

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Education continues to be the key issue

Holdman and Prescott discuss legislative topics during forum

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review
Education has been a major discussion in front of the Indiana General Assembly this year.

It's also a hot topic locally.

Elementary reading, as well as government meeting decorum, were two focus points of area residents while speaking with legislators.

State Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle) and State Rep. J.D. Prescott (R-Union City) addressed education and other questions from area residents during a Third House Session on Saturday at Blackford County Farm Bureau in Hartford City.

Blackford County Republican Party chair Andy Dudelston asked Holdman to briefly summarize student retention as described in Senate Bill 1, which spells out rules for summer school courses — it requires certain schools to offer such courses for students who are at risk or are not reading-proficient — as well as early detection, remediation and retention procedures for students not reading at their grade level.

Holdman, who represents Jay, Adams, Wells and Blackford counties and part of Allen County and serves as majority caucus chair of the Indiana Senate, said the focus is to enhance reading skills.

See **Education** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Sensational, sorrowful

It was a weekend of mixed emotions for Jay County High School athletes.

Pictured above, Cody Rowles raises his arms in victory after upsetting fifth-ranked and undefeated Neil Mosier of Delta during their 126-pound regional semifinal match Saturday in the tournament at JCHS. Rowles went on to win the regional championship and is one of seven Patriots who qualified for the semi-state tournament.

At right, Jay County senior Sophie Saxman gets a hug from her dad Bill after the Patriot girls basketball team came up just short, losing 37-36 to Class 3A No. 1 Hamilton Heights in the sectional tournament at Yorktown. The Patriots have gone 45-5 over the last two seasons, with four of those losses coming to the Huskies.

For more on this weekend's athletic events, see pages 6, 7 and 8.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Passionate plunge

Clement Hortlander (yellow shirt), Bailey Hartman (black shirt), Connor Helsen (blue shorts) and Cara Brockman (red shirt), all of Muncie, jump into the pond just north of Accelerated Curing in Portland Saturday morning as part of the Splashin' with a Passion: Peggy's Plunge sponsored by Portland Fire Department and United Way of Jay County. Money raised by pledges will go to Jay County Special Olympics, Jay County Cancer Society, Jayland Homeless Shelter and other local non-profit organizations.

Israel: Time is running out

Minister says diplomatic solution must come soon

By ALISA ODENHEIMER

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Israel's foreign minister warned time's running short to find a diplomatic solution to the presence of Hezbollah fighters along the country's northern border with Lebanon.

Hezbollah, a Shiite militant group backed by Iran, and Israeli forces have exchanged fire almost daily since the Israel-Hamas war erupted on Oct. 7. While those skirmishes have killed scores of people and forced almost 100,000 Israelis and thousands of Lebanese to evacuate their homes, neither side has escalated its operations.

Israel has said, though, that it's prepared to open another

front with a military attack on southern Lebanon if Hezbollah doesn't move back to about 20 miles from the border, as per the terms of a long-standing United Nations resolution.

"Israel will act militarily to return the evacuated citizens to their homes" if Hamas doesn't comply with the resolution, known as 1701, Foreign Minister Israel Katz told his French counterpart, Stephane Sejourne, on Monday in Jerusalem.

Hezbollah has expressed solidarity with Hamas and fired missiles, mortars and rockets into Israel. The Israeli military has responded with artillery fire and also assassinated senior Hezbollah figures.

Israeli generals and ministers are confident they would win a two-front war against Hezbollah and Hamas. But U.S. officials have privately warned them of the sheer strain such a scenario would place on the country's resources and economy, with some describing it as a nightmare scenario for Israel.

Amos Hochstein, a U.S. special envoy often used by President Joe Biden for Israeli and Lebanese matters, was in Israel over the weekend.

Deaths

Mary Brotherton, 75, rural Portland
Rosemary Zehringer, 91, Fort Recovery
Mike Shockey, 70, rural Bryant
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature Sunday was 45 degrees. The low was 30.

The forecast calls for a low in the upper 20s tonight. Expect partly cloudy skies Wednesday with the high climbing into the lower 50s. Highs will be in the 50s through Saturday. See page 2 for an extended forecast.

In review

United Way of Jay County and Second Harvest Food Bank will partner for a free food tailgate at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Jay County Fairgrounds.

Income verification is not required.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of this week's Portland City Council meeting.

Thursday — Results from JCHS junior Maddy Snow at the diving regional meet.



Obituaries

Mary Brotherton

April 13, 1948-Feb. 3, 2024

Mary Elaine Brotherton, age 75, of rural Portland passed away peacefully surrounded by family and her companion Larry on Saturday Feb. 3, 2024, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie.

Mary was born in Portland on April 13, 1948, the daughter of Paul Raymond and Eva Ellen (Hathaway) Martin. She worked as a cook at the American Legion for 21 years and also cooked at Laramie Lunch. She was a 1966

Madison High School graduate and a member of Portland Eagles Lodge, American Legion Auxiliary and Celina Moose Lodge.

Mary loved to dance and play ping pong, pickleball, cards, softball and bowling. She cherished spending time with her family and friends.

Surviving are two sons, Todd Butcher (wife: Renae) of Greenwood, South Carolina, and Eric



Brotherton

Butcher (wife: Leah) of Portland; one daughter, Angela Ingram (husband: Danny) of Portland; stepchildren Jennifer Habegger (husband: Paul) of Geneva, Ed Brotherton of Los Angeles and Andy Brotherton (wife: Lisa) of Berne; companion Larry Myers of Portland.; brother Dave Martin (wife: Linda) of Portland; sister Eva Lou Enyart of Portland; sister-in-law Helen Martin of Portland; former husband Wayne Brotherton of Portland; 10 grandchildren; and 17 great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be

Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Chuck Myers presiding. Visitation will be Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. Burial will be in the Antioch Cemetery.

Memorials can be made to Jay County Cancer Society.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Rosemary "Rosie" E. Zehringer, Fort Recovery, died Feb. 2. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church in Fort Recovery.

Mike F. Shockey, rural Bryant, May 31, 1953-Feb. 3, 2024. Services will be at 3 p.m. Thursday at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

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

CR almanac

Wednesday 2/7	Thursday 2/8	Friday 2/9	Saturday 2/10	Sunday 2/11
51/38	56/48	58/40	52/36	46/32
Mostly cloudy skies on Wednesday when the high will be around 51 degrees.	Another day of mostly cloudy skies on Thursday, with a chance of rain at night.	Friday's forecast shows a 40% chance of showers with temperatures in the mid to upper 50s.	Mostly sunny on Saturday, when the high will be around 52 degrees. Rain is possible late.	Another chance of rain on Sunday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$214 million	54-56-59-60-61-69-72-75 Cash 5: 1-9-17-34-42 Estimated jackpot: \$338,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$358 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 4-8-9 Pick 4: 0-1-3-3 Pick 5: 8-2-1-1-4 Evening Pick 3: 0-6-0 Pick 4: 0-4-0-3 Pick 5: 4-7-5-9-8 Rolling Cash 5: 4-30-34-35-38 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 2-5-0 Daily Four: 9-6-7-0 Evening Daily Three: 7-9-3 Daily Four: 6-6-6-8 Quick Draw: 1-12-15-21-28-29-33-35-43-45-50-52-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.46 March corn4.42 Wheat4.59	March beans11.81 Wheat 5.49
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.44 March corn4.46 April corn4.47	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.27 March corn4.30 Beans11.82 March beans11.85 Wheat5.48
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.28 March corn4.28 Beans11.81	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.43 March corn4.48 Beans11.62 March beans11.17 Wheat5.19

Today in history

In 1895, George Herman Ruth Jr., also known as Babe Ruth, was born in Baltimore, Maryland. Ruth played for the Boston Red Sox, New York Yankees and Boston Braves over his 21-year career in baseball. He set several records during his time, including most home runs (60) in a season in 1927, and the record for career home runs (714). He also took the Red Sox to three World Series championships and won four World Series titles with the Yankees.

In 1911, Ronald Reagan was born in Tampico, Illinois. Reagan, an

actor and Republican politician, served as the 40th president of the United States from 1981 to '89.

In 1945, Bob Marley was born in Nine Mile, Jamaica. Marley, a musical artist, created works in early ska, rock steady and reggae genres, including "No Woman, No Cry" and "Get Up, Stand Up."

In 1952, Elizabeth II became the queen of the United Kingdom after her father, George VI, died. Elizabeth II held the throne for more than 70 years before her death in September 2022.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.	rium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Fort Recovery Park Board, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, audito-	

Education ...

Continued from page 1
He noted plans to test children in second grade for reading proficiency. (The test was previously given in third grade.)

"We've got to make sure the kids can read," he said. "One out of five third graders fail, or don't meet the standard, on the IREAD test."

In December, Indiana Capital Chronicle reported 81.9% of Indiana third graders passed the 2023 Indiana Reading Evaluation and Determination (IREAD-3) test. That's around the same amount as the previous year, falling short of the state department of education's 95% goal.

Elementary school teacher Heidi Dudelston, whose children attend Blackford County Schools, noted second graders at Northview Elementary in Gas City currently take the IREAD-3 test. (Schools could opt into administering the test to second graders beginning in 2022.) She suggested modifying the test for their grade level. She also recommended reading passages with topics that are more enticing to children.

"I totally agree with identifying it earlier and getting them the help they need before they hit that third grade mark, but you've got to test them on something that's appropriate for that age," she said.

Prescott, who represents the southern two-thirds of Jay County, all of Randolph and Blackford counties and part of Delaware and Henry counties, also brought up House Bill 1338. (It passed the House 79-17 in January and moves next to the Senate.) The legislation sets up a structure for local units of government to establish rules for public comment during meetings, such as having time restrictions, and sets up a "three strike" rule — two verbal warnings followed by removal from the meeting — and clarifies law enforcement officers won't be held liable for removing individuals from those meetings.

HB 1338 also specifies that individ-



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

State Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle), left, speaks as State Rep. J.D. Prescott (R-Union City) watches Saturday during a Third House Session in Hartford City. A Third House Session with State Rep. Matt Lehman (R-Berne), Prescott and Holdman is planned for 9 a.m. March 2 at John Jay Center for Learning.

uals who knowingly or intentionally go into or refuse to leave restricted areas of a property are committing criminal trespassing. The bill originally clarified what areas of government property are open to the public. (Prescott noted the bill was amended and opened to all property that is clearly marked as a restricted access area, a decision tying back to an appellate court case in Vincennes last year regarding trespassing.)

John Bartlett, a Blackford County Democrat who is running for the District 33 House Representative seat in 2024 and lost to Prescott in the 2022 general election, asked how the bill would accommodate taxpayers with questions for local elected officials in the event they won't take public comment. He questioned the choice to leave the decision up to the local entity and referenced First Amendment rights.

Prescott noted elected officials aren't required to seek public comment at regular meetings. Likewise, he added, each local unit of govern-

ment's meetings will likely vary. He referenced committee hearings at the statehouse, with some bills bringing in dozens to testify while others garner a handful of individuals.

"On those bills where we have a mass amount of people, you might need to limit it to two, three minutes, to have ample time so everybody's voice can be heard equally," said Prescott. "But on bills where there's not as much testify, we can allow for a longer discussion because there's enough time to do so, so I can see the same thing from a local government meeting perspective."

"We want to make sure everybody is treated equally at these meetings," he added.

Prescott is running for a fourth term this year. A rural Union City resident, he'll face off against Portland-based Greg LeMaster in the GOP primary. Holdman isn't up for re-election this year.

All legislation may be viewed by visiting iga.in.gov.

Felony arrests

Child solicitation

A Hartford City man was arrested Thursday for child solicitation.

Bradly J. Donner, 24, 2773 N. Indiana 3, was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony for child solicitation.

He was being held in Jay County Jail on a \$10,000 bond.

Sexual misconduct

A Dunkirk man was arrested Friday for sexual misconduct.

John R. Norris, 32, 323 N. Meridian St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony sexual misconduct by a service provider with detainee.

He was released from Jay County Jail on a \$10,000 bond.

Domestic battery

Two Jay County residents were arrested recently for domestic battery.

Andrew J. Bailey, 35, 209 W. 7th St., Portland, was arrested Sunday and preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony for domestic battery. He was released from Jay County Jail on a \$10,000 bond.

Daniel R. Miller, 29, 1 S. Union St., Redkey, was arrested Thursday and preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony and Level 6 felony, both for domestic battery,

along with a Class A misdemeanor for invasion of privacy. He was being held on a \$14,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Failed to appear

A Bryant woman was arrested Friday for failing to appear in court.

Kimberly S. Hurst, 58, 118 E. Main St., failed to appear Feb. 1 in Jay Superior Court for a case in which she's charged with possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, resisting law enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor.

She was being held without bond in Jay County Jail.

Probation violation

A Richmond woman was arrested Friday for violating her probation.

Bobbie L. Smith, 46, 810 Indiana Ave., pleaded guilty in September 2022 to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to two years in Jay County Jail with one year suspended, and a petition alleging she violated the conditions of her probation was filed in Jay Circuit Court on Jan. 29.

Smith was released on a \$5,000 bond from Jay County Jail.

SERVICES

Tuesday

Hall, Francis: noon, Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Thursday

Zehringer, Rosemary: 10:30 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery.
Shockey, Mike: 3 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Brotherton, Mary: 7 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

March 2

Meier, Nancy: 4:30 p.m., Kuhn's Den, 442 E. Line St., Geneva.

Service listings provided by

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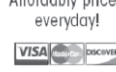
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Fort Recovery charities raise \$20k

Fort Recovery Combined Charities raised just over \$20,500 last year. The organization recently released its 2023 campaign results, which announced its total donations at \$20,589. That's an increase of \$1,364 from 2022.

Leading in donations was Fort Recovery Morvilius Opera House with \$2,746. Mercer County Right to Life received \$2,575, the Center for Neurological Development gained \$2,317, Fort Recovery Friends of the Library raised \$2,210 and Fort Recovery Community Foundation had \$2,187.

Other distributions were the Cancer Association of Mercer County at \$1,955, Ever Heart Hospice at

Taking Note

\$1,663, Fort Recovery Historical Society at \$1,100, Fort Recovery Academic Boosters at \$705, Fort Recovery 4-H Club at \$696, Fort Recovery Girl Scouts at \$620.50, Fort Recovery Cub Scouts at \$604.50, Project Recovery at \$539, Our Home Family Resource Center at \$370 and M.A.V. (Mercer, Auglaize and Van Wert counties) Youth Mentoring at \$301.

Exhibit open

Ball State University's

David Owsley Museum of Art will have a selection of paintings and sculptures from the Haukoho family on display beginning Feb. 22.

The family's collection is the largest of Florentine Baroque art of the late 16th to the early 18th centuries outside of Italy. It features paintings and sculptures depicting allegories, religious narratives, genre scenes, and portraits that display refined sentiments and skillful execution.

"This exhibition offers visitors a rare chance to view impressive works by artists previously only known to specialists, like paintings by Cesare Dandini, Felice Fischerelli, Onorio Marinari, and

Ottavio Vannini," said Robert La France, the museum's director. "Visitors will be impressed by styles that emphasize rich colors and figures that fix their gazes on the viewer, inspiring introspective and emotional responses."

The exhibit, which is free to view, will be on display through May 19 at the museum, 2021 W. Riverside Ave., inside Ball State's Fine Arts building.

Neurodiversity

An opportunity to learn about neurodiversity in the workplace is scheduled this month.

Indiana Youth Institute will host Introduction to Neurodiversity in Youth

Work at 11:30 a.m. Monday at Blackford Junior-Senior High School.

The event will feature High Five School founder Nathan Maynard. It is an interactive workshop "designed to equip youth workers, educators, and community leaders with the knowledge and skills needed to create inclusive environments that celebrate neurodivergent youth."

Attendees will learn about neurodiversity and its history and the complications regarding

The workshop is free and lunch will be provided. Those interested in attending should register in advance by visiting iyi.org/events.

Applications open

Indiana Department of Environmental Management is accepting nominations for the 2024 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence.

Awards will be presented for energy efficiency/renewable resources, environmental education/outreach, five-year continuous improvement, greening the government, land use/conservation, pollution prevention and recycling/reuse. Awards will be based on project innovation, measurable results and transferability.

Nomination forms are available at idem.in.gov. The deadline to apply is March 1.

Husband's relapse may lead to divorce

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for three years, together for eight. We have two kids together. Over the last year, he has changed a lot and has treated me very badly. He's always frustrated with me, accusing me of not caring about him and things of that nature. He puts me down by saying I think I'm a good person but I'm not.

I noticed the changes in him and suspected he might be having an affair or using drugs. It turns out that he has been using drugs. I told him from the beginning that if he touched this certain drug, I would show him the door. He finally admitted the truth, but only because his older brother told me and he had no choice. He had a great job, which he quit after he refused a drug screen. I'm so upset and hurt by his lies and the drug

Dear Abby



abuse. He has been moved out for a little over a week now and hasn't even asked about the kids. Do you think this is grounds for a divorce, or should I try to help him through his addiction and let him come back home? — ADDICT'S WIFE IN TEXAS

DEAR WIFE: Is your husband still jobless? Has he told you that he loves you and wants to come back? Is he willing to join a support group and get help for his addiction? If the answers are

no, then please realize that the only person responsible for overcoming his addiction is himself, not you. And yes, I think this may be grounds for divorce — unless you want those children living under the same roof with a verbally abusive drug addict who shows no interest in them.

.....
DEAR ABBY: I love my father, but I'm sick of trying so hard with him. When we used to spend time together, he would ignore me if I spoke but respond if my husband said the same thing right after me. If he did act like he heard me, he'd just grunt or act disinterested in what I said.

Now, if I try to contact him, he doesn't answer my calls or texts, and I feel like I'm bothering him. If I don't contact him, he

tells everyone I "never call" and that I keep my kids from seeing him. Lately, he has been spreading a rumor that I went into his house and stole family items. His house has an alarm and stays locked up. (I also live several hundred miles away.)

He refuses counseling and denies any responsibility for conflicts in his relationships. I'm tired of the emotional anguish and games. My mom, who divorced him decades ago, wants me to keep trying because she cherished her relationship with her own now-deceased father so much. Do I honor my mother and keep trying? Or should I put my foot down and let my mother know I refuse to be abused this way? — CAN'T WIN IN TENNESSEE

DEAR CAN'T WIN: Your mother was smart enough to

get away from your father, whose behavior is abusive. Explain to her (it's surprising she hasn't already noticed) that your relationship with him is diametrically opposed to the one she enjoyed with her own father. It's unfortunate that the relationship you have with your dad isn't healthy for you, and it certainly won't benefit your children to see you treated the way he has been treating you. So if you're asking my permission to keep your distance from your father, you have it.

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

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For

more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2

p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

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

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

Thursday

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual

support and learn about the latest products and information.

JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB — Will meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

Friday

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

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.

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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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Scuttling shows desire for chaos

St. Louis Post-Dispatch
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The apparent collapse in Congress of a bipartisan agreement on America's southern border has exposed two glaring truths regarding today's Republican Party:

One, despite all the apocalyptic rhetoric from congressional Republicans, the party does not actually want to solve the border crisis — at least not while a solution could be politically advantageous to a Democratic president.

And two, the central driver of this and so much other dangerous dysfunction on the political right — former President Donald Trump — has become the Republican establishment he once challenged. His wish is his party's command, no matter how detrimental to the country.

The GOP, at Trump's explicit

Guest Editorial

direction, is intentionally sabotaging a border deal it would otherwise embrace just because it doesn't want constructive progress on President Joe Biden's most vulnerable issue.

That's not some kind of opposition talking point; Trump and his key allies aren't even hiding it.

"A Border Deal now would be another Gift to the Radical Left Democrats," Trump declared in a statement late last week. "They need it politically."

The message was clear to Trump enablers like Sen. Kevin

Cramer, R-North Dakota He told CNN before the terms of the deal were even announced that congressional Republicans would "take their lead" from Trump, noted that Trump is "in a campaign" against Biden — and that "if Joe Biden suddenly got religion and supported a border deal that actually reduced the flow of illegal immigration, that would be good for (Biden) politically."

Meaning, Republicans must oppose it for Trump's sake.

Indeed, after weeks of holding military aid to Ukraine and Israel hostage to demands for increased border security, congressional Republicans last week were apparently flummoxed by Biden's remarkable about-face, in which he declared he is ready to "shut down the border right now."

The proposed bipartisan deal contained almost nothing that

Democrats have demanded, not even a path to citizenship for immigrants brought here as children. It would make gaining asylum more difficult even for those who enter the country legally and would completely shut down the asylum process during high-activity periods on the border.

As the GOP's top Senate Republican negotiator, Sen. James Lankford, R-Oklahoma, put it, the agreement "is a shutdown of the border and everyone actually gets turned around." In essence, the deal is a complete capitulation by Biden on border issues.

Yet congressional Republicans, buckling to Trump's utterly self-serving opposition, suddenly refuse to take "yes" for an answer.

House Speaker Mike Johnson has declared the agreement dead on arrival in his chamber: Lankford earned a resolution of con-

demnation from his home state's GOP for the apparently high crime of working across the aisle for a solution on an issue Republicans earnestly pretend to care about.

"Pretend," it turns out, is the key word there. As even the conservative Wall Street Journal editorial board put it recently, Biden can now claim "with cause" that Republicans "want border chaos as an election issue rather than solving the problem."

Make no mistake: The GOP, in cowering fealty to Trump, has now confirmed it would rather burden America by continuing that chaos than to allow Biden even a shared victory on the issue. Voters should remember this the next time Republicans claim (as they will almost daily in this election year) to be the party of border security.

WIC needs to be fully funded

By CANDACE BAKER

When my grandmother was raising my cousins and me, she taught us to work hard and go after what we wanted. I didn't know it at the time, but we were in poverty.

Scared of judgment and bureaucracy, my grandmother refused to apply for assistance programs. But that meant she had to work several jobs, day and night, bringing us with her because she couldn't afford child care. We barely got by — and enjoyed no time together outside of work and school.

We thought that's how everyone lived. Your grandma works around the clock and still can't make ends meet. That's life, right? But as I got older, I saw that other kids had new clothes, after-school activities, and time to play.

I wanted that. And most of all, I wanted to help my grandmother so that she could have it too. So I vowed to get a college education and a good-paying job helping others.

If I wanted to achieve my dream of helping my family, I knew I'd have to do something different. I'd heard about a program that helped pregnant and postpartum moms and their babies, the Special Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children, also known as WIC.

I almost didn't apply because when I tried to enroll in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), I ran into the same judgment and bureaucratic stumbling blocks my grandmother feared. But I knew I needed help — and so did my baby.

And let me tell you — WIC was a game-changer!

WIC not only provides nutritious foods but also nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and even health care referrals for low-income mothers and small children. It helps to reduce maternal and infant mortality and improves health outcomes so children have the best chance at a healthy and productive life.

I also was able to get the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to help with our food needs. And because of these programs, I was able to go back to school, get my high school diploma, enroll in college, and graduate Magna Cum Laude. I was even able to become a volunteer mentor

Candace Baker



with a federally funded program called Second Chance to help people who served prison time reenter society in a healthy, productive way.

Families like mine are everywhere — about half of all babies born in the United States benefit from WIC.

It turns out that most of us just need a little help at especially difficult times in our lives. If wages had kept pace with the rising cost of living, rent, and food, perhaps we wouldn't need assistance programs. But wages haven't kept pace with living costs in 50 years.

For the past 25 years, WIC has served every eligible family that applied for its critical services. But now it's in danger — Congress hasn't agreed to fund the program to meet the needs of all who are eligible. There's a \$1 billion shortfall, which means that 2 million pregnant and postpartum women and their little ones won't get necessary food and health assistance.

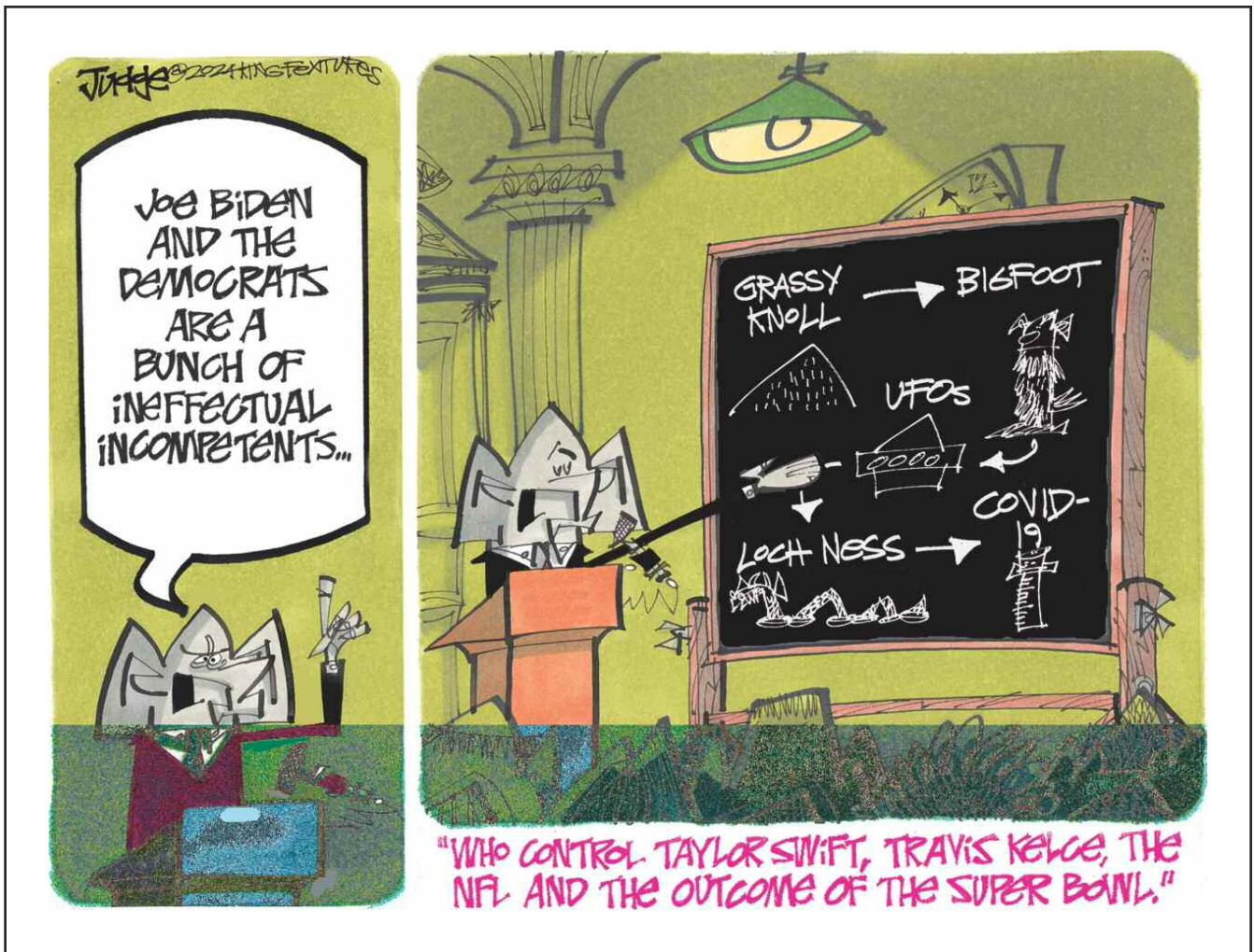
Imagine all those families that will face food insecurity, childbirth complications, and negative impacts on their health and well being that can last a lifetime — even generations.

I now have four children. All four benefited greatly from the WIC program, just as all who are eligible deserve to do. I believe in everything WIC does — I even took a job there helping with breastfeeding support. I'm also an Expert on Poverty at the anti-poverty organization RESULTS. These opportunities allow me to advocate for the programs that supported me when I was in need.

I need your help to ensure that Congress does the same. We must fully fund the WIC program so that no eligible family is turned away.

.....
Baker is a mother, fierce advocate for anti-poverty programs, and Expert on Poverty at RESULTS from Indianapolis.

OtherWords is a free editorial service published by the Institute for Policy Studies.



It's time to drop 'moderates'

By DAVE ANDERSON

The Fulcrum
Tribune News Service

If you held a conference for moderates — inviting federal politicians and citizens — it is unclear who would attend.

In Washington, moderates tend to be House members, senators, the president or vice president, or Cabinet officials who belong to either the Democratic or Republican party. One is therefore a moderate Democrat or a moderate Republican.

But throughout the country, many citizens who regard themselves as moderates do not identify with either political party. Instead, they identify as independents. Gallup reports that in 2023, 43% of voters identified as independents, 27% as Democrats and 27% as Republicans. It also reported that 36% of voters say they are moderates, 36% say they are conservative, and 25% say they are liberal. The group of independents overlaps with the group of moderates.

From the outset, therefore, we have a puzzle: The moderates in Washington are almost always Democrats or Republicans, while the moderate constituents are frequently independents.

A conference of 1,100 moderates therefore might gather together:

- 100 politicians — 15 senators and 85 House members — who regard themselves as moderates, 98 of whom are Democrats or Republicans (there are two independents in the Senate), and
- 1,000 citizens, 200 of whom would call themselves moderates from either the Democratic or Republican parties and 800 of whom would call themselves independents.

We must accept that there is a major gap in the country, because the moderate independents essentially have no representation in the House

Dave Anderson



and just two members of the Senate who speak for citizens who are alienated from the two major political parties.

A second major problem for the moderates at the conference is the lack of definition of "moderate." Some of the independents will be extremists — libertarians or socialists. But probably close to half of the moderates are going to say that they want the two parties to find a middle ground. And about half are going to say that their concept of being a moderate is about creating policies that reflect an interesting synthesis of what the two parties are advocating. They are ambitious moderates.

There we have it, two big challenges for the conference. First, how to overcome the gap that exists between the politicians who, with the exception of two members of the Senate, are all Democrats and Republicans. Second, how to make sense of the fact that about half of the moderates are low-key, split-the-difference people, while the other half are high-spirited, creative synthesis people.

The chief problem is that the moderates who are independents are frustrated with both political parties and therefore believe that the moderate Democrats and Republicans are part of a broken political system. It is a system marred by gerrymandering, an outsized role for money in politics, closed primaries in most states, and ranked-choice voting in only a hand-

ful of congressional districts. Independent moderates therefore feel unrepresented in Washington.

Moreover, the media and political organizations control the meaning of the term "moderate" and cubby hole the ambitious moderates in a way that makes it very difficult if not impossible for them to get their message across if they are politicians, and mobilize like-minded citizens if they are in the body politic.

In House races, for example, gerrymandering makes it very difficult for someone who does not take the party line to win a primary. Journalists will say precisely this during a campaign — emphasizing how moderates do not take a clear stand and have no clear constituency — and thus moderate candidates are running against candidates and the media at the same time.

If the moderates are ambitious rather than straightforward moderates, they will be even harder to explain by the media. They will more likely be called indecisive, wafflers and too out of the box for the electorate.

Political consulting 101 instructs candidates to define their opponents with concepts, words and categories that will disadvantage them at the polls. Our dysfunctional political system has systematically found ways to define moderates in ways that impede their ability to express themselves, mobilize, raise money and win elections. A starting point to address this problem is for everyone to drop the term moderates.

.....
Anderson edited "Leveraging: A Political, Economic and Societal Framework," has taught at five universities and ran for the Democratic nomination for a Maryland congressional seat in 2016.

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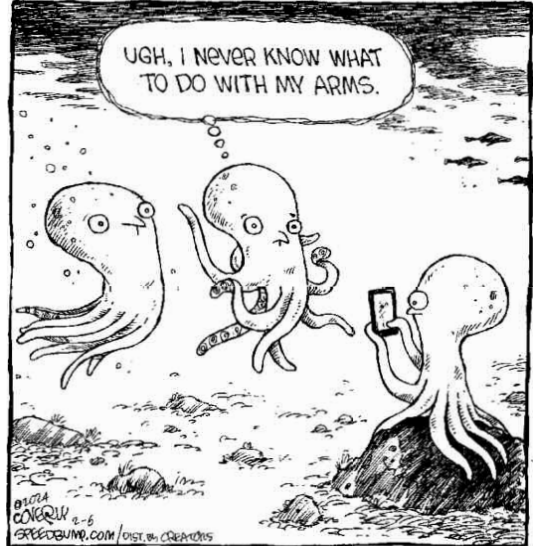
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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
—Thomas Jefferson

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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Covering all the possibilities

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 7 3
♥ J 4 2
♦ J 8 6
♣ A 10 5 3

EAST
♠ 8 6 5 4
♥ —
♦ 9 7 4 3
♣ K Q 9 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A K
♥ K Q 9 8 5 3
♦ A K Q 10
♣ 6

The bidding:
South West North East
2♠ Pass 2♣** Pass
2♥ Pass 3♥ Pass
4NT Pass 5♥ Pass
6♥

*artificial, strong **waiting
Opening lead — queen of spades.
When declarer is missing four cards in a suit, he should have at least some idea of how those cards will divide over the long haul. Mathematically, the expectation is that in 100 random hands, the defenders' four cards will divide 3-1 50 times, 2-2 40 times, and 4-0 10 times.
Declarer might or might not be able to put this knowledge to good use in a given hand, but if he is familiar with these probabilities even in just a general way, the knowledge will sometimes do him a lot of good.
Consider this case where South reached six hearts as shown. He won the opening spade lead and, without giving the matter much thought, led a low heart to dummy's jack. Unfortunately, East showed out, after which declarer could not avoid losing two heart tricks for down one.
However, if South had initially played the king of hearts, rather than leading low to dummy, he would have made the contract. Whether West took the ace immediately or not, only one trump trick would have been lost. After East failed to follow suit, it would have been a simple matter for declarer to trap West's ten by means of a finesse.
The king-of-hearts lead is demonstrably the right play. It guards against four trumps in either opponent's hand, preserving a finesse against the ten, if necessary.
Declarer should reason that the contract is a virtual certainty if the opposing trumps are divided 3-1 or 2-2. His only concern should be a 4-0 break and how to cater to it.
It is true that if East has all four trumps, a low heart to the jack would reveal the situation and allow the slam to be made. But since this approach fails if West has all the trumps, declarer should protect against that eventuality also.

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

T D K K X T W O L X Y S U X D B
C H Y Q O T S W X C W P S W Q X L X K D N
Y X E Q Q X S C B D A S U X A O T S Y U D L O X C :
N K S Y - O W P D K K H E D D Q .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SEVERAL PEOPLE IN LINE IN FRONT OF YOU LEAVE THE LINE, WHAT IS THE HAPPY RESULT? WAIT LOSS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals V

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 33 City transit routes 35 Party cheese 36 Winds up 37 Com- plains 38 California motto 41 Lass 42 Slope transport 43 "Enter the Dragon" actor 48 Actress Campbell 49 Felon's flight 50 Lopsided win 51 Saharan squares 52 Type 24 Zhivago's love 25 Summit 26 Su- premes hit song 30 Illustrations 31 UPS rival 32 Diane's role in "The God-father"

DOWN 21 Swedish auto 22 Off-white 23 911 re-sponders 24 Stows cargo 26 Like Gumby 27 Gumbo need 28 Futile 29 Checks out 31 Snitch 34 Glanced sideways 35 Ravel composition 37 Buddy volcano 38 Sicilian 39 Taxi alter-native 40 Sitarist Shankar 41 Mouth parts 44 Zodiac animal 45 Journal 46 Where Lux. is 47 Summer on the Seine

Solution time: 22 mins.

J	A	R	S	T	R	A	P	R	A	P	
U	F	O	A	R	E	T	E	A	S	A	
T	R	I	P	L	E	S	E	C	I	S	L
A	T	L	A	K	I	N	T	O			
M	A	T	T	E	L	M	A	R	C		
T	W	O	D	I	D	T	A	H	O	E	
F	O	N	T	S	O	Y	S	E	R	B	
F	L	Y	E	R	G	A	S	C	E	O	
K	E	E	P	R	E	C	K	O	N		
I	D	U	N	N	O	D	N	A			
D	A	B	T	E	X	A	S	T	E	C	
E	Y	E	A	M	I	G	O	L	O		
A	S	K	L	E	V	E	R	F	O	G	

Yesterday's answer 2-6

90 SALE CALENDAR

MARION YOUNG FARMERS
Consignment Auction
Mercer Landmark,
Chickasaw, Ohio
Between U.S. Rt. 127 &
New Bremen
on St. Rt. 274
SATURDAY, MARCH
16th
10 A.M.
PLEASE CONSIGN
YOUR EQUIPMENT
WITH ONE OF THE
FOLLOWING:
Brad Rindler - 419-584-
6356
Cole Luthman - 937-
658-1380
Please call by Feb. 22 to
Assure Advertising
WE WILL BE TAKING IN
EQUIPMENT
THURSDAY & FRIDAY
before the sale
No items will be Con-
signed Saturday Morn-
ing
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from Jail

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School's Molly Muhlenkamp glides up for a layup while getting fouled by No. 1 Hamilton Heights' Katie Brown in the third quarter of the Patriots' 37-36 loss in the sectional championship.

Running ...

Continued from page 8
The Patriots had an 11-rebound advantage. Their ball movement was better with 10 assists to two. They shot slightly better from 3-point range hitting 2-of-9 shots (22.2%) while holding the Huskies to 1-for-12 (8.3%). They shot slightly better from the field as well, going 15-for-36 (41.7%) while Hamilton Heights was 15-for-37 (40.5%).

The Huskies only came out on top in free-throw shooting as Cameron Runner went 6-for-6 while Muhlenkamp and Sophie Saxman combined for 4-of-6. HHHS also had less turnovers with only two, but JCHS still took care of the ball with eight.

The Huskies got a massive game out of Runner to power the victory. She accounted for 75.7% (28 of 37 points) of Hamilton Heights' scoring, while no one else had more than three points. Runner was also efficient, shooting 11-for-17 (64.7%), with nearly every basket coming on a right-handed drive toward the rim.

Cherry said he believes Runner is the most underrated player in the state, the player he has been the most confident in as a coach.

"You never know which way she's going to go," said Schwieterman, who matched up with Runner in most of the second half. "She's so mature in her game. ... Her confidence is just amazing and she's the best player I've ever played. I tried as hard as I could, but there's just some things you can't stop."

Over the past three seasons, and in a win earlier this year, Runner and her teammates beat Jay County from beyond the arc. In

an effort to slow the Huskies down, Jay County came out of its 1-2-2 zone, starting the game in man-to-man defense. They also sprinkled in a defense they call "twins" in which two players play a zone along the lane, while three players stayed out on the shooters in man.

The defensive changes worked as the only Hamilton Heights three came off of a quick hitter that Katie Brown launched from the corner despite a contest. However, the switch gave Runner one-on-one matchups that the Huskies exploited.

"Starting my freshman year, we ran mostly 'Zorro' all through this year," said Breanna Dirksen who guarded Runner in the first half. "This year we really started that man. We knew with this team, specifically man was what we needed to help us with their shooting."

Two key reasons Jay County started so strong were its offensive rebounding and Muhlenkamp's performance.

The senior ended with 15 points, 11 of which came in the first quarter, on 66.7% shooting (6-9).

Muhlenkamp also dominated the glass, pulling down a game-high eight rebounds, including three on the offensive end. Even when she didn't get offensive rebounds, her movement and crashing the glass opened opportunities for her teammates to get boards.

In the first quarter where the Patriots outscored Hamilton Heights 17-9, JCHS worked seven offensive rebounds while the Huskies couldn't grab a single defensive rebound.

"We had the intensity

and the energy," Muhlenkamp said. "We knew we had to come out with a really strong start if we wanted to give them a run for their money."

"Since third grade, they've told us we had to do the little things in order to try to succeed."

The domination on the glass helped JCHS gain a 17-9 lead in the first quarter.

The Huskies controlled the second quarter, as they started rebounding and Muhlenkamp was forced out with her second foul. Baskets by Hadleigh Cherry and Kennedy Cherry helped Runner in the second to gain a 24-21 lead.

The Patriots won the third quarter 7-6 as the offense slowed down.

Alongside ending Jay County's season, the loss snapped a 20-game winning streak that started Nov. 18. Its last loss before Saturday was to Belmont, 78 days prior. It was the only loss in the last two seasons that did not come at the hands of the Huskies.

In the first matchup, Hamilton Heights won by 53-41 with eight threes. Despite Runner avoiding major foul trouble, the Patriots were able to cut that deficit down from 12 to only one point.

"That game shows just how much this team has grown this season and just where we're at," McIntire said. "It's sad we had to face the No. 1 team here in sectional ... because they're so good and we almost beat them and shows how hard these kids work."

"I told them in the locker room that this game does not define our season. We had a great season."

"We had a lot of people

Box score			
Jay County Patriots vs. Class 3A No. 1 Hamilton Heights Huskies			
Girls varsity summary			
Class 3A Sectional championship			
at Yorktown			
Hamilton Heights (23-2)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Hickok	1-8	0-0	2
Brown	1-4	0-0	3
Runner	11-17	6-6	28
Schakel	0-1	0-0	0
HCherry	1-6	0-0	2
KCherry	1-1	0-0	2
Totals	15-37	6-6	37
Def. rebound percentage: .455			
Jay County (22-3)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Mhlnkmp	6-9	2-4	15
Saxman	1-6	2-2	4
Schwtrmn	3-10	0-0	7
MDirksen	1-3	0-0	2
Denton	3-4	0-0	6
BDirksen	1-3	0-0	2
May	0-1	0-0	0
Totals	15-36	4-6	36
Def. rebound percentage: .714			
Score by quarters:			
Ha.	Hghts	9	15
Jay Co.	17	4	7
		8	36
3-point shooting: Hamilton Heights 1-12 (Brown 1-4, Runner 0-1, HCherry 0-3, Hickok 0-5). Jay County 2-9 (Muhlenkamp 1-2, Schwieterman 1-6, BDirksen 0-1).			
Rebounds: Hamilton Heights 16 (Hickok 4, Brown 3, Runner 3, KCherry 3, team 2, Schakel). Jay County 27 (Muhlenkamp 8, May 6, Saxman 3, Denton 3, MDirksen 2, BDirksen, team 2, Schwieterman).			
Assists: Hamilton Heights 2 (Hickok, Brown). Jay County 10 (BDirksen 5, Muhlenkamp 2, Schwieterman 2, Saxman).			
Personal fouls: Hamilton Heights 11 (Hickok 3, Brown 3, Runner 3, HCherry 2). Jay County 11 (Denton 4, Muhlenkamp 3, Schwieterman 3, Saxman).			
Turnovers: Hamilton Heights 2. Jay County 8.			

Eighth-seeded Indians draw Wayne Trace

The brackets have been released.

Four games from now, the Indians will face the Raiders to open the postseason.

Brackets for the OHSAA Division III girls basketball tournament came out on Sunday, slating the eighth-seeded Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team for an opening-round matchup No. 5 seed Wayne Trace Raiders in the opening round of the Northwest 3 Sectional Feb. 22.

The Indians (6-12) have four regular season games left before they will take on the Wayne Trace (11-7).

The winner is set to face fourth-seeded Parkway in the sectional championship Feb. 24. The Indi-

Local roundup

ans previously defeated Parkway 38-30 on Dec. 14.

The first round of the district tournament will hold a potential Division III No. 2, top-seeded Ottawa Glandorf or the 11 seed Elmwood Feb. 29.

On the other side of the bracket, 6 seed Paulding faces 10 seed Bluffton while the seventh-seeded Coldwater hosts ninth-seeded Van Buren.

The winner of the latter game will face third-seeded Jefferson and the former will face No. 2 seed Allen East.

The district championship is to be played on March 2.

Acheson leads

FORT RECOVERY — Lucas Acheson threw his best game of the season as the Fort Recovery boys bowling team fell to the Coldwater Cavaliers 3,236-3,048 at Miracle Lanes on Saturday.

Acheson opened the day with a season-high 278 pin game. He followed it up with 212 pins in the second for an average of 245 pins.

Austin Steinbrunner's average pinfall also broke 200 as he rolled games of 237 and 198.

Nate Jutte and Evan Keller put together strong days as well with 198 and 188.5 averages.

Riley Grieshop (233 pins) and Owen Knapke (177 pins) both threw only one game each.

The Indians finish matchplay with an overall record of 7-4 and a conference 4-3 record in conference to finish fourth in the Midwest Athletic Conference.

Fort Recovery will finish the regular season by hosting the MAC tournament on Friday before the sectional tournament.

Three state cuts

The Jay County Winter Swim Club finished up its season with a first-place finish for the girls and second for the boys at the

Super Sunday Invite at Jay County High School.

The girls scored 741 points to blow away the Cardinal Community Swim Club, who had 198. The boys tallied 190 points, but Oak Hill's 419 points secured the win.

Carsyn Guggenbiller made state cuts in both the 50-yard and 100-yard backstroke. Times of 37 seconds (1.39 seconds faster than the state standard) and 1 minute, 22.39 seconds (0.7 seconds faster than the state standard) respectively earned first place in each event and earned a trip to the state meet at IUPUI on March 15-17. Guggenbiller ended as the high point winner in the 9-and-10-year-old division.

See Roundup page 7

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
FRIDAY February 16TH, 2024
TIME 4:30 P.M.
LOCATED: 4023 S 800 W,
Redkey IN
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.
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.
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90 SALE CALENDAR

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260-726-5587
Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
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Located: Bulp Exhibition Hall, Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 E Votaw St., Portland, IN
Saturday Morning February 10th, 2024 9:30 A.M.
ANTIQUES - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS
National Mazda lamp display; Tiffin Glass "Parrot" lamp; blue copper lustre Ironstone coffee pot; Maytag engine; Replicate German Nazi dagger with sheath; Replicate German Nazi long dagger/sword; CROCKS & STONEWARE; Weeden Vertical steam engine; 4 pc. Howdy Doody plastic figurines; DB Wann toy plastic fire truck with ladder; 1929 Geneva Convention Red Cross arm band; PLANES: Sandusky #145 plow; Stanley #80 scraper, Stanley #5 corrugated bottom, Lakeside #4 and Derickson-Fuller #55 molding; cast iron bronze pig bank; Grant nail puller; tobacco tins; and many other items not listed.
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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:
NEDRA K. HOUGH
No. 38CO1-2401-ES-000001
NOTICE OF
ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Zec Landers was, on the 10th day of January, 2024, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Nedra K. Hough deceased, who died on August 9, 2023.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 25th 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 1-30,2-6-2024-HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
By virtue of a certified copy of a Judgment and Decree to me delivered from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of White County, Indiana, in Cause No: 38CO1-2311-MF-000025, wherein
FIRST FINANCIAL BANK
Plaintiff,
v.
UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF
GREGORY L. DOTSON, MICHELE D. DOTSON,
UNKNOWN OCCUPANT, AND NICHOLAS FINANCIAL, INC.
Defendants.
CAUSE NO: 38CO1-2311-MF-000025
I will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder on the 7th day of March, 2024 at 10:00 AM on said day at the Jay County Courthouse, 120 N. Court Street, Suite 305, Portland, IN 47371, Jay County, Indiana, the fee simple title together with the rents, profits, issues and income or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, interest, cost and accruing cost of the following described Real Estate, to-wit:
LOT NUMBER SEVENTEEN (17) AND EIGHTEEN (18) IN BLOCK NUMBER THIRTY-FOUR (34) IN THE TOWN, NOW CITY OF DUNKIRK, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK A, PAGE 120 IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF JAY COUNTY, INDIANA
More commonly known as 215 E. Commerce Street, Dunkirk, IN 47336
Tax No. 38-09-08-104-112.000-014 (Lot 17) and 38-09-08-104-116.000-014. (Lot 18)
The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein.
Subject to all liens, encumbrances, rights of redemption, easements and restrictions of record not otherwise foreclosed and extinguished in the proceedings known as Cause #38CO1-2311-MF-000025 in the Circuit Court of the County of Jay, Indiana and subject to all real estate taxes, and assessments currently due, delinquent or which are to become a lien.
Said sale to be without relief from valuation or appraisal laws. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.
Larry R. Newton Jr., Deputy
JAY COUNTY SHERIFF
Michael E. Anderson, #26001-45
Attorney for Plaintiff
ANDERSON & ANDERSON, P.C.
9211 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46410
(219) 769-1892
CR 2-6,13,20-2024-HSPAXLP

Champ ...

Continued from page 8
“You kind of get on a roll there and you want everything to go right for you. We’ve got some places where we want to improve, but solid really for our guys.”
Wood, who is undefeated at 40-0 and ranked fourth in the state, was never challenged in his quest for school history. All three of his matches ended in the first period as he pinned Kayden Manning (15-18) of Winchester in 1 minute, 17 seconds, in the opening round and Jarin Frauhiger (31-11) of Southern Wells in 39 seconds in the semifinal. He caught ninth-ranked Justin Boone (33-3) of Yorktown with a single-leg takedown 19 seconds into the championship match and finished him off at the 1:29 mark.
“I knew I just had to go straight on him and attack him,” said Wood, a three-time state qualifier who was seventh in the state at 138 last season. “Usually guys want to keep the match close, so I’m just going to score. And if I end up pinning somebody, you take it.”
The regional was a revelation for Rowles.

The senior is a two-time state qualifier and a three-time sectional champion, and had been a combined 94-2 through the sectional tournament in each of his first three seasons — 31-1 as a freshman, 30-1 as a sophomore and a perfect 33-0 last year. This season had been rough by his standards as he entered the regional at 25-9.
Struggle turned to celebration Saturday as Rowles got an early takedown against fifth-ranked and undefeated Neal Mosier in the semifinal. After Mosier got an escape early in the second period, Rowles caught him in his patented headlock, pinned him and turned to the Jay County fan base with both arms raised in victory.
He got Bradin Daniels, who he had lost to in the sectional championship match, in a headlock as well, but the Union City junior slipped out of it for a reversal and a 2-2 tie in the regional championship match. Daniels rode out Rowles in the second period, but the Patriot senior was able to throw Daniels to the

mat 20 seconds into the third period en route to a pin in 4:43.
“That was pretty awesome,” said Rowles. “I’ve been dying to get that all week. ...
“I mentally prepared myself this time. Last time, I just wasn’t in it mentally. This time I just made sure no matter what I was going to keep wrestling. And I did. And I just didn’t give up. ...
“It feels great. I’m so happy. I knew all week I could do it.”
He said he’s had a tough time adjusting to his asthma — he developed the chronic lung disease this year — and related illnesses. He also admitted to not being fully focused.
“This year I kind of mentally checked out for most of it, ready for baseball season,” said Rowles. “That loss at sectionals woke me up. And I decided I’m not done yet.”
Byrum (32-5) earned his first career semi-state berth at 106 pounds as he pinned his way to the finals with wins over Brennen Lanter (21-12) of Winchester in 48 seconds and Myles Kaehr (31-9) of Adams Central in 56 sec-

onds. In the championship match, top-ranked Jensen Boyd (35-0) of Delta put Byrum to his back in 49 seconds and ended the match 16 seconds later.
Wenk (36-3) earned his third trip to the semi-state by pinning Cowan’s Peyton Keppler (15-16) in 1:10 in the opening round at 190. He pinned Monroe Central’s Jerimiah Ullom (36-3) with nine seconds remaining in the first period of the semifinal before falling to Adams Central’s No. 15 Trevor Currie (37-4) in the championship match for the second straight week, 8-4.
Ortiz (23-8) fought off Yorktown’s Wyatt Roach (10-9) for a 4-2 decision in the opening period. He lost to No. 3 Keagan Martin (41-1) of Belmont, the eventual champion, by a second-period pin in the semifinal round before bouncing back to beat Norwell’s Ethan Michael (20-17) by an 8-6 score in overtime to secure third place.
Jacob Robinson (29-10) and Juaquin Flores (27-11) each won their opening-round match before dropping their next two to

finish in fourth place. Flores advanced thanks to a pin of Monroe Central’s Christian Erwin (19-18) in the 175-pound bracket. Robinson’s victory at 150 was a buzzer beater, as trailing 3-1 he threw Zac Martin (25-5) of Monroe Central to the mat in the final seconds and was awarded not only the two points for a takedown but also a two-point near fall for a 5-3 win.
“Pretty fortunate there,” said Myers. “I thought Jacob could have wrestled a little bit better in that match. He was a little conservative I think, but he was able to go out and get a nice over-under attempt and got it plus the near fall to get that win and stay alive another week. So huge match for him.”
Dropping out of the tournament series for the Patriots with opening-round losses to Yorktown wrestlers were A.J. Heskett (21-15) and Jason Landers (15-8). Heskett lost by a 9-0 major decision to Cole Stoffel (31-8) at 132 pounds while No. 20 Wyatt Hoppes (31-6) pinned Landers in 1:12 in the 144-pound bracket.

Rally ...

Continued from page 8
Huntington North’s relay team was nearly a second faster than two days earlier. The Patriots surpassed that, as Aubrey Millsbaugh, Sophia Hoevel, Maisey Keller and Ariel Beiswanger improved by 2.61 seconds to climb to fifth place while the Vikings slipped to seventh.
Slavik visited the quartet prior to the race to fill them in on the impact their finish would have on the team result.
“I walked over and they were like, ‘We already know,’” he said.
Their coach reiterated that he was just making sure they were ready.
“They said, ‘We’ll do it,’” Slavik said. “And they did.”
“A lot of times these kids, we get to the 400 relay and, I think you saw it with Huntington, they got to the 400 relay and they’re just tired,” he added. “It speaks as a testament to our kids that once they realized we were only up by half a point ... those girls were able to rise up.”
The Patriots have had three swimmers score in the breaststroke in eight consecutive years, including a sweep of the top

three spots by Alex Bader, Vivienne Kunkler and Jamie Valentine in 2017. (The streak would be 16 years, if not for a disqualification in 2016.)
“It’s kind of like Breaststroke High,” said Slavik. “Every year we seem to find three breaststrokers that score. ...
“We’ve had several meets, several sectionals and conferences over the last 15 years that basically came down to the breaststroke event and it’s saved our bacon.”
In addition to her effort in the breaststroke, Snow gave Jay County its best individual finish. She established herself in second place in diving through the preliminaries (five dives) Saturday morning, trailing Delta sophomore Grier Backus by just over 23 points and leading Emerson Meredith of Norwell by less than four. She stayed within 25 points of Backus heading into the finals while extending her second-place advantage to almost 10 points.
Snow, who was happiest with her forward one-and-one-half twist, was able to close the gap in the finals, finishing 19.55 points behind champion Backus with 348.85

points. Delta’s Savanna Condie was third with 240.45, and Meredith earned the final regional spot with 324.65.
“I’m happy with my score,” said Snow, who missed a chunk of the season with an injury. “Being out for six weeks is definitely hard. I think if I had that (time), things might have gone a little bit differently today, just with my score. But I did do a personal best and I’m happy that ... I got to do that.”
Jay County finished fourth in the 200 relays, as Lauren Fisher, Morgan DeHoff and Zion Beiswanger teamed with Avery Wentz to post a time of 2:02.05 in the medley and joined Hoevel to complete the freestyle in 1:49.52.
Fisher jumped two spots from her seed to place fifth in the 100 butterfly in 1:08.42 and Kenzie Huey held her No. 5 seed in the 100 backstroke as she finished in 1:07.94.
Wentz, a sophomore, was the biggest positive mover on the day for Jay County. She climbed two positions in the 100 backstroke to finish in 1:09.29 for sixth place behind Huey and picked up three places in the 200-yard



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School sophomore Maisey Keller swims the second leg of the 400-yard freestyle relay Saturday during the sectional meet. Aubrey Millsbaugh, Zion Beiswanger, Sophia Hoevel and Keller teamed up to place fifth in the event as the Patriots fought off Huntington North for third place overall.

individual medley for Patriots in consolation (11th – 100 butterfly, 13th – 11th place).
Hoevel was eighth in both the 100 freestyle and 200 freestyle, and Millsbaugh finished eighth in the 500 freestyle. Also scoring for the Patriots in consolation races were Millsbaugh (ninth – 200 freestyle), Fisher (12th – 50 freestyle), DeHoff (14th – 200 individual medley), Ariel Beiswanger (11th – 500 freestyle, 13th – 200 freestyle), Hannah Laux (11th – 100 butterfly, 13th – 200 individual medley), Fisher (12th – 50 freestyle), DeHoff (14th – 200 individual medley), and Keller (16th – 100 butterfly) and Keller (16th – 100 freestyle).

Roundup ...

Continued from page 6
She was also on the medley relay that made the state cut. Sophie Warvel, Isabelle Byrum and Addisyn Champ joined Guggenbiller to swim a 2:31.48, 2.21 seconds faster than the state standard.
Runkle leads
NOBLESVILLE — Carlie Runkle earned the highest finish for the JC flipsters at the Money Madness invitational Saturday.
Runkle had second-place finishes on the bars (9.6 points) and on the floor (9.55 points) to push her to the second highest all around score of 37.2 points in the bronze xcel division. She also finished fifth in the vault

with 9.05 points and a score of 9.0 was good for sixth on the balance beam.
The bronze division also produced the only first-place finish as Brinley Steury captured the top spot in the floor competition, also with 9.55 points.
The next best overall finish came from Jordyn Champ in the gold xcel division. Champ finished second in the vault (9.0) and third on the floor (9.4) to score a bulk of her 36.3 all around score that placed third.
Eden Lee led the silver division for the Flipsters. Lee’s best finish came on the floor with 9.65 points as she tallied enough points for sixth all around (36.55).

Sports on tap

Local schedule
Today
Jay County — Diving at Fort Wayne Southside – 6 p.m.; Junior high girls swimming at Norwell – 5 p.m.; Junior high wrestling at Driver – 6:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Middle school boys basketball at Minster – 5 p.m.
TV sports
Today
6:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Rutgers at Maryland (BTN); DePaul at St. John’s (FS1)
7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Clemson at North Carolina (ESPN); Oklahoma State at Houston (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Brooklyn Nets (TNT)
8:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Butler at UConn (FS1)
8:30 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Maryland at Rutgers (BTN)
9 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Texas Tech at Baylor (ESPN); Charlotte at South Florida (ESPN2)

10 p.m. — NBA: Milwaukee Bucks at Phoenix Suns (TNT)
10:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: San Diego State at Air Force (FS1)
11 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: St. Mary’s at Pacific (ESPN2)
Wednesday
7 p.m. — NHL: Tampa Bay Lightning at New York Rangers (TNT)
7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Alabama at Auburn (ESPN2); Wisconsin at Michigan (BTN); Villanova at Xavier (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Golden State Warriors at Philadelphia 76ers (ESPN)
8 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Murray State at Belmont (Bally Indiana)
9 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Nebraska at Northwestern (BTN); Texas A&M at Missouri (ESPN2)
9 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Georgetown at Marquette (FS1)
9:30 p.m. — NHL: Minnesota Wild at Chicago Blackhawks (TNT)
10 p.m. — NBA: New Orleans Pelicans at Los Angeles Clippers (ESPN)

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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

Sports

4-time champ

JC's Wood finishes sweep while Rowles awakes at regional

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Tony Wood was chasing an accomplishment that had never been achieved in 49 seasons of Patriot wrestling.

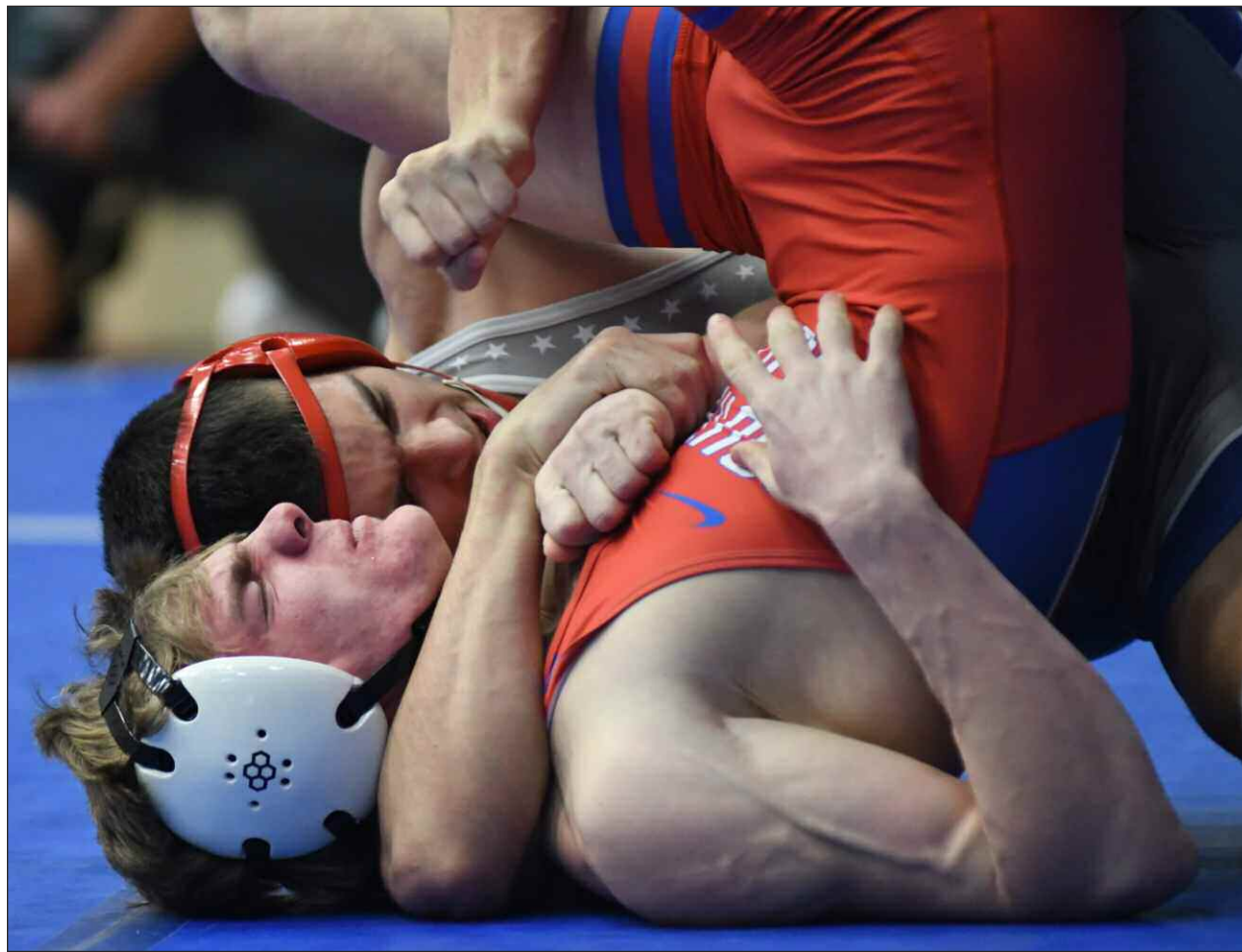
It only took him 3 minutes, 49 seconds, to attain it.

Wood made his career sweep of regional championships seem almost easy Saturday and classmate Cody Rowles rediscovered his spark as they led a group of seven semi-state qualifiers for host Jay County High School.

"It feels really good," said Wood. "It just feels good to win four. It's always a good thing to win."

"It's really cool to be a Jay County Patriot. I love it," added the four-time sectional champion and four-time Allen County Athletic Conference champion. "I think it's cool to be a part of history. My name's going to be on the wall forever."

Bryce Wenk and Griffin Byrum finished as regional runners-up, Alan Ortiz placed third and Juaquin Flores and Jacob Robinson each took fourth as the Class 2A No. 4 Patriots were third with 107 points. (The top four wrestlers in each weight class



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School's Tony Wood pins Jarin Frauhiger (30-9) of Southern Wells during their regional semifinal match Saturday. Wood, who is undefeated and ranked fifth in the state, went on to pin Yorktown's No. 9 Justin Boone (31-2) in the finals to become the Patriots' first four-time wrestling regional champion.

advance to the semi-state tournament.)

Class 2A No. 1 Delta (No. 5 overall) claimed the regional title with 143.5 points ahead of

Class 2A No. 2 Bellmont State (No. 14 overall). The loaded regional field also included Class 1A No. 2

Adams Central (105) in fourth ahead of Class 1A

No. 4 Cowan (60.5) and Class 1A No. 6 South Adams (43) amongst a field of 17 teams.

"Not bad," said Myers, whose team won the

regional and had eight semi-state qualifiers a year ago. "Seven out of nine. We wrestled pretty well."

See **Champ** page 7

Late rally

Breaststroke brings Jay back, 400 relay team locks up third

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Breaststroke has long been a strength for the Patriots.

They had won the event in eight consecutive sectionals. That streak was broken Saturday, but their depth in the race still came through.

By placing three swimmers in the top eight of their favorite event, the Patriots edged ahead of Huntington North for third place. The 400-yard freestyle relay team finished the job.

With a fifth-place finish in the final event — two spots ahead of the Vikings — Jay County High School's girls swim team locked in a 4.5-point advantage Saturday to place third in the sectional for the third year in a row.

"Our breaststrokers brought us back to up a half a point and then our 400 relay dropped three seconds to win (third place) for us," said JCHS coach Matt Slavik. "I think everybody kind of assumed we were going to end up fourth until the breaststroke."

"We had a great day today," he added. "We had a great sectional run. ...

"I can't speak highly enough about all these kids' improvement. ... We had a lot of great times today. ...

"All in all, I'm super proud of these girls. Third place was the best I could hope for given the competition we had today."

Junior Maddy Snow, who was part of the breaststroke comeback, is the lone Patriot whose season will continue after she finished as the diving runner-up. (The winner of each swimming event moves on to the state finals while the top four divers move on to the regional.) She will compete in the diving regional at 6 p.m. Tuesday at South Side in Fort Wayne.

Delta took first place in 11 out of 12 events — Bluffton freshman Gabriella Coyne broke the Eagles' dominance in the 100-yard breaststroke — to repeat as the sectional champion with 468 points, 70 more than runner-up Norwell. Host JCHS followed with 265, just ahead of Huntington North's 260.5.

Jay County trailed the Vikings by nearly 20 points with just two events remaining but, as has regularly been the case for the Patriots, the breaststroke changed the complexion of the meet.

With senior Zion Beiswanger climbing one spot from her No. 5 seed to finish fourth in 1 minute, 15.94 seconds, junior Morgan DeHoff taking sixth in 1:17.75 and Snow placing 12th in 1:22.31, JCHS vaulted into the No. 3 spot by a half-point over the Vikings. That left the Patriots needing to finish ahead of Huntington North — they were sixth and fifth, respectively, in the 400 freestyle relay Thursday — in the final race in order to hold on to third place overall.

See **Rally** page 7



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Running away

Patriots can't quiet Cameron Runner as they fall by one in sectional championship

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

YORKTOWN — The Patriots needed to play near perfectly if they wanted to break through for their first sectional championship in 18 years and take down their top-ranked opponent.

They nearly did and had a shot at the end to tie it, but the Patriots couldn't break through.

The No. 1 Hamilton Heights' defense locked down the 3-point line at the end of the IHSAA Class 3A Sectional 24 championship game at Yorktown on Saturday to claim a 37-36 victory over the Jay County High School girls basketball, win its fourth straight sectional championship and eliminate the Patriots for the fourth year in a row.

"Our group just left it all out on the floor," JCHS coach Sherri McIntire said. "We came out mentally focused, we were confident and we thought it was our time to win a sectional. I can't be any more proud of the leadership our seniors brought, just like they have all season."

"We had a good game plan and for the most part it worked. Obviously we lost, but I thought our kids executed the game plan well. I couldn't have asked for anything more out of our kids."

Jay County (22-3) outplayed Hamilton Heights (23-2) in nearly every way.

The result was a chance to tie and force overtime at the end.

Down one point with less than a minute left, Hallie Schwieterman had to foul Cameron Runner to put her on the line and

extend the game. The Huskies' leading scorer knocked down both shots and put her team up 37-34 with 34.6 seconds left.

The Patriots quickly got the ball up the floor and called a timeout with 30.3 seconds left to draw up a play. After stopping the initial look, Runner fouled Molly Muhlenkamp with 10 seconds left for a baseline-out-of-bounds play.

Jay County ran one of its regular sets that has Schwieterman inbound the ball and then rush to the opposite corner as the ball is swung around the perimeter. Hadleigh Cherry tagged Schwieterman as she went to the corner and Cassidy Schakel popped out as well to run the freshman off the 3-point line.

With time running out, all she could do was drive the lane and hope to draw a foul for a chance at a three-point play. The Huskies backed off, allowing the layup to go through uncontested with three seconds left and then let the clock run out.

"We had the three-point lead and she had taken her final timeout, so we knew they were going to be in a tough spot to stop the clock," HHS coach Keegan Cherry said. "So we just talked about if we could guard, guard, guard and give up the two, we could be real deliberate taking the ball out of bounds to see if that clock couldn't run out. ...

"Our defense really stepped up in the second half."

To even be in that position, Jay County had to play nearly flawlessly.

See **Running** page 6