

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Christmas crafts

Madison Castillo and her daughter, 6-year-old Kaelyana Castillo, put together a crafted reindeer made of a towel Thursday at Jay County Public Library. Mrs. Claus visited the library Thursday to read stories to children. The library also offered a variety of holiday snacks and crafts.

Board OKs van, well pump

City also plans to apply for Community Crossings \$\$\$

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review
Portland Board of Works approved the purchase of equipment for the city's street/parks and water department, OK'd a contract, increased fees and approved a payment during a brief meeting Thursday afternoon.

The board heard requests from department superintendents Matt Shauver and Doug Jackson, with the former asking that a van be purchased to be used as the parks vehicle. He explained at Monday's city council meeting that most of the parks' equipment and tools are housed at Hudson Family Park and staff is frequently traveling between Hudson and other parks while working. The van would allow tools and equipment to be permanently stored inside, making the workflow more efficient.

Board of works members Jerry Leonhard, Steve McIntosh and Mayor Jeff Westlake approved the purchase of a 2021 Ford Transit van from Moser Motors of Berne for \$41,808 with a three-year warranty. The vehicle has less than 5,000 miles on it. (The city council approved an additional appropriation to fund the purchase Monday.)

Jackson requested the purchase of a new well pump for his department from peerless Midwest at a cost of \$24,300. He explained that the current pump is about 15 years old and is showing signs of reduction in efficiency.

The board unanimously approved that purchase as well.

Shauver also asked the board to modify the city's fees for cleaning up properties to add rates for large-scale equipment. He noted that the department expects to take on its largest clean-up project in about a decade soon.

New per-hour fees include \$100 each for a long-bed truck, loader and skid loader. Also included are landfill fees of \$103 for a packer and \$185 for a long-bed truck.

Existing fees for mowing, weed trimming and other services were not changed.

See Board page 2

Man found guilty of killing FCC worker

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

A Muncie man has been found guilty of murdering his ex-wife, a former FCC employee.

Ceaser L. Curtis, 51, was charged Sept. 1, 2023, in Delaware County Circuit Court 4 with the death of his ex-wife, 46-year-old Marcia Curtis. He was found guilty Friday after a nearly five-day trial. Curtis also admitted Friday he is a habitual offender.

Muncie police discovered Marcia Curtis' remains Sept. 14, 2023, at an abandoned property along Delaware County road 800 South. She had been missing for two weeks. Police said she sustained "significant trauma to the head," according to a probable cause affidavit filed in connection with the case.

Ceaser Curtis told police he picked up Marcia Curtis from FCC on Sept. 1, 2023, and they started

arguing on their drive back to Muncie, the affidavit says. He told police she demanded to be let out of the vehicle at the intersection of Jackson Street and Butterfield Road, and she started walking north as he drove away.

Detectives found an argument via text between Marcia Curtis and Ceaser Curtis in which she told him she was "done" with him, after which he called her 36 times consecutively without a response, the affidavit says.

A male witness told police Ceaser Curtis admitted guilt of the crime, saying Ceaser Curtis told him he slapped Marcia Curtis in the face while driving south on Burlington Drive and tossed her phone out of the window Sept. 1, 2023. He alleged Ceaser Curtis admitted to hitting Marcia Curtis with a baseball bat and leaving her in a rural part of Delaware County, near Prairie Creek Reservoir.

A female witness told police Marcia Curtis asked her to kill Ceaser Curtis shortly after their divorce on March 28, 2023. The witness said Ceaser Curtis discovered his ex-wife had been speaking to other men and told the witness he had a homemade lead pipe he wanted her to use, the affidavit says.

He also posted to Facebook on Aug. 27, 2023, and accused his ex-wife of sleeping with other men. The same day he shared more than 100 Facebook posts from various sources, including a picture of a sweatshirt with the following words printed on it: "I'll put you in the trunk and help people look for you don't test me!"

According to a Facebook release posted Friday afternoon from Delaware County Prosecutor's Office, the jury deliberated for approximately five hours before convicting Curtis of the crime.

Curtis was charged in Randolph Superior Court Sept. 25 with arson, a Level 4 felony. He was charged last year in Randolph Superior Court with a Class A misdemeanor for invasion of privacy in the case of violating a protective order issued to prevent domestic or family violence or harassment. His criminal history includes charges for battery and operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

In Indiana, murder carries a penalty of 45 and 65 years with an advisory sentence of 55 years and up to a \$10,000 fine. Ceaser Curtis' habitual offender enhancement could add between six and 20 years to his total sentence. His sentencing hearing is set for 9 a.m. Jan. 8.

"It is my sincere hope that this verdict is the first step toward healing for the family and friends of Marcia Curtis," said Delaware County prosecuting attorney Eric Hoffman in the release.

Gunman caught on camera

By THOMAS TRACY

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

NEW YORK — The mysterious masked gunman who assassinated United-Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson in Midtown arrived in New York City from Atlanta more than a week before unraveling his murder plot — and allowed images of his face to go public when he let his guard down flirting with a hostel worker.

NYPD detectives, with the help of Port Authority police, have managed to track the gunman's movements from when he first arrived in the city. Police sources said the suspect arrived in the city on a Greyhound bus from Atlanta on the evening of Nov. 24.

While the bus left from Atlanta, it was not immediately clear where

Shooter arrived on bus, stayed at NYC hostel

the gunman got on the bus. NYPD detectives are working with Greyhound workers to help identify everyone on the bus, police sources said.

A Greyhound spokesman said in a statement that they are cooperating with investigators but couldn't comment further.

Port Authority police have recovered video images of the suspect walking through the terminal after disembarking the bus, a police source with knowledge of the case said.

Footage has also been recovered of the gunman

coming out of a Midtown subway station at 57th St. and riding an e-bike from Central Park, video and images seen by the Daily News shows.

He found his way to the HI New York City Hostel on Amsterdam Ave. near W. 104th St., where cops recovered images of the suspect without a mask and smiling at someone behind the reception desk.

The hostel staffer reportedly got the suspect to smile by flirting with him and asking him to pull down his mask to "see his handsome face."



Tribune News Service/MLive/Isaac Ritchey

Headed uphill

Grand Rapids resident Willa Ham, 8, pulls Hattie Nies, 5, up the hill Thursday at Richmond Park in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Deaths

- Imogene Lawhead, 85, Portland
- William Stultz, 42, Portland
- Edgar Williams, 84, Dunkirk
- Elizabeth Johnson, 91, Winchester
- Jack Petty, 82, Pennville
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 32 degrees Friday. Skies will be mostly sunny today with a high in the lower 40s and winds gusting to 30 miles per hour. Windy conditions will continue Sunday with the high climbing into the 50s.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Civic Theatre's production of "The Sound of Music" continues at 7 p.m. tonight at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland. Tickets are available online at bit.ly/JCCTTSOM. Additional shows are scheduled for 7 p.m. Dec. 13 and 14, and 2 p.m. Dec. 15.

Coming up

- Tuesday** — Results from the Jay County/Fort Recovery boys basketball game.
- Wednesday** — Coverage of Monday's Dunkirk City Council meeting.
- Thursday** — Results of the JCHS wrestlers taking on Delta, Yorktown and Winchester.



CR almanac

Sunday 12/8	Monday 12/9	Tuesday 12/10	Wednesday 12/11	Thursday 12/12
27/16	30/18	31/23	39/29	34/21
Sunday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with wind gusts reaching up to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy skies Monday with a 60% chance of showers throughout the day.	Tuesday's weather looks like mostly sunny skies and a 20% chance of rain.	Mostly sunny skies are expected Wednesday with a slight chance of snow.	Thursday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with lows in the lower 20s.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 4-7-6 Daily Four: 5-2-9-5 Quick Draw: 1-5-11-19-24-30-33-34-47-50-58-60-64-65-67-73-74-75-76-77	Pick 3: 8-2-6 Pick 4: 8-2-7-7 Pick 5: 2-3-9-8-2
Ohio Midday	Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$260 million
	Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$579 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.46 Jan. corn4.44	Wheat5.07
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.48 Jan. corn4.50 Feb. corn4.50	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.34 Jan. corn4.34 Beans.....9.82 Jan. beans9.84 Wheat4.96
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.40 Jan. corn4.40 Beans.....9.89 Jan. beans9.99	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.44 Jan. corn4.44 Beans.....9.64 Jan. beans9.69 Wheat4.97

Today in history

In 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the Constitution. The vote among 30 delegates in to a state convention at Battell's Tavern was unanimous. The event is now celebrated as Delaware Day.

In 1928, Noam Chomsky was born in Philadelphia. Sometimes referred to as "the father of modern linguistics," he is a defender of unconditional freedom of speech.

In 1941, the United States was attacked by the Japanese at its naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Territory. More than 2,300 Americans were killed, the U.S.S. Arizona was destroyed and the U.S.S. Oklahoma capsized.

In 1956, Larry Bird was born in West Baden, Indiana. Bird led Indiana State University to the 1979 national championship game, won three championships with the Boston Celtics and coached the Indiana Pacers.

In 1972, the last crewed flight to the moon occurred under the command of Eugene Andrew Cernan. It effectively brought an end to

NASA's Apollo program.

In 1979, the first "Star Trek: The Motion Picture" was released. It was based on the TV series created by Gene Roddenberry.

In 1995, The Grateful Dead broke up following the death of lead guitarist and vocalist Jerry Garcia. The band, whose top hits include "Casey Jones" and "Touch of Grey" received a Grammy for lifetime achievement in 2007.

In 2004, John Jay Center for Learning asked for public support for its application for a \$500,000 grant from Indiana Department of Commerce to take steps to make the Weiler Building, which would become the organization's home, weather-tight.

In 2021, Portland Park Board approved its five-year park plan to be sent to Indiana Department of Natural Resources for its approval. Priorities included improving Portland Memorial Park's baseball/softball fields and utilizing the green space at Hudson Family Park.

—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.
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.

Wednesday
1 p.m. — Jay County Sheriff's Merit Board, training room, sheriff's office, 224 W. Water St., Portland.
6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Dec. 16
5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland.
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Local Schools, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St.
7:15 p.m. — Fort Recovery Records Commission, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Obituaries

Imogene Lawhead

April 20, 1939-Dec. 2, 2024
Imogene Lawhead, age 85, a resident of Portland, passed away on Monday, Dec. 2, 2024, at her home in Portland.

Imogene was born April 20, 1939, in Toledo, Ohio, the daughter of Lloyd and Mary Margaret (Tucker) Grapner. She retired from CTS in Berne after 30 years of service. She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church of Portland, Portland Moose Lodge and Antique Car Club.



Lawhead

She married Tommie Lawhead on July 16, 1957, and he passed away on Feb. 12, 1993.

Survivors include: Her children — Kevin Lawhead (wife: Reni), Redkey, Indiana, Karen Minnich, Portland, Indiana, Tim Lawhead (wife: Gloria), Waxahachie, Texas, Barbara Grile (husband: Stanley), Troy, Ohio, Daniel Lawhead (wife: Diane), Portland, Indiana, Teresa Ainsworth (husband: James), Yorktown, Indiana, Tami Eley (husband: Mike), Portland, Indiana, Rick Lawhead (wife: Denise), Portland, Indiana. Tommie Lawhead Jr. (wife: Susan), Portland, Indiana, and Bridget Snapp (husband: Ryan), Piqua, Ohio

Sisters-in-law Rosie Grapner, Portland, Indiana, and Patricia Bowman, Virginia

Twenty-three grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Private burial will be held at North Grove Cemetery in Celina, Ohio.

Arrangements entrusted to Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

William Stultz

Feb. 6, 1982-Dec. 4, 2024
William Bradley Stultz, age 42, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024, in IU Health Jay after a sudden illness.

Born in Bluffton on Feb. 6, 1982, he was the son of Billie Long Girton. He was married on May 27, 2006, to Rachel Lowe who survives.



Stultz

Brad worked at FCC in Portland as assistant manager human resources. He was a 2000 graduate of Jay County High School and attended Ball State University. He was a member of The Rock Church, Portland Lions Club and United Way, and loved traveling. He was a devoted

husband, father and son and loved his friends and family.

Surviving are his wife Rachel; son Connor; daughter Nora; his mother Billie Girton of Portland; special sister Samantha Rhodehamel of Portland; in-laws Dave and Linda Lowe of Dunkirk; sister-in-law Erin Bailey of Portland; brother-in-law Jusin Lowe (wife: Danielle) of Farmersburg, Indiana; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024, at 11 a.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Matt Ransom presiding. Visitation will be Monday from 3 to 7 p.m. and Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m.

Memorials can be made to The Portland Lions Club.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Edgar Williams

May 5, 1940-Dec. 4, 2024
Edgar Lee Williams, age 84, Dunkirk, died Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024, at Albany Health Care & Rehabilitation Center.

Born in Lebanon, Missouri, on May 5, 1940, he grew up in Millgrove and played basketball at Dunkirk High School where he graduated with the Class of 1958. Edgar went to work at the glass factory (Armstrongs) and worked there 38 years before retiring in 1995 under Ball Corp. ownership. He was a diehard New York Yankees and Indiana University basketball fan. In addition, he was a super fan of Jay County sporting events and enjoyed having horses and mowing lawns.



Williams

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Karen (Wilmore) Williams; and their daughter Beth Fuller (husband: Lonnie), Dunkirk; brothers Floyd Williams (wife: Joyce), Albany, and Richard Leroy "Shorty" Williams who lives near Cleveland; granddaughter Charlotte Ahls, Seattle; and step-grandchildren Catharine Klein (husband: Andrew), Texas, and Caroline Bruns (husband: James), Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents Francis and Eva (Barton) Williams; brother Jerry Williams; and sisters Pauline Elliott and Judith Hamilton.

Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024 at Meacham Funeral Service. Burial will be at Dunkirk I.O.O.F. Cemetery without graveside services.

Visiting hours are Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the funeral home. The funeral will be streamed

online at MeachamFuneralService.com, where condolences and other expressions of sympathy can also be given.

Elizabeth Johnson

Elizabeth M. "Liz" Johnson, 91, of Winchester, passed away peacefully at Summers Pointe in Winchester.

She was born on May 18, 1933, in Randolph County, Indiana, to John Henry and Mamie Lora Hauser Green.

Elizabeth was a faithful member of the Mississinewa Christian Church north of Farmland. She loved to read, solve puzzles and work in her garden.

Elizabeth will be missed by her children, Kathy Fetta, Donna G. Jones, Todd Johnson, and Jennifer Engle and her husband, David; grandchildren Elizabeth M. Jones, Kenneth L. Jones Jr., Kendra Engle and Ashley Potts; great-grandchildren Brayden Zoller, Brantley Zoller and Liam West; and several nieces and nephews.

Elizabeth was preceded in death by her parents; husband Edwin Johnson; sisters Edith Byrd and Beulah Steed; and brothers John Green Jr., James Green, Carl Green and Marvin Green.

A funeral ceremony will be conducted by Pastor Mike Harris at 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13, at the Mississinewa Christian Church, 7708 W. 700 North in Randolph County. Interment will follow in New Liberty Cemetery near Lynn.

Family and friends may gather for visitation from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13, at the Mississinewa Christian Church.

Memorial contributions are encouraged for the Mississinewa Christian Church, 7708 W. 700 North, Ridgeville, IN 47380.

The Smith-McQuiston & Webster Funeral Home, Fountain City, is handling arrangements.

Condolences may be expressed at smithmcquistonwebster.com.

Jack Petty, Pennville, Jan. 1, 1942-Dec. 4, 2024. No services are scheduled at this time.

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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.

Board

Continued from page 1
In other business, the board:

•Approved a \$314,000 pay request from James S. Jackson company of Bluffton. The firm is constructing a wet weather pump station at the city's wastewater treatment plant as part of an upgrade project that will also include the addition of an equalization basin.

•OK'd a \$6,500 contract with Choice One Engineering of Sidney, Ohio, to prepare bid documents for the city to apply for the next round of funding

through Indiana Department of Transportation's Community Crossings grant program. The application seeks funding for paving sections of Williams, Maple/Mangold, Shank, Ship, Franklin, 7th, North, 1st, Garfield, Munson, Hayes and Charles streets, Silvers Lane, Tyson Road, Wayside Place, Jaqua Avenue and Western Avenue. Clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips explained that the process has changed and requires that projects had been bid and awarded before they are considered by INDOT for funding.

•Agreed to a request from rural Portland resident Kyle Love for a six-month waiver of his wastewater fee. Love's house was severely damaged in the Sept. 22 tornado and is currently unlivable. Earlier this month, city council amended the city's ordinance to allow such waivers at the board of works' discretion for up to six months for such natural disasters.

SERVICES

Saturday
Hanlin, Perry: 1 p.m., Pennville Gym.

Sunday
Williams, Edgar: 3 p.m., Meacham Funeral Service, 648 W. State St., Albany.

Tuesday
Stultz, Brad: 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Friday
Johnson, Elizabeth: 2 p.m., Mississinewa Christian Church, 7708 W. 700 North, Randolph County.

Dec. 14
Compton, Gail: 2 p.m., Portland Elk's Lodge, 126 W. High St., Portland.

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

36th Annual
Jay County Farm Toy Show
Sun, Dec. 15, 2024
from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
In the green Bob Schmit Memorial Building at the Jay Co. Fairgrounds Portland, IN
Admission: \$3/Adults, \$2 Youth, 12 & Under Free with an adult.
Browse thru 70+ tables of new and used farm toys and a few related crafts. You may find toys from 1/64th scale all the way up to pedal tractors with scaled size implements! This is a great opportunity to find something special for the farm enthusiast in your family, regardless of their age! Handicap accessible. Plenty of parking. Concessions in the side room by local 4-H.
For more info call or text: 260-726-6433 or 260-251-0463

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SATURDAY
DEC. 14TH **6:30 PM**

Auditions upcoming for 'Abducted By Aliens'

Calling aliens and young humans alike.

Jay County Civic Theatre is holding auditions this month for its upcoming production of "Everyone Gets Abducted By Aliens." The show is intended for actors in eighth grade and younger.

Auditions will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 16 at Jay County Campus of Arts Place in Portland. Call backs will be at the same time the following day, Dec. 17.

Taking Note

"Everyone Gets Abducted By Aliens" performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. Feb. 13 and 15 and 2 p.m. Feb. 16. For more information, questions may be directed to jaycountycivic@gmail.com.

Flute, harp recital

Jay County Campus of Arts Place is hosting a flute ensemble and harp recital in a few weeks.

Featuring flute ensemble Eastern Breeze and harpists, the MusicWorks show will kick off at 7 p.m. Dec. 18 at Hall-Moser Theatre in Arts Place.

The performance is free.

To learn more, contact Arts Place by calling (260) 726-4809 or emailing jcc@myartsplace.org.

Nativity Festival

It's that time of year to get in the Christmas spirit.

Trinity Arch Bridge Church will host its annual Nativity Festival from noon to 6 p.m. today and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. Touted as one of the largest nativity exhibits in the Midwest, the event will have more than 500 nativities on display honoring the birth of Jesus.

The free exhibit at 323

S. Meridian St., Portland, has been created from the collections of more than a dozen area residents.

For more information, call (260) 729-7017.

Library Christmas

Jay County Public Library is calling all kids for elf training.

Children may visit the library from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday for a variety of activities to test their skills and become official elves. Participants will

make gifts for Jay County Country Living residents, family and friends and teddy bears for local foster children. They'll also decorate wrapping paper, practice wrapping gifts and receive their own elf name.

Other activities going on this month include:

- Sing-O: Christmas Music Edition from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Dec. 16

- Build and decorate a gingerbread house at 4, 5 or 6 p.m. Dec. 17

Husband's comments cut deeper than he realizes

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married a long time. Our relationship is stable but rocky. I have suffered from depression since childhood, and I am now trying to manage it. My husband has his own issues. One of them is that he often brings up something he finds "amusing" about my parents. For example, he mocks my dad and the home I grew up in because it wasn't fancy. This is hurtful.

I don't appreciate my husband bringing up Dad's quirks to belittle him. When I say I don't appreciate it, he starts yelling and telling me that he's not trying to hurt me and that I shouldn't take it that way. Then he goes off and sulks and won't speak to me for the rest of the day.

His behavior is getting old. It ruins things between us. If you tell someone that what they say is hurtful, but they discount it, what then? Things he may think are funny are not always funny to me. Any advice? — NO JOKE IN OHIO

DEAR NO JOKE: Your husband certainly has a cruel streak. He says things he knows will hurt you, blames you for feeling hurt and then uses it as an excuse to punish

Dear Abby



you. The term for this is passive-aggressive behavior.

If you plan to stay married to this miserable person, you will have to learn to ignore his comments. When you do that, he will likely increase the frequency of his "funny" remarks. When that happens, continue to ignore him, invite a friend or two to have lunch away from the house or run an errand. If it reaches the point that it's intolerable, consult a licensed marriage and family therapist or talk to an attorney about how to set yourself free.

DEAR ABBY: My wife was recently diagnosed with a partial arterial blockage. It isn't blocked enough to warrant an angioplasty or a stent, so her doctors will manage it with medication and diet.

Because my wife now has a

special diet she must follow, she has told me I can no longer eat anything in front of her that she can't eat. I must eat only the food she eats. My health is good, and I have no dietary restrictions. Is this demand she is making of me fair? How do I deal with it? — PUNISHED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR PUNISHED: I suspect the diet you obliquely mentioned may be a "heart healthy" one. If that's the case, during the last 20 years (or so) the American Heart Association has published many cookbooks offering a variety of delicious recipes. (I know this to be true because I have dipped my beak into some of them.)

A heart healthy diet needn't be onerous, and it could benefit you, too. If you crave something your wife can't eat, have it elsewhere so she won't be tempted. It's not a huge sacrifice to make, and her life could depend on it. Dig deep, give it a try and remind yourself that this is what a supportive spouse does for the person they love.

DEAR ABBY: I just turned 29. My partner, "Jeremy," and I

have been together for six years and have talked about getting engaged. He set the timeline for an expectation of when he'd propose early on in our relationship — by "five or 30" (meaning either we've been together for five years or he hits 30). Both of those marks hit last year, and I expected him to propose, but it didn't happen. I am mortified because I keep getting asked by people, "Why not?" I don't have an answer, except that Jeremy is just not ready.

He told me he wants to pay off some debts before buying a ring, but we are both saving and living well below our means, and I don't want anything expensive. Jeremy is focused on his physical training and his hobbies. I'm ready to buy a home, get married, maybe even start a family, but I feel like we're stuck in the post-college lifestyle.

I have told Jeremy all of the above several times now, but it seems to fall on deaf ears. Otherwise, he tells me the commitment is already there and that he will get to a place where he feels he's ready. He also told me the only reason he'd ever propose is because I want it — because it has no meaning or joy for him!

I'm confused and worried that

something is wrong with me for feeling this way. All my friends are married. They have bought homes and are starting families. I'm tired of waiting for this train to come in, and I'm resentful that he hasn't kept to his timeline. Now I'm not sure I should say yes, even if he does ask. Do I run for the hills or trust him to keep his word? He's always been honest with me.

WAITING AND WAITING

DEAR WAITING: When a man tells you that marriage has no meaning or joy for him and that he will propose when he feels ready but still isn't ready after five years, you have some important decisions to make about your future. Trying to wrestle a marriage proposal out of him because your friends have all married and started families does not guarantee that your union would be a happy one.

Tell Jeremy that you appear to be operating in different time zones, that marriage is very important to you, and he hasn't kept his word about the five years. Then move on, so you won't be writing in ANOTHER five years about this same problem.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

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.

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

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

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

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

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

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 wel-

come.

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.

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

Tuesday

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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

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WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

For Jay County Elementary Schools December 9-13

<p>Monday: Main Entrees: Buttermilk pancakes, turkey sausage link, syrup Alternate Entrees: Hot smokey ham & cheese sandwich, turkey cobb salad, croutons Sides for all meals: Tater tots</p>
<p>Tuesday: Main Entrees: Buffalo chicken dip, tortilla chips, salsa Alternate Entrees: Hot smokey ham & cheese sandwich, turkey cobb salad, croutons Sides for all meals: Seasoned corn</p>
<p>Wednesday: Main Entrees: Baked mozzarella cheese sticks, marinara sauce Alternate Entrees: Hot smokey ham & cheese sandwich, turkey cobb salad, croutons Sides for all meals: Baked shoestring fries</p>
<p>Thursday: Main Entrees: Breaded chicken drumstick, dinner roll Alternate Entrees: Hot smokey ham & cheese sandwich, turkey cobb salad, croutons Sides for all meals: Garlic mashed potatoes</p>
<p>Friday: Main Entrees: Classic pepperoni pizza Alternate Entrees: Hot smokey ham & cheese sandwich, turkey cobb salad, croutons Sides for all meals: Seasoned carrots</p>

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Club thanks Portland Foundation

To the editor:
During this season of giving thanks, members of the Portland Kiwanis Club want to publicly offer a great round of thanks to The Portland Foundation.

Our local Kiwanis club received a generous grant from the Foundation that will enable us to continue carrying out the Kiwanis International motto: "Changing the world one child and community at a time."

The International Kiwanis organization, founded in 1917, is a worldwide organization of 600,000 members throughout 82

Letters to the Editor

countries serving the children of the world.

Portland's Kiwanis Club was chartered in October 1920, making it the oldest philanthropic organization in Jay County. That first charter included many names synonymous with the history of Portland: Ray and Louis Weiler, Frank Wilt,

Charles Baird, Paul Jaqua and many more prominent citizens.

Since that initial year, Kiwanians have supported a wide variety of programs and causes that empower and benefit citizens, particularly the youth of our area. This year we have budgeted for more than 40 projects, so far. We have contributed literally hundreds of thousands of dollars throughout our existence, and continue our commitment for the foreseeable future.

Our local fundraising efforts are almost wholly dependent on profits made at our concession stand at Jay County Fair-

grounds. Four major events account for most of our receipts: the vintage motor bike show, the 4th of July celebration, the Jay County Fair and the Antique Gas and Engine show.

The foundation grant enabled us to: 1) replace our popcorn popper (acquired in 1982) used for popcorn and caramel corn; 2) purchase a new snow cone machine to replace our old 1967 machine (long a popular staple for children at all events); 3) and, lastly, add a small chest freezer for storing food inventory.

We, and all of Jay County, are

indeed fortunate to have the generosity and foresight of The Portland Foundation. Its mission, "To enhance the quality of life for the people of Jay County, now and for generations to come" is clearly being executed. Kudos are in order for the director, staff and board of directors.

We gladly welcome anyone who wants to become a new member of our club. Just visit us on Facebook at Kiwanis Club of Portland, Indiana, and leave a message.

Thank you,
Dolphus Stephens
Treasurer
Portland Kiwanis Club

The moral high ground is gone

Boston Herald
Tribune News Service

President Joe Biden gave the American people a final kick in the teeth with his about-face pardon of son Hunter Biden.

It's a huge win for the Fortunate Son — he's now spared a possible prison sentence for federal felony gun and tax convictions.

Joe Biden, who's been fond of garnishing his speeches with the phrase "believe me," just proved to America that we never really could. Not when he told us that inflation was "transitory," and not when he said he wouldn't pardon Hunter.

"Today, I signed a pardon for my son Hunter," Biden wrote in a statement. "From the day I took office, I said I would not interfere with the Justice Department's decision-making, and I kept my word even as I have watched my son being selectively, and unfairly, prosecuted."

That was then.

And so, Democratic voters still reeling over the election victory of Donald Trump got another blow on Sunday after learning Hunter is off the hook. Democrats have believed and supported Biden all this time, defended him even as grocery bills soared and cities around the country bore the brunt and cost of illegal immigration.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre has carried the ball for Biden's denials multiple times, noting after the election that a pardon was off the table. "We've been asked that question multiple times. Our answer stands, which is no," she said.

Having one of the worst Mondays ever, Jean-Pierre claimed that President Biden pardoned his son because "war politics" prompted Hunter's prosecution. Would that be the War on Integrity?

Even Democratic lawmakers are speaking out.

"President Biden's decision put personal interest ahead of duty and further erodes Americans' faith that the justice system is fair and equal for all," Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., posted on the X on Monday.

Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-Va., told CNN "As a father myself and as someone who knows Joe Biden I can sympathize with his perspective. Having said

Guest Editorial

Joe Biden all but delivered a knockout punch to the credibility of the Democratic Party.

that, what other father in America has power to pardon his son or daughter if they're convicted of a crime?"

That would be the "for thee but not me" clause held dearly by elites.

The fallout is not limited to the loss of trust in the justice system. Joe Biden all but delivered a knockout punch to the credibility of the Democratic Party. As the New York Post reported, polling guru Nate Silver is telling voters to abandon every Democrat who doesn't likewise criticize and reject the "selfish" move.

"A selfish and senile old man," the founder of the FiveThirtyEight polling aggregator wrote of Biden, 82, on X.

Biden's been called worse, and personally he had nothing to lose with this decision. He's out of office in less than two months, ready to enjoy the cosseted retirement afforded an ex-president.

But he leaves a party bereft of claims to the moral high ground, one that can slam Donald Trump for giving the father-in-law of daughter Tiffany, and son-in-law Jared Kushner's father positions in his administration, but open to returning shots about Biden's own nepotism.

This isn't a great moment for America. But it's not a complete surprise, either.

Believe us.



Landscape changes quickly

By JOHN KRULL
TheStatehouseFile.com

It's funny how a little time can clarify things.

Right after Election Day, when it became clear he had won, former and future President Donald Trump did a lot of crowing. He boasted that his victory had provided him with a mandate to do whatever he wanted and all but declared that the constitutional restraints that kept all other presidents in check were a joke he planned to ignore.

He has made good on his pledge by nominating for Cabinet and other important positions in his administration people who have never demonstrated any loyalty to the country they're supposed to serve. Many have expressed contempt not just for the departments or agencies they're supposed to lead but also for the principles of law and self-government themselves.

Trump expected everyone in the federal government to roll over and do his bidding, perhaps even by allowing his nominees to skip the U.S. Senate confirmation process by granting him the power to make recess appointments.

That's where things became interesting.

One of Trump's nominees — former U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Florida, who was up for U.S. attorney general — already has had to withdraw. Gaetz' history of sordid sexual escapades and other egregious breaches of both decorum and — possibly — the law prompted enough senators from both parties to push back.

Now, it also appears that two other picks — Peter Hegseth for secretary of defense and Kash Patel to head the Federal Bureau of Investigation — could face significant opposition, too.

Hegseth's attempt to cover up an accusation of sexual assault, along with a few somewhat unbalanced public pronouncements, prompted

John Krull



senators from both parties to question whether he should be the person charged with keeping America and Americans safe.

And Patel's deserved reputation as an unblinking Trump loyalist made senators everywhere think again about whether they wanted such a man granted access to sensitive information that could be used to blackmail, say lawmakers who might not want to humble themselves before the president.

Worse for the former president are the whispers that U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, now freed of the responsibility of leading the Senate Republican caucus, wants to chart his own course rather than adhere to the Trump agenda.

McConnell prizes the Senate's independence and has no great loyalty to Trump. The two men, in fact, detest each other.

McConnell would be a formidable adversary for Trump. He is every bit as amoral as the former president and a whole heck of a lot smarter, a man whose knowledge of Senate procedures has no equal and whose ruthlessness is legendary.

Some speculate that a few senators in the Republican Party have rediscovered both their integrity and their courage.

Perhaps in some alternate universe that's true.

But it's far more likely that they have taken a more informed reading of the election results.

In the early going, it did appear Trump had won a smashing triumph, capturing more than 50% of the popular vote for the first time.

But as the counting continued, that changed.

Trump now is below the 50% threshold, making the 2024 race the third straight presidential election in which more Americans voted against him than for him.

What's more, his margins in key battleground states such as Wisconsin and Pennsylvania were razor thin. He claimed Wisconsin by only 20,000.

And he did this running against a candidate — Vice President Kamala Harris — who had only a little more than 100 days to put together and run a national campaign.

When Harris picked up the baton from President Joe Biden to compete as the Democrats' standard-bearer, Trump had a comfortable lead and appeared headed to a blowout victory.

But he almost managed to seize defeat from the jaws of certain victory.

Savvy political minds from both parties don't see a world-beater in Trump. They see an incoming president who almost lost a race he should have won going away.

Moreover, they know that, this time, Trump is a lame duck before he even takes the oath of office again, which further weakens his hand.

That's likely one reason Trump crony Elon Musk is vowing to fund primary challenges to any Republican in Congress who doesn't kiss the presidential ring, but a threat that likely will result in electing more Democrats is an empty one.

A few weeks ago, things looked great for Donald Trump and bleak for his opponents.

It's funny how a little time can clarify things.

Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism and publisher of TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

The Commercial Review



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We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to letters@thecr.com. They should be 700 words or fewer; signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

"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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12-7 CRYPTOQUIP

BJ MWYOWLO'M OPFBLE P GBE
GWCZ WJ HWZX HOTOPZ
XSTBLE PL OPTFRNSPAO, CRPF
RPQQOLM? YBZA MRPAOM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHY DID DARTH VADER TURN DOWN NEARLY EVERY LIGHT IN HIS HOUSE? HE LIKED IT ON THE DARK SIDE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals G

Trivial Review
(Answers are printed below, upside down.)
National landmarks
1) Which memorial consists of four United States presidents carved into a mountain?
2) What chemical process turned the Statue of Liberty's copper surface green?

12-9 CRYPTOQUIP

OE W BMPMIZ TWTTWK DMWIP
VWIS XRKRIMB ZR SKMFB OF
DOZN OZP PHIIRHFBOFVP, OP
ZNWZ XWTMK -EKWVM?

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEONE'S EATING A BIG BOWL OF COLD CEREAL DURING AN EARTHQUAKE, WHAT HAPPENS? MILK SHAKES.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals M

CRYPTO FUN
Solve the code to discover words related to food service.
A. 25 20 17 2 20 17
B. 7 19 25
C. 24 14 16 15 6 20 18
D. 13 17 4 20 17

WORD SCRAMBLE
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to food service.
CCKEH

GUESS WHO?
I am an actress born in England on January 3, 1996. I began my career as a singer, posting song covers to YouTube. My siblings also are talented and are in the business, with my brother starring in the series "Game of Thrones." In 2021, I made my Marvel debut in "Black Widow."



Fun FACT!
This popular party decoration was created in 1824 by Michael Faraday during experiments with various gases.

How they say that in...
English: Surprise
Spanish: Sorprender
Italian: Sorprendere
French: Surprendre
German: Jmdn. elskalt erwachen

Math Blocks
Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

Get Scrambled
Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.
HRTWO A RYATP

THIS DAY IN HISTORY
6
1498: After exploring Cuba for gold, Christopher Columbus lands on an island he names Hispaniola.
1790: The U.S. Congress moves from New York City to Philadelphia.
2006: NASA reveals photos that suggest liquid water is present on Mars.

NEW WORD
BASH
a party or social event

FOOD SERVICE WORD SEARCH
PHUHAPPYHOURS...
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

- WORDS
BAR-BACK
BARTENDER
BISTRO
BOUNCER
COMP
COVER
DISH
DOUBLE
DROP
EARLY BIRD
FILLER
FLATTOP
FRONT OF HOUSE
HAPPY HOUR
LINE
ORDER
PARTY
POINT OF SALE
REGULAR
RESERVATION
RUN
RUSH
SEATING
TICKET

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 Cote cry
1 California wine, for short
4 Leaves
8 Hideaway
12 Tram load
13 Links org.
14 Con
15 Rowing need
16 Exam format
17 Fiesta food
18 Winter-time battle
21 Fan's shout
22 Author Fleming
23 Slanted edge
26 Retrieve
27 Napkin's place
30 Portent
31 Help
32 Vitriol
33 New Jersey's Fort
34 Hosp. areas
35 Lily variety

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14
15 16 17
18 19 20
21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30 31 32
33 34 35
36 37
38 39 40 41 42 43 44
45 46 47
48 49 50
51 52 53

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The methodical approach
North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.
WEST EAST
J 10 8 5 3 K 9 7 6 4
4 Q 7 3
Q 10 4 J 6
Q 10 7 3 J 5 2
SOUTH
A 2
K 10 8 6 5 2
A K 8 3
4
The bidding: North East South West
1 Pass 1 Pass
2 Pass 6 Pass
Opening lead — jack of spades.
It would be easy to make six hearts on this deal if you could see all the cards. You ruff a spade in dummy, take a trump finesse through East and finish with 12 tricks, losing only a diamond. But in real life the hand is not that simple. Since you have nine trumps in the combined hands, you might feel tempted to cash the A-K and so end up down one.
Situations of this sort occur frequently. In general, when missing four to the queen in a suit, it is best to play the A-K rather than finesse against the queen. This approach will succeed slightly more often over the long haul.
Declarer should conclude that since there is no good reason to play the trumps abnormally, he will have to lose a trump trick if either opponent started with three to the queen. He should therefore focus on the problem of trying to find a way to escape a diamond loser should the need present itself.
By timing his plays properly, South can meet this goal, setting up an extra club trick in dummy to take care of his diamond loser. He begins by winning the spade lead with the ace, then plays a club to the ace and ruffs a club.
Next, he cashes the K-A of hearts and learns that East has a trump trick coming. He then cashes the king of clubs, discarding a diamond, and ruffs a club, establishing dummy's nine as a trick.
Now he trumps a spade with the jack and plays the nine of clubs, discarding the eight of diamonds. Whether East ruffs or not, the only trick South winds up losing is a trump.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

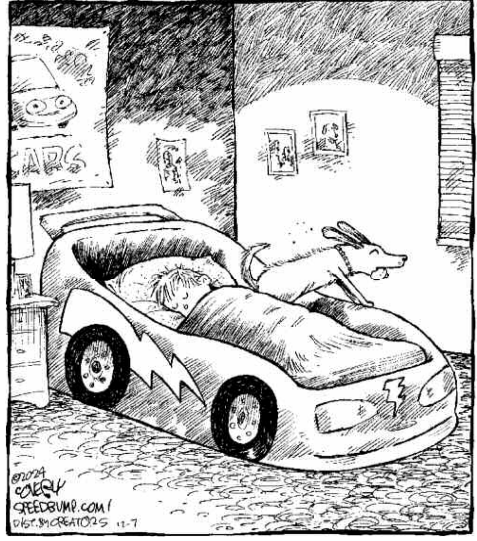
Famous Hand
East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.
WEST EAST
A 10 7 2 J 6 3
9 7 3 5 2
5 4 9 7 2
6 2 Q 10 7 5 4
SOUTH
Q 9
K 10 6
A K Q 3
A K 8 3
The bidding: East South West North
Pass 2 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — jack of diamonds.
This deal occurred in the 1960 world championship match between Canada and Great Britain. When Terence Reese and Boris Schapiro were North-South for Great Britain, they quickly reached three notrump as shown, and West led the jack of diamonds.
Schapiro inspected the dummy very carefully. "Hmmm," he said. "This will be an interesting hand to play. Such unusual distribution — 4-4-2-2."
The imperturbable Reese examined his hand. "I do seem to have only 12 cards, don't I?" Reese looked down at the floor and there he saw the missing card — the ace of hearts!
Of course, had he seen the ace of hearts during the bidding, Reese would have responded much more vigorously to the opening two-notrump bid. Almost surely, he would have landed in six hearts, which could not have been defeated.
As it was, though, Schapiro made five notrump for 660 points, and it looked as though Canada would gain 770 points on the deal by bidding and making six hearts.
True to expectations, the Canadians did bid a slam at the other table. However, they got to six notrump instead of six hearts, and when declarer finished with the same number of tricks as Schapiro, the British team wound up with a 760-point gain!
Both declarers could have made six notrump by finessing through East's Q-10 of clubs, but they each chose a different line of play and wound up with only 11 tricks.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

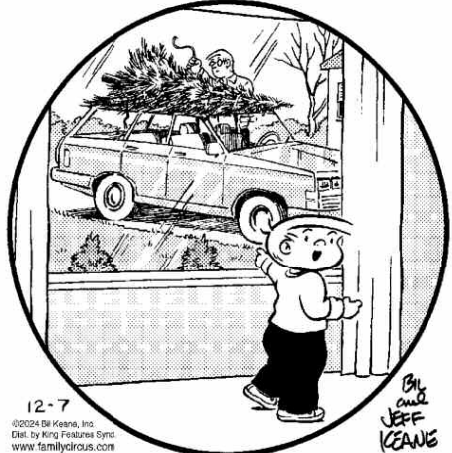
ACROSS 43 Multi-day prayer
1 Actor Vigoda
4 Jazz phrases
9 Compass dir.
12 Fine, to NASA
13 Skate-boarder's leap
14 Smidgen
15 Anita Baker hit of 1986
17 — pickle
18 Payable
19 Insignia
21 Sans celebration
24 Vend
25 Bygone bird
26 Pop
28 Hands (out)
31 Cover of gloom
33 Felon's flight
35 Bike part
36 Wheat bundle
38 Napkin's perch
40 Tall tree
41 Heath

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14
15 16 17
18 19 20
21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30
31 32 33 34 35
36 37 38 39 40
41 42 43 44
45 46 47
48 49 50 51 52 53
54 55 56
57 58 59

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



12-7
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"Mommy! How'd you like to see a real car under our Christmas tree?"

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



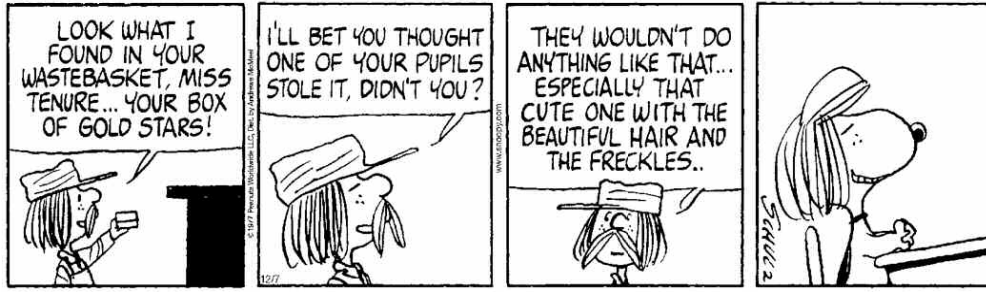
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



12-9
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"It's the 24-hour flu, so you'll be up in, let's see ... exactly 14 hours."

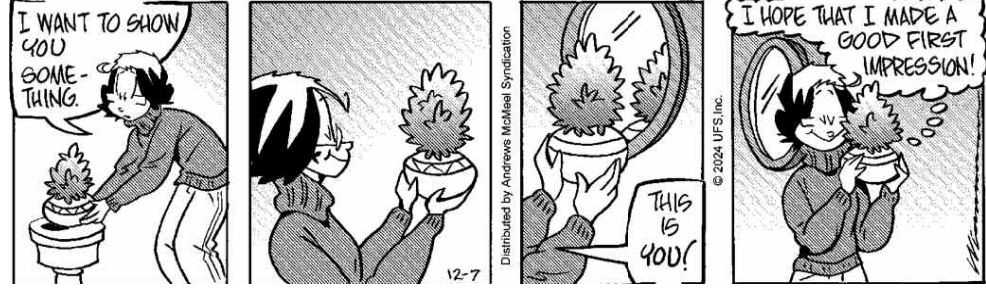
Peanuts



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Agnes



Hi and Lois



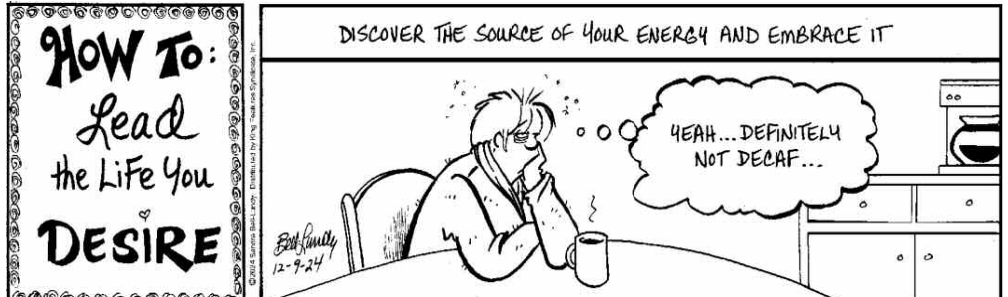
Hi and Lois



Between Friends



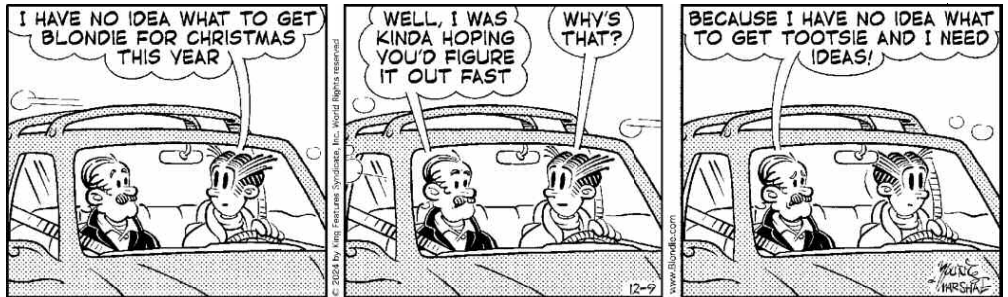
Between Friends



Blondie



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



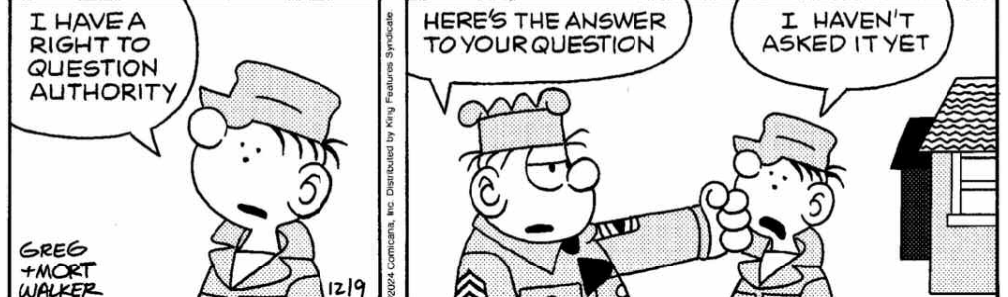
Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Beetle Bailey



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Laughter

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

The Commercial Review *We Deliver*

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Dec. 15th 1-3p.m. or
for private showing
phone auctioneers.
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parcel. Improvements
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brick ranch home with
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ing area. Central air,
and 12'x12' all seasons
room. 45' x 30' and 50'
x 16' and 40' x 36' and
22' x 12' pole buildings
complete with cement
floors. Stocked pond,
some fencing. 18.5
acres tillable, 12.4
acres wood and pond,
balance buildings and
road frontage.
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Freshmen fuel



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Carson Westgerdes, a freshman on the Jay County High School boys swim team, breaches the water during the 100-yard butterfly in Thursday's match against Anderson. Westgerdes ran away to take the event by 13.27 seconds in the 150-118 loss to the Indians.

Patriot youngsters' strong start continues in meet against Anderson

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

Some of the Patriots' youngest swimmers had successful careers in the youth and feeder programs.

That success has carried over nicely, as the freshmen are making an immediate impact on the team.

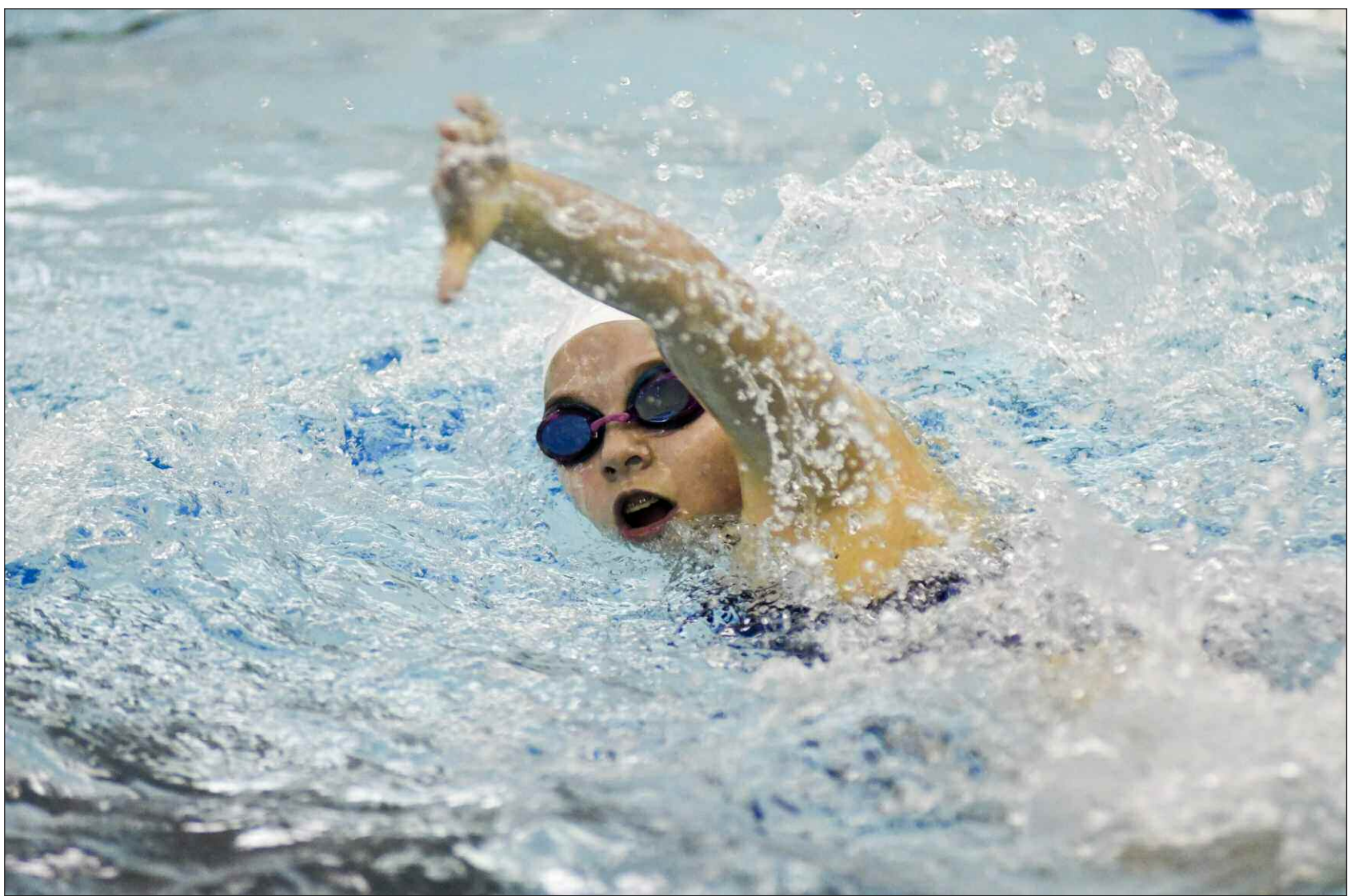
The Jay County High School swim teams' freshmen put in solid work on Thursday as the girls team stomped the Anderson Indians 203-60, while the boys fell 150-118.

"It's a great thing to see as a coach, having a strong class of freshmen coming in," said JCHS coach Matt Slavik. "I think it compliments our upperclassmen tremendously to have those four or five kids come in and contribute, win events and accentuate our relays. So, it's a huge blessing that we have right now with this freshmen class."

Of the 24 events, JCHS freshmen won seven and finished as the runner-up twice. Three of the first-year varsity swimmers, Brooklynn Byrum, Cooper Glentzer and Carson Westgerdes, claimed the top spot twice.

Despite swimming in the sprint freestyle events, Byrum had no trouble hitting the wall first. In the 50-yard freestyle, Byrum's time of 28.40 seconds was 2.32 seconds faster than teammate Avery Wentz in second. She also won the 100 freestyle with a time of 1 minute, 1.35 seconds, edging out fellow freshman Kaitlyn Fisher — who had her own first-place finish in the 200 freestyle (2:22.42) — by 3.94 seconds.

"It's been exciting and I think we're all just enjoying doing our best and able to compete at the level we are right now with the people that are older than us," Byrum said about the early success of the new class. "I was just thinking along the lines of competing with my teammates, try-



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County freshman Kaitlyn Fisher swims the fourth leg of the 400-yard freestyle relay during the Patriots' meet against Anderson on Thursday. Fisher won the 200 freestyle and took second in the 100 freestyle to help the Patriots beat the Indians 203-60.

ing to make sure that I either stuck with them or stayed ahead of them. (I know) that I've done it before in practice, so I can do it here in a competitive setting."

To go along with Byrum and Kaitlyn Fisher's finishes, freshman Alyvia Muhlenkamp took second in the 100 breaststroke (1:30.15) for the Patriot girls (2-0).

Glentzer found similar success to Byrum, dominating the 100 freestyle (53.11) and 500 freestyle — which Glentzer set a new career best time in at 5:24.45 — for the Patriot boys (0-2).

Westgerdes raced to first place in the 100 butterfly with a time of 1:06.45, but

he had to work for the 200 freestyle victory.

Westgerdes started off the race behind Anderson's Kaleb Dean. After the first 50 yards, the Patriot freshman started to inch closer to Dean, but didn't start gaining an advantage until the 125-yard mark. As they approached the final turn, Westgerdes managed to start pulling away by half his body to secure the win.

"I was behind for most of my 200 and I came back and felt really good about that," Westgerdes said. "Usually in practice we work a lot on last-half stuff. So, I knew if I was able to stay close to him, I'd be able to get him in the end."

Overall, the girls team dominated Anderson, winning all 12 events. The Patriots claimed the top three spots in six events, as well as filling out the highest spots they could in four more events. JCHS didn't sweep the 100 backstroke or the 200 freestyle relay, but still claimed the first, second and fourth spots in the former and the first, second and fifth places in the latter.

Aubrey Millspaugh and Lauren Fisher joined Byrum as double-event winners. Millspaugh claimed the 100 breaststroke (1:28.39) and 500 freestyle (6:16.91), while Lauren Fisher won the 200 individual medley (2:45.39) and 100 butterfly (1:15.23).

Other victories came from Maddy Snow in the 1-meter diving (190.75 points) and Wentz in the 100 backstroke (1:14.42).

"The girls came through and they're swimming beyond where they were last year at this time, which is encouraging," Slavik said. "They're coming in and putting in the quality time during practice and we're seeing it (pay off) earlier than we have in the past."

The boys managed to claim three more victories to supplement the freshmen performances. Bryden Carter started the night with 130.75 points in the diving for the win, followed by the 200 indi-

vidual medley relay's top finish. Matthew Fisher had the other individual victory with a time of 1:10.27 in the 100 backstroke.

The Patriots took second place in every event they didn't win, and third in three of the five races, but a lack of depth held them back from claiming the meet.

"We just don't have the numbers to be able to fulfill enough depth in our relays and fill the individual events," said Slavik. "We won seven of the 12 events. We're a lot closer to Anderson than we ever have been. At the top end we out swum them. Unfortunately, we are just a bit short on numbers."

Indians fall despite 22 points from Muhlenkamp

ST. HENRY, Ohio — Kennedy Muhlenkamp scored 14 points in the last two games.

The Indians senior took another step forward and scored eight points in the fourth quarter, but it wasn't enough for the Indians to take down their Ohio 119 rivals.

Despite getting 22 points from

Kennedy Muhlenkamp, the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team fell to St. Henry in the Midwest Athletic Conference opener 44-42 on Thursday.

The Indians (1-4, 0-1 MAC) trailed by four points going into the fourth quarter. FRHS only gave up one field goal in the period to Alexis Buschur — the

leading scorer for St. Henry with 13 — but gave up another eight points on free throws.

Yet, Fort Recovery kept pace due to eight points by Kennedy Muhlenkamp. She opened the scoring with a 3-point play before hitting another shot inside the arc and one outside of it.

Two more baskets by Bridget Homan and Makenna Huelskamp got the Indians to 12 points in the quarter, but they couldn't manage to tie before time expired. Homan finished as the Indians' second leading scorer with seven points, while Huelskamp had five. Cameron Muhlenkamp added four.

Kennedy Muhlenkamp had at least four points in each quarter. The opening period was her best, putting up 10 points on a pair of threes, two free throws and a 2-point bucket.

Molly Wendel also broke double digits for St. Henry (3-0, 2-0 MAC), scoring 10.

Belichick ...

Continued from page 10
Belichick is 72 and has never coached in college at any level. He is regarded, though, as one of the greatest coaches in NFL history and helped engineer the New England Patriots dynasty of the 2000s and 2010s. As head coach of the Patriots, with Tom Brady as quarterback, Belichick led the franchise to six victories in nine Super Bowl appearances. He spent 29 years as an NFL coach — the final 24 of those with New England. Three of his final four seasons ended in losing records and after a 4-13 finish in 2023, Belichick and the

Patriots parted ways. His name has come up with various NFL openings since. UNC, meanwhile, is searching for a successor to Mack Brown after the school fired him last week. Brown's second tenure as the Tar Heels' head coach ended in a 6-6 regular-season finish, and with a fourth consecutive defeat against rival N.C. State. Brown returned to UNC, for his second stint in 2018, when he was 67. He turned 73 before his final season. It's believed the school desires a younger coach to replace Brown.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys wrestling in Super Six at Western — 9 a.m.; Girls wrestling at East Noble — 9 a.m.; Swim in Celina Sprints at Jay County — 11 a.m.; Girls basketball (varsity only) at Fort Recovery — 12 p.m.; Boys basketball vs. Fort Recovery — 6 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball vs. Fort Recovery — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls bowling tournament at Centerville — 9 a.m.; Swim in Celina Sprints at Jay County — 9 a.m.; Girls basketball vs. Jay County (varsity only) — 12 p.m.; Boys basketball at Jay County — 6 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball at Jay County — 6 p.m.

Monday
Jay County — Junior high girls basketball vs. Selma — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball at Union City — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Swim tri-meet at Delta — 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball vs. Marion Local — 5 p.m.

Tuesday
Jay County — Boys wrestling quad meet — 6 p.m.; Girls wrestling quad meet — 6 p.m.; Girls basketball (varsity only) at Muncie Central — 6:30 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball vs. Elwood — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball at Fort Loramie — 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball vs. South Adams — 5 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball at Marion Local — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today
5:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix (ESPN2)
7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Liverpool at Everton (USA)
10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Newcastle United at Brentford (USA)
11:30 a.m. — College basketball: Kansas State at St. John's (FOX)
11:30 a.m. — PGA Tour: Hero World Challenge (NBC)
12 p.m. — College football: Ohio at Miami (OH) (ESPN); Iowa State at Arizona State (ABC)
12 p.m. — College basketball: Rutgers at Ohio State (FS1); Clemson at Miami (ESPN2); Nebraska at Michigan State (BTN)
12 p.m. — Swimming: Toyota U.S. Open (NBC)
12:30 p.m. — College basketball: South Florida at Loyola Chicago (USA)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Nottingham Forest at Manchester United (NBC)
2 p.m. — College football: Southern at Jackson State (ESPN2)
2 p.m. — College basketball: Iowa at Michigan (FS1)
4 p.m. — College football: Georgia at Texas (ABC)
4 p.m. — College basketball: UNLV at Creighton (FS1)
4 p.m. — Women's college basketball: USC at Oregon (BTN)
4 p.m. — MLS soccer: New York Red Bulls at Los Angeles Galaxy (FOX)
5:30 p.m. — College basketball: But-

ler at Houston (ESPN2)
6 p.m. — College basketball: USC at Washington (BTN)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Marshall at Louisiana (ESPN)
8 p.m. — College football: Penn State at Oregon (CBS); Clemson at SMU (ABC)
9 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Louisville at Uconn (FOX)
10 p.m. — College basketball: Kentucky at Gonzaga (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Edmonton Oilers (FDSN Indiana)

Sunday
8 a.m. — Formula 1: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix (ESPN2)
9 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Brighton & Hove Albion at Leicester City (USA)
11:30 a.m. — PGA Tour: Hero World Challenge (NBC)
11:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Chelsea at Tottenham Hotspur (USA)
12 p.m. — College basketball: Maryland at Purdue (BTN); Oklahoma State at Seton Hall (FS1)
1 p.m. — NFL: Atlanta Falcons at Minnesota Vikings (FOX); Cleveland Browns at Pittsburgh Steelers (CBS)
1 p.m. — College basketball: Kansas at Missouri (ESPN2)
2 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Minnesota at Nebraska (BTN)
3 p.m. — College basketball: Texas A&M at Texas Tech (ESPN2)
4 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Illinois at Ohio State (BTN)
4:25 p.m. — NFL: Chicago Bears at San Francisco 49ers (FOX)

5 p.m. — NBA: Charlotte Hornets at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)
5 p.m. — College basketball: UConn at Texas (ESPN)
6 p.m. — College basketball: UCLA at Oregon (BTN)
7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: South Carolina at TCU (ESPN2)
8:20 p.m. — NFL: Los Angeles Chargers at Kansas City Chiefs (NBC)

Monday
3 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Wolverhampton Wanderers at West Ham United (USA)
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Minnesota at Indiana (BTN)
8:15 p.m. — NFL: Cincinnati Bengals at Dallas Cowboys (ABC)

Tuesday
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Miami at Tennessee (ESPN); North Dakota State at Butler (FS1)
7 p.m. — NBA: Orlando Magic at Milwaukee Bucks (TNT)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Albany at Syracuse (ESPN2)
8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Providence at DePaul (FS1)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Michigan at Arkansas (ESPN)
9 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Fresno State at USC (BTN)
9:30 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Oklahoma City Thunder (TNT)
10 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Vancouver Canucks (FDSN Indiana)
11 p.m. — College basketball: Eastern Washington at Washington (BTN)

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Girls swim trampled Anderson on Thursday, see story page 8

Sports

Jay, FRHS basketball teams play in double header, see Sports on tap

Flamed in first half

Woodlan shoots lights out in first half as Patriots drop ACAC opener

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review
WOODBURN — Nine minutes, 10 seconds. That's how long it took for the Warriors to miss a shot.

Add another four minutes on top (13:10) and you've got how long it took the Patriots to get a defensive rebound.

While the Warriors only missed four shots in the first half, the Patriots only made five. With a mountain to climb, the Patriots could get back within striking distance.

Jay County High School's boys basketball team couldn't find its flow offensively, while the Woodlan Warriors shot the lights out as the Patriots dropped the Allen County Athletic Conference opener 56-40 on Friday.

The Patriots (1-2, 0-1 ACAC) got down early after struggling at the offensive end. While Jay County only had four first-half turnovers, they only managed to shoot 5-for-22 from the field (22.7%), with a bevy of tough 2-point, mid-range jump shots.

The second quarter was particularly bad, with the Patriots only scoring two points on a baseline drive and reverse layup by point guard Jayden Comer — who finished as the team's second-leading scorer with 10 points — at the 3:36 mark.

"They thumped us," said JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt. "We had some opportunities, but our good players were trying to shoot over 6-foot, 7-inch, 6-foot, 8-inch (players) and we couldn't seem to get a good kick out at the right time. Our offense was not fluid at all. We were a second late, we just never looked the entire game that we had good rhythm offensively."

While the Patriots struggled from the field in the



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School's Gradin Swoveland gets Woodlan's Trey Yoder on his back while going up for a transition layup during Friday's 56-40 loss.

first half, Woodlan (2-2, 1-0 ACAC) caught fire.

The Warriors finished the first half 10-for-17 from the field (58.8%), including 5-for-8 from beyond the arc (62.5%). WHS hit all six shots it took in the first quarter, only coming up empty on three possessions in which it turned the ball over.

Woodlan's first miss came 1:10 into the second quarter, when Keaton Delagrange missed a three from the right wing, but

Trey Yoder got the rebound for the putback.

"If you were at our game Tuesday, you would think it's a different team, because we were not efficient," said WHS coach John Baker referencing a 52-38 loss to Garrett. "We were bad in all the ways we were good tonight. ... I think it's just a carryover from the defensive end. I think it's hard for kids to realize what defense can do for your offense. We're not taking the ball out of

bounds and allowing them to set up their zone. We're able to get stops and bring it down and get them in a little bit of a bind."

The glass also posed a problem for Jay County, as the Warriors crashed the offensive glass on the shots they did miss. At half time, Woodlan had four offensive rebounds, while the Patriots only had one defensive rebound on a 3-point shot Mason Moore missed and the ball bounced into a wire above

the basket with 2:50 remaining in the second quarter. The Warriors finished with nine offensive rebounds, while JCHS only had six defensive rebounds, with Comer, Tucker Griffin and Aiden Phillips actually pulling the ball in rather than letting it bounce out of bounds.

Yoder, the Warriors' leading scorer with 30 points, had 19 points at the half, helping his team walk into the locker room with a 30-12 lead.

Part way through the third quarter, the Patriots came out of their zone to play man-to-man with a smaller lineup. As a result, the Patriots forced 13 turnovers and managed to outscore Woodlan 28-26.

Bomholt found a positive of the game in his players' effort despite facing a large deficit. His team will now turn to set its sights on Fort Recovery, which will come to Portland 24 hours after JCHS took the 16-point loss.

"It takes a special group of kids for one thing," Bomholt said of trying to get back on track. "If they really want to compete and really want to get better, then we'll show up tomorrow and look like a different team. If we don't then there could be some struggles."

Junior varsity

The Patriots rolled to a 59-25 victory over Woodlan in the junior varsity game on Friday.

Stout defense in the first quarter held the Warriors to only five points, while the Patriots poured in 14 on six field goals.

The Patriots built a sizable lead of 27-25 by half-time thanks to Benson Barnett, Brock Wasson and Kade Sommers all scoring six or more points. A trio of third-quarter

Box score				
Woodlan Warriors vs. Jay County Patriots				
Boys varsity summary				
Jay County (1-2, 0-1 ACAC)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Comer	5-13	0-0	10	
Schemenaur	0-0	0-0	0	
Fuglett	0-2	0-0	0	
Petro	0-2	0-0	0	
Dirksen	0-1	0-0	0	
Forthofer	1-2	0-0	2	
Phillips	1-3	0-2	2	
Griffin	6-12	1-2	16	
Swoveland	3-12	1-2	8	
Sommers	1-1	0-0	2	
Totals	17-48	2-6	40	
	.354	.333		
Def. rebound percentage: .400				
Woodlan (2-2, 1-0 ACAC)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Jacquay	0-0	0-0	0	
Scheiderer	0-0	0-0	0	
Moore	1-6	3-4	6	
Klepper	0-0	0-0	0	
Friend	0-0	0-0	0	
Smith	0-1	0-0	0	
Halsey	0-1	0-0	0	
Zern	0-0	0-0	0	
Delagrange	1-2	0-0	2	
Yoder	11-16	3-3	30	
Adams	6-7	2-2	14	
Totals	21-36	9-10	56	
	.583	.900		
Def. rebound percentage: .710				
Score by quarters:				
Jay Co.	10	2	14	14 — 40
Woodlan	15	15	17	9 — 56
3-point shooting: Jay County 4-13 (Griffin 3-6, Swoveland 1-5, Fuglett 0-1, Comer 0-6), Woodlan 6-15 (Yoder 5-8, Moore 1-5, Smith 0-1, Delagrange 0-1).				
Rebounds: Jay County 15 (Team 7, Comer 2, Petro 2, Phillips 2, Griffin, Swoveland), Woodlan 31 (Yoder 12, Fleek 6, Adams 4, Moore 3, Team 3, Scheiderer 2, Halsey).				
Assists: Jay County 8 (Comer 3, Swoveland 2, Schemenaur, Petro, Griffin), Woodlan 10 (Moore 5, Fleek 2, Yoder 2, Adams).				
Blocks: Jay County 2 (Petro 2), Woodlan 1 (Yoder).				
Personal fouls: Jay County 14 (Comer 4, Swoveland 4, Forthofer 3, Phillips, Griffin, Sommers), Woodlan 12 (Halsey 3, Jacquay 2, Fleek 2, Scheiderer, Moore, Zern, Yoder, Adams).				
Turnovers: Jay County 15, Woodlan 22.				

threes made Brady Jetmore Jay County's leading scorer. He finished with 14 points, while Wasson followed with 11 and Barnett had 10.

Woodlan's leading scorer, Cooper Smith, finished with just nine points.

Belichick interviewed for UNC job

By ANDREW CARTER

The News & Observer
Tribune News Service

RALEIGH, N.C. — An unlikely but prominent name has emerged in North Carolina's search for a new head football coach: Bill Belichick.

The school has had preliminary talks with him about its coaching vacancy, a source confirmed to The News & Observer on Thursday. Inside Carolina, a website that covers UNC athletics, was the first to report the development.

Belichick, the source told The N&O, has genuine and high interest in the opening at UNC and "he blew them

Source confirmed the long-time Patriots coach interviewed for position

away in the interview." Still, his candidacy is seen as a long shot — to put it mildly — due to his age and his lack of college coaching experience.

See Belichick page 9

Psi Iota Xi sorority presents

Jay County Civic Theatre's Production of

The SOUND of MUSIC

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Music by RICHARD RODGERS
Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II
Book by HOWARD LINDSAY and RUSSEL CROUSE
Suggested by "The Trapp Family Singers" by Maria Augusta Trapp
Music and Lyrics for "Something Good" by Richard Rodgers

THE SOUND OF MUSIC is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization.
www.concordtheatricals.com

Shows are 7 p.m. December 5, 6, 7, 13 and 14, and 2 p.m. December 15 at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland

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