

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Board OKs one request, denies another

City will cover bill for sewer work, rejects ask for water help

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Two lengthy discussions about requests for assistance from the city brought different results.

Portland Board of Works during its first meeting of 2025 on Thursday agreed to reimburse a resident for plumbing work related to a disconnected sewer line. It denied a request from a downtown business owner to extend a water line.

Rayburn Drive resident Miranda Layton explained to the board that her sewer line was cut off when a neighbor put in a new line this fall. She said the neighbor was having repeated problems and was advised by the city to install a new line.

She said problems at her house surfaced last month and resulted in a call to Roto-Rooter, which identified the issue. The city has since put in a new sewer line.

The discussion went in circles regarding liability, with Layton saying a city employee told her the bill would be taken care of. She noted that she did not have anything to do with the work that cut off her line, but is now stuck with the bill.

"I know it's not the Layton family's fault," said wastewater department superintendent Brad Dues.

Board of works member Jerry Leonhard asked if anyone had talked with the neighboring property owner Dylan Marentes. Dues said he had, but only for permission to run the new line that now services both houses.

Board of works members Steve McIntosh, Mayor Jeff Westlake and Leonhard voted unanimously to cover the \$350 bill from Roto-Rooter.

Hawkins Galleria owner Emily Goodrich returned to the board of works to request assistance with extending a water line from the north side of her building to the four water meters that are inside the structure.

See Board page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Shop struck

Portland firefighters and Barnett's Wrecker Service stabilize and clear debris at T.J.'s Bicycle, Moped Sales and Service after Adam Hartvig, 40, Decatur, allegedly crashed his truck into the building at 7:36 p.m. Friday. Video footage from adjacent Portland Police Department showed a northbound truck swerving across lanes on Meridian Street (U.S. 27) before crashing into the side of the building owned by Tim Miller. Hartvig sustained minor injuries, and he was taken to IU Health Jay for further examination. Portland Police Chief Dustin Mock noted Friday the accident was under investigation but that authorities presumed alcohol to be a contributing factor in the accident.

Biden vetoes Nippon Steel deal

By JACOB FISCHLER
States Newsroom
statesnewsroom.com

President Joe Biden announced early Friday he will block the sale of U.S. Steel to the Japanese company Nippon Steel, in one of the last acts of his presidency.

Biden had said that U.S. Steel should remain a domestically owned and operated company, so the order was not a surprise. The White House in December called for "serious scrutiny" of the \$14.1 billion deal, which was under review by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, an executive branch body.

"We need major U.S. companies representing the major share of US steelmaking capacity to keep leading the fight on behalf of America's

Sale was valued at \$14.9 billion

national interests," Biden said in a Friday statement. "As a committee of national security and trade experts across the executive branch determined, this acquisition would place one of America's largest steel producers under foreign control and create risk for our national security and our critical supply chains.

"So, that is why I am taking action to block this deal. It is my solemn responsibility as President to ensure that, now and

long into the future, America has a strong domestically owned and operated steel industry that can continue to power our national sources of strength at home and abroad; and it is a fulfillment of that responsibility to block foreign ownership of this vital American company. U.S. Steel will remain a proud American company — one that's American-owned, American-operated, by American union steelworkers — the best in the world," he said.

The sale, which was valued at \$14.9 billion when accounting for assumption of debt, was opposed by the United Steelworkers International union, a powerful labor group that had continually urged Biden, who saw union workers as a key part of his political coalition, to keep U.S. Steel domestically owned. The union renewed that request in a Wednesday social media post.

In a Friday statement, USW President David McCall thanked Biden and said the union members had "no doubt that it's the right move for our members and our national security."

"We're grateful for President Biden's willingness to take bold action to maintain a strong domestic steel industry and for

his lifelong commitment to American workers," McCall said. "Moving forward, we're confident that with responsible management, U.S. Steel will continue to support good jobs, healthy communities and robust national and economic security well into the future."

U.S. Steel and Nippon Steel issued a joint statement that the companies were "dismayed" with the decision and vowed to "take all appropriate action to protect" their legal rights.

Indiana's Gary Works is U.S. Steel's largest manufacturing plant, according to the company's website. It can handle more than 7.5 million net tons of raw steel annually. The site has more than 4,300 employees, per Fox Business.



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Chip Modeviva

U.S. Rep. Mike Johnson, R- Louisiana, left, turns to thank his caucus after he was re-elected speaker of the House on the first day of the 119th Congress in the House Chamber of the U.S. Capitol Building on Monday in Washington, D.C.

Johnson re-elected speaker

By DAVE GOLDNER
New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

House Speaker Mike Johnson won reelection on the first ballot Friday after the Republican leader wrangled final support from a few reluctant right-wing hardliners.

Johnson, who enjoyed the support of President-elect Donald Trump, won the vote by 218-215, with only one GOP lawmaker, Rep. Tom Massie of Kentucky, voting against him.

Two other GOP lawmakers, Rep. Ralph Norman of South Carolina and Rep. Keith Self of Texas, originally voted against Johnson, leaving his path to victory unclear. But

they flipped and supported him after about an hour of backroom horse-trading.

A handful of far right-wing Republicans, including House Freedom Caucus chair Rep. Andy Harris, R-Maryland, stayed silent as their names were called, suggesting they

might not back Johnson, before all of them eventually voted for the GOP leader.

The win amounted to a victory for Trump, who gave Johnson a boost as he faced the tricky vote for reelection in the narrowly divided Congress.

Republican lawmakers flip votes to put Louisiana representative over top

Deaths

Carl Gilbert, 62, Saratoga
Philip Hartman, 20, Portland
Ruth Ann Hunt, Dayton, Ohio
Katherine Boice, 36, Salamanca
Rex Ferguson, 68, Celina, Ohio
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 27 degrees Friday. Today's forecast calls for partly cloudy skies with a high in the lower 20s. Snow is expected Sunday with moderate accumulation in the forecast for Sunday night. More snow is possible Monday. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

United Way of Jay County and Second Harvest Food Bank will partner to host a food tailgate from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday at Jay County Fairgrounds. Income verification is not required.

Coming up

Tuesday — Results from the JCHS boys basketball game against Muncie Central.
Wednesday — Coverage of next week's Portland City Council meeting.
Thursday — Details from next week's JCHS wrestling match against Coldwater.



Obituaries

Carl Gilbert

Aug. 29, 1962-Jan. 1, 2025
Carl Gilbert, 62, Saratoga, died Wednesday at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie.
Arrangements are pending at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

Philip Hartman

May 28, 2004-Jan. 2, 2025
Philip A. Hartman, age 20, of Portland passed away on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025, at his residence.
He was born in Portland on May 28, 2004, the son of James and Robin (Lake) Hartman.
Philip worked at Crossroads Financial Federal Credit Union. Philip was a 2023 Jay County High School graduate and was involved in show choir and Jay County Civic Theatre. He

enjoyed fishing and target shooting.
Surviving are his parents, Jim and Robin Hartman of Portland; sister Mary Hartman of Bloomington; grandparents Bob and Joyce Lake of Portland; and several aunts and uncles.
Memorial services will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Steve Austin presiding. Family will receive guests from 5 to 7 p.m.
Memorials can be made to choice of the donor.
Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Ruth Ann Hunt

Ruth Ann Wurst Wirsching Hunt went home to God on the morning of Thursday, Dec. 19, 2024.
She passed at Kauhale Center-

ville after an extended struggle with Alzheimer's recently complicated by the flu.
In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Miami Valley Alzheimer's Association.
A celebration of life for Ruth Ann will take place on Sunday, Jan. 12, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. at the Covenant Presbyterian Church, 415 N. Main St., Springboro, Ohio, with a reception to follow at the church.
Ruth Ann was predeceased by her birth mother, Anna Wurst; and her adoptive parents, Robert and Mildred Wirsching; as well as her older brother, Col. Robin Wirsching, USMC.
Ruth Ann married Dale Hunt on Sept. 4, 1965, a bit more than 59 years ago. She is survived by



Hunt

her husband; and three sons, Robert (wife: Anne), Thomas (wife: Tina) and Paul (wife: Missie); as well as nine grandchildren, Sydney, Kelston, Mitchel, Ben, Kyle, Grace, Shaun, Lillian and Elias.
Ruth Ann was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church and was active in the Tri Kappa sorority and her Presbyterian Women activities. She retired from the Jay County Hospital billing office in 1999 and has resided in Ohio ever since. She is a 20-year breast cancer survivor and was involved for several years in the Relay for Life.
Ruth Ann was a devoted and beloved wife, mother and grandmother. She loved the Cincinnati Reds and Indiana University basketball, and she was loved and admired by everyone who knew her. As a teen, she was a lifeguard, GAA Athlete, senior

girl scout and an undefeated drag racer in her father's 1956 Olds 88.
Katherine "Katie" Boice, Salamononia, July 28, 1988-Dec. 20, 2024. Services will be at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home.
Rex Ferguson, Celina, Ohio, the brother of a Portland resident, died Tuesday. Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at W.H. Dick & Sons-Hellwarth Funeral Home in Celina, Ohio.

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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.
There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Sunday 1/5	Monday 1/6	Tuesday 1/7	Wednesday 1/8	Thursday 1/9
26/20	27/15	28/15	22/8	20/13
Mostly cloudy on Sunday, when there's a 40% chance of snow.	Monday's forecast shows mostly cloudy skies with a 50% chance of snow.	Tuesday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with lows dipping into the teens.	Mostly sunny skies on Wednesday, when the low at night may hit 8 degrees.	Mostly sunny skies on Thursday, when the low may dip into the teens.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 1-2-7 Daily Four: 2-9-8-5 Quick Draw: 3-7-21-22-31-33-38-39-43-53-55-56-58-61-63-64-67-73-76-77	Pick 3: 8-4-9 Pick 4: 1-1-2-8 Pick 5: 8-5-9-7-8
Ohio Midday	Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$200 million
	Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$42 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.55 Feb. corn4.57 March corn4.59	Feb. beans9.94 Wheat4.79
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.54 Feb. corn4.57 March corn4.59	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.44 Feb. corn4.45 Beans.....9.83 Feb. beans9.87 Wheat4.89
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.48 Feb. corn4.48 Beans.....9.87	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.55 Feb. corn4.55 Beans.....9.62 Feb. beans9.67 Wheat4.69

Today in history

In 1643, Isaac Newton was born in Woolsthorpe, Lincolnshire, England. Newton became a pioneer in the Enlightenment period, creating the laws of gravity and inventing calculus.
In 1809, Louis Braille was born near Paris, France. He developed the writing system used today by people who are blind or otherwise visually impaired.
In 1853, Solomon Northrup legally obtained his freedom after having been kidnapped and sold into slavery, where he remained for a dozen years. He later wrote about the experience in his 1853 book, "Twelve Years a Slave."
In 2007, Nancy Pelosi was elected speaker of the House of Representatives.
In 2013, Jay County boys basketball team rolled to a 76-23 win against visiting Mississinewa Indians, setting a new record for their margin of victory at 53 points. Leading the Patriots were Brock McFarland and Scott Schwieterman, who scored 24 and 21 points, respectively.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 Floral Ave., Portland. 5:15 p.m. — Jay School Corporation Board of Finance, General Shanks, 414 Floral Ave., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St., Portland. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamononia Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.
Tuesday 5:30 p.m. — Portland	Wednesday 7 a.m. — Jay County Board of Health, Jay County Health Department, 504 W. Arch St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Board ...

Continued from page 1
The building has had a problem with a "shoot-off" line that can no longer be repaired. The city agreed in November to run a new line that would bypass the shoot-off.
Goodrich explained that she visited Portland Redevelopment Commission, which agreed to contribute \$1,500 toward the estimated \$7,000 to \$8,000 to connect that new line to the meters, and that the group suggested she return to the board of works to request additional help from the city.
Water department superintendent Doug Jackson said the city's responsibility ends at the "curb stop" alongside the building, as is the case with most water departments. (He provided documentation from other municipalities and Indiana American Water.)
Jackson noted that the water meters were placed inside the building at the request of previous owner Barry Hudson as a cost-saving measure. He added that there are about 100 such buildings with water meters inside, with Westlake men-

tioning John Jay Center for Learning as an example.
"If you do it for one, you're going to have to do it for 100 others," said Jackson.
The board voted unanimously against providing any further assistance.
In other business, the board:
•Awarded a potential street paving project to Brooks Construction of Fort Wayne at a cost of \$731,658. The city is seeking Indiana Department of Transportation Community Crossings grant funding to pave sections of Williams, Maple/Mangold, Shank, Ship, Franklin, 7th, North, 1st, Garfield, Munson, Hayes and Charles streets, Jaqua and Western avenues, Silvers Lane, Tyson Road and Wayside Place. The grant process has changed, requiring projects to be bid and awarded before they are considered for grant funding.
•Tabled discussion of the potential sale of the lots at 208 and 210 N. Meridian St. The buildings at those locations were demolished last year and adjoining property owner LeeAnn Miller has expressed interest in buy-

ing the lots. City attorney Wes Schemenaur explained that the lots have an assessed value of \$6,100 each. In order to sell them, the city would need to post public notice of their availability for at least 10 days. The board decided to table the issue to consider its options.
•Increased the amount of the city's Indiana Law Enforcement Academy reimbursement agreement with new police officers to \$20,000 from the previous \$14,997. Police Chief Dustin Mock said the total cost of sending employees to the academy has increased significantly, which led to his request for the change.
•Approved a six-month sewage fee waiver for Lisa Derrickson, who owns a house on county road 200 South that was damaged in the September tornado. She said it is currently unlivable because of structural damage but that she is already working with a contractor toward repairing the house.
•Wrote off \$805.31 in debt that is more than two years old.
•Wrote off \$632.33 in outstanding checks that are more than two years old.

Felony arrests

Common nuisance
Two Portland residents were arrested Thursday for maintaining a common nuisance and related charges.
Harley H. Golder, 29, 624 Katelynn Place, was preliminarily charged with three Level 6 felonies for maintaining a common nuisance, possession of methamphetamine and unlawful possession of a syringe, as well as a Class A misdemeanor for posses-

sion of paraphernalia. Golder was being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.
Lissy M. McCord, 25, 624 Katelynn Place, was preliminarily charged with two Level 6 felonies for maintaining a common nuisance and possession of methamphetamine, and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. She was released from Jay County Jail on a \$4,500 bond.

Capsule Reports

Re-elected
Portland Plan Commission met briefly Thursday evening and re-elected Bart Darby as its president, Kent McClung as vice president and Jerry Alexander as secretary.
It also appointed Steve McIntosh as its representa-

tive to Jay County Plan Commission and Pati McLaughlin as recording secretary.
Merging crash
An Albany woman's vehicle struck a Portland woman's vehicle on Meridian Street about 3:27 p.m. Monday.
Kathy J. Phillips, 72, was driving her 2018 Toyota Rav4 north on the road near its intersection with Main Street in Portland when she began to merge into the lane next to her. She didn't see a 2015 Honda Crosstour driven by 20-year-old Adriana R. Aker next to her and the vehicles collided. Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

SERVICES

Monday
Ferguson, Rex: 11 a.m., W.H. Dick & Sons-Hellwarth Funeral Home, 218 W. Market St., Celina, Ohio.
Havens, Margo: 2 p.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

Tuesday
Barnes, Larry: 1 p.m., Winchester Presbyterian Church, 201 E. Franklin St., Winchester.

Wednesday
Boice, Katherine: 4:30 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
Hartman, Philip: 7 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Sunday, Jan. 12
Hunt, Ruth Ann: 1:30 p.m., Covenant Presbyterian Church, 415 N. Main St., Springboro, Ohio.

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

JANUARY Specials

1/4-page **COLOR** ad
\$225

1/4-page **B&W** ad
\$175

Ask us about pick-up rates!

Rates do not apply to special sections. Ads must run in January.

The Commercial Review

GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

Contact Lindsey at
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or (260) 726-8141

Jay County Development Corporation

NOW SEEKING: Executive Director of Economic Development

Responsibilities include serving as the principal industrial/business promoter by providing support for new growth and promoting new enterprises to locate in Jay County, providing leadership and support to develop and implement county-wide plans, and developing ties among Jay County communities and organizations. This position requires a bachelor's degree in economics, business administration, industrial engineering, or related field with a minimum of three years' experience in related field.

Interested candidates may see a full job description or learn more at www.jaycountydevelopment.org or by calling 260-726-9311. Resumes may be mailed to 118 S Meridian St, Ste B, Portland, IN 47371 or emailed to jhayes@jaycodev.org.

Making food broke spell

By DANIEL NEMAN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Tribune News Service

I didn't actually have to make the butter myself. The idea started out as a joke, anyway. But the more I thought about it — and I didn't think about it too long — the better the idea seemed. So I went ahead and made the butter.

It's easy to do. Maybe not as easy as going to the store and buying butter, which I already had in the fridge anyway, but it's still pretty easy.

The impulse to make butter came at a time when I was feeling personally dispirited. I have these moments every now and then, when I think about aging and mortality and the prospect of fading into irrelevance.

I was really feeling it recently, as is evident from the original version of my weekly column. A recent column did not end the way I first wrote it. The original ending, which I thought I'd probably delete, reflected this existential despair.

My editor read it and sent me an email that said, and I quote, "Dear god!!!"

Obviously, I needed something to jolt me out of my mood.

Obviously, I needed to cook. And not just something small. I needed to spend the entire day in front of the stove. It's therapy.

We've had some beef bones in the freezer, taking up room until I felt motivated enough to turn them into soup. On this particular day I felt motivated.

I decided to make a beef soup, a standard, ordinary beef soup, with chunks of beef in it and onions, carrots, celery, tomatoes and potatoes.

I happened to mention that I'd made it to my mother, and she said, "So it's beef stew, but with more liquid?"

So it wasn't terribly ambitious. So what? It was hearty and just what I wanted. Besides, I made my own stock from the bones, and that takes a little bit of effort and considerably more time than I had remembered. I probably hadn't made it since last winter.

The stock was easy. I simmered the bones in a large pot with water and more carrots, onions and celery, plus peppercorns, garlic, parsley and a fresh bay leaf from my tree that I put in for just 10 minutes — fresh bay leaves are very strong, just as dried bay leaves are basically useless.

I simmered the stock for what turned out to be several hours, and I stood over it for at least the first hour or two, skimming off all the scum that rose to the top. In time, the stock grew darker and darker, and more and more flavorful.

But man cannot live by soup alone, and besides, I needed more cooking to cleanse my soul. So I made the natural accompaniment to beef soup, a loaf of bread.

I have a few go-to breads that I perhaps go to too often, so I determined to make a loaf that I had only made once before, eight years ago. I actually had no recollection of making it until I found an old story I had written about it, but once I read the story I remembered the loaf, sort of.

The Hearty Country Bread requires three different types of flour, and you have to start making it the night before you actually bake it. I made the sponge (a pre-mixture of

some of the flour, yeast and water, which greatly enhances the finished product's flavor) before I went to bed the previous night.

It turned out to make an utterly delicious loaf, one of the best I've made in, I guess, eight years.

But you can't have homemade soup and homemade bread without homemade butter. I'd spent all day in the kitchen already; a few extra minutes wouldn't do any harm (though I had to go to a store to get the cream, so it was more than a few minutes).

In the past, I've always made butter by pouring cream into a blender and whipping it at a fairly high speed until it congeals. Then, I have to spend a pretty fair amount of time pressing on it with a spoon to force out the buttermilk.

But this time, I followed a tip and made it in my stand mixer, which forces out the buttermilk for you. It's so much faster and easier, but the buttermilk sprays everywhere unless you cover the top of the bowl with a towel.

I covered the top of my bowl with a towel, and the buttermilk still sprayed everywhere. I was too busy laughing to mind cleaning it up.

Dinner was a complete success, and best of all, the process of cooking it soothed me and wiped away my angst like wiping buttermilk off the walls.

There was plenty of food left over, so I brought it into the office for lunch the next day. I brought in the soup, a nice apple for dessert and the butter. But somehow I managed to leave the bread at home.

Watching meteors wrongly turns fiery

DEAR ABBY: I have been an amateur astronomer for 25-plus years. I always go meteor watching as well as observe any celestial event. This year I invited my brother-in-law and his wife to watch a meteor shower with my husband and me. Since we both have campers, I reserved and paid the deposit for two camping sites at a nice location, close to some of the best night skies. The reservations were made more than a month ago.

My sister-in-law, who I dearly love and have been good friends with for more than 20 years, called me yesterday to let me know my BIL had invited three of their preteen granddaughters. Abby, I thought they understood it would be an adult event, as we'll be up half the night and traveling 30 minutes to get to the dark sky site. I do this every year.

I told my SIL that my BIL should've asked me first, since I invited them and made all the arrangements for this event. We talked on the phone for 90 minutes before I told her my BIL was wrong for not asking me first if it was OK.

Moments after we hung up, she texted me and said to cancel their reservation because they would not be attending. We are driving 90 miles to this campsite. They live 30 minutes from it. Was I wrong to tell her I should've been asked first, since I am the hostess for two days and nights? — STARRY-EYED IN THE WEST

DEAR STARRY-EYED: Your brother-in-law should not have invited anyone along without clearing it with you first. What they did may have been well-intentioned, but it was also rude. If any of those girls shows an interest in astronomy, in the future, you might choose

Dear Abby



to invite them for this kind of event. But their presence should not have been sprung on you the way it was.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for nearly 20 years. My mother-in-law has always been passive-aggressive, critical and mixing into our business. My husband never told her to stop because he never could stand up to her. Sadly, I didn't stand up for myself, either. I finally had it and cut her off to an extent.

My husband says he supports me but has never shown it. He now often speaks to her away from the house and lies to me about it. Since I stood up to her, he has also pulled back from me emotionally, which he was barely capable of before. She still mixes into every part of his life and gives him speeches like he's still her little child.

I am finished with this unhealthy dynamic. I insisted on therapy but have seen no change in him at all. He goes only because I force him. Have you any advice? — BURNED OUT IN NEW YORK

DEAR BURNED OUT: I agree that the dynamic you have described is unhealthy. It appears your husband is more bonded with his mother than he is with you. Do nothing on impulse or out of anger. If you are truly burned out, continue talking with your therapist to help you decide how to move forward.

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 Satur-

day 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 - BRIANNA'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.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

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

land. Everyone is welcome.

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

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.

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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
January 6-10

Monday: Main Entrees: Mini chicken corn dogs **Alternate Entrees:** Cheesy Italian pull apart, marinara sauce, cheddar BLT salad, croutons **Sides for all meals:** Smile potatoes

Tuesday: Main Entrees: Classic chicken sandwich **Alternate Entrees:** Cheesy Italian pull apart, marinara sauce, cheddar BLT salad, croutons **Sides for all meals:** Seasoned broccoli

Wednesday: Main Entrees: Whole grain french toast sticks, scrambled eggs **Alternate Entrees:** Cheesy Italian pull apart, marinara sauce, cheddar BLT salad, croutons **Sides for all meals:** Hash brown

Thursday: Main Entrees: Mashed potato & chicken bowl **Alternate Entrees:** Cheesy Italian pull apart, marinara sauce, cheddar BLT salad, croutons **Sides for all meals:** Seasoned corn

Friday: Main Entrees: Classic pepperoni pizza **Alternate Entrees:** Cheesy Italian pull apart, marinara sauce, cheddar BLT salad, croutons **Sides for all meals:** Seasoned peas & carrots

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Purchase is an environmental win

Terre Haute Tribune-Star
Tribune News Service

Hoosiers value their environment and the many natural resources that dot the state. Preserving and protecting those resources have always been high on their list of public policy priorities.

Indiana has taken a step in further addressing that priority with the recent announcement that the state's Department of Natural Resources has acquired nearly 4,000 acres of forests, marshland and upland habitat in Sullivan County, just east of the city of Sullivan. The

Hoosier Editorial

property is set to become the Busseron Creek Fish & Wildlife Area.

The state is no stranger to the site. The DNR once leased the land and operated it as the Minnehaha Fish & Wildlife Area, although its 30-year partnership with the landholders

expired in 2016. Prior to the state's involvement at the site, much of the vast property — 3,950 acres in all — was heavily mined for coal and the land reclaimed to meet environmental standards at the time.

According to the DNR, the land has been permanently conserved and protected through a collaboration with the Conservation Law Center and its Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape initiative and The Conservation Fund. Additional project support came from The Nature Conservancy in Indiana.

The DNR's acquisition gives all Hoosiers an opportunity to enjoy this valuable and environmentally rich property. DNR Director Dan Bortner, in a press release announcing the purchase, called the development a "win for conservation and a win for Indiana."

We agree with his assessment, and we hope all Hoosiers do as well. It comes at a time when Indiana's political leadership at the Statehouse in Indianapolis has repeatedly rolled back protections for the state's wetlands in favor of further commercial development.

Those legislative maneuvers, according to environmental scientists, are reducing the positive impacts wetlands can have on flood control, soaking up storm water and cleansing underground aquifers that supply drinking water to citizens.

Given state leaders' continued willingness to compromise environmental protections to serve business interests in some areas, having the Busseron Creek area in Sullivan County secured by another arm of the state is a strong and positive move that will benefit all Hoosiers for years to come.

Gaetz serves as a warning

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

After much back-and-forth, which the former congressman used to try to sow doubt and muddy the waters, the House Ethics Committee has released the full report of its investigation into Matt Gaetz, and it is not pretty, which is why it was so important for it to come out.

Thank you to the Republicans on the panel who voted against the wishes of Speaker Mike Johnson to publish the damning facts.

The document lays out in more detail and with more substantiation what has long been suspected of him: that Gaetz allegedly paid women, including a then-underage girl, for sex, used drugs and misused his office, among other things.

The notion that this man could have been however briefly considered a candidate for United States attorney general is, to be blunt, an embarrassment to the Republican Party, the country and our current body politic.

It's also an indictment on the Trump team's vetting procedures. Gaetz reportedly convinced the president-elect to name him to the role on board his plane, and the team was blindsided by the details of the ethics investigation despite these allegations having circulated for a while. If they're missing something that was essentially a matter of public record, what else are they missing about the rest of their nominees?

Gaetz claims that this is another salacious political sex scandal drummed up by the media and his political rivals. It's not that; the most concerning allegations are not about the Floridian engaging in consensual relationships with other adults in extramarital affairs or unorthodox arrangements. They are about Gaetz reportedly paying a then-17-year-old for sex at a party, learning that she was a minor and then paying her for sex again after she had turned 18.

For a political movement that has staked its ground so decisively around the idea of protecting children from groomers — now an all-encompassing slur for practically anyone whose manner of living they don't like — this is about

Guest Editorial

His House tenure was largely responsible for the chaos at the upper echelons of the GOP ranks ...

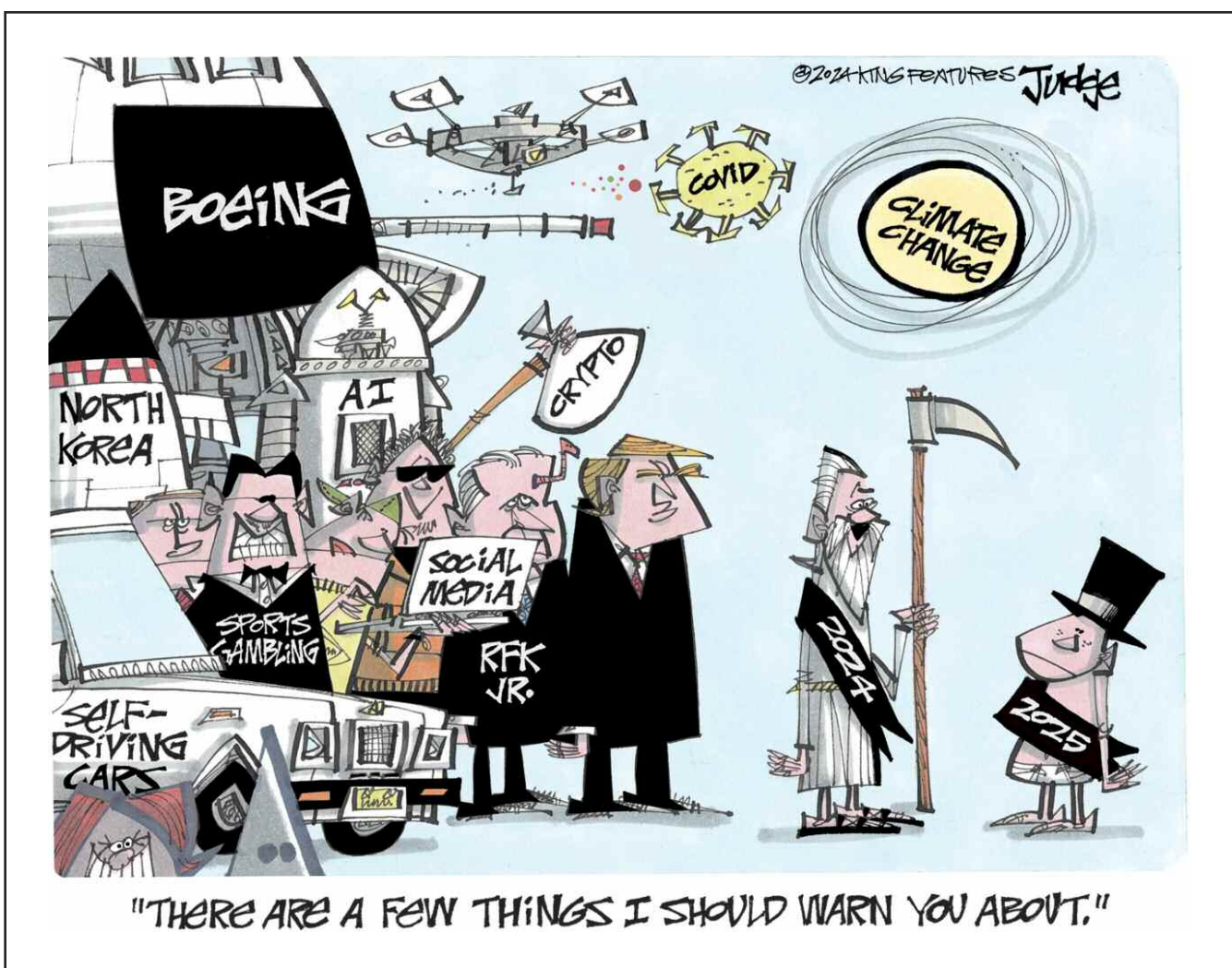
as hypocritical as you get.

Beyond that, Gaetz allegedly used multiple unlawful drugs, including hard drugs like cocaine, utilized the powers of his office to benefit himself and personal connections and obstructed the investigation itself. For his now-former colleagues to lay all this out and also conclude that Gaetz also likely violated Florida state law, they had relatively bulletproof evidence.

This all makes it clear that Gaetz not only should not have been confirmed as the nation's top law enforcement official, but probably should have been expelled from Congress. His House tenure was largely responsible for the chaos at the upper echelons of the GOP ranks that ultimately doomed former Speaker Kevin McCarthy and hamstrung most attempts to actually act on policy that could have benefited the public.

The rebellion Gaetz led was in large part responsible for Congress' lack of compromise these past years, and it turns out now that the man who twisted the party's agenda in the House was, in addition to a conspiracist and careerist and altogether unpleasant person, a likely sex offender who abused his power.

Now, he's at least where he belongs: a third-rate talk show host on a low-rated cable channel peddling conspiracies. Good riddance, and let him serve as a warning about what can happen when voters choose form over function.



Carter was flawed, noble

By JOHN KRULL

TheStatehouseFile.com

Few presidents and former presidents have been more misunderstood than Jimmy Carter.

During his years in the White House, he was caricatured as a naïve, moralizing micromanager who was in over his head.

While he was commander-in-chief, events conspired to magnify his all too human shortcomings. Critics, for example, spun the tale of him scheduling time on the White House tennis court as an example of his controlling nature, rather than seeing it for what it was — a desperate attempt to keep squabbling longtime aides whom he could trust by his side while he struggled to defend himself in a hostile political climate.

The cliché is that his presidency was a failure.

In political terms, perhaps it was. His repudiation by the voters in the epochal 1980 presidential election in favor of Republican Ronald Reagan was decisive — so overwhelming that his fellow Democrats distanced themselves from him during campaign seasons for the rest of his long life.

Other Democratic presidents — Bill Clinton, Barack Obama — would find themselves in demand during election cycles, but rarely Carter, so toxic were the memories of his time in power.

The truth is that, in policy terms, his presidency was far more successful than it appeared.

His political weakness sprang from the same qualities that were his greatest source of strength — his determination to see things with his own eyes and make his own decisions, consulting in the end only with his own heart and his God in the process.

In those post-Vietnam years, he angered his fellow Democrats by strengthening the U.S. military. He thought the United States needed to

John Krull



have more flexible might at its disposal to meet the challenges presented by an evolving world.

After Carter left the White House, much of the muscle-flexing Reagan did on the world stage was done with muscles Carter provided.

The same was true of his economic policies.

He, perhaps alone among modern presidents, refrained from trying to artificially juice the American economy as he approached reelection. He believed in cycles of growth and saw government's role as a source of support for those who suffered during downswings, not as a stimulant to unnatural and ultimately dangerous growth spurts.

In short, he was the sort of president — independent, guided by his own conscience — that so many Americans say they want but rarely mean it when they say it.

The characteristics that doomed his chances to be a two-term president, though, liberated him when he left the White House.

The second great cliché of Carter's life was that his post-presidency was a spectacular success.

In many ways it was.

He won a Nobel Prize for his humanitarian and diplomatic labors and earned the world's respect for his advocacy of enduring moral principles.

The same qualities that made him easy prey for Reagan served him better outside presidential strictures.

The traits that encouraged the presidents, Republican or Democ-

rat, to keep him at arm's length — his independence and determination to follow his own conscience — made the poor, the dispossessed and the disparaged of the world see him as an honest broker, someone they could trust to hear and speak to their grievances and concerns.

It was this appreciation of the shared humanity of people around the world that tied his political career and his long post-presidential odyssey together.

His faith was grounded in a worldly understanding of human frailty.

When he ran for president, he said in an interview that he had known lust in his heart. In an era in which our dominant political figure lusts openly for sex, for money and for power, Carter's admission seems quaint.

But his acknowledgement was consistent with his beliefs.

Before he was even sworn in as president, he stripped the inaugural proceedings of much of the pomp and circumstances that defined previous transitions of power. He and his wife, Rosalynn, walked in the parade as a reminder that they were not elevated above or distant from the people they led.

His message, in the White House or not, was always the same: We are all failed creatures in a hard world, and we should not look for strong men to save us.

Redeeming the life of this planet is God's work and, for the devout, God's work must truly be our own.

Jimmy Carter, in all his flawed nobility, died Dec. 29. He was 100.

May he rest in peace.

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

US PS 125820

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus
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The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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.

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VOLUME 151—NUMBER 179
SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 2025

www.thecr.com

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—Thomas Jefferson

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1-4 CRYPTOQUIP

N RPEEXRI SQYS GQIU Y CYJI
JNXU XK SNDIK BPO NR OXKU,
TXP CNDQS BYJJ QNC Y
EXPUBNUD OYOT OXT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FAMOUS SONG CONCERNING A GUY WHO'S ABOUT TO BE DRESSED IN A MONK'S ROBE: "WE WILL FROCK YOU."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals B

Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

Getting historical

- 1) What leader suffered his only loss in war at the Battle of the Catalaunian Plains?
- 2) Who was appointed governor of the Missouri Territory a decade after his famous expedition?

1) Attila the Hun
2) William Clark (of Lewis and Clark fame)

1-6 CRYPTOQUIP

HBHLVPPF JBAQS PWBLM P
MFBLHS BZ WPR, BASFRFPJPMQE
HPUMBQJS PEMBFI: "MDS
IQVSUES BZ MDS DPJI."

Saturday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE THAT WHEN A MALE LION OR TIGER CUB IS BORN, YOU MIGHT CALL HIM A POUNCING BABY BOY.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals H

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to food service. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 20 = E)

A. **25 20 17 2 20 17**
Clue: Waiter or waitress

B. **7 19 25**
Clue: Clean off table

C. **24 14 16 15 6 20 18**
Clue: Room for cooking

D. **13 17 4 20 17**
Clue: Choose meal

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to food service.

CCKEH

Answer: Check



Health FACT!

True or false: Clutter and a lack of organization is linked to negative emotions like tension and stress.

Answer: True

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.

20		1	25
	10	8	21
7	18		37
30	32	21	

Solution:

21	11	3
8	10	3
1	2	20

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

JANUARY

3

1870: Construction begins on the Brooklyn Bridge in New York.

1911: A magnitude 7.7 earthquake destroys the city of Almaty in Russian Turkistan.

1956: A fire damages the top portion of the Eiffel Tower.

NEW WORD

SORT

arrange systematically in groups

FOOD SERVICE WORD SEARCH

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

How they say that in...

English: Organize
Spanish: Organizar
Italian: Organizzare
French: Organiser
German: Organisieren

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

ELANC HET GGRAEA

Answer: Clean the garage

Did You Know?

Being organized boosts energy, maintains focus and may promote creativity. Organization also can reduce stress.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Closet

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Golfer Ernie
- Gullet
- Engine noise
- Horror star Chaney
- Costa
- Inter
- Past
- Novelist Jennifer
- Pealed
- Fresh starts
- Boom times
- Small batteries
- Humorist Dave
- Flow out
- Depot vehicle
- "Iliad" setting
- Shade
- Spring hon-orees
- Salvador
- Supporting
- Rolled-up sandwiches

DOWN

- Flair
- Theater section
- Winter
- Eerie
- Bobby
- Soccer legend
- Spring flower
- Plastic Band
- Verbal
- Quitter's word
- Neighbor of Leb.
- Duck's hangout
- Checks out
- Tel. number add-on
- Arrest

36 Ever-green tree

37 Hindu honorific

38 Age-old knowledge

45 Soccer legend

46 Spring flower

47 Plastic Band

48 Verbal

49 Quitter's word

50 Neighbor of Leb.

51 Duck's hangout

52 Checks out

53 Tel. number add-on

23 "Dyna-mite" band

24 Notre Dame coach

25 Harry Potter pal

26 Where Ger. is

27 Large snake

28 Ref

29 Radiator sound

31 "That's wonderful!"

32 Hosp. scans

34 Charge

35 Places for bracelets

36 Relinquish

37 Pigs

38 Per person

39 Roman emperor

40 Family

41 Tea carrier

42 Rx amount

43 Cameo stone

44 Humorist Sahl

Solution time: 26 mins.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Double-dummy problem

Contract — Four Spades by South. Opening lead — queen of hearts.

NORTH

- ♠ J 10 9 8 7
- ♥ A 3
- ♦ 9 8 7
- ♣ A 5 4

WEST

- ♠ 6 5 4
- ♥ Q J 10 8 7 6 5 4
- ♦ Q
- ♣ Q

EAST

- ♠ —
- ♥ 9
- ♦ K J 10 6 3 2
- ♣ K J 10 6 3 2

SOUTH

- ♠ A K Q 3 2
- ♥ K 2
- ♦ A 5 4
- ♣ 9 8 7

In fact, it is said that the right to criticize declarer and call attention to his inadequacies after seeing all 52 cards, of course — has been standard practice for just about as long as the game itself has existed.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Lawn coating
- Daring deeds
- Droid
- "That feels so good!"
- Host
- Ruckus
- Type of cable
- Sine qua —
- Feathery wrap
- Garish
- Mellow yellows
- Winter blanket
- Mauna —
- Fire sign?
- Emulate
- Grecian vessels
- Ever-green tree
- "Zounds!"
- Army doc
- Karaoke prop. for short
- Assoc.

DOWN

- Apply cream
- Listener
- "— goes there?"
- Soft felt hat
- Diplo-mat's post
- Fed. health law
- Camping shelters
- Family cars
- Some-thing to jump on
- Skunk's defense

11 Theater award

16 Jurist Fortas

20 Stirred

21 Grad

22 "En-core!"

23 Range of radio frequencies

27 Skirt edge

29 Like lemons

30 Jittery once

32 Thailand, smart

34 Gets

37 Embroidery yarn

39 Water-park slides

42 Actress Loy

44 Wall St. whiz

45 Tub session

46 Queue

50 Doctrine

51 Mimic

52 Silent assent

53 Insult

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-4

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

Famous Hand — Part one

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

- ♠ A
- ♥ A 8 6 5 4
- ♦ 9 3 2
- ♣ 10 6 5 3

WEST

- ♠ J 10 9 8 7 6 2
- ♥ 10 7 3
- ♦ 10
- ♣ K J

EAST

- ♠ 5 4 3
- ♥ Q J 2
- ♦ A K Q 7 6
- ♣ 8 7

SOUTH

- ♠ K Q
- ♥ K 9
- ♦ J 8 5 4
- ♣ A Q 9 4 2

The bidding:
East 1♦ South 2♣ West 4♣ North 5♣
Pass Pass Dble

Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

You might think that hands played in the annual world championship would be models of perfection. But the fact is that every once in a while, a deal comes along where the bridge played is the antithesis of how it should be played, and the outcome is distressingly imperfect.

Consider this deal from the 1974 world championship match between Italy and North America. When the Italians were North-South at the first table, they wound up in five clubs doubled after the

West's four-spade bid on five high-card points was audacious indeed, but it is hard to argue with it since the bid led to an 800-point penalty against the Italians.

The perpetrator of this daring deed was Canada's Eric Murray, who believed in bidding hands to the hilt — and then some. His four-spade bid was a far cry from the values most players would have for that bid, but it proved very effective when North, quite reasonably, went on to five clubs.

Then, to add insult to injury, when the five-club bid rolled around to Murray, he doubled! He led his singleton diamond, and East, Sami Kehela, cashed the A-K-Q and continued with a diamond, ruffled by Murray with the jack. Declarer later took a trump finesse, losing to the king, and so went down three, -800.

Murray was well-aware that he lacked the usual values for his four-spade bid, but he took a calculated risk hoping to provoke the enemy into a costly misstep. His play worked to perfection, as evidenced by the outcome.

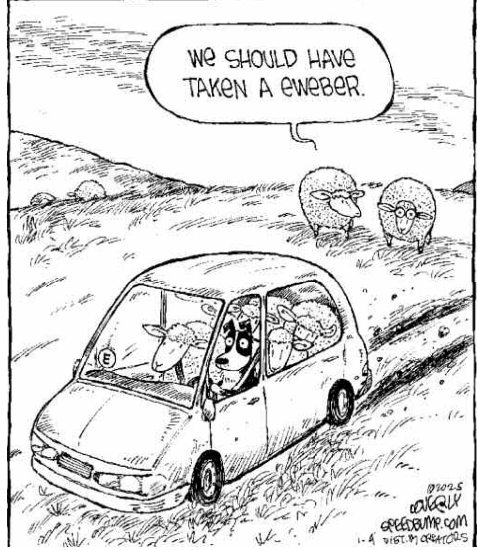
Tomorrow we'll recount the remarkable events at the second table, where a North American pair held the North-South cards.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand — Part Two.
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Saturday's answer 1-6

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



SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



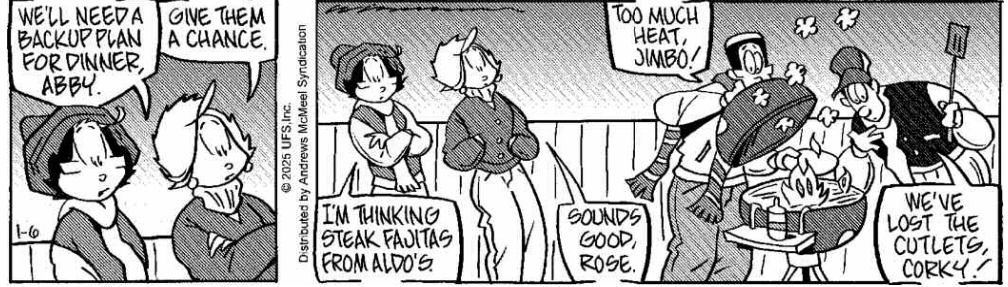
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



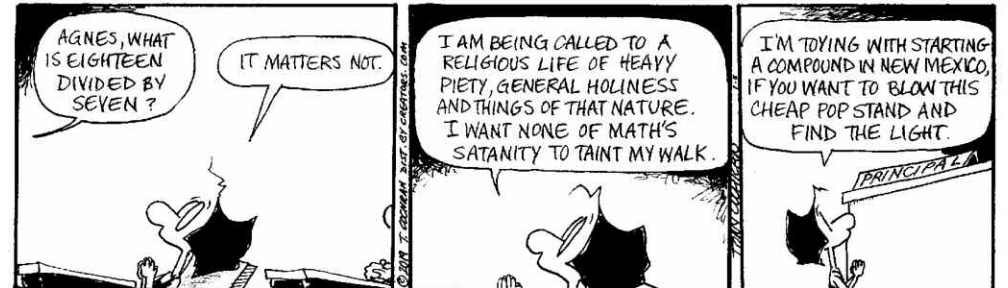
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Agnes



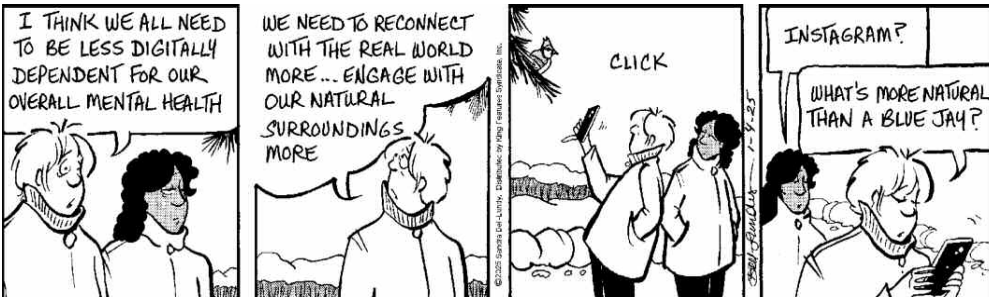
Hi and Lois



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Between Friends



Blondie



Blondie



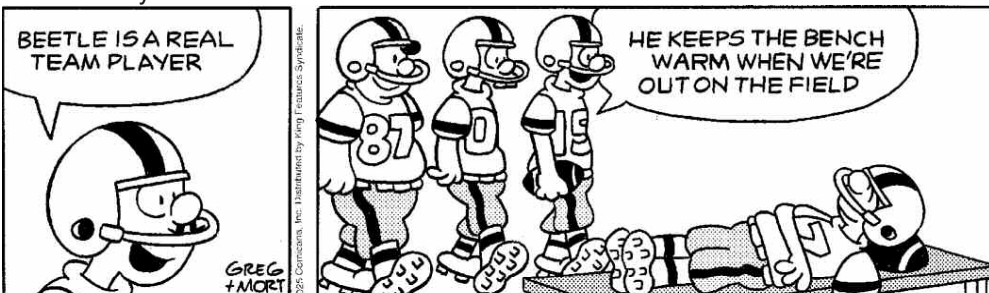
Snuffy Smith



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Beetle Bailey



We Deliver

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.

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90 SALE CALENDAR

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Travis Theurer
AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kayden Khayyata
AU12400069

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TION**
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10:00 AM
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Pats can't slow Arabians

Jay County turns ball over 25 times in 48-point loss to PHHS

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

The Patriots struggled on offense. They found it difficult to penetrate the paint...

The Arabians simply did not share the Patriots' problems.

The result was the largest deficit in six seasons.

The Jay County High School girls basketball team couldn't slow down the potent offense of the Pendleton Heights Arabians...

The 48-point loss snapped a four-game winning streak and was biggest margin of defeat the Patriots (7-6) have taken since the 2018-19 season...

"We wanted to try and match their physicality, but we're just not there yet," said JCHS coach Sherri McIntire. "That's a very fine basketball team. They have depth, their starting five is solid obviously and we could play them 20 times and just not beat them."

"We're just not to that level yet, but those are the kind of team we want on our schedule, because that's the level we want to get to. Those kind of teams we need to play to help us when we get to the tournament."

Jay County matched the Arabians (9-6) over the opening minutes of the game. Adah Hupfer got PHHS on the board first with a drop step to the middle off of a post up, but coming back down the other end, Hallie Schwieterman got to the line to knock down a pair of free throws.

Pendleton Heights took the lead right back as Kaycie Warfel knocked down a corner triple on an assist from Olivia Jones. The Patriots came up empty on the following possession, but shortly after, Alexis Sibray pulled down a defensive rebound, pushed the pace and let her own 3-pointer fly in transition to knot things up at 5-5.

Fifty seconds after Sibray's three, Jones responded with another triple off of a pin down screen and assist by Mamie Trout that sparked a 16-0 run that occurred over only a 1 minute, 38 seconds.

All 16 points during the



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School's Alexis Sibray gathers the ball in the post while Pendleton Heights' Emma Roberts tries to poke the ball away from behind. The Patriots struggled to defend the Arabians and take care of the ball, resulting in their first 48-point loss or worse since the 2018-19 season.

run came from Warfel — she led all scorers with 39 — or Jones. The latter had 11 points and finished with game-highs in assists with seven and rebounds with nine. (Hupfer also snagged nine boards.) During the stretch, the Arabians scored in a variety of ways, including in transition, by attacking the paint and nailing threes.

The Patriots ended the drought with Schwieterman hitting a hanging layup, but Pendleton Heights finished the quarter with another three and

transition hoop to lead 26-7 at the break.

JCHS tried flipping between a 2-3 zone and a man-to-man defense throughout, but it couldn't slow down the Arabians as they got two more kills (run of 10-0 or better).

"We've really been searching for a game where we put 32 minutes together," said PHHS coach Nick Rogers. "That was the message. ... We wanted to try and test some of those young guards and we were able to do that."

"I was surprised that they went (man-to-man) but with such a young team, their coach is trying to do some good things for the future. ... We made a lot of plays today but they're doing the right things and continuing to get better."

The Patriots struggled with ball security throughout the game, coughing up the ball 25 times, while only forcing seven PHHS turnovers. Pendleton Heights scored 22 points as a direct result of turnovers, while adding another 14 in man-

ufactured transition opportunities.

"I think it was a combination (of their pressure and our poor decisions)," said McIntire. "I think at times we played scared. The kids knew coming in that this was probably going to be their toughest opponent they've played so far."

Between the 25 turnovers and allowing 22 offensive rebounds, the Arabians took 29 more shot attempts than Jay County. They took advantage of those extra opportunities, shooting 32-for-64

Box score

Jay County Patriots vs. Pendleton Heights Arabian

Girls varsity summary

Table with columns for Player, FG-FGA, FT-FTA, and PTS. It lists stats for Pendleton Heights (9-6) and Jay County (7-5).

Table with columns for Player, FG-FGA, FT-FTA, and PTS. It lists stats for Jay County (7-5).

Score by quarters: Pen. Hgts. 26 19 22 10 — 77 Jay Co. 7 5 9 8 — 29

3-point shooting: Pendleton Heights 7-20 (KWarfel 4-7, Gray 2-4, Jones 1-3, Trout 0-1, Hupfer 0-1, AWarfel 0-2, Bruce 0-2). Jay County 2-8 (Sibray 1-3, Schwieterman 1-2, Petro 0-1).

Rebounds: Pendleton Heights 40 (Jones 9, Hupfer 9, KWarfel 7, AWarfel 4, Miller 2, Gray 2, Trout 2, Perry 2, Team 2, Roberts). Jay County 21 (Schwieterman 6, Newton 3, Petro 3, Brunswick 2, May 2, Heath 2, Team 2, Sibray).

Assists: Pendleton Heights 17 (Jones 7, KWarfel 3, Trout 2, Miller, Roberts, AWarfel, Hupfer). Jay County 3 (Petro 2, Brunswick).

Blocks: Pendleton Heights 2 (KWarfel, Roberts). Jay County 2 (Schwieterman).

Personal fouls: Pendleton Heights 12 (Jones 3, KWarfel 2, Hupfer 2, Miller, Trout, Perry, Roberts, AWarfel). Jay County 11 (Sibray 3, Brunswick 2, May 2, Newton, Schwieterman, Petro, Heath).

Turnovers: Pendleton Heights 7. Jay County 25.

(50%) from the field, while Jay County finished 11-of-35 (31.4%).

Schwieterman finished as the Patriots' leading scorer with 16 points, while Alexis Sibray followed with nine points while shooting 57.1% (4-7) from the field.

JCHS will look to quickly forget the loss against the Class 4A school, as they travel to Yorktown to take on a potential sectional opponent.

"We're not going to give a lot of thought to this game," McIntire said. "They're better than us, but we've got to move on. We've got to prepare for Saturday."

"That's a game where we're going to need to play well, but it's a game that we can win against a sectional opponent."

Former Boilermaker undergoes surgery on fibula

By COTY M. DAVIS

The Detroit News Tribune News Service

DETROIT — During Wednesday's win over the Orlando Magic, Pistons guard Jaden Ivey sustained a broken fibula in his left leg at Little Caesars Arena.

On Thursday, the Pistons announced that Ivey had surgery to repair the injury. He will be reevaluated in four weeks, and the team will provide updates during his recovery and rehabilitation process.

The injury occurred with

Jaden Ivey broke leg in collision with Magic's Cole Anthony

10:07 left in the fourth quarter when Ivey's leg got caught underneath Magic guard Cole Anthony, who was diving for a loose ball.

Ivey immediately fell to the ground, holding his leg while screaming in pain. Unable to

walk, Ivey was wheeled off the court on a stretcher.

"It's tough on all of us," Pistons coach J.B. Bickerstaff said after the game. "No better teammate, person, than JI. No one cares more about this thing than him. It's tough to see."

Ivey finished the game with 22 points on 8-for-11 shooting, including 5 of 6 from behind the arc, and four assists. His performance against the Magic was a small sample size of the stand-out year the third-year guard was having prior to the injury.

Ivey has played 30 games this season and has averaged career highs of 17.6 points on 46% shooting, 40.9% from behind the arc, 4.1 rebounds and four assists.

On Nov. 25, he led the Pistons

to a 102-100 victory over the Toronto Raptors. Ivey nailed the game-winning shot as time expired, finishing with 25 points, eight assists and five rebounds.

"It was tough on the whole group," Pistons guard Cade Cunningham said. "To see him hurting like that was tough on us. But he is built for it. He is going to (work his way) back. Knowing him, he is going to work his tail off and be better than ever when he gets back. But it was hard to see that for sure."

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today Jay County — Girls basketball (varsity only) at Yorktown — 10:30 a.m.; Boys basketball vs. Muncie Central — 6 p.m.

Monday Jay County — Junior high boys basketball at Delta — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball vs. Delta — 6 p.m.

Tuesday Jay County — Swim vs. Belmont — 6 p.m.; Girls basketball (varsity only) at Concordia Lutheran — 6 p.m.; Boys wrestling vs. Coldwater — 6:30 p.m.; Junior high wrestling vs. Coldwater — 6:30 p.m.

TV sports Today 7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Newcastle United at Tottenham Hotspur (USA)

10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Everton at AFC Bournemouth (USA)

11 a.m. — College Football Bahamas Bowl: Buffalo vs. Liberty (ESPN2)

TV sports

Today 7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Newcastle United at Tottenham Hotspur (USA)

10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Everton at AFC Bournemouth (USA)

11 a.m. — College Football Bahamas Bowl: Buffalo vs. Liberty (ESPN2)

12 p.m. — College basketball: Florida at Kentucky (ESPN)

12 p.m. — College basketball: North Carolina at Notre Dame (CBS); Dayton at George Washington (USA); DePaul at Villanova (FS1)

12 p.m. — Women's college basketball: UCLA at Indiana (FOX)

12 p.m. — NHL: New York Rangers at Washington Capitals (ABC)

1 p.m. — College basketball: Arkansas at Tennessee (ESPN)

2 p.m. — College basketball: Baylor at Iowa State (CBS); UCLA at Nebraska (FOX); George Mason at Rhode Island (USA); Butler at St. John's (FS1)

2:30 p.m. — College basketball: Arizona at Cincinnati (ESPN2)

3:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Wisconsin at Oregon (BTN)

4 p.m. — College basketball: San Diego State at Boise State (CBS)

4 p.m. — PGA Tour: The Sentry (NBC)

4 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Butler at Marquette (FS1)

4:30 p.m. — NFL: Cleveland Browns at Baltimore Ravens (ABC)

4:30 p.m. — College basketball: Vanderbilt at LSU (ESPN2)

5:30 p.m. — Women's college hockey: Ohio State at Wisconsin (BTN)

6 p.m. — College hockey: Mercyhurst at Minnesota (FOX)

6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Stanford at Pittsburgh (ESPN2)

7 p.m. — NBA: Phoenix Suns at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)

8 p.m. — NFL: Cincinnati Bengals at Pittsburgh Steelers (ABC)

8 p.m. — College basketball: Michigan at USC (FOX)

8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Cal at Clemson (ESPN2)

9 p.m. — College hockey: Michigan State at Wisconsin (BTN)

10 p.m. — NHL: Edmonton Oilers at Seattle Kraken (NBC)

Sunday 9 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Ipswich Town at Fulham (USA)

11:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Manchester United at Liverpool (NBC)

12 p.m. — College basketball: Indiana at Penn State (BTN)

1 p.m. — NFL: Buffalo Bills at New England Patriots (CBS); Jacksonville Jaguars at Indianapolis Colts (FOX)

1 p.m. — College basketball: Florida Atlantic at East Carolina (ESPN2)

1 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Notre Dame at North Carolina (ESPN)

2 p.m. — College basketball: Providence at UConn (NBC); Northwestern at Purdue (BTN)

3 p.m. — College basketball: Murray State at Drake (ESPN2)

3 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Oklahoma at Tennessee (ESPN)

3 p.m. — NHL: New York Rangers at Chicago Blackhawks (ABC)

4 p.m. — College basketball: Illinois at Washington (BTN)

4 p.m. — PGA Tour: The Sentry (NBC)

4:25 p.m. — NFL: Kansas City Chiefs at Denver Broncos (CBS); Miami Dolphins at New York Jets (FOX)

5 p.m. — College basketball: North Texas at Memphis (ESPN)

5 p.m. — College gymnastics: Michigan at Denver (ESPN2)

6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Maryland at Iowa (BTN)

6:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Utah at Iowa State (ESPN2)

8 p.m. — Women's college basketball: USC at Rutgers (BTN)

8:20 p.m. — NFL: Minnesota Vikings at Detroit Lions (NBC)

Monday 3 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Nottingham Forest at Wolverhampton Wanderers (USA)

7 p.m. — College basketball: Wisconsin at Rutgers (FS1); South Florida at Wichita State (ESPN2)

7 p.m. — College football: North Dakota State at Montana State (ESPN)

7:30 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Brooklyn Nets (FDSN Indiana)

9 p.m. — College basketball: TCU at Houston (ESPN2); Ohio State at Minnesota (FS1)

7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: UCLA at Purdue (BTN)

7:30 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Dallas Mavericks (TNT)

8 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Minnesota Wild (FDSN Indiana)

8:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: DePaul at St. John's (FS1)

9 p.m. — College basketball: Auburn at Texas (ESPN2)

9 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Wisconsin at Washington (BTN)

10 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at Denver Nuggets (TNT)

10:30 p.m. — College basketball: UNLV at Boise State (FS1)

11 p.m. — College basketball: Loyola Marymount at St. Mary's (ESPN2)

.....

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

Firsts ...

Continued from page 10
In the second period, Crawford chose to start on top and to keep control of the Raider to work a pin with 1:36 remaining.

"It's a lot about heavy hips," said Crawford. "A lot of girls have their hips higher up, so it's harder to keep the pressure that you need. ..."

"It's an amazing feeling, as a freshman being able to accomplish all of this."

No. 9 Emily Manor (27-7) got upset in the 140 championship, getting pinned by Jillian Champ (25-9) of New Palestine at the 43-second mark after developing a 7-2 lead. Maleah Parsons (26-8) also took a loss by fall as No. 14 Addison Flores (23-7) of Blackford claimed the 145 title in 1:43.

While three Patriots claimed their first sectional title, four advanced to the regional for the first time (including Ruble and Crawford).

First-year wrestler Allison Tipton (12-12) came back to beat Shenandoah's Olivia Watson (11-10) in the first round of the 125 bracket, before getting knocked to the consolation bracket by No. 8 Emma Jones (22-4) of Cowan. Tipton bounced back with a pin on Noblesville's Tahira Gibson (6-11) to earn her spot at Alexandria-Monroe. She couldn't manage to beat Raegan Quattlebaum of Monroe Central (27-10) of Monroe Central in the third place game, leaving her with the No. 4 seed.

Madison Gage (20-14) got matched up with Muncie Central's Amaya Stoudmire (14-12) — who previously beat the Jay County sophomore during the regular season — in the 155 opener. Gage got revenge with a pin in the second period, but fell to Wes-Del's No. 9 Sophia Gropp (20-1) in the semifinal.

Neither Gage or Hagerstown's Linette Goldstein (2-2) could find an angle in the first period of the blood round. Goldstein chose to start the second period on top, which worked to Gage's benefit as she pulled off a reversal to get on the board after 3:08.

The third period didn't start well for Gage, giving up a point on a violation for locking hands and another on an escape at the 1:11 mark to tie the contest. Gage managed to hit a match-saving single-leg takedown seven seconds later, and hold Goldstein off long enough before giving up an escape and letting the clock run for a 5-3 victory.

"I just kept pushing and pushing until eventually I got (the takedown)," said Gage. "She had me on my knees and I kept thinking in my head, 'I have to get up.' So I kept pushing on my toes until I got there. It was a single high crotch and then she just sprawled on me while I held it. ... I'm just

happy I get to actually move on and I'd like to thank my team and coaches for helping me get this opportunity."

Gage followed the victory with another, beating New Palestine's Julia Champ (16-15) in the third-place contest via pin.

Sophia Thomas (11-15) was the only Patriot to fall short of advancing to the regional, but she still scored for the team and Myers was still impressed with her improvement throughout the year.

Jay County will have one week to prepare for the regional and a chance to send some athletes back to the state meet.

"It will be a lot of work and our girls just have to be confident in the work they've put in already," Myers said. "I know sometimes we get to these different levels and they look intimidating or there's a little bit more on the line and they make it bigger than it needs to be. ... We tell them to focus on scoring the next point rather than worrying about winning or a championship. You score that next point to build that and everything else becomes distractions."

"In between now and next week and the following week, that's what we need to focus on. Just training, improving and working to score that next point at all times."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Pictured above, Jay County's No. 11 Tatianna Willis tries to roll back the wrist of Hamilton Southeastern's No. 14 Ella Shults in the 110-pound championship match in the inaugural IHSA Sectional 10 hosted by Muncie Central on Friday. Willis built a 10-1 advantage before pinning Shults in the third period to secure her first sectional championship. Freshmen Brenna Ruble (120) and No. 5 Amara Crawford (190) also got their first sectional titles Friday. Below Madison Gage runs a double-wrist bar on Amaya Stoudmire of Muncie Central in the 155-pound opener. Gage pinned Stoudmire en route to her first regional berth and avenging an early season loss to Stoudmire in the process. Crawford, Gage, Ruble and Willis will be joined by six more Patriots at the regional on Jan. 10.



Tribe ...

Continued from page 10
At the intermission, Fort Recovery trailed by 11 points.

The Tribe started to mount a comeback in the third quarter, outsourcing LHS 14-7. Colson Post provided five points in the quarter, including a 3-point field goal. Grant Fortkamp, Douglas Bihn and Barga all added a bucket as well.

The Indians' effort just

came up short as the Lancers put the game away at the free throw line.

Lincolnview hit 7-of-8 foul shots in the period and added four more hoops to secure its lead.

Fort Recovery made six shots in the period, including two apiece from Jutte and Fortkamp, but it just wasn't enough to overcome the deficit.

Barga finished as the Indians' leading scorer

with 12 points, followed by Jutte with eight and Post with seven. Both Overman and Fortkamp put up six points while Evers and Bihn rounded out the scoring with five and two, respectively.

Lincolnview had three players reach double figures. Chayse Overholt's 15 points led all scorers. Max Hammons followed behind with 14, while Tow had 12.

The Indians have now

dropped three consecutive games. The Tribe opened up the year with a trio of defeats as well before rattling off three victories, including its only Midwest Athletic Conference game to this point in the season against Parkway.

FRHS will return to the court today as they face Botkins before a trio of MAC games against New Bremen, St. Henry and Minster.

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Full of firsts



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

No. 5 Amara Crawford (33-4), a freshman on the Jay County High School girls wrestling team, runs a double wrist bar or a "walker" on Hamilton Southeastern's Kelli Crawford (4-3) during the 190-pound semifinal match at the inaugural IHSAA Sectional 10 meet hosted by Muncie Central on Friday. Crawford was one of six Patriots to claim the sectional title, helping the team claim the top spot with 232 points.

Jay girls wrestling dominates the field to earn inaugural IHSAA sectional title

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

MUNCIE — The 2024-25 campaign is the first season the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) has sanctioned girls wrestling.

It was the first year that three Patriots participated in varsity wrestling, all of which moved on to the regional.

It wasn't the first year that girls wrestling had two rounds prior to the state finals, but it was the first time four of the Patriots advanced to the regional, including three first-year varsity wrestlers.

Three more Patriots picked up their first sectional championship.

For the first time the Patriots took home hardware with the IHSAA logo on it and as a result, they will be competing in the first team state event.

The No. 6 Jay County High School girls wrestling team dominated the Sectional 10 tournament hosted by Muncie Cen-

tral to earn the inaugural IHSAA sectional title on Friday, with all 11 wrestlers making the podium and 10 moving on to the regional.

The Patriots sent five wrestlers to the championship match, six of which claimed sectional titles, while adding a third, fourth and fifth place finish to total 232 points. (Wrestlers that finished top four in their weight class advance to the regional meet at Alexandria-Monroe on Jan. 10.) Jay County's score crushed the 15-team field, as Hamilton Southeastern trailed by 85 points while claiming the runner-up spot. While the Patriots are no stranger to success in the postseason, even winning the sectional last season, this is the first time the IHSAA's name will be attached to the accomplishment.

"We've aspired to win these team events already, but I think, recognition-wise, it's a totally different recognition," said JCHS coach Eric Myers. "From

fans to the school, I think to win that IHSAA sanctioned sectional title gives that a little bit more legitimacy.

"I think that's really special and I think our girls deserve that. I'm happy they were able to achieve that and achieve it in dominating fashion. They wrestled really well, and were dominant today. I felt like they were focused and I'm hoping that they're ready to continue that throughout the tournament series."

By placing first in the sectional, the Patriots qualified for the inaugural team state championship, which is planned to be held at Fishers on Jan. 25.

A large part of the dominance came as a result of sending eight wrestlers to the championship match in their respective weight classes. Of those eight wrestlers, six came out on top to claim individual sectional crowns.

No. 5 Katie Rowles (26-4) led things off by getting Daleville's

Bailey Vajner (17-5) in a headlock that led to a pin 21 seconds into the 100-pound championship. Like Rowles, No. 6 Lina Lingo (26-7) and No. 1 Mallory Winner (27-0) each earned their second sectional championship.

Lingo dominated No. 12 Lillian Kissel (10-6) of New Palestine through the first two rounds of the 135 title match, racking up 13 unanswered points. Kissel chose to start the third period in the neutral position, and if Lingo didn't secure the pin 34 seconds into the round, the quick takedown would have given her a technical fall.

It took Winner 1 minute, 7 seconds, to get No. 13 Paislee Chambers (18-5) of Wes-Del onto the mat, but the JCHS senior only needed 15 more seconds for the pin.

The other three Patriot champions had not previously won their sectional.

First up was No. 11 Tatianna Willis (24-6), facing off against Hamilton Southeastern's No. 15

Ella Shults (21-6) in the 110-pound title match. Willis got off to a strong start with a single-leg take down after 25 seconds and never looked back. The JCHS senior built a 10-1 advantage headed into the third period, in which she pinned Shults after 30 seconds.

The other two titles came from freshmen.

Brenna Ruble (29-6) got a quick takedown in the 120 match, eventually pinning Hamilton Southeastern's Kiarra Churchill (18-7) in 1:17.

No. 5 Amara Crawford (33-4) closed out the day for the Patriots by taking the 190 championship from Savanna Goss (12-7) of Shenandoah.

Assistant coach John Winner warned Crawford the match would be a "dog fight" and that came true as neither wrestler could make anything happen throughout the first period despite taking a handful of shots at each other.

See **Firsts** page 9

Tribe boys lose to Lancers

VAN WERT, Ohio — The Lancers put up 17 points right away on the Indians.

From there, the Tribe had an uphill battle and despite getting it close by the end of the third quarter, it couldn't finish the job.

Fort Recovery High School's boys basketball team fell to the Lincol-

nview Lancers 52-46 on Friday.

The Indians (3-6) were outpaced 17-9 in the first quarter with Kreston Tow leading the way with seven for Lincolnview (4-5). FRHS got its points on buckets by Briggs Overman, Brody Barga and Gavin Evers and three free throws by Breaker Jutte.

See **Tribe** page 9

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