

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Crisis prep



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Jay County Sheriff's Office hosted crisis intervention training this week for law enforcement. Jay and Blackford counties are starting a crisis intervention team dedicated to better serve those with mental illness in crisis. Pictured above, Brooke Aker acts out a scenario while sheriff's deputy Tre Nusbaumer responds.

Firm offers fiber proposal

Mainstream pitches almost 400 miles of fiberoptic

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

No connection left behind.

Jay County officials are considering a multi-million dollar plan that would install 395 miles of fiberoptic internet across the county to reach all homes and businesses categorized as unserved or underserved.

Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council heard a proposal Thursday from Mark Gabriel of Mainstream Fiber Networks. The project would require a 20% match — \$3.9 million — from the county, with the remaining \$15.5 million covered by grants and a partnership between Mainstream Fiber Networks and Searchlight Capital, a New York private equity company.

Commissioners and council will meet in another joint session at 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2, to continue discussing the project.

Approximately 3,900 locations — about 36% of homes and businesses in Jay County — are unserved or underserved in terms of broadband access, explained Gabriel.

"Unserved" individuals are categorized as residents with less than 25 megabytes per second downloads and 3 megabytes per second uploads, and "underserved" individuals are categorized as those with less than 100 megabytes per second downloads and 20 megabytes per second uploads.

Mainstream Fiber Networks' minimum fiber speed is 300 megabytes per second downloads and 300 megabytes per second uploads. For those speeds, pricing is estimated at \$55 a month for residents and business owners. It would be about \$99 a month to upgrade to a 1-gigabyte download speed plan.

See **Fiber** page 2

Area officers get special training

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Local officers are taking a step toward understanding more about mental illness, substance use disorder and other crises.

Jay and Blackford counties are starting a crisis intervention team, a program intended to create a partnership between police, mental health advocates and mental health professionals to better serve those with mental illness in crisis.

It starts with offering a 40-hour course to train the county's law enforcement, which was completed this week at Jay County Sheriff's Office. The training

curriculum, outlined by the National Alliance on Mental Illness Indiana and put together by a local steering committee, walks officers through discussions with local legal and subject matter experts, mental health professionals and providers, citizens impacted by mental illness and others trained through the program. Officers also engage in roleplaying scenarios to practice active listening and de-escalation. It includes handling situations that involve those impacted by suicide, struggling with substance use and living with neurocognitive disorders.

Jay County Sheriff Ray

Newton trained in the course through Delaware County previously. Newton praised crisis training, describing the information as a tool for patrol and correctional officers.

"We have representatives from every agency that deals with mental health come in and teach us how to deal with it," said Newton. "And that's one thing, you know, we lacked in the past. We didn't get the training that we needed."

According to Crisis Intervention Team International, its "Memphis Model" was first created in 1988. Crisis Inter-

vention Team founders Randy Dupont and Sam Cochran led the first programs in 2008, which later became the founding board members of the non-profit organization.

Its basic goals, according to its website, are to "develop the most compassionate and effective crisis response system that is the least intrusive in a person's life" and to "help persons with mental disorders and/or addictions access medical/mental health treatment rather than place them in the criminal justice system due to illness related behaviors."

See **Crisis** page 2

Haines will seek own council term

Another primary is now a contested race.

Dave Haines filed Friday to run for a Republican nomination for Jay County Council, creating a four-way race for three at-large spots.

Haines, an incumbent, joins fellow incumbent Matt Minnich, Bryan

Alexander and Ryan Wellman as GOP candidates for the council nominations. Three candidates will advance to the November general election.

Republican Jeanne Houchins is the other incumbent.

Haines will be seeking

his own term after being selected by a Republican caucus to fill the remainder of Ray Newton's term. Newton had to give up his seat on council when he was elected sheriff in 2022.

Other contested GOP primary races so far are:

•Mike Leonhard versus

Doug Horn for the north district commissioner nomination

•Jonelle Foreman versus Jon Eads for county treasurer

•Greg LeMaster vs. incumbent J.D. Prescott for state representative in District 33

Other offices up for elec-

tion this year include south district Jay County Commissioner, election this year include Jay County Commissioner — north and south districts, Jay County Circuit Court Judge, and county clerk of courts, coroner and surveyor. Filing continues until noon Feb. 9.

Funds for park lights OK'd

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Hudson Family Park will be getting brighter.

Portland Redevelopment Commission on Friday approved Portland Park Board's request for \$40,000 to install lighting along the walking trail around the pond at the park.

The commission also heard a request for funding from a group that is working toward opening a performance and event venue.

Park board president Brian Ison visited the redevelopment commission to request funding for adding more lights at Hudson Family Park. He said he believes the lighting was in the original plans for the park, which opened in 2011, but that a lack of funding slowed the process. It was identi-

Redevelopment commission covers \$40,000 project cost

fied as a priority through the board's process to create its five-year plan in 2021. Ison noted the importance of lighting for the safety of park patrons and to discourage vandalism, which has been a regular issue.

The park board invested \$9,600 last year to run electrical service from the amphitheater to the gazebo at the park's east end. Ison presented a proposal from Copersmith Electric of Portland

that would add lighting along the trail around the pond for \$39,800. He noted that the board planned to add electrical boxes at each light pole to allow for flexibility for additional projects and initiatives in the future.

Noting that the redevelopment commission had set aside \$50,000 for park projects, Ison requested at least \$30,000 to go toward the Hudson Family Park lighting.

See **Lights** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Portland Park Board spent nearly \$10,000 last year to run electricity from the Hudson Family park amphitheatre (background left) to the gazebo (foreground right). Portland Redevelopment Commission on Friday agreed to fund additional lighting along the path around the park's pond for \$40,000.

Deaths

Linda Ellsworth, 83, Dale
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 43 degrees Friday. The low was 37.

Expect cloudy skies today with a high in the low 40s and a chance of rain in the afternoon. Rain could shift to snow overnight tonight, with a high Sunday in the upper 30s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Public Library will host a stuffed animal sleepover at 10 a.m. Tuesday. Children can visit the library in their pajamas to take part in crafts, activities and stories, and bring a stuffed animal or doll for the sleepover. They can stop by the next day to pick up their toy and see what they've been up to.

Coming up

Tuesday — Results from today's wrestling sectional at Jay County High School.

Wednesday — Jay County native wins national health and physical education award.



Crisis ...

Continued from page 1
For the last few years, the Consortium for Opioids Response and Engagement of East Central Indiana (CORE-ECI) has been working in local communities to “strengthen and expand substance use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery services,” according to Purdue University’s website. In connection with that effort, Purdue University’s HealthTAP program helped facilitate a crisis intervention steering committee for Jay and Blackford counties, explained Regina Pilotte, interim director of HealthTAP.
“We’ve been working on breaking down stigma,” explained Pilotte, noting CORE-

ECI is in its third year — the initiative runs through August — and is translating leadership to local community members.
Jay County’s Crisis Intervention Team is different from Jay County’s Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team, which aims to help first responders in the aftermath of dealing with a traumatic event. Crisis intervention directly involves the community, and teams regularly host 40-hour classes as well as in-service trainings, or continuing education for crisis intervention team members.
Hartford City Police Department captain Joel Allred underwent a virtual crisis intervention training course in 2020. As

a leading instructor in the classes this week, Allred pointed to benefits with in-person classes, such as visiting different sites and actively participating in roleplay scenarios.
He also noted the importance of understanding how to handle different situations.
“A fair majority of our calls for service involve people who have some form of mental illness from the entire spectrum, from very mild to severe,” said Allred. “That’s why I think it’s important, for us to hone our skills in ... interacting with people who are going through these crisis times, because our end goal is to serve them the best we can. Going to trainings like this is how we learn to do that ... this

is a place that we can learn and make those mistakes without having real-world consequences.”
IU Health Jay security officer Nathan Springer first received crisis intervention training when he became Portland police chief in 2014. Now retired from the role, Springer noted he would have benefitted from taking the course as a young officer.
“I was put into situations that I didn’t feel comfortable with and I always felt like I could have done better with,” he said. “This training just ... arms that officer with extra resources.”
Springer added that Meridian Health Services first brought up crisis intervention training nearly a decade ago. At that

time, he explained, staffing issues, time restraints and other trainings that took precedence kept the training from becoming a reality then.
This week’s course taught officers from different departments in Jay, Blackford and Delaware counties. Plans are to offer more classes in the future.
Officers are regularly thrown into situations on the job in which they can utilize the information, said Newton.
“My ultimate goal is to have everyone trained in it,” he added. “There’s a lot of valuable information training, I mean, I use it a lot ... you don’t really think you’re using it, but you are.”

CR almanac

Sunday 1/28	Monday 1/29	Tuesday 1/30	Wednesday 1/31	Thursday 2/1
39/31	39/31	40/31	40/32	44/31
There’s an 80% chance of snow and rain on Sunday, when the high will be 39 degrees.	Mostly cloudy skies on Monday. The low will be around 31 degrees at night.	Tuesday’s forecast shows a 50% chance of rain. At night, the low will be just below freezing.	Mostly cloudy skies on Wednesday with a high of 40 degrees. The low at night will be 32.	Mostly cloudy skies are expected Thursday, when the high will be 44 degrees.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 7-3-7 Daily Four: 8-5-8-7 Quick Draw: 5-6-14-21-28-34-37-40-45-48-49-50-51-52-54-64-70-73-76-79	Pick 5: 1-5-4-3-1 Evening Rolling Cash 5: 14-17-25-29-37 Jackpot: \$100,000
Ohio Midday Pick 3: 9-7-8 Pick 4: 6-3-1-2	Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$164 million Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$285 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.51 Feb. corn4.51 Wheat5.20	Feb. beans11.94 Wheat5.60
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.51 Feb. corn4.46 March corn4.46	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.31 Feb. corn4.31 Beans11.96 Feb. beans11.96 Wheat5.58
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.36 Feb. corn4.31 Beans11.84	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.41 March corn4.44 Beans11.71 Feb. beans11.71 Wheat5.20

Today in history

In 1756, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart in Salzburg, Austria
In 1880, Thomas Edison patented the incandescent lamp. He and English physicist Sir Joseph Wilson Swan developed light bulbs independently, with litigation leading to the formation of a joint company three years later.
In 1944, the army of the Soviet Union pushed German and Finnish forces out of Leningrad (now St. Petersburg). The victory ended an 872-day siege of the city.
In 1955, Chief Justice John Roberts was born in Buffalo. He served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and he has served as Chief Justice since being appointed by President George W. Bush in 2005.
In 1973, the Vietnam War came to an end as the Paris Accord was signed. It laid out details for exchanging prisoners and U.S. forces withdrawing from South Vietnam.
In 1976, “Laverne and Shirley,” one of several “Happy Days” spin-offs, debuted on ABC. It starred Penny Marshall and Cindy Williams.
In 2009, Jay County Council approved the purchase of the former First National Bank building, 126 N. Meridian St., Portland as the county’s third annex building. Owned by MainSource Bank after a foreclosure, it was being sold for \$130,000.
In 2022, Jay County Chamber of Commerce announced finalists for the Jay County Community Awards, with John Coldren and Phil Frantz, Greg Franklin and Sandy Bubb nominated for the The Spirit of Vicki Lifetime Achievement Award. (Franklin was honored with the award posthumously during a ceremony in May following his death on March 22.)

—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Monday 6 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board special meeting, community room, high school, 400 Butler St.	mayor’s office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.
Thursday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works,	
Friday 5 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council joint session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	

Obituaries

Linda Ellsworth

Sept. 9, 1940-Jan. 26, 2024
Linda Ellsworth, age 83, a former resident of Portland, passed away on Friday, Jan. 26, 2024, at Core Nursing and Rehab in Dale, Indiana.
Linda was born on Sept. 9, 1940, in Portland, Indiana, the daughter of Robert and Wilma (Roser) Ellsworth. She graduated from Portland High School in 1958 and worked for CTS in Berne from 1976

to 2002. She was a member of Trinity Arch Bridge Church in Portland.
Survivors include:
Her siblings — Joan Wendel, Portland, Indiana, Audrey Ruddle, Westerville, Ohio, and Tom Ellsworth (wife: Sharon), Portland, Indiana
Several nieces and nephews,



Ellsworth

great-nieces and great-nephews, great-great-nieces great-great-nephews and great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.
Private graveside services will be held at Green Park Cemetery in Portland.
Arrangements entrusted to Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.
Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

Lights ...

Continued from page 1
Redevelopment commission members Rusty Inman, Dave Teeter, Reda Theurer-Miller and Joe Johnston voted unanimously to cover the full cost of the project up to \$40,000.
Ison also briefly discussed the future of the lot where the Bailey Building previously stood at the southwest corner of Main and Commerce streets. (It was demolished beginning in November.) He noted that the site, which is owned by the city, has been discussed as a possible park space and said he has met with Portland Main Street Connect to begin talking about possible plans. He asked for a redevelopment commission member to join him and two Main Street representatives on a committee to continue the process. Theurer-Miller agreed to be a part of the group.
During the discussion, Teeter also mentioned the building that is scheduled to be torn down next month at 208 and 210 N. Meridian

St. Inman pointed out that the property is currently under private ownership.
Dave Smyts, Treaver Schmit, Jamie Smith and Travis Smith of The Venue of Portland also visited the commission to seek assistance with creating a downtown event venue. The Smiths currently own the building at 105 W. Main St. via Coppersmith Property Management. Plans call to rehabilitate it, with Smyts and Schmit to rent it initially and potentially buy it in the future for use as a concert venue featuring local, regional and national performers. Smyts explained that the lineup would likely include rock and country music as well as comedians.
Smyts, a Geneva resident, asked for any help that might be available to help move the project forward.
Redevelopment commission members asked several questions, with Smyts saying he plans to have The Venue open on Friday and Sat-

urday nights though he may need to have more flexibility with performers in the first year. It would offer snacks and beverages, including alcohol, but not have a kitchen. Hopes are to have a balcony for concertgoers and an apartment area for performers.
Explaining his background, Smyts said he hosts the Headbangers Vault podcast and has connections within the music industry.
Redevelopment commission members expressed a willingness to help with the project but asked for the group to return with a breakdown of specific costs. At that point, the commission could consider what part of the project it would be able to fund. (Inman also noted that some portions of the project could be eligible for other grant funding, such as a facade grant.)

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For additional coverage of the redevelopment commission meeting, visit theocr.com.

Fiber ...

Continued from page 1
The company’s fixed wireless speed comes in at 100 megabytes per second downloads and 20 megabytes per second uploads. That plan would cost \$89.95 a month for residents or business owners.
If approved, 395 miles of fiber internet would be installed across Jay County over the next two to three years.
“We are going to look at a whole-county approach, we’re going to pursue building out the entire county, into the areas for unserved and underserved,” explained Gabriel.
Mainstream Fiber Networks started working with counties about 10 years ago to provide rural broadband internet access. One of its recent projects included outfitting the entirety of Benton County with broadband access.
“Every home or business has access to broadband in the county,” said Gabriel. “There aren’t many counties that have that, they’re probably one of the first ones in the state of Indiana that have that.”
Mainstream Fiber Networks signed an agreement in October with Searchlight Capital, which is the largest private investor in rural broadband in the United States. Together, the partnership would provide \$6 million, or 31%, of the total cost to outfit Jay County with fiber optic internet.
Hopes are to secure \$9.5 million through Next Level Connections for the Jay County project. If denied, the group will apply for funding through the federal Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program, which has allocated \$868 million for Indiana toward promoting

reliable internet connectivity.
Commissioner Brian McGalliard asked if there is a better chance for grant funding because Mainstream Fiber Solutions would be applying to outfit the entire county.
“Oh yeah,” said Gabriel. “You just took a big problem off their table.”
He added that it makes more sense financially to install fiber optic connections at one time.
Jay County community coordinator Nate Kimball noted the Next Level Connections grant application is due Feb. 9, meaning county officials would need to move on the project quickly.
Gabriel asked for county officials to sign a letter of support for the project and, for the application, to spell out how they plan to pay the county’s portion.
McGalliard asked how the county would make payments for the project, with Gabriel explaining payments would be submitted as work is completed. He also said payments could be “stretched out” or “flexible” as needed.
Council vice president Cindy Bracy noted another company interested in developing the eastern part of the county. She and council member Harold Towell suggested looking into other options for broadband expansion before making a decision.
McGalliard suggested the county could issue a bond for the project, with county attorney Wes Schemenaur confirming the process would take a few months. Schemenaur also noted the county’s various funding revenues available, which could include economic development income tax (EDIT), tax increment financing

(TIF) dollars, solar and wind farm economic development funds and American Rescue Plan Act dollars.
Once grants are awarded, explained Gabriel, his company would begin the engineering portion of the project. About 90 days later, the first round of construction would begin, likely in the fourth quarter of this year, he estimated.

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For an extended version of this story, visit theocr.com.

SERVICES

Sunday
Liechty, Tab: 2:30 p.m.
Bridge Community Church
South Campus, 406 E. Parr Road.
Christian, Lois: 4 p.m., MJS
Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

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Hosted by The Jay County Visitor and Tourism Bureau

Vendor/ Craft Show

February 10
10AM - 4PM

Free Admission & Parking
Shop unique handmade treasures
Support local artisans in our community

Held at the Holiday Inn Express here in Portland.

Limited spaces available, can contact Mary Adair at the Jay County Visitor & Tourism
260-726-3366 or email
director@visitjaycounty.com for more information.

Sophomores, freshmen make list

Fort Recovery High School released its second quarter honor roll. Sophomores on the list with all A's were Evvie Briner, Elisa Evers, Alivia Grube, Brodie Hart, Aubrie Heitkamp, Jameson Heitkamp, Madison Heitkamp, Maleiah Kaf-fenberger, Olivia Knapke, Brylee Kremer, Cora Kre-

mer, Autumn Leuthold, Lily Schwieterman, Megan Weitzel, Reece Wendel, Georgia Wenning and Leah Wuebker. Making the list with all A's and B's were sophomores Gabe Acheson, Ella Bechtol, Aiden Brunswick, Ryker Brunswick, Rylee Bulp, Emma Coleman, Kyla

Dues, Zoe Dues, Nevaeh Elsass, Zack Ervin, Mallo-ry Evers, Carson Ful-lenkamp, Alex Gaerke, Eli Hawk, Jenna Homan, Cayson Kaikala, Reece LeFevre, Luke Lochtefeld, Anthony Roessner, Dani Schmitt and Jesse Springer. Freshmen making the all A honor roll were

Kenna Dues, Tyler Dues, Cadence Eber, Carter Fortkamp, Alexis Grisez, Makenna Huelskamp, Meredith Jones, Breaker Jutte, Grace Lochtefeld, Ian McCain, Cameron Muhlenkamp, Isaac Roessner, Jennifer Wen-del, James Westgerdes, and Brynn Willmann. On the list with all A's

and B's were freshmen Brody Barga, Deanna Brown, Kendall Buck-land, Alex Carreto, Reese Diller, Destiny Ervin, Brady Evers, Grant Fortkamp, Ava Ful-lenkamp, Sophia Guggen-biller, Russell Hart, Aubree Heitkamp, Mad-die Heitkamp, Lily Her-nandez, Sydney Jutte,

Hudson McAbee, Jake Meyer, Trinity Rammel, Coby Schmitz, Emma Schmitz, Madelyn Schoenlein, Angel Serio, Cara Shoemaker, Riley Stammen, Kiera Stump, Amber Timmerman, Ava Timmerman, Ivy Tobe, Ethan Wenning, Reed Westgerdes, Will West-gerdes and Jase Wuebker.

Neighbor's loud wind chimes disturb peace

DEAR ABBY: I'm irritated by my neighbors, and I don't know quite how to approach it. I live in a densely populated, but quiet, neighborhood. New neighbors moved in a couple of years ago, and after moving in, they hung a wind chime on their front porch. This isn't your average wind chime. If I had to guess, the chimes are at least five feet long.

At first, I didn't think much of it. These whimsical little melodies you hear every time the wind blows can be cute, I guess. But it gets quite windy here, and I'm constantly distracted by the loud, clanging chimes. I don't want to be the type of person who knocks on their door and tells them how I feel. I was hoping you could chime in. — DISTURBED IN RHODE ISLAND

DEAR DISTURBED: Make it your business to find out what the noise ordinances are in your neighborhood. Then BECOME the type of neighbor who knocks on their door. When you do, wear a smile and bring along a small gift.

Explain that you don't want to appear to be a complainer, but could they please modify those wind chimes, because on windy days the constant banging gives you headaches. If they are good

neighbors and cooperative, be grateful. However, if they aren't, you may have to pursue legal means.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been together for 12 years, but things have changed. We sleep in separate beds, we both work and we spend little time together, and we can't have a decent conversation.

I feel like I have a roommate who just comes and goes as he pleases. He always has an excuse for not spending time with me and our daughter. I don't feel like we are married anymore. What should I do? — DISSATISFIED IN VIRGINIA

DEAR DISSATISFIED: Tell your husband you feel like you are living with a roommate rather than a spouse. Tell him you miss the closeness you once shared, and ask if he is willing to work on it. What is currently happening isn't fair to you or your daughter. Then make an appointment with a mar-



Dear Abby

riage counselor to discuss the state of your marriage — with him, if he's willing — or without him.

DEAR ABBY: I recently married, and my 19-year-old son and I moved in with my new husband. My son works full time and goes to school part time. My husband expects him to do dishes and other chores. My son does take care of the recycling and trash on a weekly basis. I work from home part time, and I don't mind doing the chores. This is causing a lot of contention between us. Am I wrong to defend my son? — WILLING IN FLORIDA

DEAR WILLING: You should not have to "defend" your son. There are now three adults living under that roof. Your son is not a freeloader, he's working full time and taking classes. All three of you should be doing the dishes "and other chores" as needed. And you should ALL be in agreement about the timing and rotation of who will do what, and when.

DEAR ABBY: I grew up with very strict parents. They used money to control me, even after I graduated from college and grad school. I'm happy to report that I recently landed my dream

job. I have achieved financial freedom and, at last, I'm independent.

My question is, how do I avoid going wild? I'm suddenly free to do whatever I want, and I'm tempted to go out and party like I never could before. I want to have fun, drink, dance and finally start dating (and maybe sleeping) around. I worry, though, that I don't know how to indulge without going over the top.

I've been going to concerts (which I love), staying up too late and eating a ton of junk food. All of that seems fine, within reason, but I already feel like I've been drinking too much, and I'm worried this might carry over into other aspects of my newly liberated existence. I would hate for my freedom to negatively impact my job performance or have any lasting negative consequences.

I know I'm dealing with something most people process in college, when there is a roommate to help you look out for yourself, a class schedule to maintain and limited funds to spend going out. Instead, I'm on my own, working a job I love with a flexible schedule and I earn enough money to go out as often as I please.

I know I should be saving and budgeting, but I haven't gotten there yet. I have a fair amount

saved, and I add more every paycheck, but it's nothing formal. I definitely have been spending too much on clothes — my wardrobe was a constant battleground before — and I love wearing things I choose.

Basically, I'm asking for advice on how to enjoy my new freedom in a responsible, healthy way — without going wild. — UNLEASHED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR UNLEASHED: A way to avoid overspending and prepare for your future would be to start saving a predetermined amount from your paycheck on a regular basis. You didn't mention whether your employer has a certain amount of money can be automatically withheld from employees' salaries and placed in a retirement account. The way to find out is to ask.

As to your newfound freedom: Although you are a bright young woman and academically accomplished, you may need some guidance now, because your strict upbringing deprived you of learning experiences when you were younger. Talk about this with a licensed psychotherapist until you are less tempted to compensate by "running wild."

Community Calendar

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

Today
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

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

Monday
PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will

meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

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

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

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

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appoint-

ment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

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

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

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

JAY COUNTY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in conference room C at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital. Open discussion for cancer patients, survivors, family members or anyone interested in helping with the group. For more information, contact Linda Metzger at (260) 726-1844.

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. 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.

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

The objective is to fill a nine-by-nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

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WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

For Jay County Schools January 29 - February 3

Monday: Main Entrees: Whole grain waffles, turkey sausage
link Alternate Entrees: Build your own pizza fun lunch, chicken salad with cheese, breadstick
Sides for all meals: Tater tots

Tuesday: Main Entree: Soft whole grain tacos, shredded lettuce, shredded cheddar cheese
Alternate Entrees: Build your own pizza fun lunch, chicken salad with cheese, breadstick
Sides for all meals: Season black beans

Wednesday: Main Entrees: Baked mozzarella cheese sticks
Alternate Entrees: Build your own pizza fun lunch, chicken salad with cheese, breadstick
Sides for all meals: Baked shoestring fries

Thursday: Main Entrees: Popcorn chicken
Alternate Entrees: Build your own pizza fun lunch, chicken salad with cheese, breadstick
Sides for all meals: Herb roasted potatoes

Friday: Main Entrees: Classic pepperoni pizza
Alternate Entrees: Build your own pizza fun lunch, chicken salad with cheese, breadstick
Sides for all meals: Savory green beans

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With NH win, the die has been cast

Bloomberg Opinion

Tribune News Service

Perhaps you've been avoiding the whole thing, and no one could blame you. But with Donald Trump's victory in the New Hampshire primary on Tuesday, and the Republican nominating contest all but sewn up, the 2024 presidential campaign looks set to be among the bleakest in memory. *Allea iacta est.*

Nikki Haley's second-place finish was small consolation. She may not be every Republican's cup of tea, but she has conventional qualifications — a former businesswoman, state legislator, two-term governor and United Nations ambassador — and has articulated a plausible agenda. Polls show her strongly favored against President Joe Biden. She would stand

Guest Editorial

a decent chance of getting conservative policies enacted.

As for her opponent ... well, you know already. Republicans must by now realize that nominating Trump will not advance their interests. In addition to the disorder, ineptitude and ambient corruption that characterized his first term, Trump was the weakest president since the New Deal. Outmaneuvered at every turn, he caved repeatedly to Democrats, ran up huge deficits and accom-

plished nearly no policy goals. He couldn't even build his border wall, the notional premise of his campaign.

A second term promises more of the same, but worse. Trump's rallies this time around have been uniformly dreary affairs, all menace and grievance and simmering paranoia. He occasionally feigns interest in the proposals his associates have cobbled together — more tariffs, more oil, more drama — but let's be honest: Trump is facing 91 felony charges and counting. He is being sued by dozens of interested parties. He has appropriated the GOP's fundraising apparatus to pay his legal fees and hopes the presidency will somehow shield him from further liability. If he can put some

of his critics in jail, that's fine, too.

With this oh-so-inspiring agenda, Republicans can expect Trump to have his usual electoral effect — that is, to drag down his own party at every opportunity. Recall that Trump was the first president in about nine decades to lose the House, the Senate and the Oval Office in a single term. Remember, too, that in competitive races his preferred candidates underperformed by about 5 percentage points on average. Trump himself remains remarkably unpopular, and he shows no inclination to widen his appeal.

It's all so unnecessary. Biden is a weak incumbent. He polls poorly, blunders frequently and lacks (shall we say) a certain youthful vitality. He will soon be asking voters to keep him in office until

he's 86. Nearly half the country thinks his age and health "severely limit his ability to do the job."

Unburdened of Trump, Republicans would have a good chance of winning the White House and making gains in Congress. They could pursue the pro-family, anti-crime agenda many of them say they want while reforming the party to meet the needs of a new demographic and economic era. And they could do so without endangering the foundations of the republic. We could all, you might say, start getting back to normal.

It's not happening. Time has run out. Trump is their man. As Republicans continue down this ugly road — with all the anger and spite and division it entails — they'll have only themselves to blame.

What progress has been made?

By WINSTON CHU

Chicago Tribune Tribune News Service

This month marked a significant, personal anniversary for me. I vividly remember having finished class on Zoom that day and turning on the TV to watch the breaking news of Jan. 6.

Indelible images of rioters scaling the walls of the U.S. Capitol and police struggling to hold back the burgeoning crowd flashed before me. In real time, the home of the world's strongest democracy was being torn down by the people it was meant to protect. I was just a freshman in high school, and the event left a lasting impression on me. Alongside history class, Jan. 6 was my introduction to American politics.

Today, I'm a senior, set to leave for college soon. My life has changed so much during these three years. I can now drive a car, come to school without a mask and stay out without a curfew. Yet as I take a step back, it feels as if my country has remained frozen in that early January afternoon.

That day, I decided to write my thoughts down, seeking an outlet for the emotions I had experienced. To my surprise, what I wrote was published in the Tribune days later. I received encouraging messages from readers and was relieved to know that many citizens from different walks of life shared my concerns for the polarization that was tearing our precious democracy apart. Sadly, it appears now that too many of our politicians do not share the same sentiment.

Recently, I watched now-former President Donald Trump promise pardons to the Capitol rioters — or "hostages," as he calls them. I've listened to him promote false conspiracies about the insurrection and reiterate claims about a stolen election — all in the same breath. And I've watched as his campaign continues to gain support.

These messages and their divisive tone have given me and my peers a sense of hopelessness. From the classroom to the cafeteria, there is an air of apathy. Even in an all-important election year in which most of us will be voting for the first time, it feels pointless to engage in political discussion because uncrossable lines

Winston Chu



have been drawn across most issues. In a country built on finding mutual ground, we are being steered away from the civil discourse and courage that enable compromise. In our formative years, as my generation prepares to lead, the precedents created are counterproductive and uninspiring.

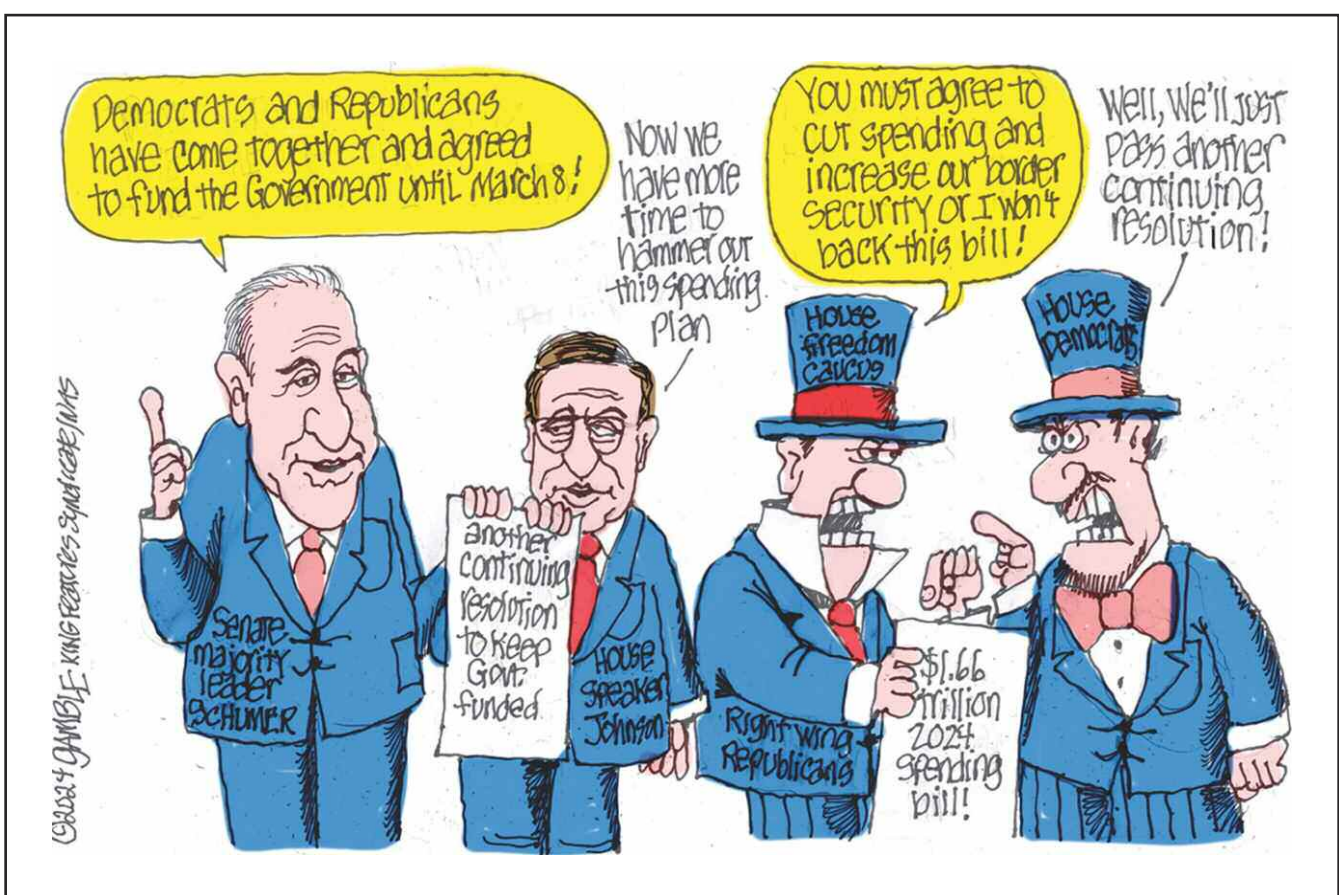
For such a significant event, it seems as if Jan. 6 has been too quickly pushed aside. I'm shocked but also saddened. How could a literal and metaphorical wake-up call for American democracy become reduced to a hot-button issue, lost in the news cycle?

Jan. 6 should have been a turning point that created change and new conversations. I think back to 2001 and how the country united after 9/11, or more recently, how the world rallied around first responders in the fight against COVID-19. But now, the opposite seems to have happened. It appears as if that day has gone ignored, and political tensions have only been exacerbated.

The trauma of Jan. 6 remains a flashbulb memory in my high school life — it's why I've chosen to major in public policy in college. I hope it also holds similar significance for my generation. I still believe we are capable of using this experience to promote change and achieve unity. The last three years have proved that progress isn't inevitable. Even when provoked by this shared traumatic event, we still manage to sink back into existing gridlock. It's our duty to create a new precedent and inspire future generations, not divide them.

In four years, I will become a senior in college. My only wish is that then, in 2028, my memory of Jan. 6, 2021, will still be vivid, hopefully alongside the real progress we will finally have made.

Chu is a senior at Glenbrook South High School in Glenview, Illinois, and will study public policy at Cornell University in the fall.



Look at all available data

By RUSS SKIBA, JIM SCHEURICH and HARDY MURPHY

Indiana Capital Chronicle indianacapitalchronicle.com

Few moments in the rites of passage through childhood are as important as the news of whether one is promoted to the next grade or retained another year in one's current grade. Ask any parent about the exhilaration and feeling of accomplishment accompanying news that your child is promoted, or the traumatic child and family impact upon learning that student has been retained.

In this session, the General Assembly will consider legislation requiring retention for any student not passing Indiana's third grade reading assessment, IREAD. In addition to personal trauma, there would be a fairly high financial burden to retaining many additional third graders — the most comprehensive study in Indiana suggests it could cost the state over \$105 million a year. The important question then, is whether the benefits of the new retention policy justify the financial and personal costs.

Proponents of retention answer, yes, typically citing studies that show a positive short-term benefit for struggling students who are retained. But how much stock can we place into the isolated results that they cite?

The short answer is not much. Cherry-picking studies that give the results one is looking for is a poor strategy for summarizing research findings, and a questionable way to make policy.

In virtually any research field, on any topic, there are a range of results, possibly some positive, some neutral, and some negative. To get the most complete and accurate picture, researchers rely on reviews of many studies across time and location.

Fortunately, there are a number of such reviews on the effects of grade retention on future outcomes. They

Hoosier Opinion

allow us to get past cherry-picking for a broader and more accurate picture of what works. One of the best and most recent is a review of a broad range of research on retention published in 2021 in the journal Educational Research Review.

That review examined 84 methodologically sound studies published between 2000 and 2019. As expected, there was a range of findings — positive, negative, and neutral. The positive and negative results balanced each other out, so that the overall impact of grade retention on academic performance was almost exactly... zero.

That means if the state of Indiana were to pass the policy of retaining all students not passing the 3rd grade reading test, for all of the financial cost and emotional trauma that would bring, we could expect no difference in academic achievement in our state. Not a very sound purchase.

That's just on average: The results look even less promising for Black and Latino students. Students of color and low-income students are significantly more likely to be retained. And unfortunately, the outcomes of grade retention are worse for Black and Brown students, placing them at higher risk for being disciplined, dropping out, and not continuing their education past high school.

In one recent study, widely cited by proponents of retention, third grade retention seemed to have a long-term positive impact on achievement without negative effects on social or behavioral outcomes. That is, if you're White. For Black and Latino students, the positive results of retention were much less likely to maintain past the first year, with

serious long-term negative impacts on absences for Black students.

Nor is there positive news for retention's long-term impacts. While short term improvements for grade retention have been found, in general the long-term effects, especially for children of color, are dismal. Grade retention is associated with dropout, failure to enroll in college, and even convictions for violent crime.

We should all be concerned about reading failure by third grade and do all we can to prevent it. But there are a number of more positive and preventive approaches that the state could implement that would likely have a similar price tag to third grade retention, without the personal and family trauma and racially discriminatory effects of grade retention.

Senate Bill 1, the literacy measure, contains several preventive measures to improve early literacy, such as increased access to summer school. Like 3rd grade retention, some of these strategies appeared in the Mississippi program that Indiana is using as a model. But even proponents of the Mississippi approach admit that retention is not a necessary part of a program to improve early literacy. Why not simply implement programs we know work and avoid those that don't?

To benefit our own lives and finances, we make careful and well-researched decisions about our family's choices. Why would we do otherwise when it comes to state policy about our children's education?

Skiba is Professor Emeritus at Indiana University and former Director of the Equity Project at Indiana University.

Scheurich is a professor at Indiana University-Indianapolis (IUPUI).

Murphy has a split appointment with IUPUI School of Education and the Center on Education and Lifelong Learning.

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The Commercial Review



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We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to letters@thecr.com. They should be 700 words or fewer; signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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TIME 4:30 P.M.
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296 Acres offered in
tracts and combinations.
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Township, Jay County
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balance being confine-
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buildings, house, and
wooded.
Tract 2: 120 Acres in
section 7 Jefferson
Township, Jay County
with 90 acres tillable bal-
ance
being wooded and road
frontage.
Tract 3: 31 Acres in sec-
tion 8 Jefferson Town-
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dropped off at 1035 E
200 North Portland, IN,
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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
2024 TERM
In the Matter of the
Unsupervised
Administration of the Estate of
MARY E. GUNTER
No. 38C01-2401-EU-000004
NOTICE OF
ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that
Bobbie J. Siegrist was, on the
17th day of January, 2024,
appointed as co-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 publi-
cation of this notice, or within
nine (9) months after the deced-
ent's death, whichever is ear-
lier, or the claims will be for-
ever barred.
Dated at Portland, Indiana,
this 17th day of January, 2024.
HINKLE, RACSTER &
SCHEMENAUR
121 W. High Street
Portland, IN 47371
Attorney
Jon Eads
Clerk of the Circuit Court,
For Jay County, Indiana
CR 1-20.27-2024 HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED
REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, ss:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
JAY COUNTY
PORTLAND, INDIANA
CAUSE NO: 38C01-2310-MF-000022
NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING
PLAINTIFF
vs
IGNACIO BERMUDEZ CARMONA;
NATIVIDAD DEJUSUS BERMUDEZ
DEFENDANTS
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
By virtue of an Order of Sale, directed to me from the Clerk of the
Jay Circuit Court and pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure en-
tered on 12/01/2023, I will expose to public sale to the highest bid-
der for cash in hand, at the office of the Sheriff of Jay County, in Jay
County, Indiana, located at Courthouse, 3rd Floor, Portland, IN
47371 on 2/22/2024, at 10:00 AM Local Time, the fee simple title to-
gether with the rents, profit, issues and income or so' much thereof
as may be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, interest, costs and ac-
cruing costs of the following described real estate located in Jay
County, Indiana, to-wit:
Lot Number 14 in Westview Addition to the City of Dunkirk, In-
diana, according to the recorded plat thereof, in the Office of the
Recorder of Jay County, Indiana.
Commonly known as: 618 Walsh Court, Dunkirk, IN 47336
State Parcel Number: 38-09-08-304-021.000-014
This sale is to be made in all respects pursuant to an act of the Gen-
eral Assembly of the State of Indiana, approved March 7, 1931, and
entitled An act concerning proceedings in actions to foreclose real
estate mortgages, providing for the sale and custody of the mort-
gaged premises and repealing all laws conflicting therewith (see
Indiana Code).
It is further provided by law that there shall be no redemption from
such sale, and the purchaser at such sale, upon complying with the
terms of his purchase, shall be entitled to immediately receive
from the undersigned, Sheriff of Jay County, a deed conveying to
him, the purchaser, the fee simple title in and to said real estate.
Taken as the property of the Defendant(s) stated above at the suit
of NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing. Said sale to be
without relief from valuation and/or appraisalment 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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\$750/mo \$500/deposit.
Good references
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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
JAMES H. BERGDOLL, JR.,
DECEASED.
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that
Brant E. Bergdoll and Loree O.
Everette, on this date 1/4/2024,
were appointed as co-personal
representatives of the estate of
James H. Bergdoll, Jr., de-
ceased, who died on December
9, 2023, leaving a will. The estate
will be administered without
Court Supervision.
All persons having claims
against said estate, whether or
not now due, must file the claim
in the office of the Clerk of this
Court within three (3) months
from the date of the first publi-
cation of this notice, or within
nine (9) months after the deced-
ent's death, whichever is ear-
lier, or the claims will be forever
barred.
Dated 1/4/2024
Clerk of the Jay County
Circuit Court
John B. Bishop
Cohen Garelick & Glazier
Attorney L.D. No. 31592-49
8888 Keystone Crossing,
Suite 800
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240
(317) 573-8888;
(317) 574-3855 (fax)
jbishop@cglawfirm.com
CR 1-20.27-2024 HSPAXLP

✓ **Out
The CR**
Classifieds
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260 PUBLIC AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION
LOCATED: 4023 S 800 W, Redkey Indiana
**Friday,
February 16, 2024**
4:30 P.M.
296 ACRES - 10,000 HEAD
HOG CONFINEMENT
296 Acres offered in tracts and combinations.
Tract 1: 116 Acres in section 7 Jefferson
Township, Jay County with 74.83 acres tillable
balance being confinement buildings, shop
buildings, house, and wooded. (2) 4,000 head hog
buildings built in 2018. (2) 1,000 head hog
buildings built in 1997. 60' x 80' shop building
built in 2018. 60' x 106' barn. 30' x 36' barn. 22'
x 70' hog nursery building. 30' x 18', 27' x 18',
21' x 18' grain bins. Two story home containing
3,622 sq ft of finished living area. 5 bedrooms, 2
full baths, attached 2 car garage. 60k and 125k
generators. Solar panels.
Tract 2: 120 Acres in section 7 Jefferson
Township, Jay County with 90 acres tillable
balance being wooded and road frontage.
Tract 3: 31 Acres in section 8 Jefferson Township,
Jay County with 30.4 acres tillable balance being
road frontage.
Tract 4: 27.5 Acres in section 11 Richland
Township, Jay County all tillable.
Note: For private showing phone auctioneers.
Approximately 6 years left on current hog contract.
No entry into confinement areas unless
accompanied by staff from Oracle Pork. Must not
be in any other confinement building for a period of
48 hours and other precautions may apply.

TERMS

Cash with 10% nonrefundable deposit due at the
auction, balance upon closing. Closing to be within
30 days. If survey is necessary cost to be split
between buyer and seller. Final sale not subject to
buyer being able to obtain financing. Make financial
arrangements if needed. Buyers tax obligation to
begin with the May 2024 installment and thereafter.

COURT ORDERED AUCTION

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Playoff wins still don't seem real

By CHRIS SCHANZ

Special to The Commercial Review

It started with a text message. "What are you doing for the game tomorrow?"

Earlier in the week, I had conversations with my colleagues about what it must've been like to be at Ford Field in Detroit on Jan. 14 as the Lions won a playoff game for the first time since 1991.

The crowd registered at 133.6 decibels, setting a new record for loudest indoor crowd noise ever recorded — and the fourth-loudest crowd in history, period.

I couldn't imagine how electric it must've been during the Lions' 24-23 victory over the Los Angeles Rams.

My colleagues and I talked about how neat it would have been to be part of the crowd, but I was a firm believer the experience was not worth the hefty price tag. I'd rather save the money, be comfortable and watch the game at home.

The average ticket price for the Lions-Rams was north of \$500. Tack on the 90-minute commute one way from Saginaw, parking, food and, of course, overpriced beers, the "experi-

Line Drives



ence" could have easily reached a grand.

As much as I love the Lions, it wasn't worth \$1,000 to me. Again, I'd rather sit at home and watch in the comfort of my couch, my pets and my pregnant wife.

Saturday night, Chrissy and I were out to dinner. My phone and Apple Watch buzzed.

"What are you doing for the game tomorrow?"

In a perfect world, I would have been at the game. But I just didn't see it happening. Another friend had posted on Facebook she was selling her ticket. I inquired about the price, and she was asking \$850.

Nope.

Fox Sports had reported the secondary ticket market for the game was an average of \$1,186 each, more expensive than any other playoff game. Ever.

No game for me.

I told Tom, the text message's sender, of my plans: I had none.

I mentioned to my wife that Tom, who has two young kids of his own and I don't get to see too often these days, probably wanted to hang out for the game and she would most likely be invited too if she wanted to tag along.

"I'm having a party starting at 10 a.m. and ending in Section 206 at Ford Field. Want to join?" Tom replied.

It took me longer than it should have to see through his coded message. Then my heart sank. Was this real? Am I going to have an opportunity to go to a Lions playoff game?

Naturally, I had to ask: "How much is the ticket?"

I knew it was going to be a number I didn't want to hear. At this point, I would just be thankful for him thinking of me and then pass it on to the next person he'd ask to go with him.

"Free my man."

I was in disbelief.

"I'll be at your place at 10," I said.

"Let's goooooo!"

A berth in the NFC Championship — Detroit's first since 1957

— was on the line and I was going to be there to witness it.

The next day, I showed up at Tom's promptly at 10 a.m. as he requested. His other buddy, Tony, had beaten me there. We were going to pick up the fourth member of our squad, Mark, in a Detroit suburb and then get to Ford Field a couple hours before the game started.

Despite the gravity of the game and the loyalty of Detroit sports fans, we had no problem finding parking. We were just off Woodward Avenue, a main thoroughfare through the city, and were about a half mile from the stadium.

We got to our seats about 90 minutes before kickoff and the place was already electric.

A 17-17 game after three quarters, Detroit scored twice in the fourth quarter for a 31-17 lead.

The place got louder than it had been all afternoon.

Tampa Bay fired back to make it 31-23 and, shortly after 6 p.m., Derrick Barnes picked off Baker Mayfield to solidify the Lions' victory.

At 134.3 decibels, Ford Field was even louder than the week before.

Just as the week before, tears streamed down my face. Not because ear pain starts to kick in at noise levels of 125 decibels, but because of what I had just experienced.

Tony, Mark, Tom, myself and 66,000 of our friends witnessed our Detroit Lions win their second playoff game in as many weeks.

Days later, it still doesn't seem real.

Prior to this season, Detroit had lost an NFL record nine consecutive playoff games, and now it has won back-to-back games. The Lions are one win away from their first Super Bowl berth in franchise history.

I alluded to it last week, but I still don't know how to feel or act. It's all new to us.

Having won the NFC North division championship and earned an appearance in the NFC title game, we're playing with house money at this point.

As you might imagine, I'll be all-in on the Honolulu Blue on Sunday evening.

If all goes well, my Lions will get to find out just what happens in Vegas.

Flyers maneuver past Indians

Ninth-ranked Marion Local finds offense in second half to fuel victory

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — The Indians led in a low-scoring affair at halftime.

They had already lost to the Flyers earlier in the season and knew that it would be difficult to maintain the lead.

As the Flyers' shots started to fall, so did the Indians' odds of pulling off the upset.

The Division IV No. 9 Marion Local Flyers got a lock on the hoop, hitting 10 of their 15 field goals in the second half to maneuver past the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team Thursday, 36-29.

The Indians previously lost to the Flyers on Dec. 28 in a low-scoring game 39-36. That close loss came before starting guard Kennedy Muhlenkamp was knocked out of the lineup because of an injury.

In another defensive-focused game, Fort Recovery (5-11, 2-4 Midwest Athletic Conference) held a 12-11 lead after two quarters, but three straight Flyers' baskets took it away to start the third quarter.

Mya Eckstein opened the half with a jump shot to gain a one-point lead on the Indians. Forty seconds later, Avae Unrast scored off of a give-and-go with Allison Dirksen. Unrast assisted Dirksen on a hammer play the next time down the floor to give Marion Local (12-5, 5-2 MAC) some padding and secure its lead.

"In the second half, we wanted to use our defensive pressure to create some offense for us," MLHS coach Beth Steib said. "I thought we did a pretty good job of that."

"We shot a little more confidently. Once you hit a few baskets, it's a lot easier to shoot, and that definitely opened up some things for us in the second half."

Marion Local slowly added to its lead in the fourth, reaching a height of 10 points after Nora Eckstein tallied a three-point



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Fort Recovery High School freshman Sophia Guggenbiller drives to the middle of the floor in the first half of Thursday's 36-29 loss to Marion Local.

play by curling to the rim during a sideline-out-of-bounds play and hitting the ensuing free throw.

The Indians couldn't spark their offense to life enough to mount a full comeback despite finishing on a 5-2 run. Both of the MLHS points came on bonus free throws, while Sophia Guggenbiller split a pair of foul shots and Karlie Niekamp put in two buckets off of offensive rebounds.

While it slipped a little in the second half, the Indians' defense stifled the Flyers in the first half. Marion

Local couldn't find the hoop until a drive by Unrast went down with three minutes left in the first quarter. Mya Eckstein succeeded on a post up, for the only other made basket by Marion Local. Along with only two made baskets, the Flyers committed five first-quarter turnovers.

They didn't do much better in the second quarter, hitting three shots, while turning the ball over five more times.

"That's a good team," Fort Recovery coach Tyler Deitsch said, noting the Flyers' state ranking. "For

us to be able to play defense the way we did tonight kind of sets what our identity is in the team, and hopefully it can lead to more offense than it did tonight."

"Defensively, I couldn't be more proud of the way the girls responded to some of the things we threw in this week, whether that was just kind of changing up some of our defenses, being able to alternate through a lot of different defenses to try to keep them off balance."

Freshman Makenna Huelskamp ended as the leading scorer for the strug-

gling Fort Recovery offense. She tied Unrast with a game-high 12 points.

In the first half, Huelskamp had six of the Indians' 12 points.

She opened the game on a drive down the left lane line for a layup and soon after got a bucket in transition with Cali Wendel stealing the ball and providing the assist. With 1:20 left in the second period, Huelskamp hit her third shot — a baseline jumper that she got off after dropping Unrast with a pull-back dribble.

She also cut into the Flyers' lead in the third quarter, scoring six of Fort Recovery's seven points.

"Those full-court 1-3-1 presses are pretty tough," Deitsch said. "We figured it out late, but it definitely slowed us down and didn't let us get into our groove that we normally do. Especially in the first half, Makenna was played pretty fast and that was really what was working for us."

Turnovers also caused a problem for Fort Recovery, which coughed up the ball 22 times. Between the turnovers and shooting 30% (9-of-30) from the field, FRHS couldn't find enough offensive rhythm to complement its defense.

Despite the outcome, Deitsch was happy with how the defense performed and the effort his team gave.

"I'm proud of how the girls played hard, especially after coming off our last two losses," Deitsch said. "After playing the way we did in our last couple of losses, it could be really easy to get into a slide where things don't look pretty."

"That's not how we came and played today. Especially defensively, we played awesome against a really good team. ... We're proud of the way our girls fight and never back down for their town."

Junior varsity

Fort Recovery couldn't keep up as the Flyers flew

Box score

Fort Recovery Indians vs. Division IV No. 9 Marion Local Flyers

Girls varsity summary

Marion Local (12-5, 5-2 MAC)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Unrast	5-13	1-2	12	
Ashman	0-3	0-0	0	
NEckstein	1-4	1-1	3	
Evers	0-0	0-0	0	
Winner	1-2	0-0	3	
MEckstein	4-9	0-0	8	
Dirksen	3-7	1-4	8	
Schoenlein	1-1	0-0	2	
Totals	15-39	3-7	36	
	.385	.429		
Def. rebound percentage:	.476			

Fort Recovery (5-11, 2-4 MAC)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Niekamp	3-8	2-2	8	
Guggenbiller	0-2	1-2	1	
Wendel	1-8	1-2	4	
Leuthold	1-3	0-0	2	
Mhlnkmp	0-2	2-2	2	
Huelskamp	4-7	3-5	12	
Willmann	0-0	0-0	0	
Totals	9-30	9-13	29	
	.300	.692		
Def. rebound percentage:	.625			

Score by quarters:
Marion Lcl 4 7 11 14 — 36
Ft. Rec. 8 4 7 10 — 29

3-point shooting: Marion Local 3-6 (Winner 1-1, Dirksen 1-1, Unrast 1-2, NEckstein 0-1, MEckstein 0-1). Fort Recovery 2-12 (Huelskamp 1-3, Wendel 1-8, Niekamp 0-1).

Rebounds: Marion Local 19 (Dirksen 5, Ashman 3, team 3, Unrast 2, Winner 2, MEckstein 2, NEckstein, Schoenlein). Fort Recovery 26 (Niekamp 8, Leuthold 4, Guggenbiller 3, Wendel 3, Muhlenkamp 3, Huelskamp, Willmann).

Assists: Marion Local 6 (Unrast 3, MEckstein, Dirksen, Schoenlein). Fort Recovery 4 (Niekamp 2, Wendel 2).

Blocks: Marion Local 3 (NEckstein, MEckstein, Dirksen).

Personal fouls: Marion Local 15 (Winner 5, Unrast 3, MEckstein 3, NEckstein, Ashman, Dirksen). Fort Recovery 17 (Leuthold 5, Niekamp 4, Wendel 3, Guggenbiller 2, Muhlenkamp 2, Huelskamp).

Turnovers: Marion Local 13. Fort Recovery 22.

out to a 40-27 victory.

Hannah Rindler posted eight points in the first to single-handedly outscore the Indians as Marion Local built an 18-5 lead.

The Flyers took the second quarter by two points, while Fort Recovery won both second-half periods by one point each.

Bridget Homan's nine points led, while Kiley Schoenlein powered Marion Local with 13.

Patriots end regular season with a sweep

The boys haven't had the opportunity to celebrate too many wins this season.

Victories in over half of the events led to the Patriots getting to celebrate one final time in the regular-season finale.

The Jay County High School boys swim team took 7-of-12 events to squash the Marion Giants 156-107 on Tuesday, while the girls team cruised to a 189-82 beating.

Matthew Fisher and David Keen won all four of their events. Fisher took care of the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2 minutes, 44.15 seconds and the 100 backstroke in 1:09.2.

Keed swam unopposed in the

Jay County roundup

100 butterfly (1:10.93), but a time of 2:19.11 earned him the top spot in the 200 freestyle.

Fisher and Keen were both on the 200 individual medley relay along with Lincoln Clamme and Joseph Dow.

Other first-place finishes for the boys came from Brasen Glassford in the 1-meter diving and the 400 freestyle relay team of Hugo

Gutierrez, Max Klopfenstien, Kamdyn Carter and Keen.

The girls came out on top of 10 events, including all three relays.

Sweeping their events were Aubrey Millsbaugh (200 IM, 100 backstroke) and Lauren Fisher (50 freestyle, 100 breaststroke). The other three victories came from Morgan DeHoff (100 butterfly), Kenzie Huey (100 freestyle) and Maddy Snow (diving).

Two lead Patriots

Elizabeth Brunswick and Raylin Hummer led the way for the Jay County eighth grade basketball team as it swamped the Adams Central Jets in the second round of the Allen County Ath-

letic Conference tournament on Thursday 41-24.

They each scored a team-high 11 points in the win for the Patriots (15-1). Natalie May and Stella Skirvin each added seven points to aid Brunswick and Hummer's scoring efforts.

Amara Crawford and Gabi Petro rounded out the scoring for Jay County with one point each.

The win earns the Patriots the opportunity to play in the ACAC tournament championship today at Southern Wells.

Jay finishes strong

MONROE — The Jay County eighth grade boys basketball team pulled away from the

Adams Central Jets in the fourth quarter for a 39-30 win Thursday in the Allen County Athletic Conference tournament semifinal.

Jay County (16-4) only held a 2-point lead or less at the end of the first three quarters, before scoring the Jets 14-6 in the final period.

Nick Snow led the scoring effort with 12 points. Four players added multiple baskets for Jay County, those being Cohen Shimp (eight points), Tyler Wasson (seven), Raif Beiswanger (six) and Kadyn Carpenter (four). Brayden O'Brien hit one bucket.

Jay County will travel to Southern Wells to play in the championship game this morning.

Victory ...

Continued from page 10
Bluffton struggled with the Patriots 1-2-2 zone defense in the second half as well, scoring seven points and turning the ball over 10 times.

"We were way too passive," Teagle said. "We didn't attack like we thought we were going to. We spent four days in practice doing things and then when you don't do it in the game it looks pretty bad. ...

"I don't know if their size intimidated us — you can practice all you want against your JV, it's not that size. Again, in saying all that, they are really good at the 1-2-2 zone. So, that's part of our problem. It's hard when you see things that you don't see often."

Swoveland nearly outscored the Tigers all by himself, finishing with a game-high 12 points.

Jenkins ended as Bluffton's leading scorer with eight points on 4-of-5 shooting, but was held back by the Patriots' defense clogging up the paint and not allowing him to get many touches.

The game featured two of the winningest coaches in Jay County history, as Teagle coached the Patriots from 1998 to 2015, including taking JCHS to the 2006 Class 3A state championship game.

They are also both in the top 15 in wins among active coaches in Indiana, combining for 1,040 total victories. In 42 years, Bomholt sits fifth with 591 wins, while Teagle comes in at 15th with 449.

Bomholt praised his team for helping carry him to this most recent win.

"It was never about coach Teagle versus me," Bomholt said. "I'd lose that battle every single time."

"It was about our kids being able to play and doing the things we were going to try to get them to do. Fortunately for us they did it. ...

"We were able to make



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County coach Jerry Bomholt (left) and Bluffton coach Craig Teagle (right) shake hands following Jay County's 31-14 win Friday night. Bomholt and Teagle — the winningest coach in JCHS history who also led the Patriots to the 2006 Class 3A state championship game — are fifth and 15th among current head coaches in wins in the state of Indiana.

some plays when we needed to."

Junior varsity

Nolan Lambert delivered a fatal blow as Jay County fell to the Tigers 38-37.

Lambert came down with a defensive rebound with nearly 20 seconds left in the contest and pushed up the floor. He danced around the top of the key before receiving a screen from Eli Bertsch to get free for the go-ahead 3-pointer that fell through without enough

time for the Patriots to respond.

Lambert swished six second-half threes to finish with 19 points and led a 19-point third quarter to fuel Bluffton's comeback.

The Patriots dominated the first period with 17 points, 15 of which came from distance.

Drew Schemenaur and Carter Fugiet ended as the JCHS leading scorers with 10 points each.

Freshmen

Maxwell White stepped up to nail a 3-point buzzer

beater to complete a 12-point Bluffton comeback in the fourth quarter to take down the Patriots 38-35.

Jay County led the Tigers 30-18 through three quarters before Bluffton caught fire for a 20-5 period. White scored 10 of his game-high 16 points in the fourth, including the game winner that came off an elevator screen during a sideline out of bounds play.

Brock Wasson led the Patriots offense with 15 points.

Box score

Jay County Patriots at Bluffton Tigers

Boys varsity summary

Jay County (5-9, 3-1 ACAC)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Nichols	0-1	0-0	0
Mhinkmp	2-3	0-0	5
Garringer	2-8	2-2	7
Dunnington	1-7	0-0	3
Crouch	1-2	0-0	2
Dirksen	0-1	0-0	0
Phillips	0-0	0-0	0
Bihn	1-3	0-0	2
Swoveland	5-12	0-0	12
Totals	12-37	2-2	31
	.324	1.000	
Def. rebound percentage:	.833		

Bluffton (6-8, 2-3 ACAC)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Hunt	0-4	0-0	0
Garrett	0-0	0-0	0
Wenger	0-2	0-0	0
Williams	0-4	0-0	0
Jenkins	4-5	0-0	8
Beste	2-8	0-0	5
Grieser	0-1	1-2	1
Green	0-1	0-2	0
Totals	6-25	1-4	14
	.240	.250	
Def. rebound percentage:	.577		

Score by quarters:					
Jay Co.	0	13	7	11	31
Bluffton	3	4	5	2	14

3-point shooting: Jay County 5-19 (Swoveland 2-6, Muhlenkamp 1-2, Garringer 1-4, Dunnington 1-4, Nichols 0-1, Crouch 0-1, Dirksen 0-1). Bluffton 1-15 (Beste 1-4, Grieser 0-1, Wenger 0-2, Hunt 0-4, Williams 0-4).

Rebounds: Jay County 26 (Dunnington 9, Bihn 5, Swoveland 5, team 3, Dirksen 2, Crouch, Phillips). Bluffton 18 (Jenkins 5, Green 3, Hunt 2, Williams 2, Beste 2, Grieser 2, team 2).

Assists: Jay County 6 (Garringer 3, Crouch 2, Dunnington). Bluffton 4 (Green 2, Williams, Jenkins).

Blocks: Jay County 2 (Garringer, Dirksen).

Personal fouls: Jay County 10 (Garringer 3, Phillips 2, Bihn 2, Muhlenkamp, Dunnington, Swoveland). Bluffton 7 (Green 2, Wenger, Williams, Jenkins, Beste, Grieser).

Turnovers: Jay County 12. Bluffton 16.

FRHS can't slow Flyers

MARIA STEIN, Ohio — The Indians' defense just couldn't get it done.

The Marion Local Flyers had no trouble finding offense as they took down the Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team 63-37 Friday night.

A 21-point third quarter from the home team put the game out of reach for Fort Recovery (4-11, 0-5 Midwest Athletic Conference). Kyle Otte led the offense for the Flyers (6-7, 2-2 MAC) in the period with seven of his 11 points.

Four Flyers scored in double digits, including Jack Knapke who led the way with 14 points.

Briggs Overman powered the Indians with eight points on a pair of buckets in the first, one in the third and two third-quarter free throws.

Breaker Jutte and Brody Braga had all of Fort Recovery's points in the fourth quarter after being pulled up from junior varsity. Jutte had four of his six points in the period while Braga tallied all six of his in the closing period.

Jay 7th advances

Jay County's seventh grade girls team had no problems in the Allen County Athletic Conference tournament semifinal game, rolling to a 42-1 Friday over South Adams.

The Patriots advance to play in today's championship game at 10 a.m. at Southern Wells.

Karsyn Schwieterman led the dominant performance for Jay County with 15 points. Charlee Peters added eight points, Alivya Schwieterman scored seven and Kendall Schemenaur and Claudia Dirksen each had six.

Sports

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys wrestling sectional at Jay County — 8:30 a.m.; Boys basketball (including freshmen) vs. Blackford — 6:30 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball ACAC tournament championship at Southern Wells — 10 a.m.; Junior high boys basketball ACAC tournament championship at Southern Wells — 11 a.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.

Monday
Jay County — Freshman boys basketball at New Castle — 6 p.m.; Junior high wrestling at Monroe Central — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Freshman boys basketball at New Bremen — 6 p.m.

Tuesday
Jay County — Girls basketball sectional vs. Yorktown at Yorktown — 7 p.m.;
Fort Recovery — Middle school boys basketball at Celina — 5 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball vs. St. Henry — 5 p.m.

Thursday
Jay County — Swimming sectional at Jay County — 6 p.m.; Boys basketball vs. Southern Wells — 6 p.m.; Junior high wrestling at South Adams — 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball at St. Henry — 6 p.m.; Swimming dual-

meet at South Adams — 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball at St. Henry — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today
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: Nebraska at Iowa (BTN)
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)

Sunday
3:30 a.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN)
12 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Xavier at UConn (FS1)
1 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Purdue at Rutgers (FOX); North Texas at Florida Atlantic (ESPN2)
2 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Villanova at DePaul (FS1)
3 p.m. — NFL: Kansas City Chiefs at Baltimore Ravens (CBS)
3 p.m. — Men's college basketball: SMU at Wichita State (ESPN2)
3 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Tennessee at Ole Miss (ESPN)
3:30 p.m. — NBA: Memphis Grizzlies at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)
5 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Temple at East Carolina (ESPN2)
6:30 p.m. — NFL: Detroit Lions at San Francisco 49ers (FOX)

10 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Nevada at New Mexico (FS1)

Monday
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Duke at Virginia Tech (ESPN)
7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: LSU at Mississippi State (ESPN)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Houston at Texas (ESPN2); Alcorn State at Bethune-Cookman (ESPN2)s

Tuesday
3:15 p.m. — Premier League: Newcastle United at Aston Villa (USA)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: North Carolina at Georgia Tech (ESPN); Marquette at Villanova (FS1); Texas Tech at TCU (ESPN2); Iowa at Indiana (BTN)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Boston Celtics (TNT)
8 p.m. — NHL: Columbus Blue Jackets at St. Louis Blues (Bally Indiana)

9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Oklahoma State at Kansas (ESPN); Seton Hall (FS1); Miami at N.C. State (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — NBA: Philadelphia 76ers at Golden State Warriors (TNT)
11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Fresno State at UNLV (FS1); Loyola Marymount at Gonzaga (ESPN)

Wednesday
1 p.m. — College football: Reese's Senior Bowl practice (ESPN2)
2:30 p.m. — Premier League: Brentford at Tottenham Hotspur (USA)
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Northwestern at Purdue (BTN); St. John's at Xavier (FS1)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Notre Dame at Virginia (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NHL: Los Angeles Kings at Nashville Predators (TNT)
8 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Florida at Kentucky (ESPN)
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Phoenix Suns at Brooklyn Nets (ABC)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Providence at UConn (FS1); Penn State at Rutgers (BTN)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Vanderbilt at Auburn (ESPN2)
10:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Boise State at New Mexico (FS1)

Local notes

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

Anyone 19-years-old or older that is looking for the opportunity to continue playing baseball can try out. The league begins play on Aug. 31 and runs through Oct. 19, playing 50 games in 50 days.

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

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

Thank You
Kaylee Elizabeth Kirby
12/23/88 – 12/10/23

The family of Kaylee Kirby would like to extend our sincere thanks for your kindness, condolences, prayers and support that we have received these past few weeks. This community has banded together to show support for her children Kellan, Karlee and Cassidy and we cannot thank you enough for this. Thank you to Rob Penrod and his crew at Williamson, Spencer and Penrod for taking such good care of Kaylee and our family during our time of unbearable grief. Thank you to Pastor Randy Davis for the sermon that fit her so perfectly. Thank you to Pat Bricker of Bricker's Flowers and More for the most unique, beautiful and perfectly Kaylee floral arrangement. Thank you to The Greazy Pickle for saving a spot for Kaylee and collecting donations from the community for the kids. Thank you to FR Radio for their generous donation towards the funeral expenses. Thank you to the Jay School Corporation for showing the kids grace and supporting them through the loss of their mom. Thank you to the community for coming out to support the kids. All donations that were given have gone directly to the children for their future needs and education. Thank you to The Rock Church for providing the family dinner. Thank you to the countless people who Kaylee befriended and treated like family who came to show love and respect for her, to the countless who sent messages, cards, emails, and phone calls.

If you were lucky enough to know her you were blessed!

Stay Wild Moon Child until we meet again!
Sincerely, The Family of Kaylee Kirby



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From zero to a victory

Patriots overcome scoreless opening quarter

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

BLUFFTON — Zero. That's how many points the Patriots scored in the first quarter. Seventeen. That was their eventual margin of victory. After getting shut out in the opening period on Friday night, the Jay County High School boys basketball team stormed back for a 13-point second quarter as it choked out the Bluffton Tigers 31-14. The Patriots (5-9, 3-1 Allen County Athletic Conference) got off to a slow start, shooting 0-for-7 from the field with six turnovers through the first eight minutes. The Tigers (6-8, 2-3 ACAC) weren't much better with three turnovers and 1-of-8 in the opening period. The only basket came 3 minutes, 45 seconds, into the game when Bluffton worked a long possession before Tucker Jenkins kicked the ball out to Axton Beste for a three. "Sometimes you can explain it and sometimes you can't," Jay County coach Jerry Bomholt said. "I know this, Dr.

James Naismith was looking around somewhere, he thought we set basketball back about 50 years. Holy smokes! We just couldn't get anything on the offensive end. "They were playing pretty good defense, (Bluffton coach Craig) Teagle does a really nice job. We just had to maintain our defensive intensity until we got some things to go. Fortunately for us we were able to do that."

Beste opened the second quarter with a pull-up jumper to push Bluffton's lead to 5-0. Finally, the offense showed up for Jay County.

Ben Crouch drove from the wing just into the paint before kicking the ball out to Gradin Swoveland at the top of the key. Swoveland rose up and drained a three with the clock reading 6:39 in the second quarter to give JCHS its first points. "We were living and dying by the three," Swoveland said. "They were kind of just giving it to us."

"I finally got one to fall and got confident. Once you hit one or two, the floor just opens up." One possession later, Swoveland hit a pull-up to tie the game.

Jay County took the lead on a turnaround jump shot by Ben Crouch in the middle of the paint at 4:47. Two more threes from Swoveland and Levi Muhlenkamp pushed Jay County to 13 points in the quarter.

Jenkins hit a layup on a dump down from Kaleb Green, but the damage was done as the Patriots entered halftime with a six-point lead.

See **Victory** page 9



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School's Gradin Swoveland rises over Elijah Garrett of Bluffton early in the second quarter on Friday night. Swoveland hit the three to score the first points for the Patriots, who were scoreless in the first quarter but went on to win 31-14.

IT'S ALL UP TO YOU ...

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

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

Here's the concept:
For the next few weeks you vote for your favorites in a variety of categories. We tally the votes. The winners in each category will be listed in a special section to run next month, along with other top vote-getters. The winners of the "Best Overall" category will be featured in the special section. Eligibility is limited to those in The Graphic Printing Company's coverage area, which includes all of Jay, Randolph and Blackford counties, as well as portions of the adjacent counties including Fort Recovery and Geneva.

The Categories

Best Overall

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

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

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

Deadline to vote is Jan. 31.
Winners will be acknowledged in a special section to run in late February.
Did we miss a category?
Let us know and we'll consider adding it to the list next year.

To advertise in People's Choice ...
Contact Lindsey at L.Cochran@thecr.com or (260) 726-8141

Advertising options:
 Six columns by 10.5 inches full color (limited availability): \$500
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 Three columns by 10.5 inches black and white: \$200
 Three columns by 5 inches black and white: \$125
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