

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Teen held for robbery attempt at store

16-year-old allegedly pointed gun at Pak-a-Sak employee

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

A Portland teen was arrested after he allegedly tried to rob a local convenience store.

Portland Police Department received a call shortly after 8 p.m. Thursday to respond to an armed robbery at Pak-A-Sak, 1300 N. Meridian St.

No items or cash were stolen in the encounter, said police chief Dustin Mock.

The 16-year-old boy allegedly ran into the convenience store, told the store clerk to empty the cash register and pointed a gun in her face, according to authorities. The clerk then hit the store's panic button to alert police, and the boy fled on foot heading north.

The suspect voluntarily surrendered at Portland Police Department with his parents about half an hour later. He was taken into custody without incident, according to a press release shared by Portland police. The boy was referred to the Youth Opportunity Center.

Portland police and Jay County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to the scene Thursday. Investigation into the case is ongoing, the release says.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

A born Winner

Jay County High School senior Mallory Winner tears up while hugging assistant coach and father Jon Winner following the inaugural IHSAA 170-pound state championship match on Friday at Corteva Coliseum at Indiana State Fairgrounds. No. 1 Winner pinned No. 11 Lydia Kwaleh of Perry Meridian after 2 minutes, 50 seconds, in a rematch of the regional title a week prior. For more on the state finals, see page 10.

Redkey barn venue gets exception

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

A rural Redkey couple is planning to use their barn as a wedding venue.

Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals agreed Thursday to grant

a special exception usage for the property at 11765 W. 700 South, Redkey, to be used as an event center.

Cynthia Robinson and Howard Minnick hope to open Redbird Farms in the near future.

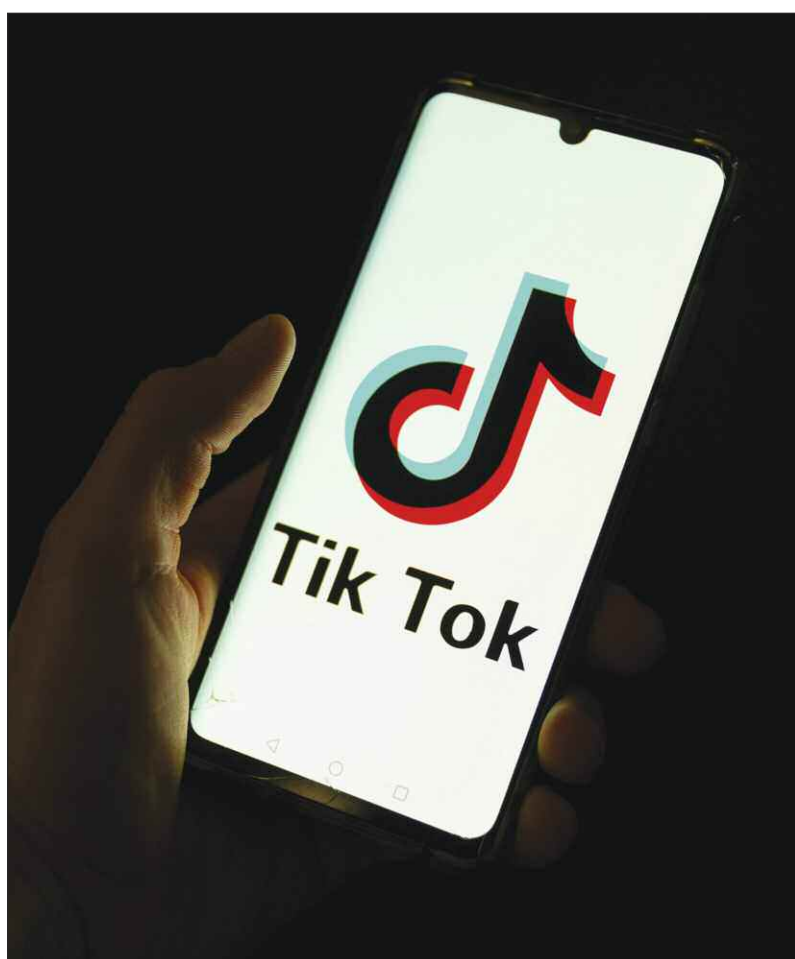
The couple, who hosted their

own wedding in their barn in June, have been working on renovations to equip the facility as an event center for approximately 10 months, Minnick explained.

"Our initial (intention) wasn't to create a venue at all, that sort of

just came up, and we've just remodeled everything and modified the barn, cleaned it out ..." he said, noting that the scenery in the area led them to the choice to make it a venue.

See Exception page 2



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/AFP/Antonin Utz

This photograph taken on April 19 shows a man holding a smartphone displaying the logo of social media platform TikTok in an office in Paris. In a 27-page ruling issued Friday, The U.S. Supreme Court left a law in place that would ban the app unless it is sold by its parent company.

Court upholds TikTok ban

By ASHLEY MURRAY

and JENNIFER SHUTT

States Newsroom

statesnewsroom.com

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday left in place a law that would ban TikTok, the popular social media app that for years has raised national security concerns, unless its parent company sells it.

"There is no doubt that, for more than 170 million Americans, TikTok offers a distinctive and expansive outlet for expression, means of engagement, and source of community," the court wrote in its ruling. "But Congress has determined that divestiture is necessary to address its well-supported national security concerns regarding TikTok's data collection practices and relationship with a foreign adversary. For the foregoing reasons, we conclude that the challenged provisions do not violate petitioners' First Amendment rights."

A bipartisan law enacted last year requires ByteDance, TikTok's parent company, to sell the platform by Sunday or face exclusion from U.S.-based app stores.

TikTok fought the law all the way to the Supreme Court,

arguing First Amendment rights, but did not prevail and now faces a choice of whether to sell the app.

The 27-page ruling created a bit of a dilemma for President-elect Donald Trump, who now supports TikTok staying on Americans' cell phones despite wanting to ban it during his first administration.

Trump wrote Friday in a post on his social media site, Truth Social, that he will address the issue once he takes office on Monday.

"I just spoke to Chairman Xi Jinping of China. The call was a very good one for both China and the U.S.A.," Trump wrote. "It is my expectation that we will solve many problems together, and starting immediately. We discussed balancing Trade, Fentanyl, TikTok, and many other subjects. President

Xi and I will do everything possible to make the World more peaceful and safe!"

Trump issued an executive order in 2020 to ban the video platform unless it broke from ByteDance, but reversed his position last year.

Trump's attorney general nominee, Pam Bondi, cited "pending litigation" and declined to directly answer a question about whether she would direct the Justice Department to enforce the TikTok ban during her confirmation hearing Wednesday.

TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew is expected to attend Trump's inauguration Monday, according to a source familiar with the planning.

Chew will not be the only tech executive sitting nearby as Trump takes the oath of office.

Social media app will be excluded from U.S. stores if it is not sold by Sunday

Deaths

Janice Stucky, 82, Portland
Sylvia Coons, 79, Redkey
William Thomas, 91, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature climbed to 41 degrees Friday.

Today's forecast calls for a high in the mid 30s before temperatures drop again. Rain and snow is likely. The low tonight will be in the mid teens.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Public Library will host a Crafts, Cookies & Cocoa: Adult Crafting Night at 6 p.m. Monday.

Attendees will make glittery votive candle holders and participate in magnetic snowflake diamond painting. In order to attend, RSVP by visiting the library or calling (260) 726-7890.

Coming up

Tuesday — Details from the FRHS girls basketball game against Bradford.

Wednesday — Coverage of next week's Jay School Board meeting.

Thursday — Results from the Jay County girls basketball game at Norwell.



Redesign your favorite cover

Jay County Public Library's winter-themed cover art contest kicks off next week.

Artists of various ages are invited to pick up entry forms from the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, to join the contest, which runs from Monday through March 8. Competitors will be challenged to redesign the cover of their favorite book and "winterize" it. Entries may include a painting, sketch or drawing.

Other activities coming up for the library include:

- Crafts, Cookies and Cocoa: A crafting night for adults at 6 p.m. Monday to design winter glitter votive candle holders and magnetic snowflake diamond paintings. Space is limited.
- Snow Much Fun: Winter crafts will be available for kids of all ages to craft from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Jan. 30. Registration is required.

Sorority news

Eta Chi Chapter of Sigma

Taking Note

Gamma International Sorority met Jan. 7 at Mt. Tabor Hall in Dunkirk. President Marsha Eglan opened the meeting with the pledge. Thank you notes for the 27 Christmas fruit baskets were read. Stephanie Faulkner won the 50/50 drawing. Alpha Province plans were discussed. We will meet Tuesday to work on Province plans. Each member is asked to bring a \$15 gift to be used for door prizes. The next business meeting will be Feb. 4.

Those attending the meeting were Renee Blumenhorst, Stehanie Faulkner, Connie Retter, Marsha Eglan, Kris Cook, Kathleen Inman, Julie Terrell, Rose Morgan, Shari Van Nuelan.

New partner is married

DEAR ABBY: I have started seeing someone I've known for years. On our first date, he told me he had tried multiple times to divorce his ex of many years. He said they live in different states, and each time he's tried, something has gone awry.

I'm about to start nursing school, and what I want is a relationship of convenience to work around my schedule. We've talked about dating each other exclusively, but we agreed it won't lead to marriage because he's on his third and currently doesn't have the funds to hire a lawyer to get out of it. I'm seeing him as a friend with benefits to hang out with. Is this relationship OK? — CHALLENGED IN UTAH

DEAR CHALLENGED: You seem pretty clear about the casualness of this relationship. If it's OK with you, OK with him and OK with wife No. 3, then it's OK with me. OK?

DEAR ABBY: I live with a wonderful partner. We share the duties of building a beautiful life around us. However, our mutual friends seem to praise my partner, but not me. I wonder if this may be my fault. I always say good things about him, while I discover many neg-

Dear Abby



it be served to him after the waitstaff takes everyone's order. Last night, we were at a birthday party with 15 adults in a restaurant and he did it again.

They served a wonderful cake for dessert, which he enjoyed at the end of the meal, as well as his pie at the beginning when no one else was having anything but drinks. He says it wasn't rude, but I disagree. Please, what say you? — BACKWARDS IN IOWA

DEAR BACKWARDS: This may be less a question of whether your husband is rude for indulging his yen for sugar than is it healthy for him. How's his weight? His blood sugar levels? Any diabetes in the family? What does his doctor think about it?

While ordering dessert before dinner and again afterward is unusual, I'm not sure it is rude. It may, however, be a bid for attention.

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.

Several options available for breast screenings

Mayo Clinic News Network
Tribune News Service

If you are one of the millions of women identified as having dense breasts, your health care team may recommend supplemental or additional screening to check your breasts for cancer.

Doctor Kristin Robinson, a breast radiologist at Mayo Clinic, says there are several options when it comes to these screening tests. She recommends working closely with your health care

team to determine what is the best supplemental screening available and right for you.

One option is molecular breast imaging (MBI). A Mayo Clinic study shows that MBI is more effective than mammography alone for women with dense breasts.

Why supplemental breast screening is recommended

"Breast density is important for really two separate reasons.

One, the dense tissue on a mammogram looks white, and cancer looks white, so you can imagine if we're trying to find a small breast cancer in a sea of white breast tissue, it can be very difficult," said Robinson.

And second, those with dense breasts have a slightly higher risk of developing breast cancer.

"For those reasons, we encourage women who have dense breast tissue to consider supplemental screening," said Robin-

son.

One screening you may hear about is MBI, a test developed by the Mayo Clinic. It's done in addition to a mammogram. It uses a radioactive tracer that can identify cancer cells.

"And since breast cancer is growing quickly, it's recruiting blood flow, it has more energy than the surrounding breast tissue, it will uptake that radiotracer more so than the normal tissue," she explained.

And by doing so, it lights up and becomes clearer to see for a radiologist compared to the normal surrounding tissue.

To find out if MBI or other screening options are best for you, talk with your health care team.

"If you have dense breast tissue, really consider supplemental screening because we know that detects a significant number more breast cancers than mammograms alone," said Robinson.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113. S. Main St., Dunkirk.

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

Sunday

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

Monday

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

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

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30

p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

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

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF — Meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. the third Monday of each month. The support group serves to help individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide. To register, contact Stephanie Patterson at (260) 251-3259.

Tuesday
COMPASSIONATE

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

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.

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

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

FRIENDS OF JAY COUNTY LIBRARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the library.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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

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WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

For Jay County Elementary Schools
January 20-24

Monday: Main Entrees: Buttermilk Pancakes, turkey sausage link, syrup **Alternate Entrees:** Hot smokey ham & cheese sandwich, turkey cobb salad, croutons **Sides for all meals:** Tater tots

Tuesday: Main Entree: Buffalo chicken dip, tortilla chips **Alternate Entrees:** Hot smokey ham & cheese sandwich, turkey cobb salad, croutons **Sides for all meals:** Seasoned corn

Wednesday: Main Entrees: Cheese pizza cruncher **Alternate Entrees:** Hot smokey ham & cheese sandwich, turkey cobb salad, croutons **Sides for all meals:** Baked shoestring fries

Thursday: Main Entrees: Breaded chicken drumstick, dinner roll **Alternate Entrees:** Hot smokey ham & cheese sandwich, turkey cobb salad, croutons **Sides for all meals:** Garlic mashed potatoes

Friday: Main Entrees: Classic pepperoni pizza **Alternate entrees:** Hot smokey ham & cheese sandwich, turkey cobb salad, croutons **Sides for all meals:** Seasoned carrots

Jay Community Center
115 E. Water St.
Portland • (260) 726-6477
Register now for basketball, volleyball, and boys and girls club!

Holcomb was courageous and civil

Tribune-Star Terre Haute
Tribune News Service

Eric Holcomb, after eight years as Indiana's governor, is turning the reins of the state's executive branch over to former U.S. Sen. Mike Braun. While Braun's six years as senator can fairly be classified as unremarkable, he brings experience as a public servant and elected politician to the governor's office.

Braun will have plenty of time and leeway in this state dominated by his own Republican Party to forge a path. If he comes even close to matching the performance turned in by Holcomb, he will have served Hoosiers well. Much of how Holcomb, his

Hoosier Editorial

achievements and his job performance are judged will be colored by individual political ideologies and outlooks. What is clear is that his years were marked by demanding leadership challenges and infused with partisan turmoil on the national level. Under such circumstances, even relatively simple tasks became complex and fraught. As he prepares to leave office,

Holcomb is proudly touting what he and his allies see as his accomplishments. Differing perspectives may not agree with the specifics in his analysis. The range of his energetic efforts, however, are indisputable and substantial.

What Holcomb did at the helm of state government is significant. That he did it with civility and respect demands an equal or greater review.

Holcomb won two contested elections, the first after Gov. Mike Pence withdrew from a re-election bid late in the process in 2016 to join Donald Trump's national ticket as vice presidential running mate. Holcomb won that election and won re-election in

2020 with more than 56% of the vote, nearly matching Trump's statewide margin.

Despite his decisive electoral margins, Holcomb made it clear he intended to be the governor of all Hoosiers, not just those who voted for him. He conducted the state's business with civility and class, refraining from speaking in divisive or combative terms even when those opposed to his policies and practices did not return the same consideration. All the while, he remained accessible to the public and did not shrink from the responsibility of being held accountable to his constituents.

One did not have to agree with him or his leadership on specific

issues to understand that he respected all views and made tough decisions based on what he thought was best for the state and not just to further an ideology. In doing so, his greatest challenges came from those within his own party who took more rigid, uncompromising positions.

Holcomb's leadership style as governor, especially during the COVID-19 public health crisis, merits him high marks. It was a prime example of his willingness to guide the state aggressively and compassionately during extreme circumstances.

For that courageous leadership and civility, we applaud and congratulate Gov. Holcomb for a job well done.

Kudos for lake restoration effort

cleveland.com
Tribune News Service

The bipartisan front of engaged advocacy consistently mounted by politicians from all seven Great Lakes states to continue and expand the all-important Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) aimed at preserving and improving this amazing natural resource keeps paying off for these states, the nation and others.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative dollars also provide an incredible bang for those bucks.

One study found that every GLRI dollar invested in coastal erosion control, toxic algal bloom and invasive species mitigation and prevention, and water pollution control yields \$3.35 worth of economic benefits for anglers, recreation and commerce.

That's huge — and it's why this 2010 initiative has repeatedly been reauthorized and continues to attract powerful political backing from both sides of the aisle in swing states like Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, not to mention Ohio and the other Great Lakes states.

That's why last week's announcement is so welcome from U.S. Rep. Dave Joyce, a South Russell Republican, that he has led the bipartisan Great Lakes Task Force in introducing legislation reauthorizing the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for another five years, through Fiscal Year 2031. Included is a modest boost in annual funding of about 5% to \$500 million a year.

Joining Joyce in taking the lead on this legislation in the House and in co-chairing the Great Lakes Task Force in the just-opened 119th Congress are U.S. Reps. Marc y Kaptur, a Toledo Democrat, Bill Huizenga, a Michigan Republican, and Debbie Dingell, a Michigan Democrat. Twenty-two other U.S. House members from Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, New York and Illinois joined these four in co-sponsoring the reauthorization measure, which will extend the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and its funding past its current sunset at the end of Fiscal Year 2026, and raise its annual funding \$25 million to \$500 million starting in Fiscal 2027.

Guest Editorial

"In 2020 alone, the GLRI contributed \$3.1 trillion to our economy, including 25.8 million jobs and \$1.3 trillion in wages," Kaptur said in a statement. "Robust funding that benefits our communities and people isn't just common sense, it is vital to maintaining and growing our communities for generations to come."

U.S. Rep. Emilia Sykes, an Akron Democrat, is among the current co-sponsors — but likely won't be the last from the Ohio delegation, which has traditionally given strong support to this ecologically and economically beneficial legislation.

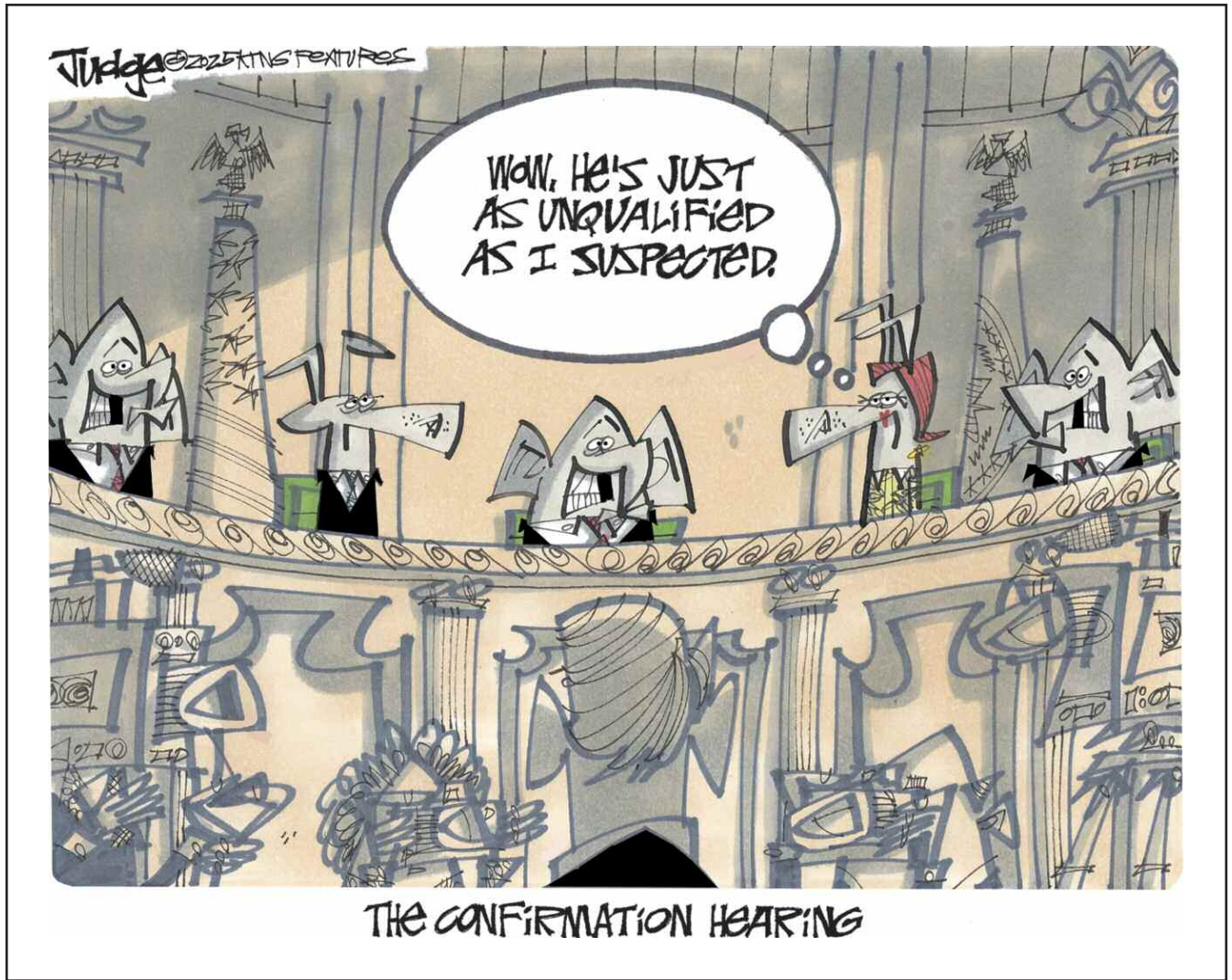
The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is broadly popular in Great Lakes states, which has translated not just to bipartisan support for GLRI reauthorization and funding in those states, but also to White House support.

That included persuading Donald Trump in his first term to support both the initiative and improved funding after he initially tried to cut the GLRI. We trust that pattern will continue with an investment in the Great Lakes' future that continues to pay off economically, in public health and in so many other ways.

Joyce's office noted in a press release that Joyce "also led the effort to reauthorize the GLRI during the 116th Congress, which succeeded when his bill to reauthorize it from FY 2022 through FY 2026 was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump in January 2021."

We trust Joyce will have the same success this time. The reauthorization bill is endorsed by a broad coalition of Great Lakes, sportfishing, conservation, environmental, wildlife and shore preservation groups.

Our editorial board applauds Joyce for leading this effort once again, and we urge the entire Ohio delegation to sign on to help ensure its speedy passage.



Braun has his work cut out

By **JOHN KRULL**
TheStatehouseFile.com

If Indiana's new governor, Mike Braun, wanted to make clear he was the most sane, balanced and truthful of the three men taking oaths of office on inauguration day, he succeeded.

Admittedly, that is a low bar. Incumbent state Attorney General Todd Rokita and new Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith delivered remarks that were disingenuous at best and downright duplicitous at worst.

Rokita started the speechifying. No one outside of the Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission and the Indiana Supreme Court knows exactly how many investigations into Rokita's conduct are taking place right now. He already has been reprimanded by the state's high court once — with two of the five justices, including Chief Justice Loretta Rush, contending that his punishment should have been more severe than a slap on the hand.

Right after Rush administered the oath of office for the problem-child attorney general, Rokita delivered a short speech that all but spat in the chief justice's face. He ignored the oath he'd just taken to faithfully enforce the state's laws and defend the Indiana and U.S. constitutions and instead declared his intentions to be an unrelenting culture warrior for the next four years.

He pledged his undying opposition to "lawfare," overlooking the fact that, here in Indiana, he's the only one who has indulged in it. His unreasoning campaign to persecute Dr. Caitlin Bernard, an Indiana obstetrician and gynecologist — a persecution that involved serial legal evasions and misstatements of fact on his part — prompted the Supreme Court's reprimand of Rokita.

The justices who voted to go easy on him doubtless hoped the mild

punishment would teach the attorney general a lesson.

Rokita's inaugural speech demonstrated that he is a slow learner.

While he challenged the chief justice, Rush sat stone-faced on the stage, refusing to clap for Rokita's pandering applause lines.

Then there was Beckwith's hurried address.

The freshly inaugurated lieutenant governor already has aroused concerns that, as an acknowledged Christian nationalist, he will attempt to use the power of his office to impose his religious and social views on others.

Beckwith didn't dispel such fears with his remarks. His short speech built to a conclusion that strongly suggested that George Washington delivered an extended Christian sermon during his first inaugural address.

Washington, a deist, did no such thing.

Here's what the Father of the Country did say:

"Having thus imparted to you my sentiments as they have been awakened by the occasion which brings us together, I shall take my present leave; but not without resorting once more to the benign Parent of the Human Race in humble supplication that, since He has been pleased to favor the American people with opportunities for deliberating in perfect tranquility, and dispositions for deciding with unparalleled unanimity on a form of government for the security of their union and the



John Krull

advancement of their happiness, so His divine blessing may be equally conspicuous in the enlarged views, the temperate consultations, and the wise measures on which the success of this Government must depend."

After Rokita and Beckwith performed their acts of misdirection and denial, Braun spoke.

His speech, like most inaugural addresses, contained more platitudes than specifics. It focused more on the what — containing health care costs, encouraging innovation — than on the how.

That's because the "how" always involves costs.

Still, Braun's address was by and large free of cant and suggested a willingness to respect the views of others. He, unlike Rokita and Beckwith, seemed to understand that he is the governor for all the state's people, not just those who voted for him.

True, Braun did deliver a curious broadside at the federal government he has been part of for the past six years and waxed poetic about the virtues of state's rights. It's always a bit jarring to hear a member of the party of Abraham Lincoln advance the political arguments of Jefferson Davis, but such uninformed inconsistencies dot the landscape these days.

And it's hard not to sympathize with the new governor.

Not only does he have to make the case for change in a state government that his own party has controlled for 20 years, but he has to deal with two partners — Beckwith and Rokita — who would sell him out at bargain pricing.

His is no easy task. Let us wish him well with it.

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

The Commercial Review

US PS 125820

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus
JOHN C. "JACK" RONALD (1948-2022), Publisher Emeritus



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—Thomas Jefferson

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1-18 CRYPTOQUIP

UYKF ELPYF K XWESKIJ NW
KHFRQ LF YKD EKIGHKXFGQRN
FLKQKD HWQ K SKPRKIF? DRIN
LI FYR XQWUID.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU'RE ASKING ME TO CONSUME THIS CURLY CABBAGE VARIETY EVERY DAY AT DINNERTIME? OH, KALE NO!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals T

Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

Birth and death

- 1) What musician joined Dire Straits on guitar for Nelson Mandela's 70th birthday celebration?
- 2) What actor saw dead people in the 1999 film The Sixth Sense?

1) Eric Clapton
2) Haley Joel Osment

1-20 CRYPTOQUIP

RQDI YQD ULMUAD RVX CFLIO
XYPTLC YQLIOX, RQVY CLC
YQD YMLVIOAD XVE YF LY?

"EFP'MD TFLIYADXX."

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHAT MIGHT A COMPANY DO AFTER IT HAS MANUFACTURED TIARAS FOR A PAGEANT? SEND IN THE CROWNS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals C

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to skating. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 24 = E)

A. 13 15 18 20 24
Clue: Thin metal on skate

B. 2 9 24 24 15 1
Clue: Rolling devices

C. 15 18 22 24 1
Clue: Tie up shoes

D. 1 25 24 24 20
Clue: Fast pace

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to skating.

RLLREO

Answers: A. Blade B. Wheels C. Races D. Speed

kids' corner

GUESS WHO?

I am an actor born in Australia on January 13, 1990. Before becoming an actor, I worked in the construction industry. I am best known for a prominent role in "The Hunger Games" series, as well as my high-profile marriage to a pop singer.

Answer: Liam Hemsworth

Food FACT:

This popular break-fast food provides a good deal of fiber, which can help keep a person healthy.

Answer: Oatmeal

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Instructions for preparing meals
4. Happy sound
6. Computer info
7. Prefix meaning "having three"
8. Early parts of the day

DOWN

1. Type of oatmeal oats
2. A way or track
3. Breakfast cupcakes
5. Shock or amaze

Answers: 1. Rolled 2. Path 3. Muffins 5. Sun
Down
1. Recipes 4. Laugh 6. Data 7. Tri 8. Mornings

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

JANUARY 13

1822: The design of the Greek flag is adopted by the First National Assembly at Epidaurus.

1849: The Colony of Vancouver Island is established.

1942: Henry Ford patents a soybean car that is 30 percent lighter than a regular car.

NEW WORD

ROLLED

hulled oats steamed and then flattened between rollers

AT THE RINK WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

AXEL
BLADE
BREAKAWAY
CHECK
COAST
COMPETITION
DISCIPLINE
EDGE
FLIP
HOCKEY
ICE
JUMP
LIFT
NOVICE
PROGRAM
RINK
ROLLER
SEASON
SINGLES
SKATING
SPEED
SPIN
WARMUP
ZAMBONI

How they say that in...

English: Oats
Spanish: Avena
Italian: Avena
French: Avoine
German: Hafer

Did You Know?

Oats are among the healthiest grains on earth. They are a great source of vitamins, minerals, fiber, and antioxidants.

Answer: Cooked oatmeal

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Cooked oatmeal

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Detox center
- 6 Gives up
- 12 Swiss metropolis
- 13 Unexpected
- 14 Ingratiate
- 15 Stahl of "60 Minutes"
- 16 Disposition
- 17 "La — Bonita"
- 19 Casual shirt
- 20 Third son
- 22 Capote nickname
- 24 Canine greeting
- 27 Furnace fuel
- 29 Branches
- 32 President of South Africa, 1994-1999
- 35 Pronto
- 36 Monumental
- 37 Half dozen
- 38 Fannie —

DOWN

- 1 Nevada city
- 2 Within (Pref.)
- 3 Obeys
- 4 "Selma" director
- 5 Male singing voice
- 6 Humpty's perch
- 7 Skip — (flutter)
- 8 Tax-collecting org.
- 9 Birds of prey
- 10 Duel tool
- 11 Ocular woe
- 12 Tiara jewel cleaner
- 21 — -friendly
- 23 "Awe-some, dude!"
- 24 Navarro of "The View"
- 25 Scale members
- 26 Pink wading bird
- 28 Relaxed
- 30 Roman 1051
- 31 Coltrane's instrument
- 33 Aromatherapy spot
- 34 Sgt., e.g.
- 39 Lauder of cosmetics
- 41 Paris subway
- 42 Cruising
- 43 Lettuce unit
- 45 Reply to "Shall we?"
- 47 Spring meltdown
- 48 Mild rebukes
- 49 "How — you?"
- 51 Cleric's tunic
- 53 Scamper

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterdays answer 1-18

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Try the impossible

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ A K Q 10 9 6 2
♥ 10 7
♦ 5
♣ 6 3 2

EAST
♥ 7 4 3
♦ Q J 8 2
♣ 6 4
♠ J 10 9 5

SOUTH
♠ J 8
♥ 9 5 4 3
♦ K Q 10 9 8
♣ A Q

The bidding:
East Pass 1♦ South 4♠ West 4♠ North 6♦

Opening lead — king of spades.

It is, of course, impossible to achieve the truly impossible, but there are many seemingly hopeless contracts that can be made by means not readily apparent. For example, take this deal where it appears South must go down one in six diamonds after a spade lead and a heart shift.

However, the outlook is not as bleak as it may seem. West's leap to four spades was obviously based on lots of spades, so there is good reason to think that East might be taxed with the burden of guarding both hearts and clubs.

South's best plan of play — to avoid what appears to be a certain heart loser — is to exert pressure on East that he cannot withstand. After winning the heart shift with the king, declarer draws two rounds of trump, ruffs a spade in dummy, then cashes two more trumps to produce this position:

North
♥ A 6
♣ K 8 7 4

West Immaterial East
♥ Q J
♠ J 10 9 5

South
♥ 9 5 4
♦ 10
♣ A Q

When South leads his last trump, discarding a heart from dummy, East finds himself in a hopeless situation. Whatever he discards, declarer makes the rest of the tricks.

If he sheds a club, South cashes the A-Q of clubs and leads a heart to dummy to score the K-8 of clubs. If East discards a heart instead, South plays a heart to the ace and takes the last four tricks with the A-Q of clubs and 9-5 of hearts.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Rain-delay cover
- 5 Prattle
- 8 Minn. neighbor
- 12 Declare
- 13 Lab eggs
- 14 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
- 15 "Arrivederci!"
- 16 Dawn airport area
- 20 Upper House
- 21 Fed. workplace monitor
- 23 Director Burton
- 24 9-to-5 work period
- 28 Slightly
- 31 Dos preceder
- 32 — the above
- 34 Equi-
- 35 Boxing match
- 37 The "D" of DST
- 39 ICU workers

DOWN

- 1 Diplomaticy
- 2 Athletic shoe brand
- 3 Bring up
- 4 "Coming Soon" ads
- 5 Sponsored infant
- 6 "Selma" director
- 7 Inlets
- 8 Aslan's land
- 9 Have lofty aspirations
- 10 Gray's subj.
- 11 "Nope" actress
- 17 Wager
- 19 Author Bandele
- 22 Insurance giant
- 24 Name
- 25 Year in Mexico
- 26 "For — Only" (Bond film)
- 27 Kid's storage unit
- 29 Somewhat (Suff.)
- 30 Youngster
- 33 Beagle's bane
- 36 Govt. securities
- 38 Figures of speech
- 40 South, in Spanish
- 42 Dutch cheese
- 43 Curly cabbage
- 44 Towering stats
- 46 Baseball
- 47 Force
- 48 Elevator name
- 50 Fawn's mama

Solution time: 21 mins.

Saturday's answer 1-20

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

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ K Q 8 6
♥ 9 7 2
♦ J 10 9 2
♣ K 9

EAST
♠ 5 4 3 2
♥ 3
♦ K 8 3
♣ Q J 8 6 3

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

The bidding:
South 1♣ West 2 NT North 3♦ East 3♥
South 3♥ West 3 NT North 3 NT East 3 NT

Opening lead — two of hearts.

In the opinion of most observers, this was the deal that determined the winner of the 2001 world team championship. It occurred with seven deals remaining in the 128-board final and the United States leading Norway by the slender margin of 12 IMPs.

When the hand was first played, Chip Martel and Lew Stansby of the U.S. reached only four hearts, making six after West led the king of spades. Stansby was able to ruff four clubs in dummy to finish with 12 tricks, losing only a diamond at the end.

At the other table, Terje Aa and Glenn Grotheim of Norway reached six hearts on the bidding shown. South's opening club bid was artificial and forcing, and the subsequent bidding revealed that North held a 4-4-1-1 distribution with eight to 10 high-card points and specifically a singleton club.

If the slam made, Norway would gain 13 IMPs to take a 1-IMP lead with six boards to go; if the slam was defeated, the U.S. would gain 13 IMPs to lead by 25.

Peter Weichsel, on lead, knew a great deal about the North hand, but all he knew about the South hand was that Grotheim thought he could make a slam opposite what Aa had promised.

Weichsel deliberated for a long time. At long last, he emerged with the killer: the deuce of hearts.

The trump lead torpedoed any chance of making 12 tricks on a crossruff, as Stansby had done. Ordinarily, three club ruffs in dummy would enable declarer to establish his fifth club, but with the clubs divided 5-2, this was not possible, and he eventually finished down one.

Six deals later, the Americans had won the match by a margin of 21 IMPs. Had Weichsel led anything other than a trump on this deal, however, Norway would have won the world title by 5 IMPs.

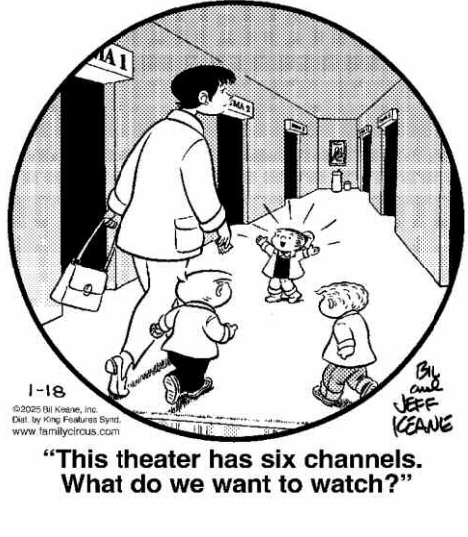
Tomorrow: Where there's life, there's hope.
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18 19 20
21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31 32 33 34
35 36 37 38
39 40 41
42 43 44 45 46 47 48
49 50 51
52 53 54
55 56 57

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



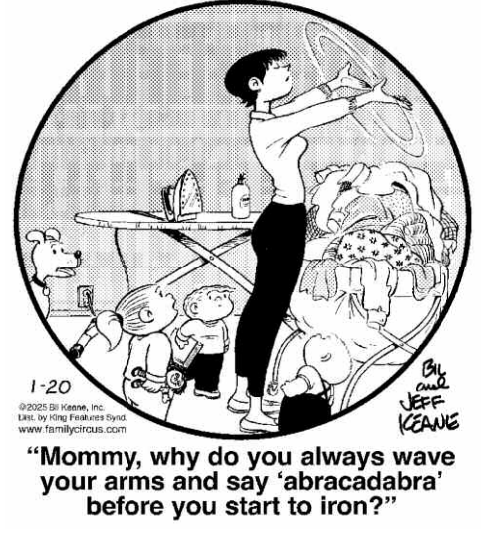
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



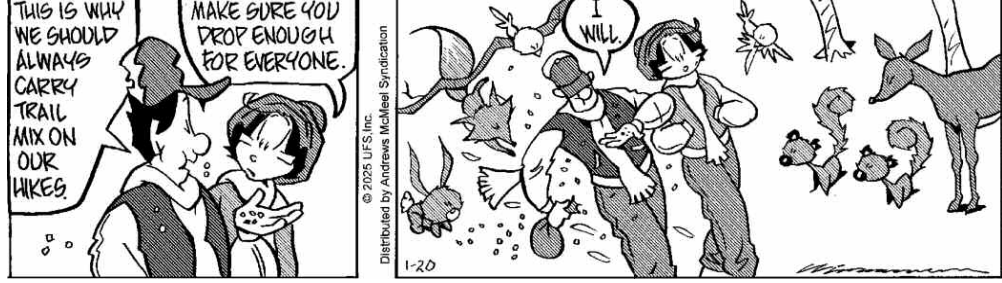
Peanuts



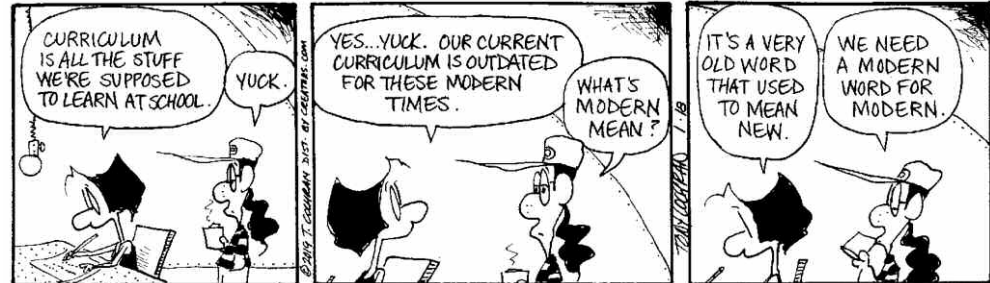
Rose is Rose



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Between Friends



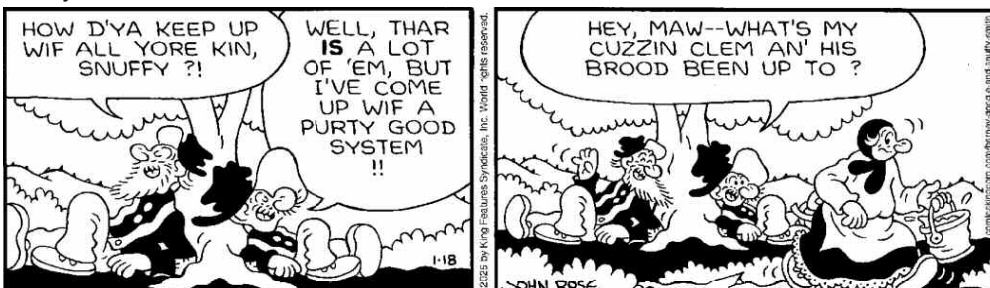
Blondie



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Beetle Bailey



We Deliver

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

Laughter

The Commercial Review *We Deliver*

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90 SALE CALENDAR

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.
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90 SALE CALENDAR

Century tool box; ladies bicycle; Trek men's bicycle; and many other items not listed.
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.
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 Loy Auction
 AC#31600027
 Auctioneers
 Gary Loy AU01031608
 Travis Theurer AU11200131
 Aaron Loy AU11200112
 Kayden Khayyata AU12400069

PUBLIC AUCTION
 Located: Women's Building at Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN
 Thursday Afternoon
 January 23th, 2025
 4:30 P. M.
HOUSEHOLD GOODS-OLD ITEMS
 Queen size bed; sound mixing board; dresser with mirror; oversized recliner; portable washer; portable air conditioner; remote airplane; (2) remote controlled RV trucks; Tonka Trucks; deer head and many other items not listed.
MOWERS-TOOLS
 John Deere STX 38 riding lawn mower with bagger; 12i small manure spreader; Am Pro PA2000 air compressor; jig saw; angle grinder; hay claws; horse feeder; wet saw; chicken boxes; and many other items not listed.
MARY THORNTON AND SLUSSER FAMILY
 Loy Auction
 AC#31600027
 Auctioneers
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 Aaron Loy AU11200112
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Public Notice

Alcohol & Tobacco Commission
LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 The Alcohol Beverage Board of Jay County, Indiana will hold a public hearing at 11:00 am on January 28, 2025 at the City Council Chambers, 1616 N. Franklin Street, in the city of Portland in said county, to investigate the propriety of holding an alcoholic beverage permit by the applicants listed herein to wit:
 DL3823758 Beer & Wine Dealer - Grocery Store RE-NEWAL
 Jay Petroleum Inc 893 East State Road 18 Bryant IN D/B/A PAK A SAK #85
 Kevin Huffman 245 Old Hickory Lane Geneva, President
 DL3833669 Beer & Wine Dealer - Grocery Store RE-NEWAL
 Dolgencorp LLC 1001 S Main St Dunkirk IN D/B/A DOLLAR GENERAL STORE #23925
 CR 1-18-2025-HSPAXLP

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
 COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
 IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
 2025 TERM
 In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of:
 Steven Grile, Deceased
 No. 38C01-2501-EU-000001
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
 Notice is hereby given that Anna Grile was, on the 9th day of January 2025, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Steven Grile deceased who died on January 4, 2025.
 All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 9th day of January, 2025.
 Melissa Elliott
 Clerk of the Circuit Court,
 For Jay County, Indiana
 HINKLE, RACSTER, SCHEMENAUR & LANDERS
 121 W. High Street
 Portland, IN 47371
 Attorney
 CR 1-18-25-2025-HSPAXLP

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Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament

No. 8 Tigers too much for Jay

Bluffton knocks out Patriots by 47 in ACAC semifinal

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

BLUFFTON — Sherri McIntire identified limiting Tiger offensive rebounds as key to having a chance in the rematch.

The Patriots didn't.

And the home team's prowess from long distance didn't help either.

The Jay County High School girls basketball team dropped out of the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament on Friday by a 71-24 score as it gave up nine offensive rebounds in the first half while Class 2A No. 8 Bluffton buried six 3-pointers.

"You know, Bluffton's a solid ball club," said JCHS coach Sherri McIntire, whose team had won four consecutive ACAC tournament titles. "I just compare them to the team that we had last year, a veteran team. They have some young girls too that have stepped in and just fit right into their program. Once again, I felt like our kids battled. We're just not to that level of physicality yet. We're probably a year away from that."

Bluffton (16-2) advances to play Southern Wells (15-4) in the championship game at 6 p.m. tonight at South Adams. The Raiders cruised in their semifinal win, defeating Heritage 68-31.

The Patriots (8-10) never led and the game got away from them after an Amelia Heath hoop early in the second quarter made the score 21-13. Bluffton scored the next 14 points in a row, the first four of which came from Isabella Stout. Khloe Dick hit the third of her four first-half 3-pointers during the stretch — she also buried one from the volleyball line with three seconds left



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School junior Raylah Newton dribbles against Isabella Stout of Bluffton during the second half Friday. Newton's eight points were the team high for the Patriots, who fell out of the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament with a 71-24 semifinal loss to the Tigers.

in the first quarter — and Stout capped it with two of her nine free throws.

"It didn't matter. We were in zone, we were in man, it didn't matter," said McIntire. "I felt like at least in zone they were having

to make more passive before they made those shots. They played solid tonight. They're a good ball team. That's why they've been successful."

The deficit was 25 points at halftime for Jay County.

The Tigers pushed to a running clock when Konley Ault hit a 3-pointer late in the third quarter. They outscored the Patriots 11-0 in the final period to pull away for the 47-point win.

Bluffton got 18 points apiece

from Stout and Ault. Dick followed with 17 while hitting five 3-pointers.

"She has the potential to be a 20-point scorer," said BHS coach Steve Baker. "We always like it when she gets one in early. She missed her first couple today but I left her in there and she made two or three after that, big ones."

Maryn Schreiber and 10 points to give the Tigers four players in double figures and also pulled down a game-high seven rebounds.

While Bluffton won the rebounding battle, it was not by a huge margin at 31-26. More than half of the home team's rebounds (16) came on the offensive end, but McIntire felt her team was putting its focus where it needed to be.

"It seemed like we were making more of an effort to find a body and box out," she said.

However, JCHS turned the ball over 20 times compared to just five for the Tigers.

Raylah Newton's eight points were the team high for the Patriots as Bluffton put their defensive attention their leading scorer.

"Schwieterman," said Baker, whose team beat Jay County by 30 a week earlier, regarding his team's focus for the evening. "Not that we didn't give her enough credit the first time ... I just thought, 'OK, we're just gonna make sure we know where she's at and we're just gonna play.' Well, all of a sudden she got fired up the last time we played them and we couldn't stop her. ... We focused on her, the whole defense."

Schwieterman, who entered the game averaging 20.1 points, and Natalie Carreno each finished scored six.

Correno matched Schreiber with seven rebounds and Gabi Petro had four assists.

Jay County will face another ranked rival Tuesday when it plays its sixth straight game away from home with a visit to Ossian to take on Class 3A No. 8 Norwell (12-5).

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Four ...

Continued from page 10

"I just want to thank my family. Everybody that's been supporting me the past four years like my coaches. I can't thank my dad enough for being there day-in-day-out even when he doesn't feel good. That means a lot to me. ... It also just means a lot to me to get that fourth state title for my grandpa, who I know is looking over me and helped me out."

Winner's all-time record moved to 103-2 record — both losses came as she worked her way back into the lineup after suffering a broken leg.

Winner beat Providence Cristo Rey's Jessica Martinez (21-7) in the opener with a 17-0 technical fall in 4:12 to notch her 100th career victory.

Winner picked her spots against Rochester's No. 3 Laine Peppler (28-6) in the quarterfinal, eventually getting her with a reversal into a cradle for the fall at the 18-second mark in the second period.

She also picked off No. 2 Grace McMahon (27-2) of Columbus East in the semifinal. With a 3-0 advantage, Winner chose top to start the second period and McMahon never found control as the No. 1 wrestler got the Olympian on her back in 3:12.

Rowles (33-7), who was ranked fifth in the state, started the day against No. 10 Mariah Pope (15-6) of Bloomington South. She needed 2:40 to secure a 16-0 technical fall, finishing it with a four-point near fall on a turk and half Nelson.

She rolled through Riverton Pike's Shelby Leigabel (19-6), pinning the freshman in 1:47 to earn a trip to the semifinal against No. 3 Madisyn Mikels (10-1) of Portage.

Mikels pinned Rowles in 1:02, ending her shot at the title and pushing her to the 100 third-place match.

She came up short against No. 2 Claire May (30-2) of Roncalli in her final match of the day, despite striking for a takedown just nine seconds

into the match. May fought back on the second with her own takedown, but lost a point for a full Nelson.

Down by one, May chose to start the third period neutral, which worked out as she got Rowles in a headlock for the pin (3:38) after the JCHS junior tried for an underhook.

While the lightweight secured her first medal, she was unsatisfied with the result, relating it to last season when she fell in the ticket round of the semi-state.

"It's something I've been waiting for for a while," said Rowles. "It still kinda stinks right now, but I know I'll be happy about it tomorrow. ..."

"It's the same as the way I ended my season last year. That pain, that hurt sticks around for a while and while you hate it in the moment, it's going to lead to better things."

Also earning her first medal, Ruble (34-10) pulled off an upset in the 120 opener against No. 9 Vika Konovalenko (27-8) of Columbus North.

The freshman caught Konovalenko with a double underhook to throw her to the mat after 24 seconds. From there, she trapped the Bulldog's arm and head to run something resembling a half nelson for the upset pin at 34 seconds.

"(Coming out aggressive) was big because I feel like it gave me confidence," Ruble said. "(Medaling) as a freshman is pretty good, but you will always feel like you could do better than you did."

Ruble dropped the following three matches to finish eighth. Despite keeping the quarterfinal close, she couldn't pull off the upset against No. 2 Angel Smith (29-1) of Plymouth getting pinned in 3:39.

The freshman wasn't able to bounce back against Marion's Alana Montgomery (23-8), falling after 3:54. Ruble wrapped up her state experience with a loss via pin to No. 7 Amelia Mitchell (29-4) of

Munster in 4:22 on a half nelson.

Lingo (31-11) battled all three periods against No. 13 Abigail Goodwin (27-8) of Bloomington South, to start her day with a 7-2 victory. She scored on a takedown in the first by pushing Goodwin's head down and circling around. She ran a double arm bar in the second to get a four-point near fall, but gave up a reversal to hit the final score. She sprawled throughout the third to run down the clock.

Lingo ran into a buzz saw in the quarterfinals. No. 1 Naima Ghaffar (46-1) of Northwood was too much for the JCHS senior, pinning her in 2:37 after going up 7-0 with a double-leg takedown, an escape and a single-leg takedown.

Similar to Ruble, Lingo got upset by Franklin Central's Madeline Thompson (27-11) in the consolation semifinal, putting her on the path to fight for seventh. The JCHS 135 pounder started on top in the second period but got reversed off of an attempt to throw Thompson, which allowed the Flash to get a near-side turk and run it into a butcher for the pin (5:49).

Lingo fell quickly in the seventh-place match as No. 15 Kenidi Nine (32-11) of Wawasee hit her with a side headlock that put her directly on her back in 47 seconds.

"I'm just happy I placed and I got to bring home a medal for my senior year," said Lingo. "I still have four years (of college wrestling) to make up for it, but this was the last time I got to be here. ... It was just emotionally draining."

Suffering the only first-round loss for Jay County was No. 11 Tatianna Willis (28-8). The senior gave up a single-leg takedown and a near fall to No. 7 AnnMarie Shuler (32-7) of Seymour to go down 7-0 in the first period. She chose to start on top in the second, but got reversed into a headlock with 1 minute, 37 seconds, to go before being pinned at 18 seconds later.

Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament

Patriots can't overcome Yoder

Senior's hot start, 33 points power Woodlan over Jay

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

BLUFFTON — First quarter: Trey Yoder 20, Patriots 7
Just a minute into the second, the individual Warrior had increased the advantage to 19 points.

He did it all without missing a shot.

Jay County High School's boys basketball team roared back from its early deficit to close to within five on a couple of occasions in the third quarter but could not overcome Yoder's hot start as the Woodlan Warriors pulled a way for a 60-39 victory Friday in the semifinal round of the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament at Bluffton.

The loss halted a three-game winning streak for the Patriots, who blew out South Adams 61-14 in the opening round of the tournament Tuesday.

The Warriors (7-6) advance to tonight's ACAC championship game to play Heritage (7-3) — it beat Adams Central 53-45 in the other semifinal — at approximately 8 p.m. at South Adams.

Yoder was everything for Woodlan in the first nine minutes, opening the scoring with a 3-pointer on the right wing off an assist from Ashtin Jacquay and then hitting a pull-up triple. After Jayden Comer hit a shot from long distance for the first Patriot



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jayden Comer of Jay County High School goes to the basket in front of a trio of Woodlan Warrior defenders during the first quarter of Friday's Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament semifinal at Bluffton. Comer had 11 points to lead the Patriots, but they couldn't overcome a 33-point night from Woodlan senior Trey Yoder.

points, Yoder swished a 3-pointer from the left corner and then scored on a layup off of a steal for an 11-3 lead.

He added another 3-pointer

at the 2:55 mark and closed his opening period by converting six free throws as JCHS (6-5) was called for fouls on a pair of 3-point attempts.

The Woodlan senior added two more triples in the first minute of the second quarter, giving him 26 points on 7-for-7 shooting from the field, includ-

ing six 3-pointers, and 6-of-6 from the foul line.

No one else on the Warrior squad had attempted a shot.

While points became more difficult to come by as the Patriots switched out of their usual Zorro defense to a box-and-one with Tucker Griffin hounding Yoder, he still finished with 33. He's had Jay County's number this year, scoring 63 in their two meetings while averaging 13.8 in the Warriors' other 11 games.

The first shot by a Woodlan player not named Yoder came when Mason Moore scored to push his team to a 28-7 lead at the 6:10 mark of the first quarter.

Then the Patriots started chipping away.

They closed back to within 14 at halftime and then scored the first nine points of the third quarter. The Warriors got on the board in the second half on a Drew Fleek basket and edged the lead back out to nine points before JCHS got to within five again on a Gradin Swoveland fade-away. It had a couple of chances to pull closer but was unable to get shots to fall and trailed by eight at the quarter break.

The rest of the game belonged to Woodlan, which pulled away again for the 16-point win as the Patriots went without a field goal in the final period.

Comer hit three 3-pointers to lead Jay County with 11 points. Griffin followed with 10, and Cole Forthofer and Gradin Swoveland each had eight.

JCHS shot 7-of-13 from the field in the third quarter as it rallied back but missed all of its nine tries in the fourth. It committed just seven turnovers for the game but was out-rebounded 28-16.

Moore followed Yoder's scoring outburst with a dozen points for Woodlan.

The Patriots will play on the road next week at Hagerstown (4-7) on Tuesday and South Adams (2-7) on Friday.

FR skid reaches seven

FORT RECOVERY — The season has been all streaks for the Indians.

The current one has not been kind to them.

Fort Recovery High School's boys basketball team suffered its seventh consecutive loss Friday night, fading in the fourth quarter to a 54-47 loss to the Minster Wildcats.

The game was tight throughout, with Minster (7-5) leading by one at the end of the first quarter before the Indians (3-10) pulled even at halftime. The teams were still tied heading into the final period, when FRHS got outscored 17-10.

Kole Richard scored 19 points to lead the Wildcats to the win. Brogan Stephy added 15 points and Cole McClurg had 10.

Briggs Overman's 18 points were the team high for Fort Recovery, which opened 0-3 and then won three in a row prior to its current skid. Brody Barga added 14 points.

The Indians, whose last win came Dec. 27 against South Adams, will be in action at home again at

Local roundup

4:30 p.m. today against Crestview (11-3).

Fell apart

MINSTER, Ohio — The Fort Recovery girls basketball team fell apart in the fourth quarter at Minster on Thursday for a 37-23 loss.

The Indians (6-9, 2-4 MAC) only trailed Minster (11-3, 3-2 MAC) 25-20 heading into the final period. The Tribe couldn't build any momentum for a comeback as it got outscored 12-3.

Minster only gave up one bucket to Kennedy Muhlenkamp in the period, while FRHS went 1-for-4 from the free throw line. On the other end of the floor, MHS hit five shots, including a triple.

Only three Indians found the basket. Muhlenkamp led all scorers with 10 points, while Karlie

Niekamp added eight and Makenna Huelskamp had five.

Eight players got in the scoring column for Minster. Ava Stammen and Sophia Dirksen led the Wildcats with eight points apiece.

Jay swamped

The Jay County boys wrestling team suffered a 62-6 loss to No. 9 Homestead on Thursday.

Griffin Byrum claimed the sole victory for the Patriots (17-5). The JCHS senior won the 113-pound contest against No. 17 Drew Heisler via fall after 2 minutes, 56 seconds.

Jay County's lone ranked wrestler, No. 10 Alan Ortiz — he's ranked in the 285 weight class — got upset by Henery Knipscheer in the 215 match. Ortiz was pinned in 3:23.

In the other 12 contests, Jay County suffered defeat by fall five times, lost four times in decisions, gave up one major decision and had two wrestlers go down by technical fall. A.J. Heskett wrestled the closest match, losing the 144 weight class to Anthony Gurrola in a 3-2 decision.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys wrestling at Celina — 9 a.m.

Fort Recovery — Swim in Southwest Classic Invite at Trotwood — 9 a.m.; Boys bowling vs. Coldwater at Versailles — 9:15 a.m.; Girls bowling vs. Coldwater at Versailles — 1:15 p.m.; Girls basketball vs. Bradford — 10 a.m.; Boys basketball vs. Crestview — 3 p.m.

Sunday
Fort Recovery — Swim in Southwest Classic Invite at Trotwood — 9 a.m.

Monday
Jay County — Freshman boys basketball vs. Hamilton Heights — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball at Elwood — 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball vs. St. Henry — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Middle school boys basketball vs. Coldwater — 5 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball at Celina — 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday
Jay County — Swim at Muncie Central — 6 p.m.; Boys basketball at Hagerstown — 6 p.m.; Girls basketball (varsity only) at Norwell — 7:30 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball vs. Blackford — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Swim tri-meet at Delta — 5:30 p.m.; Girls basketball vs. South Adams — 6 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball at Coldwater — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today
12 p.m. — College basketball: Virginia at Louisville (ESPN2); Creighton at UConn (FOX); Alabama at Kentucky (ESPN)

12:30 p.m. — College basketball: George Washington at George Mason (USA)

1 p.m. — College basketball: Kansas State at Kansas (CBS)

2 p.m. — College basketball: Arizona at Texas Tech (ESPN2); Xavier at Marquette (FOX)

2:30 p.m. — College basketball: Saint Louis at Richmond (USA)

3 p.m. — College basketball: Purdue at Oregon (NBC); Wisconsin at USC (BTN)

4:30 p.m. — NFL playoffs: Houston Texans at Kansas City Chiefs (ABC)

6 p.m. — College basketball: Ole Miss at Mississippi State (ESPN2)

7 p.m. — NBA: Philadelphia 76ers at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)

8 p.m. — NFL playoffs: Washington Commanders at Detroit Lions (FOX)

8 p.m. — College basketball: Duke at Boston College (ESPN); St. John's at Seton Hall (FS1)

Sunday
12 p.m. — College basketball: Illinois at Michigan State (CBS); Nebraska at Maryland (BTN)

2 p.m. — College basketball: La Salle at UMass Amherst (USA); Northwestern at Michigan (BTN)

3 p.m. — NFL playoffs: Los Angeles Rams at Philadelphia Eagles (NBC)

3 p.m. — College basketball: Memphis at Charlotte (ESPN2)

5 p.m. — College basketball: TCU at Baylor (ESPN)

6:30 p.m. — NFL playoffs: Baltimore Ravens at Buffalo Bills (CBS)

Monday
2:30 p.m. — NBA: Minnesota Timberwolves at Memphis Grizzlies (TNT)

5 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at Golden State Warriors (TNT)

6 p.m. — College basketball: Georgetown at Villanova (FS1)

7:30 p.m. — College Football National Championship: Ohio State at Notre Dame (ESPN)

8 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Wisconsin at Nebraska (BTN)

Tuesday
3 a.m. — Grand Slam tennis: Australian Open (ESPN2)

7 p.m. — College basketball: Butler at UConn (FS1); Mississippi State at Tennessee (ESPN2)

7:30 p.m. — NBA: New York Knicks at Brooklyn Nets (TNT)

9 p.m. — College basketball: North Carolina at Wake Forest (ESPN); Creighton at DePaul (FS1); Minnesota at Iowa (BTN)

9 p.m. — Grand Slam tennis: Australian Open (ESPN2)

10 p.m. — NBA: Philadelphia 76ers at Denver Nuggets (TNT)

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Four for four



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

No. 1 Mallory Winner of Jay County High School runs a double-wrist bar on No. 11 Lydia Kwaleh of Perry Meridian during the inaugural IHSAA 170-pound state championship match at Corteva Coliseum at Indiana State Fairgrounds on Friday. Winner ended up pinning Kwaleh with the move at the 1:10 mark of the second period to secure her fourth state title and first sanctioned by the IHSAA.

Winner completes state title sweep

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

INDIANAPOLIS — Mallory Winner is a lot of things. She's a 4-H member. She's a pitcher on the softball team. She's a three-time IHSAA state champion. She's the first Jay County IHSAA state champ. She's a four-time state champion.

But most of all, Winner is a true Winner.

No. 1 Winner of the Jay County High School girls wrestling team claimed her fourth state title and the inaugural IHSAA state championship in the 170-pound weight class on Friday in Corteva Coliseum at Indiana State Fairgrounds by pinning 11th-ranked

Lydia Kwaleh of Perry Meridian.

"It means a lot to me," said Winner. "To be honest, I don't think it's really set in yet, that I'm a four-time state champion. But it means a lot to me to be able to bring this back to my community and to bring

back to my family and give back to everybody that I love."

She led a group of five Patriots who competed in the state finals. Four of Jay County's wrestlers medaled to earn 52 points and finish sixth out of 146 teams. Katie Rowles

claimed fourth in the 100-pound weight class, while Brenna Ruble and Lina Lingo each placed eight in the 120 and 135 weight classes, respectively.

"We brought five here and were able to get four medalists, that's a pretty great day," said JCHS

coach Eric Myers. "Anytime you're top 10 at state meet, you've got to be happy with that. ... Coming away with a four-time state champ, sealing the deal there, having a freshman medalist, Katie Rowles breaks into the top four and Lina Lingo gets another state placement is a pretty great day for Jay County girls wrestling."

For the second year in a row, Winner's state title match was a rematch of the regional, in which she beat Kwaleh 1-0. Friday's match went nothing like the first bout.

Winner got on the board after only 29 seconds with a single-leg takedown, rather than needing to rely on an escape. Kwaleh (20-5) got her own escape to cut the

deficit to 3-1, but couldn't retaliate in the first period.

Kwaleh chose to start down in the second and almost escaped Winner's control after 40 seconds. However, Winner got the junior on her back after a low single-leg and when Kwaleh flipped to her stomach, the top-ranked wrestler ran a double-wrist bar to earn the pin at 2:50.

Following the victory, Winner started to tear up before running over to her father and assistant coach Jon Winner for an embrace.

"I just told myself that I had to improve my position, control the ties and I was just able to get to the shots today, where I wasn't able to get to them last week," Winner said.

See Four page 8

'It means a lot to me to be able to bring this back to my community and to bring back to my family and give back to everybody that I love.'

—Mallory Winner, JCHS senior

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