

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Request for EDIT loan is tabled

*Commissioners request more information about project*

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

A local business is asking for financial help from the county.

Riya Hospitality's Paresh Patel asked Jay County Commissioners for a \$219,573 loan Monday in order to help connect the former Budget Inn to Portland's wastewater system.

Patel explained his company purchased the property at 1411 N. U.S. 27 last year. Riya Hospitality plans to renovate the building into a 22-unit furnished rental complex. Part of renovations include extending a sewer line to the facility just north of Portland in order to connect to the city's wastewater system. (The old septic system is no longer viable.)

Patel's business has already invested nearly \$164,000 into the project, which includes acquisition of the property as well as buying fixtures and other costs. The total project is estimated to cost approximately \$383,573. Patel asked commissioners to contribute the remaining \$219,573 in the form of a loan or grant.

Portland Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT) Advisory Committee tabled the same request from Riya Hospitality in December, noting a few questions about the project. (The property sits just outside of city limits.)

Commissioners asked Patel several questions about the project, learning the company purchased the land outright and owes no mortgage. Riya Hospitality approached the city and county for help after its was turned down for a bank loan.

See **Tabled** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Elementary anthem

The East Jay Elementary School choir, under the direction of Jan Rittenhouse (left) performed the national anthem Friday night prior to the Jay County High School boys basketball team's win over the South Adams Starfires.

## Banks, Rust spar in Senate battle

By CASEY SMITH

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Where does U.S. Senate candidate John Rust actually live? That's the latest question lobbed by his challenger, GOP favorite U.S. Rep. Jim Banks, as the race for Indiana's open seat heats up.

In a campaign ad released last month — and in new statements made this week — Banks called out Rust for “lying” about his home address on his voter registration, and while giving a deposition under oath.

But the embattled sixth-generation Indiana egg farmer maintains that he's lived in his Seymour home for more than three decades.

### *Residency called into question as race for open seat heats up*

Rust said he often uses the address for his mother's house — roughly a mile away — as his official residence because he cannot receive mail to his own “house in the woods.”

“We already knew John Rust is a conman — now we know he has committed voter fraud multiple times,” said Congressman Jim

Banks. “He price gouged hard-working Hoosier families, lied about being a Republican, and now we know lied under oath about illegally voting from a false address since 1987. He's unfit to serve in the Senate because he only serves himself.”

Rust called that accusation “absolute ridiculousness.”

“He lives in Virginia and he's worried about my address in Indiana? It's insanity,” Rust told the Indiana Capital Chronicle. “My house is in the woods, where I live, I do not have mail service. So, all my life, I've used my mom's house — I've always used her address as my legal address.”

“They're grasping at straws because they're looking for anything,” he continued, speaking of Banks' campaign. “They're scared to death of me, and so they're coming up with this crazy stuff that anyone rationally looking at it will just say, ‘Wait a second. That's stupid. Why on earth is he talking about this?’”

See **Battle** page 2



Tribune News Service/Chicago Tribune/Brian Cassella

## Icy shore

Ice forms on Lake Michigan off the Chicago shoreline in Lincoln Park after a week with temperatures around zero on Sunday.

## SEALS presumed dead

By NURIN SOFIA

Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

The U.S. military said two Navy SEALs who went missing during a mission on Jan. 11 to seize Iranian weapons bound for Yemen's Houthis are now presumed dead.

“After a 10-day exhaustive search, our two missing U.S. Navy SEALs have not been located and their status has been changed to deceased,” Central Command said in a statement.

It didn't explain exactly how they died. Several U.S. media reports have said it appears to have been due to accidental drowning in rough seas. The two commandos were climbing a ladder to board a vessel when one was knocked into the sea and the second jumped in to try to help the other.

### *Military was on a mission to seize Iranian weapons bound for Yemen*

The two SEALs were part of a team that boarded a dhow near the coast of Somalia. The U.S. forces sunk the boat after they seized components for ballistic and cruise missiles. U.S. fatalities on such missions are rare.

The navy said it was the first such interception of Iranian-supplied advanced weapons to the Houthis since they began to attack ships in the Red Sea in mid-November.

The Houthis, who con-

trol much of western Yemen and are backed by Iran, say they are supporting Hamas in its war against Israel in Gaza.

Their attacks have roiled shipping markets and forced many vessels to avoid the southern Red Sea, which links to the Mediterranean via the Suez Canal. Several Western firms are now sending their ships heading between Europe and Asia around the southern tip of Africa instead.

### Deaths

**Scott Bishop**, 43, rural Dunkirk  
**Jean Duffy**, 78, Geneva  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 23 degrees Sunday. The low was 1.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the mid 30s with a 50% chance of rain. Wednesday's high will be in the upper 40s with more rain expected and winds gusting to 20 miles per hour. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

A community forum about recovery housing in Jay County is scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday at IU Health Jay.

### Coming up

**Wednesday** — Coverage of this week's Jay School Board meeting.

**Thursday** — Results from the Jay County swim meet against Blackford.



# Obituaries

## Scott Bishop

April, 27, 1980-Jan. 9, 2024  
Scott Daniel Bishop, 43, of rural Dunkirk, Indiana, passed away at 9:45 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024, at his home in Dunkirk.

He was born on Sunday, April 27, 1980, in Wuerzburg, Germany, to Theodore Bishop and Deana Baker. He married KaTura Corwin on Saturday, June 21, 2003, in Portland, Indiana.

Scott was a 1998 graduate of Huntington North High School. He was a truck driver for Corwin Trucking and served his country in the U.S. Army National Guard, where he completed two

separate tours overseas. He served in Afghanistan from 2004 to 2005 and in Iraq from 2006 to 2007. During his time in the service, he was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Scott enjoyed riding his Harley, woodworking, fishing, cooking on the grill, farming and spending time outdoors. Most of all he loved spending time with his family. He was a member of the Pennville IOOF #145, American Legion, DAV and Military of the Purple Heart.



Bishop

He will be sadly missed by his wife KaTura (Corwin) Bishop, Dunkirk, Indiana; son Corbin Bishop, Dunkirk, Indiana; daughter Makayla Bishop, Dunkirk, Indiana; son Levi Bishop, Dunkirk, Indiana; father Theodore (Cindy) Bishop, King, North Carolina; mother Deana Baker (Thomas) St. John, Van Buren, Indiana; maternal grandparents Dean and Marilyn Baker, Van Buren, Indiana; brother Tim (Jennifer) Bishop, Noblesville, Indiana; brother Nathaniel (Joylynn) Bishop, North Carolina; and sister Tessa (Ray) Johnson, Huntington, Indiana.

He was preceded in death by

his paternal grandparents Darryl Bishop, Sue Bishop and Sandra Bishop.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, located at 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier, on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024, from noon to 4 p.m.

A service to celebrate Scott's life will follow at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024, with Mitch Corwin officiating.

Memorials may be sent to Scott's children c/o KaTura Bishop.

Arrangements are being handled by Walker & Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier.

Condolences may be expressed at glancyfuneralhomes.com.

**Jean L. "Jeanie" Duffy**, Geneva, May 31, 1945-Jan. 18, 2024. A celebration of life will be held in July 2024 for family and friends.

*The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge.*

*They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.*

*There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.*

## CR almanac

Wednesday 1/24	Thursday 1/25	Friday 1/26	Saturday 1/27	Sunday 1/28
<b>48/43</b>	<b>54/39</b>	<b>45/34</b>	<b>43/32</b>	<b>38/32</b>
Rain is expected with cloudy skies, winds gusting to 20 miles per hour and a high of 48 degrees.	The forecast calls for more rain, mainly in the morning hours. Skies will be cloudy with a high of 52.	Skies will be mostly cloudy with a high in the mid 40s.	The high temperature will be 43 under mostly cloudy skies.	Expect mostly cloudy skies with a high in the upper 30s.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$133 million	19-22-26-35-39-43-45-49-54-60-61-63-70-71-74-78 Cash 5: 6-11-21-27-35 Estimated jackpot: \$135,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$262 million	<b>Ohio</b> Sunday Midday Pick 3: 3-2-8 Pick 4: 4-8-4-3 Pick 5: 9-1-6-3-3 Evening Pick 3: 2-0-1 Pick 4: 0-8-5-8 Pick 5: 8-8-9-8-2 Rolling Cash 5: 3-7-8-20-23 Estimated jackpot: \$140,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Sunday Midday Daily Three: 1-4-8 Daily Four: 0-9-6-4 Quick Draw: 4-9-12-20-27-34-39-40-41-45-46-48-49-57-58-65-66-69-71-75 Evening Daily Three: 0-8-4 Daily Four: 5-2-6-3 Quick Draw: 7-8-9-16	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.51 Feb. corn .....4.49 Wheat .....5.17	Feb. beans .....12.09 Wheat ..... 5.56
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.56 Feb. corn .....4.46 March corn .....4.46	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.23 Feb. corn .....4.27 Beans .....12.00 Feb. beans .....12.02 Wheat .....5.51
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.35 Feb. corn .....4.30 Beans .....11.99	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.36 March corn .....4.36 Beans .....11.82 Feb. beans .....11.84 Wheat .....5.17

## Today in history

**On Jan. 23, 2020**, Chinese state media said the city of Wuhan would be shutting down outbound flights and trains, trying to halt the spread of a new virus that had sickened hundreds of people and killed at least 17. The World Health Organization said the viral illness in China was not yet a global health emergency, though the head of the U.N. health agency added that "it may yet become one."  
**In 1812**, the second New Madrid Earthquake struck, with an estimated magnitude of 7.5, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.  
**In 1971**, the Bryant High School boys basketball team improved to 11-3 with a 91-75 victory over Redkey. Cen-

ter Rick Schoenlein led the Owls with 28 points.  
**In 1962**, Jackie Robinson was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.  
**In 1964**, the 24th Amendment to the United States Constitution, eliminating the poll tax in federal elections, was ratified as South Dakota became the 38th state to endorse it.  
**In 1973**, President Richard Nixon announced an accord had been reached to end the Vietnam War, and would be formally signed four days later in Paris.  
**In 2009**, New York Gov. David Paterson chose Democratic Rep. Kirsten Gillibrand to fill the Senate seat vacated by Hillary Rodham Clinton.  
—AP and The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Tuesday</b> 10 a.m. — Dunkirk Police Pension Board, city building, 131 S. Main St. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.	Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St. <b>Thursday</b> 6 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council joint session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
<b>Wednesday</b> 6 p.m. — Dunkirk	

# INDOT raised grant cap

By **LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ**  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has raised the cap on its popular Community Crossings Matching Grant program to \$1.5 million from \$1 million.

Local government advocates say they're grateful for the award bump and program generally, but want to tweak how it's structured.

INDOT Spokeswoman Natalie Garrett said the higher cap is, for now, a pilot for 2024's two calls for projects. The first is due January 31.

"The increase is based on current and projected gas tax and (electric vehicle and) hybrid registration revenue that is earmarked for Community Crossings. INDOT will reassess

the pilot program at the end of 2024," she told the Capital Chronicle via email.

Garrett said she couldn't provide a specific dollar amount for the Community Crossings funds available in 2024 versus the year prior. She cited fluctuations in gas tax and registration numbers.

Advocates favored the boost.

"We certainly don't want to see any of the tax dollars invested into the program go unspent this year when there are always infrastructure needs across all 92 counties," said Ryan Hoff, the Association of Indiana Counties' director of government affairs and its general counsel.

"If there is funding available even at the higher cap amount to meet the amounts requested by local govern-

ments, then let's get that money invested in infrastructure as was intended," he added, via email.

Jenna Bentley, government affairs director for Accelerate Indiana Municipalities, called the program "transformational for the state" in an interview.

But — "Increasing the cap, it'll be interesting to see who's able to take advantage of that," she said.

The program, launched in 2016, provides funding to local units of government across Indiana for road and bridge projects.

Cities and towns with populations below 10,000 people must put up 25% of project costs and the state will furnish a 75% match. If they've got more than 10,000 people, it's a 50-50 deal.

## Capsule Reports

### Rear collision

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000 after a Portland man crashed his car into the back of a woman's car at the intersection of Votaw and Meridian streets about 1:05 p.m. Friday.

Edward W. Enyart, 66,

was driving his 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee east on Votaw Street. He told police he was driving too fast and didn't notice the 2024 GMC Terrain, driven by 73-year-old Nan Rowles of Portland, stopped in front of him at the intersection with Meridian

Street. Enyart crashed into Rowles' vehicle. Enyart's vehicle was towed.

### Raccoon hit

A Portland man struck a raccoon with his car along Indiana 67 in Jay County about 7:10 p.m. Sunday.

Michael W. White, 52, was driving his 2015 Chevrolet Malibu northeast on the highway when a raccoon ran in front of him. He wasn't able to stop before hitting the animal, causing between \$1,000 and \$2,500 in estimated damage.

## Tabled ...

Continued from page 1  
Jay County Development Corporation executive director Travis Richards pointed out the city and county EDIT groups reviewed CB Development's 35-unit condominium project — it was planned for the space just off county road 75 South near Jay County Junior-Senior High School — together in recent years.

"Coming out of the city EDIT Advisory, that's kind of the hope from the city's part, that the city and county could meet together and kind of discuss this project and figure out how to move forward and what that looks like," he said.

Richards referenced a revolving loan, noting the county has offered such options in the past. (According to auditor Emily Franks, the last revolving loan in the county's record

dates back to 2016.)

Commissioner Rex Journay asked for financial information, such as Riya Hospitality's plan for pricing units as well as corresponding tax documents. Patel said he would gather that information to share with them, and commissioners decided to table the request.

Richards also suggested the county look at reviving its old application for revolving loans for such projects in the future and told commissioners he would send them a copy.

In other business, Richards noted the county's contract with Yodel Community Connections is nearing its end. He suggested renewing with the group, which has for the last year provided a community wide online calendar for Jay County residents to post and view events daily.

Originally, JCDC paid for the \$4,800 service using remaining dollars from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs Stellar Communities program. Richards explained JCDC would cover the renewal cost but wanted to run the decision by commissioners.

Jay County's Yodel calendar has 73 upcoming events in the next month, Richards said, with 717 followers, 72 organizations and 217 general user accounts.

Richards spoke highly of the service as a "very good tool" for those in the county, although he admitted if renewed the county should map out how to better utilize and market the calendar. He suggested a collaboration between different entities, such as Jay County Visitors and Tourism Bureau, East Central Indiana Region-

## Battle ...

Continued from page 1  
Banks' questioning stems from a November deposition, in which Rust was grilled by the sitting congressman's attorneys about his voter registration and residency.

The Oct. 11 deposition was given as part of Rust's ongoing lawsuit to qualify for the GOP primary ballot.

Rust said in his statements that he resided at an address located on North Base Road in Seymour. He said that home is his mother's, where he grew up.

But Rust clarified that his current home is located nearby, on North County Road 100.

Both houses surround his family's Rose Acre egg farm.

"That's about a mile away, but there's not an address there. It's behind our Rose Acre hatchery. It's in the woods. It's about a mile from my mom's house, so my mom's house has always been my legal address," he said under oath.

The Jackson County clerk confirmed to the Capital Chronicle that Rust was registered to vote at the North Base Road address since December 2020. Before that, he'd been registered at another nearby address off County Road 800 North in Seymour since the early 1990s.

Just weeks after he gave his deposition, on Nov. 13, Rust updated his voter registration to his actual residence — the North County Road 100 address.

## SERVICES

Tuesday

**Bishop**, Scott: 4 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Service listings provided by  
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# Be prepared for visits to the ER

By DR. SYLVIA OWUSU-ANSAH

American Academy of Pediatrics  
Tribune News Service

Dr.  
Sylvia  
Owusu-  
Ansa



Sooner or later, you will find yourself taking your child to the emergency department — it's bound to happen. Nearly 30 million children visit the ED each year in the United States.

In a serious emergency, you should always go to the closest ED. Do you know where your nearest ED is located? Do you know which hospital your pediatrician is affiliated with?

If you take your child to an urgent care center or ED that does not have pediatricians or pediatric specialists on staff, your child may need to be transferred to a hospital that does depending on his or her condition.

Children's hospitals, for example, have an atmosphere more geared to children—colorful rooms and murals, waiting room toys and TVs tuned to kids' shows, and child-sized furniture. Some children's hospitals and pediatric emergency departments also have child life specialists on staff. They are highly trained to help families

and can be an excellent resource to make your child's stay more comfortable in the ED and provide a bridge between the hospital and home. Child life specialists also help to ease your child's anxiety before, during and after procedures.

If you can reach your pediatrician's office first, do so. They can give advice on the phone and, if you do need to head to the ED your pediatrician can call ahead and tell the emergency staff to expect you. In a serious emergency, parents should not hesitate to call 911.

It is OK to give your child over-the-counter fever or pain medicines before heading to the emergency room. The medicine will make a huge difference and often makes the examination process a lot easier. Remember to take note of the time and dosage you give your child, as it will

be one of the first questions you are asked in the ED.

Stay calm and tell your child what to expect

When you panic, your child's anxiety level goes up. For many kids, the anxiety about what's going to happen is worse than the actual pain. Children of all ages look to their parents for reassurance, so it is important to keep communicating. Be honest, but also be sensitive to the situation and his or her age. Let your child know that everyone is there to help.

If possible, make arrangements so you don't have to bring young siblings to the ED with you. This way, you can focus on the needs of your sick child, and your other children do not have to endure the waiting time. Note that you will need to stay with your child throughout his or her ED stay and are strongly encouraged to stay in the hospital with your child if he or she is admitted.

It's always a good idea to have the following information readily available. You may be asked for this information by multiple providers and staff in the

ED:

- Health insurance
- Your child's primary pediatrician and any other doctors' names and contact information
- Known allergies
- Past medical and surgical history
- List of current medications (including prescriptions, over-the-counter painkillers, homeopathic medicines, vitamins and supplements)
- A chronological sequence of events leading to your child's ED visit

It is also important to know the time your child last ate. Many emergency rooms do not allow patients to have anything to eat or drink until the doctor says it is OK. The main reason is to protect your child if he needs to have a procedure done and/or receive any medications that require an empty stomach. During this time, it's a good idea to refrain from eating in front of your child.

If your child requires a special item to rest or feel at ease, don't hesitate to bring it. A lovey, toy, blanket or book can help take your child's mind off the pain and less anxious in an unfamiliar place.

Understand that there may be good reasons to wait in the emergency department. The sickest patients are seen first. The ED can be a very daunting place and frustration can easily set in. Please be respectful toward the health care staff taking care of your children. They also have your child's best interest in mind. If your pediatrician calls the hospital before your arrival, however, it can sometimes help speed up the process. In addition, depending on how sick your child is, he or she may need blood work and/or imaging. Realize that it can take a long time for lab work and/or imaging results to come back.

As a parent, you are the best advocate for your child and the best interpreter of his or her needs. If you think your child is in pain, say so. If you don't think he or she is ready to go home, tell a member of the ED team.

Don't be afraid to ask repeated questions and be patient. You and your child will meet lots of different people—the ED is a multidisciplinary team. Repeating your story and providing background to

each doctor can seem redundant, but it is essential to getting the best care for your child.

Keep in mind that you may not receive all the answers to the reasons for your child's illness during an emergency department visit. Your child may need further evaluation through an inpatient or intensive care unit admission, or an outpatient visit with a subspecialist.

After the emergency department visit, call your pediatrician's office and inform them about the diagnosis. Many EDs will also send a report to your pediatrician's office if you ask them to. Check to see whether your pediatrician has received the report or if he or she has any further recommendations. Many times, your pediatrician will ask to see your child for a follow-up exam.

Owusu-Ansa is a board-certified pediatrician, pediatric emergency medicine physician, and an EMS physician, who is currently an associate professor of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

# Baby's arrival exposes fissures in family

DEAR ABBY: My stepdaughter, "Zoe," has recently had her first baby and we are very excited. She lives far away. My husband, "Karl," is taking the trip, but I have to stay because my elderly mother is living with us. I asked family to stay with Mom, but they're involved in their busy lives, and Mom clings to me.

While I called to congratulate other relatives on becoming new aunts, etc., none of them reciprocated. Later, one of them reluctantly said they were told I was NOT the grandmother (even if Zoe's biological mother had passed away), nor would I ever be.

This is bittersweet. I do not want to replace anyone. I've been hoping for a grandchild for a long time. I have been with Karl for more than 20 years. I'm

Dear  
Abby



crushed. No pictures are being sent to me, though when I was planning Zoe's wedding from soup to nuts, we were in constant contact and I thought we were growing closer. I guess not.

How do I navigate this? My mother-in-law is barely speaking to me since I can't join in the trip to see the baby and has become very snotty. Must I just admire from afar like a bystander, pretending to care? — CAST ASIDE IN NEW YORK

DEAR CAST ASIDE: I wish

you had mentioned which family member was telling the others you're not to be considered that baby's grandmother. Could it have been Zoe's mother? If that's the case, there appears to be more than a little jealousy on her part and a blatant attempt to isolate you.

You are the child's STEP-grandmother, and photos should be shared with you. I hope Karl will impress this upon his daughter as well as let her know how hurt you have been by the treatment you have been receiving. What happened was unjustified. The more love in this world, the better, and labels should be used to include rather than isolate.

DEAR ABBY: My friend often

complains that she and her husband don't have any other friends and she doesn't know why. I know why, but I'm not sure if I should say anything.

Her husband is nice, but he's a long-winded talker who takes over every conversation, bragging about himself and the people he knows. I believe he does this to impress people, but it actually repels them. He does this every time, and I have witnessed guys walk away and keep their distance from him. This includes my husband.

She wants my husband to get closer to him, but my husband can't stand him because of this. So, should I be honest and tell her what the deal is? I don't want to hurt her feelings. Or must I keep pretending I don't know? — KNOWS WHY IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR KNOWS: I think you would be doing the woman a favor by telling her something like this: "I can't arm-twist my husband into a closer relationship with yours than they already have. If you would like to know why, I will tell you." If she says yes, explain that you like her very much, but her husband's need to dominate the conversation and brag about his accomplishments, net worth, etc. (fill in the blanks) drives people away.

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

# Community Calendar

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

## Today

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.

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month

at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

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

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

## Thursday

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations

with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park St., Portland.

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

(260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

GRIEF SHARE — Meets from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursdays from Jan. 4 to March 28 at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. Grief Share is a weekly grief support group for those needing to find hope and healing after the death of a loved one. To register, call (260) 726-8832 or email zion-lutheranportland@gmail.com.

## Friday

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

# Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

## Saturday's Solution

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

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.

"Where Tires Are Not A Sideline"

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# Give accurate data to the FCC

To the editor:  
The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) claims that all of Jay County — all of Indiana, in fact — is currently covered by high-speed broadband internet (see map at [broadbandmap.fcc.gov](http://broadbandmap.fcc.gov)).

Just talking to some of our rural community members will quickly dispel this myth.

Purdue University has undertaken the task of surveying actual access to high-speed broadband internet across the state. Purdue is asking all Hoosiers to take a few minutes to complete the simple steps outlined in the attached flyer.

Consumers should first verify their home address. If the location of their address is not correct, submit a location challenge. Next, they should check the accuracy of their broadband availability. If this information is inaccurate, they can file an availability challenge with the FCC.

Broadband access is particularly important for rural communities. High-

## Letters to the Editor

speed internet access not only allows us to communicate freely but is also an essential tool in accessing online education and telehealth services, services that may not otherwise be accessible in our community.

Broadband access also has the potential to create business opportunities and economic development in rural areas.

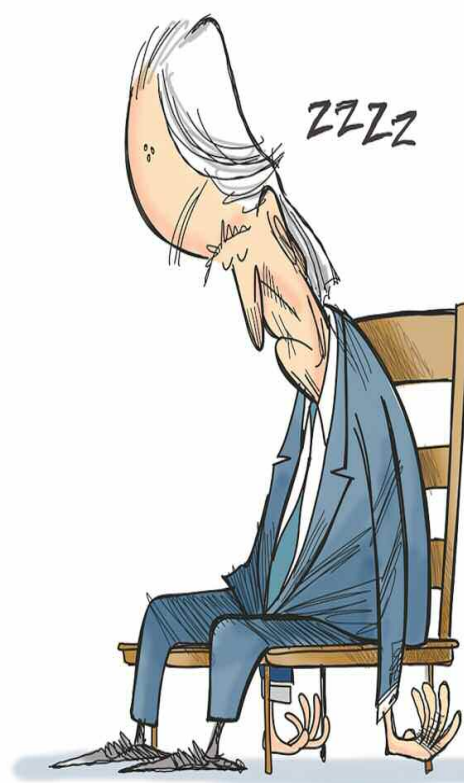
The data collected in this initiative will help inform broadband funding and eligibility to bring necessary infrastructure to underserved areas.

If anyone has questions, they can contact the Jay County Purdue Extension office at (260) 726-4707.

Ashley Drees  
Extension educator,  
health and human sciences

Purdue Extension – Jay County

A NATION TURNS AN ANXIOUS EYE TOWARD THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE BETWEEN TRUMP AND THE WHITE HOUSE...



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KIRK

# Why are men so lonely?

By JEAN GUERRERO  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

Few men will admit it, but it's true of most of them: They're lonely.

The epidemic of loneliness is hitting men hardest. Men are less skilled than women at making friends. Young men, who tend to be more progressive and are presumably more comfortable with intimacy than their elders, are in fact the most isolated.

A 2023 State of American Men report from Equimundo found that two-thirds of surveyed men between ages 18 and 23 say "no one really knows me." Since 1990, the share of men who lack a single close friend quintupled to 15%, according to a 2021 study by the Survey Center on American Life. It's worse for unmarried men: One in five of them report that they have no close friends. And 1 in every 4 of those younger than 30 say they have no close friends.

Why are men, especially young men, so lonely? It's an urgent question, as social isolation increases everything from extremism to early death. If traditional gender norms were solely to blame, Gen Zers wouldn't be struggling more than older men. One 2020 survey of men ages 16 to 99 in 237 countries found that young men in individualistic cultures (those that place high value on self-reliance, with loose social networks) were the loneliest.

Screen time is part of the problem, of course. Nearly half of American men say their online lives are more rewarding than their offline lives.

But boys are retreating into the manosphere for a reason beyond the addictive nature of these technologies. They're seeking purpose in a changing world, one in which women are outpacing them in school and at work. Boys with progressive views of manhood feel the least purpose in life, according to Equimundo's survey.

Research suggests that boys wall themselves off from the world and their emotions

Jean Guerrero



when they feel punished for their vulnerability, including in progressive spaces where men's complaints and struggles are ridiculed and seen as a distraction from those of women.

Richard V. Reeves, author of "Of Boys and Men" and president of the American Institute for Boys and Men, believes that mainstream scorn for male grievances can inspire boys and men to seek solace in media figures like Tate.

Black and Latino boys and young men from low-income households are the loneliest and perhaps the most likely to be lured in by provocateurs. "They find answers online to the questions they would not even imagine raising around their own home," Reeves said. He argues for more compassion, saying there are "too many wagging fingers and not enough helping hands."

Political hostility and culture wars have made it harder to be open. For men, who were socialized to silence loneliness and pain, the pressure to live behind a mask can be the most paralyzing.

It starts halfway through pre-K, according to Judy Chu, author of "When Boys Become Boys." Many boys arrive in school full of tenderness toward others and with a capacity to shed tears. As they grow older and see the stigma of showing vulnerability, they learn to numb their emotions. This can create a lifelong difficulty in building and nurturing friendships. Even in many progressive environments, boys get the message to man up and shut up.

"We say we value emotional expressivity in men, but we tend to devalue men who express their emotions," Chu told me. "So that kind of hypocrisy makes it really

hard for boys and men to take that leap."

She and other experts believe we all need to construct spaces where young men can safely express emotions — for instance, with boys' groups at schools.

The rise of men's support groups reflects this need. In L.A., Adam Dorsey, a 41-year-old yoga instructor, created a men's group with a friend after they realized how helpful it was to work out and talk during the pandemic. In the meetings, the men sit in a circle and share their struggles after some exercise and breathwork. Dorsey encourages them to ask each other questions rather than give advice. "We are here to bridge the polarity of the masculine and feminine on the planet," he told me.

Feminists' suspicion of all-male spaces and male bonding rituals makes sense given their sexist history. But today, these spaces can make men stronger allies of women. When men support each other, it relieves women of the burden of their emotional labor. And it can teach men reciprocity and listening skills.

Because men feel more comfortable making friends and catching up when there's an event such as watching sports or lifting weights, it can be helpful for them to join a men's group or pick up new hobbies with weekly meet-ups.

Bumble BFF, the dating app's friendly spinoff, can also facilitate friendships. But many men approach it with homophobic biases, since our culture tends to sexualize male vulnerability. Reddit threads are full of unsubstantiated claims that the app is overrun with "undercover gays."

Given these inhibitions, it's no surprise that just 1 in 5 men have received emotional support from a friend in the past week, compared with 41% of women. But men can relearn how to be close to others, particularly with some empathy and help from all of us.

Guerrero is an opinion columnist at the Los Angeles Times.

# Higher ed bills have significant ramifications

By NIKI KELLY  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
[indianacapitalchronicle.com](http://indianacapitalchronicle.com)

Lawmakers are throwing everything at the wall to see what sticks in their quest to educate more Hoosiers — whether through job training or traditional college.

But some of the discussions carry concerning consequences. Two major proposals this year deserve in-depth examination that a short session likely can't provide.

First up is an effort by House Republicans to allow key higher education scholarships and grants to be used for job training instead of toward full-time college credits.

The legislation impacts the 21st Century Scholars program, Freedom of Choice Grant and the the Higher Education Award. Collectively, the current budget includes about \$330 million annually in state funding for that aid.

Each program has slightly different rules but generally there are GPA and credit completion requirements and all specify that students must be attending a two-year or four-year program on a full-time basis.

House Bill 1001 would allow intermediaries, employers, and labor organizations to receive money from the funds to train Hoosiers.

This would make employers who are frustrated with job openings and a lack of skilled workers happy. But the proposal doesn't increase the money available in the accounts and essentially pits higher education and job training interests against each other.

The 21st Century fund is already facing a massive increase in a few years due to a new automatic enrollment feature. And the fiscal note on the bill doesn't hazard a guess about the possible future costs of the move.

It's a fiscal unknown that treats Hoosiers using the funds differently with different requirements.

I guess it's a quick win to just point to an existing fund and say 'that solves the job training problem,' but I would wager we will be back next year "tweaking" the law after more information becomes available.

Two-and-three-year degrees  
The second major proposal is

Niki Kelly



Senate Bill 8, which will blur the line between two and four-year degree institutions that was set up 20 years ago.

At that time, under Gov. Mitch Daniels, a study by the Government Efficiency Commission recommended establishing Ivy Tech as a true community college system, and phasing out associate degree programs at other campuses.

That's because it would be cheaper to earn an associate degree at Ivy Tech the first two years and then transfer to a traditional four-year school for bachelor's and graduate degrees.

This so-called mission differentiation could be upended by Senate Bill 8, which calls for larger institutions like Indiana and Purdue to give associate degrees to students partway through seeking bachelor's. And it also seeks to create three-year degree paths.

This would be a big change to the overall structure of higher education in Indiana.

That's why Higher Education Commissioner Chris Lowery cautioned that the bill is a study — "We recognize this is a significant consideration. We won't know the potential without purposefully examining it."

While awarding associate degrees would help Indiana meet its higher education attainment goal, that doesn't mean those associate degrees will get you a job. Many careers require a bachelor's and nothing less.

I know it's frustrating for lawmakers that educational attainment — whether job training or four-year degrees — has been such a hard nut to crack.

But we can't let that frustration move bills that have wider implications without intense discussion.

Kelly has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is [indianacapitalchronicle.com](http://indianacapitalchronicle.com).

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The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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VOLUME 150—NUMBER 172  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024

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# Gen Z has helped malls rebound

By **ASHLEY AHN**  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

Gen Z hasn't crossed over into the metaverse just yet.

Retail experts say these young shoppers have helped malls bounce back after the downturn brought on by the pandemic, in part because the digital space has turned Gen Z into a generation that expects instant gratification. The immediacy of touching, trying out and buying products may be the thing driving them to physical stores.

"This digitally savvy generation is used to having things immediately that they can download, access, watch," said USC Marshall School of Business Assistant Professor Stephanie Tully. "And so from that perspective, the desire to get physical products immediately makes sense and would explain interest in brick-and-mortar."

Gen Z — people from the ages of 16 to 26 — prefer in-person as much as online shopping, if not more, according to a 2023 report by the International Council of Shopping Centers. According to the trade group, about 97% of survey respondents said they shop at brick-and-mortar stores; 95% said they shop online for the convenience.

"Gen Z shoppers are bringing back the mall shopping center experience," said Kristin Grove, senior vice president of national retail leasing at the global real estate firm JLL. "They want a sense of community. They want to bridge the gap between the social media that they're doing, and meet and shop in-person."

The trade group's study didn't inquire about other generations' shopping habits. But a 2022 report by the marketing agency CM Group, now Marigold, and the retail consulting group F'inn found that 47% of Gen Z respondents said they prefer to shop in store over online — more than any other generation.

"Despite being the first digitally native generation, virtually all Gen Z customers shop in-store and prefer physical retail at similar rates to previous generations," Ali Esmacilzadeh, executive vice president at Brookfield Properties, said about shoppers at that company's Glendale Galleria.

There is good reason for malls to bank on Gen Z, which makes up 40% of global consumers with spending power clocking in at \$360 billion.

For 23-year-old Nicole Tan of West Hollywood, online shopping is for browsing while in-person shopping is for buying.

"I like to try things on," she said as a song from the K-pop group New Jeans played in the background at the Westfield Century City shopping center. "If I see ads on social media and there are sales online, I'd maybe buy stuff online, but I usually like to shop in-store."

Teens have long been the lifeblood of malls, with films such as "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" and "Clueless" depicting shopping centers as a



Tribune News Service/Los Angeles Times/Allen J. Schaben

Shoppers pose for photos with their bags of merchandise after being among the first group of shoppers on the opening day of fast fashion e-commerce giant Shein, which is hosting a brick-and-mortar pop up Oct. 19 inside Forever 21 at the Ontario Mills Mall in Ontario, California.

beehive of excitement and activity. But the popularity of online shopping and recent economic turmoil took a toll, with many retail centers either closing altogether, being converted into office space or apartments or taking on unconventional tenants such as grocery stores.

With the easing of pandemic restrictions and the slowing of e-commerce, some malls have been revived by targeting teens and young shoppers who want more than just a place to spend money: a place to hang out, dine and meet friends.

And then there is the loneliness factor.

"There's a lot of data showing that Gen Z is a particularly lonely generation and that it needs more social interactions," Tully said. "[Gen Z] would benefit probably more so than other generations from going out and having those experiences in-person."

According to the International Council of Shopping Centers survey, 60% of Gen Z respondents said they would rather spend their money on experiences than material items, which means that refining the in-person shopping experience is front of mind for retailers.

Westfield Century City and South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa, among other major Southern California malls, are focused on maximizing "hang time," Grove said — the amount of time customers spend there.

"It is usually a combination of not just retail ... but also great food and beverages and opportunities to do things like [take care of] daily needs," she said. "You're multitasking and doing some other things, not just shopping."

Louis Schillace, senior general manager of Westfield Century City, said that in addition to shopping outlets, the mall houses a gym, an escape room, movie theaters and fine dining restaurants — keys to attracting diverse visitors.

"When you think about Gen Z and how they use the space, it gives them another opportunity to choose this space as their place to go for a night out," he said.

Tan, who works at a talent agency across the street from Westfield Century City, said she often goes there not to shop, but to grab dinner with a co-worker or go for a walk.

"I do more leisure non-shopping things at the mall," she said.

About 70% of Gen Z survey respondents said that retail centers and stores offer fun places to gather, according to the ICSS report.

The malls that are thriving have the financial resources to reinvest in and renovate their spaces to meet the evolving demands of today's shoppers, according to a 2023 Coresight Research report. And malls that cannot make those investments are suffering for it, experts say.

Shuttered stores populate

the Puente Hills Mall, best known as the Twin Pines Mall from the 1985 movie "Back to the Future," in the San Gabriel Valley. And the University of California recently announced plans to acquire the former Westside Pavilion, once a popular L.A. mall that was later converted to office space.

Tully said turning malls into multipurpose destinations where Gen Z flocks will become increasingly important for their survival as online retailers offer shipping, delivery and return options that could disincentivize people from going to the mall to shop.

"There could be drones that deliver things to us," she said. "Who knows what is going to transform with AI? But one thing you will not be able to have [delivered] are those [in-person] types of experiences."

Successful shopping centers also must bring in the kinds of brands that are trendy among Gen Z shoppers, as well as socially and environmentally conscious retail stores those customers are likely to support, Grove said.

Gentle Monster — a South Korean sunglasses brand that grabbed the attention of Gen Z in recent years thanks to collaborations with the likes of K-pop superstar Jennie of Blackpink — opened a boutique at South Coast Plaza in late 2022.

Hundreds of shoppers flocked to the opening of America's first

physical store of Princess Polly, an Australian fast fashion boutique popular among Gen Z and millennials, at Westfield Century City in September 2023.

"When we open a store like Princess Polly and we see the reaction, it was clearly generational," Schillace said. "When we saw the lines of 500 Gen Z-ers waiting for the doors to open, the connection was there."

More than half of Gen Z survey respondents said they were interested in supporting brands that prioritized mental health, according to the ICSS report. About 47% said they cared about brands that address sustainability and racial and gender equity.

"I try to shop small, independent brands or brands in line with my ethos," Tan said.

Brands such as Victoria's Secret and Abercrombie and Fitch went through highly publicized reckonings over body and racial inclusivity in the 2010s as maturing Gen Z students watched from their various social media platforms. As these legacy brands undergo major rebranding to appeal to the new generation of shoppers, those preaching body positivity and diversity such as Fenty Beauty, American Eagle Outfitters Inc.'s

Aerie brand and Skims have found commercial success.

"I think that's all attributable to a really educated new generational shopper," Grove said. "That's the future."

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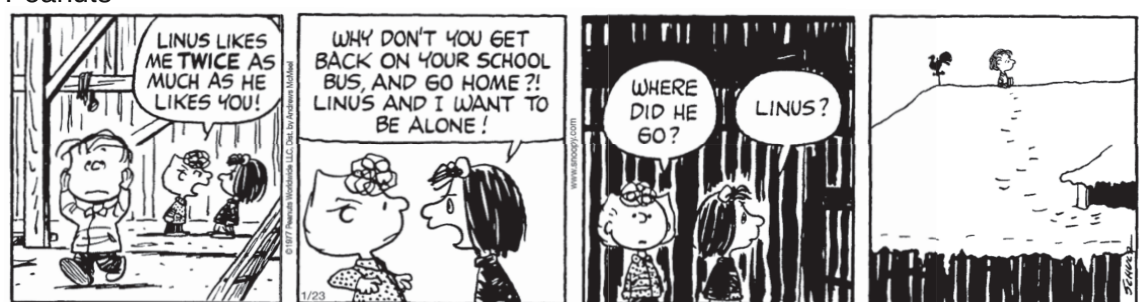
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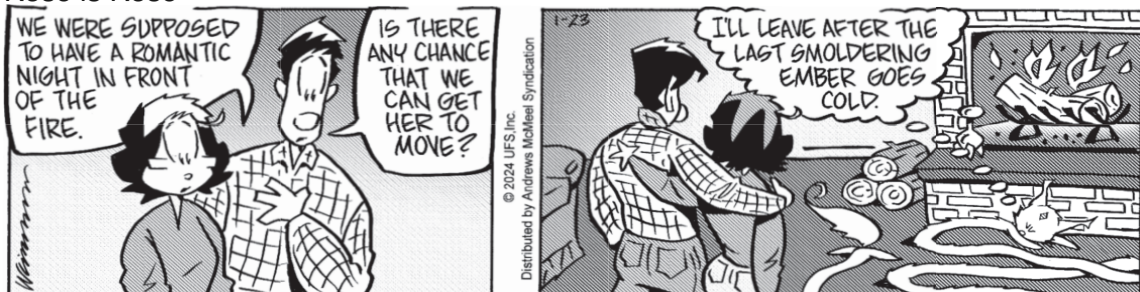
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Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



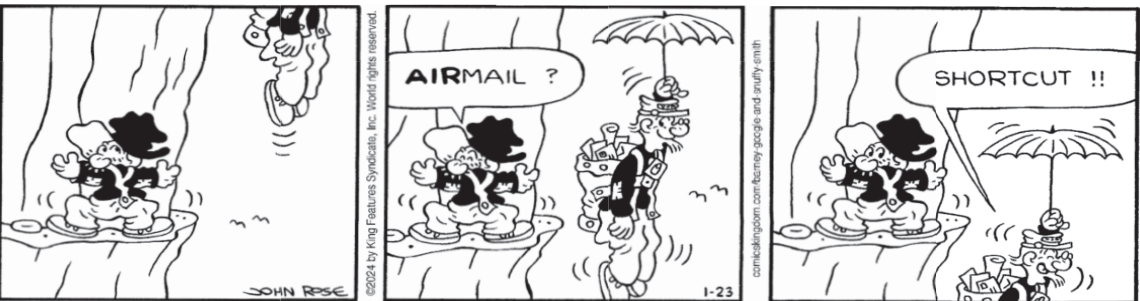
Between Friends



Blondie



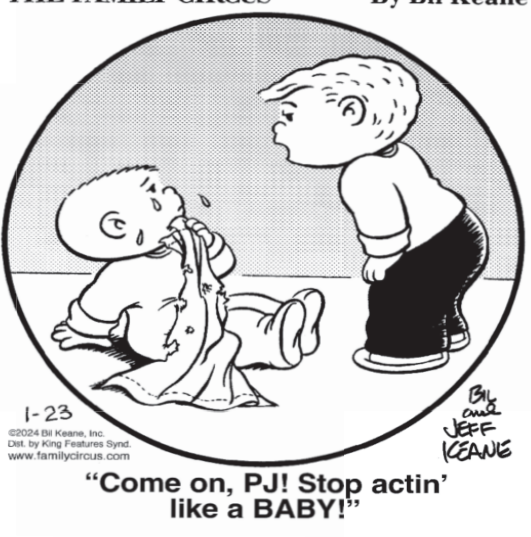
Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The imperfect endplay

South dealer. East-West vulnerable. NORTH: J2, K Q J, K 10 4, 8 7 5 3 2. WEST: K Q 10 8 3, 4, Q 7 3 2, A Q 9. EAST: 9 7 6 4, 8 7 3, J 9 8 5, J 10. SOUTH: A 5, A 10 9 6 5 2, A 6, K 6 4. The bidding: South West North East. Opening lead — king of spades.

A declarer who tries to eliminate the element of luck on every deal does not always find the adverse cards distributed exactly the way he'd like them to be. For example, take this case where South is in four hearts and West leads the king of spades. Declarer sees at once that he might lose a spade and three clubs and go down one if West has the ace of clubs. But having been to the wars before, he visualizes the possibility of an end-

Tomorrow: In the laps of the gods. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

CRYPTOQUIP

QFK PFOZG FMH GHBPURAH
JFZEB KQF ZFWH IOYRMC
PDBQ IRZHB RM D ADME BDJH?

CHMHUFOB YF D WDOZY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF PRESIDENT WILLIAM HOWARD HAD VERY PROMINENT SIDEBURNS, WOULD THEY HAVE BEEN TAFT'S TUFTS? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 German city, 5 "Me time" resort, 8 Cicatrix, 12 Emmy winner Falco, 13 Little louse, 14 Deli scale button, 15 Unrivaled figure, 18 Wall street workers, 20 Increased guffaw, 21 Texter's president, 26 Verbal attack, 30 — Claire, WI, 31 Morning moisture, 32 Jurist Fortas, 33 Natural First-rate, 38 Preventive shot, in slang, 39 Dance syllable, 40 Storage site. DOWN: 1 Karate level, 2 Scent buzzer, 3 Jazz singer Simone, 4 Haystack find, 5 Entangle, 6 Snapshots, 7 —, 8 Treeless tract, 9 Overly theatrical, 10 Singer India, 11 Shipping dept. stamp, 17 Hamilton-Burr event, 19 A gazillion years, 22 "Wham!", 23 Garden, 24 Author Fleming, 25 Flop, 26 Chest muscle, 27 Avril follower, 28 Co. that created Watson, 29 Corp. boss, 31 Fort —, NJ, 34 Paperless party reminders, 35 Super-sonic unit, 36 Prof's degree, 37 Angular measure, 39 Secret store, 40 Not pizzicato, 41 Compared to, 42 Broadway actress Daly, 43 New York's — Field, 44 Concerning, 45 Nobel Prize subj., 46 Miami— County, 48 Ran into.



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## Back ...

Continued from page 8  
Garringer and Crouch handled the early scoring for JCHS, with the former tallying 10 of his game-high 14 points and the latter accounting for eight of his 12 in the first half. Crouch also grabbed five rebounds.

“Crouch probably had the best game of his career,” said Bomholt of the junior, who entered Saturday averaging 3.4 points per game. The dozen points marked his first time scoring in double figures this season. “Just from the standpoint that I saw some enthusiasm from him. He made some shots that got him going.”

“Still had a couple of scenarios where we’ve got to get better, but this was probably in his varsity career probably his best game overall.”

Dunnington joined Garringer and Crouch in double figures, scoring eight of his 12 points in the fourth quarter and finishing a perfect 6-of-6 from the field. He had a game-high six boards to lead the Patriots to a 34-23 rebounding advantage.

“I feel like the pick and rolls were working every time,” said Dunnington, who was averaging five points per game. “I had a wide-open lane to take it there. It took it.”

JCHS needed more time to find its groove Saturday after running out to an 11-0 lead over South Adams the night before. The teams combined for 11 turnovers and 0-for-4 shooting before Garringer hit a baseline jumper for the game’s first points with 4:55 on the first-quarter clock. The late first-half run put the Patriots in control on the way to their first back-to-back wins since topping Northeastern (Feb.

4) and Heritage (Feb. 10) last season.

Jay County faced four ranked opponents during its eight-game skid, including Class 2A No. 10 Adams Central twice. Its seven rivals during that stretch have a combined record of 63-33.

The remainder of the schedule seems more manageable — the eight teams left are a combined 54-54. Most are hovering around .500, with the exceptions of Bellmont (11-3) and Southern Wells (2-10).

Are the Patriots ready to make a run?

“I’d like to think,” said Bomholt, whose team will visit Bluffton (6-7) and former JCHS coach Craig Teagle on Friday before returning home Saturday to take on Blackford (9-6). “But it’s awfully difficult that we’re this deep into the schedule and we still don’t have that set lineup. I don’t think I’ve ever gone this late in the season and not be able to say, ‘There’s our starters. There’s our first guard off the bench. There’s our first post guy off the bench.’ But hopefully we’ll get closer to that by Thursday this week.”

### Junior varsity

Jay County turned a close game into a blowout in the second period and rolled to a 57-34 victory.

The Patriots were up just three at the end of the first quarter. They outscored Hagerstown 20-2 in the second seven minutes and never looked back.

Brady Jetmore, Drew Schemenaur and Cole Forthofer all scored 11 points for JCHS, with Schemenaur connecting on three 3-pointers. Benson Barnett and Kade Sommers added six points apiece.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Levi Muhlenkamp of the Jay County High School basketball reaches in to swipe the ball away from one of Hagerstown’s guards during the Patriots’ 58-37 domination Saturday afternoon.

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Swimming vs. Blackford and Muncie Burris — 6 p.m.; Girls basketball at Heritage — 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.

**Thursday**  
Jay County — Swimming vs. Marion — 6 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. Marion Local — 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball vs. Marion Local — 5 p.m.

**Friday**  
Jay County — Boys basketball (including freshmen) at Bluffton — 5 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball at Marion Local — 6 p.m.

**Saturday**  
Jay County — Boys wrestling sectional at Jay County — 8:30 a.m.; Boys basketball (including freshmen) vs. Blackford — 6:30 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Swimming Mini Meet at Celina YMCA — 9 a.m.; Girls basketball vs. Franklin Monroe — 10

a.m.; Boys basketball at Mississinawa Valley — 6 p.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
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 Pacers (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 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)

### Wednesday

3 a.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)  
6:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Providence at Seton Hall (FS1)  
7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Miami at Notre Dame (ESPN2); Maryland at Iowa (BTN); Davidson at Saint Louis (Bally Indiana)  
7:30 p.m. — NHL: Carolina Hurricanes at Boston Bruins (TNT)  
7:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Auburn at Alabama (ESPN)  
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Phoenix Suns at Dallas Mavericks (ABC)  
8:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Villanova at St. John’s (FS1)  
9 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Illinois at Northwestern (BTN); Kansas State at Iowa State (ESPN2)  
9:30 p.m. — NBA: Oklahoma City Thunder at San Antonio Spurs (ESPN)  
10 p.m. — NHL: Chicago Blackhawks at Seattle Kraken (TNT)  
10:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Colorado State at Nevada (FS1)

**Thursday**  
3:30 a.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN)  
7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: SMU at North Texas (ESPN2)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Boston

Celtics at Miami Heat (TNT)  
8 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: South Carolina at LSU (ESPN); Penn State at Northwestern (BTN)  
9 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: San Francisco at Gonzaga (ESPN2)  
10 p.m. — NBA: Sacramento Kings at Golden State Warriors (TNT)  
10:30 p.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN)

**Friday**  
5 p.m. — PGA Tour: Farmers Insurance Open (CBS)  
7 p.m. — NBA: Phoenix Suns at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)  
7 p.m. — NHL: Vegas Golden Knights at New York Rangers (ESPN)  
8 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Michigan State at Wisconsin (FS1)  
8:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Saint Joseph’s at St. Bonaventure (ESPN2)  
10 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Stanford at Cal (ESPN2)

**Saturday**  
3:30 a.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN)  
12 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Kansas State at Houston

(ESPN); Nebraska at Maryland (BTN); Georgia at Florida (ESPN2)  
12:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Georgetown at Providence (FOX); Fordham at Duquesne (USA)  
1 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Seton Hall at Marquette (FS1)  
1:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Kansas at Iowa State (CBS)  
2 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: North Carolina at Florida State (ESPN); Texas at BYU (ESPN2); Southern Illinois at Murray State (Bally Indiana)  
2 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Kentucky at Arkansas (ESPN)  
3 p.m. — NBA: Miami Heat at New York Knicks (ABC)

3 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Indiana at Illinois (FOX); Villanova at Butler (FS1)  
4 p.m. — PGA Tour: Farmers Insurance Open (CBS)  
4 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Clemson at Duke (ESPN); TCU at Baylor (ESPN2)  
5 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Iowa at Michigan (FS1)  
5:30 p.m. — NBA: Philadelphia 76ers at Denver Nuggets (ABC)  
5:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Arizona at Oregon (FOX)  
6 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Kentucky at Arkansas (ESPN)  
6:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Minnesota at Penn State (BTN)

7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: DePaul at Creighton (FS1)  
8 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: UMass Amherst at Saint Louis (Bally Indiana)  
8 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Notre Dame at UConn (BTN)  
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Golden State Warriors (ABC)  
8:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Ohio State at Northwestern (BTN)  
10 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Utah at Washington (ESPN2); UNLV at San Jose State (FS1)

### 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

## Public Notice

City of Portland, Indiana  
Wet Weather Pump Station, Contract No. 4A  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Portland, Indiana, hereinafter referred to as the Owner, will receive sealed bid packets for the construction of a Wet Weather Pump Station. Sealed bids will be received by the Clerk Treasurer until 10:00 AM (local time) on Thursday, February 29, 2024 at the City of Portland, Indiana; 321 N. Meridian Street 47371. Bids received after such time shall be returned unopened. Bids received prior to 10:00 AM (local time) shall be opened and publicly read aloud at the public meeting scheduled at the Portland Fire Station / Council Chambers, 1616 North Franklin Street, Portland, Indiana at 4:00 PM (local time). In general, the work consists of the construction of a municipal wastewater pumping, screening, and grit removal facility. The pump station’s capacity will be approximately 50 mgd. The work includes some site piping, relocation of existing equipment, and other ancillary items. The issuing office is Jones & Henry Engineers, Ltd., 2420 Coliseum Blvd. N., Ste 214, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805. Copies of the Bidding Documents may be examined at the Owner’s office listed above or the issuing office, without charge.

Questions regarding the project should be directed to:  
Philip Teague, PE  
pteague@jheng.com (preferred) 419-277-6039

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained electronically from www.jhplanroom.com. There is no charge to download from the digital print-room, however, registration is required. Neither Owner nor Engineer has any responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or sufficiency of any bid documents obtained from any source other than the sources listed herein. Obtaining documents from any other source may result in obtaining incomplete and inaccurate information including failure to receive addenda.

Bids shall be valid for 90 days from bid opening and must be submitted on the forms found herein, must contain the names of every person or company interested therein, and shall be accompanied by either a Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond in the amount of 10% of the amount bid with satisfactory corporate surety, or by a certified check on a solvent bank in the amount of not less than 10% of the amount of the Bid, subject to conditions provided in the Instructions to Bidders. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a satisfactory Performance Bond and Maintenance and Guarantee Bond in the amount of 100% of the Bid.

All applicable laws, ordinances, and the rules and regulations of all authorities having jurisdiction over construction of the project shall apply to the project throughout. The successful Contractor will be required to enroll in and verify the work eligibility status of all employees hired after the date of this Contract through the E-Verify program. The Contractor will also be required to sign an affidavit concerning employment of unauthorized aliens. A copy of the affidavit is included in the Bid Documents. The successful Contractor will also be required to sign a certification regarding no investment activities in Iran.

Bids shall be properly and completely executed on bid forms included in the Specifications. Bids shall include all information requested by Indiana Form 96 (Revised 1987). The Owner may make such investigations as deemed necessary to determine the ability of the Bidder to perform the work and the Bidder shall furnish to the Owner all such information and data for this purpose as the Owner may request. The Owner reserves the right to reject any bid if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, such Bidder fails to satisfy the Owner that such Bidder is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the Agreement and to complete the work contemplated therein.

Each Bidder is responsible for inspecting the project site and for reading and being thoroughly familiar with the Contract Documents. The failure or omission of any Bidder to do any of the foregoing shall in no way relieve any Bidder from any obligation with respect to its Bid.

Bidders on this work shall be required to comply with the provisions of the President’s Executive Order No. 11246, as amended. The Bidders shall also comply with the requirements of 41 CFR Part 60 – 4 entitled Construction Contractors - Affirmative Action Requirements. A copy of 41 CFR Part 60 – 4 may be found in the Supplemental General Conditions of the Contract Documents and Specifications. The Contractor must meet guidelines and practices established by the Indiana State Revolving Fund (SRF) and appropriate federal regulations including: 1) Executive Order 11246, 2) Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968, as amended, 3) Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities, 4) OMB Circular A-102, 5) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 6) Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 7) Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 8) Executive Order 12138, 9) Conflict of Interest Clause, 10) Retention and Custodial Requirements for Records Clause, 11) Contractors and Subcontractors Certifications, and others that may be appropriate or necessary.

Contract procurement is subject to the federal regulations contained in the OMB Circular A-102, Sections B and C and the State of Indiana requirements contained in IC-36-1-9 and IC-36-1-12. The contractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin or sex in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 40 CFR Part 33 in the award and administration of contracts awarded under EPA financial assistance agreements. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract which may result in the termination of this contract or other legally available remedies. Bidder’s attention is called the following items included per SRF requirements, with details included in the “SRF Requirements” portion of the Contract Documents.

1. Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity Employment
2. Davis-Bacon Act and related laws and regulations
3. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Efforts
4. Suspension and Debarment requirements
5. Green Project Reserve (GPR) Incentive Program
6. American Iron and Steel (AIS)

Award will be made to the low, responsive, responsible bidder. The low, responsive, responsible bidder must not be debarred, suspended, or otherwise be excluded from or ineligible for participation in federally assisted programs under Executive Order 12549.

Lori Phillips/Clerk Treasurer

CR 1-23-10-2024 -HSPAXLP

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### 110 HELP WANTED

**PORTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** is now accepting applications for two full-time Police Officers now until January 21st. Starting salary of \$52,387. Lateral transfer with sign on bonus of \$5,000 paid over a 3-year term for ILEA tier one graduates. Benefits: Paid vacation, holidays, sick and personal days. Health and dental benefits offered, Specialty pay, 13 Holidays, \$1,000 annual clothing allotment, 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 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 at www.jaycpl.lib.in.us. Applications accepted until the position is filled.

### 130 MISC. FOR SALE

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### 110 HELP WANTED

docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamorespace.com

### 230 AUTOS, TRUCKS

**WE PAY CASH** for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocum’s Salvage

### 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

## Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA  
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:  
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT  
2024 TERM  
In the Matter of the  
Unsupervised  
Administration  
of the Estate of  
Zona Cook, Deceased  
No. 38CO1-2401-EU-000002  
NOTICE OF  
ADMINISTRATION  
Notice is hereby given that Clara Skeens was, on the 9th day of January, 2024, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Zona Cook deceased, who died on December 18, 2023. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent’s death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.  
Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 9th day of January, 2024.  
HINKLE, RACSTER & SCHEMENAUR  
121 W. High Street  
Portland, IN 47371  
Attorney  
Jon Eads  
Clerk of the Circuit Court,  
For Jay County, Indiana  
CR 1-16-23-2024 -HSPAXLP

### 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

## Public Notice

NOTICE TO BIDDERS FOR  
THE JAY SCHOOL  
CORPORATION  
“Roof Project”  
Location –  
Jay County Jr-Sr High School  
2072 W SR 67  
Portland, IN 47371

Notice is hereby given, that the Board of School Trustees of the Jay School Corporation (the Owner) will receive sealed bids for the replacement of two roof sections at the Jay County Jr-Sr High School in 2024.

Bids will be accepted at the Jay School Corporation, Administration Office, 414 Floral Avenue, Portland, IN until 10:00 am on Friday, February 9, 2024. The roof specifications and subsequent inspection of the roof sections may be obtained by contacting Gary Cagle, Maintenance / Facility Director, Jay School Corporation, (260) 251-0097.

The roof sections scheduled for replacement are the following:  
Bid Item 1 – Roof Section #2, Approximately 37,026 sq. ft.  
Bid Item 2 – Roof Section #5, Approximately 21,879 sq. ft.

The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, complying with the conditions for bidding, provided the bid is reasonable and it is the best interest of the Owner to accept it. The Owner reserves the right to reject the bid of any or all bidders in accordance with Indiana Code 36-1-12.

Bids not reaching said office by 10:00 am, February 9, 2024 will not be opened and will be returned unopened to the original bidder.

Dated this 23rd day of January 2024  
Board of School Trustees  
The Jay School Corporation  
CR 1-23.30-2024  
NS 1-24.31-2024 -HSPAXLP

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Three Patriots earn ACAC title on Friday, see story below

On Tuesday, Jay swim hosts Blackord and Union City, see Sports on tap

# Sports

## Another won

*Patriots earn fourth-straight ACAC title with win over Southern Wells*



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County's Breanna Dirksen shoots from the right wing on Saturday in a 70-34 win that clinched an Allen County Athletic Conference Championship title. The JCHS senior had eight points and four assists in the first quarter as the Patriots stormed to a 31-9 lead.

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review

Most of the Patriots had been there before.

Of the roster, only four players hadn't won an Allen County Athletic Conference championship before; freshman Hallie Schwieterman, exchange student Livia Luzzi and first-year varsity players Alexis Sibray and Raylah Newton.

Those four can no longer say they haven't been a part of an ACAC champion team and three more can say they've been there four times.

A 70-34 demolition of the Southern Wells Raiders Saturday evening clinched the Jay County High School girls basketball team at least a tie of the ACAC conference title for the fourth year in a row.

The Patriots (19-2) remain undefeated in conference play with a 5-0 record. The Bluffton Tigers, who have already completed all of their conference games, boast a 5-1 ACAC record, meaning the Patriots' win over Southern Wells only clinches a share and Jay County will need to beat Heritage (1-17, 0-5 ACAC) to claim the title outright.

This will be the fourth ACAC title for seniors Breanna Dirksen, Molly Muhlenkamp and Sophie Saxman. It is also the first championship for first-year head coach Sherri McIntire while she was captaining the ship.

"For the seniors to be able to do that four years in a row is just awesome," McIntire said. "I'm so happy for the kids because they deserve it. They work so hard and had good leadership all year. ...

"This accomplishment is something they wanted, so I'm very pleased we were able to do that."

Jay County jumped out on Southern Wells (5-14, 1-5 ACAC) early with a 10-0 run over the first three minutes of the game.

The first basket came from

Muhlenkamp in transition after Driksen stole the ball and passed it ahead for the layup. Saxman doubled the score on a pair of free throws 20 seconds later.

Dirksen scored the next three baskets for Jay County, all assisted by Saxman. The first was a jump shot from the right wing on inside-out action with Saxman. A transition bucket came next before Dirksen scored off of a give-and-go with Saxman at the elbow.

"We were going in knowing that it was going to be a lighter game, but we still wanted to play to the highest of our potential," Dirksen said. "Tonight, we were sharing the ball really well and that has a big part in how we were playing tonight. ...

"I got my defense into my offense which rolled into fast-breaks, which is where I got a lot of my points. I think that will really help coming up in sectional time."

Dirksen notched four assists and four baskets as part of a 31-9 first quarter. She finished with 12 points on 6-of-9 shooting, six assists and two rebounds.

Three more Patriots scored in double figures, while two finished just one basket away.

Saxman led all scorers with 14 points, Schwieterman added 11 and Muhlenkamp had 10. Saxman also recorded a team-high eight rebounds and seven assists.

Bella Denton hit a shot each quarter for eight points and two fourth-quarter buckets pushed Meredith Dirksen to nine.

Danielle May also contributed to the large first quarter with six points on back-to-back three pointers assisted by Breanna Dirksen.

"These girls are just so unselfish," McIntire said. "There were several times where some of them could have shot the basketball but they passed to a teammate. They just have such good

team chemistry and that was obvious the way we played tonight."

Kenzie Paxson led the Raiders with 10 points and eight rebounds.

After the massive opening period, Jay County continued to outscore SWHS until the fourth quarter when both put up 15 points.

The game at Heritage today to earn the ACAC outright will also act as the regular-season finale before the Patriots take on host Yorktown (13-8) in the IHSAA Class 3A Sectional 24 opener on Jan. 30. The Patriots previously took down Yorktown 49-37 Dec. 26.

A win in the opening round would slate a semifinal matchup against the Delta Eagles (10-10) for Feb. 2. JCHS recently dismantled Delta 60-36 on the road.

That sets up a potential championship on Feb. 3 between the Patriots and No. 2 Hamilton Heights (19-2). The Huskies are one of only two teams to take down Jay County this season (53-41 in the second game of the season for JCHS) and have ended its season in the sectional three seasons in a row.

"We just need to have some really intense practices," McIntire said. "We've brought some boys in all season, but we need to continue to do that because we need to be ready. ...

"These kids are playing with a lot of confidence. So, let's go into sectional and see what happens. We don't have anything to lose as far as Hamilton Heights is supposed to win it. So, let's take it at them."

### Junior varsity

Three Patriots led Jay County to a 27-24 victory over Southern Wells in a two-quarter contest.

Raylah Newton drained four of her five baskets in the second quarter to keep the Patriots (9-8) alive.

## Back to Back

*Patriots earn second victory in less than 24 hours*

By **RAY COONEY**

The Commercial Review

The Patriots went seven weeks without a victory.

By the time the buzzer sounded Saturday, they had two wins in less than 24 hours.

It took a while to get going in a rare afternoon game, but the Jay County High School boys basketball team took control with a nine-point run to end the first half of the way to a 58-37 victory over the visiting Hagerstown Tigers.

The win followed Friday evening's 54-19 blowout of South Adams.

"It brought our confi-

dence up a lot," said senior Trevin Dunnington, who was one of three JCHS players in double figures Saturday. "We needed the wins. We've been feeling down."

After a rough first three minutes, the squads went back and forth with Hagerstown taking a 17-15 lead on a Kendrick Herr 3-pointer at the 6:06 mark of the second quarter. The rest of the half belonged to the Patriots.

Jay County (4-9) took the lead for good on a Dunnington hoop off of an inbound pass from Gradin Swoveland and was up 21-17 following a Liam Gar-

ringer 3-pointer. The Tigers' Grant Semler responded with a triple of his own, only to have the home team score the final nine points of the first half. The last of those baskets came from Ben Crouch on a put-back of a Swoveland miss with four seconds left in the half for a 30-20 advantage.

Hagerstown closed to within six points early in the second half, but Jay County ripped off an 11-0 run to close the third quarter. After a 9-0 Patriot run in the final period, both teams cleared their benches with 3:12 remaining.

See **Back** page 7

## Wood, Rowles earn fourth ACAC titles

BLUFFTON — The Patriots finished second in the Allen County Athletic Conference duals against the Jets.

They got another chance to take down the Jets in the individual competition, but came up short again.

The Class 2A No. 4 Jay County High School boys wrestling team had three individual champions to lead it to second-place at the ACAC tournament Friday hosted by Bluffton.

The Patriots' 234.5 points were 52.5 points behind first-place, Class 1A No. 2 Adams Central. No. 6 South Adams also broke the two-century mark with 214 points while Bluffton (191), Heritage (105), Woodlan (95) and Southern Wells (84) lagged behind.

Three JCHS wrestlers walked away as ACAC champions, including No. 4 Tony Wood and Cody Rowles who both earned their fourth ACAC titles.

Wood (33-0) dominated his first two opponents before taking down Adam Central's Maverick Dubach (29-4) with a 15-0 technical fall 24 seconds into the third period of the 138-pound championship match.

Rowles (23-8) claimed the 126 bracket with an 8-0 major decision over Dylan Ogg (25-8) of Adams Central.

Griffin Byrum (27-4) claimed the other title for Jay County in the 106 weight class.

Byrum pinned AC's Myles Kaehr (24-7) in 1 minute, 25 seconds.

Runners-up for the Patriots were A.J. Heskett (132), Jacob Robinson (144), Juquin Flores (175) and Bryce Wenk (190).

Third-place finishers were Syllas Wenk (113) and Alan Ortiz (215). Cooper Glassford (120) and Connor Specht (285) both finished fourth while Gavin Hambrook (150) and Leighton Brown (165) placed fifth.

Hayden Ison did not place in the 157-pound bracket.

### Junior High struggles

NOBLESVILLE — The Jay County Junior High wrestling team placed sixth on Saturday at the Noblesville West Invitational.

Whiteland earned the top spot, while Jay County fell to sixth out of seven schools and an exhibition team.

The Patriots started off the day with a heartbreaking 57-56 loss to Zionsville. Jay County struggled to get going as it dropped the next two matches to Noblesville West (82-42) and Alexandria (66-54) as well.

The Patriots finally broke through with a 78-42 win over Noblesville East. They finished out the day with a 64-54 victory over the exhibition team.

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