

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Board formed



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County Commissioners on Monday approved an ordinance to create an advisory board of directors for Jay County Country Living. The board will “assist the commissioners in the oversight and administration of Jay County Living,” which is located at 1194 E. 200 North in rural Portland.

New advisory group has been assigned to oversee Jay County Country Living facility

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Jay County Country Living’s administration will be changing.

Jay County Commissioners approved an ordinance Monday creating an advisory board of directors for the county’s residential facility.

According to the ordinance, the board will “assist the commissioners in the oversight and administration of Jay County Living.”

Commissioners, Jay County

Council and the Jay County Country Living advisory committee that has been reviewing the facility’s financial outlook have reviewed the document, which lays out specifics about the board and its responsibilities.

The advisory board will consist of seven Jay County residents and will meet once each quarter at Jay County Country Living.

Its duties, as outlined in the ordinance, are as follows:

- Recommend to commis-

sioners adopting rules, policies and regulations, appointing a facility director and, if necessary, recommend the removal of the facility director

- Review the facility’s finances each meeting and assist the director in preparing for the annual budget recommendation to council

- Supervise Jay County Country Living’s maintenance, operation and services as well as the residents’ health, safety, welfare and comfort

- Recommend to commissioners necessary repairs, maintenance or improvements to the building or grounds

- Review estimates for food, supplies and equipment

- Regularly inspect the facility for various criteria, including personnel performance, drug handling and resident living standards

- Prepare an annual report for council and commissioners

See **Formed** page 5

Elliott resigns Dunkirk clerk position

Last day is March 12; Democrat caucus will fill seat

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — The city will be getting a new clerk-treasurer.

Following Monday’s Dunkirk City Council meeting, Mayor Jack Robbins shared that clerk-treasurer Tina Elliott has turned in her resignation.

It is effective March 12.

“It is with great sadness and great jubilation that I am sending this notice,” said Elliott in the letter. “I appreciate all that allowed me to give back to the city that raised me. Dunkirk is my hometown and I took great pride in serving it much the same way it has served me.”

Robbins said Elliott has turned the letter in to Jay County clerk Jon Eads and that Jay County Democrat party chair Joel Bowers is also aware of the resignation.

By state law, such vacancies are filled by a caucus of the party of the departing officeholder. Such a caucus must be held within 30 days of the vacancy. (In cases in which fewer than two precinct committeemen are eligible to be members of a caucus, the party’s county chair fills the vacancy.)

Elliott became clerk-treasurer on Jan. 1, 2016, after being selected by Democrat precinct committeemen to replace Phonnice Kesler. Kesler resigned from the position during summer 2015, but her resignation came after the deadline to remove her name from that year’s election ballot. She was unopposed in the general election.

See **Resigns** page 2

FR applying for grant

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Fingers crossed.

Fort Recovery School Board authorized superintendent Tony Stahl on Monday to prepare and submit a \$20,000 grant application to Safe Routes to School Funding as well as enter into a right-of-way agreement with the village as part of its portion of the grant application and potential construction plans.

If awarded, the two-year grant would allot \$20,000 to Fort Recovery Local Schools.

A program offered through Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), Safe Routes to School’s purpose is to “provide resources, technical assistance and project funding to encourage and enable students in grades K-12 to walk or

ride their bike to school,” according to its website. To be eligible, communities must develop School Travel Plans or Active Transportation Plans that outline their intentions to encourage students to “engage in active transportation” such as walking or biking to and from school.

Fort Recovery created its School Travel Plan in July. A group of school, community, local government, health, public safety and other representatives underwent a nine-

month planning process, identifying construction projects and programs aimed at increasing safe pedestrian and bike travel to school.

Stahl explained the school’s portion of the work includes non-infrastructure projects, such as purchasing safety and educational materials and radios and investing in school assemblies. He noted plans to host a biking to school safety presentation for elementary students next school year.

See **Applying** page 5

Funds would go toward projects to encourage walking and biking to school



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

‘Frozen’ vocals

Marin Johnston, 4, sings along with Anna and Elsa during the “Frozen” sing-along party Thursday at Jay County Public Library. Participants received “Frozen” themed beverages, snacks and activities to take home.

Deaths

Henry Kunkler, 93, Burkettsville, Ohio

Gina Yzaguirre, 55, Portland

Savilla Shetler, 86, rural Monroe

Details on page 2.

Weather

The high temperature hit 68 degrees Monday in Jay County. The low was 39 early in the day.

Expect the low to dip to 20 tonight with winds gusting to 30 miles per hour. Skies will be sunny Thursday with a high in the upper 30s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

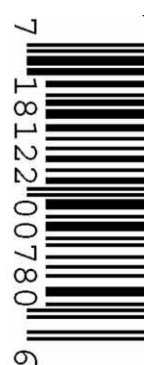
In review

Jay School Board will hold an executive session at 4 p.m. Thursday. The meeting is being called “for discussion of the assessment, design, and implementation of school safety and security measures, plans and systems.”

Coming up

Thursday — Magician will perform this weekend at Arts Place in Portland.

Friday — Results from the JCHS boys basketball team’s sectional opener.



Obituaries

Henry Kunkler

Oct. 15, 1930-Feb. 26, 2024
Henry Kunkler, age 93, of Burkettsville, Ohio, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on Monday morning, Feb. 26, 2024.



Kunkler

He was born Oct. 15, 1930, in Carthagena, Ohio, to the late Henry and Theresia (Homan) Kunkler. On Jan. 16, 1965, he married Ruth (May) Schoen. Ruth survives at their home in Burkettsville.

Henry is also survived by his nine children, Beverly (Schoen) and Greg Westgerdes of Portland, Indiana, Wanda (Schoen) and Craig Dembeck of Brighton, Michigan, Theresa and Ronald Stammen of Marysville, Ohio,

Laurie and Timothy Hein of Portland, Nicholas Kunkler and fiancée Della Rockwell of Bryant, Indiana, Brian and Rebecca Kunkler of Portland, Henry and Rebecca Kunkler of Celina, Ohio, Timothy and Dianna Kunkler of Fort Recovery, and Catherine and Robert Monchamp of Novi, Michigan. Also surviving Henry are his 46 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren with two more on the way; sister, Virginia Heitkamp; and in-laws, Howard May, Walter and Irene May, Judy Homan, Charlene May and LouAnn May; as well as special extended family, Harry and Barb Schoen, Jerry and Barb Schoen, and Judy Sudhoff.

He was preceded in death by infant grandchildren, Lee Ann Stammen and Gabriel Kunkler; infant great-grandchildren, Christopher Lehe II and Gabriel Muhlenkamp; as well as siblings

and in-laws Ted and Martha Kunkler, Rosemary Olson, Robert and Dorothy Schott, Fritz and Evelyn Kunkler, Ralph Kunkler, Stella and Herb Siefring, Donald and JoAnn Kunkler, Florian Heitkamp, Rita and Jerry Potkottter, Bud and Rosie May, Jeanette and Ernie Homan, infant Delores May, Ralph and Marilyn May, Donna May, Victor May, Jerome May and Thomas May.

Henry was a loving husband and father and was a lifelong farmer. He was a member of St. Bernard Catholic Church in Burkettsville, and he was on the Diocesan Mission Committee. He was a member of The Heritage Club in St. Henry, and the Mercer County Right to Life, by which Henry and Ruth were honored with the Friend of Life Award in 2016. After his retirement, Henry volunteered much

of his time to the St. Bernard Catholic Church where he was a sacristan and a mass server. Henry was also a volunteer at the Center for Neurological Development in Burkettsville for many years. He enjoyed gardening and taking care of his fruit orchard.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024, at St. Bernard Church in Burkettsville. Following the funeral mass, burial will take place in St. Bernard Cemetery. Friends may call from 2 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28, and from 9 to 10 a.m. on Thursday at the Hogenkamp Funeral Home in St. Henry.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Center for Neurological Development in Burkettsville, the Mercer County Right to Life or EverHeart Hospice.

Condolences for the family may be expressed in person or left at hogenkampfh.com.

Gina N. Yzaguirre, Portland, March 22, 1968-Feb. 25, 2024. Services will be held at a later date.

Savilla K. (Hilty) Shetler, rural Monroe, a relative of Geneva residents, Aug. 22, 1937-Feb. 27, 2024. Services will be 9 a.m. Friday at the Shetler residence, 1875 W. 50 South, Monroe.

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

Table with 5 columns: Thursday 2/29, Friday 3/1, Saturday 3/2, Sunday 3/3, Monday 3/4. Includes weather icons and temperature forecasts.

Lotteries

Table listing lottery results for Powerball, Mega Millions, Hoosier, and Ohio. Includes estimated jackpots and winning numbers.

Markets

Table listing market prices for Cooper Farms, ADM Montpelier, POET Biorefining, and The Andersons. Includes prices for corn, wheat, and beans.

Today in history

In 1827, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad became the first in the U.S. that was chartered for commercial transportation of freight and passengers. In 1973, Peoples Bank kicked off its 100th anniversary celebration with a dinner featuring professional football referee and business/public relations executive Art Holst at Portland Moose Lodge. In 2018, at midnight Jay County Hospital went live with its integration into Indiana University Health, officially becoming IU Health Jay. In 2022, Dunkirk City Council approved 2% increases to both its water and sewer rates. The increases were part of the city's five-year utility plan and were set to go into effect June 1.

Citizen's calendar

Today 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St. Thursday Noon — Jay County Sheriff's Merit Board executive session, training room, sheriff's office, 224 W. Water St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 4 p.m. — Jay County Board executive session, General Shanks, 414 Floral Ave., Portland.

Retention stays in literacy bill

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

A mandate to require reading-deficient third graders to be held back a year in school withstood challenges from Democrats on Monday — though some Republican lawmakers joined in opposing stricter retention.

The provision in question is part of a GOP literacy overhaul measure, Senate Bill 1, which seeks to remedy Indiana's literacy "crisis" by requiring schools to administer the statewide IREAD test in second grade — a year earlier than current requirements — and directing new, targeted support to at-risk students and those struggling to pass the exam.

But if, after three tries, a third grader can't meet the IREAD standard, legislators want school districts to retain them.

While much of the rest of the bill has received bipartisan support, the retention language has come under increasing scrutiny from Democrats, parents, teachers and numerous education experts.

Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis,

offered an amendment on the House floor in an attempt to strike the retention requirement from the bill. The effort failed in a 36-56 vote, however.

All Democrats and eight Republicans voted in favor of the amendment, while five other Republicans chose not to vote at all.

"In light of the money we're spending under this bill for education and training of the kids who are falling behind, there should be less need for retention, I hope and pray. But ultimately, the decision has to be the parents'," DeLaney said. "This says we're going to change what goes on in the family and in the life of an individual child because the General Assembly deems it's appropriate. That's a very powerful action. In my view, the presence of this provision in the law undercuts all the positive parts of the bill."

Another failed amendment offered by DeLaney would have delayed the retention portion of the bill from taking effect until the 2025-2026 academic year. Under the latest draft, the provision takes effect for the upcoming 2024-2025 school calendar.

"This is not the appropriate time to retain kids. I understand we've got to get them to read. It is a crisis," said Rep. Tonya Pfaff, D-Terre Haute, referring to the latest reading scores showing that one in five Hoosier third graders continue to struggle.

"But it is kindergarten or first grade. We don't need a high stakes test. Teachers know at the end of kindergarten if their kid is on track or not. Teachers know at the end of first grade if that kid is on track or not," she continued. "Waiting until third grade ... and the parent is now out of the equation, and we're just going to mandatory-retain them — it's not the proper place to do it."

A full vote on the bill could happen Tuesday.

Bill author Sen. Linda Rogers, R-Granger, and other Republicans have repeatedly said the proposal is not a "retention bill," and holding Hoosier kids back in school should "be a last resort." They maintain, too, that if literacy supports and remediation in Senate Bill 1 are properly implemented, no children will have to be retained.

Resigns ...

Continued from page 1 (J.T. Phillips had served as interim clerk-treasurer following Kesler's resignation.)

After serving Kesler's four-year term, Elliott earned her own term when she defeated independent Kelly Watson and Republican Jay Miller in the 2020 general election. She was re-elected without opposition in November.

In other business: •Council members tabled discussion of an ordinance regarding regulations for cutting streets

for utility work or other projects. Dan Watson suggested a special meeting to discuss the proposed rules.

•Christy Curtis issued a reminder that Jay County's Purdue Extension office is partnering with local fire departments to offer emergency preparedness for rural families training sessions in March. Dunkirk Fire Department will host a farm emergency management program on Tuesday, March 5. A first-aid session will follow on Thursday, March 7. Both sessions will run from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

•Robbins said demolition of the caretaker's house in Dunkirk City Park is expected to begin soon.

•Council approved the following: payment of 340,886.99 in claims; a \$14,000 additional appropriation for equipment to fill new self-contained breathing apparatus tanks that were purchased via an Assistance to Firefighters Grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and vacating the alley to the west of Mt. Tabor Community Church, 216 W. Pleasant St.

•Donna Revolt reported that a resident has requested that the basketball courts at Dunkirk City Park be named in honor of Rick McFarland. (Robbins noted that such a change would be a park board decision.)

•Randy Murphy noted that new wayfinding signs have been installed to point toward the library/glass museum.

•Jesse Bivens congratulated water department superintendent Brock Farmer Brock Farmer on the birth of a son last week.

Felony arrests

Strangulation

A Dunkirk man was arrested Monday for strangulation. Coby L. Green, 28, 339 E. North St.,

was preliminarily charged with three Level 6 felonies for strangulation, three Level 6 felonies for domestic battery on a minor and one Level

6 felony for domestic battery committed in the presence of a minor.

He was being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

Capsule Reports

Moped moved

A Portland teen lost control of his moped, causing him to crash into a parked vehicle along Meridian Street about 9:50 p.m. Monday.

Collin R. Hall, 17, told police he turned on his 2020 Taotao Pony and it

took off. He wasn't able to control the moped before it crashed into a 2010

Chevrolet Malibu owned by Madison Hambrock of Portland.

Damage is estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

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SERVICES

Thursday Kunkler, Henry: 10:30 a.m., St. Bernard Catholic Church, 71 Main St., Burkettsville, Ohio.

Friday Shetler, Savilla: 9 a.m., Shetler residence, 1875 W. 50 South, Monroe.

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

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



Photo provided

Chosen for caring

East Elementary recently awarded students for being caring. Pictured above, first row, are first graders Kynlee Sims and (John) Logan Mikulski, and in the back row are Allison Hardesty, Simone Sotolongo and Brooklyn Shawver. Not pictured is Graham Peterson.

Family's group text is private

DEAR ABBY: I recently married and was excited to be part of my husband's family. My own siblings and I are not particularly close. During COVID, one of my husband's sisters started a family text chain in which they share what's happening in their lives. I thought it was a great idea.

Not technically being a family member yet, I understood why I wasn't included in the thread. But after our wedding, I wasn't added to the chain. Come to find out, none of the spouses are included. I have also learned from my husband that his mother really had no use for any of her kids' spouses, because technically "we are not one of THEM."

They aren't sharing earth-shattering information with one another. It's normally fun stuff or things their kids are up to, etc. It is very hurtful that I'm not included. I have to hear everything secondhand from my husband.

Am I wrong to feel this way? I asked him to add me to the list and he tried, but he couldn't. Instead of pursuing it with his sister, he just dropped it. I have asked him several times to see what he can do, to no avail. I feel like he doesn't have my back. Your advice? — LEFT OUT IN FLORIDA

DEAR LEFT OUT: Your husband doesn't have enough power in his family to do what you have been requesting, which is regrettable. Rather than pout, consider starting a text chain of your own, comprising of all the outcasts who have been excluded from the "our bloodline and nobody else" chain. It might be fun, and you may find it's a club that is welcoming and has some interesting things to say.

DEAR ABBY: My wife of 26 years is having an affair with

Dear Abby



another (married) man. We have teenage kids and so does he. She has been having him over and meeting him out for the last four months. The kids have noticed how she takes off in the middle of the day for hours to do a "solo hike." Several times, my teenage daughter has called me at work, frantic, saying Mom is not answering either of her phones and was supposed to pick her up at the agreed-upon location.

My wife claims to love us both and wants to continue both relationships. For our family's sake, it is sad that this has happened. He is the manager of a local business, and I encounter him from time to time. I want to ask him how he thinks this is OK. What should I do? — SHARING HER IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR SHARING HER: Make up your mind about what kind of a marriage you want. If it's what you are experiencing now, do nothing. However, if it isn't, tell your wandering wife she must end the affair now. Offer her the option of counseling to see if you can get your marriage back on track.

Instead of talking with the man she's having the fling with, tell HIS WIFE what has been happening if she's unaware. That your wife is so irresponsible she would leave her daughter stranded while she's "hiking" is disgraceful. If your wife refuses counseling, contact an attorney.

Changes could decrease risk

By DEEDEE STIEPAN

Mayo Clinic News Network
Tribune News Service

In the U.S., 4 out of 10 cancer cases are associated with preventable risk factors. That's according to the latest Cancer Progress Report from the American Association for Cancer Research. February is National Cancer Prevention Month, and Dr. Jon Ebbert, medical director of the Mayo Clinic Nicotine Dependence Center, said it's never too late to make lifestyle changes that can decrease your risk of cancer.

What do tobacco, alcohol and obesity have in common? They can all increase your risk of developing cancer. Smoked tobacco is strongly linked to cancer in almost every part of the body.

"Smoked tobacco produces about 7,000 chemicals, and when you inhale those chemicals in

your body, they cause alterations in cells. And it's those alterations in cells that can lead to cancer," said Ebbert.

Smoking also weakens your immune system, making it harder to fight cancer cells. One of the best ways to lower your cancer risk is to not use any kind of tobacco.

"We always say it's never too late to stop smoking. And the risk for cancer after quitting cigarette smoking, for example, goes down. But it takes some time," said Ebbert.

Consuming alcohol increases your risk of breast, head and neck, esophageal, and colorectal cancers.

"At every level of alcohol consumption, there is cancer risk, but heavier drinkers have higher cancer risk than lighter drinkers," said Ebbert.

Finally, packing on extra

pounds can increase your risk of cancer in several ways.

"Excess body weight increases estrogen and insulin, which can increase the rate of cellular division, which can increase the risk for cancer. But also, excess body weight is associated with inflammation, and inflammation is a known risk factor for the development of cancer," Ebbert said.

Bariatric surgery has been shown to decrease risk of hormone-related cancers such as breast, endometrial and prostate, as well as pancreatic and colorectal cancers. However, there are less drastic steps people can take.

"Small sustainable steps toward weight loss are the most effective when we think about diet and exercise. Those are the classic approaches, but also there are new medications on the market that can help people lose weight," said Ebbert.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

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

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

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each

month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

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 - BRIGANNA'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 RECOV-

ERY — 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.

Friday

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

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

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

Saturday

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

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

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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

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Big business card (3x3.5) – **\$100**

Business card (2x2) – **\$60**

Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Contact Lindsey at L.Cochran@thecr.com
(260) 726-8141

Deadline for ads is Wednesday March 6th

Contest enthralled young writers

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Feb. 27, 2008. Jack judged plenty of journalism contests in his day, but a head-to-head, live, time-limit competition was a different story. Deadline pressure changes the writing process and, like for these competitors, often gets the adrenaline flowing.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

Americans love to compete. Basketball, football, baseball, track, and a dozen other sports get our juices stirring. In business, competition is the name of the game. You name it, we figure out a way to compete at it. Years ago, Connie and I attended a baseball game where the guys behind us had a standing bet every half an inning over whether the pitcher would leave the ball on the grass or in the dirt of the pitcher's mound. The game itself wasn't enough; they needed a little more competitive action.

Back in the Saddle



So I guess a writing competition shouldn't have surprised me. I'm not talking about a contest where published articles or books are judged. Those I'm familiar with. Instead, I'm talking about head-to-head, on deadline competitive writing. It's called Power of the Pen, and it drew me to Mississinawa Middle School, east of Union City, Ohio, on Saturday. The organizer of the regional competition, a teacher at Mississinawa named Elaine Bailey, had asked me to be one of the "best of round" judges. Flattered, I agreed without

having a clue what I was getting into. As far as I know, Indiana has nothing like Power of the Pen. It works something like this: Dozens of seventh and eighth grade students from several different middle schools arrive at the same location. There, they are divided into groups of about a dozen based upon grade level. Though they compete for points as teams, the writing is done strictly solo and students from the different schools are mixed together. And what do they write? That's where it gets interesting. There are three rounds, with a time limit for each round. At the start of a round, the students are given a "prompt," something around which they are to write a story, an essay, or a composition of some sort. Each group's papers are judged by a teacher who selects the best of that round for that particular prompt. All of those "best of group" papers are then submitted

to a panel that judges the overall "best of round." If it sounds complicated, that's because it is. The man-hours involved are incredible, and the chore of judging is divided among dozens of teachers. Six of us judged the "best of round" finalists, three for seventh grade and three for eighth grade. Two of the judges were teachers, one was a librarian, one was a retired teacher, and two of us — the editor of the Greenville Daily Advocate and I — were newspapermen. There were 11 groups at the seventh grade level, so over the course of the day, with three prompts, we read a total of 33 different compositions. So what did we read? A little bit of everything. The first prompt was, "Do something stupid in your story." So we read 11 finalists full of characters doing goofy, middle school kinds of things. Several of them involved walking into open locker doors, which must be a

serious hazard at the middle school level. The second prompt was, "The color of (fill in the blank)." That's when the young writers took a serious turn. Something about the prompt sent them off in gloomy directions: Death, war, loss, anger, illness, and still more death. The winner in that round caught us off-guard with an essay titled, "The Color of Your Shirt." It was about diversity and social stereotypes, and it was a real stand-out. The third prompt was, "The main character in your story is a wizard." That, predictably enough, took us off on a whirlwind of Harry Potter-mania. By the end, all of the judges had bleary eyes. But the young writers were stoked and looked as if they were ready for another round. As for me, my prompt was simple: "Find the shortest way home."

Russia, China are stoking fire

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

How many times does the United States have to veto a misguided UN Security Council resolution on the Israel/Hamas war until the other countries on the council understand that Hamas must be condemned by name, the fighting should stop and all the Israeli hostages kidnapped on Oct. 7 have to be released?

The answer is at least three, as this week U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield correctly cast another U.S. veto on the war, following ones in October and December.

The problem with this current resolution, offered by Algeria, is that again Hamas went blameless and there was no causation between a pause in the combat and freedom for the hostages.

Thomas-Greenfield says that she is working on a draft resolution to do just that, but it faces a veto threat by the peace loving Chinese and Russians, who jointly vetoed an October resolution because it was too harsh on the murderers and rapists of Hamas.

Beijing and Moscow are striving to sow as much discord as they can while Washington is trying to achieve a ceasefire and the return of the hostages. American diplomacy, working with Qatar and Egypt, succeeded earlier and negotiations are still underway.

War is horrible and Hamas started this war, bringing death and destruction to the people of Israel, which has brought death and destruction to the Gaza Strip as the cowards of Hamas hide among the innocent Palestinian civilians.

Hamas has had thousands of its terrorists killed, but along with those dead terrorists, there have been too many Palestinian civilians killed and wounded.

While Hamas doesn't care about the Palestinian civilians, as they see every death as another martyr in their holy war

Guest Editorial

to annihilate the Jews, they do want the fighting to stop before all of the terrorists and the ring leaders have been taken out.

So how to make sure that every hostage is released when the guns go silent? That is what Thomas-Greenfield is seeking.

Time is short. The last of Hamas (and likely the remaining hostages) are in Rafah in the southern corner of Gaza, with the IDF poised to enter the city, swollen with refugees who fled the fighting to the north. It could be a humanitarian nightmare on top of the other humanitarian nightmares of this war, and the U.S. is trying to find a way to avoid the potential catastrophe of the Israeli army hunting for desperate Hamas fighters amid the innocents.

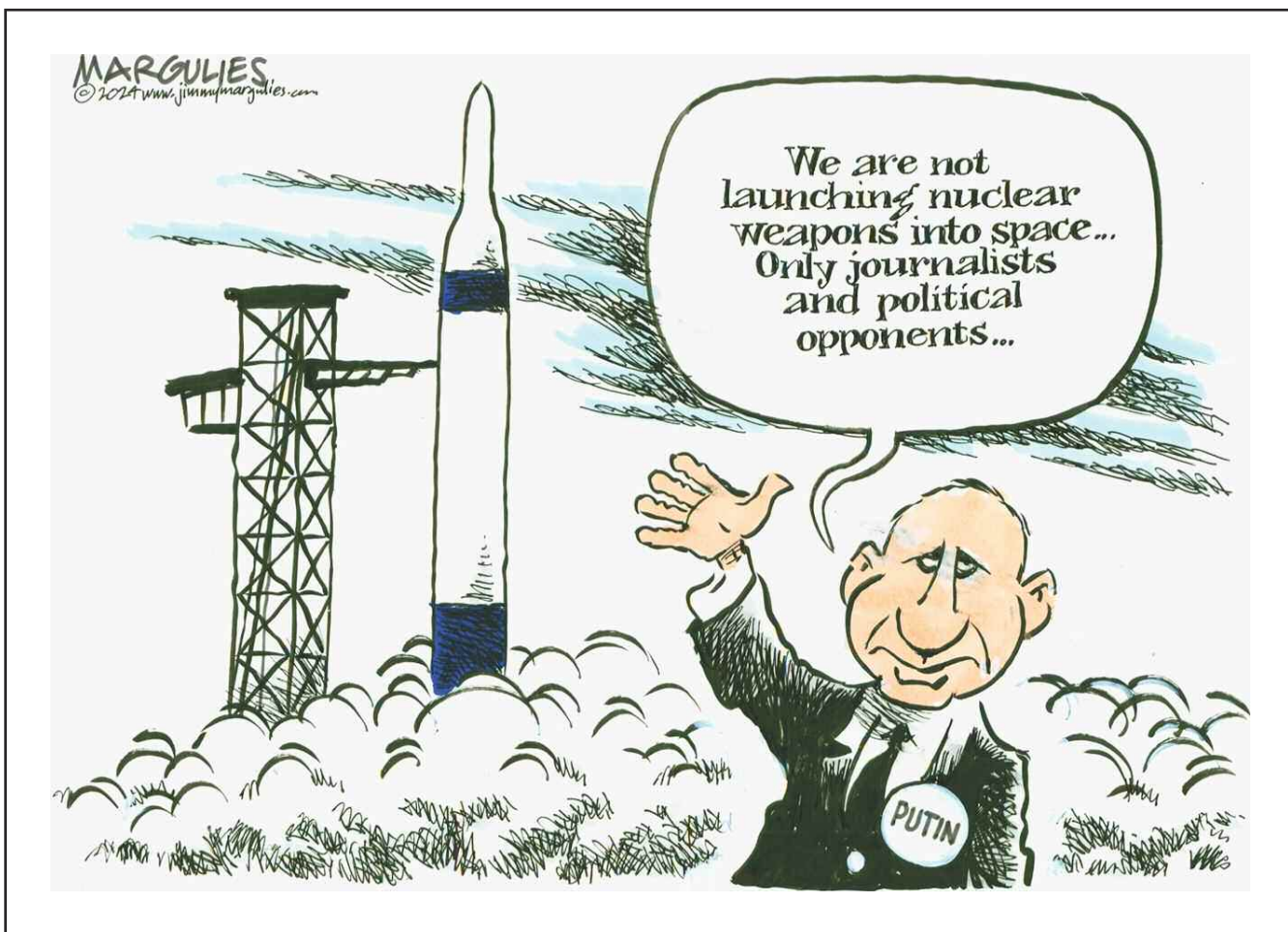
But the Algeria plan would not work. Hamas would use the quieting of the fighting to retrench and rearm, extending the war instead of ending it.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also has in mind the March 10 start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. That date is just 2½ weeks away, adding to the pressure on all sides, in the Middle East and in East Midtown at the UN headquarters.

The best outcome would be for Hamas to immediately surrender all remaining Israeli hostages and leave Gaza. The terrorists' 17-year reign over Gaza ended in disaster for Palestinians, as well as for death for Israelis.

Instead of freedom, prosperity and liberty, they brought on a war which has ruined the lives of everyone in the Gaza Strip.

The long-suffering Palestinians must be freed from Hamas.



Control is the GOP anthem

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

This might age me, but one of my favorite songs from childhood was Janet Jackson's "Control." And I think the Republican supermajorities running the Indiana General Assembly could use it as their anthem:

"I'm in control, never gonna stop Control, to get what I want Control, I like to have a lot Control, now I'm all grown up."

Control is definitely the theme for the 2024 session. And the GOP seeks more of it, in various ways.

First, the legislature wants more control over the executive branch.

Last year, lawmakers passed a bill reforming administrative rule-making and even requiring state agencies to bring fees and fines to the State Budget Committee. That work is continuing this year with Senate Bill 4, which has further fiscal and rule oversight provisions. The language is pretty insider baseball but essentially is the legislative branch flexing over the executive.

The Senate also moved a bill this year to limit how long a governor can impose a disaster declaration — a leftover battle from COVID-19.

The next area of control comes over local communities.

Already this year, the General Assembly has approved legislation invalidating 21 local ordinances on pet sales. Lawmakers are also considering barring local health departments from requiring septic inspections when a property transfers ownership.

Niki Kelly



This preemption of local government isn't new — remember when they said local units can't ban plastic bags?

But lawmakers save most of their attention for Indianapolis. This year there have been bills passed to micromanage whether the city can post "no turn on red" signs; block dedicated bus lines for mass transit and end an economic district slipped into last year's budget. The latter bill — after hours of largely supportive testimony — has gotten edits and preserves the district; but the House must agree to those changes to send it to the governor.

The third area of control is education — both K-12 and postsecondary.

Language in Senate Bill 202 would've given appointments to higher education boards of trustees to legislative leaders. That provision was removed Wednesday in the House, but the bill has not been finalized and could return. The bill also aims to make conservatives more comfortable on college campuses and impact tenure with prescribed disciplinary procedures.

In the K-12 realm, legislators have pushed control by mandating the posting of materials, book lists

and more. This year, they're moving to require school districts to have a policy on cell phone use by students. Of course, districts can already do this, and I know students who have had phones taken away for inappropriate use (ahem, my daughter). The bill certainly doesn't hurt anything, and no one opposes it, but is it necessary?

Gregory Shufeldt, associate professor of political science at the University of Indianapolis, has written several articles on preemption and notes it isn't new or novel to Indiana. And Democrats do the same when in power.

"Republicans might ideologically today oppose the federal government and prefer more local control on issues. Likewise, Democrats might be more predisposed to want the federal government to address issues — but at the end of the day — parties pursue whatever path is available to them to achieve partisan and ideological aims," he said.

But sometimes Republicans are passing these laws even though their own counterparts are in control, such as Gov. Eric Holcomb in the executive branch.

It seems the longer the supermajorities in the House and Senate exist the more extensive this move for control is. And frankly, there's not much left that isn't in their grasp.

.....
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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—Thomas Jefferson

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Applying ...

Continued from page 1
According to the School Travel Plan, non-infrastructure recommendations included:

- Starting a “walking school bus” program, which would encourage students to walk to school while being escorted by one or more adults

- Encouraging students to bike or walk to and from school while also educating them about biking and walking safety

- Installing ‘no parking’ signs along the south side of Butler Street near Shell and Casey’s gas stations

The Village of Fort Recovery and the school board are both submitting applications for the grant, with the village’s portion aimed at infrastructure work. Fort Recovery’s construction projects, if awarded, include building a crosswalk in front of Fort Recovery High School across Butler Street to sidewalks along First Street, improving visibility of markings at the five-point intersection of Butler, Boundary, William and Third streets, and constructing a sidewalk from Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School to Sharpsburg Road to match with the upcoming sidewalk project for the front of the school. The infrastructure projects would be 100% covered by the grant.

Stahl noted the village’s infrastructure projects would require the school to grant right-of-way access to the sidewalk portion of Sharpsburg Road near Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School.

Also Monday, the board approved an agreement with Garmann Miller of Minster to perform a facilities assessment not to exceed \$27,000.

Stahl noted the elementary/middle school building is nearing 25 years old, and the high school is significantly older. He suggested doing an inspection on various elements to school facilities, including plumbing, heating, ventilation, air conditioning units, electrical, technology, architecture, engineering and other factors. Garmann Miller will compile all of its findings into a permanent improvement list for the school to follow in the coming years, he explained.

In other business, school board members Mitch Fullenkamp, Sean Kahlig, Greg LeFevre,

Garmann Miller to assess school facilities

Nick Wehrkamp and Don Wendel:

- Authorized Stahl to update guidelines related to facility rentals, with Stahl noting costs have been updated to more accurately reflect the prices charged for community members or organizations renting space. (Prices were previously marked in school guidelines as higher than the district charged. Janitorial fees were also slightly increased, he noted.)

- Heard preschool registration will open March 11.

- Recognized Fort Recovery High School’s competitive cheer team — represented by coach Jennifer Steinke, senior Megan Evers and junior Bailey Muhlenkamp — for its Ohio Athletic Committee state championship in January.

- Renewed a one-year contract with Jutte’s Landscaping for mowing and trimming services.

- Approved the following: continued membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association for the 2024-25 school year; an overnight field trip for eighth graders to visit Washington, D.C., from Oct. 28 to Nov. 1; an overnight trip for the cross country team to go to Chenoweth Trails in Greenville from Aug. 11 to Aug. 12; an overnight trip for FFA members to attend the state FFA convention at Ohio State Fairgrounds in Columbus from May 1 to May 3; and hiring volunteer high school softball coach Valerie Stammen and volunteer junior high track coach Brent Niekamp.

- Authorized Stahl and treasurer Deanna Knapke to enter into an agreement with K and K Tours of Celina for eighth graders’ field trip to Washington, D.C.

- Accepted donations, including \$500 from Fort Recovery Academic Booster Club split between the high school and middle school principals’ activity accounts.



Photo provided

Senate page

Jay County High School student Makinsey Murphy (right) served as a page last month for State Sen. Travis Holdman (left) at the Indiana Statehouse. Pages spend a day touring the statehouse, observing debates from the Senate floor and interacting with their state senator. Holdman represents all of Jay, Blackford, Adams and Wells counties as well as part of Allen County.

Formed ...

Continued from page 1
Appointments will be made by commissioners with council’s consent, and members will be appointed without regard to political affiliation. (Instead, “each member shall be appointed on the basis of the member’s recognized interest in and demonstrated knowledge of the purpose and problems of Jay Country Living and the proper care and treatment of Jay Country Living’s residents,” the ordinance says.) Initially, members will have either one- or two-year terms. Members to follow will have four-year terms.

County attorney Wes Schemenaur explained the ordinance is modeled after Indiana Code Title 12 Article 30, which typically applies to a county with a population of more than 235,000 people.

“Essentially, this advisory board is going to consist of seven people (who) are interested in the county home, Jay Country Living, and have an interest in seeing it succeed,” he said.

Final rules are still decided by commissioners and final budget decisions are still under council’s jurisdiction, he noted.

As discussed at the meeting, members planned for the board include Nancy Cline, Chris Nixon, Virginia Burkey, Becky Thornburg, county clerk Jon Eads and council members Cindy Bracy and Harold Towell.

Also Monday, commissioners agreed to contribute \$35,000 toward Pennville Park Board’s revitalization project.

Dollars will be split from economic development income tax (EDIT), American Rescue Plan and wind farm economic development dollars. (An additional \$5,000 will be taken from EDIT for Pennville Economic Development in order to meet grant requirements.) Council OK’d moving forward with a \$30,000 additional appropriation for the project last week and will consider a final decision on the matter in March.

Pennville’s park board is looking into a three-phase plan for its park. Its first phase — it’s estimated at \$100,800 — will involve removing the park’s baseball diamond and converting it into three soccer fields, renovating basketball courts on the north side of the park and installing a pump track. Park board is looking into an agreement with the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority and Patronicity, a crowdfunding business that would match up to \$50,000 toward the project for a \$2,500 administration fee.

So far, the park board has raised more than \$35,000. Tanner McClain of the park board requested commissioners bump the county’s contribution to \$35,000 at the meeting Monday, explaining they could give \$5,000 to Pennville boosters or Pennville Economic Development to provide toward the grant application. (Patronicity requires funding to be split from various sources.)

Commissioners also approved a \$15,000 funding request from Arts Place as a match toward the Our Town Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). (The funding from EDIT dollars will be an additional appropriation that must be approved by council.)

Arts Place executive director Carolyn Carducci explained the organization was approved for a \$75,000 matching grant through NEA for “master regional arts planning and collaborations.”

The grant will work in three phases. Initial plans include designing and constructing a portable art studio to be used by any organization in Jay County, Blackford County or Auglaize County, Ohio. The next phase is meant to identify the arts and their location in Jay County. The third phase will serve to create a regional arts master plan for Jay County.

Per the grant, Arts Place is looking to raise \$25,000 from each of its served counties in order to meet the NEA grant’s matching funds.

Also Monday, highway superintendent Bob Howell formally introduced Spencer Patterson, the department’s new road foreman. Patterson takes the position from Howell, who was chosen to step into the superintendent role after Eric Butcher announced his resignation in January.

Patterson, a 2014 Jay County High School graduate, worked in the

Marine Corps for four years before shifting to a job with Indiana Department of Transportation in Bluffton. He served as a highway technician and a heavy equipment operator for about a year.

In other business, Chad Aker, Brian McGalliard and Rex Journey:

- Heard a proposal from Jeff Larrison of Indianapolis’ United Consulting Engineers. Larrison noted Jay County’s bridge inspections upcoming in 2025 and recommended his company’s bridge inventory work. United Consulting Engineers puts together interactive reports and summaries for bridges, he explained. Approximately 80% of its contracts — they can cost up to \$400,000 — are covered by federal dollars.

- Approved a change to the personnel policy handbook for county employees. The change adjusted language related to personal leave — after six months of full-time work, employees are allowed three personal days, with those days being equivalent to the number of hours the employee would be typically scheduled to work.

- Appointed Dunkirk City Council member Dan Watson and reappointed McGalliard to the East Central Indiana Regional Planning District board.

- Heard six county stop signs were stolen over the weekend along county roads 300 East and 500 North. Howell noted he almost got into an accident along the roads because of the missing signs.

- OK’d a request from Jay County Highway Department to purchase new software for inventory management using \$13,615 out of the department’s budget.

- Transferred a vehicle’s ownership from Jay County Sheriff’s Office to Jay County Country Living.

- Agreed to vacate Second Street, an alley between county road 200 South and Ruth Street near U.S. 27 in rural Portland. Adjoining property owners Randy Fisher and Greg Bailey attended the public hearing in support of the measure.

- Heard Jay Emergency Medical Service’s financial breakdown from January, which came to \$131,107.35 in expenses and \$92,869.15 in income.

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Billy's final substitute cartoon gives us an overview of Daddy's handiwork.

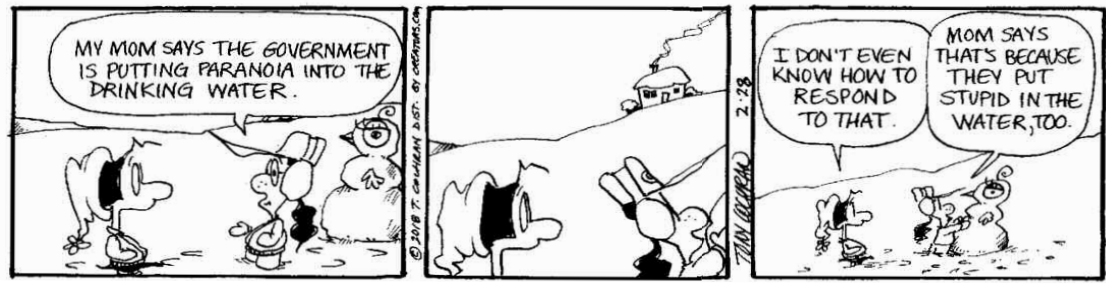
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bridge is a logical game

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 9 3
♥ 5 3
♦ A Q J 9 6
♣ A K Q 2

WEST
♠ 10 7 4
♥ K 8 7 6 2
♦ 7 5
♣ 8 6 5

EAST
♠ K Q 5 2
♥ Q J 4
♦ K 4 2
♣ 9 7 3

SOUTH
♠ A J 8 6
♥ A 10 9
♦ 10 8 3
♣ J 10 4

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

Opening lead — six of hearts.
Good defense is usually the result of logical thought. There are nearly always key clues to guide the defenders to their most promising line of attack.
Consider this deal where West leads the heart six against three notrump. East wins with the jack and continues with the queen, on which South plays the ten and West the deuce.
East is now at the crossroads. If he mechanically plays a third heart,

South romps home with 10 tricks. Declarer wins and takes the losing diamond finesse, and that is the end of the trail.
But if East pauses to take stock after trick two, he realizes that a heart continuation is futile. He can tell from the play to the first two tricks that West has the king of hearts and South the ace, and he can also tell from the bidding and what he holds in his own hand that South probably has all 10 — certainly no less than nine — of the remaining high-card points. West therefore cannot have an entry to his hearts if they become established.

East's best move at this point is to shift to a low spade at trick three, hoping to find his partner with the jack or ten. It is true that in the actual deal South can make the contract by playing the jack on the spade return, but unless he is blessed with X-ray vision, he is far more likely to let the spade run around to dummy's nine.
From declarer's viewpoint, East is more likely to have K-10-x-x or Q-10-x-x of spades than K-Q-x-x, so the odds favor his playing low on the spade shift. If he does, West wins with the ten and returns a spade, and South finishes down one.

Tomorrow: Keep your eye on the goal.
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2-28 CRYPTOQUIP

G VGIXDVGIYWYGQ OEKIDL CO
G NGHTD GLLYIYEQ KRVPEN
EQ XYK EAAYWD LEEH. Y'L
KGR YI'K G PYT ONCK.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: POP VOCAL TRIO WHOSE MEMBERS CREATE ART ON A BIG CANVAS WHILE SINGING: THE PAINTER SISTERS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals F

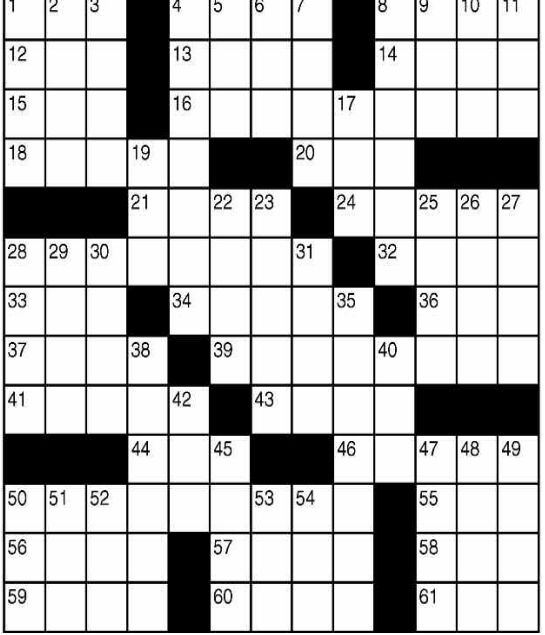
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 With it, once defense
 - 4 Castle
 - 8 Viral phenomenon
 - 12 Jurist
 - 13 Designer
 - 14 Exam format
 - 15 Holy Fr. woman
 - 16 Mis-directed
 - 18 "Poison" shrub
 - 20 Homer's lament
 - 21 Floor cleaners
 - 24 Jazz genre
 - 28 Pro bono service
 - 32 Wander
 - 33 Rowing tool
 - 34 Thousand, in France
 - 36 Lincoln or Ford
 - 37 Forehead
 - 39 Un-defeated boxer nicknamed "Madame Butterfly"
- DOWN**
- 1 Radiator
 - 2 Words to Brutus
 - 3 Words-worth work
 - 4 "Outliers" author
 - 5 Flamenco cheer
 - 6 Put two and two together?
 - 7 Frog's kin
 - 8 Beyonce, to Blue Ivy
 - 9 Blunder
 - 10 Goat's cry
 - 11 Tarzan
 - 17 Cry
 - 19 Docs' org.
 - 22 Sandbox toy
 - 23 George Eliot's Manner
 - 25 — Raton
 - 26 Cameo shape
 - 27 Actress
 - 28 Earring site
 - 29 Hoops great
 - 30 Pirate's drink
 - 31 552, in old Rome
 - 35 Rapper
 - 38 Belted areas
 - 40 "You've got mail" co.
 - 42 Genetic letters
 - 45 Curly cabbage
 - 47 Corn Belt state
 - 48 Nullify
 - 49 Eternities
 - 50 Golfer
 - 51 "2001" computer
 - 52 Request
 - 53 Peace, to Caesar
 - 54 Govt. stipend

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-28



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Cornerback ...

Continued from page 8
Third-year corner Dallis Flowers is returning from an Achilles' tendon injury after starting the first four games in 2023. He'll battle for one of two starting jobs with a pair of second-year prospects — second-round pick JuJu Brents and seventh-round pick Jaylon Jones.

Brents endured a frustrating rookie season, limited to nine games and eight starts by hamstring injuries. Jones, meanwhile, looked like a late-round steal. He had his first-year challenges but made 10 starts and flashed potential that excited his general manager.

"I thought we got really good play out of Jones, especially being a seventh-(round pick),"

Chris Ballard said. "I give Anthony (Coughlan), our scout in the southwest, all of the credit for Jones — all of it. He gets all of it.

"He pressed. He kept bugging me about (drafting Jones), and finally I looked at him and said, 'I'm taking him. If he stinks, it's on you. I'll take the blame for it, but you know it's on you. If he's great, you get all the credit.' He gets all the credit because I think the kid is going to be a really good football player for us."

Ballard set the addition of explosive players as an off-season goal for the Colts, and cornerback is one area that is likely to be addressed in that light.

It could happen as early as the 15th overall pick in April's draft, and there are some inter-

esting free agents who could hit the market.

But Indianapolis likes what it has in house.

The Colts knew there would be some lumps from going young in 2023, and they hope to reap the rewards in 2024.

"Those are two talented kids," Ballard said of Brents and Jones. "They're young men, and we'll always add competition. Getting Dallis — unfortunately, we thought he was playing pretty good. He had the Achilles. Getting Dallis Flowers back will be big.

"We'll add fuel. We'll add some competition to it, and they'll always compete. We'll have to compete. There are no given jobs, so they'll have to compete. I'm excited about both of them."

Ohio bans NCAA player prop bets

By **JAKE ZUCKERMAN**
cleveland.com
Tribune News Service

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Bettors in Ohio can no longer place player-specific prop bets on college sports after a decision by state officials announced Friday.

The Ohio Casino Control Commission heeded a request from both the NCAA and Gov. Mike DeWine to eliminate the sub-genre of bets, in which gamblers can wager about specific outcomes from specific players. Player prop bets would include, for instance, whether a collegiate basketball player hits a certain number of three pointers, or a given quarterback throws for a certain number of yards.

The NCAA argued such prop bets expose players to sometimes-violent vitriol from upset gamblers, and that they raise the likelihood of different forms of cheating.

"The occurrences of and increase in the harassment of student athletes based upon their performance or statistics in an intercollegiate athletics competition presents a clear and present danger to the best interests of Ohio," wrote Matthew Schuler, executive director of the Ohio Casino Control Commission, in a written opinion.

Sports books must comply by March 1. The ruling doesn't affect player-specific prop bets on professional sports.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys basketball sectional opener at New Castle — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball sectional at Upper Scioto Valley — 7 p.m.

Thursday
Jay County — Junior high wrestling vs. Bluffton — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high swimming vs. Bluffton — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Providence at Marquette (FS1); Auburn

at Tennessee (ESPN2); Northwestern at Maryland (BTN)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: New Orleans Pelicans at Indiana Pacers (ESPN)
8:30 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Edmonton Oilers (TNT)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Minnesota at Illinois (BTN); Alabama at Mississippi State (ESPN2); Seton Hall at Creighton (FS1)
10 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Los Angeles Clippers (ESPN)
11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Oregon State at Oregon (FS1)

Thursday
6:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Bahrain Grand Prix (ESPN2)

6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Wisconsin at Maryland (BTN)
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Nebraska at Ohio State (FS1)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Memphis at East Carolina (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Virginia Tech at Notre Dame (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Golden State Warriors at New York Knicks (TNT)
8 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Illinois at Michigan State (BTN)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Michigan at Rutgers (FS1)
9 p.m. — NHL: Colorado Avalanche at Chicago Blackhawks (ESPN)
9 p.m. — Women's college basketball: LSU at Georgia (ESPN2)

10 p.m. — NBA: Miami Heat at Denver Nuggets (TNT)
10:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: UCLA at Washington (FS1)
11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Gonzaga at San Francisco (ESPN2)

Local notes

Tournament scheduled
The Fort Recovery High School volleyball program is holding its annual alumni volleyball tournament on Friday, March 22.
Teams can consist of former players or anyone living in Fort Recovery, and don't need to be from the same graduating class.

Entry costs are \$10 per player, with all proceeds going to the FRHS volleyball team.
For more information, contact Travis Guggenbiller by March 20 by emailing guggenbiller@fortrecoveryschools.org

Midwest Walleye Challenge

Indiana anglers are invited to participate in the 2024 Midwest Walleye Challenge, a virtual fishing tournament.
The tournament begins March 30 and ends June 30, with walleye, sauger and saugeye counting. Contestants need to utilize the MyCatch mobile app to submit photos of their catches with a measuring device.
Participants can enter for free for the

chance at the grand prize or pay a \$25 fee to be eligible for biweekly cash prizes.
Those interested in participating can register by visiting AnglersAtlas.com/event/769 or by using the MyCatch app. For further information, visit on.IN.gov/walleye.

Registration open

Registration for the Dunkirk co-ed softball league is now open.
The league will start on April 7, and will cost \$250 for each team to register. First and second-place teams win a payout of \$400 and \$200 respectively.
To register, call Brock Farmer at (765) 209-4269.

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

HEARING AIDS!! High-quality rechargeable, powerful Audien hearing aids priced 90% less than competitors. Tiny and NEARLY INVISIBLE! 45-day money back guarantee! 877-581-1734

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET. We instantly compare speed, pricing, availability to find the best service for your needs. Starting at \$39.99/month! Quickly compare offers from top providers. Call 1-844-961-0666

LIVE PAIN FREE with CBD products from AceWellness. We guarantee highest quality, most competitive pricing on CBD products. Softgels, Oils, Skincare, Vape & more. Coupon Code: PRINT20 Call Now 833-226-3105

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NEW WINDOWS from Window Nation. Special money saving offer — zero down, zero payments, zero interest for TWO years AND buy 2 windows and get 2 FREE! Offer is valid for select models. Labor not included. Other restrictions apply. Call Window Nation today! 866-553-0725

PORTABLE OXYGEN Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 877-930-3271

SERIOUSLY INJURED in an AUTO ACCIDENT? Let us fight for you! Our network has recovered millions for clients! Call today for a FREE consultation! 844-517-6414

SWITCH AND save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans.

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Public Notice
Town of Redkey is taking bids for 2024 mowing season. All Redkey town properties. Mowing and weed eating. Must have insurance and own equipment and provide their own fuel. All Bids are per mowing. Please submit bids by March 18th, 2024 to Redkey City Building.
CR/NS 2-28-2024 -HSPAXLP

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-855-572-5165

TIMESHARE CANCELLATION Experts - Over \$50,000,000 in time-share debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 877-329-1207

WAIT UNTIL you taste it! Send 100% guaranteed, delivered-to-the-door Omaha Steaks! This package comes with 8 FREE PureGround Filet Mignon Burgers! Order The Protein-Packed Assortment Package! ONLY \$129.99. Call 1-833-498-2009 and mention code 75039YXB or visit www.omahasteaks.com/Tastel2240

00 CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS 260-726-8141
ADVERTISING RATES
20 Word Minimum
Effective 07/01/2018:
Minimum charge....
\$12.40
1 insertion.....62¢/word
2 insertions.....81¢/word
3 insertions.....96¢/word
6 insertions.... \$1.14/word
12 insertions. \$1.52/word
26 insertions. \$1.77/word
Includes
Online.....FREE
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

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Jay County, Indiana that the proper legal officers of Jay County Council at the Jay County Court House, at 6:00 o'clock p.m., on the 13th day of March, 2024 will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year.

	Amount Approved
COUNTY GENERAL	
1000-201-30-0055 Superior Court-Court Appt Doctors/Psych	\$6,000.00
LIT-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
1112-001-30-0235 Pennville Park	\$10,000.00
PROSECUTOR-DEFERRAL	
2400-001-40-0011 Office Equipment	\$1,275.00
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WINDFARM	
4500-001-30-0235 Pennville Park	\$10,000.00
RETRACTING FEE	
4916-001-40-0022 Equipment	\$2,500.00
TITLE IV-E REIMBURSEMENT	
8891-001-30-0087 Pauper Counsel	\$2,280.00
ARP 2021 CLFRF	
8950-001-30-0235 Pennville Park	\$10,000.00
Total	\$42,055.00

Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard. The additional appropriation as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance. The DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a certified copy of the action time.
Emily Franks, Jay County Auditor

CR/NS 2-28-2024 -HSPAXLP

00 CLASSIFIEDS

words.... \$13.00
Advertising Deadline is 12:00 p.m. the day prior to publication. The deadline for Mondays paper is 12:00 p.m. Friday. Pre-Payment required for: Rummage sales, business opportunities, jobs wanted, boats and sporting equipment, wanted to rent, motorized vehicles, real estate and mobile homes.

40 NOTICES

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

60 SERVICES

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

J. L. CONSTRUCTION & ROOFING LLC. Amish crew. Custom built homes, new garages, pole barns, interior/exterior remodeling, drywall, windows, doors, siding, roofing, foundations. 260-726-5062, leave message.

"SEAMSTRESS NAN" HOMEMADE Sewing and Alterations, Quilts, Baby Blankets, Applique, Zippers, Hemming, Memory T-Shirt, Special Orders, Wedding & Prom Gowns. 260.766.9334

Visit Us At: the-cr.com

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

CSO NOTIFICATION RULE 327 IACS-2.1
The Town of Redkey has a combined sewer system. Storm water and sanitary waste are transported to the wastewater treatment plant in the same sewers. During wet weather events, rainfall or snow melt, the sewers may become hydraulically overloaded to the point that some storm and wastewater goes to the receiving stream. Redkey Run or Halfway Creek, without being treated through the plant. When this occurs there is a potential for persons coming in contact with the creek water to become ill. The Town will provide Public Notification when an overflow event occurs to prevent persons from making contact with the water. Notices are posted at the CSO sites that read as follows:

CAUTION
Sewage Pollution
Sewage may be in this water during and for several days after periods of rainfall or snow melt. People who swim in, wade in, or ingest this water may get sick.
For more information, please call the Redkey Wastewater Treatment Plant at 765-369-2711.
Randy Young
Certified Operator
Dave Dudelston
Town Council President
Dated this 28th day of February, 2024.
CR/NS 2-28-2024 -HSPAXLP

60 SERVICES

GOODHEW'S ALL SEASON Construction- Specializing in standing seam metal roofs. When Quality Counts, Count On US. A company you can trust. Member of the BBB. New Installation and repairs. Call Rodney Thornbury, owner 765-509-0191

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 private 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 Practically all tillable with frontage on SR 67 and CR 650 E.
Tract 3: 2.4 Acres practically all tillable with frontage on SR 67 and CR 650 E.
Tract 4: 7 Acres Wooded with access on CR 650 E.
TRACTOR — ANTIQUES — MISC
Farmall A Tractor with

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

90 SALE CALENDAR
cycle bar mower, belly mower and blade. 5 gallon milk can. CC saw. Chicken crate. Old gates. Walking plows. Old toys. Tinker toys and games. Hand painted lamp globe.
OWNER: Laux Trust-Thomas J. Laux Trustee SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING 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. REDKEY, IN.
REAL ESTATE
Tract 1: 25 Acres in Section 5, Jefferson Township with 23 acres tillable, balance being non-tillable and road frontage.
Tract 2: 9.6 Acres in Section 6, Jefferson Township. Practically all tillable. For more information phone auctioneers. Land will be sold at 4023 S 800 W, Redkey IN.
TRUCK — TRACTOR — FARM EQUIPMENT — MISC
Bambauer hog manure hyd. hose reel, PTO

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Auction to be held at 8341 N 400 E (Bearcreek Farms) Bryant, Indiana on Monday
MARCH 25, 2024
6:00 P.M.
REAL ESTATE — 1675 W ST. RT. 18 BRYANT, IN:
PARCEL #1:
Approximately 4 acres of bare ground with frontage on State Road 18. Possession at time of closing. If split survey will be provided.
Parcel #2:
Approximately 80 acres with approximately 65 acres of slightly rolling tillable ground, 9 ½ acres of wooded and 4.94 acres of ditch. Soils are Blount-Glynwood, Pewamo and Glynwood. Farm is rented for 2024 crop year. Buyer to receive cash rent payment of \$200.00 per acre. Possession after harvest of 2024 crops.
Parcel #3:
Combination of Parcel #1 and Parcel #2 containing 84.923 total acres.
10% non-refundable deposit day of sale with balance due at closing. Seller will provide survey if property splits. Seller will provide Owners Title Insurance and General Warranty Deed. Buyer will assume taxes due and payable in November 2024 and thereafter. Any statements made day of sale take precedence over previously written or oral statements. Owner confirmation day of sale. For more information contact Loy Real Estate 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160.

90 SALE CALENDAR

driven on transport. PTO hog manure pump. Wilson 45' hopper bottom grain trailer. 1000-500-300 gallon fuel tanks. Work benches.
ANTIQUES — HOUSEHOLD
Plastic Marathon sign. Garden plows. Garden planter. Oil cans. Maytag washer and dryer. Gladiator refrigerator. Full line of household furnishings and furniture.
OWNER: Anita Orr, Wade Weesner POA SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC31800004
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587
Check AuctionZip & Auctionsoft for more photos.

100 JOBS WANTED
AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.

130 MISC. FOR SALE

PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.

130 MISC. FOR SALE

260 PUBLIC AUCTION

260 PUBLIC AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION
Auction to be held at 8341 N 400 E (Bearcreek Farms) Bryant, Indiana on Monday
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REAL ESTATE — 1675 W ST. RT. 18 BRYANT, IN:
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JOHN LEWIS, DECEASED

LOY AUCTION AC31600027
AUCTIONEERS
Gary Loy AU 01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112

CR 2-28,3-11,18-2024

Jay County opens sectional against host New Castle, see Sports on tap

For all of your local sports news, visit thecr.com

Sports

Patriots cruise past Blackford

The Patriots only had three wrestlers win their match.

That didn't stop them from blowing out the Bruins.

The Jay County Junior High School wrestling team's three winning wrestlers combined with 13 matches won by forfeit powered a 96-24 victory on Monday over the Blackford Bruins.

The Patriots (13-6) won three of the seven contested matches, all of which were by fall.

Walter Campiofiore secured the first victory for Jay County in the 106-pound match, when he pinned Kaleb McCammon.

After a pair of losses, Max McClain III and Cooper Reynolds won back-to-back matches. McClain III put Luis Velasquez on his back in the 126 match, while Reynolds topped

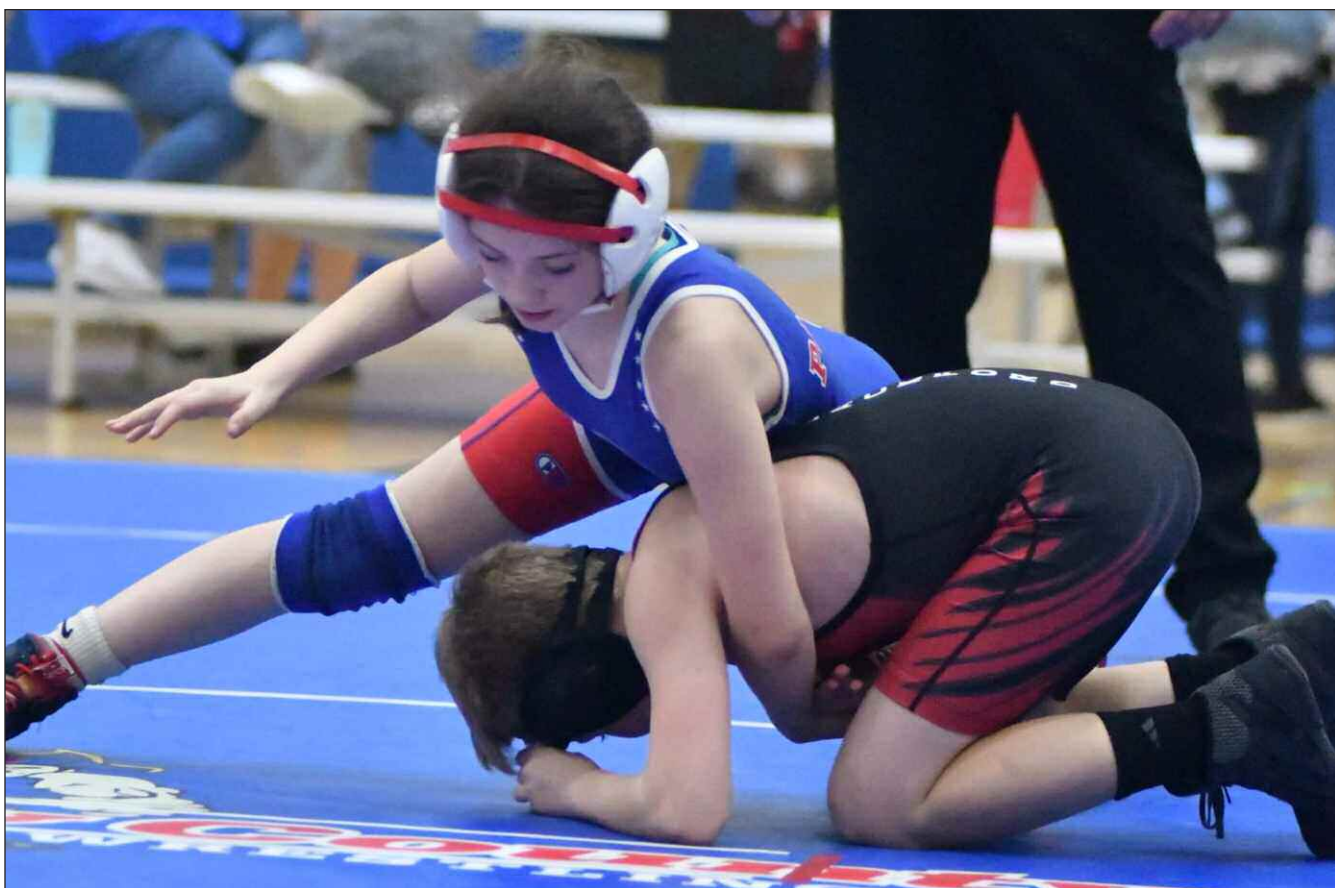
Dallas Richardson in the 138 contest.

Carter Bryant, Danny Hornbaker, Logan Hornbaker and Tristen Freeman won matches for Blackford.

The 13 wins by forfeit for Jay County came from Mitchell Byrum (75-pound match), Danica Chowning (90), Corbin Lothridge (95), Jackson Bonifas (100), Alex Rivers (132), Caleb Sibray (150), Lucas Raines (157), Varen Ridgeway (165), Amara Crawford (175), Freddie Lingo (190), Spencer Smiley (215), Charlie Burress (195) and George Plessinger III (285).

The Patriots won three exhibition matches, with Bonifas, Rivers and Conner McMellen coming out on top.

The Patriots will next take the mat Thursday as they host Bluffton at 5:30 p.m.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County Junior High School sixth-grader Danica Chowning works to gain control of Blackford's Carter Bryant in an exhibition match following the Patriots' 96-24. Chowning secured six points for Jay County as the Bruins had to forfeit the 90-pound contest.

Offseason Preview: Intrigue at cornerback

By GEORGE BREMER

The Herald Bulletin (Anderson) Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — The discussion of the Indianapolis Colts' cornerback group this off-season must begin with Kenny Moore II.

After a roller-coaster 2022 season that saw the veteran briefly make a move for a new contract before struggling on the field, Moore bounced back in a major way in 2023.

His 93 tackles were the second-highest total of his career, and after not recording an interception for the first time as a pro in 2022, he picked off three passes — returning two for touchdowns

Veteran Kenny Moore II had a bounce back year for Colts but hit free agency, opening up room for young talent

against the Carolina Panthers.

Many of the questions about his fit and value in defensive coordinator Gus Bradley's scheme were answered, and Moore served as an important example for a young position group that battled injuries and inconsistency throughout the season.

Still, there's no guarantee the 28-year-old will be re-signed as a free agent next month.

"It'll happen the way it happens, honestly," Moore said of his first crack at the open market. "I don't want to sound too boring about it, but it is what it is. I'm just not the type of person that makes it bigger than what it

already is. It's just my job, and I want to do my job as best as possible. So wherever I can wear (No.) 23, I'm wearing 23."

Moore also made it clear his preference is to remain in Indianapolis. The city has become home to him, and he grew on and off the field during his seven seasons here.

But he also understands as well as anyone the NFL is a business first and foremost.

With so many pending free agents on the docket, where does Moore rank? Will the Colts value his experience and ball skills? Or will they look to add a young slot cornerback to a group they hope can grow together for the next several years?

Perhaps both. No matter the outcome of Moore's situation — and the possibility of additions through the draft and/or free agency — internal improvement will remain a major focus at the position.

See Cornerback page 7

JAY COUNTY

Fibero Arts Festival

March 8-9, 2024

Jay Community Center
 115 E. Water St., Portland, IN
 Friday 10am-5pm • Saturday 9am-4pm

**Classes, Artists, Food, Vendors,
 Wood Carving, Kids Area,
 Demonstrations**



Free admission

