

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Town for tots



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Toddlertown Early Learning Center celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday. The new Portland daycare launched by Susan and Wade Kohler offers space for up to 78 children between 6 weeks and 5 years old. Pictured above, director Deanna Homan (right center) cuts the ribbon Friday with owners Wade and Susan Kohler (left center).

Pioneer Packaging owners launch new facility; Portland child care center opens Monday

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Pioneer Packaging owners Susan and Wade Kohler recognized a need for child care in Jay County.

They decided to take matters into their own hands with a new business.

Toddlertown Early Learning Center hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday. The new certified child care center located at 1505 N. Wayne St., Portland, begins operations Monday.

Susan Kohler explained the demand for child care prompted her and her husband to look into opening the learning center.

"There was a desperate need here in Jay County for sure," she said. "We knew we had sons that were growing up that were going to have a need,

just like the rest of the community."

Jay County natives Wade and Susan Kohler own Pioneer Packaging, a lumber and pallet manufacturing business that controls 10 different facilities across parts of Indiana and Ohio, including its corporate building on Meridian Street and factory on Lincoln Street in Portland. (The company celebrated its 20th anniversary last year.) They manage about 150 workers across their plants. For employees, Susan Kohler explained, finding someone to look after the children in order to go to work can be difficult.

"A lot of our absences were created for no day care, or couldn't get day care that day, or somebody was sick," she

said. "That was always the struggle. So we were there to try and fix that problem."

Although owned by the Kohlers, Toddlertown Early Learning Center will operate as a separate entity from Pioneer Packaging. That leaves the facility open to community members looking for child care.

The 8,600 square foot facility has enough space for up to 78 children. Currently, the facility plans to offer care for up to eight infants, 20 toddlers and 20 preschoolers. Its capacity allows for another 20 preschoolers or 30 school-age children during the summer.

Toddlertown Early Learning Center has four main rooms separating children by age groups, along with a cafeteria, kitchen, laundry room, isolation room for sick chil-

dren, training room that doubles as a breastfeeding room for mothers, staff lounge and office space. It also has a fenced-in backyard with space for two separate playgrounds — plans are to put in equipment when the weather gets warmer — for different age groups.

The property's large backyard allows for future expansion as well, noted Susan Kohler.

More than five years ago, the Kohlers bought the 14-acre property where Toddlertown Early Learning Center now sits, which is adjacent to other Pioneer Packaging properties. Although they didn't initially have a plan for the property, the idea for a child care facility slowly developed.

See **Tots** page 2

Council plans to adjust rules

Redkey to expand water leak forgiveness

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

REDKEY — Water adjustment requirements may be opening up.

Redkey Town Council voted Thursday to move forward with amending its water ordinance so that the town would cover any water adjustment — each resident would be allotted one adjustment each year — requested because of a leak.

Currently, the town will cover one water adjustment each year for residents if there is a leak under the house or underground, explained town employee Randy Young.

Council member Brenda Beaty mentioned an issue with a resident's water meter that occurred on a Friday. She asked what can be done by the town to prevent a resident from incurring an extra fee for a leak over the weekend in similar situations, with Young noting they could shut off the water until the next business day. But if the leak is the town's responsibility, he added, the resident wouldn't be charged for the extra water usage.

Council member "Watermellon" Jim Phillips proposed the town pay for any water adjustments caused by a leak.

"I'm making a motion — a leak is a leak," he said. "When you get a \$100 and some water bill, you know you've got a leak, and you're going to fix that leak."

Floyd Life, Beaty and Phillips — Dave Dudelston dissented and Chance Retter was absent — voted to move forward with adjusting the ordinance.

The discussion stemmed from a resident's question about how much money the town makes on water bills each month. See **Adjust** page 2

Retrospect

Vows were renewed on Valentine's Day

Twenty-five years ago this week, local couples professed their love on Valentine's Day.

The Feb. 15, 1999, edition of The Commercial Review featured a story about 35 local couples gathering at United Pentecostal Church in Portland to renew their wedding vows.

"What more appropriate day than Valentine's Day," said guest pastor the Rev. Robert McFarland of Richmond.

"I've done this before," he added, "but never this many."

Each couple walked

through a flowered archway, introduced by name and the number of years of marriage they were celebrating.

Among the couples were Terry and Amelita Sexton of Portland who wanted to renew their vows in a church setting, Robert and Margaret Brown of Portland who had recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, Scott and Michelle Jarnigan of Winchester who had been married only a year and church pastor the Rev. David Wade and his wife Sue.

"This time I'm wearing a tux," said Wade, who had married his wife in a small ceremony 25 years earlier.

"What better way to renew vows than to do it on Valentine's Day in a church," he added. "It's a way to reaffirm vows to strengthen marriage."

Some women wore traditional wedding dresses. Others went with less formal attire.

There were tears, smiles, hugs and Terry Sexton's rendition of the song "Keeper of the Stars." Shortly after the song ended, the Sextons'

4-year-old son Travis decided to join his parents, a plastic dinosaur in one hand and a "The Little Mermaid" book in the other.

"Repeat after me," McFarland said as he instructed the couples to renew their vows and led them through the familiar traditions of a wedding ceremony, including the exchanging of rings.

As the ceremony ended, couples embraced, kissed and left the sanctuary for a reception, also at the church.



The Commercial Review/Mary Ann Lewis

The Rev. Robert McFarland addresses 35 couples Sunday, Feb. 14, 1999, during a wedding vow renewal ceremony at United Pentecostal Church in Portland.

Deaths

Kaylee Rae Adair-Vance, 28, Pennville
Richard Dorris, 82, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County was placed under a travel watch at 8 p.m. Friday because of snow and road conditions.
Wind gusts may reach up to 20 mph today, when the high will be in the 20s. Sunday should bring sunny skies and 30 mph wind gusts.
See page 2 for an extended forecast.

In review

The deadline for the next round of veteran banners in Portland, Dunkirk and Pennville is March 1. Applications may be dropped off at Jay County Chamber of Commerce, emailed to jakedavid-memorial@gmail.com or mailed to Krista Muhlenkamp at PO Box 486, Fort Recovery, Ohio 45846.

Coming up

Tuesday — Rules from today's IHSAA Wrestling State Finals.

Wednesday — Coverage of Monday's Fort Recovery Village Council meeting.



Tots ...

Continued from page 1
“It was just the close convenience to be able to keep our employees here to drop off their children then go close to work, versus being too far away from your children,” explained Susan Kohler.

The Kohlers started nailing down concrete plans last year, with local contractors breaking ground on the project on June 26. Eight months later, their vision has become a reality.

“We did a pretty good, quick turnaround,” Susan Kohler said. “We had some great local contractors. They knew that I was going to push them

Toddler town enrollment is available online

because, you know, all these parents are waiting.”

Toddler town Early Learning Center secured its child care provider license from Indiana Family and Social Services last week. Director Deanna Homan will manage regular communications with the state organization as required. The 2017 Jay County High School graduate

with a bachelor’s degree in education will be in charge of the center’s daily operations. She’s no stranger to child care, having 12 nieces and nephews as well as her own 11-month-old son.

“I’m so excited to see all the kids and see them learn and grow,” she said, noting the facility’s open house Tuesday. “All the kids were sad to leave

... I love seeing that and just seeing their excitement to being here ...”

Toddler town Early Learning Center is still looking for a full-time cook, with Homan currently filling in the role. They’ve already got several children enrolled, Susan Kohler said, but some slots are open for different age groups, such as preschoolers. (She pointed out as children age out of rooms, availability will change.)

Those interested in enrolling their child may fill out a form at bit.ly/ToddlerTownWaitlist. To learn more, email info@pioneer-toddler-town.com or call (260) 251-7619.

Obituaries

Kaylee Rae Adair-Vance, Pennville, July 30, 1995-Feb. 11, 2024. A family visitation was held Thursday.

Richard Dorris, Portland, August 15, 1941-Feb. 15, 2024. Burial will be held at 1:00 pm Wednesday at Marion National Cemetery in Marion.

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

Sunday 2/18	Monday 2/19	Tuesday 2/20	Wednesday 2/21	Thursday 2/22
37/21	44/28	48/35	55/39	50/29
Sunny skies are on the horizon for Sunday, when the high will be 37 degrees.	Monday looks to be sunny with a high of 44 degrees. Slight chance of rain late.	Mostly sunny skies are expected Tuesday when the low will be around 35.	There's a slight chance of showers on Wednesday, when the high will be in the mid 50s.	Thursday has a 30% chance of rain. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.

Lotteries

Hoosier
Midday
Daily Three: 2-1-1
Daily Four: 1-5-6-3
Quick Draw: 4-5-6-11-13-14-17-21-22-25-30-32-35-46-49-56-65-66-71-78

Pick 5: 8-6-1-3-7
Evening
Rolling Cash 5: 5-18-20-29-39
Jackpot: \$659,000

Powerball
Estimated jackpot: \$306 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$457 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery
Corn.....4.20
March corn.....4.20
Wheat.....4.31

POET Biorefining Portland
Corn.....4.19
March corn.....4.21
April corn.....4.24

The Andersons Richland Township
Corn.....4.09
March corn.....4.09
Beans.....11.57

March beans.....11.57
Wheat.....5.21

ADM Montpelier
Corn.....4.02
March corn.....4.04
Beans.....11.59
March beans.....11.62
Wheat.....5.20

Heartland St. Anthony
Corn.....4.17
March corn.....4.29
Beans.....11.38
March beans.....10.89
Wheat.....4.91

Today in history

In 1801, the House of Representatives elected Thomas Jefferson as president of the United States. Jefferson won a tie in the Electoral College, leading to two terms as the country’s third president. Jefferson is also known for writing the Declaration of Independence.

In 1876, Julius Wolff of Eastport, Maine, became the first person to can sardines. He’s known for launching the sardine canning industry.

In 1897, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers – it’s more commonly known as the Parent-Teacher Association – was founded in Washington, D.C. It started as the National Congress of Mothers.

In 1936, “The Phantom,” the first superhero cartoon strip, appeared in comics for the first

time. Creator Lee Falk also made “Mandrake the Magician,” an adventure comic strip, around the same time.

In 1963, Michael Jordan was born in Brooklyn, New York. A Chicago Bulls basketball player, the man known as the National Basketball Association’s greatest all-time player won six titles with his team.

In 1992, serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer was given to 15 consecutive life sentences for murdering and dismembered 17 males between 1978 and ‘91.

In 2017, Jay County High School freshman Mason Winner took seventh place at the IHSAA Wrestling State Finals in Indianapolis. Winner bounced back from two losses and scored a 6-4 decision over Elkhart Central’s Xander Stroud. — The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Monday
7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Tuesday
10 a.m. — Dunkirk Police Pension Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.

Wednesday
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.
6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Adjust ...

Continued from page 1
Because of debt from past work on the water tower and wastewater system, explained council member Brenda Beaty and Young, the town isn’t profiting much from its water rates.

Town officials suggested grants and loans might be needed to cover project costs. Town attorney Wes Schemenaur said council may want to start incrementally raising its water rates each year.

“Then you won’t have the super big jumps that you have,” he explained. “The reason why your rates have gone so astronomically high so quickly is because nobody wanted to raise the rates.”

Wastewater rates didn’t have an increase for 28 years, noted Young.

Also Thursday, Beaty noted Indiana Department of Environmental Management has granted “enforcement discretion” regarding the town’s failure to meet deadlines for creating a plan to deal with two combined sewer overflows (CSO) in violation of IDEM’s restrictions. Redkey has until Dec. 31 to update its CSO Long Term Control Plan, which should address how it plans to address the two CSOs. (One starts near Union Street, and the other originates in a rural part of the county just north of town and lets out near Main and George streets.) Young encouraged the town to come up with a plan soon, noting the ongoing master utility study — it should be completed by summer — will name the CSOs as a priority project but won’t create a plan for their removal.

Council also heard about Thriving Communities, a grant program available through Norfolk Southern railroad.

Community coordinator Nate Kimball explained the grant, if

awarded, would allot \$50,000 to Redkey. (According to the grant application guidelines, the program is intended to promote economic development, support community life and provide equal access to amenities.) Applications will open April 1.

In relation to Jay County officials’ \$3.9 million contribution toward a project aimed at installing nearly 400 miles of fiberoptic internet throughout the county, Kimball also shared information with council about how to conduct broadband speed tests and challenge data accrued by the Federal Communications Commission.

Residents may visit broadbandmap.fcc.gov to ensure the information about broadband availability — location and speed — is correct for their address. The website also includes links to challenge that information. To conduct a speed test, visit connectingindiana.com.

In other business, council members Dudelston, Phillips, Beaty and Life:

•Discussed whether to allow chickens in town limits. Beaty said she plans to research and review information put together by former council member Gary Gardner.

•Heard from Bob and Alisha Miller, two Tennessee residents planning to move into town. Bob Miller questioned the cost to hook up to the town’s water and wastewater lines, with Young and Dudelston noting that per the town’s water ordinance the resident must pay to bring the services to their property.

•OK’d clerk-treasurer Gloria May to continue utilizing Pam Collett’s training services as needed. (Collett worked with former clerk-

treasurer Mary Eley before retiring in December. She previously served as clerk-treasurer of Hartford City.)

•Approved the following: a request from Citadel Supply owner Brooks Fugiett to vacate the alley between his business (9096 W. Indiana 67) and Jasper and Mary Abernathy’s property at 9114 W. Indiana 67; a request from Mark Leavell to close the downtown portion of High Street from the evening of Aug. 9 to the evening of Aug. 11 for the Gas Boom Days festival; purchasing fireworks with more than \$1,200 in donations for the Fourth of July weekend festivities.

•OK’d contracting with SBS for services provided by certified water operator Matt Corwin — he has been working for the town for at least seven years and recently took a job with the company — while Young pursues training to become a certified water operator, which he said will likely take one year.

•Was reminded by Schemenaur about a state requirement to livestream and archive meetings online by July 1, 2025. He pointed out Redkey’s park cabin where council meets each month does not have internet access and encouraged them to look into the matter as soon as possible.

•Discussed inviting Jay/Portland Building and Planning director John Hemmelgarn to council’s next meeting to talk about what the town needs to do to enact zoning restrictions.

•Asked Schemenaur to pursue legal action against the town’s two “worst” ordinance violators who have not paid fines.

•Decided to seek bids for mowing services in 2024.
•Made \$69.30 in water bill adjustments.

Capsule Reports

Tractor crash

A Salamonina woman’s vehicle struck a Portland man’s tractor while attempting to pass him on county road 400 South about 2:31 p.m. Wednesday.

Michael L. Kunkle, 57, Portland, was driving his 2013 Kubota tractor hauling equipment along county road 400 South when he began to turn south onto county road 650 East.

Vickie L. Hiday, 66, was driving her 2016 Ford F-150 truck behind him and didn’t realize he was turning. She attempted to pass him and hit Kunkle’s equipment. Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

SERVICES

Wednesday
Dorris, Richard: 1 p.m., Marion National Cemetery, 1700 E. 38th St., Marion.

March 2
Meier, Nancy: 4:30 p.m., Kuhn’s Den, 442 E. Line St., Geneva.

Service listings provided by
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The Commercial Review

CONTACT LINDSEY AT L.COCHRAN@THECR.COM
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*Rates do not apply to special sections
*Ads must run in February

Parents refuse to help

DEAR ABBY: I host holiday meals for my out-of-town family. During the last one, my cousin's 5-year-old son ran up and down the upstairs hallway pretty much nonstop the entire time. The floor is ceramic tile, so when he did this, it made a huge racket and shook the house. The pounding frayed my and my husband's nerves, but we didn't say anything because I was afraid it wouldn't go over well.

Dear Abby



it's not unheard of. If your cousin considers this too much of a burden, then please accept that she has CHOSEN to be absent, and do NOT let it diminish your good time when the next holiday rolls around.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have two kids — a 3-year-old who has see-through pale skin and blond curls, and a 4-month-old with an olive complexion and straight brown hair. When we are out together, people often ask me if my kids have the same father. Is this a polite question? The potential answer could involve sharing intimate details of my relationship history or our fertility. No one is entitled to any of those answers in casual conversation, so why do they ask?

This happens so often that our preschooler has started to wonder aloud who her brother belongs to, if not her daddy. It makes me crazy. I have plenty of answers lined up for the impertinent question, but how do I keep people from asking in the first place? — MOM OF BEAUTIES IN PUERTO RICO

DEAR MOM: There is no end to the nosy, rude and sometimes stupid questions people ask. Your answer should be, "If you will forgive me for not answering you, I'll forgive you for asking me that." However, there is no way to STOP a stranger from asking a

question in front of your children, short of carrying cotton candy and stuffing it in their mouth. (Note that I'm not suggesting you use a dirty diaper.) Be sure to explain — AND REPEAT AS NEEDED — to your preschooler that not all siblings look alike, and her sibling ABSOLUTELY belongs to her daddy AND TO HER.

DEAR ABBY: I recently reconnected with an acquaintance who has now become a dear friend. I have at least one meal a week with her and her family. I suffer from misophonia, and they are always quite in tune, asking if the volume is too loud on the TV or whatever.

However, while we are eating, there is a lot of lip-smacking and open-mouth chewing by my friend and her 17-year-old daughter. I love them, and I try to ignore it, but it's extremely difficult. I remember my friend doing this 20 years ago when we were teenagers. I know it's not my place, but is there anything that can be said? I worry about this girl heading off to college soon with such deplorable table manners. They are otherwise wonderful, amazing friends. — HEARS TOO MUCH IN NEW YORK

DEAR HEARS: I agree that atrocious table manners can be a handicap when young people fly the nest. You can, as tactfully as possible, remind your friend ONCE about your hearing disorder and that it is magnified when she and her daughter chew with their mouths open. If that doesn't help, however, you may have to stop being a dinner guest.

ArtWorks classes are in full swing

Several ArtWorks classes at Jay County Campus of Arts Place begin in the coming weeks.

Upcoming sessions include:
•Beginners wheel throwing starts Tuesday and runs from 4 to 6 p.m. through March 26. Registration is \$90.

•Hand building basics starts Tuesday and runs from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. through March 26. Registration is \$75.

•Surface decoration starts Feb. 26 and runs from 5 to 7 p.m. through April 1. Registration is \$90.

•Kids hand building starts Feb. 28 and runs from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. through April 3. Registration is \$60.

•Kids wheel throwing starts Feb. 28 and runs from 6 to 8 p.m. through April 3. Registration is \$60.

Also this month, the After School Art Club for third and fourth graders is set for 3:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday and art club for fifth and sixth graders will be hosted from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Feb. 28. Registration \$5.

To register, visit myart-space.easybooking.site/.

'Frozen' at library

Do you want to build a snowman?

Jay County Public Library is hosting an interactive sing-along event with characters from Disney's "Frozen" on Thursday.

Taking Note

Refreshments will be provided, and participants will be given bags with themed activities from the popular movie. Time slots are from 5 to 6 p.m. or 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Call or visit the library to sign up for a time.

Senior learning

John Jay Center for Learning's senior lunch and learning series will meet March 7.

Curtis Burnette, a naturalist at the Gene Stratton Porter Historical Site in Geneva, will be presenting about the Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve.

Reservations for lunch cost \$5 and must be paid in advance. The program is offered the first Thursday of each month.

Dean's list

A Jay County High School graduate recently made the dean's list at her college.

Anastasiia Fomina, a former exchange student from Ukraine, made the list for the fall semester at Ivy Tech Community College in Fort Wayne. She's studying cybersecurity.

Births

Ashley

Maverick James, a son, was born Feb. 6 at St. Vincent Randolph to Dustin and Katie Ashley of Winchester. He weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces. Grandparents are Bobbie and

Matt Day of Winchester, Cindy Ashley of Linn and Chad Ashley of Winchester. Great-grandparents are Joyce Caylor of Winchester, Mike Ashley of Winchester and Cheryl Feaster of New Castle.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

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

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRI-

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

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

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

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

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

For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636.

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

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

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

Tuesday

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will

be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

FRIENDS OF JAY COUNTY LIBRARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the library.

A BETTER LIFE - BRI-ANNA'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 (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.

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

1	5	7	9	4	6	8	2	3
4	3	6	8	5	2	7	9	1
8	2	9	3	7	1	5	4	6
2	6	5	1	9	3	4	7	8
3	1	4	2	8	7	9	6	5
7	9	8	5	6	4	1	3	2
6	7	1	4	2	8	3	5	9
9	8	2	7	3	5	6	1	4
5	4	3	6	1	9	2	8	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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WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

For Jay County Schools February 19-23

Monday: Main Entrees: Classic cheeseburger in bun
Alternate Entrees: PB&J and cheese fun lunch, ham & cheese salad, breadstick
Sides for all meals: BBQ baked beans

Tuesday: Main Entrees: Beef nachos
Alternate Entrees: PB&J and cheese fun lunch, ham & cheese salad, breadstick
Sides for all meals: Vegetarian refried beans

Wednesday: Main Entrees: Golden crispy chicken sticks
Alternate Entrees: PB&J and cheese fun lunch, ham & cheese salad, breadstick
Sides for all meals: French fries

Thursday: Main Entrees: Whole grain waffles
Alternate Entrees: PB&J and cheese fun lunch, ham & cheese salad, breadstick
Sides for all meals: Baked apple slices

Friday: Main Entrees: Classic cheese pizza
Alternate Entrees: PB&J and cheese fun lunch, ham & cheese salad, breadstick
Sides for all meals: Seasoned peas & carrots

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Get involved to help the community

To the editor:
February 18 through 24 is Tri Kappa Week for 2024 in the state of Indiana.

Founded in 1901, Tri Kappa gives approximately \$1.5 million dollars every year to local and statewide projects in the areas of charity, culture and education. All chapters support Riley Children's Hospital, The Mental Health Association of Indiana, ARC of Indiana, Indiana Special Olympics, Best Buddies of Indiana, the Hoosier Art Salon and many more worthwhile projects. The Portland Beta Theta

Letters to the Editor

Chapter, founded in 1915, supports many local organizations including Arts Place, 4th of July Committee, the historical society, Pregnancy Care Center, United Way of Jay County, Winterfest, Jay Community Center, the Jay County Public Library Summer Reading Pro-

gram, Jay County Summer Swim Team, Jay County Law Enforcement Camp, Jay County Head Start, Reading is Fundamental, Jay County Special Olympics and the Youth Service Bureau, just to name a few.

Annually, we give \$4,500 in scholarships to Jay County High School seniors and chamber gift certificates to each resident at Jay County Retirement Center and the county nursing and group homes, five facilities in all totaling 188 residents.

We would like to thank the public for supporting our

annual fundraisers: Terri Lynn nuts/Abbot Caramels sales, the Vera Bradley/Thirty-One Bingo (this year's is April 22 at Jay County Junior-Senior High School) and the slushie sales at the Jay County Fair. Thanks also to those who buy advertisements that we announce at the fair. We are the faces that you see when you buy tickets, have your tickets checked at the gate and are ushered to seats at grandstand events at the fair.

The girls of Tri Kappa have fun working together to do projects for the betterment of

our community. We meet new people that we normally wouldn't cross paths with, both locally and throughout the state.

Jay County is a great place to live and raise a family, in part because of the support of several philanthropic organizations in our community. Please consider getting involved in an organization that gives back to our community.

Sincerely,
Jodi McKee
President
Tri Kappa Sorority
Beta Theta Chapter

We need to know AI's limits

By NIKITA AGGARWAL

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

Guest Opinion

Governments around the world are racing to regulate artificial intelligence ("AI"). The Biden administration recently issued an Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of AI. And the European Union reached provisional agreement on its long-awaited AI Act.

This growing effort to regulate and control the development of AI is not surprising. From advancing drug discovery and disease detection to automating menial tasks, the economic and social benefits of AI are real. If misused, however, AI can cause real harms. But the focus on AI technology itself as the target of regulation, rather than harmful uses of AI, may be misguided. It risks missing the goal by either failing to adequately prevent harmful uses of AI, or overly inhibiting socially beneficial ones.

Part of the challenge is defining the boundaries of AI. AI is an amorphous category that encompasses a range of computational methods. Much of the recent progress in AI is thanks to advances in "machine learning" methods, which more effectively mimic human cognitive processes. But as new learning methods are developed, the boundary between AI and "ordinary" computing keeps shifting. Hence the adage, "AI is whatever hasn't been done yet."

These shifting boundaries make it much harder to pin down AI as the target of regulation. A broad definition of AI risks capturing all computational systems, and over-regulating technological development. Narrower definitions may be more targeted but, given the dynamic, fast-shifting boundaries of AI, also risk quickly becoming obsolete. The White House executive order flirts with both broad and narrow definitions of AI. For example, it sets very specific thresholds for compliance with AI reporting requirements — like AI models trained "using a quantity of computing power greater than 1026 integer or floating-point operations." While potentially more administrable, these thresholds seem somewhat arbitrary. And even if they reflect the state of

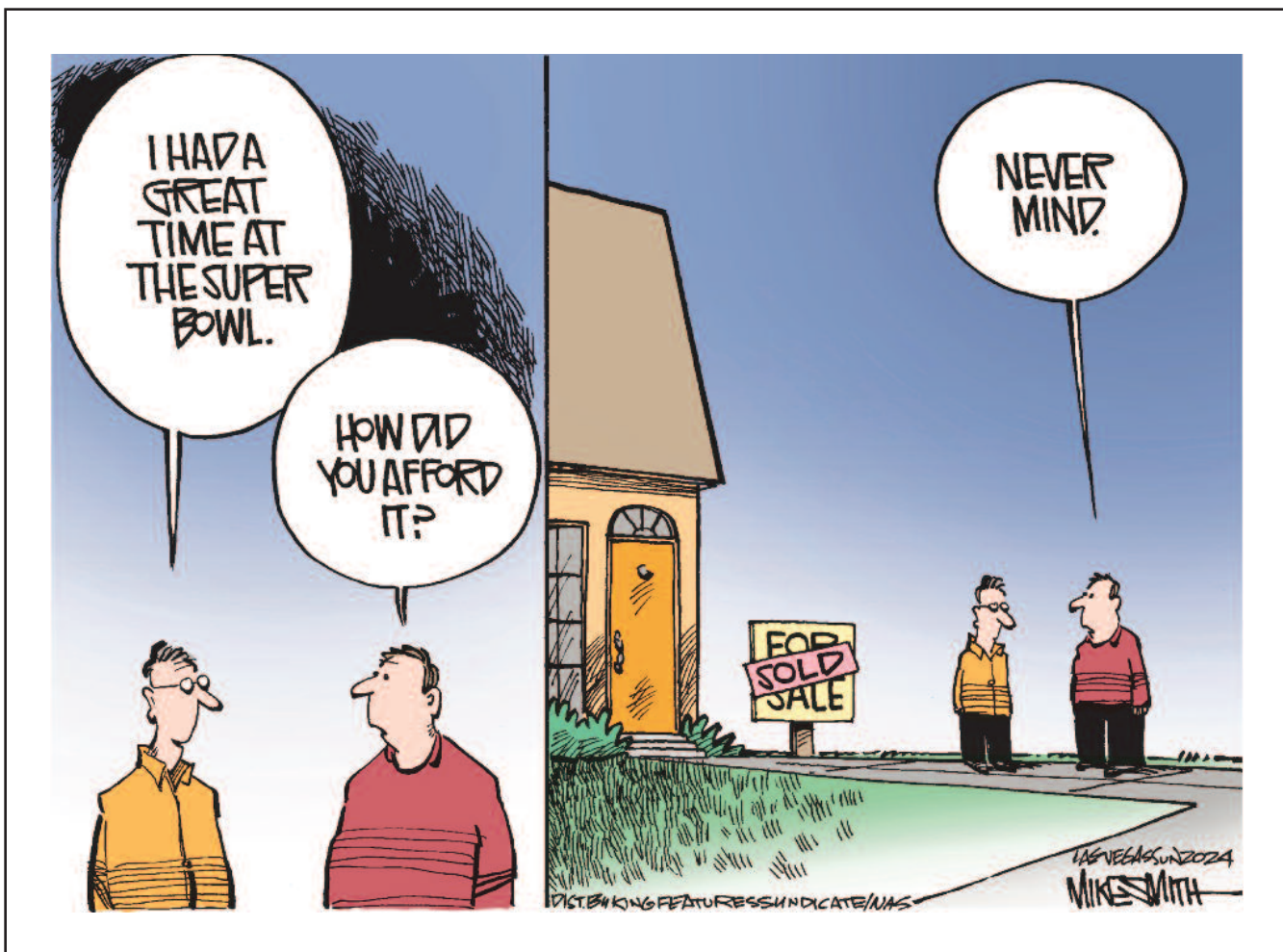
the art in AI today, they will quickly become obsolete.

Not only is it challenging to meaningfully define the boundaries of AI, but it is also challenging to measure the risks of AI, or AI models, in the abstract and without context. We can't meaningfully quantify whether a large AI model, like the one powering ChatGPT, will ultimately cause more harm than good. We certainly can't measure the risk of an AI "super-intelligence" taking over the world — a speculative doomsday scenario that has no doubt encouraged a more precautionary approach to AI regulation. We can, in contrast, more easily measure, and penalize, specific harmful uses of these models — like deepfakes spewing disinformation and undermining the democratic process.

To be sure, some laws, like the EU AI Act, also distinguish and regulate specific applications of AI, like facial recognition and credit scoring systems, that are perceived to be higher risk. And there are many other non-AI-specific laws and regulations, from financial laws to copyright laws, that regulate AI use. But these "downstream" rules are part of an AI governance framework that increasingly includes "upstream" regulation of AI methods and models, i.e., the technology itself.

We need to think more carefully about the relative merits of upstream AI regulation, particularly to avoid overregulating AI development. We don't want to make it harder for smaller startups to compete with large firms, like OpenAI and Microsoft, that dominate the market in AI development and can more easily absorb the costs of regulatory compliance. We must try to both prevent and remedy harms caused by AI. But we must also not act with so much precaution that we end up stifling its many economic and social benefits.

It may be too early to know that the harms of AI so clearly exceed the benefits such that a highly precautionary regulatory stance is justified.



Trump keeps pushing angry ideas

By MICHAEL LEPPERT

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The "Jesus, He Gets Us" folks made a splash during the Super Bowl on Sunday with their commercial about how "Jesus didn't teach hate, he washed feet." I don't get what their intended return is for that kind of investment, but as far as commercials go, I liked that one as much as any of them this year. The "love your neighbor" messages never get old. To me, anyway.

In the last week, the frontrunner for the GOP nomination for president has said many troubling things. But what makes them most problematic is that there is no one left in the GOP to object anymore. For Donald Trump to keep his angry and loyal following whipped up into their frenzied mania, he must keep escalating his rhetoric, or they will lose interest. It's a predictable process.

First, he threatened to mobilize military forces to round up millions of undocumented migrants for deportation. According to Axios, not since Eisenhower has such a thing been pursued, and thankfully, that was a far different time.

Next, he mocked his Republican opponent, Nikki Haley, for her husband being absent from the campaign trail. Never mind that Trump and his wife, Melania, have only been seen together at her mother's funeral during the last several months. Maj. Michael Haley is on a yearlong deployment with the South Carolina National Guard in Africa. There was a time when that kind of un-American mockery would turn off Republican voters.

Finally, nothing would have sickened Reagan Republicans more than taunting members of NATO. With what? With the threat of inviting Russia to "do whatever the hell they want" to any non-dues-paying members of what Trump apparently believes is a Mar-A-Lago-style country club.

In today's Republican party, an

Michael Leppert



angry voter base is everything. But most people tire of being mad and need refueled on a regular basis. Feeding the desire for grievance is of paramount importance.

Buddhism's Second Noble Truth states that the cause of suffering is craving. MAGA world's insatiable desire for the next angriest idea is that craving.

Joshua J. Mark writes about it extensively for the World History Encyclopedia. "People whose understanding of life is darkened by ignorance, craving, and aversion condemn themselves to spinning round and round on this wheel, dying only to be reborn in the same suffering state eternally," he writes.

In other words, the suffering won't ever end until the craving ends.

The Republican-led killing of the immigration deal in the Senate last week confirms that keeping its own hatred addiction fed is more important than anything else. The Democrats capitulated to GOP desires and gave them what they wanted, to then find out nothing would ever be enough. Even the Trump-supporting Border Patrol union supported the deal, only to have the Trump sycophant of the week, Sen. Marco Rubio, declare the union is simply wrong.

Of course, Rubio also said that Trump's pro-Russia, anti-NATO comments were simply misunderstood storytelling. That the Florida senator happened to say that is one thing, that he specifically appeared on CNN's Sunday morning show, State of the Union, to give that excuse is quite another.

The crowd at the rally where it

was originally said cheered the disgraceful comments just like all the rest. And in the Capitol, this cheering is converted to Trumpists' opposition to fund Ukraine's self-defense.

Back here in Indiana, under pressure from fellow Republicans, Gov. Eric Holcomb on Friday announced he would deploy 50 Indiana National Guard soldiers to Texas' border with Mexico, "effective immediately." The move might be more than a political gimmick if he was also supportive of the Senate deal. But his slippery Indy Star editorial on Monday avoids overtly expressing that support, in a nod to MAGA rage.

The GOP wants to continue funding Israel's campaign to decimate Hamas. Ironically, the Jewish hate of which I'm most familiar in America has historically also come from the political right.

Which brings me back to the Super Bowl.

Stand up to Jewish Hate also had a good spot during the game, featuring Dr. Clarence B. Jones. He was one of the original drafters of Dr. Martin Luther King's iconic, "I Have a Dream" speech. Yep, it was another good ad filled with imagery detailing the peril of all kinds of hatred, including anti-Muslim hate, and the benefits of a better approach to life.

These ads are so much more interesting than someone trying to sell me a car or make me feel better about a car I already bought.

From the Hebrew Bible, "There's no peace, said the lord, for the wicked." Especially when they don't want peace and are too ignorant to see they actually are the wicked ones.

Leppert is an author, educator and a communication consultant in Indianapolis.

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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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2-17 CRYPTOQUIP

ALKD WLK DCZQRK RESGKDWKS
PEQNKX EW YKWWQDY WLK
ACCX UVSPERK NKZKN, LK

ULCVWXX, "Q RED'W KZKD!"
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT MIGHT YOU CALL A FORTY-SOMETHING WHO ASSISTS WOMEN DURING CHILDBIRTH? A MIDLIFE MIDWIFE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals V

Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

Grappling questions

- 1) What country does four-time Olympic gold medalist wrestler Mijaín López represent?
- 2) In the WWE, Indianapolis was the site of the debut, split and reunion of what popular stable?

(1) Cuba
(2) The Shield

2-19 CRYPTOQUIP

TEZ INI CNMW ZTGZ'C G
FNZEDGZENMGU GMZTLF ZN
ZTL UGRSGONS ONW RSLLO:

"ONM'Z CZNI SLZSELDDEM'."
Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE NOVICE CARPENTER FAILED AT GETTING THE WOOD SURFACE LEVEL, HE SHOUTED, "I CAN'T EVEN!"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals P

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to Valentine's Day. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 11 = C)

A. 1 16 13 13 20 1
Clue: Candy

B. 14 5 6 3 7 11 13
Clue: Excitement about love

C. 11 3 14 9
Clue: Offers a greeting

D. 11 15 5 11 5 18 3 20 13
Clue: Rich and creamy treat

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Valentine's Day.

SLOEV

ANSWERS: Loves

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Toronto, Canada on February 16, 1990. I used to anonymously upload my music to YouTube, but I am now a three-time Grammy-winner. I was the first artist to simultaneously hold the top three positions on the Billboard Hot R&B Songs chart.

ANSWER: The Weeknd

kids' corner

ANIMAL FACT:

THIS FATTY FOOD CAN HELP BIRDS MAINTAIN A HEALTHY WEIGHT DURING WINTER.

ANSWER: GUT

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Nest
SPANISH: Nido
ITALIAN: Nido
FRENCH: Nid
GERMAN: Nest

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1. Natural illumination
5. White bird
7. Determine from evidence
8. Dispenses seeds

DOWN
1. Plant's units of reproduction
2. Cuddly bird
3. Push past limits
4. Trademark (abbr.)
6. Winged animals

ANSWERS:
Across: 1. Sunlight, 5. Dove, 7. Infer, 8. Feeder
Down: 1. Seeds, 2. Lovebird, 3. Go too far, 4. TM, 6. Birds

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

1878: INVENTOR THOMAS EDISON PATENTS THE PHONOGRAPH.

1942: NEARLY 250 JAPANESE WARPLANES ATTACK THE CITY OF DARWIN, AUSTRALIA.

2002: NASA'S MARS ODYSSEY SPACE PROBE BEGINS TO MAP THE SURFACE OF MARS.

New Word

AVIAN
relating to birds

SWEETHEARTS WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

- ### WORDS
- BOUQUET
 - BOYFRIEND
 - CARDS
 - CELEBRATE
 - CHOCOLATES
 - DATE
 - DINNER
 - ENAMORED
 - FEBRUARY
 - GESTURE
 - GIFTS
 - GIRLFRIEND
 - HEART
 - JEWELRY
 - LOVE
 - LOVING
 - MOVIES
 - PROPOSAL
 - RED
 - RELATIONSHIP
 - ROMANTIC
 - ROSES
 - SPOUSE
 - VALENTINE

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Pogo stick sound
- 6 Roller-bladed
- 12 Large vulture
- 13 Unorthodox doctrine
- 14 Lamppost
- 15 Sheathe
- 16 Langston Hughes poem
- 17 Online auction site
- 19 Club
- 20 Bistro
- 22 Small batteries
- 24 In shape
- 27 Sicilian spouter
- 29 Doc's "Now!"
- 32 Two-level buses
- 35 Journalist
- 36 To boot
- 37 Singer Carly — Jepsen
- 38 "Today" rival, briefly

DOWN

- 40 Billions of years
- 42 Speech fillers
- 44 React in horror
- 46 Fir or yew
- 50 Update, as machinery
- 52 Paragons
- 54 Actress/ podcaster
- 55 Arid
- 56 Dido's lover
- 57 Egg holders
- 1 Figure of speech
- 4 Fish-fowl insert
- 5 Chinese brew
- 6 The Mets' old home
- 7 Nairobi's land
- 8 Joan of —
- 9 Trucker in a union
- 10 Being, to Brutus
- 11 Turned blue?
- 12 CBS forensic drama
- 18 Cable packages
- 21 Moray, for one
- 23 Request
- 24 Rx overseer
- 25 Charged bit
- 26 Wolfram
- 28 Like some fables
- 30 Celestial altar
- 31 Mao — -tung
- 33 "Kapow!"
- 34 Anti
- 39 Old market-place
- 41 Mushroom parts
- 42 — Major
- 43 Sneaky laughs
- 45 Legend-ary boxing family
- 47 En-grossed
- 48 Yale students
- 49 "Guinness Book" suffix
- 51 Tramcar contents
- 53 Dad on "Black-ish"

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-17

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Unwelcome assignment

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ K J 8 3 2
♥ A 5
♦ K 6
♠ A K 8 5

EAST
♥ 7 4
♦ J 9 8 6
♦ Q 9 5 4
♣ Q 10 6

SOUTH
♦ A Q 10 9 5
♥ Q 7 3
♦ A 8 7 2
♣ 4

The bidding:
South 1♠ Pass
West 5♥ Pass
North 4NT
East 7♣ Pass

Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

Skillful card play can compensate for a multitude of sins committed during the bidding. Consider this deal where North became so enamored of his hand after his partner opened the bidding with one spade that he contracted for a grand slam after determining only that his side held all four aces. The small matter of how to take 13 tricks was left to poor South to resolve.

Declarer was naturally disappointed when dummy appeared, since a heart loser seemed inevitable. But he had been to the wars before and recognized that the situation was not entirely hopeless.

Accordingly, after taking the opening diamond lead with dummy's king, declarer cashed two rounds of trump, then played the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond in dummy. Next came the A-K of clubs and a club ruff, followed by another diamond ruff in dummy. Declarer then led dummy's last trump to his queen to bring about this position:

West ♥ K 10 ♣ J
East ♥ J 9 8
South ♦ 10 ♠ Q 7

As South hoped, West had started with the king of hearts and at least five clubs. Having taken care to exhaust East of clubs in order to put the burden of guarding that suit entirely on West, declarer now led his last trump. This left West without recourse, and the slam was home.

Unfortunately, it also left North with the impression that he had bid the hand brilliantly, much to the consternation of the opponents — and his beleaguered partner.

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ Q 8 7 5
♥ Q 8 7 4
♦ J 4 2
♣ 2

EAST
♠ A 10
♥ J 10 9
♦ A 10 7 3
♣ K Q 9 7

SOUTH
♦ 6 4 2
♥ A K 6 5 3
♦ 9 6
♣ A 6 5

The bidding:
West 2♠ Pass
North 3♥ Pass
East 1♦ Pass
South 1♥ Pass

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

In bridge, a moderately aggressive style will ultimately win far more points than it will lose. A striking example of this principle is provided by this deal from the final of the 1989 Vanderbilt teams.

When Michael Becker and Ron Rubin held the North-South cards, the bidding went as shown. After East opened one diamond in third seat and Rubin overcalled with one heart, West opted for a conservative raise to two diamonds despite his 10 high-card points and singleton heart. Becker then leaped to three hearts, pre-emptive in the partnership style, and neither East nor West chose to bid further.

Despite the superior bidding, this could still have turned out to be a small loss for the more aggressive partnership. Had South led the ace and another club, or had he switched to clubs after his actual lead of the heart ace, the contract would have been defeated.

South even got a third chance after he continued with a heart at trick two. Bramley ruffed in dummy but could not afford to draw trump while he still had a losing heart in his hand. So, at trick three, he led a club to the nine. South won and could have sunk the contract by returning a club. When he exited with a trump instead, declarer had the rest of the tricks and his game.

Tomorrow: A question of probabilities.
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

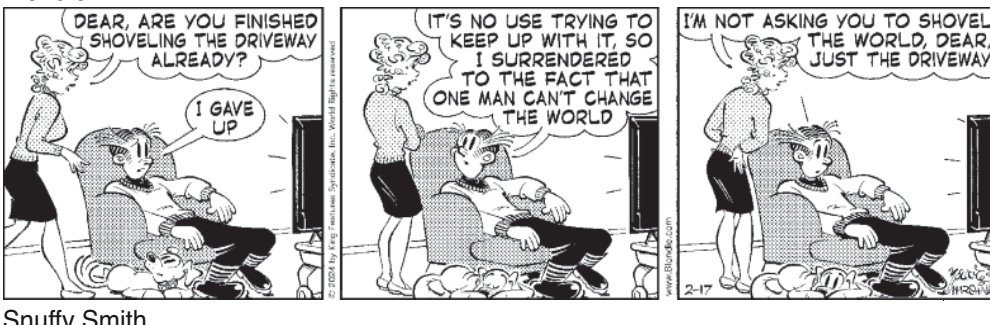
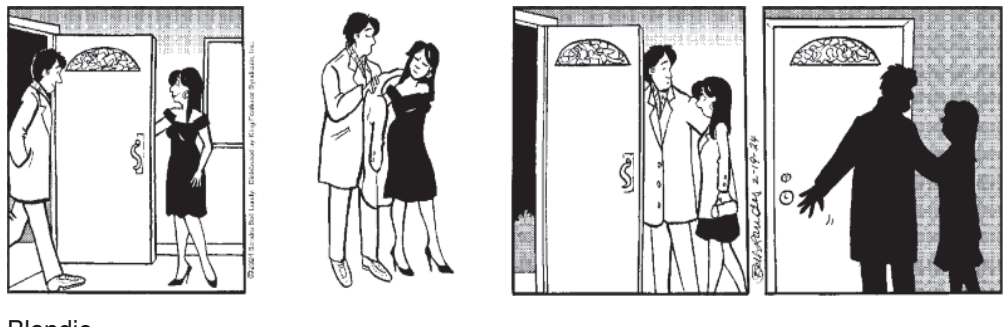
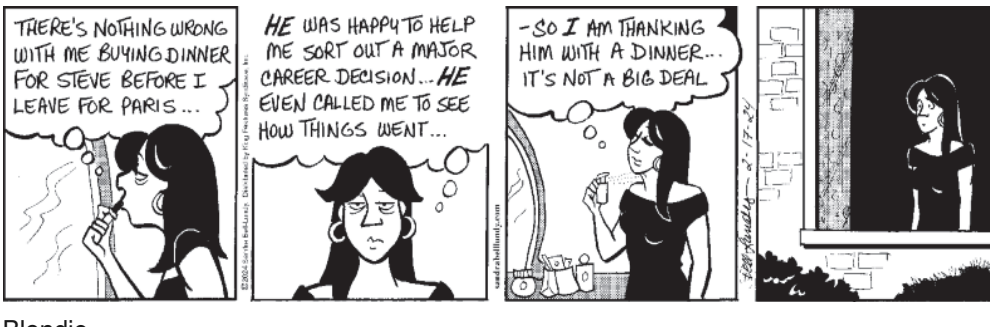
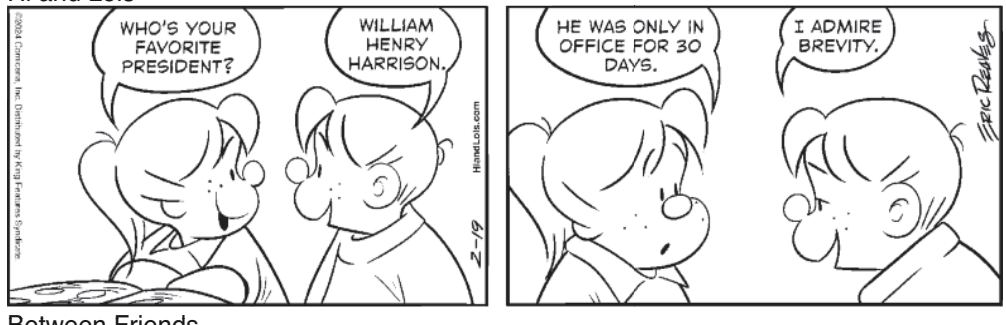
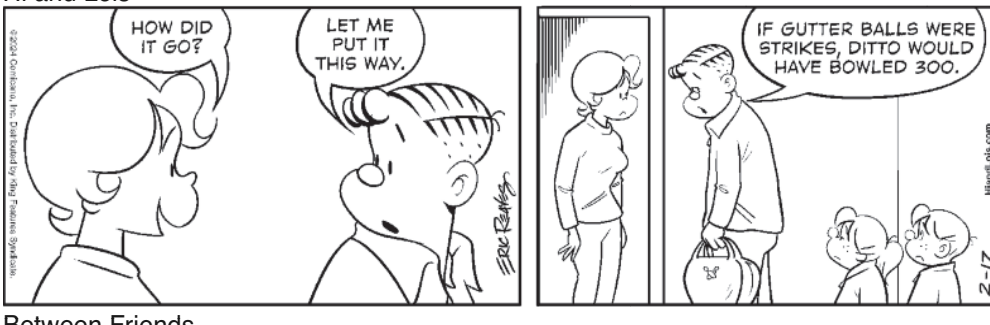
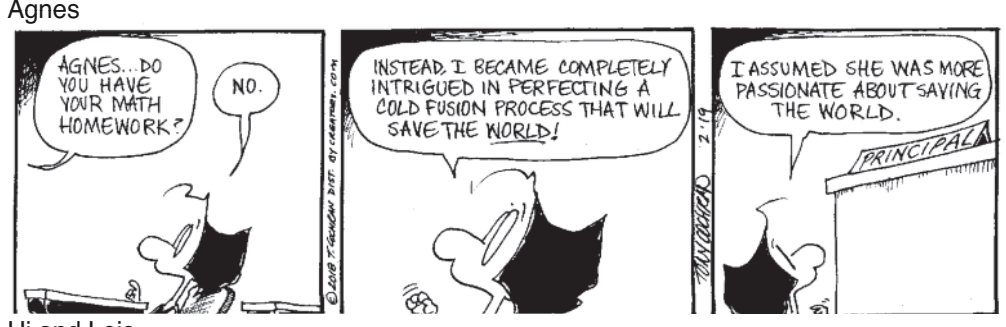
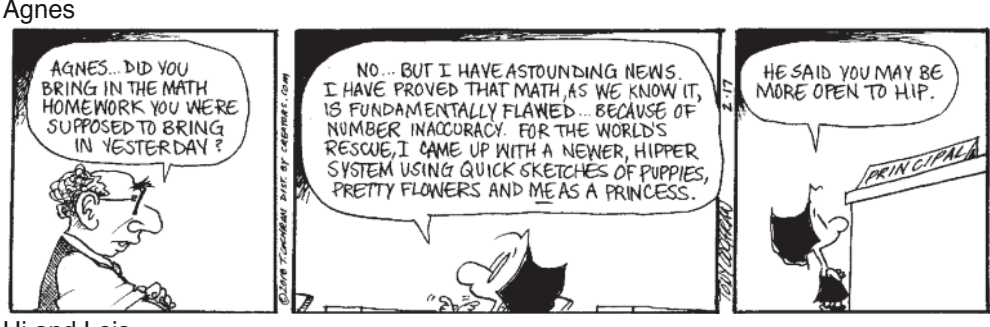
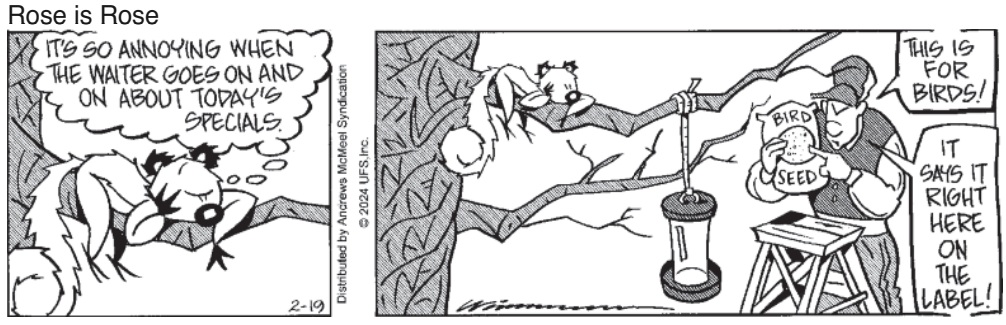
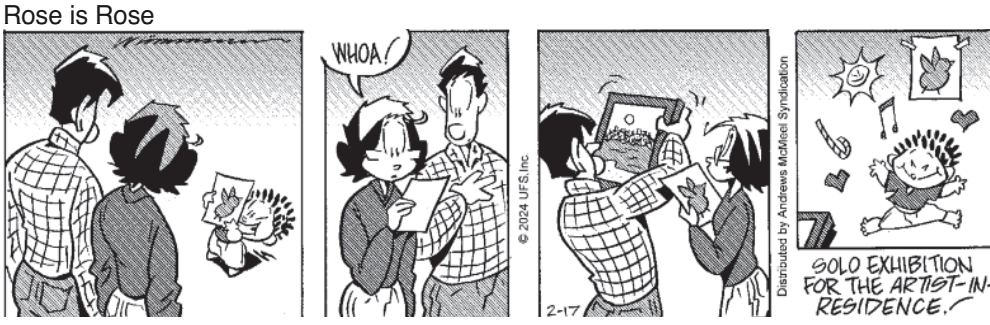
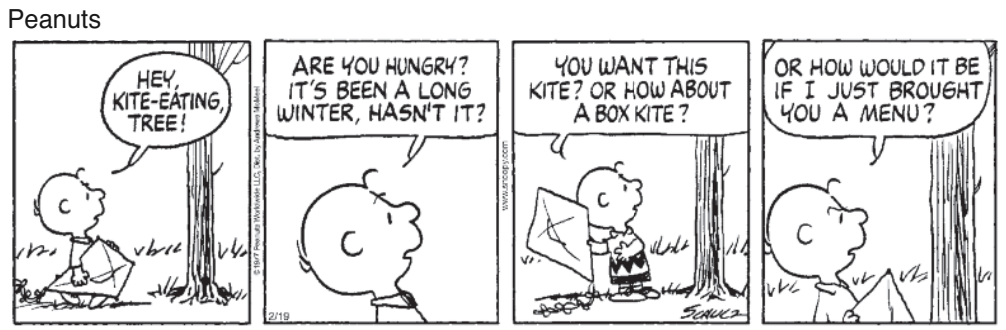
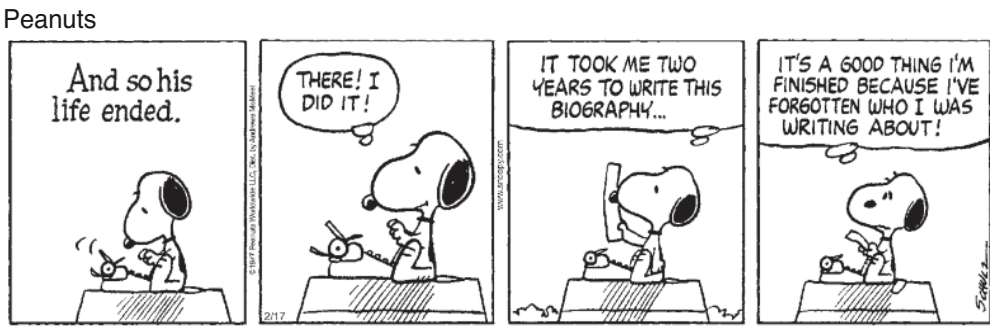
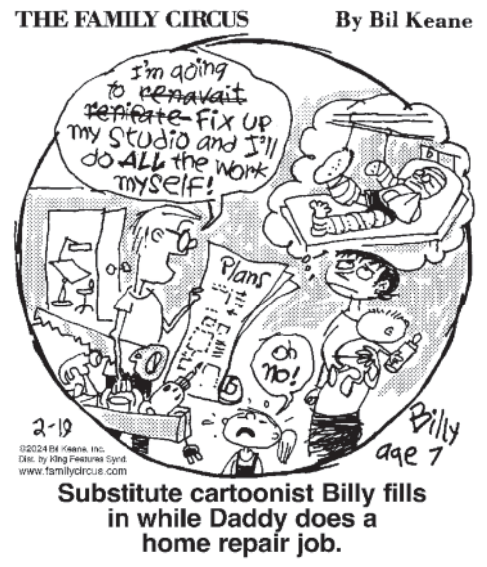
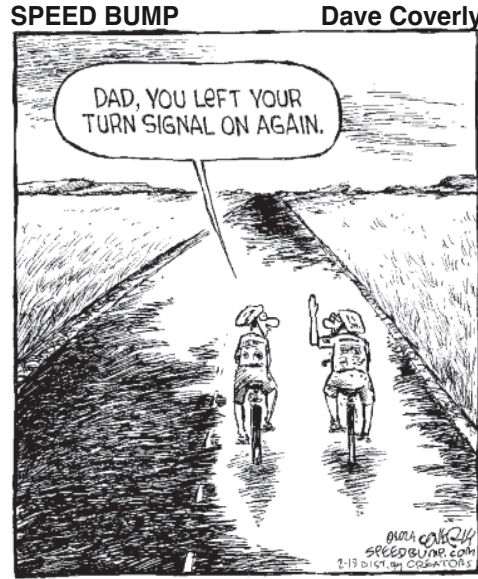
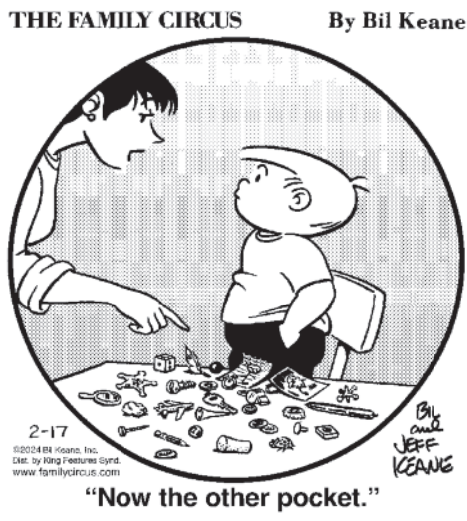
- 1 "Break My Heart" singer
- 5 "Keep it down!"
- 8 Wine (Pref.)
- 12 Trucker with a handle
- 13 Misery
- 14 Lost traction
- 15 Like Bee-thoven
- 16 Control tower locale
- 18 Narrow water-way
- 20 River boats
- 21 Queue after Q
- 23 — Maria (coffee liqueur)
- 24 Fuel-producing area
- 28 Crisp cookie
- 31 "Where — you?"
- 32 Yemeni capital
- 34 Dove's call

DOWN

- 17 — Tuesday
- 19 Mother of Horus
- 22 Of an arm bone
- 24 Muffin type
- 25 Nest egg letters
- 26 "Mona Lisa" painter
- 27 Routine
- 29 Gmail alter-native
- 30 Group of seals
- 33 Not many
- 36 Rode the waves
- 38 Vacation spot
- 40 Texter's "Enough!"
- 42 Enthusiastic
- 43 Film composer
- 44 Plane reservation
- 46 Actress Falco
- 47 Melody
- 48 Leak out slowly
- 50 Asian language

Solution time: 21 mins.

Saturday's answer 2-19



We Deliver

Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

Laughter

The Commercial Review We Deliver

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2 insertions.....81¢/word
3 insertions.....96¢/word
6 insertions.... \$1.14/word
12 insertions. \$1.52/word
26 insertions. \$1.77/word
Includes
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Classified Display \$6.95/ per column inch
No borders or logos allowed on Classified Page
Card of Thanks Up to 100 words.... \$13.00
In Memory Up to 100 words.... \$13.00
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PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one days incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mistakes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.

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SATURDAY, MARCH
16th
10 A.M.
PLEASE CONSIGN
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Cole Luthman – 937-658-1380
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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY MARCH
23rd, 2024
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED:
7136 N 650 E. BRYANT,
IN.
OPEN HOUSE:
Sunday, March 10TH
from 1-3 pm, or for pri-
vate showing phone
auctioneers.
REAL ESTATE
80 Acres in Section 7,
Wabash Township. To
be offered in tracts and
combinations.
Tract 1: 2.5 Acres with 3
bed, 2 bath brick ranch
style home containing
1792 sq ft finished living
area. Attached 2 car
garage, central air, lofted
barn, detached
garage/grainery.
Tract 2: 66 Acres Practi-
cally all tillable with
frontage on SR 67 and
CR 650 E.
Tract 3: 2.4 Acres practi-
cally all tillable with
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CR 650 E.
Tract 4: 7 Acres Wooded
with access on CR 650
E.
**TRACTOR – ANTIQUES
– MISC**
Farmall A Tractor with
cycle bar mower, belly
mower and blade. 5 gal-
lon milk can. CC saw.
Chicken crate. Old
gates. Walking plows.
Old toys. Tinker toys
and games. Hand pain-
ted lamp globe.
**OWNER: Laux Trust-
Thomas J. Laux Trustee
SHAWVER AUCTION-
EERING AND REAL
ESTATE**
AC31800004
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587
Check AuctionZip for
more photos.

PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY MARCH
9th, 2024
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED:
4023 S 800 W. RED-
KEY, IN.
REAL ESTATE
Tract 1: 25 Acres in Sec-
tion 5, Jefferson Town-
ship with 23 acres till-
able, balance being non-
tillable and road
frontage.
Tract 2: 9.6 Acres in
Section 6, Jefferson
Township. Practically all
tillable. For more in-
formation phone auction-
eers. Land will be sold
at 4023 S 800 W, Red-
key IN.
**TRUCK – TRACTOR -
FARM EQUIPMENT –
MISC**
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hyd. hose reel, PTO
driven on transport. PTO
hog manure pump. Wil-
son 45' hopper bottom
grain trailer. 1000-500-
300 gallon fuel tanks.
Work benches.
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HOLD**
Plastic Marathon sign.
Garden plows. Garden
planter. Oil cans. Maytag
washer and dryer. Gladi-
ator refrigerator. Full line
of household furnishings
and furniture.
**OWNER: Anita Orr,
Wade Weesner POA
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EERING AND REAL
ESTATE**
AC31800004
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
JAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED
REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE Sheriff's file number:
Date of sale: 3/7/2024 10:00 AM
PUBLISHER'S NAME/COUNTY:
THE COMMERCIAL REVIEW-JAY COUNTY
Judgment to be Satisfied: \$70,875.00
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the
Clerk of Superior Court of Jay County, Indiana, in Cause No.
38C01-2211-MF-000022
Plaintiff: U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individ-
ual capacity but solely as owner trustee for REO Trust 2017-RPL1
Defendant: Ronald Berry, et al.
Required me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with
interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder,
at the hour of 10:00 AM of said day as listed above, at, fee simple of
the whole body of Real Estate in Jay County, Indiana:
LEGAL DESCRIPTION
THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE IN JAY
COUNTY, IN THE STATE OF INDIANA, TO-WIT: LOT NUM-
BERED SIX IN THE THOMAS ADDITION TO THE TOWN, NOW
CITY, OF DUNKIRK, INDIANA. ALSO, THAT PORTION OF
THE VACATED ALLEY ADJOINING SAID LOT, MORE PAR-
TICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: A PART OF A SIX-
TEEN AND FIVE TENTHS FOOT VACATED NORTH AND
SOUTH ALLEY MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOL-
LOW, TO-WIT: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWESTERLY COR-
NER OF LOT #6 IN THOMAS ADDITION TO THE CITY OF
DUNKIRK, INDIANA, SAID POINT BEING THE NORTH-
EASTERLY CORNER OF SAID VACATED ALLEY RUNNING
THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY ON THE WESTERLY LINE OF
SAID LOT #6 AND THE EASTERLY LINE OF SAID VACATED
ALLEY SIXTY-FIVE FEET TO THE SOUTHWESTERLY COR-
NER OF SAID LOT #6, THENCE RUNNING NORTHWEST-
ERLY ON THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT #6 PRO-
DUCED NORTHWESTERLY EIGHT AND TWENTY-FIVE
HUNDRETHS FEET TO THE CENTER LINE OF SAID VA-
CATED ALLEY; THENCE RUNNING NORTHEASTERLY AND
PARALLEL WITH THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT #6,
SIXTY-FIVE FEET TO A POINT IN THE NORTHERLY LINE
OF SAID LOT #6 PRODUCED WESTERLY; THENCE RUNNING
SOUTHEASTERLY ON SAID NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT
#6 PRODUCED WEST EIGHT AND TWENTY-FIVE HUN-
DRETHS FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
Parcel No. 38-09-08-402-009.000-014
Commonly Known as: 520 SOUTH MAIN STREET, DUNKIRK,
IN 47336
Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale
will be made without relief from valuation or appraisalment laws.
This Notice shall also represent service of Notice of Sale of the
above-described real estate upon the owners, pursuant to require-
ments of IC 32-29-7-3.
Larry R. Newton
Sheriff of Jay County
Matthew C. Gladwell (30493-49)
Christopher J. Arlinghaus (31680-15)
Aaron Rodgers (28418-84)
Attorney
Reisenfeld & Associates LLC
(513) 322-7000
The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the
street address published herein.
CR 2-3,10,17-2024 - HSPAXLP

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Firewood available
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9:30-3:00 Saturday

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Alcohol & Tobacco
Commission
**LEGAL NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING**
The Alcohol Beverage Board
of Jay County, Indiana will
hold a public hearing at 11:00
am on February 27, 2024 at the
Court House, Auditorium, in
the city of Portland in said
county, to investigate the pro-
priety of holding an alcoholic
beverage permit by the appli-
cants listed herein to wit:
RC3800038 Beer Wine &
Liquor - Fraternal Club
RENEWAL
AMERICAN LEGION POST
227 118 W. COMMERCE ST.
Dunkirk IN
D/B/A AMERICAN LE-
GION #227
CR 2-17-2024-HSPAXLP

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Portland Civil City, 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					
001	Portland City Court	\$16,189.08	\$253,870.41	\$242,307.17	\$27,752.32
002	Criminal Investigative Funds	\$1,319.87	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$1,069.87
101	GENERAL FUND	\$4,629,366.04	\$4,328,376.49	\$4,355,102.66	\$4,802,639.87
176	ARP GRANT FUND (AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN)	\$1,360,215.98	\$0.00	\$1,360,215.98	\$0.00
201	MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY	\$702,632.97	\$1,112,880.70	\$1,145,084.20	\$670,429.47
202	LOCAL ROAD & STREET	\$72,096.11	\$45,632.79	\$6,610.32	\$111,118.58
203	MVH RESTRICTED	\$196,186.18	\$136,091.20	\$110,995.03	\$221,282.35
204	PARK & RECREATION	\$359,970.23	\$393,970.85	\$504,242.36	\$249,593.72
205	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCOME TAX	\$1,188,930.42	\$341,468.34	\$387,212.40	\$1,143,186.36
206	INSURANCE SURPLUS NON REVERTING	\$697,785.54	\$1,279,095.70	\$1,486,549.38	\$490,331.86
207	POOL CONSTRUCTION FUND	\$95,829.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$95,829.00
208	PARK DONATION FUND	\$2,059.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,059.40
209	PORTLAND MEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE DONATION	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
210	MAYOR'S ANNUAL GOLF OUTING	\$598.35	\$6,333.00	\$6,830.29	\$101.06
211	POLICE CONTINUING EDUCATION	\$48,361.54	\$11,840.00	\$14,544.58	\$45,656.96
212	POLICE BENEVOLENCE DONATION FUND	\$4,720.53	\$3,050.00	\$1,255.29	\$6,515.24
213	TRADING CARD FUND	\$71.45	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$71.45
215	RIVERBOAT WAGERING TAX REVENUE	\$418,848.90	\$15,759.81	\$0.00	\$434,608.71
216	CONCESSIONS	\$97,445.34	\$40,447.25	\$22,745.90	\$115,146.69
217	PORTLAND FORFEITURE FUND	\$817.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$817.62
218	TIF 2007 ALLOCATION FUND	\$807,384.60	\$367,642.39	\$557,965.73	\$617,061.26
219	TIF 2007 CONSTRUCTION FUND	\$46,703.95	\$391,598.28	\$387,351.38	\$50,950.85
220	TIF 2007 DEBT SERVICE RESERVE FUND	\$192,768.00	\$1,307.09	\$0.00	\$194,075.09
221	TIF 2007 BOND & INTEREST	\$173,271.63	\$167,492.65	\$168,000.00	\$172,764.28
223	FIRE DEPT. INVESTIGATIVE FUND	\$45,391.92	\$1,892.05	\$864.85	\$46,419.12
224	EDIT DOWNTOWN FACADE PROGRAM	\$60,742.03	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$60,742.03
225	TIF DOWNTOWN FACADE PROGRAM	\$27,582.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,582.31
2257	OPIOID SETTLEMENT	\$5,759.29	\$916.85	\$6,676.14	\$0.00
226	PARK BOND & INTEREST	\$160,156.62	\$26,883.64	\$128,493.97	\$58,546.29
228	REVOLVING LOAN FUND	\$95,976.90	\$3,876.47	\$89.16	\$99,764.21
246	IDDC - PUBLIC ART GRANT	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
2407	IFA-GRANT	\$0.00	\$902,000.00	\$0.00	\$902,000.00
242	DARE DONATION FUND	\$7,388.89	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$1,388.89
243	DNR GRANT - TRAILS PROJECT	\$72,205.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$72,205.25
244	SMOKE DETECTOR DONATION FUND	\$990.07	\$2,170.00	\$36.95	\$3,123.12
249	LOIT PUBLIC SAFETY FUND	\$307,898.05	\$267,010.03	\$206,458.49	\$368,449.59
2521	PORTLAND STREET DEPT. NON REVERTING	\$34,619.00	\$67,860.00	\$2,993.14	\$99,485.86
2534	MILESTONE RETAINAGE FUND	\$0.00	\$18,412.34	\$0.00	\$18,412.34
2541	WATSON-RETAINAGE	\$0.00	\$229,094.64	\$0.00	\$229,094.64
257	LOIT SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION	\$8,828.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,828.04
262	DRUG FREE COMMUNITY FUND	\$5,312.98	\$10.00	\$3,280.00	\$2,042.98
263	CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION FUND	\$9,235.86	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,235.86
320	SIDEWALK RECONSTRUCTION FUND	\$45,549.34	\$23,754.20	\$11,666.91	\$57,636.63
325	BUILDING DEMOLITION FUND	\$37,995.17	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$47,995.17
356	LOCAL ROAD & BRIDGE MATCHING GRANT FUND (CCG)	\$30,408.97	\$345,231.34	\$363,394.02	\$12,246.29
357	HUDSON FAMILY PARK	\$184.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$184.05
358	HUDSON FAMILY PARK DONATION	\$301.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$301.92
359	CHRISTMAS PARTY DONATION FUND	\$1,188.97	\$3,350.00	\$2,808.37	\$1,730.60
401	CUM CAP IMP - CIG TAX	\$135,798.79	\$11,472.05	\$0.00	\$147,270.84
406	CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT	\$665,377.71	\$230,848.50	\$78,344.41	\$817,881.80
407	CUMULATIVE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RATE	\$837,076.82	\$136,916.32	\$616,684.92	\$357,308.22
408	PORTLAND FIRE DEPT NON REV. EQUIPMENT	\$391,835.18	\$82,171.41	\$9,744.00	\$464,262.59
429	AIP 3-18-0068-15 Runway Design Phase 2	\$2,295.37	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,295.37
430	AIP 3-18-0068-019-2020 RUNWAY EXT GR/DR; PAV/LTG	\$0.00	\$4,359.76	\$4,359.76	\$0.00
4531	AIP 3-18-0068-023-2022	\$0.00	\$47,628.78	\$46,661.14	\$967.64
4532	AIP 3-18-0068-021-2021	\$0.00	\$292,207.43	\$289,207.44	\$2,999.99
4533	AIP 3-18-0068-024-2023	\$0.00	\$10,138.00	\$7,852.11	\$2,285.89
4600	DONATION FUND - SAFE HAVEN BABY BOX	\$1,246.00	\$1,422.62	\$660.00	\$2,008.62
500	RAINY DAY FUND	\$443,588.29	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$443,588.29
609	SANITATION FUND	\$252,888.75	\$209,297.64	\$68,906.61	\$393,279.78
610	RECYCLING FUND	\$34,701.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$34,701.65
622	AVIATION	\$361,700.07	\$192,619.04	\$189,328.78	\$364,990.33
663	AVIATION FUEL FUND	\$215,910.83	\$407,522.93	\$380,841.44	\$242,592.32
699	REDKEY CITY FINES	\$7,900.00	\$4,735.00	\$12,550.00	\$85.00
700	DUNKIRK CITY FINES	\$138.00	\$297.00	\$357.00	\$78.00
702	FIRE PENSION FUND	\$191,587.87	\$116,721.19	\$127,524.17	\$180,784.89
703	POLICE PENSION FUND	\$87,427.95	\$65,051.52	\$69,034.34	\$83,445.13
705	COURT COSTS DUE COUNTY	\$1,078.00	\$14,238.00	\$13,412.00	\$1,904.00
706	USER FEE FUND-COURT CONT EDUCATION	\$735.18	\$3,852.00	\$3,636.00	\$951.18
707	CASH CHANGE & PETTY CASH	\$1,175.00			

One shining moment

Tribe seniors all contribute in regular season finale

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Three Indians were honored for their time served before they took on the Rangers.

All three found ways to contribute to a win in their final game on the Indians' home floor.

Kensy Gaerke, Saige Leuthold and Cali Wendel combined for 24 points in the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team's 46-29 win over the New Knoxville Rangers in the regular season finale Thursday afternoon.

"Awesome way to go out on senior night, being able to get all our seniors in and get them to contribute in big ways," FRHS coach Tyler Deitsch said. "Whether if that's emotionally with Kensy and how we started the game, or Cali and Saige being able to get double figures to push the lead where we needed it to and control the tempo."

The Indians (8-14, 3-6 Midwest Athletic Conference) and the Rangers (3-19, 1-8 MAC) started the game with a truce to trade open baskets to give Gaerke the chance to score one final time. The FRHS senior suffered a knee injury Dec. 2, keeping her out for the second season in a row.

All three seniors contributed to the score as Leuthold tipped the ball to Wendel, who relayed it to Gaerke for the lay-in. Deitsch called timeout after the bucket to let Gaerke take a moment with her teammates and leave the floor to an ovation.

"It was a very special moment and bittersweet, but it felt good to have that chance again," Gaerke said. "This was the last moment I got with my teammates, so it was hard. ... I definitely think it'll be a good memory."

While Gaerke got her two points for free, Leuthold had to earn all 10 of hers. Leuthold had to deal with two of the MAC's best rebounders and shot blockers in Brynn Egbert and Addi Albers.

As of Feb. 7, Egbert was second in blocked shots with 24 — just in front of Leuthold with 20 — and fifth in rebounding with 144 — also one spot in front of Leuthold with 132. Albers co-lead the MAC with 176 rebounds as well.

To combat the strong frontline, Leuthold stepped out to hit a pair of threes and another jumper from the short corner. The only basket inside came on a play that Leuthold sealed the fronting Egbert to receive a pass from Karlie Niekamp for a layup.

"I think it was just adrenaline and knowing I should perform tonight, so that helped me stay focused," Leuthold said. "My game play was just to give it everything because I would never play in this gym again, so I wanted to leave it out on the floor."

Leuthold paired her 10 points with a game-high nine rebounds, just topping Albers at eight.

Wendel had a strong fourth quarter, scoring seven of her 12 points in the final period. The senior tied



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

FRHS senior Kensy Gaerke puts up the first layup in the Indians' 46-29 win over New Knoxville on Thursday. After suffering an injury in early December, Gaerke got to score the opening points as the teams agreed to trade buckets.

with Niekamp for the most points. Albers finished with the most for New Knoxville at 10.

Fort Recovery took advantage of the Rangers at the start of each period.

The teams traded baskets in the first to tie at 11 apiece, but dominated the first four minutes of the second, third and fourth.

The Indians outscored the Rangers 27-9 in the first

four minutes of all the quarters combined.

"It's a big thing coming out of breaks," Deitsch said. "Definitely like to see where we're at defensively and make adjustments to what we saw over the previous stretch."

"We try to turn that into opportunities for us, whether that's going after traps or finding certain players to attack. Digging in our heels defensively to stack stops on top of each other is important."

Deitsch said he wanted his team to limit the Rangers' penetration. For the most part, the Indians did that in the final three quarters. Of the seven NKHS field goals over that stretch, only two came off of penetration. The other five resulted from two offensive rebounds, two quick jump shots by Avery Albers and an out-of-bounds play.

Fort Recovery rides the victory into the postseason, as it travels to Wayne Trace on Thursday. The win also secures a tie with Coldwater for seventh place in the MAC, two spots up from last year's finish.

"It's just awesome to see how much the team cares about each other," Deitsch said. "The emotion they had for Kensy when she hit that bucket, and her coming off the court was a special moment that she'll definitely remember forever, and I think the rest of the team will as well. I think that fueled a bit of emotion and a spark for the team to go just a bit extra tonight."

Box score

Fort Recovery Indians vs. New Knoxville Rangers

Girls varsity summary

New Knoxville (3-19, 1-8 MAC)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Bambauer	0-0	0-0	0
AvAlbers	4-9	0-0	8
Wellman	1-6	0-0	2
Egbert	2-7	4-5	9
AdAlbers	5-9	0-0	10
Wingler	0-4	0-0	0
Homan	0-1	0-0	0
Gottschalk	0-3	0-0	0
Totals	12-39	4-5	29
	.308	.800	

Fort Recovery (8-14, 3-6 MAC)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Niekamp	4-11	4-6	12
Guggenbiller	3-9	0-3	6
Wendel	5-15	1-2	12
Leuthold	4-9	0-0	10
Schoenlein	0-0	0-0	0
Mhinkmp	1-2	2-2	4
Gaerke	1-1	0-0	2
Homan	0-2	0-0	0
Schmitz	0-0	0-0	0
Willman	0-0	0-0	0
Tobe	0-0	0-0	0
Totals	18-49	7-13	46
	.367	.538	

Def. rebound percentage: .600

Def. rebound percentage: .679

Score by quarters:
New Knx. 11 3 8 7 — 29
Ft. Rec. 11 9 12 14 — 46

3-point shooting: New Knoxville 1-15 (Egbert 1-2, AvAlbers 0-1, AdAlbers 0-1, Gottschalk 0-2, Wellman 0-3, Wingler 0-3). Fort Recovery 3-15 (Leuthold 2-4, Wendel 1-8, Niekamp 0-1, Guggenbiller 0-1).

Rebounds: New Knoxville 27 (AdAlbers 8, Egbert 6, AvAlbers 4, team 4m Gottschalk 2, Bambauer, Wellman, Wingler). Fort Recovery 31 (Leuthold 9, Niekamp 5, team 5, Wendel 4, Muhlenkamp 3, Homan 3, Guggenbiller 2).

Assists: New Knoxville 5 (Wellman 2, Wingler, AdAlbers). Fort Recovery 8 (Niekamp 5, Guggenbiller, Wendel, Leuthold).

Blocks: New Knoxville 8 (Egbert 4, AdAlbers 2, AvAlbers, Gottschalk).

Personal fouls: New Knoxville 17 (AvAlbers 5, AdAlbers 5, Egbert 3, Wingler 3, Wellman). Fort Recovery 10 (Guggenbiller 3, Niekamp 2, Wendel 2, Leuthold 2, Homan).

Turnovers: New Knoxville 18. Fort Recovery 14.

Tribe bowlers move on

MINSTER, Ohio — The Indians survive for another week.

The Fort Recovery High School boys bowling team combined for 3,740 pins at the OHSAA Division II sectional bowling tournament at Community Lanes in Minster on Thursday to net third place and move on to the district tournament.

The top four teams advanced to the district tournament at Star Lanes in Port Clinton, Ohio, along with the top four individuals not on advancing teams. The Indians finished in third behind Coldwater (4,340) and St. Henry (3,813) and just ahead of Minster (3,690).

Lucas Acheson put together the strongest day with 631 pins over three individual games, to place third among all bowlers. Acheson rolled the only perfect game at the sectional, striking all 12 times in his second game.

Nate Jutte also had a strong day with an average pinfall of 191.3 to finish with the sixth-best performance.

Fisher makes finals as lone Patriot

The Patriots will spend almost all of today competing in consolation races.

Matthew Fisher was the lone member of the host Jay County High School's boys swim team to qualify for a sectional championship race during the preliminaries Thursday.

The top eight swimmers in each event from Thursday's preliminaries will compete in championship races beginning at 1 p.m. today. The next eight will swim in the consolation finals. (Diving preliminaries begin at 9 a.m. today.)

Based on preliminary results, which do not include diving, JCHS is projected to finish last in the 11-team field behind South Adams and Blackford. Bluffton is heavily favored to win its first sectional title, with Delta about 100 points behind in the runner-up spot.

Fisher saved the Patriots from getting shut out of the finals in the third-to-last race of the evening. He earned the No. 7 seed in the 100-yard backstroke, posting a time of 1 minute, 5.66 seconds.

The sophomore was also the No. 13 seed for the 200 individual medley.

Jay County came up one spot short of a berth in the champi-



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Joseph Nichols, a sophomore at Jay County High School, swims the 100-yard butterfly at the IHSAA boys swim sectional at Jay County on Thursday. Nichols finished 22nd in the event with a time of 1 minute, 35.79 seconds.

onship race in both the 200 medley relay and 400 freestyle relay. The team of Peyton Yowell, Lincoln Clamme, David Keen and Fisher was ninth in 1:55.83 in the medley while Blackford claimed the last spot in the finals at 1:55.24. The gap was wider in the 400 freestyle, with Joseph Dow, Yowell, Fisher and Clamme fin-

ishing almost 13 seconds behind eighth-seeded Muncie Central in 4:06.34.

In the 200 freestyle relay, Hugo Gutierrez, Kamdyn Carter, Keen and Dow had a time of 1:51.2 for 10th.

Dow, Yowell, Clamme and Keen all claimed spots in two consolation races. Dow is the No.

11 seed for both the 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle while Yowell is 13th in the 50 freestyle and 14th in the 100 freestyle. Clamme picked up the No. 14 seed in the 100 breaststroke and No. 16 seed in the 100 freestyle, and Keen is the No. 15 seed in the 100 butterfly and No. 16 seed in the 200 freestyle.



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Two ...

Continued from page 10
“We’re excited to see what both of those guys can go do tomorrow.”

The 18th-ranked Rowles (32-10) found himself in some trouble early in his 126-pound opener as No. 7 Layne Horn (44-2) of Rochester caught him with a single-leg takedown. He worked it into an arm bar/half nelson combination in an effort to get a first-period pin, but the Patriot senior fought it off and scored a reversal at the 34-second mark.

Horn went up again with an escape and pushed his lead to 5-2 with a takedown 1:20 into the second period, but Rowles almost immediately reversed it into a headlock and two-point near fall. Another headlock reversal midway through the third period put Rowles in control 9-5 and he carried that margin to his state medal.

“He kind of shot into my head a little bit, kinda rung me up,” said Rowles, looking back at his first-period predicament. “It took me a second to reset. But I just reset and decided I was just going to score the next point and just keep on scoring and try to score more than he does.”

“I’m able to throw really well from bottom,” he added. “He was able to let me get my hips out and just hook arms and do what I do best.”

In taking on Lawrence North’s Blake Jones (29-8) in the 138-pound bracket, Wood was what he has been all year — patient,

technical, dominant.

It took him more than a minute to get his first takedown as Jones tried to keep him at bay, but then he finished a single-leg takedown for a 2-0 lead. He ran a half-nelson for a two-point near fall in the final five seconds of the first period and never looked back.

A reversal and three-point near fall put Wood up 9-0 in the second period. He was ahead 11-0 in the third before finally he allowed Jones an escape, but then added two more takedowns to complete a 15-2 major decision.

“Tony did a really nice job,” said Myers. “He kind of worked with what he gave him. He loves to say, ‘Let’s just score points. Let’s find a way to score points.’ And that’s what he does. I think that’s, mentally, the best mindset you can have. Just go score the next points.”

With their wins, Rowles and Wood gave JCHS two state medalists in the same wrestling season for the first time since Mason Winner and Gaven Hare both finished eighth in 2018. If either wins this morning and makes it to the semifinal round, it will mark the first time a JCHS wrestler has been that deep in the state finals since Eric Hemmelgarn in 2014. The last Patriot to wrestler for a state championship was Casey Kenney in 2008.

Both have big goals, and Wood has not been shy about saying



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Undefeated Tony Wood (45-0) of Jay County controls Lawrence North’s Blake Jones in their 138-pound opener Friday. Wood had an 11-0 lead in the third period before finally allowing an escape as he rolled to victory with a 15-2 major decision. Ranked fourth in the state, Wood will take on No. 13 Justice Thornton of Columbus North in the quarterfinal round this morning.

his mission this weekend is a state championship.

What is the key to making that happen?

“Not making the moment bigger than it is,” said Wood, who is now 45-0. “I mean, at the end of the day, it’s a wrestling match,

on a mat, circle in the middle. Don’t make the moment bigger than it is and wrestle to my capability.”

Norwell pulls away late

Knights hit eight free throws in fourth to defeat Patriots

OSSIAN — The Patriots cut the deficit to six points in the fourth quarter.

Turnovers, missed shots, and a run by the Knights put the game away late.

The Norwell Knights went on a 11-6 run to finish the game and take down the Jay County High School boys basketball team 49-38 on Friday night.

Norwell (12-8) got to the free-throw line with ease late in the game. Six of its final 11 points coming at the foul line, shooting 6-for-8. The other five points came on a layup by Ashton Federspiel and an Owen Wallis three.

Jay County shot a perfect 9-for-9 at the charity stripe, but it wasn’t enough to counter 15-of-18 freebies for the Knights.

“Give them credit,” JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt told WPGW’s Rob Weaver in a post-game interview. “They’re good free throw shooters and took advantage when we tried to go press and spread us out.”

Federspiel dominated the Patriots (7-12) with a game-high 18 points. He hit three of his six field goals in the first quarter, while also reaching the foul line four times where he knocked down six points. Norwell also boasted the game’s second leading scorer in Cade Shelton with 11 points.

The Patriots’ strongest run start-

ed near the end of the third quarter, when Liam Garringer drilled a 3-pointer to cut the lead to 14. Baskets by Gradin Swoveland and Wesley Bihn got Jay County within 11 as the fourth quarter began.

After a pair of Cohen Bailey free throws, Jay County went on a 7-0 run with another basket from Bihn, free throws by Swoveland and a Parker Nichols 3-pointer that officially cut the lead to six before the Knights regained control of the game.

Jay County matched Norwell for 27 points in the second half, but struggles in the second quarter put the Patriots behind. Only Nichols and Levi Muhlenkamp found the bottom of the net to total four points, while a triple from Wallis, and baskets by Federspiel and Shelton netted nine points.

Norwell also earned a six-point advantage in the first quarter as Jay County only got seven combined points from Nichols, Ben Crouch and Eli Dirksen.

None of the Patriots broke double figures. Gradin Swoveland was the closest with nine, followed by seven from Nichols off the bench.

Both teams committed 10 turnovers in the game, but Norwell had a healthy advantage on the glass, out-rebounding Jay County 21-13.

The Patriots’ primary struggle

came at the offensive end of the floor, shooting 29.5% (13-44) from the field.

“I just asked them, ‘raise your hand if you missed a shot tonight in the game that we practiced every day,’” Bomholt said. “Every kid raised their hand. That’s how close we are. We can now take care of the ball pretty well, but we missed so many shots inside.

“You don’t often have the opportunity to beat Norwell on their home floor and we almost did but couldn’t do it.”

Junior varsity

After leading for the entire second half, Jay County fell to the Knights 37-36.

Caiden Petrie hit a late three, to give Norwell the lead. It was only his second basket of the game — his first came in the second in the form of another triple.

Nick McBride also fueled the comeback with 14 second-half points, nine of which came in the closing period.

Cole Forthofer and Drew Schemenaur led the Patriots with 12 each. All of Schemenaur’s points came from beyond the arc, while Forthofer worked inside it for five buckets and two free throws.

Schemenaur had Jay County’s only points in the final period as Norwell outscored it 14-3.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys wrestling state at Ford Center — 10 a.m.; Boys swimming hosts sectional — 1 p.m. (diving preliminaries — 9 a.m.)
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball at Tri-Village — 6 p.m.

Monday
Jay County — Junior high swimming at Norwell — 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday
Jay County — Boys basketball vs. Winchester — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Saturday
7:30 a.m. — Premier League: Liverpool at Brentford (USA)
10 a.m. — College softball: Georgia at Florida State (ESPN2)
10 a.m. — Premier League: Arsenal at Burnley (USA)
10:30 a.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Daytona 500 (FS1)
11:30 a.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: United Rentals 300 (FS1)
12 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Texas A&M at Alabama (ESPN); Wake Forest at Virginia (ESPN2)
12:30 p.m. — NHL: Los Angeles Kings at Boston Bruins (ABC)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League: Chelsea at Manchester City (NBC)
12:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Creighton at Butler (FOX); Richmond at George Washington (USA)
1 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Texas at Houston (CBS)
1:30 p.m. — ARCA Menards Series: Daytona (FS1)
2 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Duke at Florida State (ESPN); Valparaiso at Missouri State (Bally Indiana)
2:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Saint Joseph’s at Duquesne (USA)
3 p.m. — NHL: Edmonton Oilers at Dallas Stars (ABC)
3 p.m. — PGA Tour: The Genesis Invitational (CBS)
3 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Marquette at UConn (FOX); Mississippi Valley State at Cleveland State (CBS)

4 p.m. — Track and field: U.S. Indoor Championships (NBC)
4 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Kansas at Oklahoma (ESPN)
4 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Iowa State at Texas (ESPN2)
5 p.m. — NHL: Nashville Predators at St. Louis Blues (Bally Indiana)
5 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: United Rentals 300 (FS1)
5:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Illinois at Maryland (FOX)
6 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Kentucky at Auburn (ESPN); Baylor at West Virginia (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: DePaul at Providence (FS1)
8 p.m. — NHL: Philadelphia Flyers at New Jersey Devils (ABC)
8 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Michigan State at Michigan (FOX); Yale at Princeton (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — NBA All-Star Saturday Night (TNT)
8 p.m. — UFC (ESPN)
9:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Arizona State at Arizona (FS1)
10 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Colorado at USC (ESPN)
11:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Nevada at UNLV (FS1)

Sunday
12 a.m. — UFC: Alexander Volkanovski vs. Ilia Topuria (ESPN)
9 a.m. — Premier League: Brighton & Hove Albion at Sheffield United (USA)
9:30 a.m. — College softball: Texas at Northwestern (ESPN2)
11:30 a.m. — Premier League: Manchester United at Luton Town (USA)
12 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Florida Atlantic at South Florida (ESPN); Wichita State at Charlotte (ESPN2)
12 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Michigan State at Michigan (BTN)
1 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Purdue at Ohio State (CBS)
1 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Georgia at South Carolina (ABC)
2 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Bradley at Northern Iowa (ESPN2); Murray State at Drake (Bally Indiana)
2 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Virginia Tech at Louisville (ESPN)
2:30 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Daytona 500 (FOX)

3 p.m. — NHL: New York Rangers at New York Islanders (ABC)
3 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Northwestern at Indiana (FS1)
3 p.m. — PGA Tour: The Genesis Invitational (CBS)
4 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Memphis at SMU (ESPN)
4 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Texas Tech at Baylor (ESPN2)
5 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Seton Hall at St. John’s (FS1)
6 p.m. — College softball: UCLA at UCF (ESPN)
6:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Rutgers at Minnesota (BTN)
7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Utah at UCLA (FS1)
8 p.m. — NBA All-Star Game (TNT)
8 p.m. — College softball: Florida State at Tennessee (ESPN)

Monday
12 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Creighton at UConn (FOX)
1 p.m. — NHL: Toronto Maple Leafs at St. Louis Blues (ESPN)
2 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Indiana at Illinois (FOX)
3:30 p.m. — NHL: Detroit Red Wings at Seattle Kraken (ESPN)
5:30 p.m. — College gymnastics: Utah at UCLA (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Virginia at Virginia Tech (ESPN)
7 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Notre Dame at Duke (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — PVF volleyball: San Diego Mojo at Vegas Thrill (FOX)
9 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Kansas State at Texas (ESPN); North Carolina Central at Norfolk State (ESPN2)

Tuesday
2:30 a.m. — Premier League: Brentford at Manchester City (USA)
3 p.m. — UEFA Champions: Atletico Madrid at Inter (CBS)
6:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Butler at Villanova (FS1)
7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Syracuse at N.C. State (ESPN2); Arkansas at Texas A&M (ESPN)
7 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Wisconsin at Minnesota (BTN)
8:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: UConn at Creighton (FS1)



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Sports

Two-for-two

Rowles and Wood earn state medals

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

EVANSVILLE — The Patriots' two seniors wrestled matches that were not at all alike.

One found himself in some difficult spots. The other was in control the whole way.

Their results, though, were the same.

They are both state medalists.

Tony Wood continued his dominant, undefeated run while Cody Rowles scored the bulk of his points from the bottom position Friday as the Jay County High School classmates each earned state medals with opening-round wins in the IHSAA Wrestling State Finals at the Ford Center.

"It feels pretty good," said Rowles, who had dropped his first-round matches in each of his previous two visits to the state finals. "I've been saying my whole life I was going to do it, and it's my final year. It just feels good to finally do it and not just be a Friday night exit."

"It was good," said Wood, who placed seventh at 138 pounds last season and is appearing in the state finals for the fourth time. "I got the job done, pretty much what you've got to do on Friday night. Now I've got to just check weight, see where I am, get ready for that Saturday morning."

Wood and Rowles will return to the Ford Center this morning to wrestle in the quarterfinals at 10 a.m. Wood's next match is against Columbus North's 13th-ranked Justice Thornton (35-2), who upset No. 5 Welsey Smith (46-3) of Plymouth 7-6 in the opening round. Rowles will take on New Palestine's Gunner Butt (34-5), who is ranked 13th in the 126-pound weight class.

Semifinals will immediately follow the quarterfinals. Consolation matches for third, fifth and seventh places will be at 5:30 p.m., with state championship matches at 8:30 p.m.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School senior Cody Rowles drives his body into No. 7 Layne Horn of Rochester during their opening-round match in the 126-pound bracket of the IHSAA Wrestling State Finals on Friday night at the Ford Center in Evansville. Rowles, who is ranked 18th in the state, trailed 2-0 and 5-2 before scoring the final seven points of the match. He and classmate Tony Wood became the first Patriot duo to win wrestling state medals in the same season since Mason Winner and Gaven Hare in 2018.

The pair of victories Friday guaranteed Jay County multiple state medalists for the first time in six seasons.

JCHS coach Eric Myers often

talks about the wrestling roller coaster, but on the opening night of the state finals there was no downside.

"It was fun," he said. "It feels

pretty darn good. ... Any time you can get two state medalists, you're pretty happy. ...

"One of the things that you have to reiterate after the guys

... is now we've got to be greedy. We've got to try and get the next best one and keep trying to climb that podium.

See **Two** page 9

Fortkamp secures sixth in 50-yard freestyle

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio — The Indians will have to wait to find out if any of them will make the trip to Canton.

FRHS roundup

Teigen Fortkamp claimed the highest finish of the Fort Recovery High School swimmers at the OHSAA Division II Northwest district swim meet on Friday at Bowling Green State University, but fell just over five tenths of a second short of being an automatic qualifier for the state championship.

The top three finishers in each event at every district automatically make the state finals, while the other

20 spots are filled by the best times among all six district meets.

Fortkamp's time of 25.13 seconds in the 50-yard freestyle earned the sixth spot at the meet. The FRHS senior finished only 0.54 seconds behind Alayna Biehl of Castalia Margaretta, who captured the final automatic berth to state.

Fortkamp also placed 10th in the backstroke — three spots behind her seed — with a time of 1 minute, 1.35 seconds.

Joelle Kaup, captured a pair of top-15 finishes for the Indians as well. She finished the 50 freestyle in 26.26 seconds to earn 14th place, which outperformed her seed line by 10 spots. She also excelled in the 100 butterfly, placing 15th with a time of 1:08.02.

As the lone boy to compete in the district meet, Sage Wendel took 13th in the 100 butterfly, cutting his time to under a minute at 57.41 seconds. He also had a

1:00.19 swim in the 100 backstroke.

The only other top-15 finish came from the 200 medley relay made of Fortkamp, Kaup, Paige Guggenbiller and Allison Knapke with a time of 2:00.26.

Guggenbiller was the only other individual to compete in an event. The Fort Recovery senior secured 23rd in the 100 breaststroke by finishing in 1:16.92.

The 400 freestyle relay of Kaup, Guggenbiller, Autumn Leuthold and Nevaeh Lennartz combined to place 21st in 1:54.58.

Tribe gets MAC win

NEW KNOXVILLE, Ohio — The Indians are no longer winless in conference play.

The Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team picked up its first Midwest Athletic Conference win as they beat the New Knoxville Ranger 39-34 Friday night.

Reece Guggenbiller led the way for Fort Recovery (7-13, 1-7 MAC) with 12 points. Half of his scoring came in the fourth quarter, as the Indians put up 11 points, as New Knoxville (4-16, 0-8 MAC) could only manage five.

Both teams entered the fourth quarter at 27 points before Fort Recovery put the Rangers away.

The Indians had eight players score, but only three hit more than one bucket. Troy Homan had eight points and Briggs Overman had seven.

This is only the third time this season that FRHS has been able to string together two wins in a row, and the first time since Overman's buzzer beater at South Adams Dec. 22. They will travel to Tri-Village today before the regular season finale at New Bremen Feb. 23.

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