

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Warm thoughts



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Visitors to Portland Water Park play during the opening weekend of the 2023 season. Portland Park Board discussed the water park during its meeting Tuesday, including repairs to the lily pads and mesh covering above the slide. Park board president Brian Ison asked fellow members to think about admission prices, lifeguard pay rates and various other issues in order to be ready to discuss them at their February meeting.

Park board discusses water park topics

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

High temperatures won't crack 30 degrees this week.

The park board is already thinking about warmer weather.

During its first meeting of 2025 on Tuesday, Portland Park Board discussed various topics regarding Portland Water Park.

Street and parks department superintendent Matt Shauver told park board members about several repairs or upgrades at the water park, including \$3,500 in tile repairs

that were completed by Blakeley's of Indianapolis after the close of the 2024 season.

Shauver noted that two local individuals helped the city save significant money for replacing the water park's lily pads and replacing the awning that covers the slide.

Brett Resler offered repair of the lily pads at a cost of \$3,000 compared to the replacement cost of \$14,700. (Resler has already repaired one of the four pads, which Shauver had with him at Tuesday's meeting along with one of the degraded pads.)

Also, Chad Funk of Mainsteam Upholstery is repairing the slide cover at a cost of \$1,316. The estimate from Spear Corporation for the same work came in at \$8,985.

"Anything you can do local and it saves us money, that's a win-win," said board member Shauna Runkle.

Shauver also told the board that some of the umbrellas at the water park need to be replaced. He said he's considering replacing them gradually rather than all at once.

He also said new grates that will be compliant with the Vir-

ginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act are expected to be delivered soon.

Board president Brian Ison encouraged fellow board members John McFarland, Jennifer Weitzel and Runkle, absent Michael Brester, to think about pricing, rentals and staff pay to prepare for discussion in February. He added that adjusting offerings at the concession stand to focus on more pre-packaged items could reduce staffing needs and result in cost savings.

See Warm page 2

Woman who died in fire on Christmas identified

DNA from autopsy confirms Green as deceased

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

The woman who died in a fire on Christmas Day has been identified.

Shirley M. Green, 73, Portland, was found dead in her home at Oakwood Manufactured Home Community. Jay County Coroner's Office received DNA results Tuesday from Indiana State Police Laboratory confirming Green's identity, according to a press release.

Portland Fire Department responded about 4:40 a.m. Dec. 25 to a fire at 1237 N. U.S. 27 Lot 13, Portland. The structure was completely engulfed in flames when responders arrived.

Firefighters entered the burning building to fight the fire from inside, according to a release from Portland Fire Department.

A woman later identified as Green was found dead in the main living area of the structure. Her home was destroyed in the fire. Because of the conditions of the structure and Green's remains, her identification couldn't be determined at that time, according to the press release from the coroner's office.

An autopsy was conducted Dec. 30 at IU Health Jay, with DNA taken from Green's remains and sent to Indiana State Police Laboratory.

The cause of her death is pending — officials are waiting to receive a toxicology report from the state — but no foul play is suspected, according to Jay County Coroner's Office deputy Michael Brewster. See Identified page 2

Procession arrives in D.C.

By JEREMY REDMON,

CALEB GROVES

and DAVID AARO

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Tribune News Service

ATLANTA — Now the nation is getting its chance to say goodbye to the 39th president, a Renaissance man from Georgia who championed peace, human rights and the eradication of diseases long after he left the White House.

Thousands of mourners watched Tuesday afternoon as a horse-drawn caisson brought former President Jimmy Carter's casket down Pennsylvania and Constitution avenues to the U.S. Capitol. The procession was designed to mirror the inaugural parade in which Carter and his family walked on foot from the U.S. Capitol to the White House on Jan. 20, 1977.

Rows of uniformed military service members silently watched as Carter's family followed the caisson. Meanwhile, the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" performed "God Bless America" and "Flowers of the Forest."

In the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol, Carter's remains will be placed on a platform that was built in 1865 to support Abraham Lincoln's casket. Vice Presi-

Thousands of mourners watched as Carter arrived in nation's capital

dent Kamala Harris, House Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate Majority Leader John Thune are scheduled to deliver eulogies and lay wreaths there. Carter will lie in state in the rotunda, accompanied by a special U.S. military honor guard.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York honored Carter on the Senate floor Tuesday.

"Today and tomorrow, Americans will brave the snow and cold temperatures to pay their respects to one of the most decent men ever to hold the office of president," Schumer said.

"He was a gentleman in every sense of the word: kind, honorable, intelligent, humble, deeply patriotic. These are the virtues he brought to the Oval Office, in an era where trust in government was arguably at a low in the 20th century."

Carter, the only Georgian ever elected to the White House, entered home hospice care in Plains in February 2023 after a series of short hospital stays. He died last month after turning 100 in October.

In his 2020 biography of Carter, "His Very Best: Jimmy Carter, A Life," Jonathan Alter underscored the former president's striking versatility. Among other things, Alter wrote, Carter became a skilled farmer, naval officer, woodworker, Sunday school teacher, legislator, governor, president, diplomat, home builder, painter, professor, memoirist, poet and children's book author.

"He was the first American president since Thomas Jefferson who could fairly claim to be a Renaissance man, or at least a world-class autodidact," Alter wrote.

See Procession page 2



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Kevin Dietsch

Members of the military salute as an honor cordon transfers the flag-draped casket of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to a hearse Tuesday during an arrival ceremony in Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. Carter's body was to lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda until a funeral service today at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 30 degrees Tuesday. The low was 21.

Tonight's low will be 12. Expect cloudy skies Friday with

a 70% chance of snow and a high in the upper 20s. More snow is possible Friday night.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Midwest Pet Refuge will host its Chips & Trims event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. The event offers microchipping for \$20 and nail trims for \$5 to \$10 depending on size and difficulty. All dogs should be leashed and cats should be in crates. The organization is located at 601 N. Charles St., Portland.

Coming up

Friday — Coverage of this week's Jay County Council meeting.

Saturday — Results from the girls wrestling regional at Alexandria.

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



Study IDs potential nuclear sites

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

A new, quietly-released study showed that small nuclear reactors could present “substantial opportunities” for Indiana to meet its energy demands, and identified eight current or former coal sites across the state that could serve as coal-to-nuclear opportunities.

Purdue officials announced in May that the university was selected to study small nuclear technology and how it can potentially be used to power Indiana in the future. The university previously released a separate study on nuclear energy feasibility at its West Lafayette campus.

In the state-funded report, released by the Indiana Office of Energy Development in November, researchers lauded small modular reactors, or SMRs, as “24/7 dispatchable sources” of carbon-free electricity that have the capacity to meet the state’s growing energy needs.

The study described SMRs as compact nuclear reactors —

smaller than traditional nuclear power plants — that can generate up to 500 megawatts of electrical power. The International Atomic Energy Agency cites a lower range, qualifying SMRs as producing under 300 megawatts. Indiana law defines SMR power capacity up to 470 megawatts. The federal government hasn’t settled on a firm definition.

The smaller reactors are designed to offer “scalable energy solutions” with “enhanced safety features” compared to traditional nuclear plants, researchers said.

Currently, no electricity-generating nuclear power plants exist in the state, though there is one major nuclear manufacturing facility located in Mount

Vernon, in southwestern Indiana. And of the few projected SMR sites across the United States — and the world — none are currently operational. Major Indiana employer Rolls Royce is developing an SMR.

Much of Indiana’s electricity continues to come from coal, and state lawmakers have been slow to commit to other energy options.

Proponents say the new technology is cheaper and safer than larger nuclear reactors currently in use today. But upfront adoption costs can balloon, and some scientists and environmental groups are concerned that operating expenses are actually much higher, and worry that SMR

plants are more dangerous than developers let on.

Even so, Purdue researchers said SMRs are a missed opportunity, and that coal-to-nuclear could help Indiana tap into an energy supply — with the benefit of net-zero carbon emissions.

“SMRs present a viable opportunity for Indiana to transition to a cleaner, resilient, and diversified energy future,” researchers said within the study. “By addressing the outlined challenges — construction costs, supply chain constraints, regulatory compliance, workforce training, and community engagement — Indiana could position itself as a leader in next-generation nuclear technology while creating economic opportunities and ensuring energy security.”

The total amount of electricity generated within Indiana has fallen by 26% over the past two decades, the study noted. Electricity consumption, however, has only decreased by 3% over the same time period.

In 2023, Indiana was the nation’s second-largest coal consumer, after Texas, according to

the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Coal fueled 45% of Indiana’s electricity net generation that year, the seventh-highest share of any state.

Purdue researchers noted that Indiana’s energy demands are expected to increase by up to 3% from 2022 to 2030, “a big change compared to the 0.2% annual growth rate over the prior decade.”

Over the long term, SMRs can “mitigate the economic impacts of closing a coal plant,” and open the door to “significantly cheaper” energy, they said.

Researchers pointed to high-paying jobs during both the construction and operation of the facility, an increase of the tax base in the state, and the potential to boost employment throughout Indiana by various supply chain providers, including in nuclear manufacturing.

The study cited just two projects currently in the planning phases for coal-to-nuclear conversion: one sought by Duke Energy in North Carolina, and another planned by TerraPower in Wyoming.

Proponents say new tech is safer and cheaper

CR almanac

Friday 1/10	Saturday 1/11	Sunday 1/12	Monday 1/13	Tuesday 1/14
27/22	26/19	31/26	29/11	15/8

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$240 million	Mega Millions 20-24-33-39-48 Mega Ball: 18 Megaplier: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$77 million	Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 2-7-5 Daily Four: 7-8-6-5 Quick Draw: 5-9-12-13-17-19-20-23-24-35-43-44-48-52-57-58-63-75-77-78	Evening Daily Three: 0-8-5 Daily Four: 0-3-4-5 Quick Draw: 3-6-7-8-11-12-18-19-24-28-34-47-52-60-61-67-74-78-79-80	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 7-1-9 Pick 4: 3-2-9-1 Pick 5: 9-8-6-5-5 Evening Pick 3: 3-4-3 Pick 4: 2-5-8-5 Pick 5: 8-1-0-1-5 Rolling Cash: 19-24-28-35-39 Estimated jackpot: \$214,000
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Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.62 Feb. corn4.64 March corn4.66	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.53 Feb. corn4.53 Beans.....9.90 Feb. beans9.93 Wheat5.03	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.62 Feb. corn4.62 Beans.....9.66 Feb. beans9.71 Wheat4.84
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.61 Feb. corn4.64 March corn4.66	The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.55 Feb. corn4.55 Beans9.91	

Today in history

In 2019, three local candidates filed for the Dunkirk mayoral election. Incumbent mayor Gene Ritter, a Republican, was running for a second term in office, with Democrats Jack Robbins and Sandra (Lawhorn) Rollins seeking a nomination to the ballot in November. Robbins went on to face off against Ritter, earning 58% of the vote. Robbins secured a second term in November 2023, doing away with a decades-long streak of Dunkirk mayors being limited to a single term. —The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 6 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St. 6 p.m. — Jay County Country Living Advisory Board, 1194 E. 200 North, Portland.	7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Fort Recovery Park Board, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	Tuesday 6 p.m. Redkey Town Council executive session, park cabin, 50 Mooney St. 6 p.m. — Ridgeville Town Council, Ridgeville Fire Department, 302 N. Walnut St.
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Procession ...

Continued from page 1
Tuesday’s events began in the morning at the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta, where a solemn ceremony was held as the former president’s casket was carried into a hearse headed to Dobbins Air Reserve Base near Marietta. Teresa Gonzalez brought her 1-year-old daughter, Isabella, to the event and held aloft a sign declaring, “Thank You President Carter.” She didn’t want to say it would be his final time in Atlanta “because he’ll always live here.”

“His legacy lives here,” she said. At Dobbins, Carter’s casket was placed aboard “Special Air Mission 39” for the flight headed north. Gov. Brian Kemp and Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens were among dozens of mourners who silently observed the proceedings on the tarmac.

“Jimmy Carter was one of the greatest men to live and a great example for all service members,” said Samuel Olivos, a U.S. Navy seaman who was part of the funeral ceremonial team at Dobbins.

Tuesday’s journey to the nation’s

Former president will be buried next to wife Rosalynn

capital was the latest leg in a nearly weeklong funeral procession that departed Saturday from southwest Georgia, stopped at Carter’s boyhood farm in Plains, and then traveled north by motorcade to Atlanta.

After his plane landed at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, the naval veteran was brought to the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington. Located off Pennsylvania Avenue, the memorial features a statue of a lone sailor, towering masts with signal flags and bronze sculptures depicting Navy history.

As a boy growing up in South Georgia, Carter dreamed about becoming a naval officer.

“Although I might stand in your yard and admire the railroad engineers as they went by and tooted their steam whistles in answer to my waving hand, it was not their admirable job but the vague image of someday being on a ship that became my dream,” Carter wrote in his memoir.

After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1946, Carter became a submariner and rose to the rank of lieutenant. In 1953, Carter left the Navy after his father became terminally ill with cancer. He returned to Georgia to take over the family farm, paving the way for his political career. An advanced Seawolf-class submarine is named for Carter.

Following funeral services today, Carter’s remains will be flown to Fort Moore near Columbus. Finally, his motorcade will pass through Plains before he is buried at his home next to his beloved wife of 77 years, former first lady Rosalynn Carter, who died in 2023.

Felony arrests

Domestic battery
A rural Portland man was arrested Wednesday for domestic battery. Lucas W. Wittkamp, 44, 293 E. 300 North, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony. He was being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

Warm ...

Continued from page 1
Ison noted that Eliza Bader, who has been the water park manager for the last two summers, does not plan to return in 2025. He said he has reached out to some candidates who Bader recommended.

The board also approved a contract with Goodhew Roofing for work on the concession stand at Portland Memorial Park’s Runkle-Miller Field, home of the Portland Rockets, at a cost of \$6,450. The contract calls for the work to be completed by May 1.

Shauver told board members he is working on getting quotes for upgrading electrical service at Runkle-Miller Field as well.

In other business, the board:

- Tabled discussion of installing new security cameras at Milton Miller Park. The board reviewed a

Work planned for concession stand at Runkle-Miller

quote from NuWave Technology of Coldwater, Ohio, with a cost of \$9,123 for two cameras in the park. The board tabled the quote to seek clarification on details regarding electrical work.

- Re-elected Ison as president, McFarland as vice president and Weitzel as secretary.

- Approved the purchase of two mowers from K&L Tractor Sales of Fort Recovery at a cost of \$14,800.

Identified ...

Continued from page 1
Fifteen Portland firefighters arrived on scene Christmas Day with three fire trucks. Bryant Volunteer Fire Department also responded, along with Jay County Sheriff’s Office, Jay Emergency Medical Service, Jay County Coroner’s Office and Portland police Department. Representatives from Indiana State Fire Marshal’s Office and Indiana Department of Homeland Security also arrived later that morning. Emergency personnel stayed on scene for nearly five hours Dec. 25.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

SERVICES

Friday
Grile, Steven: 6 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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

Service listings provided by
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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

Ex-wife carries old grudge

Dear Abby



have what I consider to be a happy marriage. My question concerns ongoing conversations we have been having about my hair color. The first couple of years we were together, my hair was gray, and then I dyed it red. While I know he loved it, I did it for one reason: I wanted to avoid aging myself unnecessarily in the workplace. My husband knew this.

Two years ago, now retired, I decided to stop coloring my hair. Since then, he continually mentions that he wants me to return to red hair. I have told him repeatedly that I'm unwilling to do that. He says he loved me so much when I was a red-head (does that mean he loves me less now?) and that my "going gray" has made HIM feel old.

I am dismayed and annoyed by his continuing campaign to have me color my hair again, and I have said so. He even brings it up in front of our friends, which feels to me as though he's trying to gather outside support for his argument. I LIKE my gray hair.

It saddens me that my husband finds me less attractive or that my gray hair may be the reason he "feels old," but I wonder why my hair color choice bears that burden of responsibility. Isn't it rightfully my choice? I wouldn't dream of directing him about how to wear his hair. Your thoughts? — SILVER GIRL IN NEW YORK

DEAR GIRL: This shouldn't be a power struggle, which it appears it has turned into. Yes, your hair color is your choice, and rightfully so. (Would wearing a red wig when your husband is feeling amorous be a workable compromise?) If he "feels old" when he sees gray hair, perhaps coloring his own hair would make him feel younger.

selfish of me to keep the car I bought, or keep the money if I decide to sell? The stimulus checks have been helpful, but my financial future is up in the air because of the life-altering accident. — INJURED IN INDIANA

DEAR INJURED: Keep the car you purchased. Tell your mother you know she meant well. Then GIVE her back the car SHE bought, as well as the keys and the pink slip, so she can do whatever she wants with it. If you do, it will cause less conflict.

DEAR ABBY: I am having a problem with love. I like two boys. The problem is they are best friends, and I have already kissed them both. I don't know what to do. We aren't dating. I can't choose, because if I date one of them the other will be angry with me and with his friend. Help me, please. — WORRIED STUDENT IN SPAIN

DEAR STUDENT: You are lucky that you have youth and the freedom to choose. Regardless of which of the boys you pick, there will be problems. That's why I suggest you get romantically involved with neither one, find someone else to "love" and refrain from kissing that person's friends. Buena suerte!

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been together for 16 years and

DEAR ABBY: My fiance's daughter is having a baby. Her mother is helping give the shower. My fiance and his ex have been divorced for 21 years. She was the one who cheated, asked for the divorce and kicked him out. She threatened not to attend her daughter's wedding because he was bringing me. We have been together nine years now.

I am not invited to the shower because the ex doesn't want me there. It's not even being held at her home. His daughter likes me but doesn't want to upset her mom. I think it's time for the ex to grow up and get a life. I told my fiance the whole thing is childish, but now I no longer want to go to the shower because you can't like me one day and then not the next. What should I do? — EX ISSUES IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR EX ISSUES: Be the adult your fiance's ex isn't. Suck it up and make plans with some of your friends so you're not sitting alone feeling sorry for yourself while the baby shower is happening. Buy a nice present for the little one, offer it to the mother at some other time and don't make waves.

DEAR ABBY: I was recently in a traumatic car crash (hit head-on by a drunk driver within a mile of my home). It resulted in my right leg being broken in multiple places. I bought a car with the insurance claim. Within a month and without warning, my mother bought me the exact same car that was totaled in the accident. The catch is, my mother expects me to sell the car I purchased and give her the proceeds.

First, this was portrayed as a gift. Now it seems like it's a debt hanging over my head. Would it be rude or



Photo provided

People's Choice

Fort Recovery Friends of the Library announced "A Very Disney Christmas" by Unlocking the Magic Travel with Kelly Walter, pictured above, earned the People's Choice Award from the Fort Festival of Trees held Dec. 9 through 31 at Fort Recovery Public Library.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay

Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

JAY COUNTY SCOUTS — Host their annual meeting at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 9 at Jay County Scout Facility, 450 S. Como Road, Portland. For questions, call Jerry Maitlin at (260) 726-5511.

JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB — Will meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

Friday

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

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical

Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

Sunday

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

Monday

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second

and fourth Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridi-

an St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

REDISCOVERING JOY — The support group of widows and widowers

meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at R & R Fabrications, 601 E. Washington St., St. Henry, Ohio. For more information, email rediscoveringjoy@yahoo.com.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

Here Comes the

Bridal Season!

BRIDAL SECTION ADVERTISING SPECIALS

Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Deadline for ads is Monday, Jan. 20

Our brides special section will be distributed in
The Commercial Review (Portland),
The News-Gazette (Winchester)
and The News Times (Hartford City)

full-page color	— \$625
full-page B&W	— \$525
1/2-page color	— \$425
1/2-page B&W	— \$325
1/4-page color	— \$275
1/4-page B&W	— \$225
Big business card (3x3.5)	— \$105
Business card (2x2)	— \$52

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

GRAPHIC PRINTING
NEWSPAPERS

Thank you for Christmas cheer

To the editor:
A huge thank you to all the folks who had a part in setting up the beautiful Christmas lights display at Jay County Fairgrounds.

We were able to view the numerous displays from the comfort of our warm cars.

What a wonderful Christmas gift given to

Letters to the Editor

our community. Thank you. Thank you.
Rose Fennig
Portland

Expect change, but not much

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**
Later this month the Trump 2.0 administration takes office.

A new feature of that administration is the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) headed by Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy (Elon and Vivek).

One question is: What will this dynamic duo want to cut in the way of federal statistical programs?

The support for those programs is thin. Each question asked of households and businesses has its own small group of advocates. Together they are mighty, but they can be picked off one by one when separated, which is what may be expected.

As an example, consider a little known Census Bureau effort called the Household Pulse Survey. With COVID-19 five years ago came a desire by many to know how that disease was affecting the many diverse populations in our country. Census began reporting every two weeks, by state and for a small group of large metropolitan areas, the experiences of American households.

These reports were experimental. They included facts as well as expectations. (Let's not quibble about whether expectations are facts.) How many or what percent of households were not current on rent or mortgage payments? How many thought eviction or foreclosure in the next two months was very or somewhat likely? In Indiana, during 2024, that figure bounced between 15% and 42%.

How many drivers changed their behavior in the past seven days due to the cost of gas? That figure gyrated between 48% and 60% among Hoosiers between February and September of 2024.

My favorite: What percent of adult Hoosiers felt lonely sometimes, usually or always? Pick a number from 39% to 46%.

This Pulse program seems ripe for picking. The Census Bureau anticipated its vulnerability and suspended it in mid-September 2024. Suspended, not forsaken, it will be woven into a Household Trends and Pulse Survey (HTOPS) set to appear this month.

When Elon and Vivek get rolling, they will have no problem finding programs and activities to "trim back" throughout the federal government. We can look forward to a few outstanding examples of massive, "outra-

Eye on the Pie



When Elon and Vivek get rolling, they will have no problem finding programs and activities to 'trim back' throughout the federal government. We can look forward to a few outstanding examples of massive, 'outrageously wasteful,' bureaucratic activities. But little will change.

geously wasteful," bureaucratic activities. But little will change.

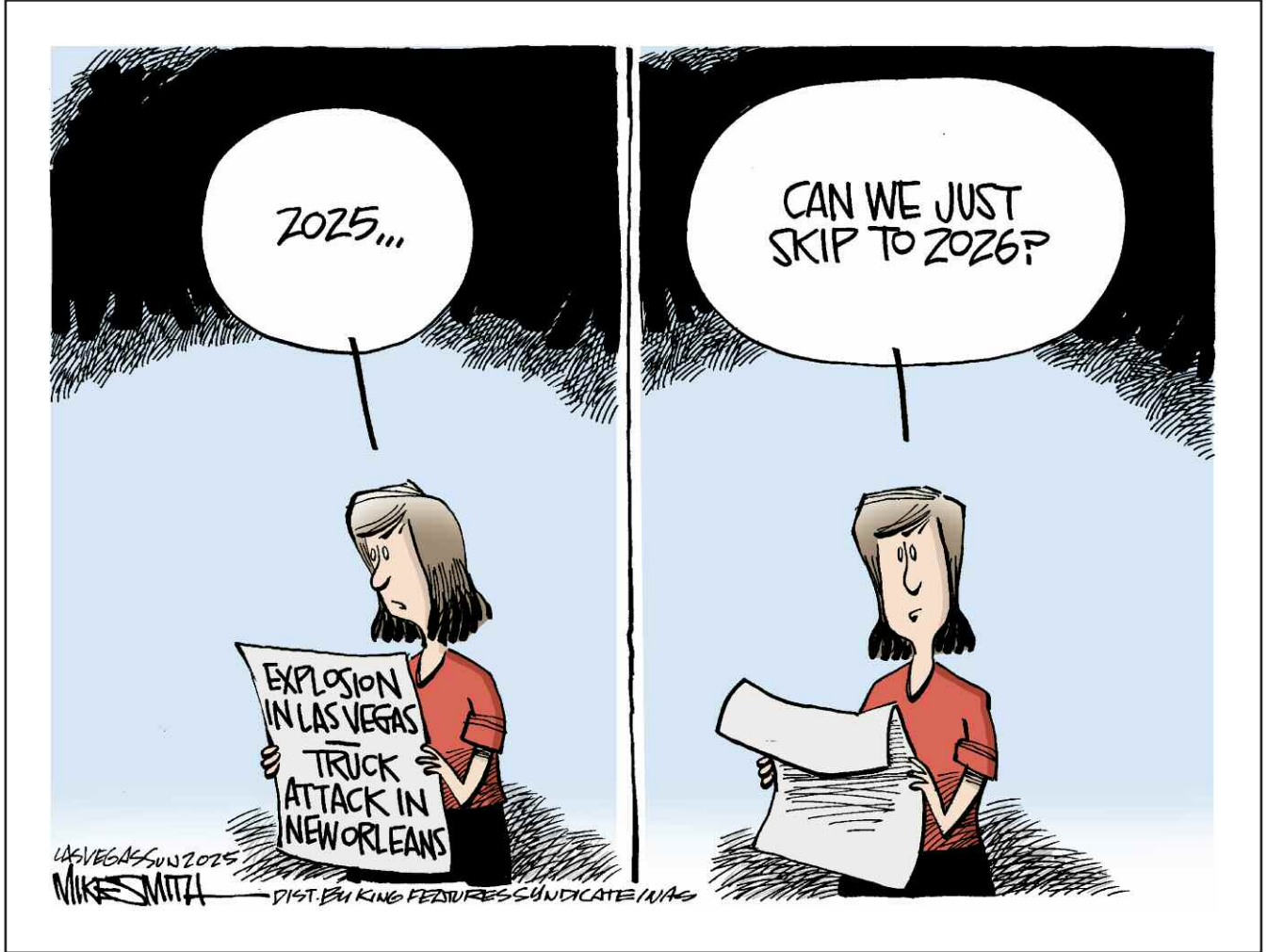
One way for an agency to avoid spending money is to let someone else spend it. To satisfy cost-cutters, an agency out-sources collection and tabulation of data since cost-cutters know the private sector can do everything for less than a public agency. That private entity is paid for its expenses, which include the overhead and expertise of the private firm.

•Question of fact sought by the agency: How many years were you in jail?

•Question of opinion asked by the contractor: How do you feel about that?

In this way, a consulting firm can seek answers to questions that might embarrass a public agency. Universities are among the better beards used for this purpose.

.....
Marcus is an economist. Email him at mortonjmarcus@gmail.com.



Congress should end credit

By **VERONIQUE DE RUGY**
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

The federal tax credit for electric vehicle purchases has far outlived its purpose and now stands as a glaring example of government overreach and economic inequity.

Originally introduced in 2008 to stimulate a fledgling market, and then renewed and expanded in 2022 as part of the Inflation Reduction Act, this credit remains what it has been from the start: an ineffective subsidy primarily benefiting the wealthy.

Congress should end it.

On the fiscal side, we face a \$2-trillion budget deficit, and it's growing. According to the Treasury, the credits for electric vehicles in the Inflation Reduction Act, which can be up to \$7,500 on certain new EVs and up to \$4,000 on certain previously owned EVs, represent \$112 billion in lost revenue. But based on the last few years, there are reasons to believe the cost will be much higher.

In addition, the EV credits are part of an industrial policy package of energy tax credits, mandates and "buy American" requirements under the IRA that will cost more than \$1 trillion over 10 years, deepening the deficit hole we find ourselves in.

Beyond the price tag that burdens taxpayers, the credit is unfair to the vast majority, who — being less well off than EV purchasers — drive relatively affordable gasoline-powered vehicles and do not reap any financial benefit from the credit.

Studies repeatedly show that most of these credits go to higher-income individuals, making the credit a tax cut for the rich.

For instance, the Congressional Research Service study noted: "For vehicles purchased in 2021, taxpayers with adjusted gross income (AGI) greater than \$100,000 represented 22% of all filers and received 84% of the credit benefits."

The IRA tax credit's income limit (\$150,000 for single filers, \$300,000 for joint filers) and refundability may tilt some benefits to low-income taxpayers. However, EVs have higher purchase prices than comparable gas vehicles, even with tax credits, and installing home charging equipment is easier for homeowners, who tend to have higher incomes, versus renters. As a result, EV tax credits will probably remain a higher-income taxpayer boondoggle.

In fact, a recent study by five economists finds "that 75% of the EV subsidies claimed under the IRA have gone to consumers who would have bought an electric vehicle anyway."

Veronique de Rugy



According to their calculation, each car sold due to the incentive (roughly 25% of the total number of vehicles sold) came at a cost to taxpayers of \$32,000. The credit's inability to attract those who would prefer to purchase a gas vehicle is a clear sign of its failure, which explains the need to impose even more authoritarian measures like EV-related mandates.

Making matters worse is the fact that in recent months, the sales of EVs have stalled. Despite the taxpayers' help, sales remain stuck at 7% of the market, strongly suggesting that while tax credits may change the timing of electric vehicle purchases, they are not increasing the demand.

To those who believe that the cost and disparity in our tax code are worthwhile because we must fight climate change, I have news for you.

First, the environmental benefits of the credit are unclear. EVs are not emission-free when considering the carbon footprint of battery production and electricity generation. Also, EVs primarily replace the purchase of newer gas vehicles, which pollute less than the older vehicles that remain on the road. Combined with the fact that many tax-credit recipients would have purchased an EV anyway, it's unlikely that there's much environmental bang for the buck.

The cost of the government picking winners compounds this problem.

There is little reason to believe that the technological path that government officials happen to prefer is the optimum one — and the danger is that tax credits are creating market distortions that crowd out better solutions.

By artificially propping up EV manufacturers and steering consumers toward one specific technology, other — perhaps better — technologies can be thwarted. Hybrids, plug-in hybrids, hydrogen fuel cell cars, alternative fuels or other emerging innovations are penalized despite their important role in addressing environmental and energy challenges. Each deserves equal footing to determine which can deliver more effective environmental benefits, lower costs or both.

Yet, instead of fostering open competition and letting the best solutions reveal themselves or

allowing different technologies to serve different customer needs, the tax credit creates winners and losers based on political priorities.

Finally, the tax credits were initially sold by congressional sponsors as a means "to help get these products over the initial stage of production ... to the mass production stage, where economies of scale will drive costs down and the credit will no longer be necessary." We've already passed that stage.

While still small, the EV market has matured and no longer needs these crutches. Even Elon Musk, the chief executive of Tesla Motors — the leader in U.S. EV sales with two out of three cars sold and the biggest beneficiary of the credits — says that it should end.

Writing in the Wall Street Journal, Toyota's Jack Hollis also called for the end of expensive and inefficient tax credits.

It's high time this policy goes away. The federal EV tax credit is an inefficient, regressive program that benefits the wealthy at the expense of average Americans. Eliminating it would restore fairness, reduce government interference in the market and, through genuine competition, better allow resources to go toward initiatives that enable as many people as possible to purchase cleaner vehicles.

There are far more effective ways to design policies to address climate change.

The best is to unleash capital to fund as many green and innovative projects as possible by reducing taxes on capital gains and renewing the ability to immediately deduct 100% of capital investments. Projects like solar farms, wind turbines and grid infrastructure require massive upfront capital investments. Without full expensing, these costs must be depreciated over many years, reducing the present value of tax benefits.

In addition, better cash flows in the early years make it easier to secure financing. There is also a timing issue. The clean energy transition requires rapid deployment of new technologies. Full expensing encourages companies to accelerate investments rather than delay them. The federal government also should lift the permitting barriers that bureaucrats have erected that make building and innovating harder than they should be.

Subsidizing high-end car buyers is a poor strategy for achieving meaningful environmental progress. But we know how to do better.

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De Rugy is a senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The rabbit-in-the-hat trick

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ Q 5 4
 ♥ 8 4 2
 ♦ A 10 2
 ♣ K Q 5 2

EAST
 ♠ J 10 8 7
 ♥ —
 ♦ 9 8 7 6 5 3
 ♣ 10 8 3

SOUTH
 ♠ A K 2
 ♥ A K 10 9 6 5
 ♦ J
 ♣ A 7 4

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1♥ Pass 2♣ Pass
 3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass
 4NT Pass 5♦ Pass
 5NT Pass 6♦ Pass

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

One of the principal differences between the expert and the nonexpert player is that the expert maintains his composure in the face of adversity while the nonexpert is often unnerved by an unexpected development and fails as a result.

Consider this deal where, we'll say, a fictional expert finds himself in six hearts and West leads the king of diamonds. Upon seeing dummy, South might at first think he is going to make seven if the trumps are divided favorably. But this notion is quickly dispelled after he takes the diamond lead with the ace and leads a trump to the ace, on which East shows out.

This distressing development fails to faze our imaginary declarer, however. He has been to the wars before and realizes that if the gods are kind to him, he can still get home safely.

He proceeds on the assumption that the slam can still be made — despite the 4-0 trump division — if West started with precisely 3-4-3-3 distribution. Accordingly, after taking the trump ace at trick two, our hero cashes the A-K-Q of spades, ruffs a diamond, cashes the A-K-Q of clubs and ruffs dummy's last diamond.

Having negotiated these hurdles without incident, declarer is now in position to claim the slam. Every-one is down to three cards, with West holding the Q-J-7 of trump and South the K-10-9. Declarer exits with the nine, and West's two trump tricks suddenly dwindle to one.

It is true that if West had any distribution other than 3-4-3-3, the slam would fail. Nevertheless, the fact remains that South has to hope for this distribution and must plan his play as if it actually exists.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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Peanuts

Rose is Rose

Agnes

Hi and Lois

Between Friends

Blondie

Snuffy Smith

Beetle Bailey

CRYPTOQUIP

VW' H RQ HNMAMVHZ WCOW
 FQNRWVVRH SVDD ODSOXH
 FOJZ FZ YMOYJ NA DONECVRE.
 WCZX OMZ CVDD-OMZOH.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE I CONSUME VERY FEW FOODS WITH ANY PROTEIN OR FAT, PEOPLE HAVE CALLED ME A CARBIVORE.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals N

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 Sticks (out)
 5 Govt. loan agcy.
 8 Answer an invite
 12 Canyon come-back
 13 Chest muscle
 14 Andy's boy
 15 Israeli airline
 16 Dumpster explorer
 17 Spoken
 18 Costa Rica neighbor
 20 "Good as new," for one
 22 Crow's greeting
 23 French diarist Anais
 24 Pedestal
 27 Nevada gambling city
 32 Recipe abbr.
 33 "Sixth sense"

DOWN
 1 Army transport
 2 Golden State sch.
 3 Compared to
 4 Comfort
 5 Really spread out
 6 Actress Arthur
 7 Performs
 8 Rent sharer
 9 Spaniel type
 10 Test tube
 11 Soccer legend
 19 Bell or Barker
 21 Bill of sale (Abbr.)
 24 "Dynamite" band
 25 Blond shade
 26 Tidying (up)
 28 Enzyme suffix
 29 Toothed wheel
 30 "I love," to Ovid
 31 Bro's sib
 36 Sheathe
 37 God, to Galileo
 38 Crude stone artifact
 41 "That's a laugh!"
 42 Lip
 43 — Major
 44 Exceptional
 46 Kate of "The Martian"
 47 Alike (Fr.)
 48 Apple variety
 51 Scepter

Solution time: 24 mins.

FLAG	AMT	ACES
LOBE	LOO	RAVE
ASUNCI	ON	EPEE
METED	IMP	ELS
VITA	OAT	
YODA	OGRE	OTT
AHA	GREET	WAD
MMM	LEND	ONUS
ANA	TOMB	
RESUME	ASPEN	
ACCT	NEWDELHI	
SHUT	DNA	SOUL
POSY	SOY	STDS

Yesterday's answer 1-9

90 SALE CALENDAR

48TH ANNUAL COLDWATER YOUNG FARMERS CONSIGNMENT AUCTION
 Saturday February 8, 2025
 The Coldwater Young Farmer Association will be conducting their annual farm machinery consignment auction at the Coldwater football stadium parking lot in Coldwater, Ohio.
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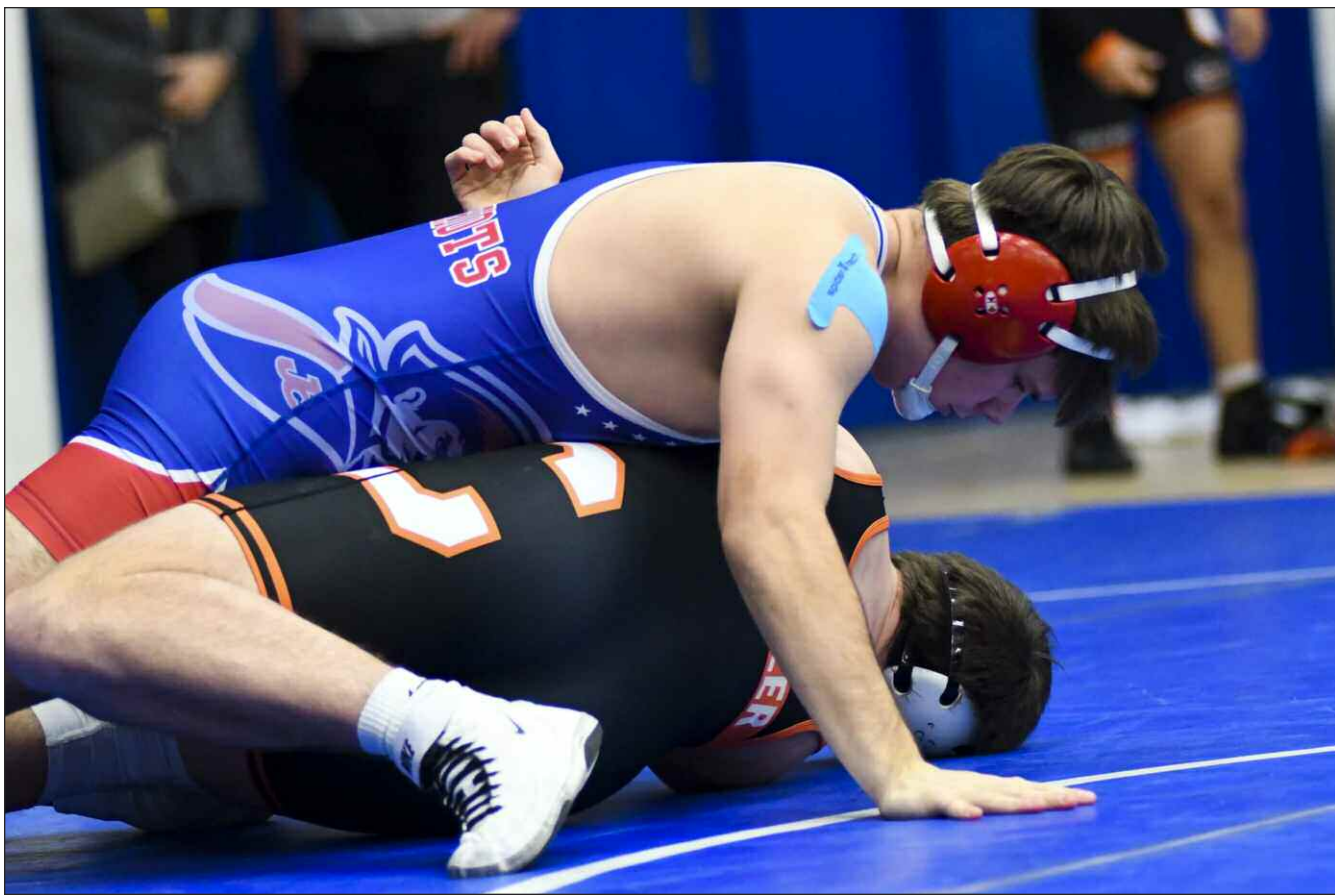
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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County senior A.J. Myers pushes for a pin of Sam Rismiller of Coldwater during their 190-pound match Tuesday. Myers finished his match in just 37 seconds as the three seniors in the Patriot lineup for Senior Night went 3-0 with two pins and a forfeit.

Rusty ...

Continued from page 8
“I feel like we wrestled tough,” said Alig, who had six freshmen in the lineup. “We know that they’re good. ...”

“Overall, I feel like we wrestled really tough, so I’m proud of how our guys hung. It’s a lot closer than the last couple of years. I’m really proud of them.”

Alan Ortiz started to swing the momentum, getting a double-leg take-down and near fall in the final five seconds to turn a tight heavyweight match into an 8-0 major decision over Carter Heitkamp.

Corbin Lothridge and Syllas Wenk sandwiched first-period pins around a Griffin Byrum forfeit at 113 to claim the lead for JCHS, setting up Heskett and Landers to finish off the comeback.
“I was really happy that we were able to pull off some of those matches that we were,” said Myers. “We were in a bad way. We were hoping to get a pin

out of Alan. ... Then Corbin Lothridge ... went out there and put a nice half and a wrist in and got a pin for us when we really needed one.”

He said he had a conversation with Wenk about proving Coldwater wrong after it moved Brent Heuing up from 113 to avoid Byrum.

“He’s wrestling great and he went out and got a pin for us there,” said Myers.

Junior varsity

Jay County picked up three victories in six contested junior varsity matches, with 215-pounder Brice Coy finishing off Brandon Hemmelgarn in just 15 seconds.

The other two victories both came over Aiden Norris at 126 pounds. Miles Jones pinned Norris in 26 seconds while Hayden Richman won his match by a 19-3 technical fall in the second period.

Jay swim splits with the Belmont Braves

The girls took nine out of 12 events and ran away with the victory.

The boys only managed five wins, and came up just short of the Braves.

The Jay County High School swim teams split with the Belmont Braves on Tuesday as the girls won 183-100 and the boys lost 140-120.

Brooklynn Byrum led the way for the girls (4-3) with a pair of victories in the 200-yard individual medley and the 100 butterfly. The freshman won both events by over 14 seconds with a 2 minutes, 37 seconds, swim in the IM and a 1:11.94 in the butterfly.

Cooper Glentzer also won two events for the boys (2-5). Glentzer secured victories in the 50 freestyle (24.33 seconds) and the 100 freestyle (53.39).

Other Patriot wins came from:

- Sophia Hoevel – 200 freestyle
- Peyton Yowell – 200 freestyle
- Lauren Fisher – 50 freestyle

Jay County roundup

- Maddy Snow – 1-meter diving
- Avery Wentz – 100 backstroke
- Matthew Fisher – 100 backstroke
- Lincoln Clamme – 100 breaststroke
- Girls 200 medley relay
- Girls 200 freestyle relay
- Girls 400 freestyle relay

Overtime loss

FORT WAYNE — Jay County’s girls basketball team fell to the Concordia Lutheran Cadets 53-49 in overtime on Tuesday.

The Patriots (7-8) held a 33-27 lead on Concordia Lutheran (7-9) heading into the final period. While Jay County put up 13 points in the quarter, six baskets by Sydney Blackwell helped the Cadets claw back and force overtime.

Blackwell — she led the

team with 16 points — scored another two hoops in the extra period, while her teammates went 3-of-4 at the free throw line to seal the deal.

CLHS shut down Schwieterman, who already had 25 points in the game, not allowing her to score in overtime. Elizabeth Brunswick put up all three of the Patriots points in the extra period, while shooting 1-of-5 at the foul stripe.

Junior high wins

The Jay County Junior High School wrestling team beat the Coldwater Cavaliers 56-53 on Tuesday.

The Patriots won two of the 12 contested matches.

Walter Campofiore picked up the first win, claiming the 113-pound contest with a 15-0 technical fall.

The other victory came from Logan Wendel in the 120-pound match. Wendel earned a 6-4 win in the contest.

Jay County’s other points all came from forfeits.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Elementary effort

Sawyer Kunkle tries for a throw Tuesday during the Jay County elementary school wrestling team’s match against Coldwater. The meet at JCHS featured varsity and junior varsity wrestlers on one mat, middle school on another and elementary school in the center.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

at Jay County – 6 p.m.

Today
Jay County — Swim tri meet – 6 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball vs. Anderson – 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball at Selma – 5:30 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball vs. Fort Recovery – 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. New Bremen – 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball vs. Celina – 5:30 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball

90 SALE CALENDAR

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Saturday, January 11, 2025
10:00 AM
Location of Sale: Bearcreek Farms 8341 N 400 E, Bryant, IN
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January 14th, 2025
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90 SALE CALENDAR

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Today

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5 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Texas A&M at South Carolina (ESPN2)
6 p.m. — College basketball: Purdue at Rut-

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Saturday February 8, 2025

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CR 1-2,9-2025

Rusty but victorious

Patriots give up five early pins, but come back to beat Coldwater 42-33

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The Patriots gave up five pins in the first seven matches.

Three of them came in the first period as they fell behind by 21 points.

There was still time for a comeback.

Winning six of the final seven matches, the Jay County High School wrestling team overcame its deficit for a 42-33 Senior Night victory over the visiting Coldwater Cavaliers.

"I felt like we wrestled pretty rusty," said JCHS coach Eric Myers, whose team has been off since winning the Dec. 27 Battle in the Bear Den at Monroe Central. "We haven't been on the mat for a little bit and I felt like it showed. ... I felt like we were on our heels a lot of the match. We weren't the aggressors in our match. ... In those matches that we lost, we weren't dictating where the match went. We were reacting to what they were doing. ...

"I was pretty hard on them after the match, but we did have some really good things that we did. We had some guys wrestle pretty well."

The team result came down to the final two matches as the Patriots (17-4) still trailed 33-31. They needed senior A.J. Heskett to give them a chance and then Jason Landers to secure the win.

Both came through.

After avoiding trouble in the opening moments of his match, Heskett wasted no time taking advantage of a reset. He used a double-leg takedown for a 3-0 lead against Trent Westgerdes in their 132-pound bout, added a two-point near fall and then finished the match in 1 minute, 2 seconds.

"I've just got to stick to my moves and pin him," said Heskett. "I can't let the pressure get to me when it's close."

His win put the match in the hands of Landers at 138 and he came through. He racked up a takedown and two three-point near falls in the opening period, just missing a pin on a leg cradle. He got a reversal in the second period and then two more near falls in the third for an 18-0 technical fall.

"I was just out there doing everything I could," said Landers. "I was just throwing everything I had at him because I knew the match was on the line. And I knew I wanted to win for the team."

Coldwater's early advantage came from pins by Ohio's 13th-ranked Brady Hamilton over Chandler Murphey at 144, Gavin Kuhn over Caleb Sibray at 157, Colton Hibner over Mario Ardizzone at 165, Collin Westgerdes over Cole Carpenter at 175 and Aidan Laux over Freddie Lingo at 215. Hamilton, Hibner and Westgerdes all finished their matches in the opening period.

The only wins for the Patriots in the first half of the meet came from senior A.J. Myers with a pin of Sam Rismiller in just 37 seconds at 190 pounds and a 6-3 victory for Jacob Robinson over Tanner Stammen at 150.

Though the Cavaliers were unable to hold on to the lead, coach Aaron Alig was pleased with the improvement his young team showed. Coldwater finished sixth behind the champion Patriots at the East Central Indiana Classic just before Christmas and lost to JCHS 53-14 last season, 58-15 in 2023 and 53-24 in 2022.

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

A.J. Heskett of Jay County High School pins Coldwater's Trent Westgerdes during their 132-pound match Tuesday. Heskett's win put the Patriots up by four en route to a 42-33 victory after they had trailed by 12 through the first seven matches.

Fort owns first half for 55-43 win over Ansonia

ANONIA, Ohio — The Indians locked down the Tigers in the first half.

After holding strong in the third quarter, they finished the game off nailing 12-of-18 shots at the free throw line.

The Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team claimed a 55-43 victory over the Ansonia Tigers on Tuesday.

The Tribe (5-8) locked up Ansonia (6-6) in the first half, only allowing nine points. Olivia Creager hit a three and a 2-pointer for all five first-quarter points, while Rose Barga and Autumn Best each had one hoop in the second.

While the Tigers were limited, the Indians put up 22 points in the first half, including 11 from Karlie Niekamp. (She led all scorers with 16 points.)

FRHS was outscored 18-12 in the third period, but maintained its lead, forcing Ansonia to foul to stay in the game. Fort Recovery hit 66.7% of its foul shots in the final period to pull out the win.

Kennedy Muhlenkamp and Bridget Homan also broke double digit scoring for the Indians with 14 and 13 points, respectively.

Charlotte Braga scored a team-high 13 points for the Tigers, while Creager added 10.

Low numbers hurt

BERNE — Low numbers hurt Fort Recovery's swim teams as it couldn't generate enough points in losses to South Adams and Minster in a double dual on Thursday.

The girls' 74-52 loss to Minster was the closest margin of defeat as they fell to South Adams 102-47. Minster beat the FRHS boys 88-22, while

FRHS roundup

South Adams routed them 67-20.

The Tribe only won two events.

Early on in the meet, Carson Fullenkamp swam a 2 minute, 23.11 second 200-yard individual medley to claim the top spot over South Adams' Griffin Hill (2:40.60).

The other top finish came from Joelle Kaup in the 500 freestyle. Kaup's 6:10.49 was just over 20 seconds faster than Calah Hill of SAHS.

The Indians finished as the runner-up in six events.

Kaup and Fullenkamp supplemented their victories with second-place finishes in the 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle, respectively. Caleb Smith finished as the runner-up twice in the 200 freestyle and the 100 breaststroke. Liza Knapke also claimed second in the 200 freestyle. Livy Timmerman earned the second spot in the 200 individual medley.

Career bests set

NEW BREMEN, Ohio — The Fort Recovery girls bowling team had a pair of underclassmen break their career-best scores to help the Indians to a 2,821-2,322 victory over the Versailles Tigers on Saturday at Speedway Lanes.

Fort Recovery's 2,821 total pins set a new benchmark for the highest score in a dual match. It also set a new high score of 1,033 from the five bowlers in a single set of individual games.

Sophomore Deanna Brown led the way for the Indians (4-1, 3-0 Midwest Athletic Conference) with scores of 256 and 235 for a 491 series. Those scores set new career bests in both an individual game and series at the varsity level.

Freshman Lilah Thien also rolled a career-high game, knocking down 250 pins en route to a 405 series.

Emily Lauber also broke the 200 mark with a score of 213 in the first game and 372 total pins.

Other scores came from Ella Schoen (340), Jadya Wyerick (157) and Kayla Heitkamp (143).

FRHS also set a new team-best 913 pins over the five baker games to help beat Versailles (5-3, 3-1 MAC), which tied with Fort Recovery for the MAC title a year ago.

Fort falls

NEW BREMEN, Ohio — Fort Recovery's boys bowling team dropped a close match to the Versailles Tigers 2,742-2,705 on Saturday at Speedway Lanes.

Riley Grieshop led the way with a 201 average pinfall for the Indians (3-7, 2-2 MAC), while Eli Lennartz followed with 187. Grieshop finished with 402 total pins, while Lennartz knocked over 374.

Leland Wilson shot the high game of 230 pins for FRHS. Other scores came from Anthony Roesner (347), Drew Backs (166), Gabe Acheson (164) and Reece LeFevre (141).

The Tribe got edged out in baker play as well, 897-881.

Blake Henry (204.5) and Sam Albers (203) both averaged over 200 pins for Versailles (6-2, 3-1 MAC).

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