

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Brown pleads to causing death

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

A Portland man has admitted to drunk driving resulting in the death of a 18-year-old Bryant resident.

Michael L. Brown, 28, 618 N. Pleasant St., pleaded guilty Wednesday in Jay Superior Court to causing death while operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content equivalent to 0.08% or more, a Level 4 felony.

The crime from June 4 resulted in the death of Devon Drumm, who graduated from

Portland man was driving drunk at the time of collision that killed his passenger

Jay County High School hours prior to the accident.

Per the plea agreement, Brown could have up to a 12-year sentence, with up to eight years served in prison and four years on probation. (The sentence

length will be determined by Judge Gail Dues. In Indiana, a Level 4 felony has a two-year to 12-year sentence, with an advisory sentence of six years.) The plea deal also dismissed a Level 3 felony charge for leaving the

scene of an accident and a Level 5 felony charge for driving with a suspended license.

His sentencing hearing is scheduled for 9 a.m. April 3.

Jay County prosecutor Wes Schemenaur noted Brown, if

found guilty by trial, could have been sentenced up to 16 years in prison for the crime. He talked about weighing the four-year sentence difference against taking the case to trial, which wouldn't have guaranteed a conviction.

"I talked to the family about it, I'm always a little more deferential (to the family's wishes) in situations involving someone's death," he said. "I had a long conversation with Devon's mother and grandmother, and they were in agreement with the offer."

See Pleads page 2

Child care, decorum measures approved

General Assembly moves bills as end of session nears

By WHITNEY DOWNARD AND LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Both chambers moved priority bills Wednesday, with a dwindling number of measures left to finalize before an anticipated adjournment on Friday.

In the Senate, a child care bill passed on a 45-2 vote, a move that would establish "microcenters" of less than 30 children, expand subsidies for child care workers and analyze industry wages.

"This bill would help create more reliable and affordable child care for all Hoosiers," Sen. Ed Charbonneau said in a release. "Senate Enrolled Act 2 would give Indiana the opportunity to address the child care shortage many families are facing and gain more information on ways we can continue to improve child care standards."

Meanwhile, the House convened three separate times Wednesday to push forward dozens of proposals. Bills considered included a meeting decorum bill altered to target a state government role, loosening child labor laws and a birth control mandate.

All of the bills now move to the governor.

House lawmakers consented to Senate changes on a handful of House bills Wednesday afternoon.

Those measures included House Bill 1003, a priority for the Republican caucus, that would create a "more efficient" and balanced administrative appeals process by making Indiana's Office of Administrative Law the "ultimate authority" on disputes between agencies and members of the public.

But Bloomington Rep. Matt Pierce expressed concerns about shifting some of that process away from in-house experts within state agencies, especially in environmental law.

See Measures page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Demolition underway

Demolition of the former Hunt's building at 208 and 210 N. Meridian St., Portland, started this week. Pictured above, equipment sits Wednesday behind the building with debris scattered around the property.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Castillo Ken

Ashton Castillo portrays one of the various versions of "Ken" during Just Treble's performance of its "Barbie"-themed show Monday during the Jay County High School Show Choir Showcase. Just Treble and Patriot Edition will compete Saturday in the Columbia City Cup.

Haley suspends campaign efforts

By JUSTIN SINK, JORDAN FABIAN and NANCY COOK
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley is ending her campaign after losses in a string of primary contests, ceding the nomination to Donald Trump and setting up a rematch of the 2020 election against President Joe Biden.

Haley was due to speak in her home state of South Carolina, where she will concede that Trump is her party's choice, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Both Biden and Trump prevailed in almost every Super Tuesday nominating contest, including victories in Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Utah that demonstrate their respective holds over their political parties.

Haley will not, however, immediately endorse Trump and will instead push him to pivot on some issues in order to court her voters,

another person familiar with her plans said.

Haley managed only a token victory in Vermont — a deeply liberal state Republicans haven't carried in 36 years — despite backing from billionaires including Stan Druckenmiller and Charles Koch.

And a viable alternative to Biden never emerged.

Yet the dominant performances by both Biden and Trump disguise deep anxiety and reservations among the electorate.

For Democrats, the choice of Biden is a risky gamble that voters in November will put aside their concerns about the ability of an 81-year-old man to continue to lead the country for another four years.

On the Republican side, Trump's myriad legal woes, inflammatory statements about minorities and immigrants and what his critics say are his authoritarian plans for a second term threaten to alienate moderate voters key to recapturing the White House.

Deaths

Janice Hampshire, 86, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 54 degrees Wednesday. The low was 43.

Rain is in the forecast for tonight with winds gusting to 30 miles per hour and a low in the upper 40s. Expect more rain and windy conditions Saturday with a high in the lower 50s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available Saturday. Trailers will be open from 9 a.m. to noon in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, and Dunkirk City Park.

Coming up

Saturday — Results from the ACAC junior high swimming and wrestling meetings.

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.



Obituaries

Janice Hampshire

June 14, 1937-March 5, 2024
Janice Hampshire, 86, was called home to Heaven on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. She is forever with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the love of her life Robert (Bob) Hampshire.

Janice was born June 14, 1937, in Johnson City, Tennessee, the daughter of Gurney and Crete (Pope) Moody. Janice married Robert (Bob) Hampshire on Aug. 5, 1956. He passed away on Aug. 11, 2006.

Janice retired from Jay School Corporation after many

years of service. She loved her family “more than life itself” as she would say and loved to cook for anyone who showed up for Sunday dinner. Cooking and music (especially Motown) were her passion, and we will always remember her singing in the kitchen while making the best fried chicken this side of Heaven. She had a heart for all animals and had many pets throughout her life including



Hampshire

her precious doggie “Holly” who we are sure greeted her with many kisses. She loved her job as a “lunch lady” and “latch key lady” with many of her kids calling her Grandma. Our mom left us a legacy of love and memories and we will miss her dearly until we see her again.

Survivors include:
Two sons — Bob “Bobby” Hampshire (wife: Jackie), Portland, and John Hampshire (wife: Edwina), Portland
Two daughters — Mary Simons (husband: Jan), Portland, and Teresa Hampshire, Portland

One brother — Gurney Moody, Dayton, Ohio
Twelve grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews
She was preceded in death by her brothers Jack and John Moody; sister Charlotte Norris; and grandchildren Seth Corwin and Barbie Caylor.

Visitation will be held Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral will follow at 2 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be held at Green Park Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to the Jay County Humane Society.

Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.com.

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

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

CR almanac

Saturday 3/9	Sunday 3/10	Monday 3/11	Tuesday 3/12	Wednesday 3/13
53/28	41/27	53/38	62/44	63/47
Saturday has an 80% chance of thunderstorms, with wind gusts reaching up to 30 mph.	Sunday looks to be mostly sunny with a low at night in the upper 20s.	Sunny skies are on the horizon Monday with a high in the low 50s during the day.	Mostly sunny skies are expected Tuesday, when the high will be around 62.	There's a small chance of rain on Wednesday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.

Lotteries

Powerball 6-19-28-44-60 Power Ball: 10 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$521 million	Daily Four: 8-1-0-6 Quick Draw: 8-10-12-16-19-20-32-35-38-42-43-45-46-48-62-63-72-73-77-79 Cash 5: 15-16-30-36-42 Estimated jackpot: \$1,299,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$687 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 4-7-4 Pick 4: 1-1-9-9 Pick 5: 1-7-1-0-8 Evening Pick 3: 3-2-4 Pick 4: 6-8-9-4 Pick 5: 7-8-3-0-8 Rolling Cash: 4-14-17-20-31 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 2-7-1 Daily Four: 4-6-3-4 Quick Draw: 3-9-17-24-35-36-39-41-43-45-52-53-58-60-62-66-69-70-71-74 Evening Daily Three: 3-7-6	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.37 April corn4.37 Wheat4.13	April beans11.45 Wheat 4.83
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.36 April corn4.36 May corn4.36	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.12 April corn4.16 Beans11.40 April beans11.46 Wheat4.92
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.18 April corn4.21 Beans11.38	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.22 April corn4.27 Beans11.19 April beans11.23 Wheat4.62

Today in history

In 1701, Queen Anne took the throne in Britain. She was the last monarch from the House of Stuart. She had previously agreed to the Act of Settlement of 1701, which would shift the crown to Sophia, granddaughter of King James I or her descendants.
In 1817, the New York Stock Exchange was formally created. It was then known as the New York Stock and Exchange Board, with the current name being adopted in 1863.
In 1841, Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes was born in Boston. He was an advocate of judicial

restraint and argued that speech could only be limited in situations in which it created a “clear and present danger.”
In 2007, heavy rain and melting snow led to flooding, with significant issues on Rick Drive in Dunkirk. Other serious flooding was in the area of county roads 800 North and 900 North.
In 2022, a Jay County Republican caucus appointed Emily Franks to fill out the remainder of former county auditor Anna Culy’s term. Culy resigned to accept a job with Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.
—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay County Redevelopment Commission, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Fort Recovery Park Board, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Tuesday 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	

Measures ...

Continued from page 1
“Now you have to hope that your judge is an expert in chemical engineering,” Pierce, a Democrat, said about the change. “You’re really undermining the agencies and you’re empowering the judges to basically inject their own opinions, their own feelings about the case.”

The bill advanced on a 70-24 vote along party lines.
Despite their Senate colleagues’ qualms, House Democrats appeared to be more supportive of an effort to require hospitals to stock and offer certain long-acting reversible contraceptives and offer them to women on Medicaid after childbirth.

Senate Democrats have pushed back against House Bill 1426 because Senate Republicans struck intrauterine devices, or IUDs, rather than just the subdermal implant the final version mandates.

Cognizant of the criticism, Democrat Rep. Rita Fleming said it is still an option for Medicaid recipients — which she previously noted make up more than half of Indiana’s births — because providers could still stock and offer IUDs.

She is the author of the bill, which originally included IUDs.

“It is unethical for a health care provider to not offer all options, the risks and the benefits. And it is disingenuous and disgraceful to suggest that health care providers would do otherwise,” Fleming said. “I appreciate your support. Thank you.”

A bipartisan coalition voted

against the bill — including five Republicans and four Democrats.

But the bill garnering the most attention was one that would curtail the office of the Public Access Counselor, a little-known office tasked with interpreting the state’s public records and meetings laws. It squeaked by on a 56-38 vote.

Previously, the bill only gave some protections to localities dealing with disruptive members of the public.

But the new restrictions, added by the Senate, would allow a governor to dismiss the state’s Public Access Counselor at any time, rather than a “for cause” dismissal currently allowed during a four-year term. House Bill 1338 would also limit the Public Access Counselor to considering only the “plain text” of the state’s public access laws and “valid” court opinions when putting together non-binding advisory opinions.

Senate Republicans have pointed to some of Public Access Counselor Luke Britt’s advisories on school board meetings as the impetus for the language. Democrats, however, have argued the changes limit the Public Access Counselor’s independence.

“That essentially means if somebody gets mad enough to complain to the governor, or maybe the governor himself gets mad, they can just remove the (Public Access Counselor),” Pierce said. He added that the proposal would increase the likelihood that Public Access Counselor opinions are “influenced by politics.”

Pierce also worried that legislation could overly limit Britt if he’s

asked to rule on vague areas of the law. Rep. J.D. Prescott, R-Union City, said advisories from the Public Access Counselor could instead ask lawmakers to clarify those gray areas. Prescott authored the underlying bill.

Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, called the addition of the Public Access Counselor language a “step back for public access.”

“We’re going to fool around with the language of the law. We’re going to fool around with the tenure of this office and we’re doing it all so that people will know less,” DeLaney said. “A vote for this is a vote for a less informed public, a vote for less open meetings, a vote for less public discussion.”

But not everyone thought the language would do much.

Rep. Jerry Torr, R-Carmel, recounted fighting with government agencies over access to public records while investigating insurance climbs.

“By God, it’s a public record and you’re going to give it to me,” he recalled, noting that “letter-writing contest” took place before the Public Access Counselor’s office was created in 1999. For him, the statute establishing access to public records rights is strong enough.

“... I didn’t even understand why that office was created. I don’t think this is a significant change,” Torr said. “... the public access counselor’s opinion really doesn’t mean anything.”

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

Pleads ...

Continued from page 1
“Why not take the sure thing and let the family get some closure and peace and move on,” he added.

According to a probable cause affidavit filed in connection with the case, Brown told police he was driving a 2012 Kia Forte when a car passed him on county road 700 South near State Line Road. Dust from the stone road impaired his vision, he said in the affidavit, causing him to drive off the road and hit a tree on the passenger side. He was ejected from the car.

Brown told police when he woke up he ran to the car to check on Drumm and started slapping him in an attempt to wake him, the affidavit says.

Drumm suffered a fatal head injury from the accident and was later pronounced dead at the scene.

Brown told police he suffers from bipolar disorder and admitted to panicking and running away from the wreck. He called a family member, who picked him up from a county road and took him into Portland. He was treated at IU Health Jay and later transferred to IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie for his injuries, which included a head wound.

Hiram Roberts — he lives

Agreement calls for a sentence of up to 12 years

near the location of the accident — discovered Drumm in the vehicle alone and called police about 5:44 p.m. June 4. Drumm was trapped in the car with his seatbelt secured, according to a Jay County Sheriff’s Office accident report.

Brown repeatedly asked the case investigator who spoke with him at the hospital less than three hours later about Drumm’s condition.

“I don’t care about myself, I just want Devon to be OK,” he told the investigator.

“I don’t do meth or drugs anymore,” he later said in the report. “I have been being good, I just drank four or five beers and that’s it.”

Alcoholic containers were located at the scene of the accident, and Brown smelled of alcohol, the affidavit says. A test showed he had a blood alcohol level of 0.088%.

Felony arrests

Dealing drugs
A rural Redkey man was arrested Wednesday on drug-related charges.
Jacob M.J. Schwartz, 50, 10812 W. 800 South, was preliminarily charged with a Level 2 felony for dealing methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. He is being held in Jay County Jail on a \$44,000 bond.

SERVICES

Saturday
Hampshire, Janice: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland..

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Academic accomplishments

Jay County High School Senior Academic Team competed in the Eastern Indiana Academic League's Invitational at Knightstown High School on Feb. 26. Jay County placed in the top three in four disciplines, earning one first place finish plaque in Math, second place ribbons in Fine Arts and third place ribbons in both English and Social Studies. The Science team narrowly missed the top 5 with a sixth place finish. Pictured are team members (front row) Tessa Miller, Tinatin Japaridze, Hannah Boggs, Anis Edi and Labibah Awliyah and (back row) Sarah McClain, Brennan Chrisman, Ella Stockton, Joseph Boggs, Jensen Avery, Corbin Bishop, Trenten Hamilton, Carla Alashkar, Jovana Markovic and Izzy Winkles.

Lunch plan discovery derails couple's marriage

DEAR ABBY: I have known my husband for 10 years. We have been married for four. We love each other very much, but I did something that has caused him to no longer trust me, and he won't forgive me. I went to a pub while my husband was at a class. I told him I was going to the pub and he was fine with it. We know everybody who works there very well. The problem is, a nice man sat down a seat away from me and we started talking about all kinds of stuff. At the end of the evening, we exchanged phone numbers. He texted me a week later wanting to know if I could meet him for lunch. I said yes — big mistake — but we DIDN'T meet because I realized it would be

Dear Abby



wrong. My husband saw his text on my phone, and he is upset and angry. He hasn't spoken to me since. It's been almost a week. He said he can no longer trust me, and he won't accept my apologies or forgive me. What can I do? — LOSING LOVE IN CALIFORNIA
DEAR LOSING: Although your intentions may have been innocent, for your husband to

have found out about the planned lunch the way he did couldn't have been worse. Had you told him you met someone "nice" and had been invited to lunch, it might not have made him angry. I don't blame him for feeling he may not be able to trust you. Remind him that you did not GO to that lunch. Tell him you love him and ask what you need to do to earn back that trust. Ask if he would go to counseling with you. However, if you are unable to do that, accept that your marriage is toast. What a shame.

DEAR ABBY: My sister "Claudia" recently asked me on a Sat-

urday to take her to the eye doctor the following Tuesday. Well, I forgot. She didn't call me the night before (like normal people do) to remind me, nor did she call me the next day to confirm. She did call our cousin to take her. (She should have called me that day instead of calling our cousin.) Now Claudia is mad at me. I think it was both our faults — mine because I forgot. (There is a lot going on here. My mother-in-law, who has dementia, lives here and it has grown worse.) It was also Claudia's fault for not calling me. She told me it was an important follow-up appointment and she was really upset. Is she being childish? By the way, Claudia is 13 years older than I am and has

always been jealous of me. Please give me your opinion. — JUST PLAIN FORGOT IN OHIO
DEAR "FORGOT": Oh, my goodness. You are human and you forgot! I don't think it was a hanging offense. However, Claudia managed to come up with a Plan B and the cousin saved the day. See how resourceful she can be in a pinch? In the future, when your hands are full — and from what you have described about your mother-in-law, it is safe to assume they will be — when Sissy asks you to take her to a medical appointment, perhaps Plan B should become Plan A.

Community Calendar

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

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

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

Sunday
A BETTER LIFE — BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-

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

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.
JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at noon the second Monday of each month at Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay

Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 3 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio.

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. Walk-ins accepted.

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.

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.

REDISCOVERING JOY — The support group of widows and widowers meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at R & R Fabrications, 601 E. Washington St., St. Henry, Ohio. For more information, email rediscoveringjoy@yahoo.com.

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

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

6	4	9	8	7	2	1	3	5
8	7	5	3	1	4	6	2	9
1	2	3	5	9	6	7	8	4
4	3	6	9	5	1	2	7	8
5	8	1	6	2	7	4	9	3
2	9	7	4	8	3	5	1	6
9	1	8	7	6	5	3	4	2
7	6	4	2	3	8	9	5	1
3	5	2	1	4	9	8	6	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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Justices did the country a service

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

We were not surprised that the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday ruled that individual states can't unilaterally bar Donald Trump from appearing on ballots on the grounds of Section 3 of the 14th Amendment, the part of the Constitution that bars prior insurrectionists from holding office.

When it comes to federal offices, it's pretty clear that the framers saw the application, or disabling, of that amendment as the responsibility of Congress. States certainly

Guest Editorial

have the authority to bar their own state officials on those grounds, which is well and good. But having some states allow Trump's name to stand on a ballot for president of the United States and others bar him on a patchwork basis clearly would have produced a chaotic result,

given that what happens in one state would of course impact the other 49. And any reasonable person can see that partisan tit for tats would have been the inevitable consequence.

This was always a Hail Mary on the part of those who believe that Trump's odious actions on that rightly notorious Jan. 6 were those of an insurrectionist and thus disqualifying in his current presidential run. Illinois was among the states that gave it a shot. Most of those who supported this attempt, and we were never among them, likely had convinced themselves that

the ends justified their means. Tempting but no cigar.

But we were stirred and pleased that the Supremes acted unanimously in striking down the Colorado Supreme Court ruling, which was the issue on the table here but will extend to other states that have followed suit. The three liberal justices stepped away from their potential partisan corners and also rejected the suggestions of several law professors no doubt of their acquaintance. That puts this issue to bed in the best possible way, and Trump should return the favor by noting that

not everything in Washington is some Deep State plot against him.

To his credit, he actually did take some baby steps Monday in that direction. When things go his way, he is capable of marginal magnanimity. It's when things do not that this big baby's ruinous side always reveals itself.

In this case, he could learn a thing or two from those liberal justices. They swallowed hard and did their jobs.

Trump for president is a matter for the voters. Such is the price of democracy.

Hurray for the ticket splitters

By SCOTT KLUG
The Fulcrum
Tribune News Service

A must-read for political junkies, Sabato's Crystal Ball had bad news for fans of ticket splitting like me in February: The once widespread practice has plummeted in recent presidential elections.

"Just 16 districts produced split results [in 2020]: 9 Republicans won districts carried by Joe Biden for president, and 7 Democrats won districts carried by Donald Trump. That was the lowest such total of the post-war era, surpassing the previous low of 26 in the 2012 election," the newsletter reported.

But that doesn't mean ticket splitting is no longer important. Pundits know in classic swing states it can provide the winning margin.

And the good news for fans like me is that the 2022 midterms gave us some hope.

That year, Vermont reelected a Republican governor who beat his opponent by a staggering 47 percentage points. Meanwhile, Democratic Sen. Peter Welch won another term by 40 points.

In Nevada, Democratic Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto won reelection, but voters tossed out the incumbent Democratic governor in favor of Republican Joe Lombardo.

The split-ticket pattern repeated in Kansas, New Hampshire, Georgia and Wisconsin. In fact, ticket splitting almost seems wired into Wisconsin's political DNA.

Madison screenwriter and columnist (and, might I add, ticket splitter) John Roach struggles to explain it.

"It's a puzzle to me. I am not sure it's rational," Roach said. "It's almost like they don't want to give too much power to one side. And Wisconsin voters try to balance it out in a kind of freestyle way."

In the Georgia race for Senate, incumbent Raphael Warnock made a strategic decision to court ticket splitters by running an ad touting his bipartisan work with Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz. Naturally, his Democratic base was horrified.

Yet I think he had his finger on the pulse of American politics — 44% of American voters self-identify as centrists,

Scott Klug



... 44% of American voters self-identify as centrists, according to a Brookings study. That's an enormous block of voters who are bewildered by the current political climate, in which the extremes pass for the norm.

according to a Brookings study. That's an enormous block of voters who are bewildered by the current political climate, in which the extremes pass for the norm.

"When we are at gridlock, which we are now as a country, then you want to think that there are people who can work across the aisle," said Melita Easters, a Democratic consultant in Atlanta.

In Georgia, a mid-50s white suburbanite and long-time Republican voter wrestled with her decisions in 2022.

"I had always been a straight-ticket voter, and I was going to vote for Governor (Brian) Kemp," she said. "But I decided to split my ticket and vote for a Democrat for Senate. It was liberating. People should not be afraid to color outside the lines. What matters is getting it right."

I agree. Hurray for the ticket splitters.

Klug served in the House of Representatives from 1991 to 1999. He hosts the political podcast "Lost in the Middle: America's Political Orphans."



Quote defines Braun's character

By MICHAEL LEPPERT
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

When paying close attention to the things politicians actually say, there are moments when their true character unmistakably shines through. The memorable comments and quips are often material for statues and memorials. Successful politicians fight the urge to be blunt because of the historical danger bluntness brings. Thankfully, eventually most lose that challenging inner battle.

Last Thursday, Sen. Mike Braun lost that battle. In an interview with Maria Bartiromo on Fox Business, she asked the Indiana gubernatorial candidate for his thoughts on how Sen. Mitch McConnell should handle his leadership transition. Braun said he thought McConnell needed to endorse the Trump campaign with this motivational advice: "Don't fight it, you gotta go along with it."

Sort of gives a person goose bumps, doesn't it?

I'm reminded of other great oratorical moments from our leaders. Words that moved people, inspired us, or provided great clarity in times of uncertainty or strife.

"The only thing we have to fear, is fear itself," from President Franklin Roosevelt comes to mind. Those were big words at a big moment.

"Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country," struck a nerve when President John F. Kennedy said it.

When I walk by the statue of President Benjamin Harrison in downtown Indianapolis, I am always drawn to his quote etched into the base: "Great lives do not go out; they go on." That may have inspired the Celine Dion song, "My Heart Will Go On."

More goose bumps.

Being a follower never inspires. Don't get me wrong, followers are vital to humanity. Where would we be without them? Let's face it, all of

Michael Leppert



us spend most of our time following. But all of us aren't running for governor. All of us aren't in the U.S. Senate. Those are jobs reserved for leaders.

Braun's campaign is all about being not just a follower, but the best follower. It's as if his platform is, "vote for me, it will be like voting for Trump, twice!"

The racial attacks the former president directed at McConnell's wife, former Secretary of Transportation, Elaine Chao, should make the "go along with it" advice out of the question. Braun acknowledges that during the interview, saying he knows McConnell might "have to bite his tongue" to endorse Trump. What he's really saying with that acknowledgement is that he would make the endorsement under the same circumstances.

And that defines Braun's character.

It is important to quantify the value of such an endorsement. It's worth virtually nothing to the Trump campaign. No one is withholding their support, anxiously waiting to know Mitch's viewpoint. What Braun really is saying here is that he wants McConnell to take orders from the disgraced former president during the remaining months of his leadership term. Stop working with the majority in the Senate on immigration, budget and foreign aid deals. Braun's against all of that.

His burn-it-down position in Washington is the brand he wants to bring to the Statehouse, I guess. But the context of the job he seeks couldn't be more different. His party has controlled state govern-

ment for two decades. The challenge for another Republican governor will be coming up with creative ways to move the state forward, creative ways to lead, not righting all of the wrongs of some boogeyman who preceded him.

Braun's "you gotta go along with it," comment is alarming. It is not some throw away comment one might use in a "what's for dinner" conversation. It's grooming. He's saying it doesn't matter what the details are, what morality is being sacrificed, what personal acquiescence it takes, as long as it follows. It's how predators start the process of victimization. It's how Adolph Hitler rose to power.

Choosing a leader well requires an understanding of the candidate's character. Whenever a candidate hides behind someone else's character, it is, at a minimum, lazy. But more importantly, it displays a lack of confidence in oneself, an admission of one's own lack of depth.

I am old enough now to know that being mayor, governor or president is almost entirely about character. What people in those jobs plan to do is always made difficult or even impossible by the unexpected events that occur after taking office. That is a certainty.

Braun turns 70 in a few weeks. He is an unrelenting follower of an unhealthy man who turns 78 this summer. And his campaign pitch is that he will take his orders from this deranged and elderly man, and that everyone else should "go along with it" too.

Indiana Republicans, you can do better than Mike Braun. Anyone can be a follower. In May, you need to choose a leader.

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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U.S. ag exports are shrinking

By **BROOKS JOHNSON**
Star Tribune
Tribune News Service

When Land O'Lakes CEO Beth Ford urged the Biden administration to help boost ag exports last fall, the country was headed for its worst agricultural trade deficit on record.

It got worse. The U.S. imported \$20 billion more in agricultural goods than it exported last year, a striking reversal from a longstanding trade surplus as the fallout from President Trump's trade war with China continues to hurt American farmers. Brazil continues to gain market share selling corn and soybeans to China, and global trade alliances shifted during years of supply chain troubles.

Pandemic disruption may be partly to blame for the lost exports, but the trade war caused lasting damage to America's trade relationships.

"In addition to the loss of billions suffered by American farmers and higher food prices in China, the trade war has altered production and trade structure of soybean and other agricultural products," according to a 2022 review in the Georgetown Journal of International Affairs. Minnesota produced \$4.3 billion of soybeans last year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture predicts an even larger trade deficit this year — \$30 billion — as exports fall and imports continue to climb.

"Alarm bells are going off," said Tina May, Land O'Lakes chief of staff.

Ford, a member of the President's Export Council that advises the executive branch on international trade, pitched four ideas backed by dozens of ag trade groups to rejuvenate exports.

"In total, the food and agriculture sector exports about 20% of production," she told the council in November. "This proposal puts us in position to reclaim and retain our lead. These recommendations focus on a continuation of the United States' leadership amid a dynamic and disrupted global environment."

The export council unanimously approved the four recommendations, which includes greater federal collaboration to encourage domestic production of crop inputs like fertilizers;



Tribune News Service/The Tribune Star/Billy Steve Clayton

Fields of soybeans and corn in Nicollet County, Minnesota, in 2019. One in three rows of corn and one in four rows of soybeans grown in the U.S. are bound for export, making market access for farmers crucial, especially as the country's ag trade deficit is projected to reach a record high of \$30 billion this year.

creation of an ag trade agenda aimed at expanding promotion of various goods while eliminating tariffs and trade barriers; enforce existing trade agreements and improve the process for resolving disputes; and to lead on international sustainability and climate efforts that emphasize "voluntary, incentive-based programs."

May spoke with the Star Tribune about the importance of boosting farm and food exports. The conversation was edited for length.

Q: The U.S. agricultural trade deficit exploded last year. What happened?

A: Put simply, we imported more than we exported. Ag trade has been plateauing. For the first time in the last 10 years, we have an ag trade deficit, and it's now topping over \$30 billion.

Some of this stems from supply chain challenges during COVID, when some of the supply chains got reset. And what you see is some trading partners

stepping in where they didn't historically. So for example, the United States lost our status as the top exporter on a couple of big commodities to China. Brazil overtook us, and that is going to be hard to get back.

Q: What is so important about making sure we export more than we import?

A: One in four rows of corn, one in three rows of soybeans, 18% of domestic milk production and 27% of pork production is exported. And 95% of consumers are outside of the United States. That's fundamentally why this issue is so important: So United States farmers have market access for the goods that they may grow.

Q: The plan has some pretty high-level policy priorities. Can you give an example or two of what this can look like in practice?

A: This allows USDA to have a bigger seat at the table when it comes to talk-

ing about trade, negotiating trade deals. And we felt like that was critically important. Now, USDA has done a good job, they've taken steps where they can on trade promotion. But some of this is around the edges. We need both Congress and the administration to work together on market access for agriculture.

One of the things that is a bit of a bright spot is how the Minnesota delegation is working together on this issue. It's very bipartisan.

There are a couple of trade promotions included in the farm bill — we need to get the farm bill done.

Q: When it comes to Land O'Lakes, how much of your business depends on international trade? And what members and parts of the cooperative are most impacted?

A: It's about market access for all growers. If you talk to local co-ops, they're constantly thinking about export markets. You've got local co-ops that

built infrastructure to get commodities to the export market, to get grain to the river for barge, to build a shuttle loader to get 111 rail cars to a port to get on a ship. It matters more than folks think.

For Land O'Lakes we don't invest in infrastructure like that, like CHS does, for example. But for us, it's about positioning our farmer-owner-members to allow them to have that market access. Land O'Lakes was started in 1921 by 100 farmers that got together here in the Upper Midwest, for the purpose of market access to population centers on the East Coast. You know, here we are 102 years later, and it's the same issue.

Q: Food prices are top of mind for most consumers coming off some pretty wild inflation. How does trade policy affect the cost of food at the grocery store?

A: Both imports and exports, it all matters so much, and we saw during COVID how those supply

chains getting reset impacted everything — and how these additional costs go into the price of food on the shelf.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar had our trade ambassador in Minnesota for the State Fair, and they talked about inflation while eating corn dogs and how trade was so important to that.

Q: Anything else to add?

A: The importance of this issue is in national security. Some of those trading partners have really shifted in the past couple of years, which is why this deficit is increasing and so important. With the United States now not being the largest trading partner to some of these countries, who is? And what does that mean for relationships globally? And if we're not stepping in, it's leaving the playing field open for another country or another actor to step in and provide that economic opportunity to that country. And what does that mean more broadly?

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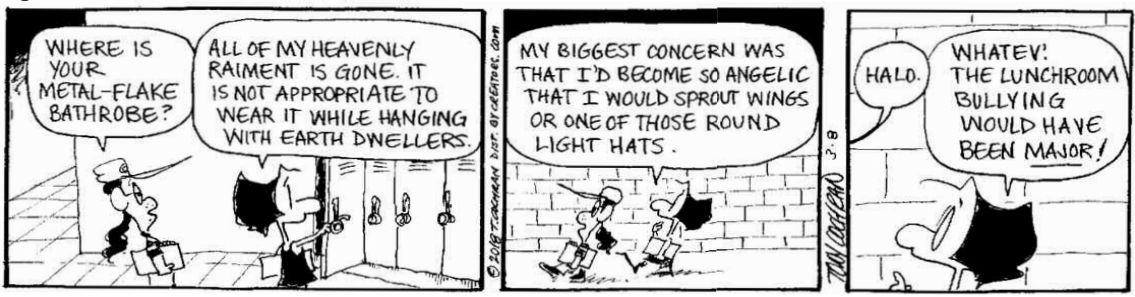
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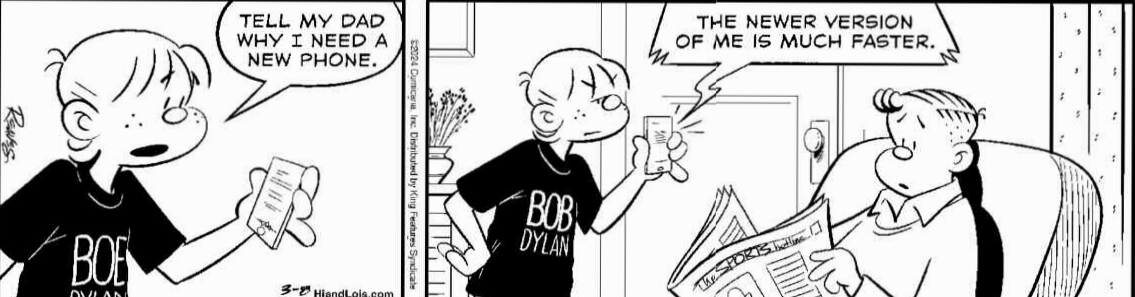
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Agnes



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Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



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Delayed ...

Continued from page 8
McCathern said that wasn't what happened. "I have learned more about the plaintiff's case in the last seven days, two weeks than we have the last five and half years because they filed a great volume of evidence, finally, regarding what actually happened out there," McCathern said.

The defense noted that the plaintiff attorneys presented multiple witnesses who swore in affidavits saying they did not see anything happen during the time of the alleged sexual assault. McCathern called the allegations "impossible" due to how many people were in the room at the time of the alleged incident, including members of the Cowboys and news reporters.

He further said the list of possible witnesses the plaintiff's attorneys proposed include the "who's who" of the team, including quarterback Dak Prescott and running back Ezekiel Elliott, to garner attention.

"They know it gets media coverage so we need some discovery to set things straight," he said.

Leary agreed the Tom Landry Room was crowded at the time of the alleged incident and said the plaintiff's attorneys have requested the

'I have learned more about the plaintiff's case in the last seven days, two weeks than we have the last five and a half years because they filed a great volume of evidence, finally, regarding what actually happened out there.'

—Defense attorney Levi McCathern

defense provide a list of who was in the room to narrow down the list of possible witnesses. She said they have not received such list.

As for when a new trial date should be scheduled, McCathern said Wednesday that if Jones, coaches and players are going to be involved in the trial, it's ideal to do it during the offseason due to busy schedules.

Plaintiff attorney Thomas Bowers has repeatedly told The Dallas Morning News that he is ready for his client to have her day in court.

Other pending lawsuits

Jones is facing two other lawsuits.

Alexandra Davis, 27, sued Jones in March 2022, alleging Jones is

her father. Court documents say Jones and Davis' mother reached a settlement in which Jones agreed to support them financially as long as they didn't publicly identify Jones as Alexandra Davis' father.

A judge has ruled twice — as recently as last week — that Jones must take a paternity test in the case.

In a second legal battle, Davis sued Jones in a U.S. district court for defamation. That lawsuit was partially dismissed in October and refiled in November.

At a hearing in a federal court in Texarkana in February, the defense attorneys asked the judge to dismiss the lawsuit a second time. No ruling had been made as of Wednesday.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Safety slide

Emma Will, a junior at Fort Recovery High School, slides for a drill Wednesday afternoon during a preseason practice. Inclimate weather kept the Indians from practicing outside, forcing them to utilize the main gym and student activity center.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Junior high swimming ACAC meet — 5 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Indoor track vs. New Haven at Indiana Tech — 3 p.m.

TV sports

Today
8:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (ESPN2)
12 p.m. — Formula 1: Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (ESPN2)
12:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Big Ten tournament (BTN)
1 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Missouri Valley Conference tournament (Bally Indiana)
3 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Big Ten tournament (BTN)
3:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Missouri Valley Conference tournament (Bally Indiana)
5 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Shriners Children's 500 (FS1)
6:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Big Ten tournament (BTN)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: VCU at Dayton (ESPN2); Missouri Valley Conference tournament (Bally Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Minnesota Timberwolves

at Cleveland Cavaliers (ESPN)
8 p.m. — ARCA Menards Series: Phoenix (FS1)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Wichita State at Tulane (ESPN2)
9 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Big Ten tournament (BTN)
9:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Missouri Valley Conference tournament (Bally Indiana)
10 p.m. — NBA: Milwaukee Bucks at Los Angeles Lakers (ESPN)
10 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Boise State at San Diego State (FS1)

Saturday
7:30 a.m. — Premier League: Everton at Manchester United (USA)
10 a.m. — Premier League: Luton Town at Crystal Palace (USA)
12 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Arkansas at Alabama (ESPN); Memphis at Florida Atlantic (CBS); Georgetown at St. John's (FOX)
12 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Big East tournament (FS1)
12 p.m. — Formula 1: Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (ESPN2)
12:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Saint Louis at St. Bonaventure (USA)
12:30 p.m. — NHL: Carolina Hurricanes at New Jersey Devils (ABC)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League: Brentford at Arsenal (NBC)

2 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Iowa State at Kansas State (ESPN2); Oklahoma at Texas (ESPN); Texas A&M at Ole Miss (CBS)
2 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Shriners Children's 500 (FS1)
2:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Creighton at Villanova (FOX); Richmond at George Mason (USA)
3 p.m. — NHL: Pittsburgh Penguins at Boston Bruins (ABC)
4 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Kansas at Houston (ESPN); Kentucky at Tennessee (CBS); Miami at Florida State (ESPN2)
4:30 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: Call 811.com Every Dig. Every Time. 200 (FS1)
5 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Marquette at Xavier (FOX)
6 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Baylor at Texas Tech (ESPN2)
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: North Carolina at Duke (ESPN)
7 p.m. — NHRA: Top Fuel NHRA All-Star Call-out (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at New York Rangers (Bally Indiana)
8 p.m. — Men's college basketball: UConn at Providence (FOX)
8 p.m. — UFC fighting (ESPN)
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at Phoenix Suns (ABC)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: DePaul at Seton Hall (FS1)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Minnesota at Northwestern (BTN)

10 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Arizona at USC (ESPN); West Coast Conference tournament (ESPN2)
10:30 p.m. — NHL: Dallas Stars at Los Angeles Kings (CBS)
11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Arizona State at UCLA (FS1)

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@fortrecoveryhschools.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 it 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) 209-4289.

Challenge set
The Adams County 5K Run/Walk Challenge for the 2024 season will begin April 20, where participants 19-years-old or older can compete in a total of eight races within Adams County.
The cost to register for the challenge is \$150 and will enter participants in all eight races, with five needing to be completed for the Challenge Series award.

Challengers don't need to be from Adams County, but only the first 100 entries will compete. Participation in individual events is available as well.
To sign up or for more information, visit www.adamscounty5kchallenge.com.
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To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.com.

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Located: Women's Building and Farmers 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN
Friday Evening March 8th, 2024 5:00 P.M.
HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS
Lighted curio cabinet; sofa; loveseat; china hutch; tea cart; doll house; cane bottom chairs; cedar chest; Heywood Wakefield basket; hanging lamp; small kitchen appliances; Longaberger baskets; Coke tray; glass ice bucket; wood shutters; doll house; fiberglass step ladder; bicycle; several boxes of small collectibles that have been boxed and not sorted as of the time of the listing; and many other items not listed.
MAXWELL FAMILY
Loy Auction AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
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

90 SALE CALENDAR

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 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
Auction to be held at 8341 N 400 E (Bearcreek Farms) Bryant, Indiana
Monday MARCH 25, 2024
AT 6:00 P.M.
REAL ESTATE - 1675

90 SALE CALENDAR

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.
Parcel #2:
Approximately 80 acres with approximately 65 acres of slightly rolling tillable ground, 9 1/2 acres of wooded and 4.94 acres of ditch. 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.
Owner confirmation day of sale. For more information contact Loy Real Estate 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160.
JOHN LEWIS, DECEASED
Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
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

90 SALE CALENDAR

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 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.
110 HELP WANTED
DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR prepping delicious meals? Crown-Pointe of Portland is looking for a creative and experienced kitchen cook to join our team and

110 HELP WANTED

help serve amazing meals to our residents. We are looking for someone who: -Has at least 1 year of cooking experience in a professional kitchen-Can work on weekends-Is passionate about creating high-quality dishes-Is able to work quickly and efficiently during peak hours-Has excellent customer service and communication skills-Is organized, self-motivated and able to multi-task in a fast-paced environment. If you think this job is a great fit for you, please apply online at cpcommunities.com/portland or apply in house at 745 Patriot Drive, Portland, IN 47371. We look forward to hearing from you
PORTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT is now accepting applications for one full-time Police Officer now until March 22nd. Starting salary of \$52,387. Will also be accepting applications for reserve officers. Lateral transfer with sign on bonus of \$5,000 paid over a 3-year term for ILEA tier one graduates. Benefits: Paid vacation, holidays, sick and personal days. Health and dental benefits offered, Specialty pay, 13 Holidays, \$1,000 annual clothing allotment, and 1977 police and fire retirement fund. Must be 21 years of age and no older than 40 years of age by date of appointment. Agility tests to be announced for non-members of 1977 police and fire retirement fund. Applications can be picked up at the Portland Police Department.

130 MISC. FOR SALE

PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.
ALUMINUM SHEETS 23"x30", .007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side. .35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax.
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190 FARMERS COLUMN
AG RENTAL Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309
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LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamoreospace.com
230 AUTOS, TRUCKS
WE PAY CASH for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocum's Salvage





The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Warming up

A Fort Recovery High School senior goes through a warmup progression during the softball team's practice Wednesday afternoon. The Indians open their season March 25 with a home game against Ansonia.

Trial delayed

By LANA FERGUSON
The Dallas Morning News
Tribune News Service

DALLAS — The sexual assault lawsuit against Dallas Cowboys owner and general manager Jerry Jones was delayed ahead of this month's expected trial.

The lawsuit, initially filed in September 2020 before being dismissed and reopened, was filed by a South Carolina woman who alleges Jones "kissed her on the mouth and forcibly grabbed her without her consent" in the Tom Landry Room of AT&T Stadium after a Cowboys game on Sept. 16, 2018.

The jury trial was set for March 18. However, during a hearing Wednesday morning, a Dallas County district court judge pushed back the proceedings. A new date has yet to be determined.

Meanwhile, Judge Aiesha Redmond ruled that Jones will be deposed. The scope of the deposition and when it will occur has not been decided. The plaintiff's attorneys want to interview Jones soon while the defense attorneys argued other depositions, includ-

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones sexual assault trial was pushed back Wednesday

ing the plaintiff, could be completed first.

"Mr. Jones' testimony will be that he doesn't remember this woman at all. He doesn't remember the pictures he was shown (of him posing with the plaintiff) and, obviously, vehemently denies that ever, in front of the media, his family, all these kids, just grabbing a woman and grope her," Defense attorney Levi McCathern said.

In an affidavit previously filed in the case, Jones said, if deposed, he would testify that he does not recall meeting the woman. He said he did not sexually assault her and called the allegations "categorically false."

Redmond ordered the attorneys to have a "meaningful conference" to review multiple items in the case before another hearing could be set. The

deadline for the attorneys to meet is March 20.

The defense previously requested the trial be pushed back to March 2025 to allow them additional time to conduct discovery, which typically includes gathering information and preparing ahead of a trial.

Plaintiff attorneys argued the defense had plenty of time to complete that work. Defense attorneys countered that they had multiple periods where they wouldn't have worked on the case because it was dismissed.

"We're not looking at a case where the defense has done their best to do discovery, and they need more time," plaintiff attorney Sarah C. Leary said. "We're looking at a case where the defense had quite a bit of time and never did discovery."

See **Delayed** page 7

Schwieterman named to All-Freshman Team

Renna Schwieterman had her ups and downs during her freshman campaign for the Purdue Fort Wayne women's basketball team.

As Schwieterman and the Mastodons march into the post-season, she was recognized by the conference for the year she's had.

The Jay County High School graduate scored 16 points against the Green Bay Phoenix to help solidify a spot on the Horizon League All-Freshman Team.

After averaging 6.4 points per game, reaching double figures five times in conference play and putting up the most points for a Purdue Fort Wayne freshman since 2016 (28 points against Great Lakes Christian), Schwieterman was honored as one of the top five freshmen in the conference by being selected to the All-Freshman Team.

In the final three regular season games, Schwieterman scored 16 points against Green Bay, three

Collegiate check-up

points at IUPUI and two against Youngstown State.

Over the three game stretch, the JCHS graduate totaled 12 rebounds and three steals.

The Mastodons enter the Horizon League tournament as the No. 3 seed, and their first matchup is with sixth-seeded Detroit Mercy on Thursday.

Cale Rammel FRHS — 2023

Scored 13 points off the bench for the Ohio Christian University Trailblazers in a 89-76 loss to Shawnee State in the River State

Conference tournament quarter-finals on Feb. 28.

Rammel played 22 minutes in the loss and shot 6-for-13 from the field (46.2%) to tally 13 points. He ended as the Trailblazers' second-leading scorer, only behind Levi Seiler with 33.

Along with his scoring, Rammel grabbed six rebounds, dished out two assists and had a steal.

The week prior, Rammel scored only two points on three shot attempts in a 76-67 loss to Alice Llyod College on Feb. 24. He added two rebounds and two assists as well.

The freshman finished the season averaging 6.3 points per game while shooting 45.5% from the field, which was the third highest on the team.

Eliza Bader Jay County — 2021

Swam in three events at the Mid-American Conference Championships on Feb. 28.

Bader competed in the 100-yard butterfly, 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle for the Ball State women's swim team, who finished fifth of eight teams with 330 points. Akron won the conference meet with 812.5 points.

Bader's best finish came in the 100 butterfly, where she earned a time of 57.1 seconds, 0.66 faster than her seed time. The Jay County High School graduate finished 24th of 28 swimmers, but needed to be in the top eight to make the final or top 16 for the consolation.

In the 50 freestyle, Bader swam a 24.1 seconds time (a 0.33 second cut) to claim 30th place out of 43.

Despite cutting 3.21 seconds off of her seed time in the 100 freestyle, Bader's time of 53.54 seconds only helped her climb to 31st of 35 tankers.

Alli Vaughn FRHS — 2021

Played in two of the final three games for the IU-East women's

basketball team to wrap up her junior season.

Vaughn only took one shot between the two appearances. She hit the 3-point attempt in the Red Wolves' 88-68 loss to Oakland City on Feb. 28 in the River State Conference tournament quarter-finals. During her eight minutes on the floor, she also had an assist.

Vaughn also played seven minutes without taking a shot on Feb. 24's 72-60 loss at Midway. While she didn't attempt a shot in the contest, she contributed two assists and a rebound.

Olivia Patch FRHS — 2020

Saw the floor for six minutes in the final game of the regular season for the Hillsdale women's basketball team.

Patch didn't attempt a shot in the 85-56 win over Ursuline, but she did record two offensive rebounds, an assist and a block.

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