

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



Photo provided

OAC state champions

Fort Recovery High School's cheerleaders won two titles Sunday in the Ohio Athletic Conference State Cheerleading Championships. The Indians successfully defended their 2024 traditional state title and also won the championship in the GameDay Building Division. Competing for the high school squad were senior Bailie Muhlenkamp, juniors Alexis Braun, Lahna Schlarman and Jesse Springer, sophomores Kendall Buckland, Aubrey Shuttleworth, Ashlyn Cantu, Trinity Rammel, Natalie Siegrist, Ava Fullenkamp and Madie Schoenlein, and freshmen Eliza Smith, Maddie Weigle and Maddie Reinhard. The Fort Recovery junior high cheerleaders finished fourth in the GameDay Building Division.

Sheriff's office getting 3 new vehicles

Commissioners OK purchase of transport and patrol vehicles

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review
Jay County Sheriff's Office will be getting a few new vehicles.

A few other projects, including replacing lights and resurfacing inmates' beds at Jay County Jail, are also in the works.

Jay County Commissioners OK'd Sheriff Ray Newton purchasing two new patrol vehicles and a new transport van for his department Monday.

Jay County Sheriff's Office chief deputy Ben Schwartz explained the department has been using a 2014 Dodge Caravan for transporting inmates. The vehicle, which has about 170,000 miles on it, has a makeshift divider installed by a previous sheriff's department administration, said Schwartz.

"We're not sure how safe it is to be driving it," he said, noting the van has windows without bars.

He added that inmates have attempted to escape from the van several times, resulting in thousands of dollars in damage.

Schwartz presented quotes from FR Conversions out of Westminster, Maryland, Statewide Ford of Van Wert, Ohio, and John Jones Police Pursuit Vehicles of Salem. He advocated for purchasing a conversion van from FR Conversions, noting it has individual front-facing seats with harnesses for each occupant. (Schwartz said offers from Statewide Ford and John Jones Police Pursuit Vehicles were for cargo vehicles with "prisoner insert," meaning occupants would share a bench seat with no seat belts.)

The van from FR Conversions, a 2024 Ram Promaster 2500 priced at \$82,667, seats between nine and 12 passengers.

See Vehicles page 2

L.A. braces for more firestorms

By BRIAN K. SULLIVAN

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Los Angeles and the rest of Southern California face a second week of fierce winds that are turning wildfires into blowtorches, putting lives at risk and destroying homes, business and cultural landmarks.

Extreme fire conditions are forecast across 2,267 square miles around Los Angeles Monday and Tuesday as winds rise again, whipping flames with tropical-storm-strength gusts, the U.S. Storm Prediction Center said. An even larger area of about 9 million people is under critical conditions until Wednesday.

High winds will limit opportunities for firefighters to make progress

High winds have Southern California on high alert through at least Wednesday

against the fast-moving Palisades and Eaton fires from the ground and air. The blazes have killed at least 24 people and burned down more than 12,000 buildings across over 40,000 acres in the Pacific Palisades and Altadena neighborhoods of Los Angeles.

"There is no chance of rain and the winds are

picking up. It is a really tough situation," said Bob Oravec, a senior branch forecaster with the U.S. Weather Prediction Center. "Individual days may vary but the fire weather dangers are going to remain high."

The fires are the third- and fourth-most destructive in state history and

are the worst natural disaster to hit Los Angeles since the 1994 Northridge earthquake, which killed 57 people. The blazes are expected to rank among the costliest in modern U.S. history. As of early Monday, the Eaton fire was 27% contained and the Palisades blaze was 13% contained.

AccuWeather Inc. has raised its estimate for damages and economic losses to between \$250 billion and \$275 billion, up from \$135 billion to \$150 billion. The commercial forecaster takes into account direct and secondary losses, such as lost wages and supply-chain disruptions.

The debris and scarred landscape also set the stage for a future disaster, since

any rain that falls in the area threatens to trigger dangerous mudslides. Even as firefighters are battling the blazes, Governor Gavin Newsom has called for a plan to clear the area so that rebuilding can begin.

In the short term there is no chance for rain to either cause floods or help firefighters stall the blazes' spread, Oravec said. Some long-range models show rain by Jan. 26, but confidence isn't high for that outcome.

Most schools will reopen on Monday, with the exception of seven that remain in mandatory evacuation zones, said Alberto M. Carvalho, superintendent of Los Angeles Unified School District.

Braun sworn into office

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana's new governor was sworn into office before an enthusiastic crowd of hundreds of the state's most powerful politicians and everyday Hoosiers on Monday, with speakers focusing on the Hoosier State's future under the new administration — which coincides with new leadership at the federal level.

Mike Braun, a former U.S. senator, took the oath of office on two Bibles — one used by his family and the other used for Benjamin Harrison's presidential inauguration. Harrison is the only Hoosier to ever hold the nation's highest office.

"Now is the time to empower the next generation of Hoosiers and one again pursue freedom and opportunity with-

Former U.S. Senator becomes 52nd governor

out fear," Braun said. "I am committed to being a governor of not just words, but actions, as we create a prosperous future ... for all Hoosiers."

The ceremony showcased the 70-year-old's personal ties, with the national anthem performed by the Wabash College Glee Club — his alma mater — and the Pledge of Allegiance led by three of his grandchildren. The Rev. Andrew Thomas with the St. James and Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Haubstadt deliv-

ered the benediction for the devout Catholic's inauguration.

Braun will be the state's 52nd governor to take office and succeeds Eric Holcomb, who held the office for eight years. Braun won a contentious six-way Republican primary in May and overcame challenges from Democrat Jennifer McCormick and Libertarian Donald Rainwater in a November election.

See Braun page 2



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Whitney Downard

Mike Braun was sworn in as the state's 52nd governor on Monday before hundreds of Hoosiers in downtown Indianapolis. Braun takes the role following fellow Republican Eric Holcomb's two terms in office.

Deaths

Jacob Lykins, 52, Anderson

Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 36 degrees Sunday. The low was 27.

Cold conditions will continue tonight with the low dropping to 2 degrees.

Expect sunny skies Wednesday with the high topping out at 16.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Fort Recovery Public Library's used book sale started Monday and continues through Saturday. The library is open until 7 p.m. tonight and from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. For more information, contact the library at frpl@seolibraries.org.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of this week's Dunkirk City Council meeting.

Thursday — Details from the opening round of the ACAC basketball tournament.



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Felony court news

Pointing firearm

A Portland man was sentenced to a few days in jail and placed on probation after pleading guilty to pointing a firearm at another person.

Richard J. Brewster, 62, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to pointing a firearm at another person, a Level 6 felony, and resisting law enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but 90 days suspended and given 86 days credit for time served. Brewster

was fined \$25 and assessed \$189 in court costs. Brewster was placed on probation for 275 days.

Theft

A Montpelier woman was sentenced to jail for theft.

Connie S. Fear, 60, 3620 East 1100 South 90, Montpelier, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to the Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to 30 months in Jay County Jail with all but two days suspended and given two days credit for time served. Fear was placed on probation for two

years and assessed \$189 in court costs. She was ordered to pay \$40,000 in restitution for the benefit of IU Health Jay.

Dependent neglect

A Portland woman was sentenced to jail for two counts of neglect of a dependent.

Ali Carreno-Ruiz, 43, 2367 West Indiana 26, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to the Level 6 felony. Carreno-Ruiz was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all of his sentence suspended. He was fined \$1

and assessed \$189 in court costs. Carreno-Ruiz was placed on probation for one year. As part of his plea agreement, two Level 6 felonies for separate neglect of a dependent charges were dismissed.

In a separate case, Carreno-Ruiz also pleaded guilty to neglect of a dependent, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to another year in jail with all of his sentence suspended, fined \$1 and assessed \$189 in court costs. Carreno-Ruiz was placed on probation for one year.

Obituaries

Jacob Lykins, Anderson, a relative of Bryant residents, June 18, 1972-Jan. 8, 2025. Services will be at 11 a.m. today at Antioch Cemetery southeast of Portland.

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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

Wednesday 1/15	Thursday 1/16	Friday 1/17	Saturday 1/18	Sunday 1/19
19/10	33/25	42/34	37/18	34/7
Wednesday's forecast shows sunny skies with highs in the upper teens.	Mostly cloudy skies on Thursday when highs will be in the 30s during the day.	There's a 20% chance of rain on Friday. Otherwise, mostly sunny.	Saturday has a 50% chance of snow throughout the day. Cloudy skies late.	Mostly cloudy on Sunday, when the temperature may reach around 20 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$285 million	17-19-26-27-29-30-32-40-41-48-50-56-63-74-75-79 Cash 5: 12-13-14-22-35 Estimated jackpot: \$90,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$95 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 3-0-0 Pick 4: 1-6-1-0 Pick 5: 9-9-8-8-0 Evening Pick 3: 8-3-9 Pick 4: 0-2-5-3 Pick 5: 4-5-2-6-5 Rolling Cash 5: 18-24-33-35-37 Estimated jackpot: \$140,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 3-3-5 Daily Four: 8-8-1-7 Quick Draw: 3-4-6-12-14-15-22-27-29-41-42-56-58-61-64-65-67-74-79-80 Evening Daily Three: 6-7-3 Daily Four: 5-0-8-4 Quick Draw: 2-5-7-10	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.77 Feb. corn4.78 March corn4.81	Feb. beans10.43 Wheat 4.93
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.77 Feb. corn4.79 March corn4.81	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.69 Feb. corn4.69 Beans10.38 Feb. beans10.41 Wheat5.02
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.72 Feb. corn4.72 Beans10.40	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.76 Feb. corn4.76 Beans10.15 Feb. beans10.20 Wheat4.83

Today in history

In 1526, the Treaty of Madrid was signed by Charles V and Francis I, forcing Francis to give up Burgundy, Italy and Flanders.

In 1559, Elizabeth I took over as Queen of England. Known as "the Virgin Queen," her parents were Anne Boleyn and King Henry VIII.

In 1759, the British Museum opened to the public by act of Parliament six years earlier. It holds the antiques and artifacts such as the Elgin Marbles and the Rosetta Stone.

In 1784, the Treaty of Paris was ratified by the Continental Congress,

establishing the United States as its own nation.

In 1794, the first successful Cesarean section was performed by Doctor Jesse Bennet of Edom, Virginia, on his wife.

In 1900, Giacomo Puccini performed the opera "Tosca," in Rome's Costanzi Theatre.

In 1952, the "Today Show" premiered with Dave Garroway and Jack Lescoulie.

In 2005, space probe Huygens landed on Titan, Saturn's moon. It's known as the first landing in the outer solar system.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
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.

Wednesday
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.

Thursday
6 p.m. — Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Monday
6:00 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council public hearing, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Vehicles ...

Continued from page 1
It comes without a camera system or lights, although Newton shared plans to have those installed after it is delivered.

Schwartz also asked commissioners to approve purchasing two new patrol vehicles. Currently, the department has a 2017 Ford Explorer with 163,000 miles on it and a 2018 Ford Explorer with 164,000 miles. They are the last Ford Explorers in the sheriff's office fleet. (Indiana police departments have been shifting toward using Dodge Durangos as a standard pursuit car in recent years.)

Schwartz shared quotes from John Jones Police Pursuit Vehicles (\$44,249 apiece), Statewide Ford (\$48,336 apiece) and Thomas Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Highland (\$43,887 apiece) for two new Dodge Durangos. He suggested the lowest offer from the Highland business and pointed to several past county purchases from there.

Commissioners Doug Horn, Duane Monroe and Chad Aker approved purchasing the van from FR Conversions and the two Dodge Durangos from Thomas Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram.

Newton added he would like to sell the old vehicles at the next auction for county equipment.

Also Monday, commissioners heard a request from Schwartz and Newton to invest in resurfacing inmates' bed spaces. Schwartz noted the county purchased its pods originally from Steel Cell of Baldwin,

Sheriff asks commissioners to keep refurbishing beds on radar

Georgia, when it expanded the jail nearly 15 years ago. Protective coating on the beds has started flaking off and they need to be resurfaced, he continued.

To refurbish the beds in the county's 25 cells — they house between two to four inmates each — would cost an estimated \$105,158. Newton said he does not have funding in his budget but asked commissioners to keep the expense in mind moving forward.

"It's something that we need to look at and make sure that we try to get this fixed," he said.

In related business, commissioners also Monday:

•Agreed to move forward with drafting ordinances increasing county department heads' spending limits. (Currently, department heads must seek approval from commissioners for purchases more than \$1,000.) The potential ordinances would increase the limit to allow department heads to spend up to \$5,000 on purchases without commissioner approval, as well as enter into contracts in the same fashion up to a certain dollar amount.

•Heard Newton ask to replace 52 ballasts for emergency lights and 44 exit lights at the sheriff's office and jail for approximately \$23,297.80. Aker asked Newton to look into the cost to replace the whole fixtures for the 52 ballast lights.

•Approved an agreement with Briner Building of Bluffton to complete work not to exceed \$5,000 for a wall structure in one of the cells at Jay County Jail

•Reviewed the 2024 activity report for Jay County Sheriff's Office. Last year, county officers made 1,331 traffic stops — that's up 450 from 2023 — 363 traffic citations, 237 criminal arrests and 21 arrests related to driving under the influence. Jay County investigated 378 accidents in 2024, with 302 resulting in property damage, 72 causing personal injury and four resulting in fatalities. Approximately 757 adult males and 252 adult females were processed through the jail, with the daily inmate population average at just under 89 inmates.

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For more commissioners news, see Wednesday's newspaper.

Braun ...

Continued from page 1
Between elections, party delegates selected Micah Beckwith, a conservative Noblesville pastor, as his running mate over Braun's preferred pick.

Beckwith was also sworn into office on Monday alongside Attorney General Todd Rokita, who won re-election in November.

In the weeks since claiming victory, Braun unveiled a restructured cabinet streamlined into eight "verticals," rather than each agency head directly reporting to him. He said the additional layer of government would increase efficiency and be "entrepreneurial."

Braun's inauguration comes in the midst of budget negotiations during the 2025 legislative session — with far less spending leeway for ambitious projects. Despite the constraints, Braun has vowed to reform the state's property tax system following unprecedented, double-digit growth.

Other agenda items include addressing health care and energy costs.

SERVICES

Tuesday

Lykins, Jacob: 11 a.m., Antioch Cemetery, rural Portland.

Schisler, Jennifer: 6 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Service listings provided by
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Ads must run in January.

The Commercial Review

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Say hello to drink water January

By NEDRA RHONE

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Tribune News Service

Many of us resolve to do better, live better and be better in January, a time when we set goals and intentions for the future.

For that reason, I've always looked forward to January. But lately, the first month of the year has started to feel different.

Dry January. Veganuary. No spend January.

Everyone is swearing off some perceived vice — food, drink, shopping — which makes January seem more like a downer than an exciting new beginning.

Whatever label you put on it, January has come to represent a month of deprivation, which doesn't feel like a solid strategy for long-term change.

There is a reason Jan. 10 is dubbed National Quitters Day based on research showing that most people have abandoned resolutions by the second week of January.

I know at least one person who quit a resolution before he even started working toward it. After announcing to friends on New Year's Day his intention to stop drinking for 30 days, he sched-

Nedra Rhone



uled a lunch date for mid-January at a local brewery and sheepishly said he would probably have a beer ... and not the nonalcoholic variety.

I won't pretend we don't have problems in America that need to be addressed. Our drinking, eating and shopping habits likely rank high on the list of practices that need to be reigned in or reset.

Just last week, Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy released a new advisory on alcohol and cancer risk, revealing the direct connection between the consumption of alcohol and increased risk of cancers ranging from breast cancer to mouth cancer. It was yet another wake-up call that many of our habits can lead to poor health and diminished wellness.

Dry January may offer a moment for some people to

reevaluate their relationship to alcohol, but how meaningful that effort might be depends on the individual and their motivation. Everyone isn't going to derive the same benefit from a monthlong deprivation challenge.

Sean O'Neil, clinical director at Westside Recovery Center in San Diego, said breaking habits is hard and challenges like dry January or no-spend January can help get momentum going. But they can also lead to the kind of all-or-none thinking that makes you give up on the goal if you miss one day.

And participating in those challenges is often more about other people than you.

"These challenges rely too much on proving to others and external motivation rather than what is the deeper intrinsic motivation," O'Neil said. Anyone who is engaging in behavioral deprivation without digging into the psychological or emotional reasons for doing it may be missing the point.

Jenné Claiborne, the Atlanta-based creator of Sweet Potato Soul and author of "Vegan Vibes," agreed short-term

changes can be helpful but only when they are accompanied by a deeper understanding of what we are doing and why we are doing it.

"I do not make really big life changes in January, but I am very comfortable with helping people become vegan or become more plant-based at any time of the year," said Claiborne, who sometimes uses the term veganuary as a hashtag in January because it is catchy. Her focus, however, is on helping others live a vegan lifestyle that is longer term.

More important than going vegan for one month in January is understanding why you want to do it and learning more about what plant-based eating is all about, she said.

"Using January to try out the vegan thing is good, but throughout the month, educate yourself ... Veganism is more than a diet. Start to learn more about the lifestyle, and see if it is something that resonates with you," Claiborne said.

Easing into any new transition, such as becoming vegan, can be just as effective (or more effective) than going all in for one

month and then spending the next 11 months doing whatever you did the previous year.

Claiborne, whose path to veganism began in 2007 when she was a student at Boston University, notes that the 80/20 rule can work for transitioning from animal products to plant-based foods. That means eating plant-based 80% of the time and whatever you want 20% of the time.

No fan of a scarcity mindset, Claiborne likes to view veganism through a lens of abundance.

"I like to think of veganism as what you can eat," she said. "I like to present it as a positive or an abundant way of eating."

The abundance mindset could also apply to any of the challenges that pop up at the start of the new year.

Goodbye, dry January. Hello, drink more water January.

So long, no spend January. Welcome, shop your closet January.

Deprivation needs to have purpose, so join that challenge but also resolve to understand your deeper motivations, put progress over perfection and focus on all of the things that are being added to your life rather than taken away.

Open relationships can come at a cost

DEAR ABBY: I am a mental health therapist, and one of my favorite things to do is to read about people's experiences. Part of that is reading advice columns such as yours. More than once, a person has written about being a part of an open relationship (I'm talking about consensual situations). Your negative bias and judgment always come through in a way that makes me think you are not really giving the best feedback.

Overall, I prefer monogamous one-on-one relationships. Granted, I know life can be complicated, and what happens between two or three (or more) consulting adults is not something to sneer at. I suggest you reflect on your bias and judgment for people who live differently than you.

Dear Abby



Of course, sometimes I read about people who are rude and clueless, and you put them in their place. However, these situations — open relationships — I think are really outside your comfort zone to be preaching about. Do more research and grow more compassion, please, Abby. — MORE OPEN-MINDED IN ARIZONA

DEAR OPEN-MINDED: You are correct. I do have a bias against open relationships. I do not, however, lack

compassion. I feel the way I do because I have seen and learned from readers that these relationships are often not as "free-willed" as some would like to think. Sometimes the recessive partner feels coerced by the dominant one. I have also heard from those who tried it and ended up losing their spouse. While some open relationships are successful, the people I hear from are usually the ones who are hurting, which has also influenced my feelings on this subject.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I rent half of my sister and brother-in-law's house. They live in the front part; we live in the back. We have our own sep-

arate kitchen and bathroom, though we must go outside and around the corner and then reenter to use it.

We went on vacation for a month. While we were gone, my brother-in-law was supposed to remodel our kitchen and bathroom and be done by the time we got back. Four months later, nothing is ready to use. They told us we could use their kitchen and dedicated one of the inside bathrooms for us. Using their kitchen never worked for us, and my wife is always uncomfortable going into their part of the house.

Because of the inconvenience, my brother-in-law reduced our rent by half, and we were good with this. We mostly communicate by texting. He now claims he will be

done next month, but I'm not so sure. Regardless, he now wants to raise our rent to approximately 75% of the "usual" instead of half. What do you think of this? — INCONVENIENCED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR INCONVENIENCED: I think that, because your brother-in-law is unreliable, you should pay the increase in rent upon completion of the promised remodel and not before.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

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

Wednesday WEDNESDAY MORN-

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

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

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

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

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

Thursday

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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

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Closing primaries could be bumpy

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

After an outside group encouraged Democrats to vote in the GOP governor's primary last May, a bill has been filed to close Indiana's primary system.

That didn't happen in 2008 when conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh urged Republicans to do the same thing in the presidential race, which he dubbed "Operation Chaos."

But things are different now, as Indiana's Republican supermajorities seek to consolidate their control.

I'm going to be honest and say I don't really have a firm opinion on the proposal. So, I spent a few days researching how it works in other states and talking to former party chairs and politicians from both sides of the aisle to understand the pros and cons.

Niki Kelly



The thing they all agreed on is that it would reduce primary turnout and be an administrative nightmare.

The National Conference of State Legislatures says primaries can be categorized as closed, partially closed, partially open, open to unaffiliated voters, open or multi-party.

Nineteen states are either partially closed or closed, while 19 states are either partially open or open. The rest fall in the other categories.

Indiana is considered partially open because you don't regis-

ter as a member of the Republican or Democratic parties. But you do choose a Republican or Democratic ballot when voting in a primary. Your choice of ballot is also public record.

The only real deterrent from crossover voting is that you could negatively impact your ability to run for office in the future under a party's umbrella.

The system seems to largely work fine here in Indiana.

But the Indianapolis Star reported that Republicans are moving to closed primaries in other states, including Louisiana and Wyoming.

Rep. Michelle Davis, R-Whiteland, filed legislation to close Indiana's primary system. House Bill 1029 would allow a Hoosier to vote in a primary election only if the voter has "properly" affiliated with a specific political party by Dec. 31

the year before a May primary. "Primary elections should reflect the true will of a political party's members," Davis said in a statement to IndyStar. "By moving to a closed primary system, Indiana can ensure that the nominees selected by each party represent the values and priorities of its supporters."

One former chair I spoke with said the change would be chaotic, requiring all voters to have to re-register under a party if they want to pull a primary ballot. And they expect thousands to be unaware of the change and turned away at the polls during the first impacted election.

And the result won't be much different than what Indiana has now.

Another chair said turnout will drop because Americans don't necessarily want to be pigeonholed with an "R" or "D"

after their name. They want the freedom to vote for the best candidate in races that are important to them.

This person noted that in some parts of the state, the only contested races are in the primary. The current system allows for a voter who maybe is a Republican nationally to still have a say in their local race for prosecutor or sheriff.

"I mean, my guess is that once you get through a couple election cycles, it'll be a distinction without a difference. It'll just be bumpy getting there," a former politico said.

Kelly, editor-in-chief of Indiana Capital Chronicle, has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999.

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

Trump needs to actually govern

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

Donald Trump, formally and peacefully certified this week as the next president, wants to launch his second term by ramming through a "big, beautiful bill" that will encompass everything from immigration to energy to taxes. Glop-ping all that into a single package is a terrible idea and the Congress should not go along.

Perhaps the president-elect forgot during his time away, but the government actually has different branches, and Congress is not just a vehicle for his policy agenda. It is meant to be a deliberative body where different committees with different expertise figure out the best paths forward, in consultation with and not at the direction of the president.

Beyond the mechanics of such a MAGA megabill, Trump should give some thought to what his ideas actually portend for the country. We can't say the man has ever really shown himself to be a deep policy maven when it comes to actual governing, beyond his gift for marketing and personalistic campaigning, but these are proposals with major implications for the tens of millions of people who voted for him.

Tariffs, particularly in one of the indiscriminate and extremely expansive forms that Trump floated throughout the campaign, would do serious damage to international trade and U.S. consumer prices, which would immediately shoot up in every sector including basic purchases like food, fuel and electronics.

Even more limited versions like those currently under consideration would bring heavy risks, and any mitigation would be largely undone by across-the-board tariffs on our neighbors and biggest trading partners of Mexico and Canada. It seems that Trump wants to balance the resulting spike in consumer prices with big tax cuts, but that would be a significant departure from our present tax structure and is too much to cram into a single bill.

As much as immigra-

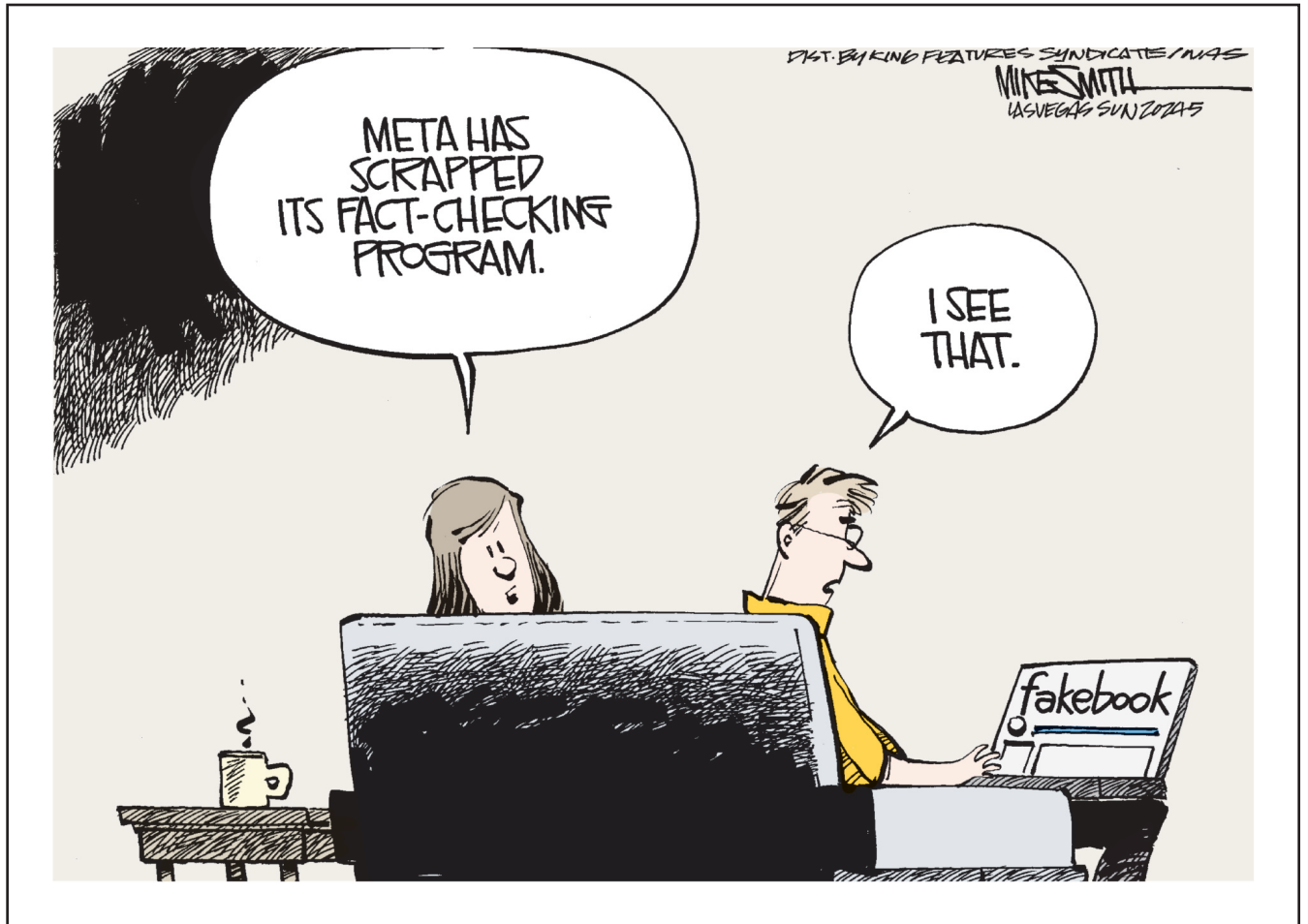
Guest Editorial

tion and its exploitable sense of disorder has been electorally animating for the GOP base, the truth is that most people don't actually realize what a mass deportation campaign would actually entail, starting with their own rights and civil liberties. There's no way to engage in massive surveillance, arrest and detention operations targeting millions of people around the country without to some extent damaging everyone's rights.

As we've pointed out before, such an operation also cannot, from a pure mathematical standpoint, target only "bad guys" or criminals or whatever some people are imagining to be the objective here. It will come after your neighbors, people you work with, people who volunteer in your local community and bring their kids over to your barbecues. Not only will this tear at the social fabric of communities around the country, it will bring the hammer down on the economy in practically all sectors, including existential ones like food production, construction and health care.

On energy, the mantra of "drill baby drill" is catchy enough, but it ignores that it is at this point probably more expensive, less secure and worse for the economy to try to turn back the clock on alternative energy production gains. These are a growth industry, and whatever additional economic activity we can eke out from going even heavier into oil and gas has to be balanced against the potential for the detrimental impacts of climate change, which is real and which really can be affected by the decisions of a massive polluter like the United States.

Trump has spent four years waiting. Now it's time to actually govern and make policy changes work.



Musk, critics are both wrong

By NOAH FELDMAN
Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

Elon Musk is in a free-speech fight over his decision to demonetize the content of some far-right MAGA critics who disagreed with his immigration views on his social media platform X. What is most remarkable about the argument is that both sides fail to acknowledge the simple truth of how speech, free or otherwise, works on social media. It's worth taking a moment to clarify what free speech means in the context of those platforms.

The most fundamental fact about speech on social media is that it takes two to tango: the user and the platform. You, the user, produce the content — commonly described in the industry as UGC, for user-generated content. The platform takes that content and, using its algorithm, sends it out to other users, your audience.

Both actors are essential, and both are necessarily working in tandem. Nothing would be said on social media without the user to produce content. No one would know what you said without the platform to publish the content. Hence, every act on a platform necessarily combines your speech with the platform's choice of what to distribute.

Compare this structure to legacy media, like the column you're reading. I wrote it, and Bloomberg published it. Both the company and I are speaking to you jointly right now. The difference between legacy media and social media is that Bloomberg hired me to write the column, whereas, on social media, you provide your content in exchange for the chance to have it distributed by the platform.

As a matter of black-letter, First Amendment constitutional law, I am in this column exercising my free-

Noah Feldman



speech rights — and so is Bloomberg. That means the government could not censor this column without violating my First Amendment rights and Bloomberg's. Similarly, the government could not censor your speech on social media without violating your First Amendment rights and the platform's. (The platform's First Amendment right to curate and publish your content was established last June by the Supreme Court in the landmark *Moody v. NetChoice* case.)

So, when the MAGA folks claim that X has violated their free speech rights by taking away their ability to monetize their content, they aren't using the concept of free speech in a constitutionally accurate way. They don't have a constitutional right to free speech that they can exercise against Musk or X. The platform can choose to de-platform them, and they couldn't invoke the First Amendment to get back on the platform. Indeed, if the government tried to say that X had to re-platform them, that effort would violate X's First Amendment rights under the *NetChoice* decision.

The MAGA users can plausibly say to Musk that by taking away their ability to monetize their content, he is violating a non-legally binding commitment he made to allow users to express any point of view on the platform with censorship. To the extent that Musk promised that sort of non-legal, non-constitutional "free speech" on X, he's broken the rules.

Musk, for his part, has no leg to stand on when he says that "the First Amendment's protection is for 'free speech,' not 'paid speech' ffs." If X were the government (which it isn't), and the First Amendment applied to it (which it doesn't), the government would not be allowed to punish some speakers by taking away an opportunity — like monetization — based on the speakers' point of view. Imposing such a punishment would count as an unconstitutional condition on free speech. It certainly would violate the First Amendment, "ffs" (as Musk would say).

Put another way, if Musk were serious about voluntarily applying First Amendment principles on X, he wouldn't demonetize speakers based on not liking what they say.

Of course, Musk is not applying First Amendment free speech principles to his platform. If he wants to allow diverse viewpoints on X, that's fine — and it's his First Amendment right as the owner of X. But he hasn't committed to following the same highly restrictive rules that would apply to him if he were the government.

The upshot is that if we want to be honest and accurate, we should recognize that free speech on social media means the First Amendment right of users and the platform to speak jointly and without government censorship. Beyond that, platforms that want to allow for a wide range of perspectives should be clear about what rules they use to moderate speech. Otherwise, we may forget how the new free speech really works — and lose the very First Amendment rights we all hold dear.

Feldman, a professor of law at Harvard University, is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist.

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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
—Thomas Jefferson

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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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Bank honored as top 100 lender

Independent Community Bankers of America has recognized First Bank of Berne as a Top 100 Ag Lender.

First Bank of Berne ranked first in Indiana for 2024. It was 20th among banks with assets over \$1 billion.

"Our commitment to agricultural lending has been acknowledged by the ICBA, placing us among the nation's best," said Jayde Ketring, agribusiness banking manager for the First Bank of Berne. "The strong relationships we build with our Ag customers, combined with the deep, local expertise of our Ag lending team, have helped us achieve over 133 years of success in this vital sector."

Celebrating 50

LifeStream Services is celebrating 50 years of service this year.

The organization is planning various events and celebrations to commemorate the milestone, including during National Nutrition Month in March and Volunteer Appreciation Month in April. It will hold its Healthy Aging Expo in May in Richmond.

LifeStream's annual Aging Well Conference and official 50th anniversary celebration are scheduled for June 3 in Muncie.

It is also creating a

Business roundup

keepsake cookbook of recipes from community members. To make a submission, go to lifestreaminc.org/50threcipecollection.

For additional details about the plans, visit lifestreaminc.org/50th-anniversary-landing-card.

Drop off food

Menards stores are serving as drop-off sites for food banks from now until the end of March.

Participating stores include those in Muncie, Anderson and Richmond in Indiana as well as Celina, Ohio.

Numbers accessed

IU Health reported that some Social Security numbers were accessed as part of a security incident.

The healthcare organization indicated that a "limited number" of Social Security numbers were involved. Information accessed may have also included addresses, ages, medical record numbers and diagnoses.

IU Health began investigating the issue Nov. 8 and started reaching out to those impacted at the beginning of the year.

Those with questions can call (877) 721-3120 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"The investigation determined that an unauthorized recipient had access to the team member's email account between August 27 and October 2, 2024, and may have obtained certain information," IU Health said.

Line expanded

Ardagh Glass Packaging - North America has expanded its line of Heritage glass beer bottles.

The company has added new 12-ounce bottles available in clear and amber glass. The clear bottles have a pry-off closure while the amber bottles are twist-off.

"Ardagh Glass Packaging continues to design and manufacture distinctive glass packaging that delivers brand differentiation for craft brewers and beverage producers," said Rashmi Markan, chief commercial officer for Ardagh in a press release. "The new 12oz Heritage bottles have a nostalgic look, while offering a wider label area for additional design flexibility and branding options in a shorter, lightweight container, when compared to a traditional long-neck bottle."

Ardagh operates glass manufacturing facilities

in Dunkirk and Winchester.

Helping out

Indiana Michigan Power sent more than 350 employees to Virginia and West Virginia to assist after last week's winter storm resulted in extensive power outages.

I&M line workers, damage assessors, support staff and contractors from the Muncie, Marion, Fort Wayne, South Bend, Elkhart and southwest Michigan regions made the trip.

Positions announced

Indiana Bankers Association recently announced that Matthew W. Howrey will be its board chair for 2025.

Howrey serves as president and CEO of North Salem State Bank. He is active in the Hendricks County community, including serving on its community foundation board.

Other officers for the association this year will be first vice chair David M. Findlay of Lake City Bank in Warsaw, second vice chair Lisa Arnold of Home Bank of Martinsville and immediate past chair Benjamin J. Bochnowski of Peoples Bank of Munster.

Other board members include Kent A. Liechty of First Bank of Berne, Garry D. Kleer of First Bank of Richmond and J.

Daniel Maddox of Citizens State Bank in New Castle.

Courses offered

Indiana Chamber of Commerce is offering various safety training courses throughout the year.

The chamber is offering 10-hour and 30-hour Occupational Safety and Health Administration courses next week at the Indiana Chamber Conference Center in Indianapolis.

Forklift safety trainer training will be offered Feb. 4, with the 2025 Indiana Safety and Health Conference Expo to follow from Feb. 24 through 27 at Indiana Convention Center.

For more information about the training courses and details about other offerings, visit indianachamber.com.

Firm honored

Geswein Farm & Land of Lafayette was honored recently with the AgriBusiness Review's Top Agriculture Real Estate Service Provider Award for 2024.

The was selected for the award by a panel of industry leaders and AgriBusiness Review's editorial board.

"We are grateful to be recognized by our peers, industry leaders and AgriBusiness Review," said Geswein co-owner

Johnny Klemme in a press release. "We value not only our team members, but the community at-large, which includes farming families within Indiana, Illinois and Michigan."

Geswein opiates in Indiana, Illinois and Michigan.

Grants awarded

Indiana Grown recently awarded \$25,000 in grant funding to promote products at trade shows.

The seven member businesses earning grant funding were Tell City Pretzels from Tell City Pretzels, Tulip Tree Creamery from Indianapolis, Bee Great from Churubusco, Cute as a Cupcake from Merrillville, Smoking Goose from Indianapolis, Market Square Popcorn from Indianapolis and Old Major Market from Indianapolis.

Platform launched

McDonald's has launched its new McValue platform.

The new McValue menu offers and expansion of value options at the fast food restaurant. It is also adding more options to its offerings on the McDonald's app.

Does your business have news to share? Email us at news@thecr.com to be included in our weekly business roundup.

Alzheimer's drugs eyed as big opportunity

By LISA PHAM

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Investors seeking the next obesity-like market opportunity will be closely watching developments related to treatments for Alzheimer's disease in 2025.

Companies including Biogen Inc. and Eli Lilly & Co. have spent billions of dollars on developing potential treatments, while others including Novo Nordisk A/S and Roche AG are also investigating the brain-destroying disease.

Any breakthroughs in trials or drug approvals could have a big impact on share prices as investors factor in potential sales for a market which Bloomberg Intelligence estimates could reach \$13 billion by 2030.

"The opportunity remains huge," said Chris Eccles, a portfolio manager at AXA Investment Managers. "If we get a strong disease-modifying drug and very positive clinical

trials, numbers can go back in models and forecasts can be revised upwards quite significantly, quite quickly."

Firms developing Alzheimer's drugs have already seen big peaks and troughs. Biogen shares soared 44% on a single day in November 2020 after news that an experimental drug appeared to be effective, before plunging days later after failing to get support from a panel of Food and Drug Administration advisers.

Despite getting approval the following year, Biogen ultimately ditched the drug after years of debate over its efficacy. Many other drugs have also failed.

Two of the newest drugs to treat the disease are currently available in the US. Lecanemab, from Biogen and Japanese partner Eisai Co., is sold under the brand name Leqembi, and donanemab from Eli Lilly is branded as Kisunla. Both drugs work by reducing the brain amyloid levels in



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Mario Tama

Boxes of the diabetes drug Ozempic rest on a pharmacy counter in Los Angeles. Companies Eli Lilly have spent billions on developing potential treatments for Alzheimer's disease, while also investigating the brain-destroying disease.

patients in the early stages of Alzheimer's, and act to slow the disease.

Still, they don't stop or reverse it, while both treat-

ments have side effects that include brain bleeding and brain swelling.

"It could be a year where we also see a bit more clarity in

terms of traction for the drugs that are approved so far," said Gregoire Biollaz, senior investment manager at Pictet Asset Management.

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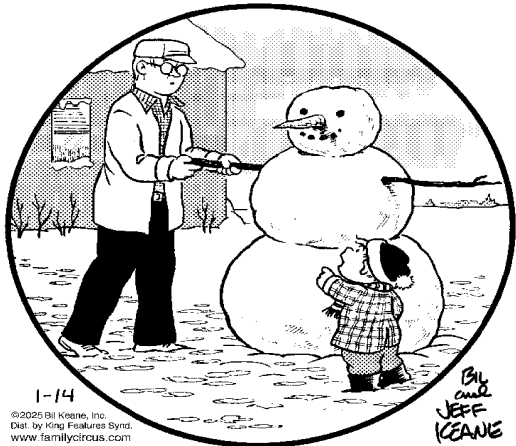
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"Why would anybody that fat have such bony arms?"

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Quantitative analysis

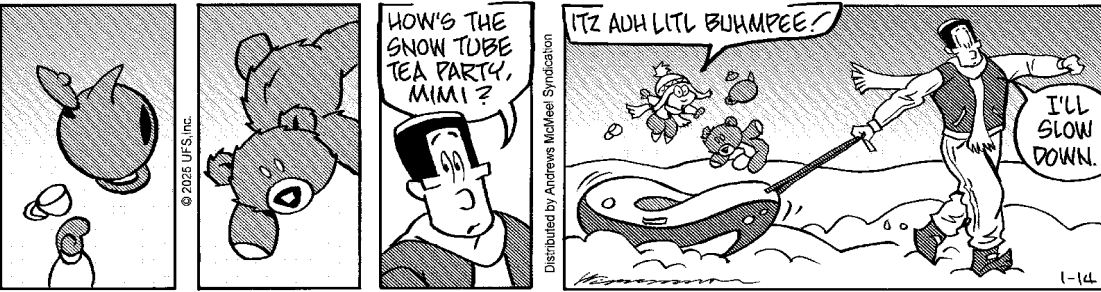
East dealer. Neither side vulnerable. NORTH: ♠ Q 8 4, ♥ A 3, ♦ 8 7 5 2, ♣ 9 7 4 3. WEST: ♠ J 10 7 5 2, ♥ 10 9 4, ♦ J 3, ♣ A Q 6. EAST: ♠ 9 3, ♥ Q J 8 7, ♦ Q 10 9 6, ♣ 8 5 2. SOUTH: ♠ A K 6, ♥ K 6 5 2, ♦ A K 4, ♣ K J 10.

The bidding: East 2 NT, South Pass, West 3 NT, North Pass. Opening lead — five of spades. The question of whether or not to finesse, or which of two or more finesses to take, is crucial in many deals, and many factors might have to be considered before deciding what to do.

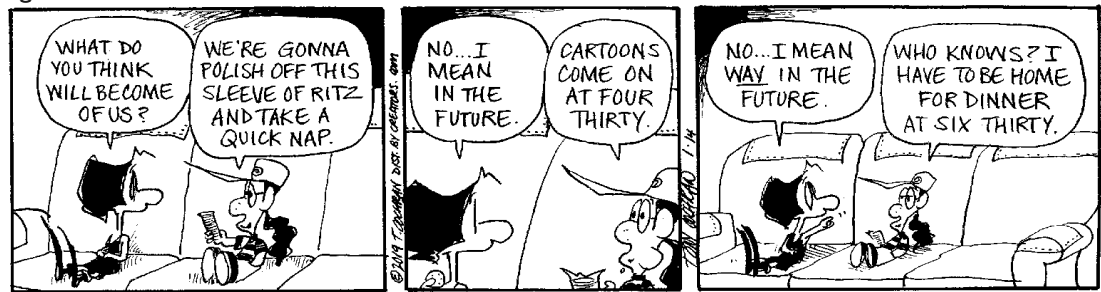
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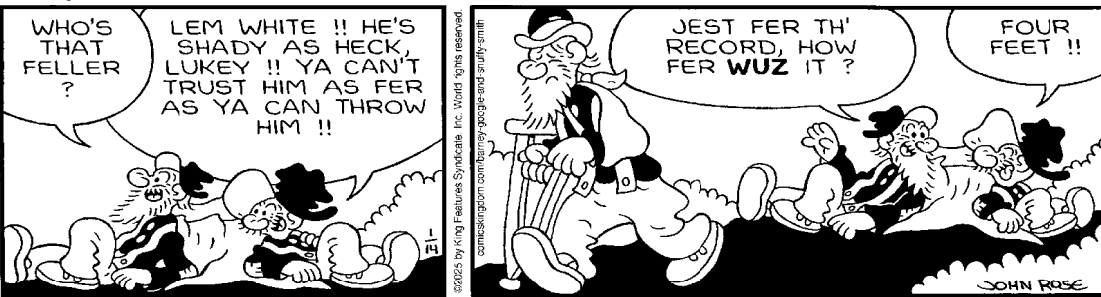
Between Friends



Blondie



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Beetle Bailey



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"UQFUE LPYCML GU HBYIE." Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU WANT TO CATCH UP ON THE LATEST GOSSIP, ALWAYS ASK A GARDENER. THEY KNOW ALL THE DIRT. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals O

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Spruced up, 5 Comedian Margaret, 8 Arduous journey, 12 Taj Mahal city, 13 Unprocessed, 14 Conceal, 15 Buffets with Mexican food, 17 Rocker — Pop, 18 Yoko from Tokyo, 19 Astern, 20 Unravels, 21 Blaster's need, 22 Tease, 23 Neighbor of Chad, 26 Wilma and Fred's kid, 30 Piglet's pop, 31 Author Fleming, 32 Ethereal, 33 Rabbi's religion, 35 Fall bloom, 36 Buddy, 37 Canonized Fr. woman. DOWN: 16 "Troy" actor Eric, 20 Little lie, 21 "America's Next Top Model" host, 22 "Community" actor, 23 Jeong, 24 Chit, 25 Abysmal, 26 Shriver of tennis, 27 Tippy, 28 Before, 29 Aleppo's land (Abbr.), 31 Equi-, 34 1040 org., 35 On, 37 "The Lion King" lion, 38 TV explorer, 39 Author Turgenev, 40 Air outlet, 41 Scarce, 42 Nile wader, 43 Pro-scribes, 44 Island in a computer game, 46 Spigot, 47 Nile biter.

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Patriot swim returns to form at Jay Invite

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

It was a day of climbing back toward where they want to be for the Patriots.

Their boys picked up a victory after having no one in the top eight a year earlier. Their girls returned to near the top of the standings after a year in the middle.

Freshman Cooper Glentzer earned a pair of victories to lead the hosts in Saturday's Jay County Invitational while the girls team finished second and the boys placed fourth.

Joelle Kaup and Carson Fullenkamp led the way for Fort Recovery's squads.

The JCHS girls returned to the runner-up spot they held behind Oak Hill in 2023 again after placing fifth a year ago. They scored 335 points to finish 13 behind the champions and well ahead of third-place Centerville (269) in the 14-team field.

Glentzer and fellow freshman Carson Westgerdes led the Patriot boys, who were ninth in 2024, to 228 points for fourth behind Bluffton (543), Centerville (411) and Oak Hill (351) in the field of a dozen teams.

Fort Recovery's teams both finished in 10th place, with the girls scoring 95 points and the boys scoring 44.

Glentzer and Westgerdes went head-to-head with a pair of Bluffton rivals in the 200-yard freestyle as both schools put two swimmers in the top four. Glentzer led the whole way beating Rhett Gerber of the Tigers by nearly two seconds in 1 minute, 56.48 seconds. Westgerdes was less than a half second



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Joelle Kaup of Fort Recovery High School swims to a third-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle during Saturday's Jay County Invitational. The senior was also the runner-up in the 100 butterfly to lead the Indian girls.

behind Bluffton's Griffin Linderwell as he placed fourth in 2:02.22.

In the 500 freestyle, Glentzer dominated from the start, swimming the first 50 yards nearly 1.5 seconds faster and Linderwell and pulling away for nearly a 13-second win in 5:20.45.

Westgerdes added a fourth-place effort in the 100 freestyle in 55.24 with teammate Peyton

Yowell right behind him in 56.36. Yowell was also fifth in the 50 freestyle.

Avery Wentz led the JCHS girls, who had sixth swimmers finish in the top six in at least one event. She trailed only Lapel's Katie Stephenson as she took the runner-up spot with her time of 1:10.92 in the 100 backstroke.

Senior Joelle Kaup's second-

place finish in 1:06.3 in the 100 butterfly paced the Fort Recovery girls. She added a time of 2:16.92 to take third in the 200 freestyle.

Carson Fullenkamp topped the charts for the FRHS boys by placing third in the 100 butterfly in 1:03.71.

Jay County's girls stacked up finishes from fourth through seven place to help their team

effort, with Ariel Beiswanger finishing fourth in the 500 freestyle and seventh in the 200 freestyle.

Brooklyn Byrum finished fourth in the 100 butterfly, Aubrey Millspaugh and Kenzie Huey were fifth in the 200 individual medley and 100 backstroke, respectively, and Sophia Hoevel placed sixth in both the 100 freestyle and 200 freestyle.

Coach ...

Continued from page 8
"We were just moving the ball really well," Swoveland said. "Everyone had trust in one another and we were able to succeed through that. ... We pressured the ball and they couldn't handle it. I mean, just ball pressure alone was stopping the three ball because they weren't comfortable."

The Jets cut the deficit to just four points by halftime after not turning the ball over at all in the second quarter.

The JCHS defense forced another six turnovers in the third quarter, while attacking Adams Central's 2-3 zone to score 13-of-16 points at the rim or off of free throws.

The Patriots used advantage of their size, playing four players that are 6 foot, 5 inches or taller (Eli Petro, Cole Forthofer, Swoveland

and Kade Sommers), while Adams Central's tallest players (Marcus Bollenbacher and Braylend Reber) are both 6 foot, 4 inches.

Jay County outrebounded the Jets 36-19, while pulling down 80% of its defensive rebounding opportunities. Eli Petro led the way with nine boards, while Forthofer and guard Jayden Comer each had seven.

The forwards also accounted for 74.2% of the Patriots' scoring in the game. Petro led JCHS with 16 points. He scored eight in the fourth quarter, including two hoops where he was fouled, which caused the gym to erupt.

"We noticed they weren't as big," Petro said. "We took that to heart and listened to coaches and tried to get as close to the basket

and then using our height, size and (vertical) to get up."

Behind Petro, Forthofer and Swoveland both had 14 points and Griffin scored 10.

Trace Maller led ACHS with 27 points on 9-for-21 (42.9%) and 4-for-13 (30.7%) from behind the arc. Three of Maller's triples came in the final period with the first coming off of a release on a baseline-out-of-bounds play, a cross-court skip pass from Cade Van De Weg and a set play that had him receiving a pin down screen from the left corner.

"They got some open looks there late in the fourth quarter," Ar buckle said. "We can't let them be stand-still shooters. We've got to put pressure on them and make them put the ball on the floor. ... But just super proud of these boys

and their unselfishness to be able to share the ball and get four players in double figures."

While it is unclear if Bomholt will be ready to coach again come Tuesday's ACAC tournament opener, a school official stated that he was in stable condition Saturday night and that he may return if his health is in order.

Bomholt could notch his 600th-career victory Tuesday at South Adams (2-6, 0-2 ACAC). But for now, the Patriots were just happy to get 599 for their coach.

"We had to work hard and tried to do everything coach preaches," Swoveland said. "We want to make him proud even if he's not there. ... It was huge. We stepped up when it mattered and I think coach would be proud of us."

Box score

Jay County Patriots vs. Adams Central Jets			
Boys varsity summary			
Adams Central (6-3, 2-1 ACAC)	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Deathe	1-5	4-4	7
Van De Weg	0-2	0-0	0
Johnson	1-4	0-0	2
Maller	9-21	5-6	27
Dalrymple	0-0	0-0	0
Bollenbacher	0-2	0-0	0
Reber	4-10	5-7	13
Totals	15-44	14-17	49
	.341	.824	
Def. rebound percentage: .520			
3-point shooting: Adams Central 5-24 (Maller 4-13, Death 1-3, Bollenbacher 0-1, Van De Weg 0-2, Reber 0-2), Jay County 3-12 (Griffin 2-3, Comer 1-5, Dirksen 0-1, Swoveland 0-2).			
Rebounds: Adams Central 19 (Reber 5, Maller 4, Team 4, Death 3, Bollenbacher 2, Van De Weg, Johnson), Jay County 36 (Petro 9, Comer 7, Forthofer 7, Phillips 3, Swoveland 3, Team 3, Dirksen 2, Griffin 2).			
Assists: Adams Central 11 (Death 4, Van De Weg 4, Maller 3), Jay County 12 (Swoveland 4, Comer 3, Griffin 2, Dirksen, Forthofer, Sommers).			
Blocks: Adams Central 1 (Bollenbacher), Jay County 4 (Forthofer 3, Swoveland).			
Personal fouls: Adams Central 17 (Van De Weg 5, Maller 4, Johnson 2, Bollenbacher 2, Reber 2, Death, Dalrymple), Jay County 17 (Forthofer 4, Petro 3, Phillips 3, Comer 2, Griffin 2, Swoveland 2, Sommers).			
Turnovers: Adams Central 16, Jay County 21.			
Score by quarters:			
Ad. Cent.	6	17	10
Jay Co.	18	9	16
	19	—	62

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Swim at Yorktown — 6 p.m.; Girls basketball ACAC tournament at South Adams — 6 p.m.; Boys basketball ACAC tournament at South Adams — 7:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. St. Henry — 6 p.m.; Swim vs. St. Henry at Greenville YMCA — 6 p.m.; Middle school

girls basketball vs. Minster — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today
3 a.m. — Grand Slam tennis: Australian Open (ESPN2)
3 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Liverpool at Nottingham Forest (USA)
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Villanova at Xavier (FS1)

7 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Cleveland Cavaliers (TNT)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Texas A&M at Kentucky (ESPN2); Saint Louis at VCU (CBS)
7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Minnesota at Maryland (BTN)
7 p.m. — TGL golf: Los Angeles Golf Club vs. Jupiter Links Golf Club (ESPN)
8 p.m. — NHL: Calgary Flames at St. Louis Blues (FSN Indiana)

8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Providence at Creighton (FS1)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Miami at Duke (ESPN)
10:30 p.m. — College basketball: Iowa at USC (FS1)
11 p.m. — College basketball: Baylor at Arizona (ESPN)

Wednesday

3 a.m. — Grand Slam tennis: Aus-

tralian Open (ESPN2)
2:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Aston Villa at Everton (USA)
6 p.m. — NHL: Carolina Hurricanes at Buffalo Sabers (TNT)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Kansas at Iowa State (ESPN2); Seton Hall at Butler (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: New York Knicks at Philadelphia 76ers (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — College basketball:

Penn State at Michigan State (BTN)
8:30 p.m. — NHL: Edmonton Oilers at Minnesota Wild (TNT)
9 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Seton Hall at Marquette (FS1)
10 p.m. — NBA: Miami Heat at Los Angeles Lakers (ESPN)
.....
To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.com.

90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	110 HELP WANTED	130 MISC. FOR SALE	250 PUBLIC NOTICE	The Commercial Review Newspaper Delivery
<p>PUBLIC AUCTION Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN January 18th, 2025 9:30 A. M. MODERN HOUSEHOLD GOODS-OLD & COLLECTORS Sealy Ease king size adjustable bed with dual controls; Whirlpool side by side refrigerator, nice; cedar lines wardrobe; kirby sweeper; (2) Lazy Boy leather recliners; Tempus Fuguit grandfather clock; gas fireplace logs with mantle; Kenmore refrigerator, GE Turbo freezer; Smith Bros. 3 cushion sofa; pedal sewing machine; IU collectibles; Thomas Kincaid pictures; brass fire extinguisher; and many other items not listed. CAR-MOWERS-TOOLS 2000 Buick Century Custom 4 door sedan car w/92,090miles; Murray riding lawn mower; Sanborne 200V upright air compressor; Craftsman 10" belt drive table saw; fishing poles; MB Century tool box; ladies bicycle; Trek menis bicycle; and many other items not listed.</p>	<p>AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Doors will open at 8 a.m. day of auction for preview. Please note that we will be running 2 rings a portion of the day. JACOBS FAMILY AND PATRICIA GIBSON Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kayden Khayyata AU12400069 REAL ESTATE PUBLIC AUCTION Located: 935 W Walnut St, Portland, IN January 14th, 2025 6:00 P. M. This residential property offers a 2 bedroom home with approximately 892 square feet of living space. Additional features of the home include 1 full bath, new gas forced air furnace with central air, new water heater, vinyl siding, asphalt shingle roof, and concrete patio with covered canopy. Property also has a 22i x 22i detached garage and fenced in back yard. This property would make an excellent</p>	<p>starter home or rental investment property. For more information or private showing contact Gary Loy Auctioneer at 260-726-5160 or Kim Loy Real Estate Broker at 260-726-2700 or Missy Puterbaugh at 260-224-4200 PATRICIA GIBSON Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 100 JOBS WANTED AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489. 110 HELP WANTED DUNKIRK FIRE DEPARTMENT IS currently seeking a full-time firefighter. Current hours are two 24-hour shifts a week with the possibility of overtime when required. Minimum requirements: Firefighter I & II certified, Emergency Responder, current CPR, HazMat Awareness, and a valid Driver's License. Applications are available at the Dunkirk Municipal Office.</p>	<p>DUNN FAMILY Dental Care is looking for a professional, friendly, detail oriented full time Dental Assistant. Radiology license helpful but not required. Benefits include paid time off, 4 day work week, retirement benefits and more. Drop off resume at 110 West North Street, Portland or email us at drdunn@dunnfamilydentalcare.co DUNN FAMILY Dental Care is looking to add a detail oriented, organized, professional full time Sterilization Technician. No previous dental experience is needed, willing to provide training and additional areas for growth. Benefits include paid time off, 4 day work week, retirement benefits and more. Drop off resume at 110 West North Street, Portland or email us at drdunn@dunnfamilydentalcare.com 130 MISC. FOR SALE PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.</p>	<p>ALUMINUM SHEETS 23"x30", .007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side..35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141. 190 FARMERS COL-UMN AG RENTAL Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309 200 FOR RENT LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamoreospace.com 230 AUTOS, TRUCKS WE PAY CASH for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocumis Salvage</p>	<p>Public Notice TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES: NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Superior Court of Jay County, Indiana, in Cause No. 38D01-2407-MF-000015 wherein NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing was Plaintiff, and David S. Wilhelm, et al were the Defendant, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and costs, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 13th day of February, 2025 at the hour of 10 A.M., as soon thereafter as is possible at the Jay County Sheriffs Department 120 North Court Street; 3rd Floor Courthouse; Portland, IN 47371 in Jay County, Indiana, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jay County, Indiana. Lots numbered Twenty-two and Twenty-three(22-23) in Current's South side Addition to the town of Redkey, Indiana. More Commonly Known As: 328 E. Grandview Ave, Redkey, IN 47373 Parcel No. 38-09-24-302-015-000-031 Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws. Larry R. Newtown Jr. Sheriff of Jay County Phillip A. Norman #13734-64 Benjamin J Pliskie #30407-45 PHILLIP A. NORMAN P.C. CR 1-14-21,28-2025-HSPAXLP</p>	<p>Comments or Problems? Call our Circulation Hotline 260-251-9588 After 5:00 p.m. Leave Message Please. Carrier Delivery Deadlines Tuesday - Friday: 6:00 p.m. Saturday Morning: 8:00 a.m. The Commercial Review 309 West Main St., Portland. Front Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Circulation Department Hours: 10:00 am - 4:30 p.m.</p>

For their coach

Patriots step up to beat Adams Central 62-49 and earn Jerry Bomholt his 599th win despite not being on the sideline

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

A team's coach can provide a level of consistency, stability and comfort to the players.

Learning less than 30 minutes before you take the floor that your coach won't be on the sidelines for you can be disruptive.

The Patriots fought through that and secured their coach the win.

Despite not having Jerry Bomholt on the sideline due to a health scare, the Jay County High School boys basketball team earned him his 599th career victory by taking down the Adams Central Jets 62-49 on Saturday.

Bomholt had low blood pressure according to a call that came across the police scanner in The Commercial Review's office around 7:15 p.m., resulting in him sitting out the game. Assistant coach Doug Arbuckle stepped up to lead the Patriots (5-4, 1-1 Allen County Athletic Conference) and earn Bomholt his 599th career victory.

"First of all, our minds and our hearts are on coach and hopefully his health can get better and he gets the rest he needs. We sure do miss him being here.

"Overall the boys came out, we got out to a good start and played with a lot of heart. We

played big for a change and that was huge. ... We played unselfishly, sometimes too unselfishly. ... Overall a great effort by everyone that got in the game and did something positive. Real proud of them to step up and play the way that they did under the circumstances."

The Patriots got on top of Adams Central (6-3, 2-1 ACAC) early. With a 7-6 advantage, Jay County rattled off 11 consecutive points over the final 3 minutes, 36 seconds of the first quarter.

Junior Gradin Swoveland had a hand in all 11 points. He scored the first two baskets on one-dribble, pull-up jumpers on back-to-back possessions. The next time down the floor, Swoveland assisted Tucker Griffin on a 3-pointer. He got to the free throw line 26 seconds later, where he knocked down a pair of foul shots. The run capped off with Swoveland inbounding the ball to Eli Petro on a slip to the rim to end the first quarter with an 18-6 lead.

Over the final 2:15 of the quarter, ACHS coach Aaron McClure called two timeouts to get into his players for coughing up the ball, as they had six turnovers to only eight shot attempts. Jay County also held the Jets 0-6 from deep in the period.

See **Coach** page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Aiden Phillips of the Jay County High School boys basketball team puts up a bunny during Saturday's 62-49 win over Adams Central. Phillips and the other forwards combined for 46 points (74.2%) while outrebounding the Jets 36-19.

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Next is 600

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

Coming into his 44th season at the helm of a high school basketball team, Jerry Bomholt only needed six victories to reach 600 career wins.

The Patriots only reached eight wins in the 2023-24 campaign, getting their sixth in the final game of January. This year, the Patriots can reach that sixth win and Bomholt's milestone just 10 games into the season.

The Jay County High School boys basketball team will travel to Berne today to take on the South Adams Starfires in the Allen County Athletic Conference tournament opener for a chance to give Bomholt his 600th career victory.

Despite not being present due to low blood pressure, Bomholt picked up his 599th win Saturday by routing Adams Central 62-49. Other wins this season have come against Elwood, Fort Recovery, New Castle and Muncie Central.

Bomholt said a major key to getting this far is just being around for as long as he has.

"I've outlived most of them," Bomholt said. "It's true. There's a lot of guys I coached against that have retired or some have passed away. I've just been very very fortunate that I've had kids that were easy for the most part to coach. ...

"Basketball has been really good to me. I never would have imagined this when I started coaching."

This is Bomholt's 44th season at the helm of a team. He had a rather unconventional start to his career.

During his third year as an assistant coach at Anderson Highland, Bomholt took over as interim coach following Bob Fuller's death in the 1979-80 season. (He died of a heart attack mid-game against Lapel.) Bomholt led the

Jerry Bomholt has a chance at his 600th career win as a boys basketball coach tonight

team to an undefeated regular season and their second sectional championship before falling in the regional.

The Elwood alum then landed his first full-time coaching position with the Patriots a year later. Bomholt's first stint with Jay County (1980-84) lasted four seasons. During that time, he coached Jay County to a 57-39 record and secured back-to-back-to-back sectional titles (the fifth, sixth and seventh in school history).

Bomholt bounced around a handful of places, including two stints with the Southwestern Rebels. During his first stretch with SHS, Bomholt went 78-35 and made it all the way to the state finals in 1998. Then from 2015-2019, he earned a 72-53 record while winning two more sectional titles.

Bomholt returned to Jay County after a season off and has since gone 50-46 - he is 109-83 in his ninth year as a Patriot - to bring his all-time record to 599-390 (60.6%). He is sits fifth in wins among active coaches in Indiana only behind J.R. Holmes (917) of Bloomington South, Gene Miller (717) of Washington, Dave McCollough (636) of Connersville and Make James (621) of Triton Central.

"I want to shy away from it, because the emphasis should be on the kids," Bomholt said. "It's been neat because we've been fortunate to win, I think it's 13 sectionals now. We'd like

to win one more before we leave. I've been to the state finals, fortunately as a coach. I've gotten to coach in the semi-state and win at Hinkle Fieldhouse. There have been a lot of little things like that, but more important than all of them is I've got a chance to develop relationships with some really neat kids."

Bomholt has the chance to pick up the 600th win tonight as the Patriots travel to take on South Adams (2-6, 0-2 ACAC) in the first round of the ACAC tournament. The Patriots (5-4, 1-1 ACAC) currently are the 168th in the Sagarin ratings, while the SAHS sits 316th. John Harrell predicts that the Patriots will win 53-40. Should Jay County lose, Bomholt's next opportunities would come on Jan. 21 at Hagerstown or Jan. 24 when it hosts South Adams.

At the time of print it is still uncertain if Bomholt will be ready to return to the sidelines for the ACAC tournament opener against the Starfires.

"I can tell you this, it's not something I started out with as a goal," Bomholt said. "No way did I even think about the different levels, 100, 200 wins, never thought about it. I just wanted to coach. When I started I wanted to teach math."

"The more I coached, the more fun it was. ... I want to be in a position where when I leave and retire, there's a reason, and hopefully a good one, that kids remember playing for me."