High School boys basketball team dominated the South Adams Starfires from first tip to final buzzer to snap an eight-game losing streak with a 54-19 victory Friday.

“Over the last seven games — I don’t have it exactly, but I think I’m pretty close — those seven teams were like 81-40,” JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt said. “The strength of our schedule ... has challenged us to do some things a little better.”

“We worked hard and tonight we got a few different combinations on the floor, which was something I wanted to do one more time before we make a decision on where we go with our starting lineup. ... Tonight, I thought we got really good balance.”

Jay County (3-9, 2-1 Allen County Athletic Conference) flowed on offense, getting different looks at the basket for multiple different players. Liam Garringer was the only Patriot to break double-digit scoring with 12 points.

After the senior, six different players scored between five and nine points for Jay County.

They scored in different ways as well.

Gradin Swoveland and Trevin Dunnington both hit threes. Wesley Bihn and Ben Crouch played well with their backs to the basket. Eli Dirksen found his three baskets on back cuts and short drives to the rim. Levi Muhlenkamp also scored off of a back cut, as well as on offensive rebound that opened the scoring for Jay County.

“Having so many scorers makes it a lot easier,” Muhlenkamp said. “That means you can get the ball to anybody you need at the time and they can get a bucket for you. It just, it makes them think who to guard and it just makes offense a lot easier.”

“We were keeping the ball with us, not turning it over, just creating good shots, trying to get the ball in the post and moving in transition.”

Muhlenkamp’s put-back sparked an 11-0 run for Jay County to begin the game. During that run, multiple Patriots were contributing offensively as Bihn, Swoveland and Garringer all had buckets in the four-minute stretch.

South Adams (1-11, 1-2 ACAC) got on the board with a drive from Owen Wanner with 2 minutes, 30 seconds, left in the opening frame. It was the only bucket of the first quarter for the Starfires, as JCHS built a 17-2 lead.

Offense wouldn’t come any easier for the Starfires

during the rest of the game, as they scored seven points in the second quarter — three came on Tytus Lehman free throws with 1.7 seconds left — five in the third and five in the fourth.

Locking down Lehman was a focal point for Jay County in the game. It forced the prolific driver to become a shooter, and he finished only 2-of-9 from the field for nine points.

“We took away their strength and did a good job on him,” Bomholt said. “In our zone, you can’t let him attack what we call the gaps. So, we just closed down anytime they put it on the floor trying to attack.”

Wanner didn’t have much more success, tallying eight points on 3-for-11 from the floor. The only other player to score was Diesel Zeigler, who planted himself next to the rim and received a bullet pass from Wanner for a layup.

Another key part of stopping the Starfires’ offense was preventing extra possessions. Jay County out-rebounded SAHS 29-16, only allowing four offensive rebounds.

“That was definitely one of our goals going into tonight,” said Dirksen, who tied for Garringer for a game-high five rebounds. “That’s something that coach always hounds us about. Rebounding with the zone is always hard, but we work on it in practice and we executed.”

See First page 9



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Eli Dirksen of Jay County High School comes down as the ball falls through the rim on a layup during a 54-19 win on Friday over South Adams. Dirksen, who recently started getting varsity minutes, led the Patriots with five rebounds and added seven points as well.



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Strength in numbers

Depth carries Patriots to 7th ACAC title in a row

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The Patriot girls won the opening event of the evening.

It was their only victory. But that didn’t matter.

There is, after all, strength in numbers.

Jay County High School’s girls swim team rode a diving victory from Maddy Snow and its large roster to its seventh consecutive

Allen County Athletic Conference championship.

“We knew coming into the season our depth was going to be a big deal for us,” said JCHS coach Matt Slavik, whose team took two of the top four spots in six individual events. “With where we’re at with the talent level on this team, they all optimize what they can do in the pool. And it certainly helps having three kids in every event that can score points. They swam really well. They maximized the number of points that we got. ... We scored more than I anticipated when I looked at this meet earlier in the week.”

“It was truly a team effort,” he added. “Everybody contributed.”

See Strength page 9

Coldwater pulls away from Tribe

Indians fall to Cavs for eighth straight loss

FORT RECOVERY — The Indians won four of their first six games.

Since then, they have had a tough time getting back into the win column, and the Cavaliers didn’t want to change that.

The Coldwater Cavaliers got a big performance from Luke Schwieterman as they stayed perfect in Midwest Athletic Conference play with a 57-32 win over the Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team Friday.

The Indians (4-10, 0-4 MAC) couldn’t quiet Schwieterman, who exploded for 24 points. He hit three triples and shot a perfect 6-for-6 from the free-throw line.

Briggs Overman put up a team-high 11 points for Fort Recovery, with no one else scoring more than six points.

Overman had six of his points in the opening period as FRHS put up 10. Schwieterman countered the Indians’ offense, scoring all 12 of the Cavaliers’ points.

Owen Kunk provided a spark in the second and third quarters when he scored 10 of his 12 points to help Coldwater (10-2, 4-0 MAC) pull away.

Gavin Evers had the second-most points for Fort Recovery with six. Gavin Fallor added five and Mason Diller had four.