The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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

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 James Myers will take over dean duties on an interim of a deterrent. 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

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 assistant principal for cur-trucks leaving the desigriculum and instruction nated route in Portland seem to be enough didn't

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 vear 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 sevenmonth street, water and sewer construction work along Water Street (Indiana 26).

"It was quite an influx of citations. Our officers

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.

writing tickets, redirecting and I didn't want a Walsaid newly mart truck coming down appointed Portland police my street," she explained chief Dustin Mock, who 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

Council agreed in April to increase the ordinance violation fee for first offenses to \$275 - 11the times 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 — "Watermellon" Jim Phillips (pictured), Brenda Beaty and Dave Dudelston — joining the group.

Buying new firearms

By BAILEY CLINE

REDKEY - New board members, new marshal, new pistols. Redkey Town

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 .40caliber, 9mm models at a cost of

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 explained Moser. "I think it's a good idea to kind of stick

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 with what they do, since, you car over, and I think a dog needs

know, the ammo's cheaper, to run it, it's not going to hap-

A United States Marine Corps Moser previously veteran, 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, 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

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

Redkey council approves

purchase of new Glocks

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

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



Obituaries

Linley Lawrence

April 13, 1945-Jan, 18, 2024 Linley W. "Bill" Lawrence, age 78, of Bryant passed away on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024, in Persimmon Ridge Healthcare in

Born in Decatur on April 13, 1945, he was the son of Willam and Alice (Totten) Lawrence. He was married on Oct. 11, 1964, to Sandra Whetsone, and she passed away on May 5, 2018.

Bill was retired from Red Gold and also worked as a carpenter. He was a member of Bryant Volunteer Fire Department, Bryant Economic Development Commit- Bryant. Visitation will be Montee and Bryant Town Council, and day from 4 to 6 p.m.



Surviving are Gary one son, (wife: Lawrence Kathy) of Portland; one daugh-Rita Flick (husband: Brian) of Ridgeville; and three grandchildren, Brittney,

Mariah and Gavin.

Funeral services will be Monday, Jan. 22, 2024, a 6 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Paul Van Cise presiding. Burial will be in the Gravel Hill Cemetery west of



Lawrence

Judy Eglan

April 26, 1961-Jan. 17, 2024 Judy Eglan, age 62, of Portland passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, at her residence.

She was born in Portland on April 26, 1961, the daughter of Richard and Genny (Boolman) Newton. Judy was retired from FCC in Portland. She was a 1979 Jay County High School gradu-

Surviving are one daughter,

April Ludy (husband: Steve) of Greer, South Carolina; her mother Genny Newton of Portland; sister Sandy Newton of Portland; three grandsons, Bailey, Mason and Peyton

Ludy; and several nieces and nephews.

Eglan

She was preceded in death by a sister, Nyoka Smith; a brother, Richard Newton; and her father, Richard Newton.

The family will receive guests from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday Jan. 20, 2024, in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home.

Memorials can be made to the Jay County Humane Society.

Alex Raymond Neal, Geneva, Nov. 24, 1944-Jan. 17, 2024. Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 22, at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 N. Washington St., Geneva.

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 datetime/date/location of services.

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

CR almanac

Sunday 1/21	Monday 1/22	Tuesday 1/23	Wednesday 1/24	Thursday 1/25	
			-		
21/13	33/29	39/37	44/37	45/38	
Sunday's forecast shows sunny skies with the high around 13 degrees.	with a higher	Tuesday has an 80% chance of rain through- out the day.	There's a 50% chance of rain Wednes- day under cloudy skies. The low will be around 37.	Thursday has a 40% chance of rain Thursday under cloud skies.	
_	_				

Lotteries

Hoosier

Midday Daily Three: 2-0-7 Daily Four: 2-3-5-7 9-16-20-21-24-30-43-45-62-

Ohio

Pick 3: 7-6-9

Pick 5: 4-0-7-5-4 Rolling Cash 5: 1-24-25-

Estimated jackpot:

\$120 million

Estimated \$236 million

Quick Draw: 1-2-3-7-8-66-68-71-72-73-77

Midday

Pick 4: 2-8-3-5

Evening Jackpot: \$120,000

Powerball

Mega Millions jackpot:

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery	Feb. beans11.98 Wheat5.53
Corn	ADM Montpelier Corn4.23
POET Biorefining Portland Corn4.50 Feb. corn4.45	Feb. corn 4.27 Beans 11.89 Feb. beans 11.91 Wheat 5.48
March corn4.45 The Andersons	Heartland St. Anthony Corn4.36
Richland Township Corn 4.36 Feb. corn 4.31 Beans 11.88	March corn

Today in history

In 1801, United Black States president John Nashville, Tennessee. Adams nominated John Holly, a rock artist, Marshall as chief justice of the Supreme his own songs, includ-Court of the United States.

In 1869, Elizabeth Cady Staton became the first woman to testify before the United States Gaye's "What's Going Congress. An activist and abolitionist, Stanton organized the first song inspired by a women's rights conven- police brutality incition in Seneca Falls, New York, and founded the National Women Suffrage Association.

astronaut Buzz Aldrin was born in New Jersey. Aldrin is known for being the second person to step foot on the Moon.

In 1934, Fujifilm was founded. The Japanese company later became a competing player in the photography and electronics field.

In 1956, Buddy Holly recorded "Blue Days

Night" in wrote and performed ing "Peggy Sue." His career was cut short at

In 1971, Marvin On" was released by Tamla Records. The dent opened his album of the same name.

the age of 22 when he

died in a plane crash.

In 1981, the Iran hostage crisis ended. In 1930, American After 15 months, 52 United States citizens were released from a group of Islamists.

In 2016, a man MainSource robbed Bank, 120 E. Main St., Portland. He stole an undisclosed amount of cash and fled on foot. It was Portland's second bank robbery in less than a year.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday

9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.

5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Port-

Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building,

Tuesday

131 S. Main St.

10 a.m. — Dunkirk Police Pension Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.

5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, fire station, 6 p.m. — Dunkirk 1616 N. Franklin St.

Continued from page 1 The email does not address either of the nurses who have been named in

the suits. "The Jay School Corporation is working with legal counsel to conduct a full review of these allegations," the email says.

"As this is a personnel matter, appropriate information will be communicated to the extent, and at such time, as is consistent with the School Corporation's confidentiality obligations," it continues. "We are committed to maintaining a safe and secure learning environment, while preserving due process rights of our students and employees.'

Jay School Corporation is not named in either law-

The Commercial Review

tort claim has been filed then left the office and against the school corporation in connection with the initial lawsuit against Milleman and Hudson. A tort claim is a notification of intent to pursue legal action against a government agency.

The complaint filed with the court details two alleged incidents involving a sophomore girl, identified as "S.H." in the document, during which she was searched by school staff for an electronic cigarette (referred to in the document as a "vape").

It says on Aug. 24 Milleman instructed her to leave her classroom and took her to Snyder's office. It says the student was ordered, in the presence of Milleman and Snyder and with the door closed, to pull down her shirt to show her bra learned Thursday that a straps. It says Milleman again exposing her breasts.

returned with a metal detector that alerted when it passed over the mid-point of her back. Milleman put his hand on her back and asked what he was feeling, the complaint says, with S.H. responding that it was the metal clasp of her bra. The document says S.H. was also ordered to pull out the front of her bra and shake it out, which exposed her breasts to Milleman and Snyder.

A second incident alleged in the complaint occurred Nov. 29 when S.H. was taken to Milleman's office after she was in a bathroom while skipping a class. According to the document, she was again required to unzip her sweatshirt and show her cleavage as well as pull out the front of her bra and shake out the bra,

"The fact that this has happened to multiple young girls at Jay County High School is extremely disturbing," said Torry Hernandez, the father of the plaintiff, in the press release. "Being made to expose herself in front of school officials is a nightmare for any young girl, and is certainly a nightmare for any parent. This is clearly a pattern and there must be consequences.'

Like the previous lawsuit, the complaint from S.H. requests a jury trial. It also asks that the court find that the student's Fourth Amendment rights were violated and that she be awarded nominal, compensatory and punitive damages for the violation as well as "emotional harm, anguish and other related injuries.'

Fines

Continued from page 1

That meant tickets came to approximately \$415 — court costs accounted for an additional \$139.50 — for each first-time offender. (Only one driver was charged with a second offense.)

More than 300 tickets have been paid for the ordinance violations as of Thursday. (Some of the fines aren't due until February.) Those dollars have been or will be transferred to Portland's general fund.

A chunk of the revenue has been appropriated to the police department. Council approved a request in December from former police chief Steve Schlechty to utilize \$36,990 of those dollars to purchase two used Ford Explorers for the police department.

While it's ultimately up to council to decide how to allocate the rest of the funds, Mock confirmed he'll likely make some financial requests this year for the police department.

"There are a lot of projects that need to be done," said Mock. "I'm sure we will be before council one or two or three times before the end of the vear.'

Despite the fines, off the truck route traffic kept officers busy at all hours. It also led to street and property damage across the city. (Replacing a stop sign alone costs more than \$200, not including labor.)

"It took a lot of manpower hours to get these trucks where they needed to go," said Mock. "A lot of the trucks caused private property damage to yards, street signs. And it was just, it was just a big mess. A big traffic prob-

In late June, construction started on the replacement of the Indiana 26 (Water Street) "big blue bridge" over the Salamonie River on the eastern edge of Portland. The detour took trucks along U.S. 27, Indiana 67 and

In August, installation of a new form sewer line began along parts of Meridian Street (U.S. 27). Its detour directed truck traffic to Indiana 67, Indiana 1 and Indiana 28.

Instead of utilizing state highways for detours, truckers often attempted to forge their own paths through the city, said Mock. Several truck drivers turned down side streets such as Main, Commerce and Arch headed eastbound in order to get into Ohio.

"They pretty much would route around (U.S.) 27 anyway they could to avoid taking the detour route," Mock

"We had a lot of them just going through the barricades entirely on (U.S.) 27, where they shouldn't have been," added Mock, noting semi drivers also found themselves stuck after heading down Water Street near the bridge project.

Since the highways have reopened, off the truck route traffic has deceased significantly. That may change when U.S. 27 closes later this year for INDOT's paving project, said Mock

Although the fines ended up bringing in a significant dollar amount, Powers said, her main concern when she suggested increasing the rate had been about safety. The ordinance cemi drivere a ecountable to fo low the designated routes, she noted.

"Some people thought I was attacking the local farmers and semis, and that wasn't the intent at all. Local people know how to get around it," she said. "Honestly, in my opinion, it was about getting the side streets as safe as we can, because people walk, we've got these golf carts, bicycles, you know, all kinds of smaller stuff ... some streets are so tight the cars are parked on both sides of the road. There's just no reason for a semi to go down most of those.'

Firearms

Continued from page 1 Retter said he thinks the town needs a canine, but he still had questions, with town attorney Wes Schemenaur adding they would need to check if the dog would be a liability. Council tabled Moser's request.

In related news, Retter noted the town has received a few applications for its open police officer position. He pointed out Redkey will need to hire someone soon, as Moser will be attending the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy for 10 weeks starting in April. (Currently, Moser is the only fulltime officer on the force.) Town employee Randy

Young noted a letter has been submitted to Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) requesting an extension or new agreement regarding two combined sewer overflow (CSO) violations. (IDEM set a December deadline for the town to come up with a plan to eliminate the two CSOs. One starts near Union Street, and the other originates in a rural part of the county just north of town and lets out near

begin fining the town.) Choice One Engineering is conducting a master utility study for the town, which should be completed

Main and George streets. If

not fulfilled, IDEM could

The study may provide options for how to deal with the problems.

Young also noted one of the buildings at the wastewater plant has had the same issue for the past three years with an air handler freezing because of cold weather. He said his solution has been to use his personal auxiliary heater and a propane heater, but he noted the temperature has gotten as low as 20 degrees inside. Answering a question from council member Dave Dudelston, Young said he learned the unit it's powered with gas and must be kept outside to avoid an explosion — was not made to work in the cold.

Council also approved and later rescinded a motion to look into pur-

pointed out he has used his personal phone for more than a decade. Young told council he's content with using his own device, noting most folks who need to reach him have his phone number.

In other business, council members Brenda Beaty, "Watermellon" Phillips, Floyd Life, Dudelston and Retter:

Discussed the county's \$76,400 study ongoing through Ritter Strategic Services to look into radios for emergency responders. Moser pointed out he is currently using radios loaned from Portland Police Department and suggested the town hold off on purchasing new radios until the county makes a decision.

 Heard a request submitted by Citadel Supply chasing a city owned cell owner Brooks Fugiett to

by spring or early summer. phone for Young, who vacate the alley between his business (9096 W. Indiana 67) and Jasper and Mary Abernathy's property at 9114 W. Indiana 67. Plans are to hold a public hearing on the matter at Redkey's next meeting in February.

 Appointed council members to oversee different departments as follows: Retter, police department; Beaty, water department: Life, fire department; Dudelston, street department; Philips, wastewater department; and Retter and Dudelston, park department.

SERVICES

Monday

Wendel, Randall: 10:30 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery.

Neal, Alex: 11 a.m., Downing

& Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Lawrence, Linley: 6 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

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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 and dragged pushed toward people.

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

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.

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

Dear Abby



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: don't Some parents 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 They can't get it through 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 speak up because I was had everything to do him. I'm happy he has

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

they wanted you to be 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? RECON-NECTING IN TEXAS

> DEAR RECONNECT-ING: No one who is lucky enough to have a father on this side of the sod is old" father/daughter 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 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).

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 Los Angeles, CA 90069.

with their egos and how found the love he deserves. have enjoyed hour upon and frustration. How do I politely "enforce" 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 I care deeply for Fran known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at Dear-Abby.com or P.O. Box 69440,

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.

Ex-**Etiquette**



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

A. Family reunions can be a She tells me her father and his lot of fun, but they can also be wife have said they have no a source of ridicule and gossip, problem with my attending. so beware. If dad and his wife just expecting that you are wel- the bad stuff, get the gossip. So, quette.com.

attending the family reunion is just fine. It's when your attendance would upset family members that going might be ques-

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

have given their OK, then come. If you are anticipating set strong boundaries and don't awkwardness, personally checking (an email might 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

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 "Ex-etiquette for Parents: Good Behavior After Divorce or Separation," and the founder of Bonus bonusfamilies.com. Email her at the Ex-Etiquette website exeti-

quette.com at dr.jann@exeti-

Community Calendar

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

MOUS — Will meet at 10 St., Portland. Come early cy testing with ongoing a.m. at Zion Evangelical for a meal. For more infor-Lutheran Church, 218 E. mation, call (260) 766-2006. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 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.

DIER — 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 - BRI-ANNA'S HOPE - A faithbased recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The Rock ALCOHOLICS ANONY- Church, 1605 N. Meridian

Monday

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

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

EUCHRE Will be MUSEUM OF THE SOL- 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

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnansupport during and after pregnancy. The center is

(260) 726-5924.

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 COM-MUNITY 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 ANONY-MOUS — 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 - BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faithbased 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 ANONY-MOUS — 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 MORN-ING 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.

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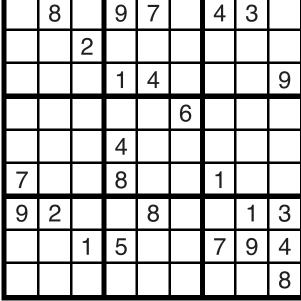
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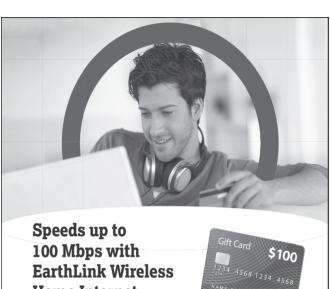
Sudoku



Friday's Solution

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.

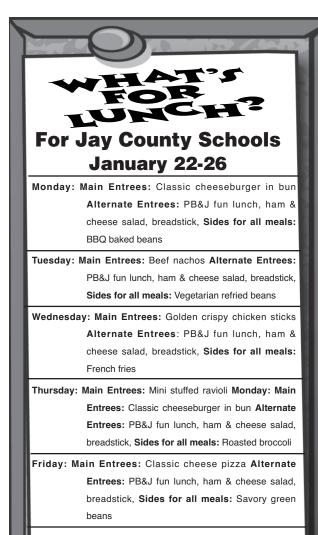
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9	3	1	2	6	5	4	8	7
8	7	6	4	9	1	2	5	3
3	1	8	5	2	4	7	9	6
4	2	9	6	7	3	5	1	8
7	6	5	9	1	8	3	4	2
2	5	4	1	3	6	8	7	9
6	9	7	8	4	2	1	3	5
1	8	3	7	5	9	6	2	4



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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 support-

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 con-designed to hear public comtentious 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 busi-

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

ment 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 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 ana's neighbors have

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 homestead values, but more influential was the statutory, temporary increase in the homesupplemental stead 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 homewould have increased between 11 to

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

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

Indiana's property tax system results in one of the lowest average tax bills in the country for homesteads. All of Indihigher property taxes for Multiple provisions in 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.

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

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organizahomesteads tion. Its website is indi-

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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 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 compro-

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 Gaetzes 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.

Granderson



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

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 The same political squandering involvement in the Middle East is for the Los Angeles Times.

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

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 no 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.

Granderson is an opinion columnist

The Commercial Review

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to edit for content and clarity.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Trivial Review

Golden in nature

1) Before the Gold Rush in California, all gold coins issued by the U.S. Mint were produced by gold from what state?

> 2) From how far away can a lion's roar be heard?

> > 2) Five miles 1) North Carolina

L-216 CRAPTOM/OUR

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SLOW COOKING WORD SEARCH

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WORD SCRAMBLE Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to slow cooking. ROKCOE фигмен: Соокен

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

WORDS

CROCK

DESSERT

DIGITAL

ENJOY

FONDUE HOURS

INGREDIENTS

KITCHEN

LADLE LOW NONSTICK

POT

ROAST

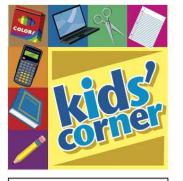
SAVORY

SEASONINGS SIMMERING SLOW COOKER

SOUP

STEW

TEMPERATURE TIMER





A CHILD BETWEEN THE AGES OF 6 AND 11 WHO READS THIS MANY BOOKS IN A YEAR IS CONSIDERED A FREQUENT READER.

ANSWER: 44

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS 1. Resting

- 4. Represented 6. Food enjoyed
- on Tuesday
- 7. Short novel
- 2. Illumination providers

1. Enjoying a book

DOWN

3. Type of flower 5. Path

THIS DAY IN...

15

HISTORY

1759: THE BRITISH

· 1870: A POLITICAL

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY WITH A DONKEY FOR THE

1889: THE COCA-COLA

COMPANY THEN KNOWN AS THE PEMBERTON

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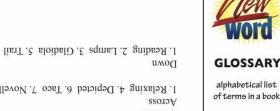
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BEECHER STOWE. HARRIET 1852



the bigger picture is? ANSWER: STACK OF BOOKS

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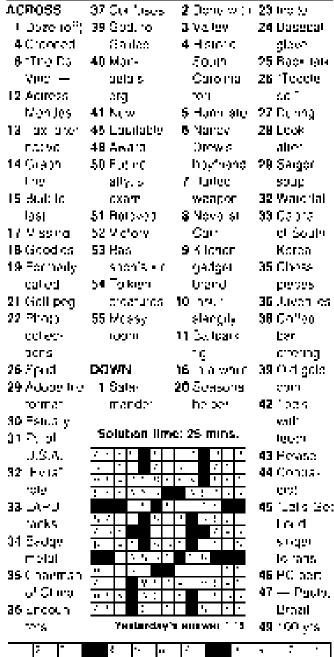
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

0 J N



Contract 🚓 Bridge 🙎 By Steve Becker

EAST

№86

Test your play

LYou 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 the state of the control of of the c South shows out. How would you play the hand? WEST

♦Q82 ♥Q654 ♦1743 **♦** K J 10 5 ♥ A K 8 **♦**Λ942

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

WEST ♦Κ 10 ♥Κ QJ 1043 ♦ J 7 5
♥ 7 6 2 **♣**186 ♠A K 10.9.3

L If North has the acc 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 and you would have no

first cashing the A-K-Q of hearts. If the suit divides 3-3, you cash the fourth heart and then drive out the ace of spades to assure time tricks. If the hearts turn out to be divided 4-2, you can then fall back on the diamond finesse as your last chance to make the contract. By testing the hearts before

attacking spades, you give yourself two chances to get home safely

the rest of the tricks by taking a club finesse, but there is also the possibility of scoring the rest of the tricks by taking a club finesse, but there is also the possibility of going down if the finesse loses to the queen and South returns a conde putting continuous. returns a spade, putting you in position to lose two spade tricks.

However, you can guarantee the contract against any lie of the cards by crossing to dummy with a dia-mond and leading a low spade toward your hand. Let's assume South follows low and you lose the

This is no great hardship because whatever North returns, you win and next concede the king of spades to the acc, establishing dummy's jack as a trick on which you can discard a club. The most you can lose on this line of play is a heart and two spades.

32 - Chess

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Tomorrow: A different kind of squeeze. 2024 King Features Syndicate Inc

Contract By Steve Becker

A different kind of squeeze

North-South vulnerable, NORTH NORTH ◆QJ 104 ▼Q • K 8.5.2 • A K 10.3 WEST EAST **≜**85 ♥K 1097642 ♦AQ10976 ♦Q854 SOUTH ◆A K 9632 ▼A 15 ◆4 • 162 The bidding: North: 2 **♦** 6 **♦** Pass

North dealer.

16

i.. R

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Pass 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 devas-

tating 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. fustead he cashed the ace of

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

West East ♥ [ii 9 7 ♣9 7 South **♦**63 **♦**J62

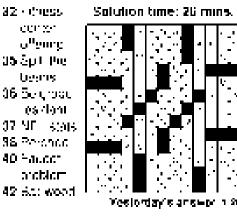
By this time, declarer knew that East had started with precisely one spade, two hearts, six diamonds and, therefore, four clubs. This meant that East was subject to a trump squeeze, and that if did not matter whether he had the queen of

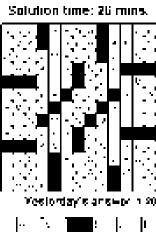
Accordingly, South led the spade six and discarded the club ten from dummy, placing East in an untenable position. If East discarded a club, declarer would cash the A-K clubs to establish his jack; if East discarded the diamond queen instead, declarer would cross to dummy with a club and ruff the eight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

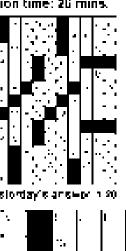
hearts at trick three, then ruffed a 3 2024 Ring Leatures Syndicate Inc

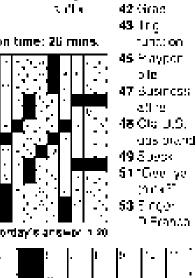
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 23 Twiste

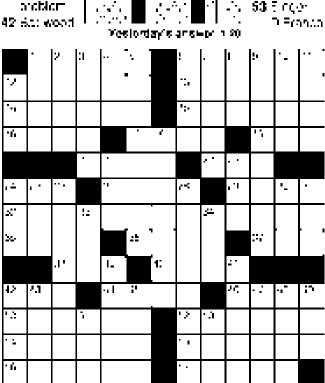
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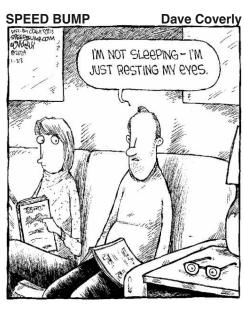














against us ...

Peanuts























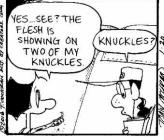


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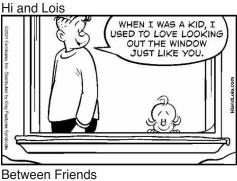








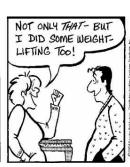






TA-DAA! I WALKED FOR OVER AN HOUR THIS MORNING!!

Between Friends

















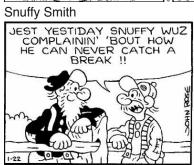


























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JAY COUNTY PUBLIC **LIBRARY** - Applications now being accepted for the full-time position of Library Assistant. Job requires working with teen and adult programming, marketing, and strong customer service and technology skills. Job description available at the library and on the library's website www.jaycpl.lib.in.us. Applications accepted until the position is filled.

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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

> 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 entered on 12/01/2023. I will expose to public sale to the highest bidder for cash in hand, at the office of the Sheriff of Jay County, in Jay County, Indiana, located at Courthouse, 3rd Floor, Portland, IN 47371on 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 accruing 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, Indiana, 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 General 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 mortgaged premises and repealing all laws conflicting therewith (see

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. of NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing. Said sale to be without relief from valuation and/or appraisement 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

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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 ${\tt JAMES\,H.\,BERGDOLL,JR.,}$ 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., deceased, 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 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 1/4/2024 Clerk of the Jay County Circuit Court John B. Bishop

Cohen Garelick & Glazier Attorney I.D. No. 31592-49 $8888 \ {\rm Keystone} \ {\rm Crossing},$ Suite 800 Indianapolis, Indiana 46240 (317) 573-8888;

(317) 574-3855 (fax)

jbishop@cgglawfirm.com

CR 1-20,27-2024-HSPAXLP

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT $2024\,\mathrm{TERM}$

In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of MARY E. GUNTER No. 38CO1-2401-EU-000004 NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that Bobbie J. Siegrist was, on the 17th day of January, 2024, appointed Personal Representative 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 publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, 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

Public Notice

 $\mathrm{CR}\ 1\text{-}20,\!27\text{-}2024\,\mathrm{HSPAXLP}$

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 P.M, 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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Steve Rines Associate Supervisor CR 1-20-2024- HSPAXLP

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In the right place at the right time

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

No matter how much you plan, you can't quite predict how things will go wrong.

Just as unpredictable as a problem can be, the solution can be as simple as being in the right place at the right time.

That's exactly what happened for the Robert Morris Colonials and myself.

Dec. 12 had a nice slate of sports for the folks of eastern Indiana to watch. The Pacers took to the road for a 126-108 blowout of the Atlanta Hawks. The Hoosiers won their fourth Big Ten contest 74-62 over Minnesota. Those local to Jay County may have made the short drive to Monroe to watch the boys and girls high school basketball games. Others made the trip to Kokomo to watch a trio of Patriots compete in the state tournament.

While I was at Kokomo High School to cover the wrestlers' runs for state titles, a different game caught my eye.

A little bit before Mallory

Let Me Badger You



Wavne and Robert Morris men's basketball teams took part in a game that came down to the

With only a couple of seconds left, I logged into my ESPN+ account to watch how the game would wrap up.

As I watched the final play, I couldn't help but think about how well it matched an experience from a few weeks prior.

Jackson Last took the ball out of bounds for the Colonials with the game tied and two seconds left. Nearly all of Robert Morris' players ran to the front court, meaning Last would have to attempt a full-court heave.

I haven't watched every basketball game played in the last 24 years, but I have seen more Winner was set to take the stage than the average fan. Out of for the 155-pound state champi- every game or highlight I have onship match, the Purdue Fort ever watched, I can count on one

hand how often the full-court with the automatic gear shift need to dedicate any extra time inbounds pass has worked. The after a game I covered at South to make a trip down to help me only two that I remember are Christian Laettner's in the 1992 NCAA tournament and a random full court heave that Joe thing I needed to hear — the Wieskamp of Iowa hit to beat Rutgers in 2020.

In short, the odds weren't in the Colonials' favor to end the

For me, it all started about two or three months ago.

The check engine light came on. That dreaded light signaled the end of my brother's car as well. We both drove Ford Focuses at the tail end of high school throughout college — Nick's was a 2013 mine was a

I knew the model was recalled and I likely was on borrowed time, but I was taking the easy way out — ignore that there could be a problem and milk the clock for as long as I possibly

Hope of Robert Morris ending the game on a last-second play appeared to vanish when the Mastodons' Eric Mulder got his hands on the ball during its flight, starting the clock.

Adams High School, forcing me to have a garage check it out.

The diagnosis was the last transmission was blown and replacing it was going to cost easily more than what the car was worth.

A glimmer of hope shined through for Robert Morris. Despite the ball being tipped, Markeese Hastings only needed to take a step forward to grab it. Hastings also happens to be the Colonials' best 3-point shooter.

So with 1.1 seconds left, Robert Morris got the ball in the hands of its best shooter all because he was in the right place at the right time.

While there was nothing that was going to change the diagnosis my car received to make things better, I did luck out in another way. My parents happened to come down the day before to celebrate Christmas as I wasn't able to make it home for the actual holiday.

So I didn't have a car, but my parents taxied me for the next won't work. Sometimes you just two nights to Pendleton and St. simply need to be in the right My car started to struggle Henry, Ohio. They also didn't place at the right time.

find a new car, all because they were in the right place at the right time.

Hastings did the only thing he could do. He turned as fast as possible and chucked the ball up in toward the hoop. As the buzzer sounded, the Robert Morris grad student laced the ball through the net, winning the game 91-88. Cue the celebration with his teammates dog-piling

Instead of 1.1 seconds, I had about a day and a half to figure out my problem. We went to a few different dealerships, had some test drives and weighed pros and cons.

Ultimately, it boiled down to if my brother was free. My dad agreed to sell me his car and save me the hassle for a couple more years. A day and a half later, Nick drove down what will soon officially be my car and rather than a dog pile, we celebrated with dinner at Brothers Bar and Grill in Muncie.

Sometimes planning just

Denton dominates

JCHS senior provides offensive spark in Patriots 60-36 victory

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

MUNCIE — Sophie Saxman has been on fire offensively for the last nine games. Over that span, Saxman averaged 16.1 points per game with only one game under 10 points.

The Eagles came in with a plan to slow Saxman

Bella Denton stepped up to the plate for the Patriots offensively on a night in which they struggled to finish around the rim.

Denton's 16 points was tied for the game-high and played a key role in the Jay County High School girls basketball team's 60-36 win Thursday over the host Delta Eagles.

"Well, obviously I didn't think we played our best game," JCHS coach Sherri McIntire said. "Our expectations of this team are very high. ... We had moments where we played well, but I felt there were times where we definitely played sloppy and not like we'd need to play to win a sectional title.'

While other players struggled to get going from the field, Denton was one of the bright spots. The senior's 61.5% field goal percentage (8-of-13) was the best of all Jay County's players who took more than four shots.

Denton hit three of the six first-quarter baskets for Jay County (18-2). When Saxman got the ball off of a post up, Denton's defender would leave for a double-team, but she was able to find Denton for two of her three opening-peri-

"Hats off to Sophie Saxman because she helped (Denton) get a lot of those points because they were doubling and Sophie was able to find Bella," McIntire said. "Bella did an excellent job finishing and played with a lot of confidence tonight and that's what we need."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Sophie Saxman of Jay County threads a pass through two Delta defenders during the 60-36 win for JCHS on Thursday. Saxman's pass was found by Bella Denton who relocated after Paizley Cool (21) left her to double Saxman. Denton converted five times on similar plays throughout the game.

points of the first half came on a buzzer-beater to send the Patriots to halftime up 13 points. As part of a broken play, the ball wound up in the hands of Meredith Dirksen, who passed it into the post for Denton. She made a quick move towards the baseline to hit a hook shot over her left shoulder as time ran other really well today. We

Denton hit four more shots in the fourth quar-

Denton's only other ter, two of which came on offensive rebounds. She scored the final six points of the game.

"I was moving toward the open area," Denton said. "My teammates are very good at attacking the basket and dishing it to me, so that makes my job a lot easier.

"We were seeing each were all drawing in the defense to get good looks and we had good passes."

Outside of Denton, Jay County struggled from the field, shooting 15-of-52 (28.8%). Thirty of Jay County's missed shots came in or just outside of the paint.

One saving grace for the Patriots was the turnover battle. Their 1-2-2 defense caused Delta (10-9) to cough up the ball 30 times. Ten of the Eagles' turnovers came in the first four minutes, with three more coming in the

first quarter to help Jay County build a 15-8 lead. "It was definitely back

and forth with turnover after turnover for both teams," JCHS guard Hallie Schwieterman said. "I feel like the difference was when we made a turnover, we went back and hustled hard enough to get the ball back without a score."

Schwieterman tied Denton with a game-high 16 points. Her nine rebounds matched Molly Muhlenkamp and she led in assists (five) as well.

Jillian Barr put together the best performance for Delta. She scored 14 points as the result of back cuts across the Patriots' zone and set plays out of timeouts.

The Eagles' lone senior, Paizley Cool, pulled down the most rebounds with eight. Elizabeth Bamidele dished out a game-high six assists.

After the lackluster performance finishing near the basket, McIntire plans to challenge her team in practice to ensure it doesn't spiral and respond with a similar performance.

"We need to just have some hard practices," McIntire said. "Being real honest, we're probably not going to be challenged in our last two games. That means we have to challenge ourselves in our practices, so we are ready to go for the sectional."

Junior varsity

The Patriots couldn't hold onto a lead as Delta earned a 23-18 victory in two quarters, powered by a 13-point final period.

After not scoring in the first quarter, Kyleen Graley hit three shots in the second, matching Jay County's total from the quarter. A three from Caidyn Freiburger and hoops by Ah'mani Jefferson and Laura McKee put them over JCHS.

Box score

Delta Eagles vs.

Jay County Patriots Girls varsity summary

Jay	County	(18-2)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS			
V hlnkmp	4-16	0-0	8			
Saxman	2-11	6-10	10			
Schwtrmn	5-17	5-6	16			
MDirksen	2-3	0-0	6			
Sibray	0-0	0-0	0			
Denton	8-13	0-0	16			
BDirksen	1-3	0-0	2			
Иay	1-2	0-0	2			
Newton	0-0	0-0	0			
lotals	23-65	11-16	60			
	.359	.688				
Def rehound nercentage: 588						

Def. rebound percentage: .588							
Delta (10-9)							
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS				
Marshall	1-6	0-0	3				
Jefferson	2-4	0-0	6				
Bamidele	2-6	0-0	4				
Conlon	0-0	0-0	0				
Cool	1-4	1-2	3				
Knight	2-16	0-0	6				
Barr	7-13	0-0	14				
Totals	15-49	1-2	36				

.306 .500 Def. rebound percentage: .429

Score by quarters: Jay Co. 15 18 12 15 — 60

3-point shooting: Jay County 3-8 (MDirksen 2-2, Schwieterman 1-5, Muhlenkamp 0-1). Delta 5-21 (Jefferson 2-4, Knight 2-11, Marshall 1-6, Bamidele 0-

Rebounds: Jay County 43 (Muhlenkamp 9, Schwieterman 9, Saxman 7, team 6, Denton 5, BDirksen 5, MDirksen 2). Delta 33 (Cool 8, Barr 6, Bamidele 5, Knight 5, Marshall 3, Jefferson 3, team 2, Conlon).

Assists: Jay County 17 (Schwieterman 5, Muhlenkamp 4, Saxman 3, BDirksen 3, MDirksen, Denton). Delta 9 (Bamidele 6, Cool 2, Knight).

Blocks: Jay County 3 (Muhlenkamp, MDirksen, May). Delta 9 (Barr 5, Cool 2, Jefferson,

Personal fouls: Jay County 9 (Saxman 2, May 2, Muhlenkamp, Schwieterman, MDirksen, Denton, BDirksen). Delta 11 (Cool 4. Bamidele 3, Knight 2, Marshall,

Jefferson) Turnovers: Jay County 17.

Alexis Sibray ended as the Patriots' top scorer with six points. Meredith Dirksen had five points in only one period, hitting a pair of shots and splitting two free throws.

Freiburger's eight points led all scorers.

Indians offense quieted by Cavaliers

COLDWATER — The Indians started to get rolling offensive-

ly over the last three games. The Cavaliers put an end to that and the winning streak.

After averaging 55.3 points per game over a 3-game winning streak, Fort Recovery High School's girls basketball team was held to under 40 points on Thursday in a 52-38 loss to the Coldwater Cavaliers.

The Indians (5-9, 2-4 Midwest Athletic Conference) trailed by three after the first quarter, but struggled offensively in the second. Their only points in the period came from a pair of free throws hit by Cameron Muhlenkamp.

Local roundup

Two threes from Emma May helped the Cavaliers (5-9, 2-3) to nine points in the quarter and a 21-11 lead at the half.

Makenna Huelskamp scored 10 of her 13 points in the second half, but both Olivia Broering and Rebcca Wenning matched or exceeded that mark for Coldwater. They each finished with 14 points.

Coldwater also got four bas- points for the Patriots seventhkets out of Madison Wendel for 10 points, while Cali Wendel hit a trio of threes in the second half to give FRHS nine points.

Officially undefeated The Jay County Junior High

School girls basketball team finished the regular season with a perfect 15-0 record after beating South Adams 48-4 on Thursdav.

The eighth grade team also took down the Starfires 51-20 to finish 14-1 on the year, the sole loss coming to Norwell in the

season opener. Karsyn Schwieterman and Claudia Dirksen both put up 17 day.

grade team. Charlee Peters Kendall added eight and Schemenaur had six.

eighth graders with 14 points. Amelia Heath also reached double digits with 10. Other scorers include Gabi

Petro (seven), Raylin Hummer (seven), Stella Skirvin (six), Natalie May (five), and Kylie Shannon (two).

First loss MONROE — The Jay County Junior High wrestling team suffered its first loss as it fell to Adams Central 50-48 on Thurs-

Six Patriots won their matches by fall for the varsity squad. From the lighter weight classes, matches were won by Corbin Elizabeth Brunswick led the Lothridge in the (95-pound match), Walter Campofiore (102), Logan Wendel (110) and Miles Jones (117). Jay County (1-1) also took two

of the heavier weight classes with Caleb Sibray (150) and Freddie Lingo (195) both claiming victories.

Lothridge and Campofiore also came out on top in their junior varsity matches. Other JV winners include Jackson Bonifas (110), Jacen Dame (117), Porter Clamme (117) and Alex Rivers (125).

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 todav.

"We wanted to get everybody involved and have a 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 quar-

Carter Fugiett owned the five.

Jay County Patriots vs.

Boys varsity summary

South Adams (1-11, 0-3 ACAC)

0-1

0-5 0-0

3-11

0-0 0-0

Def. rebound percentage: .545

1-1 2-4 0-0

Def. rebound percentage: .864

Jay County (3-9, 2-1 ACAC) FG-FGA FT-FTA PTS

McKean

Vasquez

JWanner Schwartz

OWanner

Lehman

Hunley

Fear

Totals

Nichols

Mhlnkmp

Edwards

Fugiett

Garringer

Forthofer

Phillips

Bihn

Totals

Dunnington 2-3 Crouch 2-6 Dirksen 3-5

Swoveland 5-10

FG-FGA FT-FTA PTS

0-0

0-0 0-0

0-0 0-0

0-0

1-2 0-0

2-3 0-0 1-2 1-2

0-0 0-1

1-1 0-0

8-11 .727

19

Box score

game-high in scoring as four 2-point buckets, a three and a free throw earned him 12 points. 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 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

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, Dunning

ton 3, Crouch 2, Swoveland 2,

Assists: South Adams 3 (OWan-

ner 3). Jay County 8 (Garringer 2,

Crouch 2, Muhlenkamp, Dunning

Blocks: South Adams 3 (OWan-

ner, Lehman, Hunley). Jay County

Personal fouls: South Adams 14 (OWanner 3, Lehman 3, Hunley

3, Fear 3, McKean, JWanner). Jay County 8 (Bihn 3, Phillips 2, Muh-

Turnovers: South Adams 23. Jay

lenkamp, Fugiett, Garringer).

ton, Phillips, Swoveland)

2 (Crouch, Dirksen).

County 11.

Score by quarters:

So. Ada. 2 7 5 Jay Co. 17 15 15

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 Kenzie Clayton fourth

the next few weeks and getting ready for sectional."

Third- and fourth-place finishes from Naroa 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 monthand-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

•100 butterfly — Fisher second and

•200 yard freestyle — Aubrey Millspaugh third and Sophia Hoev-

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 fourthplace 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."

Sports on tap

54

Local schedule

Jay County — Boys basketball vs. Hager-stown – 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

Monday

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

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

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

Baltimore Ravens (ABC)
6 p.m. — Men's college basketball: BYU at Texas Tech (ESPN2)

6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: San

4:30 p.m. — NFL playoffs: Houston Texans at

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)

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 Premier League: Liverpool at

State at Maryland (CBS) 12 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Iowa

at Ohio State (NBC); Providence at Butler (FS1)

— 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. — USGA: Latin America Amateur Cham-

pionship (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 For-

est 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. — NBA: Denver Nuggets at Indiana Pac

ers (Bally Indiana) 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 Brook

lyn 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: Mir nesota 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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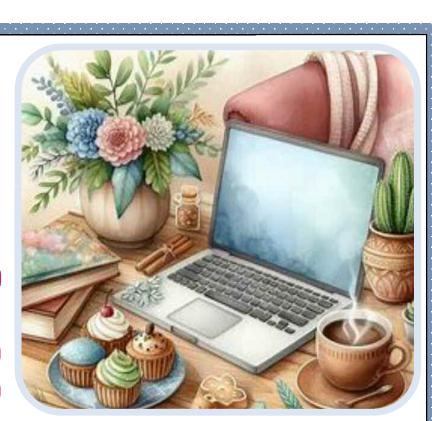
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Page 10 www.thecr.com **The Commercial Review**

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

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.

games — I don't have it exactly, but I think I'm pretty close — those seven teams were like 81-40," coach **JCHS** Jerry Bomholt "The said. 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

ways as well.

Gradin Swoveland and Trevin Dunnington both hit threes. Wesley Bihn 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

"Having so many scorers makes it a lot easier," "Over the last seven 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.

County.

"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 Swoveland and Garringer all had buckets in the fourminute 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 points for Jay County, any easier for the Starfires

They scored in different during the rest of the game, as they scored seven points in the second quarter — three came on Tytus Lehman free throws with and Ben Crouch played 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

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 out-rebounded County SAHS 29-16, only allowing four offensive rebounds.

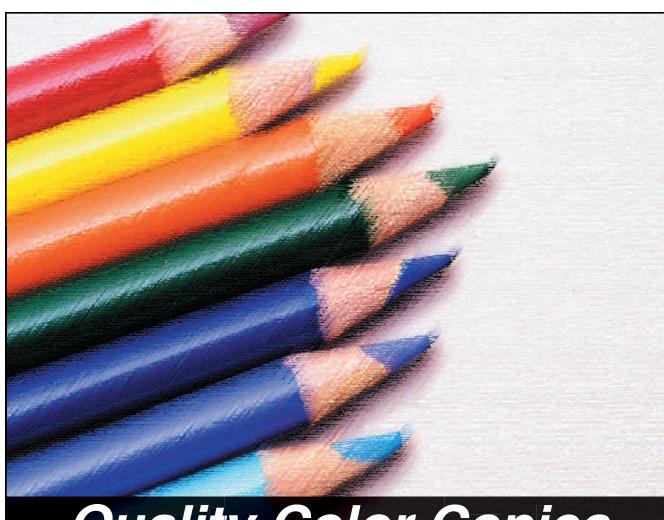
'That was definitely one of our goals going into tonight," said Dirksen, who tied for Garringer for a game-high five rebounds. "That's something that coach always hounds us about. Rebounding with the zone is always hard, but we work on it in practice and we executed.

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 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

ference 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 Mid-

west 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 6for-6 from the free-throw

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 Faller added five and Mason Diller had four.