

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Project possibilities

Board gets overview of bonding capacity, building needs

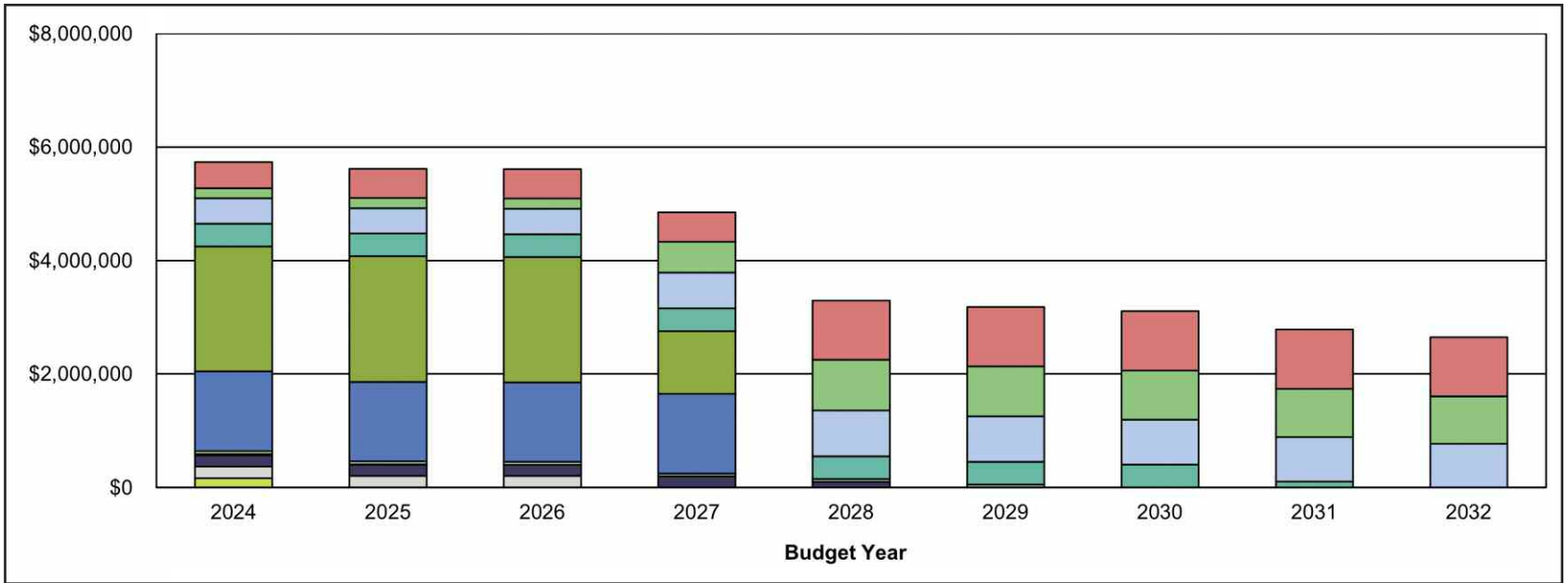
By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

What's next? And what's the financial capacity to do it? Jay School Board got a first high-level view at those questions during its meeting Monday as it begins the process of considering potential capital improvement projects.

The meeting featured presentations from representatives of accounting and consulting firm Baker Tilly and architecture and engineering firm Barton Coe Vilamaa.

Lindsay Simonetto of Baker Tilly explained that multiple debt payments will be coming to an end over the next few years. The school corporation's total debt service was \$5.73 million in 2024, dips slightly to \$5.6 million this year and in 2026, and is slated to fall to \$4.85 million in 2027 and then \$3.3 million in 2028. With bonds rolling off the debt service schedule, the school corporation can take on additional capital projects without increasing the total debt service amount or tax rate.

Based on her firm's review, Simonetto said the board could bond up to \$6.6



Baker Tilly

The above graphic from consulting and accounting firm Baker Tilly shows Jay School Corporation's debt service obligations through 2032. With several large bonds being paid off in the next few years, the school corporation will have the capacity to take on a capital project through bond financing without raising tax rates. Superintendent Jeremy Gulley assigned a committee during Monday's school board meeting to review data from Baker Tilly as well as a building study by architecture and engineering firm Barton Coe Vilamaa. The committee has a goal of presenting options to the full board this spring.

million for a "non-controlled" project — it would not be subject to a remonstrance — or up to \$18.285 million for a project that would be subject to a remonstrance.

Barton Coe Vilamaa was tasked with conducting an

overall evaluation of all of the school corporation's schools and auxiliary buildings (such as the greenhouse at the junior-senior high school). As part of that process, a team of two architects, a mechanical engineer and

an electrical engineer examined all of the schools and other structures, took more than 13,000 photos and interviewed administrators, principals and other staff, said Barton Coe Vilamaa president Brian Bohlender.

The firm compiled a 406-page report that breaks down recommendations for each building, ranking items of high, medium and low importance, with cost estimates for each. For example, items of high priority for the junior-senior

high include replacing wire glass with safety glass, updating handrails and guardrails that are not ADA compliant, upgrading kitchen equipment and resurfacing the north parking lot.

See **Possibilities** page 2

FR council approves rezoning request

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — An event center on Elm Street is getting rezoned.

Fort Recovery Village Council denied a recommendation Monday from Fort Recovery Planning Commission, instead agreeing to rezone the property at 105 S. Elm St. to commercial.

Adjacent property owners Brandon and Amanda Weyerick have been renovating the former Christ Chapel church into an event center called Elm and Ivy. Plans are to utilize the downstairs as an Airbnb and the upstairs as a venue.

Fort Recovery Planning Commission recommended the village deny a zoning map amendment petition from the Weyericks to change the property from a

Former church being renovated into event center will be changed from residential to to commercial

residential to a commercial. It suggested a zoning text amendment to allow for event centers on a conditional use within the residential district with the requirement the property must abut a commercial district. (The Elm Street property abuts both commercial and residential districts.)

Fort Recovery village adminis-

trator Randy Diller shared a list of permitted building uses in the commercial district, which included various potential public, recreational, business, retail, service and entertainment uses.

Mayor Dave Kaup, who also sits on Fort Recovery Planning Commission, explained the board had no issue with the Weyericks' plans for the building

but worried about future development on the lot. Neal Spencer, a planning commission member who also lives across from the property, noted if the Weyericks were to sell the property in the future the new owner could turn it into any of the permitted uses in the commercial district zoning rules.

"That's what we were thinking

in the planning commission by going to conditional use," he said. "Let them do what they're planning to do, but if it would get sold, the next owner has to come back and say, 'this is what we want to do.'"

Amanda Weyerick shared her appreciation for the community's support and to planning commission for considering the amendment and offering a conditional use for the property. However, she and Brandon Weyerick disagreed that property should stay zoned as residential and asked council to rezone it as commercial.

"Here's the reason — history and location," Amanda Weyerick said. "It hasn't been a single-family residence in all of its history, over 120 years."

See **Rezoning** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Spectacular Sound

Members of Parliament Sound from Burriss Laboratory School in Muncie compete Saturday in the Jay County Show Choir Spectacular. Parliament Sound finished fifth in the mixed division and won the award for best crew. The JCHS show choirs will begin their competitive seasons on Saturday, Feb. 1, at Northrop.

Trump signs executive orders

President addresses health, energy fed workforce

By NIELS LESNIEWSKI

CQ-Roll Call
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's flurry of first-day executive actions included a slew of orders related to health, energy, international relations and the federal workforce.

That's in addition to the nearly across-the-board pardons of those convicted of offenses related to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol and Trump's decision to pause enforcement of a prohibition on TikTok

operating in the United States.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said on X that there were "more than 200 executive actions" from Trump on his first day back in office, and a total of "115 personnel actions."

Overnight, Trump also announced that he was beginning the process of dismissing holdover political appointees from the Biden administration, as part of a review conducted by the White House personnel office.

Here are seven key areas of the first day's directives:

Birthright citizenship

One of Trump's actions most likely to face legal challenges is an order that would narrow the accepted constitutional definition of those eligible for U.S. citizenship by birthright.

See **Orders** page 5

Deaths

Norma Cramer, 92, Portland
Fred Bricker, 72, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

The high temperature in Jay County topped out at 12 degrees Monday. The low was 1 and wind chill values reached minus 13.

Tonight's low will be 14. Expect a high in the upper 20s Thursday with winds gusting to 20 mph and a slight chance of snow. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Public Library will host Lawyers in Libraries from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Jan. 23. Visitors can speak to an attorney about various legal issues, including bankruptcy, guardianship, immigration, estate planning and other issues. Sign up to participate at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.

Coming up

Thursday — Details from Tuesday's Portland City Council meeting.

Friday — Preview of the JCHS girls wrestling team in the team state tournament.

Saturday — Coverage of Friday's Portland Redevelopment Commission meeting.



Obituaries

Norma Cramer

May 15, 1932-Jan. 19, 2025
Norma Jean Cramer, age 92, of Portland passed away on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025, at Assurance Health Systems in Indianapolis.

She was born in Randolph County on May 15, 1932, the daughter of Elmer Arthur and Ruth (Matchett) Fields. She was married on July 22, 1951, to Max W. Cramer and he passed away on Jan. 19, 2006.

She was a manager for Richard's Restaurant, Laramie Lunch and Korner Kafe all in Portland. She attended Evangelical Methodist Church and more recently Cornerstone Baptist Church and was a member of Red Hat Society.

Surviving are two sons, Steve Cramer and Terry Cramer, both of Portland; one brother, Bob Fields of Ansonia, Ohio; five sis-

ters, Pat Harris of Portland, Janet Reinhart of Bryant, Joyce Thomas of Portland, Kay Baker of Winchester and Kathie Cook of Winchester; three granddaughters; seven great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her siblings Keith Fields, Dick Fields, June Alley and Karen Shawver.

Funeral services will be Thursday at 10 a.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Wayne Ward presiding. Burial will follow in the Weimer Cemetery. Visitation will be Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m. and prior to services Thursday.

Memorials can be made to the Jay County Humane Society.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Fred Bricker

May 18, 1952-Jan. 20, 2025

Fred Lee Bricker, 72, of Portland, Indiana, passed away peacefully on Jan. 20, 2025, sur-

rounded by his loving family.

Born on May 18, 1952, in Decatur, Indiana, Fred was the cherished son of Lester Lee Bricker and Myrtle Deloris (Knittle) Bricker, who preceded him in death.

Fred married the love of his life, Patricia Ann Taylor, on July 18, 1971, and together they built a beautiful family over 53 wonderful years of marriage. He was a devoted father to three children, Robert Bricker (Jessica), Amy Doherty (John) and Chad Bricker (Kelly). Fred was also a proud grandfather to Ashleigh Bricker, Alex Bricker, Jaymee Doherty, Michael Doherty, Patricia Doherty, Jenna Bricker and Trey Auker; and a great-grandfather to Jaxson Bricker and Nikko Bricker.

In addition to his immediate family, Fred was a dad number



Bricker

two to Staci, Mandy, Zach and Matt, who will always remember his guidance, generosity and love.

Fred was a 1970 Portland High School graduate. Fred proudly served his country in the United States Army from 1971 to 1973.

After his service, Fred excelled in various roles throughout his career. He was a co-owner of Circle B Ranch (Happy Jack's) horse auction. He worked at Heniser's as a mechanic, at LPI as a truck driver and dispatcher, and at McCammon as a truck driver. His hard work and dedication earned him the respect of all who worked with him.

Fred was preceded in death by his beloved sisters Margie Frazier, Jackie Petschke and Judy Weagant. He is survived by several nephews and nieces, who will remember his kindness and enduring love for his family.

Fred will be deeply missed by all who knew him. His legacy of love, wisdom and unwavering commitment to his family will

forever remain in the hearts of those who he leaves behind.

A celebration of Fred's life will be held on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025, at Baird-Freeman Funeral Home at 11 a.m. with Pastor Mike Harris presiding. Burial will follow in the Green Park Cemetery with military rites by American Legion Post #211. Visitation will be on Friday from 3 to 7 p.m. and prior to services Saturday.

Memorials can be made to the family to help with funeral expenses.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

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

Thursday 1/23	Friday 1/24	Saturday 1/25	Sunday 1/26	Monday 1/27
27/8	22/13	36/25	32/22	21/21
Mostly cloudy on Thursday with wind gusts up to 20 mph. Chance of snow.	Friday's forecast looks to be mostly sunny with highs again in the 20s.	Mostly cloudy, when temperatures may jump to just above freezing.	There's a slight chance of snow and rain on Sunday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	Monday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with highs in the upper 20s.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 15-16-32-47-54 Power Ball: 6 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$31 million	Daily Four: 8-8-3-3 Quick Draw: 5-8-11-19-23-24-25-29-31-34-37-39-47-53-59-62-65-67-72-75 Cash 5: 4-18-29-34-38 Estimated jackpot: \$130,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$20 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 0-0-0 Pick 4: 0-7-0-6 Pick 5: 7-4-9-4-2 Evening Pick 3: 4-4-2 Pick 4: 0-2-8-3 Pick 5: 0-1-3-6-6 Rolling Cash: 12-19-24-26-36 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 6-2-5 Daily Four: 7-4-2-6 Quick Draw: 1-3-4-6-11-14-21-23-29-32-34-39-44-53-59-65-67-70-74-79 Evening Daily Three: 6-7-3	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.91 Feb. corn.....4.92 March corn.....4.94	Feb. beans10.45 Wheat 4.98
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.91 Feb. corn.....4.93 March corn.....4.95	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.84 Feb. corn.....4.84 Beans10.41 Feb. beans10.44 Wheat5.07
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.86 Feb. corn4.86 Beans10.42	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.87 Feb. corn4.87 Beans10.17 March beans10.22 Wheat4.88

Today in history

In 1943, the world's fastest temperature change was recorded in Spearfish, South Dakota, jumping from -4 to 45 degrees in two minutes.

In 2018, Jay School Board set in motion a multi-million dollar project to prepare East and General Shank elementary schools for their new roles in the coming year. Plans for more consolidation efforts approved months later included shifting General Shanks to operate as the corporation's central office, pre-school and special programs.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.	Friday 8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
Thursday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works executive session, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St., Portland. 4:15 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St., Portland.	Monday 8:45 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Possibilities ...

Continued from page 1
Gulley formed a committee made up of himself, school board members Marcie Vormohr and Aaron Clark, business manager Shannon Current, facilities director Gary Cagle and Bohlender to review the studies. The group will evaluate the data, develop preliminary options and present information and options to the board this spring.

Gulley expressed his feeling that it's important to keep the tax rate steady, thus creating predictability for both the taxpayers and the school corporation. He also advocated for staying on top of upgrades to systems such as heating, ventilation and cooling systems rather than waiting to take action until after they fail. He noted that changes are sometimes needed as new programs are phased out and new ones are added.

"Programs change, curriculum changes," he said.

Barton Coe Vilamaa also provided a building capacity study for the corporation's elementary schools. By

state law, school corporations are now required to do an annual review of buildings and determine whether any should be closed in the next year or subsequent years. The report shows the following capacities for Jay Schools' elementary buildings:

Bloomfield — 375 capacity; 277 enrollment
East — 486 capacity; 398 enrollment
East Jay — 859 capacity; 536 enrollment
Redkey — 362 capacity; 184 enrollment
West Jay — 387 capacity; 222 enrollment

The board also reviewed a proposed timeline for repairs for the junior-senior high school following the September tornado. Gulley said he hopes to be able to advertise a first notice to bidders in early February, with bid opening on March 6 and the board potentially awarding the project at its March 17 meeting. Construction could begin at any point thereafter — the damaged portion of the building has been sealed

off from the rest of the structure — with a goal of completion to allow students to return to their regular classrooms when school begins in early August. (Mobile classrooms will remain on site in case the construction is not complete by the scheduled first day of school.)

Board members Ron Laux, Donna Geesaman, Chip Phillips, Chad Towell, Jon Eads, Vormohr and Clark also approved \$14,246.29 in expenditures related to the tornado. (Those costs have already been improved for reimbursement by the school corporation's insurance company.)

Also approved Monday were various policy updates, including regarding student "personal communication devices," such as cell phones. The policy requires high school students to leave devices in their locker or a designated place in the classroom during instructional time in most circumstances. Teachers may allow students to use devices for educational purposes.

See Possibilities page 5

Rezoning ...

Continued from page 1
She added a few other points, including:

- The property sits along Ohio 49 and is located just south of Ohio 119, and council has approved rezoning other properties along state routes in the village as commercial
- It's located next to an existing commercial property

Amanda Weyerick noted that approving the business on a conditional use would require additional steps for actions normally allowed by commercial districts, such as installing signs for the event center. (It would require the Weyericks to seek approval from the village.)

"It's very unclear what kind of investment we want to put in the building if it's just harder to understand if we're going to get approved for all of those one-off requests," she said. "Straightforward, a C1 (commercial) designation offers more clarity, follows the established precedence already there and it sends a message to the community that Fort Recovery welcomes business and doesn't want to make it difficult."

Council member and adjoining property member Erik Fiely said he understands concerns, noting he wouldn't want to see the property converted into a bar or something similar in the future. However, he agreed with Weyerick's points, specifically noting houses that have become commercial properties in the past. Fiely added that he previously believed the property was zoned as commercial.

"Number one, it's not a house," he said. "To me, it is a commercial property ... Being a neighbor, I wouldn't be happy if it's a bar later on, but to me, being a council member, I'm looking at it and saying, 'That's a good opportunity for the village to expand its commercial area.'"

See Rezoning page 5

SERVICES

Thursday

Cramer, Norma: 10 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Friday

Horn, George: 10:30 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Saturday

Thomas, William: 10 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Bricker, Fred: 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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DUTIES

- Collaborate with schools and community partners to promote whole child health, and wellbeing
- Work closely with schools and youth serving organizations to identify, develop, and deliver educational programs geared toward student health in Pre-K through Grade 12
- Collaborate and enhance current vaccination efforts to ensure childhood vaccine requirements and seasonal vaccine needs are addressed
- Coordinate and assist schools with vision, hearing, oral, as well as other health screenings
- Develop operational plans and policies to achieve department objectives and services
- Represent the Health Department on coalitions, taskforces, and committees
- Support immunization clinic operations

REQUIREMENTS

- Associate Degree in Nursing or completion of Nursing Diploma required and current licensing as a Licensed Practical Nurse in the State of Indiana
- Possession of or ability to obtain certifications in TB skin testing, CPR/AED certifications, Bloodborne Pathogens, First Aid, Stop the Bleed, National Incident Management (NIMS) and/or other areas as required for public health programs/operations
- Ability to effectively examine individuals, assess needs, and provide information, treatment, assistance, or referrals
- Ability to serve the public with diplomacy and respect, including occasional encounters with difficult persons
- Ability to travel off-site (active driver's license)

HOURS

- 35 hours weekly (Monday through Friday from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm)
- Occasional evening and weekend hours as needed for department operations and out of town meetings
- Follows the Jay County government office holiday schedule

All interested applicants can submit their resume to the Jay County Health Department at:

504 W. Arch St., Portland, IN 47371

Ph. 260-726-8080 Fax 260-726-2220 environmentalist@co.jay.in.us

Applications will be accepted until February 16, 2025



Photo provided

New scholarship

Cassie Glass, pictured above at left with instructor Kathryn Fenstermacher, recently became the first recipient of the Doctor Jennifer Hammond Clamme Memorial Scholarship at Arts Place. The new scholarship, started by Clamme's family in her memory to encourage participation in the arts, will be awarded annually to a MusicWorks student receiving instruction at Arts Place Blackford County Arts Center. Glass is studying harp this semester at Arts Place.

Sister's fixation has come to light

DEAR ABBY: My younger sister and I were close growing up. We didn't have many friends, but we were always willing to play games and have fun with each other. At one point, my sister said she wanted to marry me when we grew up. I didn't think much of it because we were still kids, and I figured she didn't know there were different types of love.

As we grew older, we did make our own friends, and today I'm engaged to my longtime girlfriend. My sister and my fiancée got along great during the years we were still just "boyfriend and girlfriend," but after we announced our engagement, my sister became hostile.

As it turns out, my sister took her intention to marry me seriously, and even as we got older and she understood the difference between familial and romantic love, she carried a torch for me well into her teens.

I would like my little sister to be part of the wedding because of how important she's been to me, but she stubbornly insists on "winning me back" from my fiancée. Is there a way to explain the reality of this situation, or are our sibling bonds done for good? — TERRIFIED SIBLING IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR TERRIFIED: Your sister is in need of the services of a mental health professional to rid herself of her fixation on you. She should NOT be part of your wedding because her presence under the circumstances could be disruptive. If she attends at all, someone should be assigned to remove her if she becomes disruptive. Perhaps your sibling bond can be reestablished later, but don't bank on it.

DEAR ABBY: I am dating a man I'll call Lionel. He's living

Dear Abby



with me temporarily (and paying half the rent) while I get back on my feet because I was recently laid off. Lionel was previously in an 18-year relationship that ended three years ago when his ex threw him out. She still asks him to pay for things, including an \$1,800 credit card bill she ran up. He tells me he's "obliged" to do it, which makes me suspect he's still in love with her. Although Lionel claims he loves me, he still does things like this for her. I'm not sure what to think, and I'm no longer sure I should be with him. Am I wrong for being upset? — PERPLEXED IN NEVADA

DEAR PERPLEXED: Lionel seems to be a generous person. If he is living with you to ease your financial burden since the layoff, I think you should be grateful. I don't know why he feels obligated to pay off his ex's credit card bill, and you didn't mention the reason.

Calmly discuss this with him before deciding whether this is worth ending the relationship over. If it's a one-time thing, let it slide at least until you find another job. However, if he is forever tied to the woman, find another roommate.

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

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited. 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.

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

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.

PORTLAND EAGLES — Will meet at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eagles' lodge, 320 N. Meridian 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

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

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

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at

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

DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park St., Portland.

Friday

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

Saturday

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

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE — BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

9	3	1	8	2	7	4	6	5
8	5	6	9	4	1	2	3	7
7	2	4	6	5	3	9	1	8
1	7	5	2	3	9	8	4	6
6	8	3	5	1	4	7	2	9
4	9	2	7	6	8	1	5	3
3	1	9	4	7	6	5	8	2
5	6	7	1	8	2	3	9	4
2	4	8	3	9	5	6	7	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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The Commercial Review

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With the journey comes adventure

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Jan. 20, 2010. Jack's stories about his travels are of a different era — hopping on trains, hitchhiking, backpacking through Europe. The sentiment though, that travel can inspire and leave us awestruck, is unchanged.

By JACK RONALD

The Commercial Review

In the photograph, the railroad depot is well-lit, freshly painted, and clean.

In my memory, it was derelict.

The photo was of a rally in Fort Wayne in hopes of making that city a stop on a proposed high-speed rail line between Chicago and Cleveland.

The memory was from more than 40 years ago, when it was still possible to catch a train in

Back in the Saddle



Fort Wayne and find yourself a few hours later at Union Station.

My first trip on that old Penn Central line came when I was maybe 12 years old.

Some travel agency had put together a promotion that was brilliant in concept though a little rough in terms of execution.

The plan was that folks would catch the Fort Wayne train to Chicago, take a bus to Comiskey Field, watch a White Sox game,

then take the bus back to the station and the train back to Fort Wayne.

Of course, for those of us in Jay County, the whole thing started with an early wake-up call and an hour drive to the depot in Fort Wayne.

My father saw an ad for the deal and thought of it in terms of a father-son outing. But for some reason, the tickets were sold in threes. In short order, my longtime neighborhood friend Don Starr was signed up to complete the trio.

Once we were on the train, we realized that Dad was the only one who saw this as a father-son event. There were no other kids that I remember on the train. Mostly it was groups of baseball fans who started hitting the beer

about the time we left the station.

It didn't matter. In memory, it was a glorious day. What more could a kid ask for: Train ride, big city, baseball game, it had it all.

A few years later, I was making the trip on my own, boarding an ABC Bus Lines unit at Vernie Schmidt's Garage, then hoofing it from the Fort Wayne bus station to the Pennsy depot where I'd board a train to Chicago so I could visit the big city while staying with my brother Steve and his wife while he was going to grad school at Northwestern and she was teaching.

In retrospect, it was the kind of adventure you wouldn't expect a kid to attempt today, but it was a ball.

The train depot, however,

looked little like the image in the recent photograph. It was cold. It was dirty. It was scarier in its own way than Chicago, because it had a sense of having been abandoned, as if it had been given up on.

But the recent photo showed what it could be, showed it the way it was when it was new.

And I soon found myself wondering about high-speed rail to Chicago.

Imagine how cool it would be to drive just an hour and get on a super-quick train to that city and its wonders, its sights and its museums.

And then I found myself wishing I were a kid again, ready for the journey, ready for adventure.

All aboard.

Withholding would be unconscionable

The Virginian-Pilot

Tribune News Service

President-elect Donald Trump demonstrated in his first term a willingness to withhold and otherwise weaponize relief funding to American communities stricken by disaster, providing help to states — or not — depending on his whims.

That inexcusable behavior is set to continue as Trump, amid a flurry of lies and conspiracy theories, and congressional Republicans such as House Speaker Mike Johnson express a reluctance to help California following one of the costliest natural disasters in that state's history.

Any other state that finds itself in harm's way should pay close attention, knowing that they may be the next place Congress and the new administration ignores in our hour of need.

Even as the fires in Los Angeles continue to smolder, the depth of need for affected residents there is already coming into focus. Entire neighborhoods are gone. Owners were helpless and forced to flee as the fires consumed lifetimes of memories in mere minutes.

Wildfires happen with increasing frequency along the West Coast, but these were particularly destructive. The area has received little rain since March and winds gusting to 100 mph meant the flames spread with frightening speed, giving firefighters little chance to contain them.

Those facts matter little to Trump, who has used his platform as the president-elect to sow lies about what happened and blame the Los Angeles mayor and the California governor, both Democrats, for not doing more. Rather than moving to help, he spread conspiracy theories about environmental policies, water supply and even "diversity, equity and inclusion" — the right's latest boogiemans — easily refuted by a modicum of research.

The video player is currently playing an ad. You can skip the ad in 5 sec with a mouse or keyboard. This is little surprise, of course. The former president routinely did the same during his first term — from using a Sharpie in 2019 to redraw a hurricane forecast map to misstate National Weather Service predictions, to claiming that his administration's sluggish and inadequate response to Hurricane Maria's devastation in Puerto Rico was because of, "Big water. Ocean water."

But more harmful to those reeling in the aftermath of a disaster was his

Guest Editorial

penchant for withholding or slow walking relief funding to affected areas.

Puerto Rico was the most egregious example. Hurricane Maria hit the island in 2017, killing an estimated 3,000 and causing devastation, but Trump sparred with Puerto Rico's elected leadership and withheld \$20 billion in aid from suffering Americans.

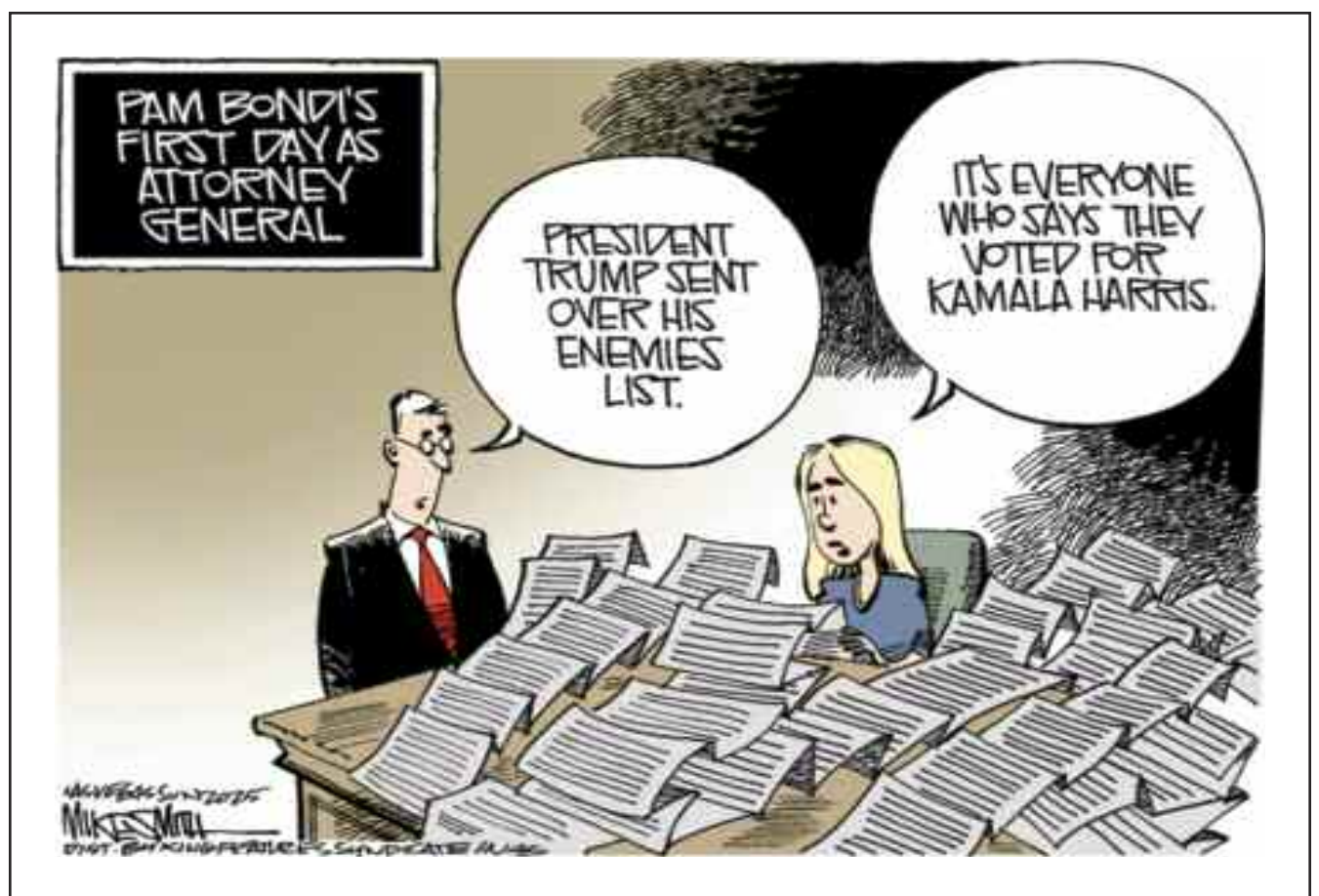
He did the same when wildfires tore through Washington State in 2020 by refusing for months to act on the state's \$37 million relief request submitted by Gov. Jay Inslee, a Democrat and Trump critic. The petition was only approved by President Joe Biden after taking office in 2021.

And only a few months ago, Trump was a primary source of misinformation for Appalachian communities inundated by floodwaters from Hurricane Helene. Again, the once-and-future president chose political opportunism rather than providing help.

Other states — those whose residents supported Trump at the polls or who had elected leaders friendly to the president — fared far better. The administration and congressional Republicans were quick to speed relief to Florida and Texas after major storms there. There were no conditions attached, and no requirement that either state should take seriously the effects of climate change or adopt mitigation strategies to prevent future disaster. There was only the recognition that people who needed help should have it as quickly as possible.

The fire victims of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County are as American as those along the Texas and Florida coasts, and they deserve the same compassion and assistance as any other place devastated by natural disaster. A president is elected to serve the whole population, not only those who support him.

By threatening to withhold aid, or attaching requirements not imposed on relief for other states, the president-elect and the party he leads have again shown their true faces. That should be deeply concerning to other places who may be making similar relief requests of Washington in the coming years.



Immigration can be solved

By TAD WEBER

The Sacramento Bee
Tribune News Service

As the San Joaquin Valley now confronts widespread fear in its immigrant communities caused by recent sweeps by U.S. Border Patrol agents, one fact remains true as it has for years now:

If Donald Trump and congressional Republicans really wanted to solve the immigration and border crisis, they could do so.

But keeping the issue in the hot pot of politics is good for Republicans. It feeds the rage of Make America Great Again adherents, and thus sustains Republicans in office. Fox News and the conservative press spin up lots of coverage. What's not to like?

Except, the issue never gets solved. Now the incoming president and his promise to have the biggest deportation campaign in American history is causing panic among undocumented workers throughout California's rich agricultural valley, especially when it appears the deportation campaign has already begun.

Last week more than 60 agents with U.S. Customs and Border Protection went to Kern County for an operation they called "Return to Sender." Customs officials said the focus was on removing criminals from California, and in fact 78 people were arrested, with the focus on those guilty of sex, drug and human trafficking crimes. But a Border Patrol supervisor admitted some people not on the arrest list were rounded up as well.

News of the Border Patrol action quickly spread through the immigrant community. That led to further impacts, such as parents not sending their children to school, or kids not wanting to go, which results in less funding for a district, as state funding is tied to attendance.

Farm worker Alejandro Padilla told Bee staff writer Erik Galicia that rumors of impending raids were rampant among ag workers. "A few people I have worked with told me

they weren't going to work," he said. "They are afraid that if they are arrested, they will not be given a fair case, that they will be thrown out and separated from their children."

Fresno and Bakersfield are at the leading edge of what could soon be occurring throughout the nation: Surprise raids by Border Patrol agents on the hunt for undocumented criminals illegally living in this country.

No one opposes catching bad guys. But law enforcement is only one aspect to solving illegal immigration.

The better way is to create an immigration process for undocumented people to become legal residents. Building the wall on the southern border and having Border Patrol agents chase immigrants for deportation is just a quick fix. Real political leadership does the hard work of creating new legal pathways. That work is decades overdue.

Do Trump and Republican congressional leaders have the will to do that? With history as a guide, the answer is likely no.

It was a year ago that Trump doomed efforts of Senate Republicans to secure an immigration reform bill. A group of senators, led by James Lankford of Oklahoma, worked extensively to create a reform bill that could win the support of hard-line Republicans as well as Democrats.

But Trump signaled his opposition because he did not want then-President Joe Biden to get a win on an issue that Trump wanted as a political foil. In the House, Republican Speaker Mike Johnson said he would not allow the Senate legislation to

Tad Weber



come up for a vote, despite how the bill would have increased Border Patrol staffing.

In 2017, Trump said he had "a great love" for Dreamers at the same time he moved to dismantle Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. A year later, he told Republican lawmakers he would take the heat for a sweeping immigration reform bill. The end result: Nothing.

In 2013, the U.S. Senate's "Gang of Eight" — four Republicans and four Democrats, including now-Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Florida's Marco Rubio — introduced the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act, which provided a legalization program for the undocumented. It passed on a 68-32 vote. House Speaker John Boehner refused to bring the bill to a floor vote, even though it was set to pass. Result: Nothing.

Through the years, farm worker advocates, growers, business interests and educators have supported immigration reform, to no avail.

To his credit, Rep. David Valadao, R-Hanford, has made repeated attempts to gain legal status for farm workers. His efforts have been for naught.

He also recognized the emotional toll of surprise Border Patrol sweeps. "I have received numerous calls from constituents expressing fear for their families' safety, and I do not support inciting concern," he said in a statement late Monday. "I think we can all agree known criminals should be expelled from the United States, but it is crucial that future operations are communicated clearly to avoid causing any further alarm among our farm workers."

If Trump will work with Congress and back a bipartisan, well-crafted reform of the nation's immigration process, he would greatly enhance his legacy. Conversely, if he makes immigration simply a policing activity, he will badly miss a chance for presidential leadership. Either way, his decisions will make history.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Orders ...

Continued from page 1

Many children born on U.S. soil to those not lawfully in the United States, or to those on tourist visas or other temporary documents would face the new restrictions.

Federal workforce

Trump's orders also seek to make it easier to remove career officials, including members of the senior executive service. One order, which largely reinstates what was known as "Schedule F" in the first Trump administration, says that occupants of "career/policy" positions are not required to politically support the president, but, "They are required to faithfully implement administration policies to the best of their ability, consistent with their constitutional oath and the vesting of executive authority solely in the President. Failure to do so is grounds for dismissal."

Another of the president's directives calls for the return of federal employees to offices on a full-time basis as quickly as possible.

World Health Organization

Trump also signed an order to resume the effort from his previous administration to withdraw the United States from the World Health Organization.

"World Health ripped us off," Trump said from the Oval Office while signing executive orders and answering questions from the press. "Everyone rips off the U.S. That's not going to happen anymore."

"The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs shall establish directorates and coordinating mechanisms within the National Security Council apparatus as he deems necessary and appropriate to safeguard public health and fortify biosecurity," Trump's executive order said.

Denali

One Trump order includes a provision to restore noteworthy locations to their former names, including a directive to rename Denali in Alaska to its former name, Mount McKinley. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, expressed disagreement with the move.

"Our nation's tallest mountain, which has been called Denali for thousands of years, must continue to be known by the rightful name bestowed by Alaska's Koyukon Athabascans, who have stewarded



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/AFP/Jim Watson

President Donald Trump signs an executive order Monday in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, D.C. He signed a series of orders after being inaugurated at noon Monday, covering topics including the World Health Organization, energy and birthright citizenship.

the land since time immemorial," Murkowski said in a post on X.

Energy emergency

Trump declared a national emergency designed to promote the development of energy resources. "This active threat to the American people from high energy prices is exacerbated by our Nation's diminished capacity to insulate itself from hostile foreign actors," it says. And he signed off on a directive to withdraw from the Paris climate accords, as he had done in his first administration.

Wind power

Trump's long-standing opposition to wind energy projects was apparent in a memorandum for the heads of relevant departments and agencies ordering a temporary withdrawal of the Offshore Continental Shelf from new wind project leases. The president also ordered a review of wind energy project leases more broadly,

including language that specifically orders the Interior secretary to review the Lava Ridge Wind Project in Idaho.

DOGE

Trump directed the establishment of what's been informally billed as the "Department of Government Efficiency," the key initiative of businessman Elon Musk, through the realignment of an existing executive branch agency. Under an executive order, the United States Digital Service will be rebranded as the United States DOGE Service. The agency is supposed to focus on federal information technology modernization.

"In consultation with USDS, each Agency Head shall establish within their respective Agencies a DOGE Team of at least four employees, which may include Special Government Employees, hired or assigned within thirty days of the date of this Order," the order said.

Possibilities ...

Continued from page 2

In most cases, elementary school and junior high students are expected to leave devices in their lockers (or backpacks for elementary school students).

"It's pretty much what we've been doing," said Guley. "That's what the policy says."

A law passed by the Indiana General Assembly last year law passed by the 2024 General Assembly requires that school corporations adopt and implement a wireless communication device policy that, with some exceptions, prohibits students from using a wireless communication device such as a cell phone during instructional time.

In other business, the board:

•During the Patriot Pride moment, honored the Jay County High School girls wrestling team. Mallory Winner, Katie Rowles, Lina Lingo and Brenna Ruble won state medals Friday in the inaugural IHSAA Girls Wrestling State Finals in Corteva Coliseum at Indiana State Fairgrounds. The Patriots finished sixth at the state finals. Winner capped her career as a four-time state champion, having won the tournament sponsored by the coaches association the previous three years.

•Voted to continue its policy of holding a planned two-hour delay once per quarter for professional development.

•Approved the following: the hiring of Lifeskills instructional assistants Lillyan Holliday and Kimberly Pinkerton and resource instructional assistant Samantha Nunez; a leave of absence for special education teacher Julie Szymczak for two weeks in February and field trips for JROTC students to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and Wash-

Cell phone policy stays essentially the same

ington, D.C., and a competition in Kentucky; and year-end transfers as required to keep fund balances positive.

•Heard a reminder from Guley that the board was testing its recording system during the meeting. The recording has been posted at jayschoolcorp.org. (Livestreaming and recording of meetings will be required by state law beginning July 1.)

•Appointed Jessica Cook to another term on the Jay County Public Library Board. Also appointed Emily Jessup to Dunkirk Public Library Board to fill the seat vacated by Connie Retter. Both will serve four-year terms.

•Heard the financial report, which showed positive cash flows of \$347,434 in the education fund and \$1.76 million in the operation fund for 2024.

•Received required reports regarding receipts, expenditures, investments, obligations and encumbrances as well as financial data for each school.

•Noted guidelines regarding safety for inclement weather, given the current frigid weather. Schools were closed Monday because of the cold weather. Guley called a two-hour delay for today's classes and said he and other staff would re-evaluate this morning.

Rezoning ...

Continued from page 2

Edna Heitkamp — she and her husband, Jack Heitkamp, own the empty lot directly south of the former church and a house southwest of the lot — shared concerns about whether the property has enough space for parking and potential liabilities such as children playing outside.

Kaup said the planning commission discussed the parking issue, pointing to the parking lot located on the east side of the property.

Brandon Wyerick added that if the property is rezoned as commercial, the owners must set up buffers — fences, shrub-

bery or other barriers — along property lines abutting residential properties.

Edna Heitkamp requested property owners complete a professional survey to make note of property lines, with officials pointing out a survey will need to be done in order to set up screening.

Council members Al Post, Cliff Wendel, Scott Pearson, Greg Schmitz, Luke Knapke and Fiely then denied planning commission's recommendation and instead decided to rezone the property to a commercial district.

Also following the public hear-

ing Monday, village council agreed to a recommendation from the planning commission to prohibit first-floor residential use in central commercial district buildings.

During council's regular meeting, council members approved an ordinance consenting to and setting forth services for a proposal to annex approximately 7.417 acres in Gibson Township.

Discussion about the annexation has been ongoing for months. Properties included in the annexation are Miracle Lanes, Mercer Health Medical Group, a portion of Wendel Poul-

try's property and a lot owned by Fred Westgerdes. The decision will return to Mercer County Commissioners in about a month.

In other business on Monday, council members:

•Agreed to amend the wage ordinance to hire new police officer Don Bird. The Fort Recovery resident has about 13 years of experience, previously working for Mercer County Sheriff's Department and St. Henry Police Department.

•Transferred \$12,192.80 from the general fund to the village share project fund.

•OK'd a request to close Wayne

Street from Butler to Boundary streets from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 26 for Psi Iota Xi sorority's Brick Street Market event.

•Authorized using internet auctions to sell unneeded personal equipment.

•Heard Ohio Department of Transportation has scheduled a scoping meeting on Feb. 13 for projects involved in the Safe Routes to School grant in Fort Recovery.

•Authorized fiscal officer Roberta Staugler to execute an Ohio Public Employees Retirement System conversion plan. (The resolution is approved annually.)

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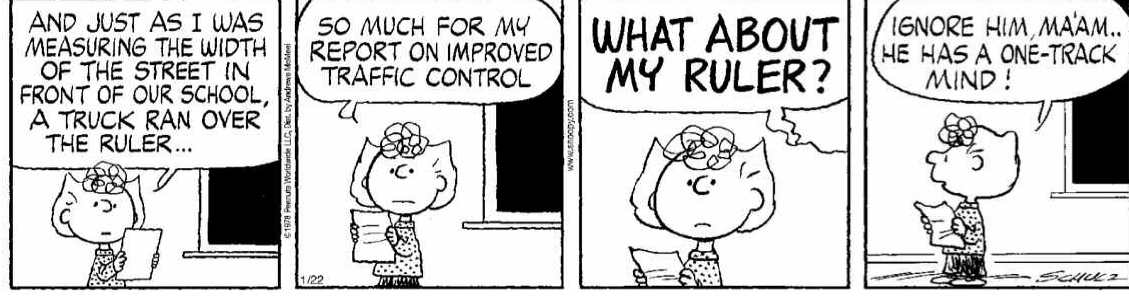
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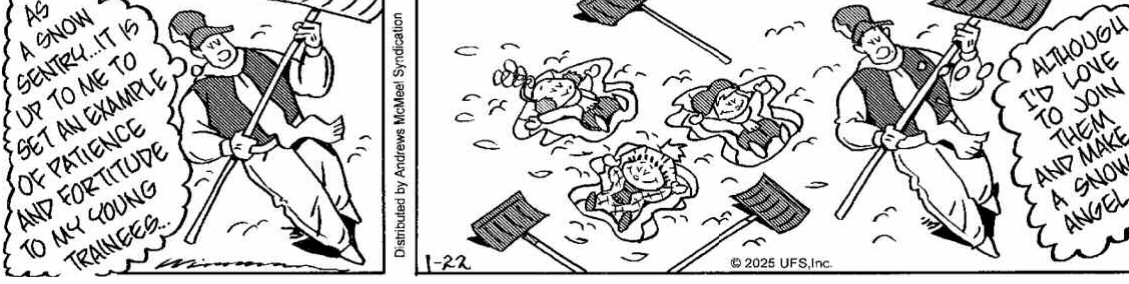
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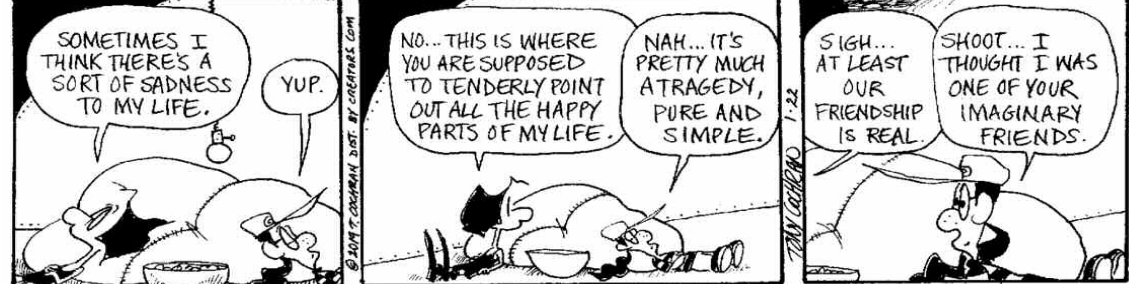
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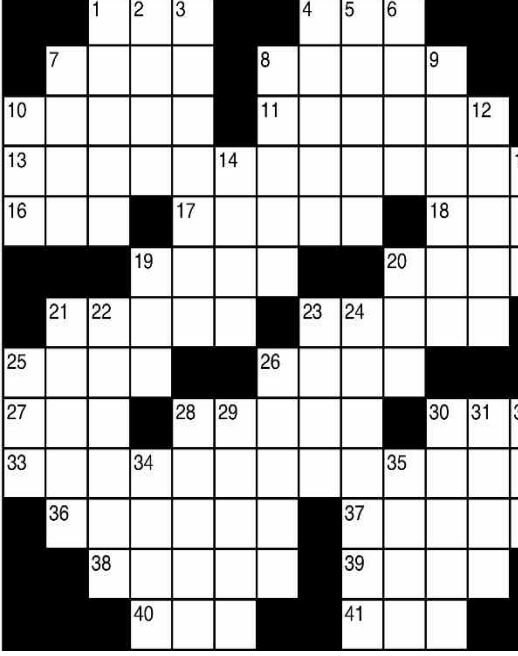


CRYPTOQUIP

YESTERDAY'S CRYPTOQUIP: IF A CONVERSATION DECLINES, FETCH A BIG ORANGE GOURD. THAT'LL GIVE THEM PUMPKIN TO TALK ABOUT. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals E

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

CROSSWORD clues and solutions. ACROSS: 1 Center, 4 Solo in space, 7 Lawn mower brand, 8 Spoils, 10 Wanderer, 11 Bee-thoven's Third, 13 Time management aids, 16 Citric beverage, 17 Got up, 18 Mosquito barrier, 19 '— chic!', 20 Feel sorry for, 21 Mom's sister, informally, 23 'Time in a Bottle' singer. DOWN: 12 Mountain crest, 2 Russian river, 3 Tattoos, e.g., 4 Circle dances, 5 Expiate, 6 Dresden denial, 7 Frog's kin, 8 Apollo's birthplace, 9 Pictur- esque, 10 Secret- protecting doc., 12 Mountain crest, 14 Quarry, 15 Farm pen, 19 Stick with a kick, 20 Cauldron, 21 Greek storyteller, 22 Faraway orb, 23 Business abbr., 24 Author's payment, 25 Actress Dawber, 26 'Papa' of classical music, 28 Molts, 29 Traction aid, 30 Archipel- ago part, 31 Editing mark, 32 Ninny, 34 Verifiable, 35 Harboring a grudge.



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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Schmitz shoots

Emma Schmitz puts up a shot during the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team's 61-22 victory over Bradford on Saturday. The sophomore scored four points on 2-3 shooting in the win.

Colts return to play as designated team in first-ever NFL game in Berlin

dpa
Tribune News Service
Berlin — The Indianapolis Colts will return to Germany to play as the designated team in the first-ever NFL regular season game in Berlin, the league said on Wednesday.

The Colts have already visited Germany and played against the New England Patriots in Frankfurt in 2023.

"The NFL is making history in Berlin, and the Colts are proud to be part of this landmark event in one of the world's most historic cities," Colts owner and CEO Jim Irsay said.

The Colts' opponent, along with game date and kick-off time, will be announced when the full 2025 NFL schedule is

revealed this spring, the statement said.

The Berlin game will be played at the Olympic stadium as part of a multi-year commitment that will see the German capital hosting three games in five years until 2029.

The NFL played five American Bowl games at the stadium between 1990 and 1994, and it was also home to NFL Europe's Berlin Thunder from 2003-07.

"After four successful international games in-market across Munich and Frankfurt, we're thrilled to have the Colts as the designated team for our first-ever regular season game in Berlin in 2025 — a city that holds so much

football history and is a true testament to the international expansion and growth of the league," NFL Germany general manager Alexander Steinforth said.

Starting this year, the NFL can schedule up to eight regular season games internationally. The league has already announced three matches in London and one in Madrid in 2025.

The New York Jets, the Cleveland Browns and the Jacksonville Jaguars have already been confirmed as the designated teams for the London games, and, according to media reports, the Miami Dolphins are expected to host the match in Madrid.

Chicago Bears to hire Ben Johnson as next head coach

By BRAD BIGGS

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

CHICAGO — Chicago Bears President/CEO Kevin Warren boldly proclaimed seven weeks ago the organization would have the most attractive situation of any team searching for a new head coach — and it appears that proved true.

The club is finalizing a deal to hire Detroit Lions offensive coordinator Ben Johnson, who was hotly pursued by the Las Vegas Raiders and Jacksonville Jaguars.

Johnson became available sooner than anyone imagined after the top-seeded Lions were upset in the divisional round of the playoffs Saturday at Ford Field, losing 45-31 to the Washington Commanders.

The Bears were able to firm up an agreement with Johnson before even bringing him to Halas Hall for an in-person interview. One source said on Saturday morning that Johnson was believed to have offers from all three teams and a decision, even if the Lions advanced in the playoffs, was likely imminent so a

staff could be organized behind the scenes.

The team performed a wide-ranging search, interviewing at least 17 candidates, including former Green Bay Packers and Dallas Cowboys coach Mike McCarthy, who was viewed as a strong candidate for the job.

But Johnson, 38, was at or near the top of the team's list and apparently he was fine with the idea of working with general manager Ryan Poles. One of the drawing cards with the Raiders specifically and possibly the Jaguars would have been the opportunity to influence a decision on the hiring of a GM.

Johnson will go to work building an offense around Caleb Williams, the No. 1 draft pick last season. A quick decision, two days after the Lions were eliminated, gives Johnson a head start on forming a staff of assistants.

Johnson replaces Matt Eberflus, who was fired a day after the Nov. 28 loss in Detroit with a 4-8 record on the season. Eberflus finished 14-32 in his time with the Bears.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Thursday
Jay County — Girls basketball (varsity only) vs. Delta — 6:30 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball at Mississinewa — 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at South Adams — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high wrestling vs. Adams Central — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball vs. South Adams — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs.

TV sports

Today
3 a.m. — Grand Slam tennis: Australian Open (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Kansas at TCU (ESPN2); Indiana at Northwestern (BTN); Xavier at St. John's (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Minnesota Tim-

berwolves at Dallas Mavericks (ESPN)
8 p.m. — College basketball: La Salle at Saint Louis (FDSN Indiana)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Texas A&M at Ole Miss (ESPN2); Nevada at Utah State (FS1); USC at Nebraska (BTN)
10 p.m. — NBA: Golden State Warriors at Sacramento Kings (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NHL: Florida Panthers at Los Angeles Kings (TNT)

Thursday
3:25 a.m. — Grand Slam tennis: Australian Open (ESPN)
2 p.m. — NBA: San Antonio Spurs at Indiana Pacers (ABC)
6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Maryland at Ohio State (BTN)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Wichita State at Memphis (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: UCLA at Rutgers (FS1)
7 p.m. — U.S. Figure Skating (USA)

7:30 p.m. — NBA: Miami Heat at Milwaukee Bucks (TNT)
8 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Oklahoma City Thunder (ABC)
8 p.m. — Women's college basketball: LSU at South Carolina (ESPN); Illinois at Northwestern (BTN)
8 p.m. — NHL: Vegas Golden Knights at St. Louis Blues (FDSN Indiana)
8:20 p.m. — U.S. Figure Skating (NBC)

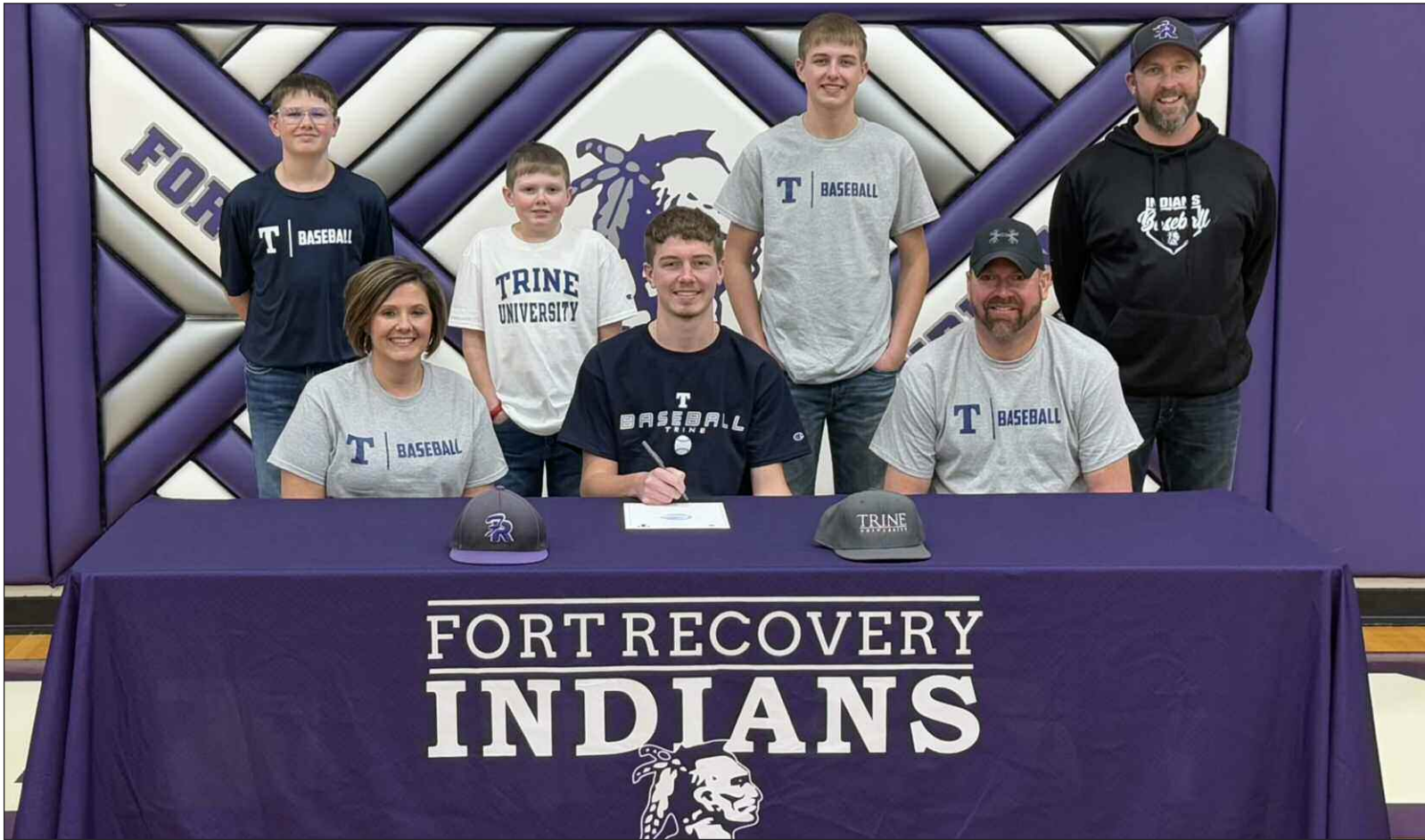
9 p.m. — College basketball: Appalachian State at Arkansas State (ESPN2); Maryland at Illinois (FS1)
9:15 p.m. — U.S. Figure Skating (USA)
10 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at Los Angeles Lakers (TNT)
10:25 p.m. — Grand Slam tennis: Australian Open (ESPN)
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To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@theocr.com.

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Call 1-866-309-8556 and mention code 77318GER or visit www.omahasteaks.com/Deluxe9878</p> <p>00 CLASSIFIEDS</p> <p>CLASSIFIED ADS 260-726-8141</p> <p>ADVERTISING RATES 20 Word Minimum Effective 07/01/2018: Minimum charge.... \$12.40</p> <p>1 insertion.....62¢/word</p> <p>2 insertions.....81¢/word</p> <p>3 insertions.....96¢/word</p> <p>6 insertions.... \$1.14/word</p> <p>12 insertions. \$1.52/word</p> <p>26 insertions. \$1.77/word</p> <p>Includes Online.....FREE</p> <p>Classified Display \$6.95/ per column inch</p> <p>No borders or logos allowed on Classified Page</p> <p>Card of Thanks Up to 100 words.... \$13.00</p> <p>In Memory Up to 100 words.... \$13.00</p> <p>Advertising Deadline is 12:00 p.m. the day prior to publication.</p> <p>Pre-Payment required for: Rummage sales, business opportunities, jobs wanted, boats and sporting equipment,</p>	<p>wanted to rent, motorized vehicles, real estate and mobile homes.</p> <p>40 NOTICES</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one days incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mistakes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.</p> <p>60 SERVICES</p> <p>J. L. CONSTRUCTION & ROOFING LLC. Amish crew. Custom built homes, new garages, pole barns, interior/ exterior remodeling, drywall, windows, doors, siding, roofing, foundations. 260-726-5062, leave message.</p> <p>SEAMSTRESS NAN HOMEMADE Sewing and Alterations, Quilts, Baby Blankets, AppliquÉ, Zippers, Hemming, Memory T-Shirt, Special Orders, Wedding & Prom Gowns. 260.766.9334</p> <p>GOODHEWS ALL SEASON Construction- Specializing in standing seam metal roofs. When Quality Counts, Count On US. A company you can trust. Member of the BBB. New Installation and repairs. Call Rodney Thornbury, owner 765-509-0191</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>MARY THORNTON AND SLUSSER FAMILY Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kayden Khayyata AU12400069</p> <p>100 JOBS WANTED</p> <p>AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.</p>	<p>LOOKING FOR House Cleaning or Babysitting jobs. 3088 E. 800 N. Bryant, IN 47326</p> <p>110 HELP WANTED</p> <p>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>CITY OF DUNKIRK Clerk's Office is currently accepting applications for a clerical assistant. Previous customer service and computer knowledge are required. Applications are available at the municipal office located 131 S Main St. Dunkirk, IN 47336</p> <p>130 MISC. FOR SALE</p> <p>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. 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Sports



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Diller signs

Mason Diller of Fort Recovery High School signed his national letter of intent on Jan. 16 to play baseball at Trine University. Picture in the front row from left are mother Katie, Mason, and father Greg. Back row are brothers Kale, Easton and Garrett and baseball coach Kevin Eyink.

Buckeyes win first national title since 2014

By JIM NAVEAU
The Lima News, Ohio
Tribune News Service

ATLANTA — Ohio State is national champion, and Ryan Day has the highest career winning percentage among active FBS coaches.

Not many people were predicting that championship six weeks ago, after OSU lost to three-touchdown underdog Michigan and there were hysterical calls to fire Day.

After the Buckeyes (14-2) won their first football national championship since 2014 and the school's ninth overall with a 34-23 win over Notre Dame on Monday night at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Day's career record at OSU is 70-10, an .875 winning percentage.

"I feel like from the start of this thing we've been knocking on the door," Day said about his six seasons as OSU's head coach. "The 2019 team, the 2020 team, the 2021 team, the 2022 team. You keep going through these seasons, and we weren't that far off. But you've got to find a way to break through and make it to where we are right now.

"I can't say enough about our guys and what they've overcome to get to this point. We had con-

Ryan Day, Ohio State claim first national championship in 12-team format with 34-23 victory over the Notre Dame Fighting Irish

fidence coming into the game that we had momentum. I shared with these guys that there are times in life when things just aren't going well, and you just have to keep hanging in there. But when things are going well, just get all you can get. And that was the message going into the game."

Will Howard completed 17 of 21 passes for 231 yards and two touchdowns and rushed a season-high 16 times for 57 yards. Quinshon Judkins rushed for 100 yards and scored three touchdowns.

Ohio State had a 31-7 lead halfway through the third quarter before Notre Dame fought back to make it a one-score

game at 31-23 on a 30-yard touchdown pass from Riley Leonard to Jaden Greathouse with 4:15 left in the game.

The Buckeyes responded with a 56-yard pass from Howard to Jeremiah Smith to set up a 33-yard field goal by Jayden Fielding, his second of the game, to clinch the win in the first season of a 12-team College Football Playoff.

"This is such a special moment, I can't even describe it," senior defensive end Jack Sawyer said.

Senior offensive lineman Josh Fryar said, "I'm just so happy for these guys. I'm thrilled for our coaches, our staff, everybody. It's unbelievable. I'm just so happy."

Asked about cornerback Denzel Burke's preseason declaration that it was "natty or bust" for the Buckeyes this season he said, "He was right about the natty part."

Safety Lathan Ransom said, "I love this team. I love this team. That's it." Senior defensive tackle Ty Hamilton said, "We finally got some hardware to show for it. It was my last game, it was a lot of guys' last game, and we went out with a great win."

Sophomore offensive lineman Luke Montgomery said, "Being an Ohio kid winning a national championship it's a little more special. I'm going to just enjoy the moment."

Judkins said, "We took our athletic ability and brought it together with discipline and hard work and other things, and it ended up paying off. We always knew we had the ability to do it."

Ohio State led 21-7 at halftime when it scored 21 unanswered points after Notre Dame scored a touchdown the first time it had the football, the first points the Buckeyes had allowed in the first quarter in its four playoff games.

Howard was 14 of 15 passing

for 144 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for 26 yards on 6 carries.

Notre Dame received the opening kickoff and marched 75 yards in 18 plays for a 1-yard touchdown run by Leonard at the end of a drive which took 9 minutes, 45 seconds off the clock.

The rest of the first half belonged to Ohio State, which had three possessions and scored touchdowns on all three of them.

OSU tied the game at 7-7 on an 8-yard touchdown pass from Howard to Smith at the end of an 11-play, 75-yard drive that used up 6 minutes, 8 seconds.

Judkins' 9-yard touchdown run at the end of a 10-play, 75-yard drive gave Ohio State a 14-7 lead with 6:15 left in the first half.

After a quick three-and-out by Notre Dame, OSU scored again when Howard ended a 12-play, 80-yard drive with a 6-yard touchdown pass to Judkins for a 21-7 lead 27 seconds before halftime.

Ohio State won its four College Football Playoff games 42-17 over Tennessee, 41-21 over Oregon, 28-14 over Texas and 34-

OHSAA approves track and cross country expansion

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Indians' path in the postseason just got a bit easier.

Nearly a year after the Ohio High School Athletic Association approved expansion of postseason divisions for team sports, it approved the expansion for cross country and track and field on Jan. 16.

Track and field will expand from three divisions to five, while cross country goes from three to four.

The Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches has made several proposals for expansion over the last several years, and was approved following the success of expansion in team sports such as volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball.

The expansion directly benefits the Tribe, as it recently moved from the northwest regional at Tiffin, in which seven cross country teams advance to the state tournament from the regional, to the southwest regional at Troy, where only three girls teams and four boys teams move on.

Last year, FRHS had its girls team and Reese Diller advance to the regional. The girls finished six spots away of a state berth, while falling 1 minute, 0.91 seconds short.

Local roundup

More information on the respective sports' playoff formats will be available in the months leading up to each tournament.

Patriots fall

The Jay County Junior High School girls basketball team came up just short against St. Henry on Monday, suffering a 39-38 loss.

Karsyn Schwieterman led the way for the Patriots with 31 points.

Behind Schwieterman, Kendall Schemenaur put up four points and Avery Snow scored three.

Jay County will wrap up the regular season on Thursday at South Adams before hosting the first two rounds of the Allen County Athletic Conference tournament the following week.

Jay County is set to host the Starfires in the opening round of the tournament. Should they advance to the championship, it will be held on Feb. 1 at Southern Wells.

Brides Special



Our brides special section will be distributed in:

- The Commercial Review (Portland),
- The News-Gazette (Winchester)
- The News Times (Hartford City)

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

Full-Page Color — \$625	1/2-Page B&W — \$325
Full-Page B&W — \$525	1/4-Page Color — \$275
1/2-Page Color — \$425	1/4-Page B&W — \$225

Big business card (3x3.5) — \$105
Business card (2x2) — \$52

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