

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

'Super' show



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Natalee Hough (left) gestures while portraying Speed Freak as she talks to Jovana Markovic as Kevin during Tuesday's rehearsal for the Jay County Junior-Senior High School production of the comedy "Super Freaks." Performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Admission will be \$5.

Production features psychiatric patients who believe they are actually superheroes

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Are they truly not connected to reality? Or might they really be super?

Jay County Junior-Senior High School's drama club will answer those questions this weekend with its production of the comedy "Super Freaks."

The bulk of the cast members are back from the fall production of "Salem's Daughter," this time testing their chops as comedic actors.

"We did a serious play, kind of a thriller, drama, for the fall play ... and now we decided to do something funny," said director Cain Bilbrey, remembering that when he was in high school the pattern was to do a drama, a comedy and a

Schedule and tickets

7 p.m. Friday
2 and 7 p.m. Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday

Tickets are \$5 and will be available at the door.

musical each year. "That was just kind of the set standard. So I kind of follow along with that. ... So I thought it would be fun to do a comedy. And that gives the kids a chance to

do something serious and do something funny. Not everybody likes to do drama. Some people want to get on stage and be goofy and have fun at it and make people laugh."

He first looked at "Super Freaks" because of its smaller cast size and its flexibility — most of the roles can be played by either gender — and was drawn in to its potential after getting his hands on the script.

"After I read it and then I had the students read it they were like, 'Oh, this could be a lot of fun,'" Bilbrey said.

"Super Freaks" is set in Stanley J. Kirby Psychiatric Hospital that is the subject of reporting by journalist Lois Lancaster — Labibah Awliya and Maley Recker are splitting the role — who is writing

about the current state of mental health facilities.

"We have patients in a psychiatric hospital who think they're superheroes," said Bilbrey. "And there is a particular reporter — think Lois Lane — who is trying to figure it out. She feels something about this place, but she doesn't quite know ... And there's a bit of a ruse going on as to are they really mental patients or are they superheroes."

The quirky superheroes and/or patients imagine (or have?) various super powers:

- Speed Freak (played by Natalee Hough) can, you guessed it, run at incredible speeds.
 - Dim Bulb (Aeroelet Cooke) can turn off lights with his brain.
 - Mental (Sammie Sager) believes she can read minds.
- See 'Super' page 2

Stellar returns in new format

Dunkirk, Jay were finalists for designation 2015 and 2019

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Stellar is back.

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch announced recently that the state program previously known as Stellar Communities is returning this year in a revamped format now known as Stellar Pathways.

The program will continue to be administered through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA).

"Rural Indiana is our next great economic development frontier," said Crouch in a video announcing the new program. "It's full of Hoosiers who are dedicated to growing their community, who are hard-working, resilient, optimistic and forward thinking."

Jay County and its municipalities were involved in the process several times, with Dunkirk selected as one of three finalists in 2015 and the Jay! Region as one of four finalists in 2019. Portland was one of 12 cities that received a site visit in the program's inaugural year (2011), but did not make it into the top five.

Stellar Pathways will build off of Stellar Communities and continue to be a multi-million dollar investment initiative. It will offer up to \$8 million in Community Development Block Grants through OCRA, \$3 million in rural federal aid through Indiana Department of Transportation and \$1.5 million in Community Housing Development Organization funding through the Indiana Housing and Community Development Agency. Additional funding will also be available through the state departments of health, agriculture and natural resources as well as Indiana Destination Development Corporation.

See Stellar page 2

Bills clear committee

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

INDIANAPOLIS — Three bills authored by a local legislator cleared Indiana Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee.

Sen. Travis Holdman's Senate Bills 61, 147 and 228 — they address tourism improvement districts, child care property tax exemption and department of revenue issues, respectively — were all approved Tuesday during the committee's final hearing of the 2024 session.

Senate Bills 61 and 228 passed the committee unanimously, 14-0. Senate Bill 147 passed 9-4 on a party-line vote. All three now move to the full Senate for second and third readings.

Senate Bill 147, which Holdman authored along with Sen. Linda Rogers (R-Granger) and Sen. Ed Charbonneau (R-Valparaiso), would make changes regarding property tax exemp-

Holdman's measures address tourism districts, tax matters and child care exemptions

tions to for-profit early childhood education providers. It would add a curriculum requirement for all children and provide a partial property tax exemption for employers that provide child care.

Concern about the bill during the committee hearing was regarding the tax exemption, with Sen. Fady Qaddoura (D-Indianapolis) saying the bill subsidizes for-profit entities without requirements that the recouped tax dollars go toward solving

childcare challenges. He also said he believes it's bad public policy to fund education via property taxes.

"I sincerely appreciate Sen. Rogers," said Qaddoura. "I agree with her on the intent. It's a big problem in the state of Indiana. We need to fix it, but this bill is truly a subsidy for for-profit entities without any guardrail to truly direct it at childcare deserts or the kids that need to benefit from this program."

See Bills page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Ferner's friendship

Four-year-old Eli Ferner selects beads for a friendship bracelet Tuesday at Jay County Public Library. Ferner created a bracelet for his stuffed bear and for himself as part of the event, which offered crafts and story time for children with their toys.

Deaths

Natomi Mohler, 90, Fort Recovery
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 36 degrees Tuesday. The low was 32.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the mid 30s. Expect partly cloudy skies Friday with the high climbing into the low 40s. Highs are expected to be in the 40s through at least Tuesday. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council joint session to discuss broadband internet service that was scheduled for 5 p.m. Friday has been postponed. It will be held at 6 p.m. Monday in the auditorium at Jay County Courthouse.

Coming up

Friday — Preview of the wrestling regional tournament at JCHS.

Saturday — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Works meeting.

7 18122 00780 6

Stellar ...

Continued from page 1
As opposed to the previous format, which first focused on working with individual municipalities and then self-selected regions, Stellar Pathways is for communities within county boundaries.

The county government or a non-profit that serves the entire county, such as a community foundation or economic development organization, can serve as the lead applicant. It must partner with municipalities within the county to create a region.

Applicants must commit to a five-year process that will include capacity training, community engagement strategies, asset identification and project prioritization and implementation.

"The Stellar Pathways program partners with a variety of state

agencies to assist regions in creating transformative capital improvement projects," said OCRA director of strategic initiatives Andrea Kern, who is the program director for Stellar Pathways.

The first step for any county or non-profit interested in the program is to take part in a two-day workshop — they are scheduled for Feb. 15 and 16, Feb. 22 and 23 in Lebanon and March 4 and 5 in Danville — to learn about the new program. (Three to five representatives of the entity can attend.)

Applicants must submit a letter of intent by May 1, after which OCRA will select four communities to move forward with the process. It will include community engagement training and individualized coaching through the Ball

State University Indiana Communities Institutes. Communities chosen will receive \$50,000 to go toward the development of a strategic investment plan that will be due to OCRA by Nov. 1.

Two communities will be selected as Stellar Pathways designees, which will have five years to complete projects and programs. (Funding will be applied for individually.)

Stellar Communities launched in 2011 as a way to provide assistance with planning and investment in communities across the state. It continued with various tweaks through 2019, with the 2020 process canceled upon the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

Communities awarded over the life of the program were Greencas-

tle and North Vernon in 2011, Delphi and Princeton in 2012, Bedford and Richmond in 2013, Huntingburg and Wabash in 2014, Crawfordsville and North Liberty in 2015, Corydon and Rushville in 2016, and Madison and Culver in 2017. In 2018 — the first under the regional approach — winners were the Health and Heritage region (Hancock County, Greenfield and Fortville) and New Allen Alliance (Allen County, Woodburn, New Haven, Grabill, Leo-Cedarville and Monroeville). Marshall County Crossroads (Argos, Bourbon, Bremen, Culver, Plymouth and Marshall County) beat out the Jay! Region, the Constellation of Starke (Hamlet, Knox, North Judson and Starke County) and Safe and Welcome (Knightstown, New Castle and Henry County) in 2019.

Obituaries

Natomi Mohler, Fort Recovery, April 11, 1933-Jan. 29, 2024. A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at First Church of Christ, 1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery.

.....
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

Friday 2/2	Saturday 2/3	Sunday 2/4	Monday 2/5	Tuesday 2/6
43/30	48/30	49/30	44/27	45/28
Mostly sunny skies are expected Friday. At night, the low may dip to 30 degrees.	Sunny skies are expected on Saturday, when the high will reach the upper 40s.	Another day of sunny skies is in the forecast for Sunday, when the high will be 49.	Mostly sunny skies on Monday, when the high will be around 44 degrees.	Tuesday's forecast shows sunny skies with a high in the mid 40s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$188 million	Evening Daily Three: 1-9-4 Daily Four: 0-2-7-4 Quick Draw: 9-20-22-32-37-39-44-50-55-59-60-63-64-65-66-71-73-76-77-80
Mega Millions 3-5-16-58-59 Mega Ball: 11 Megaplier: 4 Estimated jackpot: \$333 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 9-7-3 Pick 4: 1-2-8-3 Pick 5: 9-2-7-6-5 Evening Pick 3: 8-5-1 Pick 4: 7-5-4-5 Pick 5: 8-8-9-3-3 Rolling Cash: 9-12-28-33-39 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 0-6-2 Daily Four: 9-6-8-6 Quick Draw: 2-5-8-12-13-16-19-22-25-31-32-35-36-42-54-56-62-66-69-72	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.52 Feb. corn4.52 Wheat5.13	Jan. beans11.98 Wheat 5.54
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.52 Feb. corn4.50 March corn4.47	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.32 Feb. corn4.32 Beans11.99 Feb. beans11.99 Wheat5.51
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.37 Feb. corn4.32 Beans11.88	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.45 March corn4.47 Beans11.78 Feb. beans.....11.78 Wheat5.13

Today in history

In 1790, the U.S. Supreme Court first assembled in New York City. Chief Justice John Jay, for whom Jay County is named, postponed the court's first session because some of the justices were unable to reach New York because of travel issues.

In 1859, cellist and composer Victor Herbert was born in Dublin, Ireland. His best known work is the comic operetta "Babes in Toyland," which was inspired by Frank L. Baum's book "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz."

In 1902, writer and poet Langston Hughes was born in Joplin, Missouri. He was known for his poems, stories and other writings about Black American Life.

In 2004, Kurtis Hess won the 135-pound title in the sectional wrestling tournament at Jay County. He defeated Andy Myers of Adams Central, rolling out to an 8-3 lead in the first period and pinning him in the second.

In 2022, the Class 3A No. 6 Jay County High School girls basketball team lost 36-33 in overtime to eighth-ranked Hamilton Heights in the opening round of the Class 3A Sectional 24 tournament at Yorktown. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 4 p.m. — Portland City Council, fire station, Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.	5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
Monday 4 p.m. — Jay County Personnel Committee, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	6 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council joint session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
	7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

'Super' ...

Continued from page 1
•Kevin (Jovana Markovic) is less quirky, initially, and doesn't have a superhero costume or name.
Dr. Gail Eisner (Izzy Winkles) is the hospital administrator who tries to effectively run the facility. Sager is the lone senior in the group.
"My miss reliability," said Bilbrey. "She has a fun role and brings my seasoned-veteran to the stage."

"And then my pinch-hitter from the last show who came in and saved us, Aeroelet Cooke is joining us (again)," he added, noting that Cooke jumped into a key role late in the production process for "Salem's Daughter." "She has enthusiastically embraced this role. It's great, it's comical and she does a great job."
"All of them do a great job. It's a lot of fun."
There will be four opportunities

to see the show, which opens with a performance at 7 p.m. Friday in the auditorium at JCHS. There are two shows Saturday — 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. — and the production will close with a 2 p.m. matinee Sunday. Admission is \$5 and tickets will be available at the door.
"We want to get as many people out here as we can," said Bilbrey. "Come out and support it."
"I couldn't be more proud of these kids."

Bills ...

Continued from page 1
Sen. Andrea Hunley (D-Indianapolis) expressed similar concerns and said she'd like the property tax exemption to be an "opt-in" for local governing bodies rather than a requirement.
Senate Bill 228 from Holdman, who represents all of Jay, Blackford, Adams and Wells counties as well as part of Allen County, covers various issues involving Indiana Department of Revenue. Its five major provisions as described by department

of revenue director of tax policy Colin Davis during Tuesday's hearing are:
•Removing a transaction threshold for out-of-state retail merchants as a requirement for registering with the state department of revenue. (He noted that other states are planning to reciprocate, thus removing a burden from small businesses.)
•Eliminating the requirement for a utility study as part of the requirement to apply for a utility sales tax exemption. (The provision

mostly impacts restaurants and is designed to simplify the process of seeking the exemption.)
•Clarifying the statute of limitations of periodic taxes. It would set the return due date at Jan. 31 for all taxes from the previous calendar year.
•Requiring that taxes collected by sheriffs be distributed by electronic transfer.
•Allowing the department to share certain private information with tax preparers and software companies in cases in which the department believes fraudulent returns have been filed. (Davis said such returns generally involve a tax preparer having had a security breach. This provision is intended to allow the preparer to investigate such issues.)
Holdman's Senate Bill 61 would allow for petitions to create tourism improvement districts. Such districts would utilize a tax rate to generate funds for marketing and/or development.

Capsule Reports

Intersection crash
A New Jersey man drove through the intersection of U.S. 27 and Indiana 18/Indiana 67 and his vehicle struck a Pennville woman's car about 3:20 p.m. Tuesday.

Tonya J. Berry, 36, was driving her 2017 Hyundai Sonata south on U.S. 27 near the intersection where Indiana 18 turns into Indiana 67.
As she drove through the inter-

section, a 2017 Honda Accord, driven by 60-year-old Kim Yongchan of Somerset, New Jersey, struck the back of her car.
Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

SERVICES

Today
Kable, Jeremy: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
Young, Ruby: 1 p.m., Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene, 401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery.
Carter, Troy: 2 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Saturday
Mohler, Natomi: 11:30 a.m., First Church of Christ, 1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery.

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

Prisoner swaps resume

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service
Russia and Ukraine swapped about 400 prisoners, renewing exchanges a week after the downing of a plane that Moscow claimed was carrying detainees for transfer to Kyiv.
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in an Instagram post Wednesday that 207 captives, both soldiers and civilians, were returned from Russia. Russia's Defense Ministry said in a statement that it received 195 soldiers in exchange for 195 sent to Ukraine.
Zelenskyy's statement didn't clarify whether the prisoners had been part of the broader swap planned at the time the plane crashed in Russia's Belgorod region on Jan. 24.



Swiss Village

FULL-TIME, DAY SHIFT NURSE

Swiss Village, Inc. is now seeking a Full-Time Healthcare Nurse for Day Shift! Position will be 3 days/week, 6am-6pm, with a weekend rotation required. Candidates must be licensed in the State of Indiana as a Licensed Practical Nurse or Registered Nurse and be dependable, flexible, and have excellent interpersonal skills. Position eligible for insurance benefits, Paid Time Off (PTO), and 403(b) retirement plan participation.

\$5,000 Sign On Bonus!!!

Apply online at www.swissvillage.org, in person, or send Resume to:
Taylor Lehman, Vice President of HR
Swiss Village, Inc.
1350 W. Main St.
Berne, IN 46711
careers@swissvillage.org



Swiss Village

PART-TIME RESIDENTIAL/ ASSISTED LIVING NURSE

Swiss Village, Inc. is now seeking a Part-Time Residential/Assisted Living Nurse to provide nursing services to residents in Assisted Residential, Residential Living, and Independent Living. This position will be every 3rd weekend, every 4th holiday, and varying weekdays. Candidates must be a graduate of an accredited School of Nursing and be currently licensed in the State of Indiana as a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse. Candidates must exhibit a cooperative and positive attitude towards co-workers and residents.

Apply online at www.swissvillage.org or send Resume to:
Taylor Lehman, VP of HR
Swiss Village
1350 W. Main St.
Berne, IN 46711
Or email: careers@swissvillage.org



Swiss Village

SWISS VILLAGE, INC. IS NOW SEEKING CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANTS FOR RESIDENTIAL/ASSISTED LIVING!

Opportunities available include:

- Full-time, 2nd shift; 40 hours/week, 2pm-10pm with every other weekend and holiday required;
- Part-time, 2nd shift; 40 hours/pay period (every 2 weeks), 2pm-10pm with every other weekend and holiday required;
- Part-time, 3rd shift; 32 hours/pay period (every 2 weeks), 10pm-6am with every other weekend and holiday required;
- Part-time, 1st shift; 16 hours/pay period (every 2 weeks), 6am-2pm with every other weekend and holiday required.

These positions will assist residents in the Assisted Residential, Residential Living, and Independent Living areas of Swiss Village with Activities of Daily Living. Candidates must have an active Indiana Certified Nursing Assistant license and must exhibit a cooperative and positive attitude towards co-workers and residents.
Full-time position eligible for benefits, including health, dental, vision, and life insurance, Paid Time Off (PTO), and 403(b) Retirement Plan participation.

Apply online at www.swissvillage.org or send Resume to:
Kayla Reilly, HR Specialist
Swiss Village
1350 W. Main St., Berne, IN 46711
Or email: careers@swissvillage.org

60th anniversary

Paul and Janet Resler

The Reslers are celebrating 60 years of marriage today. Paul E. Resler and Janet S. Osenbaugh wed Feb. 1, 1964, in Winchester. Paul Resler retired after working for 38 years at Portland Forge and also served as a bass singer with the Christianaires Quartet for 36 years. The rural Portland couple had six children, Christina (Andrew) White of Portland, Joseph Resler of Portland, Gene Resler of Portland, Teresa Resler of Portland, Johnathan Resler of Portland and Deborah (Burke) Goines of St. Henry, Ohio. They also have nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. The Reslers plan to celebrate with a meal at a restaurant.

Blood supply critically low

By JOEL STREED
Mayo Clinic News Network
Tribune News Service

Severe weather across many parts of the country has caused a lot of problems, but one effect you may not have heard about is on the nation's blood supply. According to the American Red Cross, the nation's blood supply is critically low. The organization reports that the weather has caused many blood drives to be canceled and made it harder for the Red Cross to move supplies around to meet needs. Nearly 16 million blood components are transfused each year in the U.S., also according to the Red Cross. Daily needs include 29,000 units of red blood cells, 5,000 units of platelets and 6,500 units of plasma. People need a blood transfusion for many reasons. Some may need blood during surgery. Others depend on it after an accident or because they have a disease that requires blood components. Blood donation makes all of this possible. There is no substitute for human blood. All transfusions use blood from a donor. The four blood types — A, B, AB and O — are differentiated by specific proteins called antigens. And blood also is classified by the Rhesus, or Rh, factor — negative or positive. Ideally, blood transfusions are performed with donated blood that's an exact match for type and Rh factor. For emergency transfusions, especially if the situation is life-threatening or the matching blood type is in short supply, Type O-negative blood is the variety of blood that has the lowest risk of causing serious reactions for most people who receive it. Because of this, it's sometimes called the universal blood donor type. Blood donation is a voluntary procedure that can save the lives of others. Several types of blood donation meet different medical needs. The most common type is whole blood donation. About a pint of whole blood is donated, and the blood is then separated into its components: red cells, plasma and platelets.

Friend consistently flakes on social outings

DEAR ABBY: I'm a widow. I have a friend I'll call "Greta," whom I have known since high school. I was very shy back then. She was more outgoing, but our group of friends was small. Over the years, I have become more outgoing, while Greta seems to be withdrawing socially.

She often tells me she will go to an event only if I go with her, but when I commit to it and pay for my part, she usually backs out. The problem is, Greta picks events I would otherwise not choose to attend or that none of my other friends are attending, so I must go alone or lose the money.

I'm about to retire, so I'll have less income. I am also working on widening my circle of friends so I can remain active. Greta wants to be invited and gets upset if I don't ask her to join me. However, she sees no problem with her constant no-shows.

This is putting a strain on our relationship and on my newly

Dear Abby



events. Then step back and see her less often, and only one-on-one if you see her at all.

DEAR ABBY: My adult son suffered a nervous breakdown a couple of years ago. Ever since, he has been blaming me for all his problems. It was always important to me to be a good mother, and I tried to be. Now he claims I was "emotionally abusive." (I never tried to be abusive.) He has put me through hell the last couple of years with his nasty accusations. I don't know where it's coming from.

Abby, he blames me for everything bad in his life. I am upset and crying all the time. He used to be sweet, and we were extremely close. Now he says he doesn't want to see me unless I get therapy!

Everyone who knows me knows I would never hurt my son. It seems like he is going out of his way to hurt me. I think he

needs to take responsibility for his own life and quit using me as his whipping post. Am I wrong? What should I do? — WOUNDED MOM IN WISCONSIN

DEAR MOM: I think you should agree to the therapy, but that it should be FAMILY therapy with a licensed mental health professional. Your son may (or may not) have some legitimate complaints, but it would be better if they were heard by an unbiased mediator.

I can't guarantee this will solve all the problems you're having with your troubled son, but it will give each of you the opportunity to hear where the other is coming from. After that, if the relationship doesn't improve, do what you must to protect your emotional well-being and stop communicating with him.

DEAR ABBY: At Christmas, I

worked all day cooking a lovely turkey dinner with all the side dishes and champagne. I told my "mature adult" boyfriend that dinner would be ready at 5 p.m.

At 5 p.m., I put the (hot) food on the table and called my BF to come in. Instead of coming to the table, "Mr. Mannerless" made an (unnecessary) phone call to a woman friend and talked for nearly an hour. While the dinner got cold, I got hot! When he finally got off the phone, he grabbed a plate of food and left to watch TV. He didn't even eat with me! What should I have done? — SIMMERING IN SOUTH DAKOTA

DEAR SIMMERING: It isn't a matter of what you should have done last Christmas. The question is what you intend to do about someone as inconsiderate as the unappreciative turkey you have been dating. He may be a mature adult, but his disregard for your feelings is appalling.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through

miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

Friday

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will meet at noon Friday, Feb. 2, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

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.

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each

month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

Saturday

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.

ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of

the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland.

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.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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



THE BAYLOR LPN/RN

The Baylor LPN/RN at Swiss Village, Inc. will be a weekend-only LPN/RN position working from 6am-6pm on Fridays and Saturdays OR Saturdays and Sundays. This position will work 24 hours/week and be paid for 36 hours/week. Candidates must be willing to work 48/52 weekends per year. Baylor LPNs/RNs will be considered Full-time status and are eligible for benefits including health, dental, vision, and life insurance, Paid Time Off (PTO), and 403(b) retirement plan participation. \$5,000 sign-on bonus!!

Apply online at www.swissvillage.org

or send Resume to:

Taylor Lehman, VP of Human Resources
Swiss Village
1350 W. Main St.
Berne, IN 46711
Or email: careers@swissvillage.org



KINDER HAUS DAYCARE – FULL-TIME TEAM TEACHER

Kinder Haus Daycare at Swiss Village is now seeking a Full-Time Team Teacher to work 32+ hours/week! Varied hours from 6am-5pm M-F. Responsibilities include providing high quality childcare services and assisting the Lead Teacher with supervision of the classroom. Must have a high school diploma or GED and be at least 18 years of age. Strong desire to work with children required. Educational background in early childhood is preferred.

Apply online at www.swissvillage.org

or send Resume to:

Kayla Reilly, HR Specialist
Swiss Village
1350 W. Main St.
Berne, IN 46711
Or email: careers@swissvillage.org

ARE YOU A NOT-FOR-PROFIT BUSINESS?



Let us help you spread the word with our special advertising deals!

- Four 3x5 ads in The Commercial Review
- Two 3x5 ads in The News-Gazette
- One 3x5 ad in The News Times
- One 3x5 ad in The News and Sun

All 8 Ads for \$190!

Or run two 3x5 ads in the publication(s) of your choice during February for:

- The Commercial Review – \$90
- The News-Gazette – \$75
- The News Times – \$60
- The News and Sun – \$60

*Ads must run in February *Rates do not apply to special sections
Call (260) 726-8141 or email ads@thecr.com

Community made an impression

To the editor:
This letter is so dang late, but my mother would be somewhat proud that I was better late than never.

My name is Pat Clancy, retired lieutenant with the New York City Fire Department and an ambassador for Tunnel to Towers Foundation (T2T). I was part of the event Museum of the Soldier held at your remarkable fairgrounds last September.

I have been privileged to represent T2T for over a dozen years now and have visited many of our great towns in the

Letters to the Editor

USA. I can't say any of my experiences were like what we experienced with our visit to Portland. When I was first asked if I was available I thought, "Oh great, I will be visiting Maine." I didn't know about the one "IN Indiana," as my t-shirt that was given to me says.

Your town is Mayberry — well, maybe a bit bigger, but my experiences must be similar to those in that make-believe town on TV. The children that visited us all were so very respectful. They looked in the eye and said sir more than I heard in a lifetime in New York.

I started our day by having coffee in our hotel while reading The Commercial Review. We ate breakfast each morning at Richards, an iconic small-town diner where the people who worked there and the people who ate there I sensed worked hard and loved our country.

Then there was the parade. That was the icing. Waving from our jeep at the children and adults on the route again gave me the feeling of what is great about our country.

I learned that Jim Waechter of Museum of the Soldier spent a couple of years fundraising to get the T2T 9/11 exhibit to your town. We are all volunteers but it costs the foundation operating and maintenance for the exhibit. The founder and T2T CEO Frank Siller noted that and presented Jim with a piece of steel that was from the World Trade Center.

I am asked to be part of the exhibit three or four times a year (other firefighters do the same) and tell the story about 9/11, Stephen Sillers's heroic story and what the foundation does for our soldiers, police and firefighters killed or injured in the line of duty.

I will always remember my stay in Portland and will go out of my way to visit the town and say hi to my many new friends in my future travels.

Sincerely,
Pat Clancy
FDNY retired
T2T ambassador

New rule helps to shine a light

By **MICHAEL FELSEN**
Progressive Perspectives
Tribune News Service

In this country, the rights you get as a worker — like overtime pay, a safe workplace and the right to organize into a union — depend on a seemingly simple question: Are you an employee? If the answer is yes, you get a plateful of rights and protections under federal and state law. If the answer is no — meaning you're an independent contractor in business for yourself — the plate is empty.

When employers misclassify their employees as independent contractors, and avoid providing the rights and protections various labor laws require, individual workers get hurt. Taxpayers suffer too, with billions in revenue lost from programs like workers' compensation and unemployment insurance.

So how do we know who's an employee and who isn't? The bad news is that the answer can vary from one law to another.

The good news is that, at least with one important law, we have a lot more clarity on how to answer the question. On Jan. 10, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) issued a long-awaited regulation that addresses how to properly classify a worker under the Fair Labor Standards Act. The FLSA, passed by Congress in 1938, set basic labor standards for employees — like a federal minimum wage and overtime pay. Its definition of who qualifies as an employee is broad.

DOL's new rule focuses on whether, as a matter of "economic reality," a worker is economically dependent on an employer for work (hence, an employee), or is in business for themselves (thus, an independent contractor). It makes clear, for example, that working longer and harder to make more "profit," or buying or leasing a car because that's what the potential employer requires, does not suggest that you're running your own business. Meanwhile, if you perform work that's necessary to the potential employer's business, that indicates you're an employee — as does the company's use of technological and digital means to surveil and assign your work, and its ability to set wages and prices.

Michael Felsen



The new rule replaces one from the Trump era that made it much easier for companies to treat their workers as independent contractors. In 2021, the Economic Policy Institute estimated that the Trump regulation would have reduced worker compensation (transferring it to employers) by at least \$3.3 billion annually. The more than 55,000 comments the DOL received when the current rule was proposed reflect the significance — and contentiousness — of the issue in today's ever-more-fissured economy, where efforts to sidestep employer responsibility to workers in a wide array of industries are rampant.

Take the gig economy, for example. One in seven gig workers earn less than the federal minimum wage on an hourly basis, and almost 30% earn less than the applicable state minimum wage. Supposedly "in business for themselves," one in five went hungry because they couldn't afford enough to eat. As one expert put it, gig work has "gone from being the possibility of freedom to the certainty of insecurity."

The DOL rule makes clear that many gig economy workers — likely including ride-hail and delivery drivers for corporate behemoths like Uber, Lyft, DoorDash and Instacart — are, in fact, employees, at least under the FLSA. Hence, they're entitled to the plate of benefits that this status provides.

All businesses need to carefully determine whether their workers are employees or not. Under the FLSA, chances are they're going to be employees. But in case of doubt, the new DOL rule, thankfully, will help shine a light.

.....
Felsen served as New England Regional Solicitor for the U.S. Department of Labor from 2010 to 2018, capping a 39-year career as an attorney with the agency. He currently serves as senior advisor to justice at work and strategic enforcement advisor to the Workplace Justice Lab at Rutgers University.



Apprenticeships can help workers

By **BRENDEN BODILY** and **MEGAN JENKINS**
Tribune News Service

After graduating from high school in Vernal, Utah, Kray Haslem spent seven years gaining the licenses and experience he needed to become a commercial airline pilot. In 2019, Kray was working as a flight instructor to gain flight hours and advance his career. One day, he was on a practice flight with a student when shortly after takeoff, the engine failed and the plane crashed.

Thankfully, both Kray and his student survived. But Kray's injuries made it impossible for him to continue his aviation career. In one moment, the years of effort he had invested in his career were no longer relevant. As he recovered, he started looking for a new career path to support his family. Kray decided to complete a programming apprenticeship and eventually began working as a back-end web developer.

Tragic circumstances like Kray's aren't the only reason people are forced to switch careers. Today, advances in artificial intelligence are leading many to wonder how workers will stay competitive. Research by Goldman Sachs estimates that as many as two-thirds of jobs in the U.S. and Europe could be at least partially automated by AI in the future.

This challenge isn't new. Throughout history, technological advances have pushed workers to gain new skills or move into new industries to remain relevant. For example, from 2000 to 2010, 5.6 million U.S. manufacturing jobs were lost. Researchers at Ball State University estimat-



Brenden Bodily and Megan Jenkins



ed that 87.8% of those losses were caused by productivity improvements, largely driven by technological development.

As the pace of innovation continues to increase, how can we help displaced workers become qualified for work in new industries? This process is known as reskilling. Our research found that the most effective programs have industry-driven curriculums, often bolstered by high levels of employer involvement. They also provide transparent employment outcomes and widely recognized skill signals, such as credentials. Apprenticeships like the program Kray participated in are strongly suited to provide these.

In an apprenticeship, students are trained on the job, typically with supplemental classroom instruction. They learn the trade by doing the trade, learning to handle the unanticipated challenges and unique customer requests that arise in any real job. For example, after Kray developed an understanding of the programming languages his company used, he solidified his skill set and built a portfolio of experience as he was put to work on real projects for clients.

Another example is electricians, who accounted for the largest share of American apprentices in 2021.

Apprentices in this field take classes on electrical theory and regulation all while completing the 8,000 work hours needed for certification. This on-the-job experience is supervised by an experienced electrician.

Employers face a direct incentive to give their trainees the highest-quality training possible. A highly skilled apprentice is better equipped to create more value for their company.

Our research finds that this training approach is a powerful one. In one study, apprentices saw wage growth that was 2.7 times faster than that of similar workers without the same hands-on training. Ninety percent of registered apprentices keep their jobs when they finish training.

Although apprenticeships are common in many countries, they are relatively uncommon in the U.S. This is despite hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funds being spent over the past few decades to support their development.

Why aren't apprenticeships more common? In many states, workers in specific industries must hold an occupational license before they are allowed to work, making it impossible for apprentices to learn on the job. Some states have recognized this barrier. In Utah and Minnesota, lawmakers have recently allowed for nurs-

ing apprenticeships in combination with a traditional nursing program. These changes are crucial to encourage more workers to move into in-demand fields like health care.

Another reason apprenticeships aren't more common is that businesses aren't rewarded for providing them. Currently, employers can't deduct the cost of investing in human capital like they can for physical assets like equipment. One way to expand apprenticeships would be through a simple change to the tax code. Labor economist Michael Farren suggests allowing businesses to deduct the cost of reskilling their employees from their taxes. This would incentivize more employers to start their own training programs, including in industries where on-the-job training is not currently a common practice. These programs could also address labor shortages in fields like nursing, IT and automotive work.

Encouraging apprenticeships would enable more job seekers like Kray to benefit from paid, employer-led career training. In an era of significant economic and technological change, effective reskilling programs can be life-changing for individuals and can help maintain a dynamic workforce that effectively embraces new technology.

.....
Bodily is an undergraduate research fellow at the Center for Growth and Opportunity at Utah State University. Jenkins is senior research director at the Center for Growth and Opportunity at Utah State University.

The Commercial Review

US PS 125820

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus
JOHN C. "JACK" RONALD (1948-2022), Publisher Emeritus



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.

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.

RAY COONEY
President, editor and publisher
TONIA HARDY
Business manager

LOUISE RONALD
Board chair
BRIAN DODD
Production manager

"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
—Thomas Jefferson

Subscription rates
Internet-only: Three days — \$3; Monthly auto-pay — \$10; 13 weeks — \$32; six months — \$60; one year — \$108.
City (walking — where available): Monthly auto-pay — \$11; 13 weeks — \$36; six months — \$68; one year — \$122.
Motor route (where available): Monthly auto-pay — \$12; 13 weeks — \$44; six months — \$74; one year — \$140.
Mail: Monthly auto-pay — \$13; 13 weeks — \$49; six months — \$80; one year — \$151.
Home delivery problems: Call (260) 251-9588

VOLUME 150—NUMBER 179
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024

www.thecr.com

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



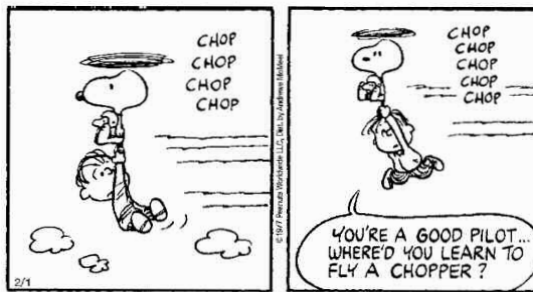
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



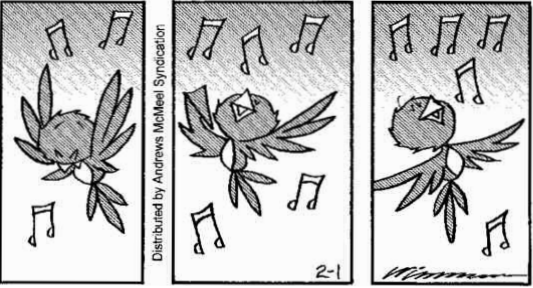
Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Extra chance South dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH ... WEST ... EAST ... SOUTH ...

Peanuts



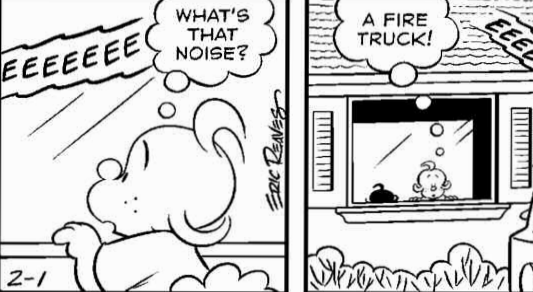
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



2-1 CRYPTOQUIP

BGX CZ IWOGEQZK BQSE BNCIDXQZK TSNJJQZK OPCEWQGZT, DPN TDIJQG PCJ DG PQXN C OGCTDQZK JQXNODGX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A DOUGHNUT OR BAGEL IS MADE IN A FRENCH CITY ON THE LOIRE, IT MIGHT BE A TOURS TORUS.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

00 CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS 260-726-8141 ADVERTISING RATES 20 Word Minimum Effective 07/01/2018: Minimum charge.... \$12.40

40 NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect copy.

60 SERVICES

AMISH CONSTRUCTION CREW Building new & remodeling. Garages, Pole Barns, Roofing, siding, windows, ect. Call 567-279-2591

Little JJ's Tree Service Tree Trimming, Removal, Stump Grinding.

GABBARD FENCE FARM • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL RESIDENTIAL • VINYL

Bricker's Flowers & More 414 N. Meridian St. Portland

Wendel's Carpets & Upholstery Cleaning Von Schrader Dry Foam Cleaning

BARN RESTORATION Specializing in metal roofs, decks & more

Out The CR Classifieds www.thecr.com

Dave's Heating & Cooling Furnace, Air Conditioner Geothermal Sales & Service

BOOLMAN'S Auto Sales & Service, Inc. Highway 67 W, Portland, Indiana

SCHWARTZ HOME IMPROVEMENT LLC All types of construction

BAIL BONDS Travis Weaver 260-726-3189 across street from Jail

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD in The Commercial Review CALL 726-8141

The Commercial Review Newspaper Delivery Comments or Problems? Call our Circulation Hotline 260-251-9588

Survive and advance

Patriots pull away in fourth to beat host Yorktown in sectional opener 56-48

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review

YORKTOWN — Tigers can jump on average somewhere between 18 to 20 feet.

For most of the game, the Patriots stood about 21 feet away.

In the final period, they finally pulled further away into safety.

The Jay County High School girls basketball team, which finished 12th in the Class 3A poll voting of the season, squeaked past the host Yorktown Tigers 56-48 Tuesday in the opening round of IHSAA Sectional 24.

The win extends the Jay County (21-2) win streak to 19-consecutive victories and earns it a date with Delta, who they recently beat 60-36, in the early semifinal at 6 p.m. on Friday. On Thursday, Centerville opens against Frankton followed by New Castle battling three-time reigning sectional winner first-ranked Hamilton Heights. The winners of each game will follow the Jay County-Delta semifinal, with the winners of each meeting Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the championship.

The Patriots entered the fourth quarter with just a three-point lead, but a trio of seniors stepped up to take over the game.

"I felt like our defensive intensity picked up and we got a lot of hands on balls," JCHS coach Sherri McIntire said. "We ran our trap out of our 1-2-2 and that was good to us tonight."

"Breanna Dirksen played phenomenal on the defensive end. She got her hands on so many

balls and put ball pressure that we needed. We thought that we could get them to turn it over if we put some ball pressure on them and I think that finally helped us in the fourth quarter."

Working on as a wing defender and at the top of the zone, Dirksen led the Patriots with five steals, including a pair in the fourth quarter that she then converted into assists.

The final period opened with transition buckets by Molly Muhlenkamp and Hallie Schwieterman to push the lead to seven. The Tigers (13-11) quickly responded with a Lilly Sylvester jumper and Olivia Conklin Euro-step.

Jay County followed up with a 10-2 run, powered by Muhlenkamp.

The first point came on a Sophie Saxman free throw before Muhlenkamp pulled off an up-and-under move in transition. Thirty seconds later, Saxman added a bucket by discarding Conklin in transition to push the lead to eight.

Yorktown got a bucket back on a Sylvester jumper, but back-to-back hoops by Muhlenkamp — both were assisted by Dirksen — gave the Patriots their first double-digit lead.

"That run was really huge for us," said Muhlenkamp, who scored a team-high 16 points. "We knew we had to win or we're done and we wanted it bad."

The run capped off with Schwieterman splitting a pair of free throws, making 11 points the largest lead of the game.

See *Survive* page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Hallie Schwieterman, a freshman on the Jay County High School girls basketball team, pulls the trigger on a jump shot from the elbow during the Patriots' 56-48 victory over host Yorktown in the sectional opener Tuesday. Coach Sherri McIntire was pleased with the freshman's 13 points and eight rebounds in her postseason debut.

GRAPHIC PRINTING

NEWSPAPERS

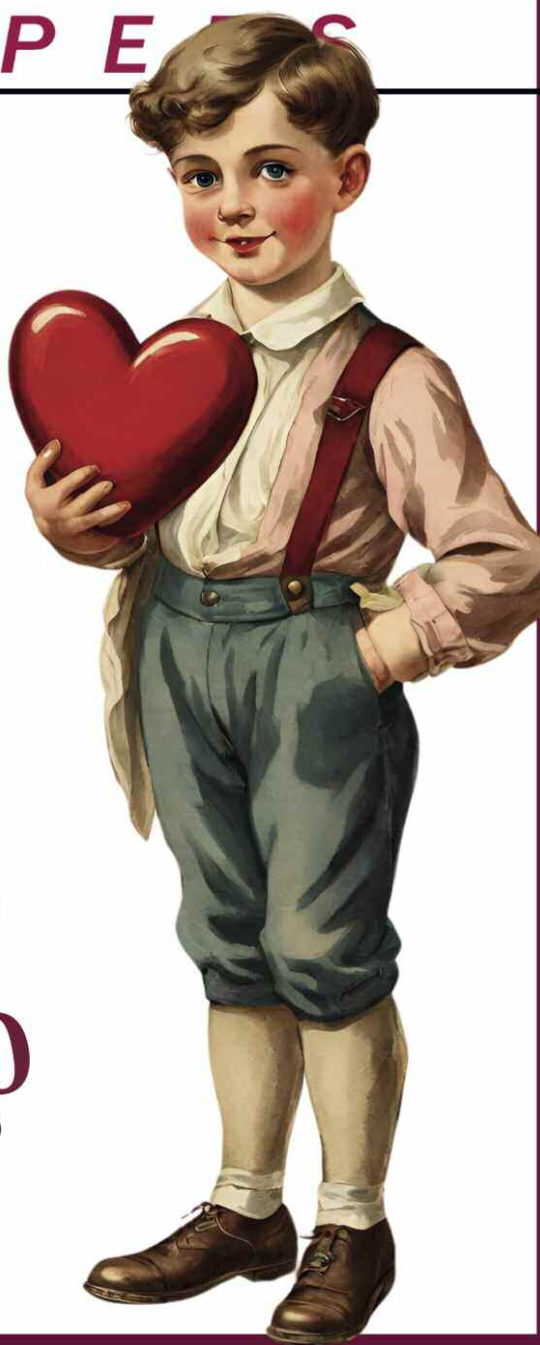
FEBRUARY ADVERTISING SPECIALS

Run your half-page black and white Ad

any day from **Feb. 1 through 10** **\$150** (each)
(Run it again as many times as you want in February for \$125 each)

any day from **Feb. 13 through 17** **\$175** (each)
(Run it again as many times as you want in February for \$150 each)

any day from **Feb. 20 through 29** **\$200** (each)
(Run it again as many times as you want in February for \$175 each)



The Commercial Review

CONTACT LINDSEY AT L.COCHRAN@THECR.COM OR (260) 726-8141

*Rates do not apply to special sections
*Ads must run in February

Patriots top Golden Bears

PARKER CITY — The Patriots showed up to Parker City looking to pull even on the year, and eight pins helped them get there.

The Jay County Junior High School wrestling team breezed by the Monroe Central Golden Bears for a 78-21 victory Monday evening.

Eight Patriots pinned their opponents to the mat to secure wins, six of them in under a minute.

Miles Jones captured his win the quickest, needing only nine seconds to take the 177-pound match. Also pinning their opponents in 30 seconds or less were Caleb Sibray in the 150 match (23 seconds) and Varen Ridgeway in exactly 30 seconds (175 contest).

Three more wrestlers won by fall in under a minute for the Patriots (4-4). Logan Wendel handled the 110 match (35 seconds), Walter Campofiors came out on top of the 102 contest (57 seconds) and Max McClain beat the 125-pound opponent in 58 seconds.

Spencer Smitley needed the full first round to win his match (220), while Lucas Raines needed an extra one minute, eight seconds to pin the 160-pounder.

Three Patriots won junior varsity matches. They were Mitchell Byrum (75) in a 7-2 decision, Porter Clamme (117) by fall in 1:24 and Alex Rivers (125) by pin in 1:16.

Pacers fall to Celtics

By **STEVE HEWITT**

Boston Herald Tribune News Service

Joe Mazzulla didn't hide his true feelings. After Monday's win over the Pelicans, when the Celtics had to overcome two separate double-digit deficits, Mazzulla was happy his team had to earn it. He said he hopes it happens at least 10 more times.

Mazzulla wants the Celtics to go through different situations like that, not only to prepare them for adversity in the playoffs but to eliminate the narrative that they're supposed to win all the time.

"I hope we have to blow leads," Mazzulla added. "I hope all that happens. I really do. That's what I think."

Mazzulla spoke his wish into existence. A night later, the Celtics blew a big lead. Then they almost blew another one. They led by double digits on two

occasions in the second half, only to find themselves in a one-possession game in the final minute. But they got it together when they needed to, behind late, clutch defense. The Celtics sealed it with two blocks on one possession in the final minute to survive with a 129-124 victory over the undermanned Pacers at TD Garden.

All five Celtics finished in double figures, led by Jayson Tatum's 30 points, Jaylen Brown's 25 and Derrick White's 24 as they won the season series over the Pacers, 3-2. They had a historic first half, scoring 81 points, but had to overcome some brutal defensive stretches in the second and third. They were dominated on the glass, which led to 31 second-chance points for Indiana. They had to fight to earn this win in a different way.

See *Pacers* page 7