

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Thank you



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay School Board president Ron Laux presents a gift to outgoing board member Vickie Reitz as fellow outgoing board member Phil Ford (background) watches during Monday's meeting at General Shanks in Portland. Jason Phillips, Ford and Reitz were all taking part in their final meeting as board members after all three chose not to seek re-election this year. Ford has served two full terms, while Phillips filled in part of one term before being elected to his own and Reitz served one term.

## Village will do more testing

*Fort Recovery continues to explore options for wastewater*

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Fort Recovery is looking into an alternative way to treat its wastewater in the future.

Village administrator Randy Diller explained to Fort Recovery Village Council on Monday plans are to move forward with additional testing for Lemna Environmental Technologies.

OEPA's upcoming limits for phosphorus, ammonia and E. coli levels in wastewater are unobtainable currently with the village's wastewater lagoons. A wastewater study completed in recent years suggested a long-term solution for the village to meet those requirements would be to construct a mechanical plant, a project expected to cost anywhere from \$8 million to \$12 million.

Lemna Environmental Technologies' strategy utilizes wastewater lagoons while adding in some mechanical aspects. Diller noted he met with engineering consultant agency Kleinfelder and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency on Monday. He explained the state department is receptive to working with Lemna Environmental Technologies — he said more and more Ohio communities are taking interest in the Minnesota company — to test its strategy for treating wastewater and meeting requirements.

Regardless, the village still needs to make sure the treatment fits within its needs.

See **Testing** page 5

## Board members honored for service

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Thank you.

The bulk of Monday's Jay School Board meeting was spent offering appreciation for outgoing members Phil Ford, Jason Phillips and Vickie Reitz.

All three chose not to seek re-election this year.

Ford is the longest-serving of the group, having held his seat for two full terms on the board. He spent the bulk of his

time on the board as its president following a long career in education. He was a science teacher at Jay County High School and president of Jay Classroom Teachers Association. He went on to become dean of students, athletics director (serving two stints) and principal.

Phillips was first appointed to the board to fill the remainder of Kristi Betts' term after she moved to Georgia. He was elected to his own term in 2020.

Reitz, like Ford, spent more than 40 years in education. She retired as the director of guidance for Jay Schools.

"The lasting impression you all have made on kids will last forever," said school board president Ron Laux. "And we can't thank you enough for your dedication to this corporation and to this board."

"I certainly express the same sincere gratitude," added Jay School Corporation superintendent Jeremy Gulley.

He thanked Phillips for his service on the board and reflected on decades of working with Ford and Reitz, having first come on staff as a teacher more than 25 years ago. He later worked more closely with both of them when he was principal of Jay County High School.

"As a personal matter, it's just your friendship that's been so important to me," Gulley added.

See **Thank** page 2

## Board looks long-term

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Maintenance is on the mind.

Fort Recovery School Board heard an update Monday on hopes and plans for long-term maintenance goals on the district's structures.

School board hired Garmann Miller of Minster in February to perform a facilities assessment on the district's assets. Representatives of the company shared their findings in an October presentation to school board, pointing to various repairs the district can expect to make in the next 25 years to its structures.

Fort Recovery superintendent Tony Stahl noted Monday that school administration and Garmann Miller are working on a long-term maintenance plan for the district, with a large focus on projects at Fort Recovery High School. He proposed — school

### Stahl proposes creating a fund for capital projects

board took no formal action Monday — creating a capital project fund in the future to be used for permanent fixtures, construction, repairs and other related work for projects at the high school. He noted specifics are still in the works and suggested the decision may come up for school board's approval at a future meeting.

Stahl also pointed to potential plans next year for updating aspects of Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. He explained the building currently has variable air volume (VAV) boxes that have been replaced at different times

and shared hopes to update those parts at the same time.

He pointed out the large-scale project would likely take most of the summer to complete, adding that school board may be asked to select an architectural engineering firm in January for design work on the project. Treasurer Deanna Knapke noted the project will require seeking bids.

Also Monday, school board heard about Fort Recovery High School's principal committee, a group of eight students that meets once a month and focuses on strengthening leadership skills and planning student activities.

See **Long-term** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Gingerbread grins

Blake Marchal, 7, and mother Dawn Marchal wipe icing off their hands while decorating gingerbread houses Monday at Fort Recovery High School. Fort Recovery FFA hosted its annual gingerbread house family night Monday, allowing families to decorate sweet treats together in the high school commons.

### Deaths

Gary Keller, 86, Portland  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 57 degrees Monday. The low was 39.

Tonight's low will be in the mid 20s. Expect mostly cloudy skies Thursday with a high in the mid 30s. There is a slight chance of snow showers Thursday evening.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

IU Health Jay and IU Health Ball hospitals will implement visitor restrictions Friday following a rise in reported cases of flu and other respiratory viruses. Visitors younger than 18 will not be permitted, nor will any visitors who have flu-like or COVID-like symptoms. Masking will be suggested.

### Coming up

**Thursday** — Results from the JCHS swim meet against Delta.

**Friday** — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.

**Saturday** — Results from Jay County's boys basketball game at Delta.



# Thank ...

Continued from page 1  
Ford made two requests as he leaves the board, asking that a program be implemented to replant trees to replace those that have been removed at the junior-senior high property and to add a "batter's eye" — a solid-colored, usually dark area beyond the center field fence that serves as a visual backdrop for the hitter — back to the baseball field.

Aaron Clark, Jon Eads and Chad Towell will take over those school board seats after they all were uncontested in the November election.

Gulley also gave a brief update on the recovery process following the Sept. 22 tornado that damaged the junior high/IMC wing of Jay County Junior-Senior High School.

He noted that the school corporation received a cost estimate for repairs from its insurance company on Dec. 5. A mechanical and plumbing assessment was also completed.

Those documents were sent to architectural firm Barton Coe Vilamaa, which identified some areas of concern that have been shared with the insurance firm.

The next step, Gulley said, is to reach an agreement on the scope and cost of the necessary repairs to the junior-senior high building. A representative from Barton Coe Vilamaa will visit the board next month to discuss the process and present details of an overall assessment of Jay School Corporation facilities.

The hope is that the school corporation will be able to review bids for work on the junior-senior high in late January or early February. Gulley added that he'd like to see work happening at the facility as soon as possible.

"We're not moving as fast as I would like to move," he said.

The board also approved payment of \$3,545.51 in costs related to the tornado recovery. (Those costs are being reimbursed by insurance.)

In other business, the board: •On the recommendation of its insurance committee, agreed to a consulting services agreement with LHD Benefit Advisors for health insurance consulting services. The school corporation previously worked with Brown & Brown Insurance. Geesaman said she struggled with the decision but added that she's hopeful there can be an improvement on the insurance front because employees have become frustrated with changing companies and increased premiums.

•Accepted the following: the school corporation's Summer School Grant totaling \$63,245.74, which helps cover the cost of summer band, supervise agriculture experience, extended school year and elementary summer school; a Teacher Appreciation Grant from the state totaling \$105,118.97, which will be distributed to teachers based on their evaluations; and an \$85,676.63 grant from the state department

of education for supplemental stipends to teachers for improving reading skills based on IREAD-3 data.

•Approved the following: the hiring of McKenzie Garringer as Redkey Elementary School secretary, Erin Bercot as a resource instructional assistant at Redkey Elementary and Nicolas Rains as a custodian for the junior-senior high school; a leave of absence for junior-senior high family and consumer science teacher Olivia Dues; and an update to family medical leave policy that shifts the timeline to a rolling 12 months rather than a calendar year.

•Accepted the resignation of junior-senior high agriculture teacher Cody Linville.

•Received an update on Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund money that was provided for schools through the various federal coronavirus relief bills. Business manager Shannon Current

reported that all of the school corporation's \$10,304,881 has been spent, with 99.9% already reimbursed.

•Accepted donations totaling \$10,000 for the junior-senior high school from the American Electric Power Foundation, \$1,000 from Fullenkamp Machine, \$750 from Mid-States Concrete and \$500 from Moo Juice Express.

•Had its first reading of proposed updates to school board policy. One update follows the passage of a new Indiana law passed by the 2024 General Assembly that requires that school corporations adopt and implement a wireless communication device policy that, with some exceptions, prohibits students from using a wireless communication device such as a cell phone during instructional time. Gulley provided the board with multiple options for what such a policy could look like.

•Offered wishes of a Merry Christmas to all.

## CR almanac

Thursday 12/19	Friday 12/20	Saturday 12/21	Sunday 12/22	Monday 12/23
<b>36/30</b>	<b>34/20</b>	<b>30/13</b>	<b>29/17</b>	<b>36/29</b>
Mostly cloudy on Thursday, when the high will be in the mid 30s.	Friday's forecast shows mostly cloudy skies with a 40% chance of snow.	Saturday looks to be mostly sunny with lows at night in the low teens.	Mostly sunny. Otherwise, cold, with temperatures in the 20s during the day.	Mostly sunny on Monday when the high will be in the mid 30s.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Monday 9-30-33-57-61 Power Ball: 17 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$69 million	Daily Four: 8-1-3-8 Quick Draw: 9-10-14-21-24-31-45-46-53-56-59-65-66-67-68-69-74-75-78-79 Cash 5: 20-32-34-35-43 Estimated jackpot: \$789,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$760 million	<b>Ohio</b> Monday Midday Pick 3: 7-6-8 Pick 4: 3-4-6-6 Pick 5: 0-1-9-1-4 Evening Pick 3: 5-0-1 Pick 4: 8-8-9-7 Pick 5: 7-9-6-1-0 Rolling Cash: 1-6-8-16-29 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Monday Midday Daily Three: 2-3-9 Daily Four: 5-9-3-1 Quick Draw: 2-6-10-12-14-21-23-29-30-31-32-41-50-52-54-55-60-62-65-78 Evening Daily Three: 3-9-7	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.47 Jan. corn.....4.46 Feb. corn.....4.49	Jan. beans .....9.80 Wheat ..... 4.94
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.45 Jan. corn.....4.49 Feb. corn.....4.51	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.36 Jan. corn.....4.36 Beans.....9.67 Jan. beans .....9.67 Wheat .....4.88
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.39 Jan. corn .....4.39 Beans .....9.70	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.46 Jan. corn .....4.46 Beans.....9.45 Jan. beans .....9.50 Wheat .....4.84

## Today in history

In 1892, "The Nutcracker" was performed for the first time at Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg. The ballet, created by Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky, became an instant hit.

In 1946, Steven Spielberg was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. Spielberg is known for directing various successful films, including

"Jaws" in 1975, "E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial" in 1982, "Schindler's List" in 1993 and "Saving Private Ryan" in 1998.

In 1966, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" aired for the first time. The cartoon TV special adapted from Dr. Seuss' children's book became classic movie for the holidays. — The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Today</b> 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.	Court St., Portland. 3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.
<b>Thursday</b> 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.	6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.
<b>Monday</b> 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N.	7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

## Obituaries

### Gary Keller

Sept. 1, 1938-Dec. 16, 2024  
Gary Keller, age 86, a resident of Portland, passed away on Monday, Dec. 16, 2024, at his home in Portland.

Gary was born on Sept. 1, 1938, in Muncie, Indiana, the son of Robert and Dorothy Keller. Gary worked for R.C. Bob Keller Construction until 1975. He started his farming and investment career in 1965 and continued this work until his death.

Survivors include: His children — Tammy Thomas (Lennie), Winchester, Indiana, Terry Keller, Portland, Indiana,

Tracy Snyder (Neal), Muncie, Indiana, Gary Keller Jr. (Linda), Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Michael Keller, Portland, Indiana, and Randy Keller (Jennifer), Pennville, Indiana

His brother — Alan Keller (Florine), Muncie, Indiana  
His sister — Lois A. Keller, Albany, Indiana

Twelve grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren

He was preceded in death by his parents Robert and Dorothy; the love of his life Lois Keller; and a



Keller

great-granddaughter Alecia Cameron.

Private graveside services will be held at Green Park Cemetery in Portland.

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

.....  
*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.*

## Court denies stay of execution

By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The U.S. Court of Appeals late Monday denied a request to stay Indiana death row inmate Joseph Corcoran's execution, which is scheduled to take place before sunrise Wednesday.

The 2-1 decision follows a series of other refusals to delay Corcoran's execution.

Although legal counsel have argued that he should be spared due

to his "ongoing" mental illness, the Indiana Supreme Court upheld the sentence, just as multiple state and federal courts have done. The state's high court justices most recently refused additional attempts by defense lawyers to delay the execution and allow for Corcoran's competency to be assessed. Appeals for post-conviction relief at the federal level have also been unsuccessful.

"Corcoran has submitted a detailed sworn notarized affidavit that articu-

lately sets forth his desire not to pursue federal relief," federal circuit judges Michael B. Brennan and Thomas L. Kirsch II wrote in their opinion, referring to a November letter Corcoran sent to the high court, in which he said he has "no desire nor wish[es] to engage in further appeals or litigation whatsoever." With his "own free will" and "without coercion or promise of anything," he asked the justices to withdraw his counsel's motions..

## Long-term ...

Continued from page 1  
Principal Ryan Steinbrunner noted a few of those plans this year include spirit buses — buses open to students in sixth through 12th grade to attend some away sporting events with discounted admission — and a karaoke fundraiser to raise dollars for the Sawyer Overman Ninja Park planned near Fort Recovery Community Park.

Steinbrunner explained students had the option last week to donate money in 13 buckets with staff members' names on them, raising \$1,250 for the cause. The three staff members who raised the most money were expected to sing karaoke Tuesday at a school assembly.

Also, Steinbrunner noted Fort Recovery FFA's Ag Tech Mechanical Systems team — Kyle Huntsman, Riley Grieshop, Luke Fortkamp and Alex Gaerke — placed first in the state at a competition in Wooster, Ohio. The team will advance to the nationals competition and represent Ohio in October.

In other business, school board members Mitch Fullenkamp, Sean Kahlig, Greg LeFevre, Nick Wehrkamp and Don Wendel:

•Agreed to meet at 6 p.m. Jan. 13 for an organizational meeting with the regular board meeting to follow and elected Don Wendel as president pro tem for the organizational meeting.

•OK'd Michelle Stammen's retirement from full-time teaching at Fort Recovery Local Schools after the end of the 2024-25 school year.

•Approved the following: (retroactively approved) an overnight trip for FFA members to attend state finals at Ohio State University Agricultural Techni-

cal Institute in Wooster, Ohio, from Dec. 4 to 5; paying a \$9,510.17 invoice from Vore's Welding for work done at Barrenbrugge Athletic Park; hiring Colleen Hiestand as a volunteer assistant softball coach; keeping Kristy Wehrkamp (Nick Wehrkamp abstaining) as a classified substitute for another semester; and renewing the Ohio School Boards Association membership for \$4,182.

•Accepted Brent Niekamp's resignation as weight room supervisor, effective immediately.

•Reappointed Fort Recovery Library trustees Eric Kaiser, Kim Niekamp, Matt Minor, Rose Hart, Alison Homan, Jack Diller and Abby Schmitz.

•Accepted donations, including \$800 from different sources for the Adopt-A-Family program.

### SERVICES

**Today**  
**Boughman**, Carolyn: 5 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

**Friday**  
**McDaniel**, Esther: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.  
**Moore**, Jerry: 2 p.m., Saphires Reception Center, 1100 Votaw St., Portland.

**Saturday**  
**Fennig**, Aaron: 10:30 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpshurg Road, Fort Recovery.

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The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Community champions

Jayland Partners on Saturday during its Winter Magic party honored Leland and Judy LeMaster — they are pictured above in center surrounded by Jayland Partners representatives — with the Larry Grier Community Champion award. The recognition is given to community members who have positively impacted the lives of people living with disabilities in Jay County. Leland and Judy LeMaster founded Special Day for Special People, an annual event at Jay County Fairgrounds.

## Exes check-in to a new phase of uncertainty

DEAR ABBY: I was with my ex-fiance for 13 years. Not long after he broke up with me, I found myself going to meet him at a hotel. We have been seeing each other regularly, once a week at least. We go out and enjoy our time together like we are dating.

The frustrating thing is, he doesn't want to let me know where he lives. He says it's a comfort thing for him to have "just his space." It has been a year and a half since our breakup. Anytime I ask about our situation, he says he doesn't know what he wants.

All of the things he does for me show he loves and cares about me. It feels like we are in this weird limbo, almost like he's stringing me along because he doesn't say if he ever wants to get back together. He says, "Why

Dear Abby



can't you just enjoy what we're doing?" I want more with him and better than we had before.

We were in a bad place before, and I didn't treat him well. I was going through things and took it out on him. In our time apart, no longer being a couple, I have worked on myself to become a happier and healthier person and have gotten my life in order. I love him very much, and I am hoping for more. Any advice? — SITUATIONSHIP IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR SITUATIONSHIP: When a person is secretive, they usually have something to hide. Because your not-quite-ex refuses to give you his address (after a year and a half!), it's likely he has someone living there with him. Before your engagement ended, you demonstrated that you could be abusive when you were stressed. That he doesn't want to risk another round of that is understandable.

From what you have written, he's enjoying things just the way they are. He doesn't WANT more. Because you do, you will have to find someone who can give you the future you're looking for. ....

DEAR ABBY: I am a straight male who likes wearing ladies' biker shorts under my shorts and pants. In the winter, I love wearing ladies' leggings and stockings because they keep my legs warm. I also love the way they feel. No one knows about me doing this. I've been in a relationship for many years, and my girlfriend doesn't know. Is it OK to wear these items? — SECRETIVE IN NEW YORK

DEAR SECRETIVE: From your description, you are what is defined as an undercover cross-dresser. By doing this, you are hurting no one. You are far from the only man who enjoys it. Yes, it's OK to continue as you have been doing. ....

DEAR ABBY: I have a brother-

in-law who, when he gives a hello or goodbye hug, wants to give a kiss on the lips. My wife doesn't want the kiss and turns her head away. He then proceeds to kiss her on the cheek, which she doesn't want either, especially when it's an open-mouth slobber. He does this with other sisters-in-law, and most of them turn their heads when he comes running with the pucker. How can we approach this situation without hurting his feelings or embarrassing him? — SMOOCHED IN WISCONSIN

DEAR SMOOCHED: May it be frank? People who are so insensitive that they fail to recognize when a kiss is unwanted NEED to be told directly that it is a turnoff. If that "embarrasses" the kisser, so be it. (Yuck!)

## Community Calendar

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

### Today

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

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

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

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-

based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

### Thursday

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

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

MISSISSINEWA CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION — Will meet at 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 19, at Jay County Historical Society. Call Kathy Selman at (260) 251-1694 or Sue Sommers at (260) 726-2678 for questions.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

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

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

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

### Friday

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

## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

### Tuesday's Solution

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

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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The Commercial Review

# The season brings back memories

*Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Dec. 17, 2014. In the years that followed, the company Christmas party got smaller and eventually became a thing of years past. Still, many of the names Jack mentions as board members were involved in our annual meeting last week. And many others were on hand for Carl Ronald's recent retirement party.*

## Back in the Saddle



By JACK RONALD  
The Commercial Review

It's inevitable, I suppose, that we get a bit sentimental and reflective during the holidays.

Every celebration brings echoes of past celebrations. Every toast brings to mind those who aren't here to raise their glasses. Every tradition reminds us of how each tradition was born.

Later this week, we'll have the company Christmas party. It's a little less rowdy than it used to be. There are fewer of us, for one thing, as the company has become leaner during challenging times. And many of us are older than we'd like to admit.

But it will still be a great celebration, and a part of that cele-

bration will require remembering those who won't be with us this year.

Two employees — Pam Brown at The News and Sun and The CR's advertising manager Jeanne Lutz — lost their husbands this year. Business manager Julie Swoveland lost her mother.

And all of us lost Millie Cavanaugh, who was a delight as an ad salesperson during the 1970s and 1980s, and her husband Paul, who always accompanied her to the Christmas dinner even when she was well into retirement.

It's a facile management cliché to refer to the company as family, but in our case, it's true. Or at least I hope so.

This company started in 1946

when my parents purchased The Redkey Times-Journal from Max Coble, whose daughter Billie Huggins was a popular Redkey figure for years. When he needed an editor for the little weekly paper, my father turned to his sister Jean, who had a small child and was coming off a divorce. She would later go on to marry Jim Luginbill, whose office was across the hall from my dad's at The Jay Garment Company. Jim would go on to be one of the best mayors in Portland's history and a member of the board of this company.

Last week, his son Craig joined the board, rounding out the circle. Craig joined Don and Hugh Hanlin, stepsons of the late Manon Felts who served as publisher before me. My two sisters, Linda and Louise, are also on the board. So is Steve Arnold, whose father, Dick, was general manager of this company as well as my mentor, my friend and my unofficial extra uncle. Rounding out the board is Frank Snyder, publisher of The Daily Standard in Celina, Ohio. Frank and I have known each other since child-

hood; our fathers could best be described as cronies.

As I said, it's a family. And the list goes on, especially for those of us with long enough memories.

I think of the Graphic Printing Company, and I think of:

- Frank Kenyon, whose photographs defined a Jay County generation.

- Quentin Imel, the light-hearted but often-frazzled printer and antique aficionado.

- Manon Felts, whose steadfast, thoughtful leadership I will always treasure.

- Jerry Lewis, the sharp-tongued, sharp-minded ad manager who knew I had a lot to learn.

- Jon Kimmel and Rita Pettinichio, two ad sales people we lost during a particularly rough time. Rita could be a tough cookie. Jon could be a softie, especially where other veterans were concerned.

- Barb Wilkinson, who hesitated about becoming managing editor then went on to do an excellent job, surprising even herself.

- And, of course, Tom.

I hired Tom Casey as a reporter back in the late 1970s and nearly fired him six weeks later. But a little talk put him back on track and he proved to be not only an excellent reporter but one of the most entertaining columnists we've ever published.

Not too many years after I almost fired him, I asked Tom to become managing editor when I assumed the duties of publisher. It was an entertaining choice.

Tom's Irish temper and flair for the dramatic made every typo cause for desk-slamming and bursts of profanity. But I loved the guy like a brother.

We'll remember all those folks this week at our Christmas party. We'll tell stories about those people and more. And at the end of the evening, we'll do something Tom suggested many years ago while he was dealing with cancer.

At the end of the party, we'll sing "Silent Night" together. Like family.

That's the way Tom would have wanted it. And that's the way it ought to be.

## Accused murderer shouldn't be admired

New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

The cold-blooded killing of Brian Thompson allegedly at the hands of Luigi Mangione is being spun by way too many people as some sort of courageous blow against corporate greed by a handsome folk hero whose shirtless picture has gone viral online.

Let's be clear here: Mangione isn't a champion of the people. He isn't Robin Hood. What he is accused of is being a cowardly murderer, plain and simple — shooting an unsuspecting person in the back.

He would also be an assassin and a terrorist, fitting the FBI's definition of "the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives." Mangione's victim, Thompson, is the person who should be getting sympathy.

You want to strike a blow against the greed of the health insurance industry?

Run for office. File a lawsuit.

Elect those willing to stand up to the industry.

Don't argue that picking up a gun and blowing someone away is the answer.

Last week, Thompson was walking into the Hilton Hotel on Sixth Ave. to speak before the annual investors meeting for the parent firm of UnitedHealthcare, where he was CEO.

He had no security and no reason to fear for his safety.

Thompson was shot in the back and taken to Mount Sinai West, at 10th Ave. and 59th St., which some New Yorkers still call Roosevelt Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Mangione did not attack ruthless insurance companies, which "delay, deny, defend," as was written on the ammo left at the murder scene. He did not strike a blow for consumers or patients.

## Guest Editorial

He did not effect change. What he did, if proved, was murder an unarmed, unguarded, middle-aged man, with a wife, now a widow and two teenage sons, now fatherless.

UnitedHealthcare, like all insurers, is hated by more than a few.

That's understandable, as we've all had beefs with insurers, but it doesn't call for premeditated murder.

Their practices can be objected to, they can be fought, legislation can be sought. But we can not, must not, ever condone the law of the jungle, where someone with a grudge — justified or not — acts as judge, jury and executioner.

What would be next, after health insurance employees?

There are plenty of occupations that someone or other objects to.

Should these jobs now also come with the risk of murder?

Or should personal disputes likewise be handled with a ghost gun and a 9mm slug in the back?

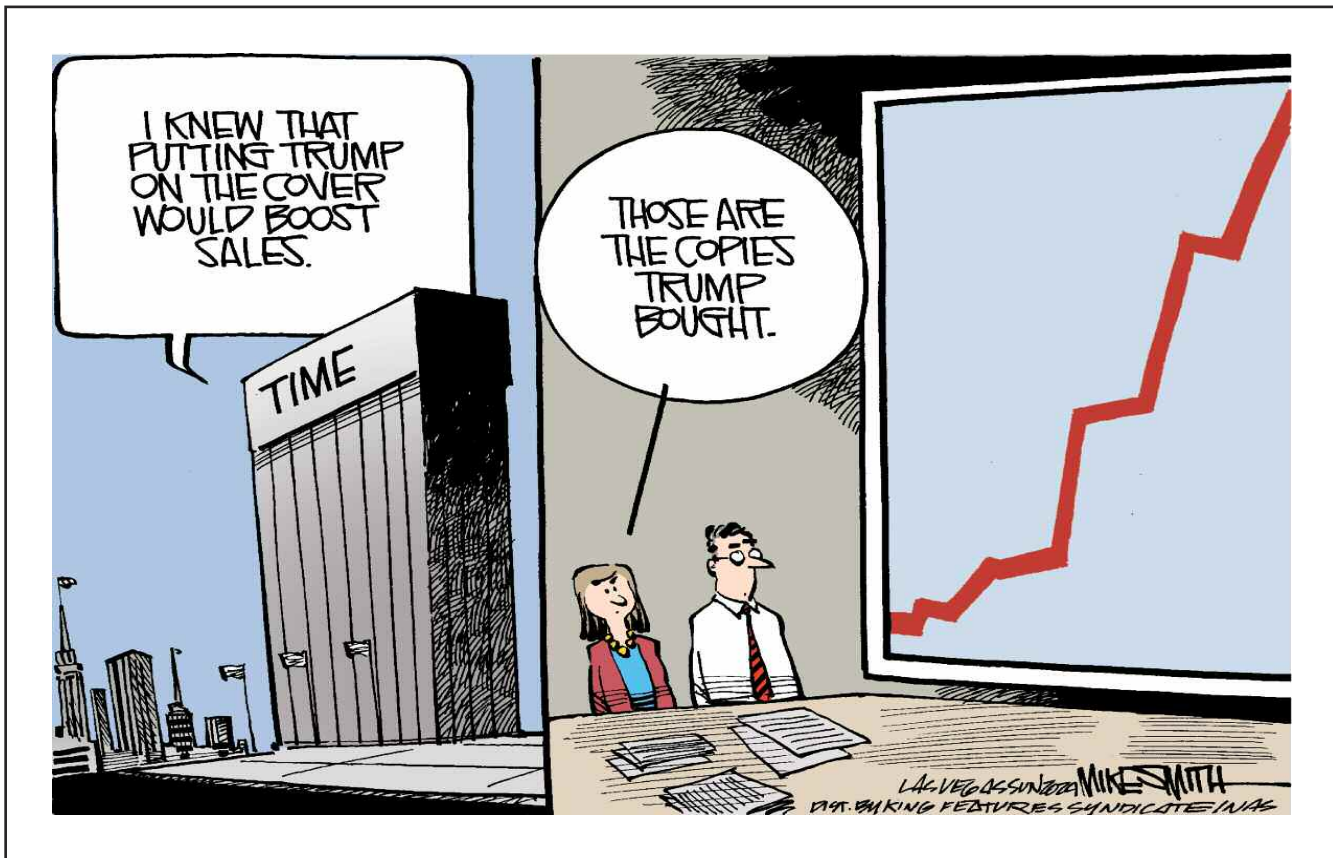
To root for Mangione as he fled the scene of the murder as the NYPD published the security cameras photos from the Upper West Side youth hostel and the yellow taxi sides with savage violence.

And now to rue his capture at the Pennsylvania McDonald's sides with lawlessness.

This murder should not commence a debate about insurance practices, but rather a debate about the lionization of a horrible, horrible act and the criminal mind that planned it so meticulously.

Mangione was a very smart young man who has now destroyed two lives, his own and Brian Thompson's, devastating their families.

That's not Robin Hood fighting against evil King John for the people.



## Remember the 2020 election

By JOHN M. CRISP  
Tribune News Service

My MAGA friends keep telling me to just get over it. Election 2020 is history, they say. Donald Trump has been reelected, and we should, as J.D. Vance put it when pressed on the 2020 election during the vice presidential debate, focus on the future.

But the 2020 election is as much about the future as it is the past. It's a mistake to just forget it. Here are three good reasons why:

First: Democracy is a rare and fragile institution. Others have made this point, but it's easy to forget. Our republic is probably the world's all-time best example of practical democracy, but it's naive to underestimate its fragility.

Our country depends on laws, rules, norms and traditions to keep our republic going, but laws and norms can take us only so far. The Founders recognized that a democracy depends heavily on the public commitment of citizens and leaders to the principle that the majority rules (usually) and that the will of the majority is determined by elections.

Rising authoritarians always resort to three tactics: (1) Convincing the citizenry to fear an external or internal threat (2) Demonizing the press and (3) Undermining confidence in elections.

Trump checks all three boxes, but the third is the biggest threat to democracy. A democratic nation might be fearful. It might distrust the press. But it cannot survive if its citizens do not have faith in their elections. Trump's persistent contention that the 2020 election was

rigged might be the tipping point that undoes the nation. It should be refuted at every turn.

Two: I refuse to get over the 2020 election until Trump gets over it. Before Kristen Welker asked Trump about the 2020 election in last week's "Meet the Press" interview, Trump himself brought it up, asserting that he actually won. (To be clear, he did not.)

Trump has a right to his private fantasy about the election, but its public expression isn't harmless to democracy, and it's especially threatening when he imposes it on others. Reporting from the New York Times last week indicates that applicants for high posts at the Pentagon or intelligence agencies in the Trump administration are required to answer a set of questions that represent a test of their loyalty to Trump. One of the questions asks if the applicant thinks the 2020 election was stolen. Evidently there's only one right answer.

In fact, to be associated with Trump, at all, requires public or tacit acceptance of his victory in 2020, which, if we want leaders who believe in democracy, pretty much disqualifies all of his nominees.

Three: Finally, the 2020 election is indeed in the past, but there will be another presidential election in 2028. Donald Trump probably won't

be on the ballot, but another Trump might be. Or, more likely, J.D. Vance.

In 2024, the nation chose Trump; the Democrats accepted it. President Joe Biden invited Trump for a two-hour meeting in the White House. Biden and Vice President Harris will attend Trump's inauguration. I suspect that most or all of the past presidents will attend, as well, in a public acknowledgment of the essential tenet of democracy: the peaceful transfer of power. A spokesperson for Jimmy Carter said that even he would attend, if he weren't in hospice.

But what if the nation changes its mind in 2028? Will the MAGA-fied Republican Party, thoroughly entrenched in power after four more years of judicial appointments, quietly accept a Democratic victory?

It doesn't seem likely. The willing relinquishment of power by the Republican Party in 2028 is hard to imagine, but the end of democracy is not.

If this happens, historians, to the extent that they can speak freely in a Trumpified America, will someday date the demise of American democracy not to 2028 or to Jan. 6, 2021, but, rather, to Election 2020, when Donald Trump began to convince too many Americans to either believe the Big Lie, to not necessarily believe it, but accept it anyway, or to just not care.

And that's why we must never forget that Trump tried to overturn the 2020 election.

.....  
*Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Texas and can be reached at jcrisp-columns@gmail.com.*

# The Commercial Review

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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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# Education, health care highlight budget requests

By WHITNEY DOWNARD  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

In the latest round of budget pitches, state agency heads detailed their funding requests before members of the General Assembly Monday, claiming victories and minimizing missteps over the last two-year budget cycle.

Indiana's lawmakers will convene in January to kickstart the 2025 legislative session, which will focus on crafting the next biennial budget. Nine additional departments presented before the State Budget Committee in Indianapolis, building upon the work of other agencies and higher education institutions from November.

Monday's meeting included baseline budgets, or budget data from the last few years. Budget pitches begin in earnest next month after analysts have time to absorb revenue forecast data, which is scheduled to be presented this week.

The Department of Education traditionally accounts for roughly half of the state's \$44 billion budget — though legislators previously cautioned that projected health care growth threatens that line item.

For the 2024 fiscal year, the agency received more than \$9.4 billion from general funds, and estimated a base budget of \$9.6 billion moving forward. Nearly all of that funding is funneled to schools in the form of tuition support, a calculation that includes the number of students in a given district with specialized needs, including students with disabilities, poverty status and English learners.

Katie Jenner, the secretary of education, will hold her position in the next administration and pointed to areas of progress—including small literacy gains and an increase in the average teacher salary — but said more work was needed.

"(Since) the last time I was here, we went up about 20,000 English learner students in Indiana. This is probably the most significant growth we've seen in any of our student population points," Jenner said.

The biggest teacher needs in the state were special education teachers, another growing population, followed by English learner educators, she added.

The highest English learner growth was concentrated in the cities of Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Elkhart, Goshen, Seymour, Columbus and Logansport, Jenner said. The state doesn't track student immigration status and has a duty to educate every student, regardless of their citizenship.

The biggest questions surrounding the Family and Social Services Administration budget pitches for various divisions — including Medicaid, which reported a nearly \$1 billion shortfall last year — will be answered later this week during a forecast presentation, noted Dan Rusyniak, who leads the agency.

More recently, the agency made news when it implemented another waitlist for child care vouchers after reporting a 40% in demand. With federal dollars from the COVID-19 era stimulus packages soon expiring, Rusyniak said the agency would need more funds to support the 75,000 families currently receiving services.

"We estimate we can support around 50,000 of those children in the next federal fiscal year," Rusyniak told lawmakers.

In the 2024 fiscal year, FSSA received \$5.1 billion from the General Assembly and \$2.3 billion in dedicated funds, compared to \$16.8 billion from the federal government.

# Holiday tunes

Fort Recovery Local Schools held its choir Christmas concert Sunday evening. Pictured, front row from left, are Lily Hernandez, Kaylor Wendel and Jazmyne Welling. Back row are Raya Androne, Trinity Rammel and Angel Serio.



Special to The Commercial Review/Kim Wendel

# Israel sees signs of breakthrough

By ETHAN BRONNER  
Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

Israeli officials say a ceasefire in Gaza is a more realistic prospect than at any time in the past year, suggesting a long-awaited deal to free hostages and boost aid to the beleaguered territory could be close.

A working group from Israel is in the Qatari capital of Doha this week to re-establish relations with mediators in the event of

a breakthrough in negotiations with Hamas, said the officials, asking not to be identified discussing sensitive information.

Their optimism has been reflected in recent comments by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's senior cabinet members. Defense Minister Israel Katz, speaking on Monday, said a truce is "closer than ever," while Foreign Minister Gideon Saar told hostage families he's

more upbeat than a month ago.

"There's a chance to reach a deal and, from what I know, it will involve all 100 hostages," Diaspora Affairs Minister Amichai Chikli said on Army Radio on Tuesday. "First the humanitarian cases and then the rest."

There's been no official comment from Hamas.

An agreement to at least pause the Israel-Hamas war would end more than a year of frustration, during

which talk of an imminent deal has bubbled up intermittently before swiftly collapsing. Negotiations are being mediated by Qatar and Egypt, with oversight from the U.S., and recent visits to the region from Washington officials may have helped advance the process.

Intensive Qatari and Egyptian efforts are underway "with all parties" to reach a truce in Gaza, Cairo-based broadcaster Extranews, which typically

represents government thinking, said on X on Tuesday.

The BBC cited an unidentified Palestinian official involved in the talks saying that they are in the final stages.

Details are mostly under wraps, but two Israeli officials said the ceasefire would come in stages, starting during the administration of outgoing U.S. President Joe Biden and continuing after Donald Trump takes office on Jan. 20.

# Testing ...

Continued from page 1  
"I told them I don't want to go into this just because it'll fit our needs right now, I need it to fit our needs for 20 years from now, maybe 30 years from now," said Diller.

He added the village will need to update its wastewater plan submitted to OEPA. (It currently lists plans to build and begin treating wastewater with a mechanical plant.)

Also Monday, council decided to meet at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 20 prior to their regular meeting to discuss a request for a zoning map amendment from Brandon and Amanda Wyerick for their property at 105

S. Elm St. They are utilizing the former church for their event center, Elm and Ivy, and hope to adjust the property from an R1 to C1 district per the zoning map.

Fort Recovery Planning Commission recently recommended council deny the map amendment but make a zoning text amendment to add a conditional use to the residential district, allowing for an event center on a conditional use with the requirement that it must be a commercial district, explained Diller. (Elm and Ivy does meet that requirement.)

Planning commission also recommended making changes to the C1 central commercial district,

explained Diller, prohibiting first floor residential use in a commercial building.

Diller pointed out Fort Recovery's last zoning text amendment was made in 2021, and the last map amendment was made in 2016.

In other business, council members Al Post, Cliff Wendel, Scott Pearson, Erik Fiely, Greg Schmitz and Luke Knapke:

•Authorized Ohio Department of Transportation to complete sidewalk and curb ramps within the village. (Plans are in the works to install sidewalk along the east side of Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School and con-

nect it to Sharpsburg Road. The project is partially funded through the Safe Routes to School grant funding program.)

•Transferred \$2,431.18 from the police grant reimbursement fund to the general fund, with fiscal officer Roberta Staugler explaining the money is used to pay for police trainings.

•Formally authorized village officers and employees on a third reading to spend additional village funds on amenities. The resolution allows village officers and employees to spend up to \$200 per occurrence on amenities.

•Approved the 2025 wage ordinance on a third reading.

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**SPEED BUMP** Dave Coverly

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane

**Contract Bridge** By Steve Becker

**Play now, pay later**

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ A K J 10 4 3  
 ♥ A 9  
 ♦ K Q 10  
 ♣ J 2

**EAST**  
 ♠ Q 9 6  
 ♥ 7 6 3 2  
 ♦ A J 3  
 ♣ 10 8 7

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ 7 2  
 ♥ K Q J 10 8 5  
 ♦ 8 6 4  
 ♣ A Q

The bidding:  
 South West North East  
 1♥ Pass 2♣ Pass  
 3♥ Pass 3♠ Pass  
 4♥ Pass 6♥

Opening lead—two of diamonds. **Bridge** is not the kind of game where a defender can play first, think later and expect to fare well. If he does, he will frequently have to pay the piper for his failure to think things through before proceeding.

**Consider the present** case from a duplicate game where West led a diamond against six hearts. East took dummy's queen with the ace and returned a club. South now had many different ways to play the hand, but he found the winning route.

**He took the club** return with the ace, drew trump, cashed the A-K of spades and ruffed a spade. Dummy's king of diamonds then provided the entry to cash the remaining spades, so declarer made the slam for a score of 1,430 points.

**Offhand, it might** seem that East-West were helpless in the matter, but that was not really the case. Had the defense functioned correctly, South would have lost the slam.

**The culprit** was East, who should not have taken his ace of diamonds at trick one. Had he instead played the three on dummy's queen, declarer's goose would have been cooked. No matter what South did from that point on, the contract would have failed. By ducking the queen of diamonds, East would have deprived declarer of a vital entry to dummy's spades after they had become established.

**Moreover, East could** tell at trick one—on examining the dummy, his own hand and West's fourth-best deuce-of-diamonds opening lead—that ducking the queen of diamonds offered a far better chance to stop the slam than did winning the queen with the ace. The one thing East could not afford to do was to win the opening lead with the ace and then start thinking about what to do next.

**Peanuts**

**Rose is Rose**

**Agnes**

**Hi and Lois**

**Between Friends**

**Blondie**

**Snuffy Smith**

**Beetle Bailey**

**Tomorrow:** Mum's the word.  
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**12-18 CRYPTOQUIP**

OJYW SJY BUENWH QPNCUUYF  
 OKQW'S PNCYSY QNUY CS  
 OKQ NR SE SJY DJKFFYWB,Y  
 C DUCYH, "BERJYU CS!"

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** IF A SWIMMING CREATURE'S INTELLIGENCE WERE FAR ABOVE THE AVERAGE, WOULD IT BE SO-FISH-TICATED?  
**Today's Cryptoquip Clue:** P equals Q

**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Jazzy Fitzgerald
  - 5 Em halves
  - 8 Band boosters
  - 12 Crucifix
  - 13 "Delicious!"
  - 14 Hay unit
  - 15 '90s dance craze
  - 17 Kilt wearer
  - 18 Pals in Mexico City
  - 19 Young hogs
  - 21 Moody music
  - 22 Frankfurt fellow
  - 23 \$ dispenser
  - 26 Canine greeting
  - 28 Steak choice
  - 31 Scottish hillside
  - 33 Historic time
  - 35 Unforeseen problem
  - 36 Washer phase
  - 38 More-over
- DOWN**
- 1 Gospel singer
  - 2 Clay-rich soil
  - 3 Places
  - 4 Maxim building
  - 6 Convent resident
  - 7 Big hit
  - 8 Soaks up
  - 9 Salad pasta
  - 10 Conspiracy
  - 11 Collections
  - 16 Capital of Italia
  - 20 All — up (anxious)
  - 23 "GMA" network
  - 24 Sample Popular laptops
  - 27 Monk's title
  - 29 D.C. baseballer
  - 30 Alter —
  - 32 Passes by
  - 34 "Sons of —" (FX series)
  - 37 Right angle
  - 39 Bottom-of-the-barrel bit
  - 42 May honorees
  - 44 Cairo's nation
  - 45 Sword handle
  - 46 "Garfield" dog
  - 48 Athletic shoe brand
  - 49 Carson's successor
  - 50 Work units
  - 53 Revue segment

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

POPE	FOB	FOP	OPS
UGLY	LOO	ODEA	
FREECO	OPY	OINK	
FED	EOS	IDEAS	
	FOR	ESC	
DALIS	SNO	OPER	
OLEG	CAD	URSA	
CASH	OUT	CREST	
	TRE	BAT	
REACT	POI	AWW	
TALL	FUNNY	CAR	
ESAU	ORE	ONCE	
SERB	XES	NEON	

Yesterday's answer 12-18

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									56		
57									59		

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## Splitting ...

Continued from page 8  
The girls team (2-2, 1-1 ACAC) only managed to win five of the 12 events, the most dramatic of which came from Byrum in the 500 freestyle.

The JCHS freshman, who normally swims in the sprint freestyle events and the butterfly, stayed nearly even with Arnold of South Adams, but trailed by about five feet with just 50 yards remaining. Byrum worked her way up to the SAHS senior and even regained the lead before the final turn, but Arnold reclaimed the lead coming off the wall. With just 25 yards remaining, Byrum got to work, pulling even with only half the pool left and just beating Arnold to the touch pad.

Byrum finished with a time of 6:04.38 to beat Arnold by 0.63 seconds.

"I just tried to keep a consistent pace the whole time and my counter, Carson Westgerdes, told me I did, so that was a good thing," Byrum said. "I just kept my head down like they told us during practice, just did not breathe and moved my arms as fast as I could."

The other four victories

for the girls came from Maddy Snow in the diving (207.25), Kaitlyn Fisher in the 100 butterfly (1:14.01), Avery Wentz in the backstroke (1:12.23) and the 200 medley relay team (2:09.62) of Wentz, Lauren Fisher, Byrum and Sophia Hoevel.

The Starfires pulled off two extra wins to total seven first-place finishes. Two key victories for South Adams came in the 200 freestyle relay and the 400 freestyle relay.

Both teams took the top two spots in one event each, the 100 backstroke for Jay County and the 100 freestyle for the Starfires, making the extra two first-place finishes and the relays all the more important for SAHS.

"Relays we came up a bit short on," Slavik said. "I didn't anticipate the one, but that's the way it goes. All-in-all, I'm happy with our performance. Coming up on the short end of the final score wasn't what I anticipated, but that's why they have to come out every meet and to try and score the points as a team. But individually, we did fine and I'm happy with our performances all the way around."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

David Keen swims the 200-yard freestyle for the Jay County boys as part of the 89-55 win at South Adams on Monday. Keen took second in the event with a time of 2 minutes, 21.52 seconds, and added a third-place finish in the 100 freestyle as well.

## Roundup ...

Continued from page 8  
The other first-place finish came from Brenna Ruble in the 115 weight class. The freshman pinned all five opponents she faced.

Finishing as the runners-up in their respective brackets classes were No. 5 Lina Lingo (135) and No. 9 Emily Manor (140). No. 4 Katie Rowles placed third in the 100-pound weight class, while Tatiana Willis did the same in the 110.

### Jay rolls

The Jay County Junior High School girls basketball teams rolled over Norside on Monday

for a 24-9 seventh grade victory and a 42-21 win for the eighth graders.

Boo Towell led the seventh graders with 16 points in the game that pushed the team to 8-2 on the season. Brenna Weitzel added four points, while Arabella Link and Bella Barnett each made one shot to reach the final score.

Karsyn Schwieterman dropped 28 points against Northside to lead the eighth graders (9-1). Charlee Peters finished one bucket short of double figures, finishing with eight points. Rounding out the score, Claudia Dirksen made

two shots and Alyvia Schwieterman added one.

### Cuts made

The Jay County Winter Swim Team hosted its own invite on Saturday, with multiple kids finding success in the pool.

Cooper Glentzer had a big day, adding two more state cuts in the 200-yard butterfly and the 100 butterfly. Glentzer needed to cut 9.87 seconds in the 200 butterfly and 3.18 in the 100 butterfly.

Ten tankers combined to make 17 new divisional cuts as well.

Isabelle Byrum (50 breaststroke, 100 backstroke, 100 freestyle) and Maria Laux (100 breaststroke, 200 breaststroke, 200 individual medley) led the way with three new divisional cuts each. Anna Fisher (50 breaststroke, 100 breaststroke), Hayden Guggenbiller (100 backstroke, 100 breaststroke), and Hailey Wenning (50 backstroke, 100 backstroke) each advanced in two events.

Others to make divisional cuts were Kynlee Homan and Jaley Knapschafer in the 50 freestyle, Emme Theurer in the 50 butterfly, Maddie Theurer in the 100 breaststroke and

Grant Glentzer in the 200 butterfly.

High point winners were:

- Hayden Guggenbiller and Maddie Theurer – 8-and-younger girls
- Nolan Homan – 8-and-younger boys
- Carsyn Guggenbiller – 9-10-year-old girls
- Addyson Champ – 11-12-year-old girls
- Kali Wendel – 13-14-year-old girls
- Cooper Glentzer – 13-14-year-old-boys
- Aubrey Millspaugh – 15-and-older girls

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Thursday**  
Jay County — Girls basketball (varsity only) at New Castle — 7:30 p.m.; Freshmen boys basketball vs. Muncie Central — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball vs. Southern Wells — 6 p.m.; Junior High girls basketball at Southern Wells — 6

p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball at Parkway (varsity only) — 6 p.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
5:30 p.m. — College football: Western Kentucky v. James Madison (ESPN)

7 p.m. — College basketball: Xavier at UConn (FS1); Memphis at Virginia (ESPN2)

7 p.m. — NHL: Philadelphia Flyers at Detroit Red Wings (TNT)

8 p.m. — College basketball: Wofford at Saint Louis (FDSN Indiana)  
9 p.m. — College football: Cal at

### UNLV (ESPN)

9 p.m. — College basketball: Butler at Marquette (FS1); Oklahoma at Michigan (ESPN2)

10 p.m. — College basketball: CSU Northridge at USC (BTN)  
11 p.m. — College basketball: Washington State at Washington (FS1)

### Thursday

6:30 p.m. — College volleyball final four: Louisville at Pitt (ESPN)  
7 p.m. — College football: Georgia Southern at Sam Houston (ESPN2)  
7 p.m. — NBA: Oklahoma City Thunder at Orlando Magic (TNT)  
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Clip-

pers at Dallas Mavericks (ABC)  
9 p.m. — College volleyball final four: Penn State at Nebraska (ESPN)  
9:30 p.m. — NBA: New York Knicks at Minnesota Timberwolves (TNT)

.....  
To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.com.

### 90 SALE CALENDAR

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Saturday December 19th, 2024  
TIME 5:00 P.M.  
LOCATED: 1854 W SR 28

Ridgeville, IN.  
**OPEN HOUSE** Sunday Dec. 8th & Sunday Dec. 15th 1-3p.m. or for private showing phone auctioneers.

**REAL ESTATE**  
37 Acres in Section 7, Ward Twp., Randolph County, IN. Offered in 1 parcel. Improvements to include 2 Bedroom brick ranch home with 1124 sq. ft. finished living 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. OWNER: Winningham Family

Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.

**SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE**  
AC31800004  
AUCTIONEERS  
Zane Shawver  
Lic. #AU10500168  
260-729-2229  
Pete D. Shawver  
Lic. #AU19700040  
260-726-5587

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

**130 MISC. FOR SALE**

**PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE** Various sizes and prices. Call The

### 130 MISC FOR SALE

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. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.

**190 FARMERS COL-UMN**

**AG RENTAL Spreaders:** BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309

**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,

**250 PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Public Notice**  
NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Jay County, Indiana that the proper legal officers of Jay County Council at the Jay County Court House, at 6:00 o'clock p.m., on the 8th day of January, 2025 will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year.

	Amount Approved
OCRA-OOR	
8127-001-30-0148 Professional Services	\$1,000,000.00
ARP-2021 CLFRF	
8950-001-30-0148 Professional Services- REA	\$243,852.57
8950-001-30-0148 Professional Services- Ritter	\$145,500.00
8950-001-40-0020 Financial Software	\$326,521.00
8950-001-40-0032 Highway- Bridge Repair	\$244,189.80
8950-001-40-0085 Body/ Car Cameras	\$264,626.00
Total	\$2,224,689.37

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

Emily Franks  
Jay County Auditor  
CR/NS 12-18-2024 -HSPAXLP

### 200 FOR RENT

**PIEDMONT APARTMENTS**, 778 W 7th Street, Portland, Indiana, accepting applications for 1, 2, 3 bedroom apartments, no application fee. Rent base on 30% of your gross income. Call 260-726-2920, TDD 800-743-3333. This is an Equal Opportunity Housing Complex. This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

**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

**250 PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Public Notice**  
STATE OF INDIANA  
COUNTY OF JAY  
IN RE THE JAY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT  
CASE NO.  
38-C01-2411-MI-58  
IN RE THE MATTER OF:  
SAMANTHA JEAN WAGNER  
Name of Minor  
Hillary Ann Lessing  
By Next Friend

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME  
Notice is hereby given that, Hillary Ann Lessing, Next Friend of minor child, self-represented, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name on November 8, 2024 to change the name of SAMANTHA JEAN WAGNER to SAMANTHA JEAN LESSING. The petition is scheduled for hearing in the Jay County Circuit Court on January 2nd, 2025 at 1 PM, which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Ant person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date.

11-8-24  
Date  
Jon Eads  
Clerk, Jay County Circuit Court  
CR 12-4,11,18-2024-HSPAXLP

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419-678-5318,  
www.sycamore.space.com

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### 260 PUBLIC AUCTION

## Public Notice

Legal Notice  
Notice is hereby given that the following is a list of approved deduction applications that were allowed in the County Jay, Indiana, for 2024 pay 2025

Name & Address	Deduction Amount	Years	Approving Body
Real Property			
FORT RECOVERY INDUSTRIES INC 710 E 100 N, Portland, Indiana 47371	\$288,427.00	10	Portland City Council
Commercial Electric Company 600 E. Votaw PO Box 1266, Portland, Indiana 47371	\$13,000.00	10	Portland City Council
St. Henry Tile Co DBA Berne Ready Mix 86 E 100 N, Portland, Indiana 47371	\$35,441.00	10	Portland City Council
NextEra Energy Bluff Point LLC 380 W 800 S, Portland, Indiana 47371	\$99,840.00	10	Jay County Council
Minnich Poultry 8657 E 300 N, Portland, Indiana 47371	\$3,638,400.00	3	Jay County Council
RAMLEON HOLDINGS LLC 9885 W SR 67, Redkey, Indiana 47373	\$141,120.00	10	Redkey Town Council
RAMLEON HOLDINGS LLC 304 W High St, Portland, Indiana 47371	\$23,040.00	10	Portland City Council
FCC (Jaytec) 555 Industrial Dr, Portland, IN 47371	\$309,140.00	10	Portland City Council
SSS Land Group 400 Industrial Dr, Dunkirk IN 47336	\$89,667.00	10	Dunkirk City Council
Total:	\$4,638,075.00		

Personal Property Abatements			
Commercial Electric 600 E Votaw St, Portland IN 47371	\$72,560.00	5	Portland City Council
FCC INDIANA MFG LLC 555 Industrial Dr, Portland, Indiana 47371	\$3,060,510.00	5	Portland City Council
Fisher Packing Company 9885 W HWY 67, Redkey, Indiana 47373	\$347,390.00	5	Redkey Town Council
Priority Plastics Inc 500 Industrial Park Portland, Indiana 47371	\$3,893,050.00	5	Portland City Council
Tyson Mexican Original PO Box 2020, Springdale, IN	\$2,132,130.00	5	Portland City Council
FORT RECOVERY INDUSTRIES INC 710 E 100 N, Portland, Indiana 47371	\$857,650.00	5	Portland City Council
Nextera Energy Bluff Point 700 Universal Blvd PSX/JB, Juno Beach, Florida 33408	\$15,409,976.00	10	Jay County Council
Bitter Ridge Wind Farm LLC 1805 29th St. St 2050, Boulder, CO 80301	\$39,973,108.00	10	Jay County Council
Pioneer Equipment 215 E Lincoln Ave, Portland IN 47371	\$490,900.00	5	Portland City Council
Pioneer Warehousing LLC 1505 N Wayne St Portland IN47371	\$624,100.00	5	Portland City Council
Total:	\$66,861,374.00		
Grand Total:	\$71,499,449.00		

I, Emily Franks, certify the above to be a list of deductions approved for the year 2024 in Jay County, Indiana, and published pursuant to IC 6-1.1-12.1-8

Emily Franks  
Auditor Jay County

CR/NS 12-18-2024-HSPAXLP

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# Sports

## Splitting with Starfires

### JCHS boys secure first victory, girls lose tight race

By ANDREW BALKO  
The Commercial Review

BERNE — Brooklynn Byrum and Julia Arnold were in a heated battle as the 500-yard freestyle came down to the wire.

With one final push, the Patriot freshman took down the Starfire senior. But while the Patriot girls won a close battle, they could not take the meet.

The Patriot boys however, walked away with their first victory of the season.

The Jay County High School boys swim team picked up its first win of the season over the South Adams Starfires 89-55, while the girls fell 93-85.

"I thought the boys had a great night tonight," said JCHS coach Matt Slavik. "Everybody is swimming off events and came through and dropping time again. The boys are looking really good, so they had an outstanding night tonight and should be very proud."

The Patriots (1-3, 1-1 Allen County Athletic Conference) have struggled to beat teams due to low numbers this season, but with South Adams only carrying six boy swimmers, Jay County actually had an advantage.

With neither boys team having a diver available for the meet, Jay County's six victories finished



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Aubrey Millspaugh, a senior on the Jay County High School girls swim team, competes in the 200-yard individual medley in Monday's 93-85 loss at South Adams. Millspaugh's time of 2 minutes, 38.12 seconds netted her second place in the event.

one ahead of the Starfires. It got three victories from freshman as Cooper Glentzer took the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2 minutes, 22.01 seconds and the 100 butterfly in 1:01.67, while Carson Westgerdes finished first in the 100 backstroke with a 1:08.75.

JCHS picked up first-place finishes in two of

the three relays as Matthew Fisher, Westgerdes, Glentzer and Peyton Yowell combined to take the 200 medley relay in 1:56.22 and the 400 freestyle relay in 3:56.08.

Yowell also claimed the 500 freestyle event over teammate Lincoln Clamme. The two stayed nearly even throughout the race with Clamme (6:20.34) pulling ahead

with about 75 yards left and Yowell (6:19.61) reclaiming the lead at the wall. The race was one of two events the Patriots claimed the top two spots and one of seven events in which they earned two of the top three spots.

"Us boys just work super good as a team with the new boys we've got in," said Clamme. "I feel like this year, in my

high school career so far, the best team we've had. ... It's awesome how we've come together. Even like when Peyton beat me by a couple of strokes, I mean, we're still a team you know? So it feels good that we're working together and getting these points for the boys team and trying our hardest."

See **Splitting** page 7

## Jay girls wrestling wins five brackets to claim invitational

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio — The Patriots are no strangers to individual success.

When multiple came together, it made for an even bigger success.

The Jay County High School girls wrestling team ran away with first place at the Dream-catcher Invitational hosted by Northwestern on Saturday.

The Patriots won five weight classes, finished as the runner-up in two more and took third place twice to total 279 team points. The next closest school in the 23-team field was Indian Lake, which finished with 193.5 points.

Jay County dominated the upper weight classes winning the four heaviest brackets.

Maleah Parsons (145-pound) took the lowest of the four consecutive weight classes, amassing five pins on the day, including four in the first period. Just one step up, Madison Gage did the same in the 155 bracket. Four of Gage's pins came in the second period, while one was in the first.

No. 1 Mallory Winner cruised to the 170 pound championship, while five round robin victories earned No. 5 Amara Crawford the 190 title.

See **Roundup** page 7

**HIGHLY SKILLED HEART SURGERY**  
EXPANDED CARE TEAM IN MUNCIE

If a serious heart issue arises, care that's close to home can make all the difference. We've expanded our leading-edge cardiovascular surgery services at Indiana University Health Ball Memorial Hospital. Our highly skilled team is nearby to provide the best possible care for your unique needs. And because we're partnered with IU School of Medicine, you'll have access to the latest clinical trials, therapies and innovative treatments.

Learn more at [iuhealth.org/CV-Ball](http://iuhealth.org/CV-Ball) or call **765.747.3883**.