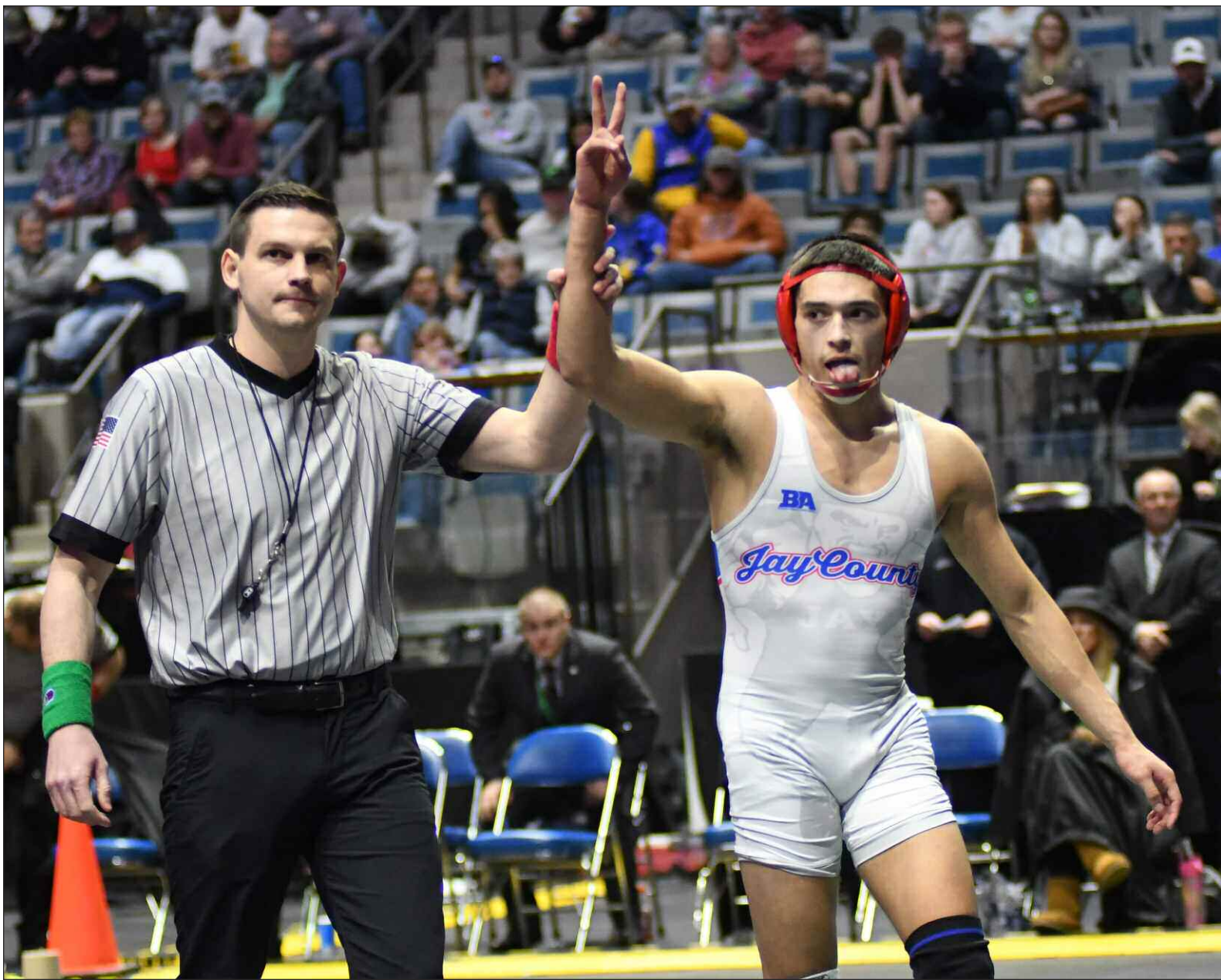


The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Two-time champion

Jay County High School senior Tony Wood holds up two fingers while the referee raises his arm in victory after he beat Eastside's 12th-ranked Linkin Carter 5-0 in the 138-pound semi-state championship match Saturday at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne. Wood, who is now undefeated at 44-0 and ranked fourth in the state, repeated as the semi-state champ. He and classmate Cody Rowles earned berths in the state tournament, which will be held Friday and Saturday at the Ford Center in Evansville. For more on the semi-state, see page 8.

Pacts OK'd for new solar facility

Hodson facility planned east of Dunkirk

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

The newest addition to the list of solar farms under development in Jay County is gaining traction.

Jay County Commissioners approved economic development, road use and decommissioning agreements with Hodson Energy during a meeting Monday.

The company is planning New Jay Solar, 220-acre solar facility in Richland Township east of Dunkirk. Jay County Council approved a 10-year tax abatement with Hodson Energy in January. Per the agreement, the company will have 100% of property taxes abated over the entirety of the 10-year period, saving Hodson Energy \$4.4 million in property taxes.

As negotiated, the company will provide \$2.516 million in economic development funds to Jay County over four years — about \$629,000 annually estimated to start in 2028.

County attorney Wes Schemenaur explained Hodson Energy's development plan still needs to be reviewed by Jay County Plan Commission, which is waiting on a few appointments from Jay County Council and Portland. Once new members are assigned to the commission, it will need to meet for its first (organizational) meeting prior to discussion about the solar farm. Jay County Plan Commission will need to find Hodson Energy compliant with the current solar ordinance and approve its plan in order for the project to advance.

See Solar page 2

State has a nursing shortage

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana doesn't have enough nurses to meet growing demands, with thousands of openings across the health care industry. By the end of the decade an estimated one-in-four Hoosiers will be retirement age or older, a population that has more health needs and more complicated care.

Estimates predict that Indiana would need an additional 5,000 nurses by 2031, equal to graduating an additional 1,300 nurses

each year until that time, according to the Indiana Hospital Association.

A nationwide nursing shortage has spurred states to take action, with some investing \$125 million to lure students to the profession and other states providing a living allowance alongside child care benefits.

In Indiana, those types of additions are still in the hands of employers and legislator attention remains fixed on widening the pipeline of students and adding licensing flexibilities.

Building upon the passage of a 2022 nursing bill, House Bill 1259 seeks to continue expanding the nursing workforce by addressing foreign-educated nursing licensure requirements and on-the-ground training.

"We changed policy a couple of years ago ... and then we found that these bottlenecks still existed," said Rep. Brad Barrett, the author. "I think it's great, legislatively, to put something in place, watch it in action, identify a couple of bottlenecks and then address those. (House Bill 1259)

was just following up on this real intent to increase the nursing workforce."

While most of the bill received glowing support in testimony, one issue was a bit of a sticking point for nurses working in clinical settings: language striking minimums for preceptors, or licensed nurses supervising students during rotation. Previously, preceptors needed 18 months of experience before they could be drafted to teach and mentor the next generation.

See Shortage page 2

More strikes launched

By MICHAEL HEATH,
ETHAN BRONNER
and FADWA HODALI
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Israel launched more airstrikes on Rafah early Monday morning and freed two hostages, as international condemnation grows over a potential ground attack on the southern Gaza city, where more than one million people have sought refuge from the war against Hamas.

The hostages were freed overnight during a special-forces mission in Rafah. The men, both Israeli, have been transferred to Israel and are in good medical condition, the military said.

Israel launched "a series of strikes" on the Shaboura district of Rafah, the military said. Dozens of people have died so far, Palestinian media reported, citing health officials in Gaza.

The strikes came after U.S. President Joe Biden urged Israeli Prime Minis-

Condemnation grows over potential ground attack

ter Benjamin Netanyahu to do more to shield civilians. Israel, Biden said, shouldn't push into Rafah without a "credible and executable plan" for their safety and support.

Netanyahu spoke to Biden on Sunday and said Israel was working on a plan to move civilians out the area.

"Those who say that under no circumstances should we enter Rafah are basically saying: 'Lose the war, keep Hamas there,'" Netanyahu told American news channel ABC. "We are not going to let Hamas emerge victorious."

The U.S. as well as European and Arab states have

strongly criticized Israel for preparing to move ground forces into the city, which sits near Gaza's border with Egypt.

Around half of Gaza's 2.3 million people fled to or near Rafah at the start of the war, when Israeli forces concentrated on northern areas including Gaza City. More recently, the army has mainly focused on Khan Younis, a city to the north of Rafah.

Last week, Biden said Israel's offensive on Gaza had been "over the top" and that there were "a lot of innocent people who are starving."

"It's got to stop," he said.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Staying focused

Brakella Sturgill of the Jay County Junior High School band keeps her eyes on the director while playing the flute Sunday during the Winter Pops Concert. The seventh and eighth graders performed "Colliding Visions" and "Castles and Dragons." They later returned to join the high school band for a performance of "Crazy for Cartoons."

Deaths

Winifred Marchal, 83, Celina, Ohio
Mary Link, 69, Bryant
James Gilbert, 69, Portland
Carolyn Obringer, 88, Fort Recovery
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 43 degrees on Super Bowl Sunday. The low was 27.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the mid 20s. Expect mostly sunny skies Wednesday with a high in the mid 40s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County High School's Patriot Edition show choir finished second in mixed division - tier II Saturday at the Carol Classic 2024.

The JCHS co-ed group trailed only Knight Moves of Norwell, which also won awards for best vocals, choreography, bass soloist and treble soloist.

Just Treble of Jay County was third in the treble division behind

Center Grove's Debtone and Norwell's Knight Stars.

On Feb. 3, the JCHS winter guard placed fifth in Regional A Class at the Indiana High School Color Guard Association contest at Anderson. The group's 56.62 points put it behind Crawfordsville (59.82), Northwestern (58.4), Anderson (57.7) and Mitchell (57.3).

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Obituaries

Winifred Marchal

Winifred Marchal, 83, Celina, Ohio, a former Salamina resident, died Thursday at Celina Manor.

Arrangements are pending at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland

Mary Link

March 22, 1954-Feb. 11, 2024

Mary A. Link, 69, of Bryant, Indiana, passed away peacefully at her home on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024.

She was born on March 22, 1954, in Coldwater, Ohio, to the late Joseph and Eva (Borger) Weitzel.

Mary is survived by her hus-

band, James Link, whom she married on July 1, 1995; her children, Linus (Tina) Brunswick of Coldwater, Brenda (Don) Wendel of Fort Recovery, and Keith "Homer" (Melissa) Brunswick of Portland; her stepchildren, Lori Link of Marion, Indiana, Jennifer (Troy) Emery of Bryant, Cindy (Chris) Ulrich of Lillian, Alabama, and Jimmy (Sarah) Link of Portland; her 20 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; her siblings, Ken Weitzel of Celina, Ohio, Marilyn (Jerry) Vogel of Fort Recovery, Ron Weitzel of Fort Recovery, Jim (Linda) Weitzel of Fort Recovery, and Barb (Steve) Schlarman of St. Henry, Ohio;

and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Mary was preceded in death by her first husband, James Brunswick; and her sister, Patricia Heitkamp.

Mary was a 1972 graduate of Fort Recovery High School. She spent her life as a homemaker, raising her beloved family. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Portland. In her free time, Mary enjoyed playing cards, going to the casino and gambling, playing scratch-off tickets and mowing the yard. Being a mother and raising a beautiful family was one of Mary's proudest accomplishments.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 16, 2024, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Portland. Burial will follow in St. Henry Catholic Cemetery.

Guests may visit with Mary's family on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024, from 3 to 8 p.m. and again on Friday from 8:30 to 9 a.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery.

Memorial contributions may be given to Heart to Heart Hospice, 2701 W. Jackson St., Muncie, IN 47303.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockmanboeckmanfh.com.

James "Bimbo" Gilbert, Portland,

Oct. 8, 1954-Feb. 6, 2024. Services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

Carolyn Ann Obringer, Fort Recovery, Feb. 11, 1935-Feb. 10, 2024. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at St. Peter Catholic Church.

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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 2/14	Thursday 2/15	Friday 2/16	Saturday 2/17	Sunday 2/18
44/34	44/26	36/24	33/21	38/28
Mostly sunny on Wednesday, with a slight chance of rain at night.	There's a 70% chance of rain on Thursday morning. The low at night may hit the mid to upper 20s.	There's a 20% chance of snow or rain on Friday, when the high will be around 36 degrees.	Another low chance of snow on Saturday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high of 33.	Sunny skies are on the horizon for Sunday, when the high will be 38 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$270 million	67-70-71-73-75-79-80 Cash 5: 2-10-27-41-45 Estimated jackpot: \$472,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$425 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 5-4-0 Pick 4: 6-8-7-9 Pick 5: 6-9-4-6-2 Evening Pick 3: 5-4-0 Pick 4: 1-5-4-5 Pick 5: 1-0-2-3-9 Rolling Cash 5: 9-26-30-36-37 Estimated jackpot: \$279,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 4-6-1 Daily Four: 2-8-8-7 Evening Daily Three: 9-4-0 Daily Four: 4-3-0-3 Quick Draw: 5-8-16-20-23-24-25-30-36-44-47-53-64	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.34 March corn4.32 Wheat4.70	March beans11.80 Wheat 5.60
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.35 March corn4.37 April corn4.39	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.17 March corn4.19 Beans.....11.81 March beans11.84 Wheat5.59
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.24 March corn4.24 Beans11.80	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.32 March corn4.40 Beans.....11.60 March beans11.11 Wheat5.30

Today in history

In 1689, William and Mary became king and queen of England, ruling as William III and Mary II. Their rule came after the Glorious Revolution.

In 1861, American Lincoln was named as the next United States president in Washington, D.C.

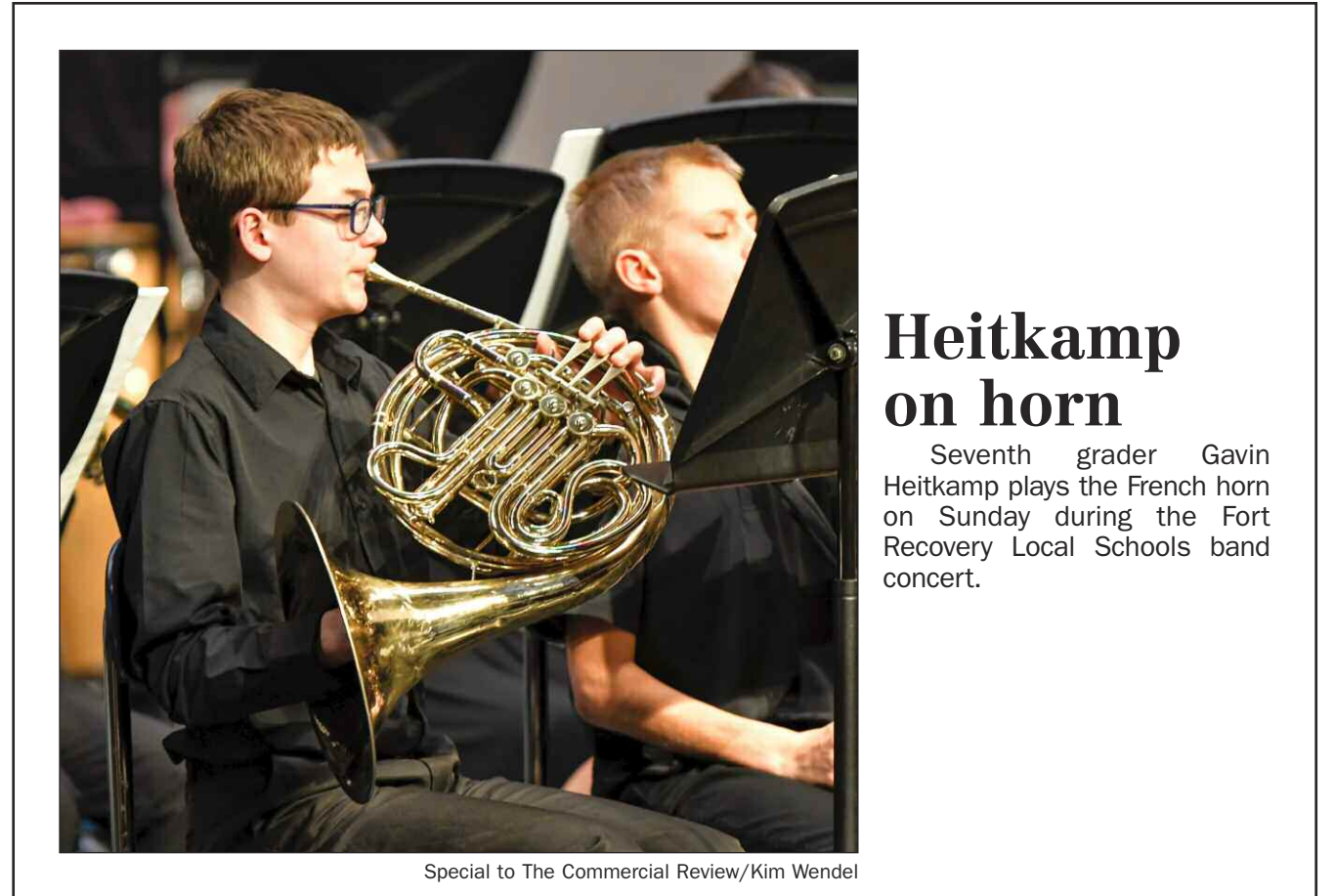
In 1914, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers formed in New York city. It started to protect the rights of the works of its members, such as composers, songwriters, lyricists and music publishers.

In 1935, Bruno Hauptmann was convicted for abducting and killing the 20-month-old son of aviator Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh. He was sentenced to death for the act, which was later termed as "The Crime of the Century."

In 2000, the last "Peanuts" comic strip was published hours before the death of its creator, Charles Schulz. — The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 10 a.m. — Jay County Jail Building Corporation, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	tive session, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.
Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North. 6 p.m. — Pennville Town Council execu-	Thursday 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 S. Mooney St. 6 p.m. — Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
Monday 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	



Special to The Commercial Review/Kim Wendel

Heitkamp on horn

Seventh grader Gavin Heitkamp plays the French horn on Sunday during the Fort Recovery Local Schools band concert.

Solar ...

Continued from page 1
Answering a question from commissioners president Chad Aker, Schemenaur said commissioners did not have to wait for plan commission's decision to move forward with the three agreements.

Commissioner Brian McGalliard noted Hodson Energy marks the fourth solar farm planned for Jay County in coming years. (Other facilities on the horizon are Skycrest Solar from Invenergy, Rose Gold Solar from Leeward Renewable Energy and Sun Chief Solar from Scout Clean Energy.) He pointed out slow progress with the other farms, which have not yet started construction.

"How many (are) going to be enough?" he asked.

Schemenaur noted the county could impose a moratorium if it desires, postponing future solar farm development plans until the current projects are complete. McGalliard and commissioner Rex Journey both voiced support — they took no formal action Monday — on looking into a moratorium.

"That's my main concern, is we don't (have) a single one built and operating yet," said McGalliard.

"I think you're correct. I think it's something that we need to consider until we get, as you said, until we get something built," added Journey.

In related news, local resident Stan Pitman noted his son's property is located in the middle of the land set out for Hodson Energy's solar farm. He explained their home

will be bordered on three sides by the farm and said they had learned about the project from coverage in The Commercial Review. He asked why they hadn't yet been notified by the county or company about the development.

Schemenaur explained a public hearing was hosted prior to council's approval of the tax abatement in January, as required by law. (Public notice about the meeting was also advertised in the newspaper.) Residents or property owners living in the area should be notified by mail of the project prior to Jay County Plan Commission's public hearing on the matter, he added.

.....
For more commissioners news, see Wednesday's newspaper.

Shortage ...

Continued from page 1
The new law has no minimum requirement.

Rep. Cindy Ledbetter, a nurse practitioner with a doctorate, cautioned against the move, saying unprepared nurses would be given to students to address a shortage.

"My concern is you have a brand new nurse and the hospital requires them to precept and they're not ready to translate what they've learned in the classroom themselves into a real-world scenario," said Ledbetter, R-Newburgh. "(I'm concerned) that we're going to ... lose more nurses on the other end."

Barrett said that it was in hospitals' and other employers' best interest to identify and assign good preceptors, not just anyone with 18 months of experience.

"Does period of time served automatically qualify you to be a good preceptor? I think quite the contrary; I think preceptors should be chosen by merit and not by time," said Barrett, R-Richmond. "I think it opens up the field ... you

could be in any profession for five years and not be a good preceptor. You can be in the game for six months and be a wonderful preceptor."

"This is a may provision that gives the hospitals the ability to pick the right person for the right situation," he continued.

On the other hand, foreign-born nurses help ease the shortages for some health care providers but recruitment can be lengthy and expensive, especially under a federal visa regression that delays processing and limits applications.

State barriers include requiring an English proficiency exam — even when an interview and clinical examination determine fluency — and using CGFNS International, Inc. as the sole entity to review visas when other states rely on multiple credentialing organizations.

The language on foreign-educated nurses has already been approved by the Senate in a separate omnibus health care bill.

Matilde S. Upano, a reg-

istered nurse and president of the Philippine Nurses Association of Indiana, said CGFNS reported that 60.8% of their nearly 27,000 visa screenings are Filipino. She testified in support of both the Senate and House bills addressing foreign-educated nurses.

"We really need to streamline the licensure requirements for foreign-educated nurses. Right now, we have a critical shortage," Upano said in the Senate. "We have to compete with 50 other states to recruit nurses to Indiana. If we have them come in sooner, then we would be in a better position to ease the shortage and have qualified nurses who will deliver safe (care) to our Hoosiers."

.....
This story was edited for length. To read the full version, visit indianacapitalchronicle.com.

SERVICES

Wednesday

Gilbert, James: 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Thursday

Obringer, Carolyn: 10:30 a.m., St. Peter Catholic Church, 1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery.

Friday

Link, Mary: 10 a.m., Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 506 E. Walnut St., Portland.

March 2

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

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Carryout

Area native, military man launches column

Editor's note: James Fulks will be one of a rotation of columnists who will fill this space following the retirement of Diana Dolecki. James has been a regular letter to the editor writer over the years and submitted a sample column following our call out last month. He will be joined in the rotation by former sports editor Chris Schanz and others over the next several weeks.

Fulksy Mayhem



little burgh of New Pittsburgh on the Jay/Randolph county line. The parents who adopted me, when I was 0.8 months old, owned property on both sides of the county line, however the houses they owned were all actually in the thriving metropolis of actual New Pittsburgh, which placed them in Randolph County.

Adoption records were sealed in those days, so interestingly I'm one of those oddities who have never met, and have no

knowledge of, my birth/biological family. In those days, New Pittsburgh had, to a little boy, a truly magical little general store and grocery.

The little store had one gas pump out on the front porch, a glass-front meat and deli cheese case, and a glass-front cooler with the old glass bottles of Choc-O-La.

The one you had to shake up vigorously before opening, because the chocolate was all settled in the bottom of the bottle when you picked them up.

I really loved that small-town store and the warm, loving lady we called Laury-Alice who would give me slices of Longhorn colby cheese and Eckrich pickle loaf and Marhoffer bologna right

off of the stainless steel slicer on the deli case.

Back then, Jay and Randolph counties had dozens of such little grocery and general stores scattered all over. Today, as I write this, Jay County has literally not one true, stand-alone, real, actual grocery store.

Progress? Hmmm? But that's a subject for a future submission.

After Dad passed away, Mom sold the houses and acreage in and around New Pittsburgh and eventually purchased the place that I still call home here in Jay County.

When we moved here, we had a Dunkirk address, a Redkey telephone landline that was also a six party — "party line" meaning we had no private telephone line and it was common to

pick up the phone to place a call and hear other folks' very private conversations, which today would be unthinkable.

I graduated from the still relatively new consolidated Jay County High School after attending Redkey elementary and West Jay junior high school, which at the time I went was still being housed in the former Dunkirk High School building.

I departed for active duty in the United States Navy soon after graduation and served as a tower and radar FAA-licensed air traffic controller aboard the USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63).

After my honorable discharge from U.S. Navy active duty, I eventually returned home to rural Jay County.

Today, if you've attended any of Redkey's annual Memorial Day ceremonies over the last 34-plus years, no doubt you have heard me speak. Or maybe we have crossed paths at one of the many military honor guard graveside burial details I have served alongside fellow veterans with over the years.

I will continue to serve in this capacity for as long as I am physically able.

Moving forward, I trust I can pique your interest with what I submit to these columns.

I'll see you in the papers, for the select few of us who actually still like to read a physical newspaper.

It is my sincere hope that The Fourth Estate will not pass into history in my lifetime.

Cash gift from in-laws wounds man's pride

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law on my wife's side stayed a week and a half with us in Florida. I love her, and we had a lovely visit. She has stayed with us before, alone and with my brother-in-law. We welcome them with open arms. Family means a lot to us.

Now to the problem: After she left, I found an envelope with a thank-you card and \$200 in it. I feel insulted, as they are always welcome here. We are not a B&B.

We have a nice home, but my wife was complaining about money issues in front of our company. We are going through a rough patch, but we are not broke or destitute. Compared to us, my in-laws are wealthy.

My ego is bruised. We are better off than most people and are blessed with all we do have. I want to send the money back with a gracious thank-you note, but my wife says no. I am angry with her as well. Was she out of line for not keeping our money

issue sure and time again, and I'm not sure how to deal with it. If I'm invited to dinner with a friend or a group, when the bill comes, someone usually suggests splitting it evenly. My issue is that my water and my salad come out to an average of \$30, including the tip. Meanwhile, other members of the group order several alcoholic beverages, which in Los Angeles aren't cheap.

What's a polite way of expressing that I would like to pay only my portion of the bill? I don't want to seem cheap, but fair is fair. — SOBER AND SMART IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR SOBER AND SMART: I agree that fair is fair. That's why, the next time you go to a restaurant with friends, you should ask your server IN ADVANCE for a separate check. If your companions ask why, explain the obvious — that you are a teetotaler and prefer not to pay for alcoholic

beverages you haven't consumed.

DEAR READERS: On Dec. 6, I published a letter from "Lost in Louisiana," whose daughter's fiancé canceled their wedding three days prior to the event "because she's bisexual." The parent was worried about her daughter's new choices in female partners and upset that she had lied, and requested her daughter not bring these women around. After responding to the letter, I heard from members of the LGBTQ+ community — in particular, bisexual people — saying I "could have done better" with my response.

I have since learned that the bisexual community is the largest segment of the LGBTQ+ community, the least visible and the most misunderstood. This has contributed to perpetuating the myth that bisexuality is a halfway point between straight

and gay, a "stepping-stone" to people coming out as lesbian or gay, or an identity people claim in order to deny being lesbian or gay. NOT TRUE. Being bisexual simply means that the person has the capacity to be attracted to people of different genders. And because one is bisexual does not mean they cannot be monoga-

mous. I regret that I didn't point out to the parents that their unsupportive response may be a reason their daughter had not come out to them as bisexual earlier. Further, I could have suggested that to become a safe, loving and affirming presence for their daughter, they educate themselves about bisexuality. If they do, their daughter may be more open to hearing their concerns about her choices in partners, which is less about the gender of those partners and more about their treatment of their daughter.

— LOVE, ABBY

situation private? — FUMING IN FLORIDA

DEAR FUMING: Please don't be angry about the gift, which was given with love. Write the sister-in-law a gracious thank-you note, keep the money and tell her she doesn't need to give you more because your situation isn't dire. I don't think your wife was out of line — I think she was simply chatting with her sister

when she made the remark. DEAR ABBY: I recently celebrated my sixth anniversary of sobriety. I keep having the same

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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.

BRYANT/NEW CORYDON SENIOR CITIZENS — Will meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Bryant Community Center for a carry-in dinner. Meat is provided.

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for

Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE — Holds its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the boardroom at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

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

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

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.

STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and teal is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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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Be kind to honor Valentine bandit

Editor's note: While this editorial originated from another Portland, the residents of any city or town with any name can benefit from its message.

Bangor Daily News (Maine)
Tribune News Service

This will be the first Valentine's Day in decades without the Valentine bandit, the long-unknown person who plastered red hearts around Portland, Maine.

Kevin Fahrman was revealed by his family as the bandit last year after he died in April. He had hung hearts in the Portland area for Valentine's Day since 1979.

"For decades, this mysterious figure warmed the hearts of the city by placing hundreds of red paper hearts on storefronts and

Guest Editorial

notable landmarks, and huge banners in unexpected places," his family said in an obituary. "Kevin's simple yet powerful gesture brought joy and love to the community, reminding us all to cherish our loved ones and treasure the place we call home."

Even without Fahrman, it is likely the tradition of festooning places in Portland with red hearts on Feb. 14 will continue. Members of his family will gath-

er at a Portland brewery on Valentine's Day to talk about continuing Fahrman's bandit tradition as well as his larger philanthropic work, according to a press release.

As much as the red hearts and banners spread joy, it is Fahrman's larger message of joy and love that we all need to carry on, on Valentine's Day and every day. Around Portland and the rest of Maine.

We can do that by simply being kind to one another. As Fahrman showed, we should do this not for recognition, but because it makes our state and the world a better place.

"As we move forward, we must honor his memory by emulating his generosity of spirit, his self-

lessness, and his unwavering support for others," his family said in his obituary. "We strive to carry the light he brought into our lives, allowing his spirit to guide us in our quest to be better people."

Being better people doesn't have to involve unfurling banners on old forts or buildings. It can be a kind word or gesture. It can be giving your time or money to a local charity. It can be shoveling a walkway or bringing a hot meal to a neighbor who is alone. It can be mentoring a child who lacks a role model.

Whatever you choose to do, know that a simple gesture of goodwill can make a difference.

Fahrman's family wrote about striving to carry the light he

shared with others. We are reminded that this continues to be a job for all of us. So we go back to something we wrote last year when we learned of his identity and his sudden death.

"We all have a role to play in carrying this light, not just on Valentine's Day and not just with heart signs and banners, but in how we treat each other on a daily basis," we wrote in an April 24 editorial. "Kevin Fahrman has given us a message that transcends his medium. It now falls to the rest of us — beyond those who will hopefully continue filling Portland with literal hearts on Valentine's Day — to keep this tradition going throughout the year, simply but importantly, by being kind to one another."

We must rein in warrantless spying

By **KIA HAMADANCHY**
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

In the United States, a political leader's disagreement with the views of a protest movement does not give the government license to investigate those protesters. Rep. Nancy Pelosi ought to know that.

Nevertheless, she recently went on CNN and, without citing any evidence, accused protesters advocating for a cease-fire in Gaza of having ties to Russia and called on the Federal Bureau of Investigation to research the financing behind these protests. When outrage over that proposed abuse of power erupted a few days later, she doubled down.

It is precisely this kind of danger that requires careful limitation of surveillance tools such as Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, a law aimed at foreigners abroad but commonly misused to spy on Americans. That provision of FISA will expire in April unless renewed by Congress. Lawmakers should not reauthorize it without fundamental reform.

Two other California representatives, Tom McClintock and Sara Jacobs, have advocated reforming Section 702 to protect Americans' privacy. The House Judiciary Committee passed legislation last year to do that: The Protect Liberty and End Warrantless Surveillance Act would require the government to present evidence of wrongdoing and obtain a warrant before searching the communications of Americans, such as those protesting for a cease-fire.

Pelosi, the former speaker of the House, was part of the inner circle privy to surveillance findings (the "Gang of Eight") longer than anyone else currently in Congress, so she knows the expansive tools the national security apparatus can use to investigate and surveil protesters. She also knows how those tools can be abused.

There is a long history of the FBI using "foreign influence" as an excuse to conduct illegal surveillance on Americans. The bureau surveilled Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders, claiming they might be under the influence of foreign communists. After 9/11, the FBI repeatedly profiled, surveilled and disproportionately prosecuted Muslim Americans, often under a pretext of affiliation with foreign adversaries. That shameful legacy would continue if Gaza war protest-

Kia Hamadanchy



ers were subjected to baseless surveillance.

While Section 702 requires that surveillance is targeted at foreigners overseas, in practice large quantities of the communications that Americans exchange with people abroad are also swept up and stored for future investigations. If the FBI opened an investigation into cease-fire demonstrators, agents would almost certainly use the Section 702 database to find and search the communications of protesters. Vague and unfounded claims of foreign influence or foreign intelligence gathering can lead to a flood of unlawful searches.

The FBI can conduct searches of this database without having to demonstrate probable cause, as the 4th Amendment would otherwise require. In most cases, an FBI analyst can search for and review an American's private communications without the need to seek any further approval.

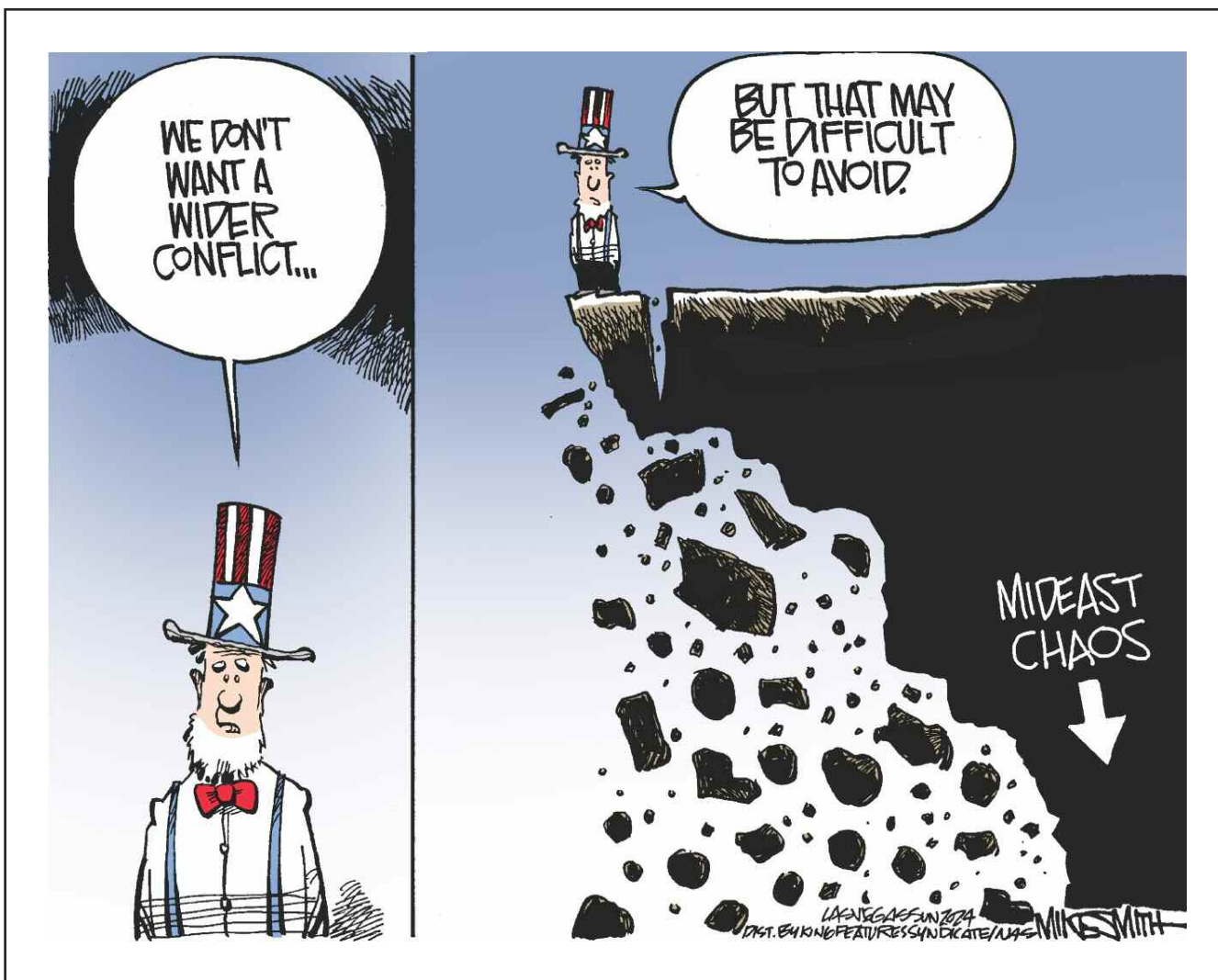
Just last year, government documents revealed that the FBI misused Section 702 to unlawfully query the communications of 133 Black Lives Matter protesters, part of a baseless investigation to determine whether they were subject to foreign influence.

According to a report from the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, from November 2020 to December 2021, "non-compliant queries related to civil unrest numbered in the tens of thousands."

Past searches also include two "Middle Eastern" men who were loading boxes of cleaning supplies into a vehicle and a state court judge who had complained to the FBI about civil rights violations.

Section 702 has been abused under presidents from both parties, and it has been used to unlawfully query the communications of individuals and groups across the political spectrum. That's why, with trust in our leaders and institutions rapidly declining, lawmakers should be strengthening civil liberties protections against abuses of power, not advocating for more of them.

Hamadanchy is a senior policy counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union.



Tax relief is hard to give

By **NIKI KELLY**
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana legislators have been toying with a significant state tax overhaul for more than a year, even assigning a task force to review the options and present ideas for the 2025 session.

GOP leaders have an eye specifically on possibly eliminating the individual income tax. But Hoosiers want them to focus on property taxes, and property taxes are the most complicated of the tax structures to adjust.

Senate Republicans have begun releasing the results from their constituent surveys and property taxes are the clear favorite to cut. Twenty-seven surveys have been posted. Of those, 19 asked this question:

"Lawmakers are working on a long-term plan to improve Indiana's tax system in the coming years. Which one of these taxes would you most like to see Indiana reduce/eliminate in the future?"

The choices were gas, income, property and sales taxes.

In 18 of those 19 surveys, property taxes were the clear leader. The last was a tie between property and income taxes.

For instance, 48% of Sen. Sue Glick's constituents said property taxes need to be addressed. Similarly, for Sen. Jeff Raatz at 41%. And again, and again.

The problem is that property taxes are not an easy, clean cut.

Indiana has been running ahead of tax revenue projections for a few years now, amassing billions in reserves and even sending rebate checks to taxpayers for collecting too much.

Those collections are largely made up by individual income taxes, sales taxes and corporate taxes. And they would be the easiest to cut in terms of

Niki Kelly



told lawmakers they should pivot to focusing on property tax affordability, noting the 2008 reform he helped lead is starting to leak.

He reminded the group that property taxes, in contrast to income taxes, consider value but not necessarily owners' ability to pay.

Property tax expert Larry DeBoer, a Purdue University professor, said "It's hard to do much without funding the lost revenue or radically reducing the size of local government."

But lawmakers are at least thinking about how to help homeowners. Sen. Ryan Mishler — who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee — heard an interesting bill this year that would exempt homesteads from paying property taxes, aside from those approved via a referendum. It was just an informational hearing but could be part of the 2025 discussion.

Senate Bill 285 would use \$1 billion in state revenue that would be freed up after Indiana's pensions are fully funded in 2032. The proposal, though, would leave local governments and schools in a lurch — with no replacement for the remaining \$4.1 billion.

That would, of course, decimate services. But there could be a middle ground somewhere in the idea — maybe covering 30% of the homestead costs.

Homeowners especially are struggling with several straight years of increased assessed value and increased property tax bills. The biggest lift is reforming property taxes — but unfortunately for lawmakers, that's what their constituents want.

Kelly has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

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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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Photo provided

Blessings drive

Blessings Photography, owned by Dawn Alicea, recently held a food drive for the West Walnut Street Church of Christ FeedingTeam.org outdoor food pantry. The pantry is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to anyone in need and is located in the alley north of the church at 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. Those who want to donate can do so any time by stopping by and adding non-perishable food items or hygiene products to the box.

IU Health open house is Thursday

IU Health will hold an open house for its new cardiopulmonary rehabilitation center from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday.

The open house will include a look at the new facility, information about its services and free blood pressure checks.

Those planning to attend should use entrance B and take the elevator to the second floor.

Hosting dinner

The Waters of Dunkirk will host a Chili & Chili event from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21.

The rehabilitation and skilled nursing center, formerly known as Miller's Merry Manor, is inviting the public for chili and/or chili dogs as well as a tour of the facility and an opportunity to meet new staff. The facility is located at 11563 W. 300 South, Dunkirk.

Cutting the ribbon

Jay County Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony at noon Friday, Feb. 16, for ToddlerTown Early Learning Center.

The facility is located at 1505 N. Wayne St., Portland.

Also, the first LIFT Jay meeting of 2024 is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27. Cindy Cash will present "Love 2 Learn: How to Make Face-to-Face Meetings Interactive." Cost for the event, which includes the meal and program, is \$18 for chamber members and \$23 for non-members.

Business roundup

To register, visit jaycounty-chamber.com.

The chamber is also preparing for the next radio spotlight day with WPGW Radio on Thursday, March 7. Those interested in participating can pick up a sign-up form at the chamber office, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. The deadline to sign up to participate is March 1.

Exams offered

Meridian Health Services will offer free dental exams Monday, Feb. 19.

The free exams will be available for children ages 1 through 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. They will include polishing, cleaning and a fluoride application.

They will be available at Meridian Dental locations, including:

- 406 W. Votaw St., Portland
 - 110 N. Tillotson Ave., Muncie
 - 911 N. Western Ave., Marion
- To schedule an appointment, call (866) 306-2647.

Programs recognized

Ball State University announced last week that seven of its online degree programs have been recognized as among the top 30 in the nation by U.S.

News & World Report.

The highest ranking for a BSU online program was ninth for its master's in special education. It was also 12th for master's in curriculum and educational technology, 22nd for its master's of business administration, 27th for both its bachelor's in applied behavior analysis and master's in information and communication sciences, 28th for its master's in nursing and 30th for its master's degrees in education programs.

Grants available

CenterPoint Energy Foundation is accepting grant applications for its 2024 cycle.

The foundation awards grants to organizations and programs that support "community vitality and education." Priority is given to programs serving low-to-moderate income families and under-resourced communities.

"As we reflect on the impact of the Foundation's funding in 2023, we are filled with renewed enthusiasm to continue building meaningful partnerships with our community stakeholders," said Alicia Dixon, director of community relations at CenterPoint. "Our focus remains on investing in initiatives which enhance lives today and lay the groundwork for a better tomorrow. We invite eligible organizations to apply for a grant during our first cycle of funding for 2024."

For more information, visit CenterPointEnergy.com/Foundation. The application deadline is Feb. 16.

Symposium scheduled

Indiana Grown will host a conference Tuesday, March 19, at Hendricks County Fairgrounds in Danville.

The marketing initiative through the Indiana State Department of Agriculture will offer seminars on topics including social media, farm finances, operator liabilities, hiring and training employees, succession planning, event planning, zoning and insurance, building relationships with distributors and determining pricing. Registration is \$45 and includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

"This event is a great resource to all those who are interested in agriculture and agritourism," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch in a press release. "This symposium offers a wide range of informational sessions and networking to everyone involved in agriculture who might be looking to become an agricultural destination."

For more information, visit indianagrown.com.

Chair selected.

Indiana Bankers Association last week announced that Benjamin J. Bochnowski has been selected as its board chair for 2024.

Bochnowski serves as chairman and CEO of Peoples Bank in Munster. He also serves on the board of directors for the Indiana Department of Financial Institutions.

Other board officers this year are vice chair Matthew W. Howrey of North Salem State Bank, second vice chair David M. Findlay of Lake City Bank in Warsaw, immediate past chair Jamie R. Shinabarger of Springs Valley Bank and Trust in Jasper and president and CEO Amber R. Van Til.

Hosting events

The Central Indiana Chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals and the Indiana Chamber of Commerce will host the 2024 Indiana Safety and Health Conference Feb. 26, through 28.

Former Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback and current NFL analyst Terry Bradshaw will be the featured speaker for the conference. The event will also include the Indiana Forklift Rodeo, speakers, a 10-hour course for general industry, an innovation showcase and the governor's workplace safety awards luncheon.

For more information, or to register, call (800) 824-6885 or email events@indianachamber.com.

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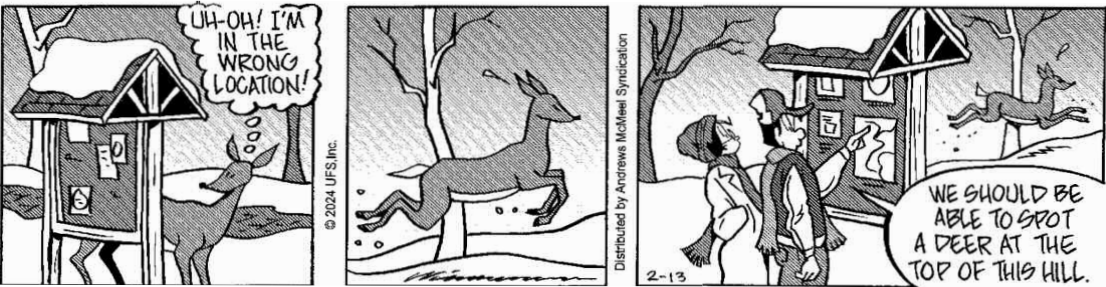
By Bil Keane



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Structural visualization

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A J 3 2
♥ 10 7 3
♦ K 10 9 5 4
♣ 6
WEST
♠ Q 10 9 8 7 6 5
♥ J 7 6 3
♦ 3 2
EAST
♠ K
♥ A K Q J 8 5 2
♦ 8 2
♣ 10 8 4
SOUTH
♠ 4
♥ 9 6 4
♦ A Q
♣ A K Q J 9 7 5

The bidding:
East South West North
4♥ 5♣ All Pass
Opening lead — ten of spades.
Let's suppose that in a given deal, your partner opens the bidding with one spade, and, after you respond one notrump, he next bids four spades. It is surely reasonable to assume that your partner has at least six very good spades for his bids.
True, this is only an inference; theoretically, he might have any number of spades, and maybe only four or five. Anything is possible in the abstract sense, but you should not start out by assuming that your partner has escaped from an insane asylum.
Applying this inference to the

present case, South should decide from East's opening four-heart bid and West's failure to lead a heart that West has no hearts. Furthermore, when declarer takes the opening spade lead with dummy's ace and East's king falls, he can also logically conclude that East started with either the singleton king or the K-Q doubleton.
To clarify the situation, South ruffs a low spade at trick two. When East shows out, all doubt about the spade distribution is resolved, and South knows for certain that West started with seven spades.
Declarer now draws trump, learning that West also started with just two clubs. So, from what he has discovered, South concludes that West started with precisely a 7-4-2 distribution.
Accordingly, South cashes the ace of diamonds, overtakes the queen with the king and continues with the ten of diamonds, discarding a heart. West wins with the jack and plays the queen of spades, on which South discards another heart!
West now has no choice but to lead a spade to dummy's jack or a diamond to dummy's nine, allowing declarer to discard his remaining heart and so make five clubs. Observe that South does nothing marvelous; he merely puts all the pieces of the puzzle together as they become known.

Tomorrow: A built-in booby trap.
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2-13

CRYPTOQUIP

MBKLNLGA EIVCIN LG BVOIJJ
YOI YMB ALPGF M JIGA-JMBCLGA
YMPX OMLNBCXJF: M KFNSFE
KNFSFE.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF I ASSEMBLE A BELT OUT OF A BUNCH OF STRUNG-TOGETHER WATCHES, WILL THAT BE A WAIST OF TIME?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36 Chap	DOWN	22 Schlep
1 Mani counter-part	37 Two, in Toledo	1 Church seating	23 Learning ctr.
5 Driver's lic. issuer	41 In favor of	2 Coup d'—	24 Status —
8 Enfold	42 Entreat	3 Chal- lenge	25 Internet address
12 Greek vowels	45 Wheel bar	4 Belief	26 Boy king
13 Tic-tac-toe win	46 Scrabble, for one	5 Country star	27 Harden
14 Lofty	48 Talking point?	6 Dis- position	28 Anger
15 Comforting light	49 Deluge refuge	7 Pledge	29 Sit-up targets
17 Military sch.	50 Reunion attendee	8 "Seri- ously?"	31 Accept, as an excuse
18 Canonized Fr. woman	51 Writers Kingsley	9 Costa —	34 Owned by us
19 Vintage features	52 Pigs' digs	10 Petri dish	35 Nixon succes- sor
20 Flag	53 Greet the villain	11 Profs' degrees	37 Awkward
21 Method		16 Incite	38 Arp's art
22 Journal		20 Cain, to	39 Pre- diploma hurdle
23 Ink		53 Greet the villain	40 Roman 1052
26 Libya neighbor			41 Garrison
30 Ringlet			42 Indo- nesian island
31 Glitch			43 Flightless birds
32 Part of speech			44 Jewels
33 Endure			46 Existed
35 Swanky parties			47 "So frustrating!"

Solution time: 22 mins.

E	F	T	A	D	W	O	O												
G	L	O	A	R	I	N	K	I											
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			W	O	V	E	E	T	S	L	E	N							

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jayden Comer, a freshman on the Jay County High School boys basketball team, begins to drive the baseline in the Patriots' 69-31 loss at Yorktown on Saturday.

Repeat ...

Continued from page 8
First-round winners guarantee themselves state medals and return to wrestle out for the top eight places beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Together the pair of senior state qualifiers scored 44 of the Patriots' 50 points as the team finished sixth among the 62 competing at the semi-state.

Fifth-ranked Delta won the semi-state title with 115 points while No. 14 Belmont (82.5) was second. New Haven (76), 19th-ranked Western (71.5) and Cowan (52) rounded out the top five. Snider and Garrett followed Jay County with 40 points apiece.

"We're happy with our (sophomores and juniors) having the opportunity to get here and feel it out," said JCHS coach Eric Myers, whose team had seven semi-state competitors. "And we're ready for them to take the next step."

"I feel like our two seniors that were able to qualify set themselves up pretty well for next week."

After pinning his way through the regional in less than four minutes a week earlier, the fourth-ranked Wood continued to run over opponents. He gave up just one point in four semi-state

matches, and that came on a stalling call with 22 seconds left in his semifinal win over Cameron Dews (38-5) of Elkhart.

Dews gave Wood, now 44-0, his toughest match of the day, putting him in an awkward position in the second period. But the Patriot senior worked from being upside down with his face on the mat to taking down Dews for a 5-0 lead en route to his 5-1 victory.

After a scoreless opening period in the championship match against No. 12 Linkin Carter (45-3) of Eastside, Wood walked a half nelson into a two-point near fall late in the second. He got an escape to start the third and then used a single-leg takedown to seal his 5-0 victory and semi-state repeat.

"I knew I just had to keep going forward on my feet. I knew I wasn't going to give up any scores," said Wood, who notched first-period pins of Dallas Davidson (37-7) of Angola in the opening round and Andrew Mirelez (25-5) of Heritage in the ticket round. "I didn't even let him get to my leg, which is a nice goal. ... I got some near-fall points at the end of the second, and after that point I knew I was in control."

The 126-pound bracket came down to the same match-up it had

each of the previous two weeks — No. 18 Rowles (31-10) against Union City's Bradin Daniels (38-2). (Daniels won the sectional championship match between the former East Jay Middle School teammates while Rowles took the regional title.)

Rowles tried to finish off Daniels early Saturday, but the Union City junior was able to slip out of a headlock attempt. Daniels claimed the lead with a takedown at the 43-second mark of the first period and pushed the advantage to 6-1 with a reversal in the third. Rowles escaped quickly and scored a takedown of his own to pull within two points, only to have Daniels deliver a reversal again for an 8-4 final.

"Cody had a pretty darn good day," said Myers. "We kinda regressed in our game plan in the finals, but he's got to be pretty proud of his day. He kinda smoked through those first two rounds and then beat a returning state qualifier in the semis pretty handily. The Daniels kid was wrestling really well today and we just, just couldn't quite get to where we needed to be."

Rowles was strong on the way to the championship match, earning his third state berth

points in the fourth quarter off threes and free throws.

Tewari had 14, putting him at 1,001 career points. He broke the century mark early in the fourth quarter on a three assisted by Jacob Grim.

"He's been a really good decision maker as our leading scorer," Moulton said. "I think he's second on our team in assists and always guards the other team's best player, but never complains. He deserves it."

"He's been starting since freshman year and he's a big part of our program. We're proud of him."

Only two Patriots hit multiple shots in the contest. To go with his first-quarter three, Comer hit another in the fourth. Gradin Swoveland hit four shots and two free throws to lead with 10 points (32.3% of the total JCHS score).

"When teams are physically pushing us and bumping us, we don't react to that well," Bomholt said. "We're

missing some ingredients. ... I feel like we don't have a team right now. We have 12 individuals. We're not functioning the way a team should function."

Junior varsity

Cole Forthofer had a career day, but it wasn't enough as the Patriots fell to Yorktown 58-40.

The Jay County sophomore scored 72.5% of the Patriots' points, dropping a career-high 29 on 13 baskets.

Forthofer started with only four first-quarter points, but picked things up as the game went on, scoring 13 in the fourth, including a 3-pointer.

Yorktown's Noah Long countered with 21 points, including seven in the fourth. Long had help from Mason Trammell, who's six triples added 18 for the Tigers.

Only two other players scored for Jay County (12-5). Eli Dirksen put up nine points and Sean Bailey had two.

really well," said Myers. "You saw the next round she beat a returning state qualifier 7-1. Griff ... that was a 3-2 match all the way until the end. ... I think he's got to be early proud of the season he's had this year."

"(Ortiz) just started really wrestling well at the end of the season," the coach added. "I really attribute it a lot to (assistant coach) Gaven Hare. They work together quite a bit ... They're really starting to wrestle alike. ... He's wrestling the best that he has in his career at the end of the year and got to the ticket round. I felt like he was right there with a guy who (won the semi-state)."

Two Patriot seniors saw their careers come to an end with opening-round losses. Bryce Wenk dropped a 4-3 decision at 190 pounds to NorthWood's Keith Miller (25-9) to finish his season with a 36-4 record. Juaquin Flores (27-12) lost by pin in 2 minutes, 37 seconds, to Maconaquah's 17th-ranked Ethan Farnell (38-3) at 175.

Junior Jacob Robinson (29-11) also dropped out of the semi-state in the opening round of the 150-pound bracket, falling 7-4 to Huntington North's Luke Teusch (38-2).

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Junior high wrestling at Delta - 5:30 p.m.; Junior high swimming vs. Muncie Southside - 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball at Wapakoneta - 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today
3 p.m. — UEFA Champions League: Manchester City at FC Kobenhavn (CBS)
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Marquette at Butler (FS1)
7 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Toronto Maple Leafs (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball:

North Carolina at Syracuse (ESPN); Iowa State at Cincinnati (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Minnesota at Rutgers (BTN)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Oklahoma City Thunder at Orlando Magic (TNT)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Georgetown at Creighton (FS1)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball:

Ole Miss at Kentucky (ESPN); Oklahoma at Baylor (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — NBA: Sacramento Kings at Phoenix Suns (TNT)
Wednesday
3 p.m. — UEFA Champions League: Real Sociedad at PSG (CBS)
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basket-

ball: Michigan State at Penn State (BTN)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Miami at Clemson (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Chicago Bulls at Cleveland Cavaliers (ESPN); Indiana Pacers at Toronto Raptors (Bally Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — NHL: Florida Panthers at Pittsburgh Penguins (TNT)
8:15 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series:

Daytona 500 (FS1)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Iowa at Maryland (BTN)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Tennessee at Arkansas (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Clippers at Golden State Warriors (ESPN)
10 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Utah State at Wyoming (FS1)

90 SALE CALENDAR

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90 SALE CALENDAR

being road frontage. Tract 4: 27.5 Acres in section 11 Richland Township, Jay County all tillable.
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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: 38C01-2311-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: 38C01-2311-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 #38C01-2311-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

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Notice is hereby given that on the 7th day of February, 2024, Ohio Valley Gas Corporation and Ohio Valley Gas, Inc., filed a joint petition with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission in Cause No. 46011 for (1) authority to increase its rates and charges for gas utility service, (2) approval of new schedules of rates and charges, (3) approval of decoupling through a new sales reconciliation component rider, and (4) approval of necessary and appropriate accounting relief and other requests. A copy of the petition is on file with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, 101 W Washington St #1500e, Indianapolis, IN 46204.
Ohio Valley Gas Corporation
Ohio Valley Gas, Inc.
By: S.A. Williams, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer
CR 2-13-2024-HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Richland Township, Jay County, Indiana
Cash & Investments Combined Statement - 2023

Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg. Cash and Inv. Bal. Jan 1, 2023	Receipts	Disbursements	End Cash and Inv. Bal. Dec 31, 2023
Governmental Activities					
1	Federal Revenue Sharing	\$4,963.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,963.66
2	Fire Fighting	\$63,736.55	\$17,515.94	\$12,000.00	\$69,252.49
3	Rainy Day	\$10,605.24	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,605.24
4	Township	\$101,859.44	\$41,187.27	\$39,659.63	\$109,387.08
5	Township Assistance	\$145,227.85	\$24,945.26	\$26,714.29	\$143,458.82
	Total All Funds	\$326,392.74	\$89,648.47	\$78,373.92	\$337,667.29

State of Indiana
SS: Jay County
I, David Champ, Trustee of Richland Township, Jay County, Indiana, do solemnly affirm under the penalty of perjury that the preceding report is complete, true and correct; that the sum with which I am charged in this report are all of the sums received by me; and that the various items of expenditures credited have been fully paid in the sums stated; that such payments were made without express or implied agreement that any portion thereof shall be retained by or repaid to me or any other person. I further affirm that a complete and detailed annual report, together with all accompanying vouchers showing the names of persons having been paid money by the township, have been filed as required by law in the office of the County Auditor, and that copies of such annual report are in custody of the Township Board and the State Board of Accounts. Said report is subject to inspection by any taxpayer of the township.
David Champ, Richland Township Trustee
Telephone: 765-768-1047
Date this report was to be published, 2-13-2024
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, the Chairman of the Township Board of Richland Township at its annual meeting this 5th day of February, 2024
Robert Ford, Richland Township Board Chairman
This report was received, accepted, and approved by the Township Board at its annual meeting, this 5th day of February, 2024.
Richland Township Board:
Robert Ford, Joe Lloyd, Gary Glogas
CR 2-13-2024-HSPAXLP

Patriots basketball fall to Yorktown Tigers by 38, see story below

FRHS girls basketball hosts Wapakoneta today, see Sports on tap

Sports

Semi repeat

Wood wins; Rowles is runner-up

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

FORT WAYNE — Tony Wood didn't yell. He didn't flex. He didn't point. With his tongue hanging out, he simply held two fingers in the air. It was an understated celebration for another dominant day.

Wood, a Jay County High School senior, repeated as the 138-pound semi-state wrestling champion Saturday at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum as he and classmate Cody Rowles qualified for the state finals.

Moments after he received his semi-state championship medal, Wood was already thinking about his state opportunity.

"I'm just ready to compete," said Wood, now a four-time state qualifier who finished seventh in Indianapolis last season. "It's really good to win semi-state. It's fun. It's nice to be recognized."

"But I'm really looking forward to next week. Ready to compete, that's for sure."

Rowles became a three-time state qualifier as he took second place at 126 pounds. He and Wood will compete in the opening round of the state finals at 6:30 p.m. Friday at the Ford Center in Evansville. See **Repeat** page 7



Tony Wood of Jay County High School wraps up Angola's Dallas Davidson during their opening-round match in the 138-pound bracket Saturday during the semi-state meet at Allen County Athletic Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne. Wood ran his record to 44-0 on the way to repeating as the semi-state champion.

Tribe sends six to BGSU

AYERSVILLE, Ohio — The Indians will have representation in eight events, and four individuals will compete in multiple events at district.

Teigen Fortkamp, Paige Guggenbiller, Joelle Kaup and Sage Wendel of the Fort Recovery High School swim team finished in the top eight at the OHSAA Division II sectional meet at Ayersville Saturday.

A top-eight finish at the sectional earns a berth to the district meet at Bowling Green State University.

Wendel captured the only sectional title for the Indians. His time of 58.17 seconds earned the top-spot in the 100-yard butterfly. He also placed third in the 100 backstroke.

Fortkamp and Kaup will compete in four events each. Both are on the 200 medley relay team that finished fourth and the 200 freestyle relay that made it through with a sixth-place finish. Both will swim in the 50 freestyle after Fortkamp placed third and Kaup seventh.

Fortkamp fell 11 hundredths of a second short of the sectional championship in the 100 backstroke, but her time of 1:02.09 got her to district.

Kaup earned sixth in the 100 butterfly to move on. Guggenbiller joins Fortkamp and Kaup in both of the relays while also competing in the 100 breaststroke. She just made it through in eighth-place.

Allison Knapke makes up the final leg of the 200 medley relay, while Autumn Leuthold will join for the 200 freestyle relay.

Jay struggles against Tigers

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

YORKTOWN — The Tigers outplayed the Patriots in nearly every way. The Patriots only found slight advantages on the glass and in personal fouls. Those advantages weren't enough to save them from their problems.

The Yorktown Tigers jumped on top of the Jay County High School boys basketball team early in a dominant 69-31 victory Saturday that the Patriots never came within 15 points of after the opening quarter.

"The effort was nonexistent," JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt said. "I have never as a head coach struggled with mental toughness and those kind of things as I have with this team. ..."

"It was really an effort that reminded me of where we were earlier in the season. At this point in time, 17 games into the season, that shouldn't happen."

Yorktown (11-8) opened the game on a 19-0 run. It hit three triples, had two transition layups and converted two three-point plays.

Jay County (7-11) finally got on the board with only 30 seconds left in the opening quarter, when Jayden Comer pulled the trigger on a three early in the possession.

"We hadn't played since the previous Thursday and we've just been grinding them out in practice, so honestly they were just ready to play against another color," Yorktown coach Matt Moulton said. "I could tell in the locker room and at shoot around this morning they were juiced up and ready to go. The enthusiasm was there from the start and when the ball goes in the basket it sure helps."

Things didn't get much better for the Patriots as the game went on. See **Struggles** page 7

Bounced back
FORT RECOVERY — The Fort Recovery boys basketball team dominated the fourth quarter to beat the Newton Local Indians 63-56 on Saturday.

It also received the nine seed in the Division IV Northwest 4 district tournament, with an opening round game in the sectional at fifth-seeded Upper Scioto Valley Feb. 28 at 7 p.m.

Fort Recovery (6-13) outscored NLHS 21-10 in the final frame. Briggs Overman led FRHS with nine points on 7-of-8 free throws in the quarter, as he put up 20 total in the game. Gavin Evers added five of his 11 in the period as well.

Quinn Peters and Max Newhouse drove Newton Local's offense with 21 and 20 points, but they didn't receive enough support from the rest of the team.

A win in the sectional opener pits FRHS against the winner No. 4 seed Mt. Victory Ridgemont and No. 6 seed New Bremen.

The district opener holds a likely matchup with top-seeded No. 3 Lima Central Catholic.

Box score

Yorktown Tigers vs. Jay County Patriots				Score by quarters:					
				Jay Co.	3	11	4	13	31
				Yorktown	19	21	13	16	69
Boys varsity summary									
Jay County (7-11)				3-point shooting: Jay County 2-12					
FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS		Comer	2-6	0-0	6		
Nichols	0-3	1-2	1	Nichols	0-1	0-1	0		
Mhlinkmp	1-3	0-0	2	Edwards	0-1	0-1	0		
Edwards	0-1	0-0	0	1, Dunnington 0-3, Yorktown 15-33					
Garringer	0-2	0-0	0	(Tyler 5-5, Tewari 4-12, Aul 3-7,					
Dunnington	1-7	0-0	2	Isaacs 1-2, Rowray 1-2, Barnes 1-2,					
Crouch	1-4	0-4	2	Burkholder 0-1, Grim 0-2).					
Dirksen	1-1	2-2	4	Rebounds: Jay County 30 (Crouch					
Furthofer	0-0	0-0	0	5, Phillips 5, Swoveland 5, Muh-					
Phillips	1-1	0-0	2	lenkamp 4, Dunnington 3, Dirksen 3,					
Bihn	1-2	0-0	2	Nichols 2, Forthofer, Bihn, team).					
Swoveland	4-8	2-2	10	Yorktown 29 (Tewari 7, Moulton 6,					
Totals	12-38	5-10	31	Grim 4, Barnes 4, Rowray 2, McKay					
	.316	.500		2, Isaacs, Tyler, Burkholder, team).					
Def. rebound percentage: .733				Assists: Jay County 2 (Muh-					
Yorktown (11-8)				lenkamp, Dirksen), Yorktown 18					
FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS		Tyler 4, Tewari 4, Grim 3, Barnes 3, <td colspan="5"></td>					
Isaacs	1-4	0-0	3	Moulton 2, Aul, Rowray).					
Aul	3-7	2-3	11	Blocks: Yorktown 3 (Barnes 2,					
Tyler	5-5	0-0	15	Rowray).					
Kates	1-1	1-1	3	Personal fouls: Jay County 10					
Tewari	5-17	0-1	14	(Crouch 3, Dunnington 2, Comer,					
Burkholder	0-1	0-0	0	Nichols, Phillips, Bihn, Swoveland).					
Dougherty	0-0	0-0	0	Yorktown 11 (Kates 3, Grim 2,					
Grim	2-5	0-0	4	Isaacs, Aul, Burkholder, Moulton,					
Moulton	3-5	3-5	9	Rowray, Barnes).					
Rowray	1-2	0-0	3	Turnovers: Jay County 14, York-					
Barnes	3-4	0-0	7	town 3.					
McKay	0-0	0-0	0						
Totals	24-51	6-10	69						
	.471	.600							
Def. rebound percentage: .724									



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