

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Former matron is suing county

Coleman is seeking nearly \$20,000 in wages and attorney fees

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

A former Jay County employee is suing the county for allegedly discriminating against her and denying her pay.

Kristin Coleman filed a civil tort case in Jay Superior Court against the Jay County Sheriff, Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Auditor on Tuesday. She seeks more than \$19,700 in wages and attorney fees from the county.

According to a formal complaint filed with the case, Coleman's lawyer alleges "the Sheriff, the Commissioners, and the Auditor intentionally, knowingly, willfully, and wantonly discrimi-

nated against her on the basis of her disability/perceived disability/record of impairment, denied (Coleman) wages she had earned, and retaliated against her for utilizing time off work pursuant to the (Family and Medical Leave Act), causing (her) to suffer the loss of her job and job-related benefits, including income and health insurance, and subjected her to emotional distress and other damages and injuries."

Coleman worked for the county for more than a decade, having served as jail matron at Jay County Sheriff's Office for five years, court documents say.

Employees were informed in November 2022 they would be paid down to 40 hours of compensatory time, the document says, with Coleman's accrued time at about 200 hours. Coleman said she was informed by sheriff's office secretary Penny Thomas she would be paid for 100 hours of compensatory time on Dec. 16, 2022, with the remaining hours to be paid on Dec. 30, 2022.

Coleman learned in November 2022 that the new sheriff elect, Ray Newton, planned to appoint a new matron. Coleman was told she could stay at the jail as an officer or work in dispatch, the document says.

See **Suing** page 2

City to file against former police officer

Board seeking reimbursement for academy training

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The city will sue a former police officer in an effort to recoup funds spent on his training.

Portland Board of Works on Thursday voted unanimously to file suit against former officer Patrick Long, who left the department late last year.

The city is seeking \$14,977, the full amount of the reimbursement agreement for training at Indiana Law Enforcement Acade-

my. The agreement calls for officers to repay all or a portion of that total if they leave Portland Police Department within three years of completing training.

Long completed his training in August, clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips said, and left the department in December. (He took a job with Winchester Police Department.)

City officials said Long has refused to reimburse the city for his training.

Board of works members Steve McIntosh, Jerry Leonhard and Mayor Jeff Westlake voted in favor of filing the lawsuit.

City attorney Wes Schemanaur said after the meeting that Long filed a tort claim against the city and is saying that he was forced to leave the Portland department.

The last such case filed by the city was in 2017 and resulted in payment of \$5,823.70 to the city.

Board of Works members also approved the purchase of a long bed truck and a trailer.

See **File** page 2



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

... JC

Jay County High School junior cheerleader Paisley Fugiett helps get the "We are JC" chant going during the second half of the Patriots' boys basketball game Friday in the Stardome at South Adams. JCHS had a double-digit lead early and held on for a 49-45 victory over the Starfires.

Commission to negotiate

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Portland Redevelopment Commission will work toward an agreement with a developer for a project in the Hood Building.

Consultant Ed Curtin of CWC Latitudes told the redevelopment commission Monday that there were no responses to its request for proposals for development of the Hood Building, which is home to The Graphic Printing Company at 309 W. Main St. (The redevelopment commission purchased the building in late 2023 from the company, which now rents the basement and first floor, for potential development.) After a 30-day waiting period, the commission is now free to negotiate directly with a developer.

Curtin said he has reached out to the developer that had previously expressed interest and that he continues to be interest-

Discussions to be held with developer regarding Hood Building

ed in the project. They discussed a path forward, with Curtin indicating that a key question is whether Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) 2.0 was awarded for the project. (No announcements of award funding for Jay County have been made thus far.) Curtin said he plans to reach out to East Central Indiana Regional partnership president and CEO Trevor Friedeberg for more information.

Plans are for Curtin and redevelopment commission president Rusty Inman to discuss an agreement with the developer with the possibility of pro-

viding additional details during an executive session following the group's next meeting. Answering a question from Mayor Jeff Westlake, Curtin said ideally the commission would have a deal to consider at the meeting in April.

"That's assuming we get all the details worked out," Curtin said. "And there's a lot of details to work out."

Commission member Reda Theurer-Miller also brought up an issue Westlake has raised with Indiana Department of Transportation regarding the ongoing U.S. 27 (Meridian Street) construction project.

See **Negotiate** page 2



Tribune News Service/The San Diego Union-Tribune/Nelvin C. Cepeda

Fire flight

An air tanker drops fire retardant next to the Thousand Trails Pio Pico RV Resort & Campground during the Border 2 fire early Friday afternoon. The hills near the U.S.-Mexico border exploded early Friday morning over thousands of acres, triggering school closures and evacuation orders throughout the Otay Wilderness Area.

Deaths

Dorothy Bailey, 105, Portland
Joni Blomeke, 68, Bluffton
Guy Fisher, 58, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 21 degrees Friday. Skies will be cloudy today with a slight chance of snow and a high in the mid 30s. Sunday's high will be in the mid 20s under partly cloudy skies. Expect lows in the teens.
See page 2 for an extended forecast.

In review

Jay County Public Library will host "Tech Talk Hour: Introduction to Windows" at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8. The class is for beginners to learn how to use Windows. Attendees can bring their device, but it is not required. To reserve a spot, visit the library or call (260) 726-7890.

Coming up

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

Wednesday — Details from next week's Dunkirk City Council meeting.

Thursday — Results from the JCHS girls basketball game vs. Heritage.



Obituaries

Dorothy M. Bailey

Dorothy M. Bailey, age 105, of Portland and formerly of Muncie passed away on Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, in The Waters of Dunkirk.



Bailey

She was born in Gaston the daughter of Vernie and Daisey (Lovett) McSherry. She was married on Jan. 1, 1942, to James L. Bailey and he passed away on March 25, 1992.

Dorothy was a homemaker and member of First Church of the Nazarene in Portland, Jay County Hospital Auxiliary, Gray Lady at Ball Memorial Hospital and Primetime. She was an accomplished pianist and organist, having played in many churches for many years.

Surviving are one son, Donald Bailey of St. Petersburg, Florida; two daughters, Rozetta Richwine (husband: Larry) of Dunkirk and Kathryn Hughes (husband: Bill) of Port Richey, Florida; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and 14 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Patricia Haffner; brother, Emial McSherry; and sisters Frances Meyer and Pauline Smoker.

Funeral services will be Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 3 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Steve Cecil presiding. Burial will be in Elm Ridge Cemetery in Muncie. Visitation will be from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday.

Memorials can be made to First Church of the Nazarene, Diabetes Foundation or Jay County Hospital Auxiliary.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Joni Blomeke

June 12, 1956-Jan. 23, 2025

Joni K. (Traxler) Blomeke, age 68, of Bluffton, Indiana, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025, at Lutheran Health in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



Blomeke

She was born on June 12, 1956, in Jay County, Indiana, to Sally (Yeager) Traxler of Fort Recovery and the late James Traxler.

In addition to her mother, Joni is survived by her husband of 44 years, Charles "Chuck" Blomeke; whom she married on Oct. 30, 1980; her stepson, Jonathan (Lyn) Blomeke of Geneva, Indiana; her grandchildren,

(Stephanie) Blomeke, Ethan Blomeke and Madalyn Blomeke; her great-grandson, Fletcher Blomeke; her brothers, Michael Traxler of Fort Recovery and Thomas (Becky) Traxler of Connecticut; her nephew, Jeremy Traxler; her in-laws, Pat (Marion) Blomeke, Jerry (Diane) Blomeke, Linda (Craig) Walker, Sharon (Rob) Erman, Denise (Jeff) Sexton and Betty Blomeke; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

In addition to her father, Joni was preceded in death by her in-laws, Steve Blomeke and Dave Blomeke.

Joni was a 1974 graduate of Fort Recovery High School. In her early years, Joni worked for CTS in Berne until her health began to decline. In her free time, she enjoyed gardening, reading a good book, sewing and finding great bargains at garage

sales. Joni was a fantastic cook, and her grandchildren always looked forward to her sugar cookies.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025, at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, Fort Recovery, with Fr. Joseph Pasala officiating. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Per Joni's request, there will be no visitation.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Cancer Association of Mercer County.

Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home is serving Joni's family.

Condolences may be shared with her family by visiting brockmanboeckmanfh.com.

Guy Fisher, Portland, May 15, 1966-Jan. 22, 2025. Burial will be at a later date in Wells Cemetery, northwest of Portland.

CR almanac

Sunday 1/26	Monday 1/27	Tuesday 1/28	Wednesday 1/29	Thursday 1/30
27/16	36/29	39/31	38/22	33/20
Sunday looks to be mostly cloudy by day with a high of 27 degrees.	Monday's forecast shows sunny skies with highs in the upper 30s.	Mostly sunny skies on Tuesday when the high will be in the upper 30s.	Wednesday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with highs in the upper 30s.	Mostly sunny skies on Thursday, when highs will be in the lower 30s.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 5-0-5 Daily Four: 1-7-7-9 Quick Draw: 5-6-9-10-13-15-17-20-22-23-27-34-39-41-44-60-70-77-78-79	Pick 3: 4-4-4 Pick 4: 7-1-9-0 Pick 5: 6-0-1-4-5
Ohio Midday	Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$46 million
	Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$28 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.88 Feb. corn4.85 March corn4.89	Feb. beans10.53 Wheat4.94
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.90 Feb. corn4.90 March corn4.94	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.81 Feb. corn4.81 Beans10.49 Feb. beans10.52 Wheat5.09
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.84 Feb. corn4.84 Beans10.51	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.81 Feb. corn4.81 Beans10.31 Feb. beans10.36 Wheat4.84

Today in history

In 41, Claudius I became emperor of Rome. He ascended to the leadership role a day after his nephew, Caligula, was murdered.

In 1533, King Henry VIII of England married Anne Boleyn, the second of his six wives. He would eventually have her beheaded.

In 1890, Nellie completed her 72-day, 6-hour, 11-minute, 14-second journey around the world when she stepped off a train in New York. The journalist had set out to challenge the fictional record set in Jules Verne's "Around the World in Eighty Days."

In 1949, the first Emmy Awards were presented in Los Angeles. There were only six award categories, with "Pantomime Quiz" honored as the most popular television program.

In 2005, Portland Mayor Bruce Hosier laid out goals for economic growth while Jay County Commissioners president Milo Miller Jr. focused on clean-up following a devastating ice storm from just a few weeks earlier during their State of the City and State of the County addresses.

In 2021, Jay County's animal control task force shared its reasoning behind a recommendation for a new facility with a price tag north of \$1 million. The project eventually moved forward with a facility planned for the former Fastenal building on the west side of Portland.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 8:45 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners executive session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.
Tuesday 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.	

Suing ...

Continued from page 1
According to her complaint, Coleman was informed on Dec. 16, 2022, "she was not eligible to be paid for her earned comp time or overtime, citing policy, even though she had been accruing comp time, had previously been able to cash in comp time, and had also been paid overtime as recently as November 2022."

She submitted Family and Medical Leave Act paperwork to Thomas on Dec. 21, 2022, for time off related to her cancer diagnosis. (She said her oncologist advised her the next day she needed time off work because of her medical issues, and she delivered her doctor's note to Thomas.)

The next day she attended a Jay County Personnel Committee meeting to discuss the issue with then-Sheriff Duane Ford, council president Jeanne Houchins, commissioners president Chad Aker, auditor Emily Franks, council member Ted Champ and county attorney Bill Hinkle. She said at the meeting

"she believed she was being singled out due to her medical condition," according to the complaint.

At that time, Jay County Personnel Committee recommended the county pay a roughly \$3,000 claim for Coleman's compensatory time. However, the committee pointed out her position is not eligible to accrue such time. Coleman was one of several county employees, mainly elected officials and first deputies, who were not entitled to receive overtime compensation or compensatory time off, according to the county's personnel policy handbook at that time.

Coleman pointed out at the meeting that others had received compensatory time — in the complaint, she names former jail commander Darrin Sanderson — despite being ineligible for it.

Houchins chided Ford at the meeting for allowing compensatory time to be accrued. Ford argued Coleman's position can't be completed at 40 hours a week. He said he wasn't aware of the policy, which

dated back to January 2019, and that he had been following guidelines for compensatory pay he believed were in place previously. Other personnel committee members said Ford should have addressed the issue with county officials.

Pointing to the personnel policy handbook, Jay County Commissioners decided not to pay Coleman for her compensatory time at their meeting Dec. 27, 2022, with Newton supporting the denial, the complaint says.

Three days later, Coleman informed the sheriff's office she would be returning to dispatch when she was released by her doctor to return to work.

Coleman received a certified letter from Newton on Jan. 21, 2023, indicating her employment had been terminated on Jan. 1 while on Family and Medical Leave Act leave. The letter states the matron job is a political appointive position of the sheriff and may be terminated by the sheriff at any time.

"This is to reconfirm my earlier conversation with you that effective January

1, 2023, your appointment as Matron was terminated; and you were no longer a Jay county employee," Newton said in the letter. "You may apply for any open County positions following the procedures established by the County for filling vacant positions. You are advised to contact the Auditor's Office to inquire about the application process."

Coleman sent a tort claim notice to the sheriff, commissioners and auditor on March 6, 2023, and a Charge of Discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) on April 12, 2023. The EEOC transferred the charge to the Indiana Civil Rights Commission. (The commission is still investigating the claims, according to documents filed in the case.)

A wage claim application approved by Indiana Department of Labor in March 2023 established Coleman's claim at \$19,754.88.

According to the formal complaint, Coleman demanded a jury trial.

Negotiate ...

Continued from page 1
The mayor has express concern to INDOT regarding trip hazards involving the bump-outs at some intersections.

The mayor indicated that he was initially presented with several

options but INDOT, but that the state agency seemed to be pushing toward using planters.

Theurer-Miller said she is hopeful that the city and Portland Main Street Connect, of which she is a member, can work with INDOT to either use

existing planters or ensure that new planters are of a similar design.

In other business, the commission members:

•Re-elected Inman as president, Theurer-Miller as vice president and Joe Johnston as secretary.

File ...

Continued from page 1

The truck for the city's street department is a used 2019 model from Felking International of Decatur for \$59,985, which includes transfer of the trailer and other equipment. (A new truck would have cost more than \$90,000, street department superintendent Matt Shauver said.) The street department has two such trucks, which are used for a variety of purposes including collecting brush and hauling stone.

The trailer, which is shared by the street, wastewater and water departments, is used to haul equipment such as the city's mini excavator and skid loader. Shauver

explained that the current trailer is old and is not able to handle some of the city's equipment. On Shauver's recommendation, the board approved the purchase of an \$11,575 trailer from Frenchtown Trailer Sales of Versailles, Ohio.

Also approved Thursday were pay requests from James Jackson Corporation of Bluffton for work completed as part of the ongoing wastewater treatment plant improvement project. The requests totaled \$458,835 for work completed in November and \$437,900 for work completed in December. In both cases, 10% will be held back as retainage.

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AUCTION

Thursday, February 13th, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm ET

PROPERTY LOCATION:
4 miles north of Dunkirk, IN approximately 528 S 800 E, Hartford City, IN 47348 in Jackson Twp, Blackford Co.

77+/- total acres

TRACT BREAKDOWN: 66.9% Tillable • 6% Woods • 4.1% Other

Rick Johnloz: 260.827.8181 | Jason Johnloz: 260.273.9177
Craig Springmier: 937.533.7126

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Auctioneer: Russell D. Harneyer
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HRES IN Auct. Lic. #AC6920019
HLS# RAJ-13078, Farm: Joe William Daily Trust

Check out the new Jay County Fair building rentals page!

RentJCF.org

New features include request form, live availability check, and streamlined rental process!

Questions?
Board Director / Rental Manager
Joey Hall

260-251-5559 - halljoey140@gmail.com

Try quick dinner with scallops, rice

By **LINDA GASSENHEIMER**
Tribune News Service

Here's a quick and easy dinner that will brighten up your winter table. Golden seared scallops rest atop a vibrant, garlic-tomato sauce, their delicate sweetness complemented by the tangy flavors of the sauce.

Beside them, a bed of nutty, slightly chewy brown rice mingles with fresh, peppery arugula, adding a hearty and earthy contrast to the dish.

Helpful hints

Balsamic vinegar can be used instead of wine vinegar.

If using frozen scallops, defrost and pat dry with paper towels.

If you have leftover some tomato paste, you can freeze it for another time.

Countdown

- Start scallops.
- Prepare rice ingredients.
- Make scallops.
- Make rice.

Shopping list

To buy: 1 container tomato paste, 1 bottle wine vinegar, 1 small bottle red pepper flakes, 1 can diced or chopped reduced sodium tomatoes, 12 ounces sea scallops, 1 package microwaveable brown rice, 1 container arugula.

Staples: olive oil, garlic, salt and black peppercorns.

Scallops with Garlic Tomato Sauce and Brown Rice with Arugula

Recipe by Linda Gassenheimer
2 tablespoons tomato paste
1/2 cup diced or chopped



Handout/Linda Gassenheimer/Tribune News Service

Golden seared scallops rest atop a vibrant, garlic-tomato sauce, their delicate sweetness complemented by the tangy flavors of the sauce.

- reduced-sodium canned tomatoes
- 1/4 cup wine vinegar
- 2 crushed garlic cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 3/4 pound sea scallops
- 2 tablespoons olive oil,

divided use

1 package microwave brown rice to make 1 1/2 cups

2 cups arugula
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Combine tomato paste, wine vinegar, garlic and pepper flakes together in a bowl. Add scallops and toss to coat. Leave to marinate while preparing ingredients for the rice. Heat 1

tablespoon olive oil in skillet over medium high heat. Remove the scallops from the sauce, reserving the sauce. Add scallops to the skillet and brown 2 minutes. Turn scallops over and brown the second side 2 minutes. Remove scallops from the skillet to a plate. Add reserved sauce to the skillet and cook 2 to 3 minutes to reduce and thicken the sauce. Return scallops to the sauce in the skillet and toss to combine them with the sauce. Divide the

scallops between two dinner plates and spoon sauce over them. Microwave rice according to package instructions. Measure 1 1/2-cups rice and reserve remaining rice for another time. Stir in the arugula and the remaining 1 tablespoon of oil. Add salt and pepper to taste. Divide in half and serve on the plates with the scallops.

Yield: 2 servings.
Per serving: 495 calories (30 percent from fat), 16.8 g fat (2.5 g saturated, 7.2 g monounsaturated), 54 mg cholesterol, 34.6 g protein, 50.1 g carbohydrates, 4.8 g fiber, 305 mg sodium.

Linda Gassenheimer is the author of over 30 cookbooks, including her newest, "The 12-Week Diabetes Cookbook." Listen to Linda on WDNA.org and all major podcast sites. Email her at Linda@DinnerInMinutes.com.

Sister's drinking ruins couple's evening

DEAR ABBY: I recently married an old high school flame after 30 years apart. Since we are both in our 50s, we wanted a low-key ceremony — no wedding, no fuss, just us, madly in love and doing our thing. My older sister, the only person we told, begged me to be included — "At least let me sign as witness. At least let me bring a cake. At least let me do flowers." We took her with us to the courthouse, and she took many pictures, which will be cherished.

The problem started after the courthouse ceremony when she insisted we go celebrate. Although we had made other plans, we agreed. Well, one bar turned into her taking charge, getting way too drunk, demand-

Dear Abby



ing we do this and that, and going to another place. We shut her down and returned to the hotel to eat the cake we didn't ask for.

She drank more, was too drunk to drive, then passed out for six hours. When she finally came to, she was "so embarrassed" and left. So, instead of the magical day (and night) we had planned, we fell asleep because we had

early plans the next day. Problem is, I cannot forgive her: I don't even want to see her. How can I get past this? — UNHAPPY BRIDE IN FLORIDA

DEAR BRIDE: OK, your sister has a drinking problem. If this was the first time you noticed, I can understand why the situation became out of control. If it wasn't, then "get past this" by recognizing YOUR part in what happened. After the ceremony, when your sister wanted to go "celebrate," you and your husband should have told her that what she was proposing wasn't what you had planned, and parted ways.

DEAR ABBY: I have had a

friend for many years. We're from the same hometown and enjoyed getting together weekly for Saturday morning breakfasts and long chats about our highlights and sometimes our lows. We considered each other best friends.

Several years ago, she found a boyfriend (also a retired person), and since then, she no longer makes time for our get-togethers. It has been two years since she could make it for a meal or a glass of wine or a quick drop-by chat. Now when we do talk on the phone, it's limited to a "How are you? I am fine" kind of conversation.

Although I continue sending cards and dropping off a holiday gift like we used to, there's barely

any acknowledgment. I no longer feel inclined to keep up one-sided, frustrating phone contacts. Must I just let it all go, fade into the distance and be satisfied that this has run its course? — LEFT BEHIND IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR LEFT BEHIND: Your friend's life has moved in a different direction. Because she is now devoting her energy to the relationship she has with her boyfriend, the answer to your question is yes.

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

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 - 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 BREAK-

FAST 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 Fri-

day. 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. Everyone is welcome.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

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

Tuesday

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard's Restaurant.

COMPASSIONATE RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay

Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

JAY COUNTY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in conference room C at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital. Open discussion for cancer patients, survivors, family members or anyone interested in helping with the group. For more information, contact Linda Metzger at (260) 726-1844.

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.

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

3	1	6	9	4	5	2	7	8
4	2	9	8	6	7	3	1	5
5	7	8	1	3	2	4	6	9
6	5	1	2	7	8	9	3	4
8	4	7	3	9	6	1	5	2
9	3	2	4	5	1	7	8	6
1	9	3	6	8	4	5	2	7
2	6	5	7	1	9	8	4	3
7	8	4	5	2	3	6	9	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 27-31

Monday: Main Entrees: Toasted cheese sandwich **Alternate Entrees:** Popcorn chicken, mini whole grain biscuit, cereal, goldfish & yogurt fun lunch **Sides for all meals:** Tater tots

Tuesday: Main Entrees: Doritos nacho cheese tortilla chips, seasoned beef taco meat, shredded lettuce, shredded cheddar cheese **Alternate Entrees:** Popcorn chicken, mini whole grain biscuit, cereal, goldfish & yogurt fun lunch **Sides for all meals:** Seasoned refried beans

Wednesday: Main Entrees: Chicken nuggets, macaroni and cheese **Alternate Entrees:** Popcorn chicken, mini whole grain biscuit, cereal, goldfish & yogurt fun lunch **Sides for all meals:** Seasoned peas

Thursday: Main Entrees: BBQ pulled pork sandwich **Alternate Entrees:** Popcorn chicken, mini whole grain biscuit, cereal, goldfish & yogurt fun lunch **Sides for all meals:** French fries

Friday: Main Entrees: Classic cheese pizza **Alternate Entrees:** Popcorn chicken, mini whole grain biscuit, cereal, goldfish & yogurt fun lunch **Sides for all meals:** Seasoned corn

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Prioritize funding K-12 education

By **TERRY SPRADLIN**

With the start of the 2025 session of the Indiana General Assembly, the investment in K-12 public education will become a focal point of the two-year state budget.

When examining the areas that consume the largest portions of the state budget — while Medicaid is the fastest-growing expenditure now at 19% of the state budget — K-12 education remains the largest expenditure at 47%. This number decreases to 42% when deducting the obligations for retired teacher pensions. The annual appropriation of more than \$9 billion for K-12 education supports teaching and learning opportunities for more than 1 million Hoosier children. About \$5 billion of this amount pays for the salaries and benefits of the

Terry Spradlin



63,000 teachers in the classroom.

The investment by the state legislature in public schools is a sound decision. Adequate funding for schools helps perpetuate our democracy, benefits local communities, provides opportunities for our youngest citizens, and drives economic and job growth. Successful schools produce law-abiding, tax-paying citizens ready for postsecondary education, military enlistment, or high-wage careers.

The return on the investment

is strong, as illustrated by several positive indicators. Most recently, Indiana's public high schools achieved a record-high graduation rate of 92.5%. Indiana students lead the nation in earning college credits while in high school, with 64% of students earning an average of 13.5 college credits. The State Board of Education approved changes to high school graduation requirements, increasing the opportunities for students to earn workplace credentials through participation in work-based learning, internships, and modern youth apprenticeships. Other policy changes are helping drive improvements in reading proficiency and student attendance. Indiana consistently performs well on national rankings based on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), with our

fourth and eighth graders exceeding the national average in math and on par in reading. While these are positive indicators, we have more work to do, especially to encourage more students to pursue a higher education. Continued investment in K-12 public education is essential.

Where does Indiana stand on per-student spending? According to a 2024 report from the Reason Foundation, Indiana had the second-lowest inflation-adjusted increase in education spending in the nation from 2002 to 2020 at only 1.9%. Another 2024 report from the Education Data Initiative indicates Indiana ranks 37th of 50 states in education spending per pupil. While state funding has risen substantially in the last four years, the long-term trends have not kept up with inflation and

are decreasing as a % age of the state budget.

These are cautionary trends for policymakers and state leaders as they craft the new two-year state budget. Public education continues to be a wise investment, in return helping proactively address many issues related to public health, safety, and quality of life. Balancing a budget that addresses a bevy of complex issues and essential programs is not an easy task. Legislators are to be commended when they prioritize the best investment of taxpayer dollars in K-12 education, as they have done recently. Let us hope we can celebrate a similar outcome at the end of the budget session, accelerating educational progress for Hoosier students.

.....
Spradlin is the executive director of the Indiana School Boards Association.

Constitution beats any executive order

New York Daily News

Tribune News Service

Donald Trump on Monday took an oath to “preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States” and then promptly broke that oath by seeking to revoke the first sentence of the 14th Amendment: “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.”

Remember, Trump has not been elected king or strongman, and indeed a balance of powers was the foundational idea on which the U.S. constitutional system was designed. Trump and his burgeoning administration can talk all they'd like about a popular mandate about carrying the will of the people, responding decisively to crisis and so on, but it is not just an option but a fundamental responsibility for the Congress and the federal courts to push back as necessary.

In 1898, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Wong Kim Ark v. United States* that all people born on American territory, barring the extremely narrow exception of the parents being foreign diplomats, are citizens by birth under the 14th Amendment.

Trump knows very well that an executive order cannot overturn Supreme Court precedent, nor can it unilaterally reinterpret or do away with parts of the Constitution (we'd imagine Joe Biden would have simply undone the overturn of *Roe*'s abortion protections with the stroke of a pen otherwise).

Just because the president orders something, and tries to use the levers of the federal government to implement it, doesn't mean he has the authority. The picture has gotten muddier since Trump's Supreme Court majority gave him unqualified immunity from criminal prosecution for so-called official acts after he leaves office, but he's still just one person.

The rest of the administrative state, lawmakers of both parties, judges who value their independence of their lifetime appointments, all have a role to play in maintaining their power and con-

Guest Editorial

Just because the president orders something, and tries to use the levers of the federal government to implement it, doesn't mean he has the authority.

straining the executive, not just in the standard political disagreement ways but in terms of defending the laws, Constitution and system of government of the United States.

Trump has other executive orders on immigration, as well as on different topics — close to 100 we are told — and not all of them will so blatantly be counter to the Constitution and some will just be standard-issue presidential decision-making which could well include good ideas, although axing protections for transgender students is not one of them.

The presidency is a powerful perch that can be used for good or ill. Going after the protections of the 14th Amendment, which granted citizenship to Black American liberated from slavery by the Union Army in the Civil War, is a terrible way to bring reform to immigration, which surely needed reforming. Trump will not succeed, but maybe he only wants to be seen as trying. That's no way for new reminded president to behave.

We hope that the other powers that be take their counterbalancing mandate seriously. The maintenance of a democratic system of government, not to mention the basic stability of the economy, depend on it.



Trump went back to basics

By **JOHN KRULL**

TheStatehouseFile.com

Near the end of his second inaugural address, President Donald Trump said his fondest wish was to be a peacemaker and unifier.

The words that led up to that remark, though, provided little evidence that peace and unity were anywhere in his thoughts or near his heart.

Trump's roughly half-hour speech wasn't different in substance from those delivered at his campaign rallies, when he offered up often incendiary language and proposals designed to energize his base. He delivered all the red meat — a promise of mass deportations and a revocation of a supposed electric vehicle mandate that never existed — that his most fervent supporters could wish to chew upon.

Much of what he said wasn't grounded in reality.

He claimed, for example, that he was going to liberate America's energy policy and begin producing oil and natural gas at the levels seen in his first term.

In fact, U.S. oil and gas production has been higher under President Joe Biden than it was during Trump's term.

But then, telling the truth in Donald Trump's America is and always has been beside the point.

It is a carefully nurtured sense of grievance — a conviction that, whether in triumph or defeat, prosperity or adversity, they just haven't gotten their due or been treated by life with adequate deference — that animates this president restored to power and his followers. They live to feel wronged — and to find someone else to blame for it.

Trump said at the top of his speech that “the golden age of America begins right now.”

The millions of Americans who voted for him may feel that way.

John Krull



But while the president took time to list at length the demographic groups who had increased their support for him during the November election, he failed to note that, in the third straight national election he once again failed to win more than 50% of the popular vote.

In other words, more Americans voted against him than for him.

In such circumstances, any other leader would have sought to expand his support and mollify the opposition to his rule.

Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln both assumed office after bitterly divisive and angry presidential elections. Jefferson famously assured Americans that they were all Federalists and all Republicans — the two political parties of his time — in his first inaugural address. In his first one, Lincoln counseled his fellow citizens that they were friends, not enemies, and that they must not be enemies.

Trump chose a different course. He spent most of his speech depicting America as a horrible place crying out for a savior strong man to rescue it. He even suggested that God had ordained him to do just that.

So much for the American Revolution's repudiation of the divine right of kings.

While Trump spoke, now former President Biden — who did capture more than 50% of the popular vote in 2020 — sat stone-faced, applauding only when the new president spoke of the hostages held by Hamas being released and coming home.

Biden and his fellow Democrats committed no breaches of decorum. They did not boo or hiss during Trump's speech and they did nothing to try to prevent him from taking office.

In its way, though, their silence may have been more telling.

It suggested a hardening of resolve, a determination not to be distracted by Trumpian diversions as they have been so often in the past.

The past four years have allowed memories of Trump's first presidency to fade. Many Americans have forgotten — or pretend to have forgotten — that his previous four years in office were a veering high-speed ride along a cliff's edge. He careened from one self-created crisis to another until he confronted a disaster he hadn't made, the COVID pandemic, and his presidency tumbled over the edge into chaos.

Millions of Americans, uncertain about the future, uneasy about rising prices, voted for him with the hope that he had learned something from those first four years in the Oval Office and would focus more on bread-and-butter issues dear to them.

Trump did learn something, but not what those weary Americans wanted him to.

He discovered that, so long as he keeps his base enraged and aggrieved, he's untouchable.

That's why he focused in his inaugural on dividing the country rather than proposing ways to slow inflation.

Who wants cheaper eggs when unthinking anger is so easy to come by?

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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



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

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1-25 CRYPTOQUIP

W HAZYL XSUC VA IA HWVX
VXCBC SB PQ KSUAMWVC
DSWM AK TAPKQ KYWD-KYADB,
SYX VXARIB TARBWLCMCL.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A SHOP SELLS ASSORTED SUPPLIES FOR THE WORLD CUP'S SPORT, I WOULD CALL IT A SOCCER STOCKER.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals F

Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

Colorful questions

- 1) What singer reached the No. 3 spot on the charts in 1986 with the song "True Blue"?
- 2) What state's new flag, adopted last year, features two shades of blue and a white star?

(1) Madonna
(2) Minnesota

1-27 CRYPTOQUIP

HJXYBYMFV LQJDAEDVN LFUV
CPMVJ BMUVFZONYMU PJXOV
RMF NPYUA ME NPJ OJQEJBN
CMQH: VRUMURZ QMXXV.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: I WOULD HAVE TO GO WITH THESE AS MY FAVORITE PAIR OF COMFY FLIP-FLOPS, ALL THONGS CONSIDERED.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals Y

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to organization. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 1 = T)

A. 5 10 3 1 7 16
Clue: Divided into categories

B. 5 18 5 1 7 9
Clue: Way of doing things

C. 1 22 16 18
Clue: Neat

D. 23 20 4 1 1 7 3
Clue: Scattered items

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to organization.

L F E I

Answers: A. sorted B. system C. tidy D. clutter

kids' corner

GUESS WHO?

I am a singer/songwriter born in Tennessee on January 19, 1946. I grew up with 11 brothers and sisters in a small cabin. I learned to sing in church. I've released 26 No. 1 Billboard hits during my career, and I'm known as the "Queen of Country Music" as a result.

Answer: Dolly Parton

What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between these pictures.

A

B

Answers: 1. Missing glue 2. Red piece on boat is larger 3. Red tool in background is missing 4. There is a second black scrubber in back right

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

JANUARY 24

1848: James W. Marshall finds gold at Sutter's Mill near Sacramento.

1908: The first Boy Scout troop is organized in England by Robert Baden-Powell.

1984: The Macintosh personal computer is made available to American consumers.

NEW WORD PASTIME

activity done regularly for enjoyment

NEAT AND TIDY WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS: ACTIVITY, CLOSETS, CLUTTER, COLLECTIBLES, COMMON AREA, CONTAINERS, DONATION, FILING, GARAGE, GROUPING, LABELS, MAINTENANCE, MANAGEMENT, ORGANIZING, PACKRAT, PERFECTIONIST, PROCRASTINATION, PURGING, REPURPOSE, SEQUENCING, SORTING, SYSTEM, TIDYING, VERTICAL SPACE

Body FACT!

Hobbies can keep this part of the body stimulated.

Answer: Brain

How they say that in...

English: Hobby
Spanish: Hobby
Italian: Hobby
French: Passe-temps
German: Hobby

Did You Know?

Sewing, like other hobbies, can relax a person by focusing the mind on the task and not on other things in your life.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Paint palette

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 "Chocolat" actor
- 5 Audio giant
- 9 Prune
- 12 Anti-oxidant
- 13 Egg
- 14 — budget
- 15 Plumbing problem
- 16 Firsties
- 17 TiVo
- 18 precursor
- 19 Foolproof
- 20 Sch. URL
- 21 Borscht
- 22 base
- 23 Sailing hazard
- 24 — Victor
- 25 Daughter of Muhammad
- 28 Lynx
- 32 "West Side Story" role
- 33 Prefix meaning "water"
- 34 Ocean bottoms

DOWN

- 1 June
- 2 Beige
- 3 Two of a kind
- 4 Specialist in the heating/cooling industry
- 5 Grocery store
- 6 Roman poet
- 7 Outlying area
- 8 Ambulance letters
- 9 Zero, in tennis
- 10 Formerly
- 11 Section
- 20 Date
- 21 Beehive State
- 22 High-fat diet
- 23 Kelly of "One Tree Hill"
- 25 Courtroom artist
- 26 Black, in verse
- 27 Penn or Astin
- 29 Missile shelter
- 31 Chance
- 33 — Mae (loan offerer)
- 34 Poet Pablo
- 36 Brownish purple
- 37 Scratched (out)
- 38 Post-WWII alliance
- 39 Very dry
- 40 Spheres
- 43 911 responder
- 44 "Bad" cholesterol
- 45 Sushi fish
- 46 Radical '60s gp.

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterdays answer 1-25

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Card-reading

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K Q 9 8
♥ 7 6 3
♦ A 8 3

WEST
♠ J 5
♥ 10 5 4 3
♦ J 10 9 8
♣ Q 6 4

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

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 10
♥ 7 2
♦ K Q
♣ K J 9 7 2

The bidding (modified to fit today's methods):

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♣	

Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

It isn't difficult to make six clubs on this deal if you peek at the opposing cards. You simply lead the jack of clubs from your hand at some point and let it ride if West follows low.

But that is far from the normal thing to do. Percentage-wise, it is much better to lead a club to the ace and finesse the jack on the way back. This would fail in the actual deal, and declarer, having already lost a diamond on the first trick, would be down one.

However, when the deal was played many years ago by all-time great Waldemar von Zedtwitz, he made the slam. Never one to simply settle for the obvious play, von Zedtwitz decided to postpone tackling trumps until he could gain more information about the opposing distribution.

After winning East's diamond return at trick two, he cashed the A-K of spades, noting with interest the fall of West's jack. This was the opening von Zedtwitz was looking for, and he exploited it to the hilt.

At trick five, he continued with the queen of spades, on which West discarded a diamond. Convinced that West would have trumped if he had worthless clubs, and also that West would probably have trumped with the ten if he had it, von Zedtwitz placed West with the queen of clubs.

Accordingly, he next led the jack of clubs, and it was curtains for the defense. In practice, West ducked the jack, von Zedtwitz played low from dummy, and the slam was home. It would not have helped West to cover the jack. Either way, the queen was a goner.

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

South dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 5 4
♥ Q 10 7 4
♦ A Q 10 9 4
♣ 5

WEST
♠ A K J 10
♥ K 6 5
♦ K 7 5 3
♣ 10 6

EAST
♠ 6 3 2
♥ 9 8 3 2
♦ 8 2
♣ J 8 4 3

SOUTH
♠ Q 8 7
♥ A J
♦ J 6
♣ A K Q 9 7 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT			

Opening lead — ace of spades.

This deal occurred during the 1979 world championship match between Taiwan and Australia. It illustrates how artificial bidding methods can sometimes unpredictably affect the outcome of a hand.

At the first table, where Taiwan was North-South, the bidding went as shown. South's one-club bid was artificial and guaranteed at least 16 high-card points. North's two-diamond response indicated a diamond suit and at least eight high-card points. The bidding thereafter was natural.

The Australian West led the spade ace and shifted to the seven of diamonds. Declarer did not relish the prospect of losing a diamond finesse to East and getting a spade return, so he went up with the ace and led a low heart to the jack. South was hoping to win the heart finesse and then run six club tricks, but West won the heart with the king, cashed the king of diamonds and exited with a heart, and South eventually went down two.

At the second table, after the Australian South opened one club (natural), West made a normal takeout double. North bid two diamonds, and South jumped to three notrump. The Taiwanese West also led the spade ace and shifted to a diamond. But at this table declarer was virtually certain that West had both red kings for his double and that the clubs were unlikely to break 3-3. So South won the diamond with dummy's nine and played the A-J of hearts.

West ducked the heart jack, but South cashed the A-K-Q of clubs, led the diamond jack to dummy's queen and cashed the ace of diamonds to bring himself to eight tricks. He then led the queen of hearts, forcing West to win and yield the game-going trick to South's queen of spades.

Tomorrow: The bread-and-butter hands.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Gas station fixture
- 5 Doo follower
- 8 Rabbit's tail
- 12 Pantene's business
- 14 Peddled item
- 15 Figure out
- 16 "Das Lied von der —"
- 17 Indian lentil stew
- 18 iPod accessory
- 20 Cool veggies
- 23 1504, in old Rome
- 24 Fr. holy women
- 25 Evening affairs
- 28 Bit of ink
- 29 "SNL" segments
- 30 Wager
- 32 Stockings
- 34 Ham's dad
- 35 Resort near Snowbird
- 36 Tubular pasta

DOWN

- 1 Third degree?
- 2 Dubai's country, for short
- 3 Amp plug-in
- 4 Lion packs
- 5 Wonka's creator
- 6 "— you awake?"
- 7 Geneticist's study
- 8 Veer
- 9 Sugar or starch, for short
- 10 Language of Pakistan
- 11 Ticked (off)
- 13 Tax prep pros
- 19 Broad-casts
- 20 Chicago winter hrs.
- 21 Beehive State
- 22 High-fat diet
- 23 Kelly of "One Tree Hill"
- 25 Courtroom artist
- 26 Black, in verse
- 27 Penn or Astin
- 29 Missile shelter
- 31 Chance
- 33 — Mae (loan offerer)
- 34 Poet Pablo
- 36 Brownish purple
- 37 Scratched (out)
- 38 Post-WWII alliance
- 39 Very dry
- 40 Spheres
- 43 911 responder
- 44 "Bad" cholesterol
- 45 Sushi fish
- 46 Radical '60s gp.

Solution time: 21 mins.

Saturday's answer 1-27

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

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

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



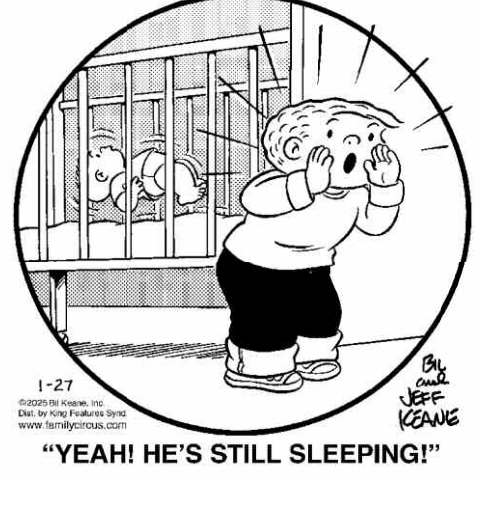
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



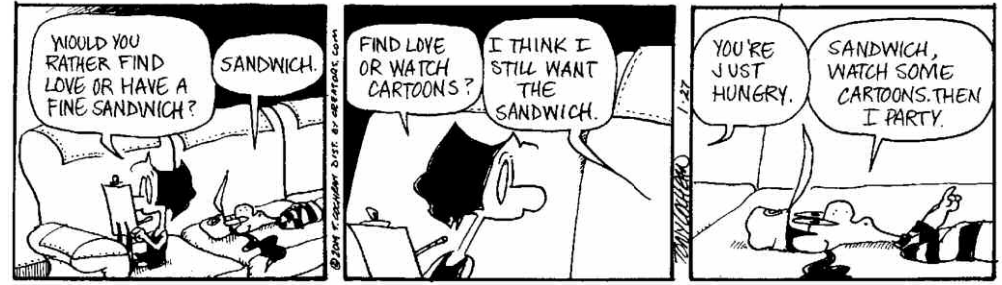
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Agnes



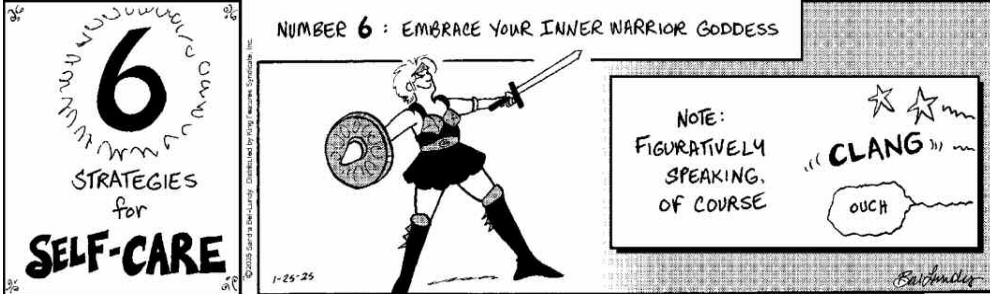
Hi and Lois



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Between Friends



Blondie



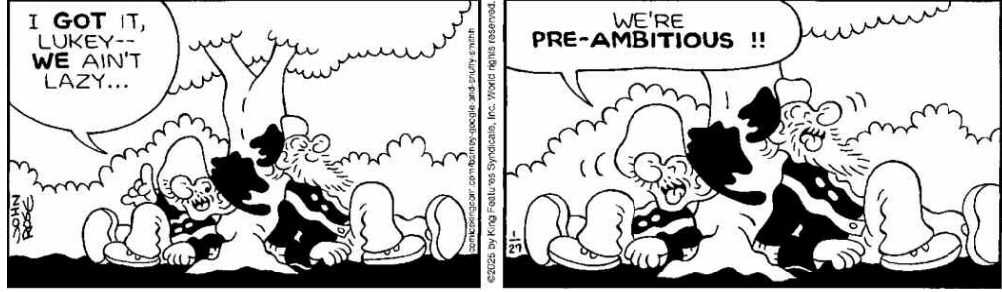
Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Beetle Bailey



We Deliver
Laughter
The Commercial Review *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.

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Jay County, Indiana Total Compensation 2024

Name	Job Title	Department	Amount
ACHESON, MARILYN G	Election Worker	Election Board	\$2,690.00
ADDINGTON, WILLIAM L	Part Time Maintenance	Retirement Center	\$4,406.40
AFFOLDER, JUDITH E	PTABOA	PTABOA	\$85.00
AKER, CHAD A	Commissioner	Commissioners	\$23,263.45
ALBERSON, ROBIN L	County Assessor	Assessor	\$55,383.02
ALEXANDER, JARROD R	Part Time Merit Deputy	Sheriff	\$3,027.06
ALICEA, TREVOR D	Pt Basic EMT	JEMS	\$11,661.24
ALIG, MICHAEL R	Truck Driver	Highway	\$50,284.42
ALSP, LARKIN R	Jailer	LIT-Public Safety	\$18,633.88
ARMSTRONG, NANCY	Food Inspector	Health	\$20,710.66
ARMSTRONG, ROBERT J	Merit Deputy	Sheriff	\$3,218.81
ATKINSON, TROY A	Mosquito Sprayer	Local Public Health	\$613.92
BAILEY, JENNIFER L	Sheriff Secretary	Sheriff	\$36,772.80
BAILEY, CHRISTINA M	Secretary	Public Defender	\$35,172.80
BALDWIN, WILLIAM E	Head Communication Officer	Jail	\$59,200.00
BALDWIN, KOLBY J	Jailer	LIT_Public Safety	\$26,762.45
BARNETT, GARY J	Shift Supervisor	JEMS	\$85,684.90
BEMIS, PRESTON L	Pt Basic EMT	JEMS	\$1,236.72
BENTZ, MARILYN K	Cook	Jail	\$33,600.00
BENTZ, WILLIAM B	Jailer	LIT- Public Safety	\$16,492.80
BENTZ, ALEXIS L	Maintenance/Custodian	Jail	\$13,611.20
BICKEL, SHERRI L	Title IV-D Administrator	Prosecutor	\$45,077.60
BLAKELY, AMY C	Pt Deputy	Emergency Management	\$1,320.12
BLANKLEY, MELISSA A	Director	Retirement Center	\$15,107.53
BOGENSCHUTZ, DEREK J	Sergeant	Sheriff	\$18,414.30
BOICE, WARREN A	Adv. EMT	JEMS	\$55,564.44
BOWDELL, MATTHEW	Paramedic	JEMS	\$11,135.57
BRACY, CINDY A	County Council	Commissioners	\$5,952.26
BREWSTER, MICHAEL E	Coroner	Coroner	\$16,266.77
BROWN, DESIREE	Advanced EMT	JEMS	\$62,040.08
BROWN, KEVIN M	Part Time Merit Deputy	Sheriff	\$7,487.64
BROWN, JOSHUA A	Asst. Public Defender	Public Defender	\$64,973.70
BROWN, MACKENZIE R	PT Basic EMT	JEMS	\$12,888.47
BRUMFIELD, RAY C	Asst. Pros. Attorney	Prosecutor	\$29,696.00
BRUNER, JAMES R	Merit Board	Sheriff	\$150.00
BURKEY, VIRGINIA L	Health Board	Health	\$1,039.25
BURKEY, COURTNEY L	Health Educator	Local Public Health	\$42,812.84
BUTCHER, ERIC R	Supervisor	Highway	\$17,156.60
BUTZ, HEATH D	Administrator	Health	\$63,455.46
BYRUM, ANGELA M	1st Deputy	Recorder	\$39,944.10
CADWALLADER, SANDY K	Clerical	Treasurer	\$6,496.28
CALDWELL, REX L	Tile Laborer	Surveyor	\$9,774.75
CALDWELL, ERIC L	Jailer	Jail	\$26,115.31
CAMPBELL, BRODIE C	Pt Paramedic	JEMS	\$50,398.99
CAMPBELL, CHRISTOPHER L	Pt Jailer	Jail	\$6,777.68
CAMPBELL, KAYLA J	Pt Jailer	Jail	\$1,151.02
CANTERBURY, SHADIE R	Jailer	Jail	\$2,491.74
CANTERBURY, STEPHANIE	Senior Court Reporter	Superior Court	\$42,255.40
CASSITY, DANIELLE R	Paramedic	JEMS	\$70,398.79
CHAMP, TED R	Merit Board	Sheriff	\$150.00
CLARK, CAMERON D	PT Laborer	Surveyor	\$5,422.95
CLAY, GLENDA L	Pt Registrar	Health	\$17,525.87
CLEMONS, TAMMY L	Pt Dispatcher	Statewide 911	\$6,110.12
CLEVENGER, SETH B	Pt Basic EMT	JEMS	\$13,446.61
COLEMAN, DEBORAH D	1st Deputy	Extension Office	\$13,856.05
COLEMAN, LAURA L	Registered Nurse	Health	\$53,338.60
COMPTON, CURTIS D	Investigator	Prosecutor	\$65,368.80
CONATSER, MICHAEL O	Dispatcher	Statewide 911	\$44,941.60
CONLEY, CLARA E	Baliff	Superior Court	\$34,472.80
COOPER, KEITHAN D	Jailer	Jail	\$6,970.34
COX BROWN, KIMBERLEY J	Head Cook/Activities	Retirement Center	\$33,137.60
CRAIG, CARMEN J	Administrative Assistant	Sheriff	\$46,176.20
CROSBIE, KYNDAL R	Health Liasion	Local Public Health	\$25,255.02
CULY, NANCY J	1st Deputy	Auditor	\$47,292.70
CULY, MONICA D	1st Deputy	Surveyor	\$41,149.60
CULY, DENISE C	2nd Deputy	Clerk	\$35,572.80
CURLESS, JESSICA D	Dispatcher	Statewide 911	\$40,168.29
CURRAN, JAMES M	Dispatcher	Jail	\$32,630.55
CURTIS, CHRISTOPHER R	Paramedic	JEMS	\$88,298.87
CURTIS, JESSICA J	Paramedic	JEMS	\$78,577.09
CURTS, CHRISTY L	Election	Election Board	\$3,070.00
DAILEY, SHAWNDR A	P/T Dispatcher	Statewide 911	\$1,491.70
DALRYMPLE, TONY A	BASIC EMT	JEMS	\$11,527.04
DALTON, JORDAN L	Jailer	Jail	\$25,599.08
DANIELS, BRADLEY A	Surveyor	Surveyor	\$53,709.04
DAVIS, AMY M	2nd Deputy-Mapping	Auditor	\$36,172.80
DAVIS, JASMINE S	Jailer	LIT- Public Safety	\$197.60
DAY, CALEB E	Jailer	Jail	\$17,777.42
DELANEY, KRISTIE J	Pt Director	Retirement Center	\$17,285.11
DENNEY, CHARLES E	Truckdriver	Highway	\$2,954.32
DENNIS, SHEALYN W	Pt Basic EMT	JEMS	\$8,505.01
DOLLAR, RANDALL P	Truckdriver	Highway	\$50,270.00
DOWLEN, JOSHUA C	Pt Basic EMT	JEMS	\$9,552.87
DUNNUCK, JACOB P	Asst Public Defender	Public Defender	\$75,328.42
EADS, JON A	County Clerk	Clerk	\$64,159.60
EASON, MINDY S	Clerical	Treasurer	\$3,727.63
EASON, NATHANAEL D	Heavy Equip Operat/ Labor	Surveyor	\$47,195.46
EDWARDS, DAWN A	Jail Sergeant	Jail	\$47,956.69
ELDRIDGE, JOYCE A	Election Worker	Election Board	\$1,160.00
ELLINGWOOD, SHELBY L	Victim Advocate	Prosecutor	\$39,583.20
ELLIOTT, MELISSA	1st Deputy	Clerk	\$44,930.20
FARMER, KEITH R	Truckdriver	Highway	\$10,928.16
FENNIG, TREVOR L	Dispatcher	Statewide 911	\$3,751.18
FERGUSON, LAURA K	PT Clerical	Recorder	\$5,898.38
FIELDS, BRAYDEN L	Deputy Coroner	Coroner	\$1,788.90
FILOMENO, JONATHAN R	Jailer	LIT_ Public Safety	\$8,741.33
FISHER, MATTHEW C	Pt Cook	Retirement Center	\$659.73
FISHER, KRISTYN A	Cook	Retirement Center	\$30,124.40
FONT, AMY JO	PT Paramedic	JEMS	\$58,974.57
FOREMAN, JONELLE N	1st Deputy	Treasurer	\$40,343.70
FOURMAN, RYAN J	Jailer	LIT_ Public Safety	\$30,457.57
FOX, MICHAEL W	Pt Cook/Housekeeper	Retirement Center	\$15,797.15
FRANKLIN, WILLIAM L	Pt Paramedic	JEMS	\$31,714.81
FRANKS, EMILY J	County Auditor	Auditor	\$61,548.81
FRANKS, ALICE R	Custodian	Courthouse	\$10,450.93
FRANTZ, ALEXANDRIA L	Pt Basic EMT	JEMS	\$23,052.14
FUNK, JON D	PTABOA member	PTABOA	\$85.00
FURTAH, KARISSA K	P/T Dispatcher	Statewide 911	\$1,704.11
FUTRELL, EMERSON D	PT JAILER	Jail	\$15,933.70
GEESAMAN, CHERRIE J	Reassessment Deputy	Assessor	\$46,186.52
GEESAMAN, RANDY D	PTABOA member	PTABOA	\$85.00
GEESAMAN, EARL L	Truck Driver	Highway	\$50,200.00
GEESAMAN, HARLEY W	Truck Driver	Highway	\$50,100.00
GERLACH, KYLE S	Shift Supervisor	JEMS	\$60,134.47
GIBSON, JOSHUA D	Health Board	Health	\$904.25
GILBERT, TRENDA K	Bailiff	Circuit Court	\$30,192.10
GRABER, ELIZABETH G	Comm Officer	Jail	\$44,618.51
GRAYSON, ERICA M	Jail Sergeant	Jail	\$34,908.58
GREEN, KEVIN A	Basic EMT	JEMS	\$51,842.13
GUISE, CHERYL A	Pt Paramedic	JEMS	\$219.42
HAINES, DAVID D	County Council	Commissioners	\$5,952.26
HAMMOND, MARION S	Jailer	Jail	\$21,004.83
HANKINS, JOHN B	Pt Deputy	Sheriff	\$2,847.03
HARDING, SAMUEL T	Jailer	Jail	\$38,608.57
HARRISON, JESSIE R	Dispatcher	Jail	\$41,997.90
HARRISON, CAMDIN A	Jailer	Jail	\$4,703.62
HARRISON, HUNTER E	Jailer	Jail	\$1,830.00
HARTLEY, JAYLEN E	Pt Cook/Housekeeper	Retirement Center	\$13,810.80
HARTZELL, KEEGAN J	Laborer	Surveyor	\$47,304.22
HARTZELL, KALEB M	Pt Cook	Retirement Center	\$11,525.24
HEATH, ALEXANDER M	Jailer	Jail	\$44,037.36
HEMMELGARN, JOHN J	Administrator	City Zoning	\$62,133.01
HENDERSHOT, GARY L	Deputy Director	Community Corrections	\$52,942.33
HENDERSON, AARON M	Asst. Public Defender	Public Defender	\$36,097.66
HENKLE, KERIOKA R	1st Deputy	Assessor	\$42,162.00
HERMAN, KELLY J	PTABOA	PTABOA	\$85.00
HESS, KURTIS R	Heavy Equip Oper/ Labor	Surveyor	\$45,356.91
HIRSCHY, CHAD E	Heavy Equip Oper/ Labor	Surveyor	\$44,261.99
HODGE, DEBORAH S	PT Cook/Housekeeper	Retirement Center	\$21,657.28
HOLMES, LINDSEY K	Senior Court Reporter	Circuit Court	\$44,163.30
HONEYCUTT, AARON J	Merit Deputy	LIT_ Public Safety	\$60,398.03
HOOTEN, HARVEY L	Jailer	Jail	\$37,736.17
HORN, TAMMY K	2nd Deputy	Treasurer	\$34,972.80
HOUCHINS, JEANNE D	County Council	Commissioners	\$5,952.26
HOWELL, ROBERT A	Superintendent	Highway	\$67,780.80
HOWELL, TERENCE J	Truckdriver	Highway	\$11,625.71
HOWELL, AMBER N	Pt Clerical	Highway	\$216.68
HUMMER, TODD L	Truck Driver	Highway	\$51,000.00
HUTZLER, PAUL A	Custodian	Courthouse	\$1,436.85
IRWIN, TIMOTHY C	Election Worker	Election Board	\$435.00
JELLISSON, TRAVIS M	Truck Driver	Highway	\$34,612.83
JESSEE, CODY D	Merit Deputy/SRO	Sheriff	\$62,825.74
JOHNSON, JOE E	Heavy Equip Oper/ Labor	Surveyor	\$46,044.19
JOHNSON, STACEY L	Director	Retirement Center	\$7,366.32
JONES, SELINA E	Basic EMT	JEMS	\$39,821.89
JONES, KYLEIGH S	Jailer	Jail	\$202.54
JOURNAY, REX L	Commissioner	Commissioners	\$23,263.45
KEEN, ALEXANDRIA D	PT Cook/Housekeeper	Retirement Center	\$18,319.82

KERRIGAN, JESSICA L	1st Secretary	Extension Office	\$34,227.24
KIMMEL, JOSHUA M	Pt Basic EMT	JEMS	\$3,782.65
KLARER, STEPHANIE E	Assistant Superintendent/ERC	Highway	\$48,410.40
KNISELY, PAIGE S	PT Deputy	Coroner	\$1,750.00
KUNKLE, SEAN A	Pt Laborer	Highway	\$17,496.00
LAYMAN, TRACY J	Pt Courthouse Security	Jail	\$2,416.84
LEAVELL, RILEY R	Pt Basic EMT	JEMS	\$17,996.38
LEMASTER, RONALD C	Truck Driver	Highway	\$50,444.68
LEMASTER, AUSTYN C	PT Laborer	Highway	\$2,829.60
LEMASTER, CODI M	Administrative Asst.	Emergency Management	\$29,892.10
LENNARTZ, TONY E	Investigator Lt.	Sheriff	\$67,436.45
LOCKE, CORY M	Deputy Sheriff	Sheriff	\$59,594.86
LOCKER, ANTHONY J	PT Basic EMT	JEMS	\$6,487.72
LOPEZ, VALERIE N	Jailer	LIT_ Public Safety	\$10,556.78
LOTHRIDGE, STEVEN E	Merit Deputy	Sheriff	\$58,606.50
LUCAS, KRISTA L	2nd Deputy	Clerk	\$14,845.66
MACKEY, JEREMY R	Jailer	Jail	\$34,444.15
MAITLEN, JORDAN L	PT Cook/ Housekeeper	Retirement Center	\$20,116.87
MAY, RANDY J	County Council	Commissioners	\$5,952.26
MAY, ASHLYNN R	Seasonal Help	Extension Office	\$3,308.32
MCCLAIN, ZARADA J	Cook	Retirement Center	\$3,370.16
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MCGALLIARD, BRIAN R	Commissioner	Commissioners	\$23,263.45
MCLAUGHLIN, PATRICIA J	Admin. Assistant	City Zoning	\$41,010.72
MCLAUGHLIN, KENDRA J	Child Support	Prosecutor Child Support	\$39,583.20
MILLER, PAULA R	County Treasurer	Treasurer	\$53,658.73
MILLER, GREGORY L	Merit Board	Sheriff	\$150.00
MILLER, JAMIE D	Asst. IDACS trainer	Statewide 911	\$44,780.00
MILLER, KENLEY P	Dispatcher	Statewide 911	\$864.36
MILLER, TODD M	Probation Officer	Probation Department	\$25,871.08
MILLER, KRISTEN N	2nd Deputy	Clerk	\$34,472.80
MINCH, SHELDON N	Laborer	Surveyor	\$22,891.35
MINNICH, MATTHEW J	County Council	Commissioners	\$5,952.26
MINNICH, ANA I	2nd Deputy	Clerk	\$23,284.68
MITCHELL, PATRICK L	PT Cook/Housekeeper	Retirement Center	\$6,630.93
MOELLER, ANGELA R	2nd Deputy	Assessor	\$36,572.80
MONEY, BRADLEY K	Custodian	Courthouse	\$12,813.89
MOSER, CLIFFORD A	Veteran Service Officer	Veteran Services	\$27,490.84
MOSIER, DILLON J	Courthouse Security	Jail	\$19,035.55
MOSSER, MACKENZIE I	Pt Basic EMT	JEMS	\$32,303.76
MOTE, AMBER L	Pt Jailer	Jail	\$3,168.20
MUMBOWER, KODI A	Jail Commander	Jail	\$56,400.00
MUMBOWER, DANE A	Election Board	Election Board	\$1,898.60
MURPHY, BRANDON E	Chief Public Defender	Public Defender	\$111,657.28
MYERS, BEVERLY D	2nd Deputy- AP	Auditor	\$36,072.80
MYERS, KATRINA R	Pt Admin Asst.	Highway	\$365.14
NEAL, AARON M	PT Basic EMT	JEMS	\$2,012.82
NEWTON, LARRY R	County Sheriff	LIT_ Public Safety	\$117,998.41
NEWTON, CINDY E	Jail Matron	Jail	\$50,635.39
NIBARGER, JENNIFER D	Registrar	Health	\$35,972.80
NIBARGER, CHRISTOPHER L	Mosquito Sprayer	Local Public Health	\$670.09
NIXON, CHRISTINA M	Clerical	Clerk	\$20,567.99
NORRIS, JOHN R	Pt Jailer	Jail	\$1,333.80
NUCKOLS, LARRY M	Paramedic	JEMS	\$83,379.62
NUSSBAUMER, TRE A	Sergeant	Recorder	\$59,491.90
ODELL, TINA J	PT CLERICAL	Sheriff	\$6,436.03
ODELL, RONNIE L	Pt Jailer	Jail	\$29,306.39
OSTROWSKI, JONI L	Administrative Asst.	Community Corrections	\$35,032.40
PADGETT, STACY E	Immunization Clerk	Local Public Health	\$20,854.18
PARR, FARON D	County Council	Commissioners	\$5,952.26
PATTERSON, SPENCER J	Road Foreman	Highway	\$45,487.20
PAXSON, TRENT A	Health Board	Health	\$904.25
PEARCE, DUSTIN R	Probation Officer	Probation Department	\$25,542.54
PEARSON, HOPE E	Office Manager	Prosecutor	\$46,177.60
PENKA, MADISON S	Jailer	LIT- Public Safety	\$6,567.73
PENROD, TODD A	Merit Board	Sheriff	\$125.00
PETERSON, JONATHAN T	Pt Basic EMT	JEMS	\$45.85
PIERCE, BRIAN M	Asst Public Defender	Public Defender	\$2,508.52
RALPH, RYAN P	Heavy Equipment	Highway	\$53,385.92
RAY, JEFFREY S	Truck Driver	Highway	\$50,200.00
REDFORD, CRYSTAL A	Custodian	Courthouse	\$32,482.98
REIDT, TYLER D	PT Paramedic	JEMS	\$390.08
REINHARD, JOSEPH S	Heavy Equip Operat/ Labor	Surveyor	\$51,829.46
REITENOUR, ADAM W	Mechanic	Highway	\$56,080.00
RETTET, CHANCE C	Merit Deputy	LIT-Public Safety	\$59,386.37
REYNOLDS, ASHLEY E	Probation Officer	Probation Department	\$56,548.33
REYNOLDS, RONNIE L	PT TRUCK DRIVER	Highway	\$832.96
RHODEHAMEL, SAMANTHA J	Director	Emergency Management	\$49,039.10
ROBINETTE, JAMES B	Merit Deputy	Sheriff	\$41,485.30
ROCKWELL, JENNIFER L	Court Reporter	Superior Court	\$34,682.27
ROCKWELL, DELLA	2nd Secretary	Extension Office	\$34,507.80
ROUSH, JAMES E	Election Worker	Election Board	\$4,200.00
ROWLES, KAYLA R	P/T Dispatcher	Statewide 911	\$1,636.52
RUNYON, MARLENE M	Election	Election Board	\$4,275.00
RUPERT, ADDALYNN J	Pt Housekeeper	Retirement Center	\$1,403.43
SCHEMENAUR, CHRISTINAM	Health Board	Health	\$904.25
SCHLECHTY, STEVEN W	Courthouse Security	Jail	\$22,122.88
SCHLOSSER, SHANNON R	Heavy Equipment Operator	Highway	\$39,580.80
SCHMIESING, MONTE J	Jailer	LIT- Public Safety	\$7,184.74
SCHOLER, KRISTA M	Election Worker	Election Board	\$1,650.00
SCHWARTZ, BENJAMIN M	Chief Deputy	Sheriff	\$91,568.32
SCOTT, KENNETH L	Truckdriver	Highway	\$48,270.79
SCOTT, KIMBERLY D	Seasonal	Highway	\$3,114.72
SHANEYFELT, CARRIE A	Pt Cook/Housekeeper	Retirement Center	\$20,761.16
SHANNON, LEAH J	Pt Clerical	Auditor	\$17,843.17
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STILTS, CONTESSA A	IDACS Training Officer	Jail	\$61,192.52
SUTTER, WHITNEY A	2nd Deputy	Auditor	\$32,811.38
SUTTON, AMY L	Adult Probation Officer	Probation Department	\$80,350.74
SUTTON, BRUCE E			

Karlie keeps control

Niekamp scores 22 against Coldwater to fuel third MAC victory

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — The Indians found themselves with just a four point lead and two minutes left against a Midwest Athletic Conference foe.

Without much going for the Tribe, the ball wound up in the hands of the Indians' offensive leader, Karlie Niekamp.

With multiple defenders converging, the senior found the seam she needed to slip to the rim.

The shot went up, Ava Smith's arm went into Niekamp, the whistle blew, the ball fell through the rim and all the momentum flipped to the Indians.

Niekamp's 3-point play sparked a 7-3 run for the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team late in Thursday's 51-43 win over the Coldwater Cavaliers, as the senior poured in 22 points to fuel the victory.

The Indians (8-9, 3-4 MAC) have now matched their total conference wins from last season, and they have yet to play ninth-place New Knoxville.

"That's a big win for us," said FRHS coach Tyler Deitsch. "Especially at this point in our season ... and get another MAC win to match our total from last year with two more opportunities to grow on that. ...

It was a tough game where we went through our ups and downs and our ebbs and flows especially in that second quarter, but to be able to fight back from that shows the resiliency in this group."

Niekamp's offense and the team's full and half-court pressure defenses played key roles in the victory.

Following a Mia Knapke triple to open the game for Coldwater (5-12, 3-4 MAC), Niekamp powered a 10-0 run for the Indians. The senior forward scored a



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Paisley Hart of the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team starts to shoot while Coldwater's Harlow Heyne contests during the Tribe's 51-43 victory on Thursday.

pair of buckets in transition and a baseline drive, while going 4-for-4 from the free throw line during the stretch. She capped the run off with a short drive before dishing the ball to Cameron Muhlenkamp on the left elbow for the basket.

She scored seven more points through the second and third quarters before dropping seven in the fourth. Niekamp scored the first hoop of the period on a spin move into a baby-hook middle, had the 3-point play

with 2:02 remaining and immediately followed it up with a transition basket. (After Niekamp's back-to-back scores, Mia Knapke hit a three off of a long rebound before Kennedy Muhlenkamp and Paisley Hart iced the game away by splitting a pair of free throws.)

"That's huge," Niekamp said about the momentum swing with her 3-point play. "That definitely gets it on your side, especially in those ends of games. It really brings the whole gym

and our whole team together, like, 'Alright, let's finish this.'"

Niekamp finished with a game-high 22 points on 80% shooting (8-10) and was perfect from the free throw line at 5-for-5.

While Niekamp provided a bulk of the offense, the Tribe's defense kept Coldwater at bay. Fort Recovery forced 17 Cavalier turnovers and forced a plethora of quick shots when it didn't get the steal.

The press was the most effective for the Indians in

Box score			
Fort Recovery Indians vs. Coldwater Cavaliers			
Girls varsity summary			
Coldwater (5-12, 3-4 MAC)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
MHart	0-0	0-0	0
AKnapke	0-6	0-0	0
BKnapke	6-14	0-0	15
Keller	0-1	0-0	0
MKnapke	3-6	3-4	11
Smith	0-3	2-2	2
Heyne	4-8	1-2	10
Etzler	2-4	1-2	5
Totals	15-42	7-10	43
	.357	.700	
Def. rebound percentage: .652			
Fort Recovery (8-9, 3-4 MAC)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
CMhinkmp	1-2	4-8	6
PHart	0-0	1-2	1
Niekamp	8-10	5-5	22
Schoenlein	0-0	0-0	0
Schmitz	0-1	0-0	0
Huelskamp	0-1	0-0	0
Homan	5-14	1-3	12
KMhinkmp	4-7	2-4	10
Totals	18-35	13-22	51
	.514	.591	
Def. rebound percentage: .761			
Score by quarters:			
Coldwater	6	18	6
Ft. Rec.	15	5	16
	13	43	51
3-point shooting: Coldwater 6-22 (BKnapke 3-10, MKnapke 2-3, Heyne 1-2, Etzler 0-1, AKnapke 0-3, Smith 0-3). Fort Recovery 2-5 (Niekamp 1-1, Homan 1-4).			
Rebounds: Coldwater 26 (Heyne 7, BKnapke 6, Team 6, MKnapke 3, Smith 2, AKnapke, Keller). Fort Recovery 43 (CMuhlenkamp 5, KMuhlenkamp 5, Team 5, Niekamp 4, Homan 4, Schoenlein, Schmitz).			
Assists: Coldwater 12 (BKnapke 4, Smith 3, Heyne 2, AKnapke, Keller, Etzler). Fort Recovery 7 (KMuhlenkamp, Niekamp 2, CMuhlenkamp, PHart).			
Blocks: Coldwater 4 (MKnapke 2, Heyne 2). Fort Recovery 3 (Homan 2, KMuhlenkamp).			
Personal fouls: Coldwater 19 (Etzler 4, AKnapke 3, MKnapke 3, Smith 3, Keller 2, Heyne 2, MHart, BKnapke). Fort Recovery 15 (Huelskamp 4, Homan 3, KMuhlenkamp 3, Niekamp 2, CMuhlenkamp, PHart, Schmitz).			
Turnovers: Coldwater 17. Fort Recovery 16.			

the first and third quarters. Along with the 10-0 run in the first period, FRHS went on a 12-0 run in the third. In both cases, the Indians got into a cycle of scoring the ball, being able to set up their defense, making a stop with their press and coming down for a quick bucket.

Between the first and third quarters, Fort Recovery outscored Coldwater 31-12.

"Just being long and getting in their eyesight gives them a little bit of fear so they turn it over even if you're not touching them," said Kennedy Muhlenkamp who played at the top of both the 1-2-2 and 2-2-1 full court press sets. "You can tell, when we didn't have the press it was just havoc, but once we got it, we got in a groove."

Just like the Indians' pressure gave Coldwater problems, they struggled with a CHS zone press in the second period. Coldwa-

ter managed their own 18-5 run as the Indians turned the ball over eight times in the quarter, while only putting up six shots, only two of which went in.

"It was a different press than we've seen in the past," Deitsch said. "At times we couldn't really tell if they were in zone or in man. ... Something we did in that second quarter, once we broke it, it was go, go, go. We were doing what they wanted us to do, speeding everything up and not getting the quality of shot we wanted."

Brylee Knapke – the Cavaliers' leading scorer with 15 points – led the second quarter with seven. Mia Knapke was the only other player in black and orange to reach double figures, scoring 11 points.

Supporting Niekamp's efforts was Bridget Homan with 12 points, Kennedy Muhlenkamp with 10, Cameron Muhlenkamp with six and Hart with one.

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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

250 PUBLIC NOTICE
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

250 PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO: 38C01-2501-PL-000001
ZACHARY PAUL MILLER REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST Plaintiff vs. ALL LIVING HEIRS OF TINA UTT, and All Others Who May Claim Any Lien on or Interest in the Real Estate Described Herein. Defendants SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
This summons is to the Defendants above named and to any other persons who may be concerned.
You are notified that you have been sued in the Jay Circuit Court, Jay County, Indiana, in the case set forth in the caption above, by the person named above as Plaintiff. This summons by publication is specifically directed to the Defendants named above and all others who may claim any lien on or interest in the Real Estate described below.
The named Plaintiff is represented by Joshua A. Atkinson, 940 N. Meridian St., Portland, IN 47371.
The nature of this suit against you is to quiet title in Plaintiff to the Real Estate described below against the named Defendants and the world and the Real Estate is located in Jay County, Indiana:
LOT TWO (2) AND LOT THREE (3) OF BLOCK TEN (10) IN THE EAST ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF PENNVILLE, INDIANA, EXCEPT FORTY-FIVE (45) FEET IN WIDTH OFF OF AND ALONG THE ENTIRE SOUTH SIDE OF LOT THREE (3).
An answer or other response in writing to the complaint must be filed either by you or your attorney within thirty (30) days after the last notice is published and if you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded by the Plaintiff.
If you have a claim for relief against the Plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer or response.
Dated: January 10, 2025
Melissa Elliott
Clerk of the Jay Circuit Court
CR 1-25.2-1-2025-HSPAXLP

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Patriots fall to Delta

Jay County couldn't keep up in the paint or on the glass

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review
With Jillian Barr on the bench, the Patriots got back to within single digits.

Even after she returned and hit a couple of free throws, a Hallie Schwieterman 3-pointer cut the deficit to seven.

They just couldn't slow down Delta's post player.

Barr followed with back-to-back hoops as part of her 29-point effort before assisting Elizabeth Bamidele to start a 19-1 run that put the game away as the Jay County High School girls basketball team lost Thursday to the visiting Eagles.

"They're just a lot more physical," said JCHS coach Sherri McIntire. "They definitely did a good job of picking out our weaknesses, which is rebounding. They exploited that.

"They're just a solid ball team. She definitely has them all on the same page and playing well together."

The Patriots (8-11) had no answer for Barr inside. She scored on four consecutive possessions in the opening quarter and had 10 points when she went to the bench with her second foul at the 16.2-second mark. She sparked Delta (14-4) when she returned and went on to hit a 3-pointer late in the game to cap the second-best



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School's Gabi Petro goes up for a shot against Olivia Marshall of Delta during the Patriots' 64-33 loss Thursday.

scoring night of her career while shooting 11-of-13 from two-point range.

"She's just so darn athletic," said McIntire. "And then, I also think, she just has that mentality. She wants to kick your butt every time she steps on the floor. She's a competitor."

Barr also grabbed eight rebounds as part of the Eagles' 42-24 advantage on the glass.

The 5-foot, 4-inch Griffyn Knight led the effort on the glass — 19 of Delta's rebounds were on the offensive end — with a dozen boards while Bamidele had

10 and Addison Barnes totaled six.

"I tell my girls all the time, if we get 40 or more rebounds, that's amazing," said DHS coach Ty'Ronda Benning. "Forty is a lot. But if we can do it, typically that's who wins the basketball game."

Box score

Jay County Patriots vs. Delta Eagles				Score by quarters:				
				Delta	18	16	18	12—64
				Jay Co.	9	8	4	12—33
Girls varsity summary								
Delta (14-4)								
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS					
Barnes	6-12	0-0	15					
Marshall	0-4	0-0	0					
Timmerman	0-1	4-4	4					
Bamidele	3-7	1-4	7					
Maurer	0-0	0-0	0					
Knight	4-17	1-4	9					
Barr	12-18	4-4	29					
Totals	25-59	10-16	64					
			.424					
			.625					
			.793					
Def. rebound percentage: .793								
Jay County (8-11)								
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS					
Sibray	1-6	0-1	2					
Newton	1-1	0-0	3					
Schwieterman	6-18	1-4	14					
Carren	1-6	0-0	2					
Petro	1-4	0-0	3					
Brunswick	3-5	0-0	6					
May	0-2	0-0	0					
Heath	0-1	3-4	3					
Totals	13-43	4-9	33					
			.302					
			.444					
			.486					
			.486					
Def. rebound percentage: .486								
3-point shooting: Delta 4-22 (Barnes 3-6, Barr 1-5, Knight 0-7, Marshall 0-3, Bamidele 0-1). Jay County 3-15 (Newton 3, Petro 1-3, Schwieterman 1-8, May 0-2, Sibray 0-1).								
Rebounds: Delta 43 (Knight 12, Bamidele 10, Barr 8, Barnes 6, Timmerman 4, Marshall 2, team). Jay County 24 (Brunswick 6, Schwieterman 5, Sibray 4, Newton 3, team 3, Carreno 2, Heath).								
Assists: Delta 6 (Knight 5, Barr). Jay County 3 (Sibray, Schwieterman, Petro).								
Blocks: Delta 2 (Bamidele, Barr). Jay County 0.								
Personal fouls: Delta Barr 4, Maurer 2, Barnes, Bamidele). Jay County 10 (Carreno 3, May 2, Sibray, Newton, Schwieterman, Petro, Heath).								
Turnovers: Delta 19. Jay County 21.								

Barnes shot 50% from the field, including hitting three 3-pointers, to follow Barr with 15 points. Knight added nine points and five assists.

Coming off the bench after not practicing for a couple of days because of an illness, leading scorer Hallie Schwieterman totaled 14 points for the Patriots. Elizabeth Brunswick added six points and six rebounds.

"I felt like our kids played hard," said McIntire, whose team will visit Southern Wells on Saturday night. "Even down 20 to 30 points, we're still out there trying to do things correctly. And that's huge, that's important, because it's real easy to get down on yourselves. And I feel like these kids continue to try to get better, try to do the right things, and we'll get there ..."

Escape ...

Continued from page 10
The Patriots (8-5, 2-1 ACAC) owned the paint the last time they played South Adams (2-7, 0-3 ACAC), with 22 points from Cole Forthofer, 14 scored by Gradin Swoveland and 11 from Tucker Griffin. In the rematch, the Starfires did a better job of protecting the paint both from drivers and post ups. As a result, they cut that same trio's scoring to 23 points.

"We talked about that this week in practice and we really tried to force them up and force them out," said SAHS coach Kyle Roe. "So I said, 'Force them outside the lane and don't let them catch it on the block because that's where they're going to score obviously.'"

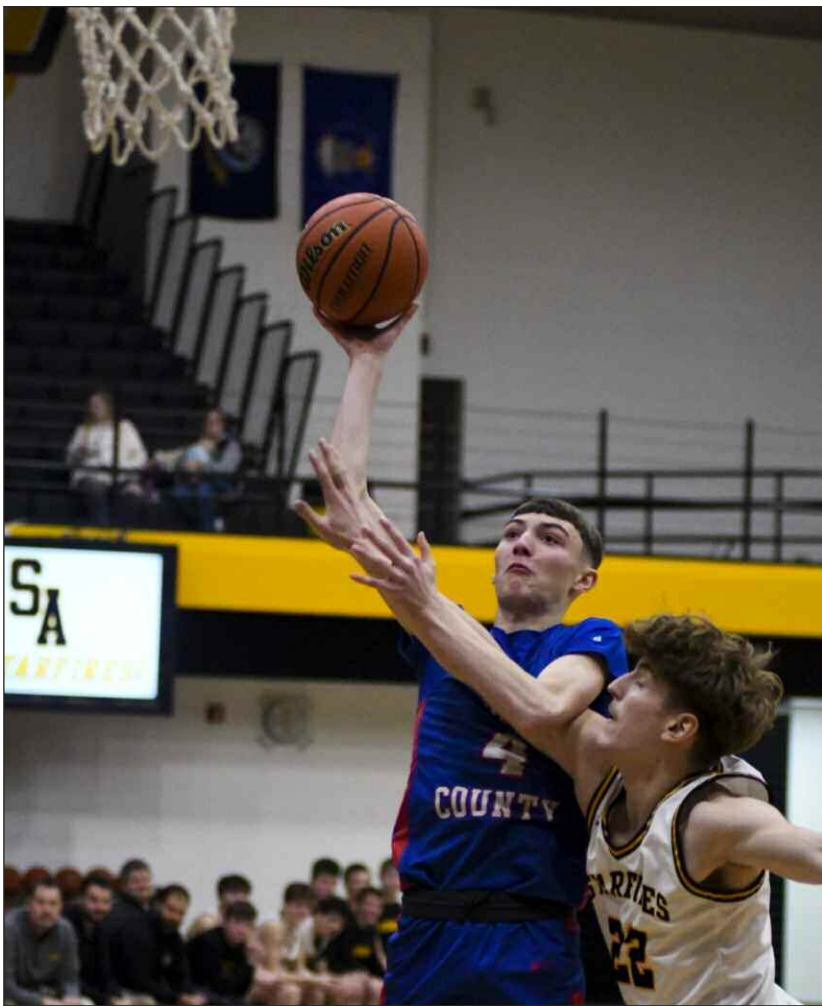
"I think our posts, Jackson (Roe) and Nolan (Copaert) did a great job of forcing them up and out and not letting them get comfortable in the post. I think that was a big difference there."

In the absence of a dominant post presence, Jay County got a lift from point guard Jayden Comer.

The sophomore finished with a team-high 18 points on 6-of-12 shooting and 4-of-10 behind the 3-point line. Eight of his points came in the third quarter as he helped JCHS build a 42-30 advantage.

Tytus Lehman gave the Patriots problems throughout, scoring a game-high 26 points largely off of drives from the wings and corners.

"He can do two or three things offensively," Bomholt said. "He can shoot it, he can maneuver and drive it and he can make free throws. At the high school level, when you can do those two or three things, you can be effective." Lehman and Gavin Herring



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County's Jayden Comer gets fouled by Jackson Roe of South Adams on his way to the basket in Friday's 49-45 win. Comer led the Patriots for the second straight game with 18 points.

wouldn't let the Starfires go down easy as they combined for 15 fourth-quarter points. Lehman cut the JCHS lead to single digits with 6:30 remaining after converting a three-point play.

Herring pulled South Adams within one at 1:54 after making a pair of bonus free throws that capped off a 15-4 run.

With 1:07 left, Bomholt called a timeout to review the team's end-

of-game plan. Coming out, the Patriots passed the ball around while trying to avoid being fouled to run off time. The clock winded down to 32 seconds before SAHS got the foul, which was only the second one for the team. Comer was then pushed by Derek McKean, but the Starfire junior was only whistled for a common foul. Then with 27.7 seconds, Comer got fouled again to go to the free-throw line for the bonus shots, sinking both to extend the lead to three.

"Just look at the rim and shoot the ball, there's nothing else to it," said Comer, who had missed a pair four minutes prior. "Don't think about anything else but putting the ball in the rim."

Jay County finished the game with a pair of stops before Aiden Phillips made a final trip to the charity stripe with 0.9 seconds on the clock. The junior knocked down the first shot to make it a two-possession game.

With the win, Jay County's ACAC hopes stay alive. It is currently a half game behind Woodlan for the top spot. Should JCHS win out, the worst they could do is tie the Warriors for a share of the conference title.

Next on the schedule is Bluffton on Jan. 31, but to get the job done, Bomholt is looking for improvements in practice.

"We better practice better," Bomholt said. "If we don't practice better it won't change. ... This was tough, it was tough fighting through this, but they did it, so we'll give them credit for that. We won't give them credit for a good practice week, but we'll try to give them credit that this coming week, we'll be a little better in practice."

Box score

South Adams Starfires vs. Jay County Patriots				
Boys varsity summary				
Jay County (8-5, 2-1 ACAC)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Comer	6-12	2-4	18	
Petro	1-2	0-2	2	
Dirksen	1-2	0-0	2	
Forthofer	3-6	3-4	9	
Phillips	1-3	2-3	4	
Griffin	1-5	3-4	5	
Swoveland	4-8	1-4	9	
Totals	17-38	11-21	49	
			.447	
			.524	
			.800	
Def. rebound percentage: .800				
South Adams (2-7)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
McKean	0-3	0-0	0	
Scott	0-0	0-0	0	
Copaert	1-6	0-0	3	
ORoe	0-1	0-0	0	
Fields	0-1	0-0	0	
Lehman	8-15	9-9	26	
JRoe	0-0	1-2	1	
Herring	5-8	2-2	15	
Totals	14-34	12-13	45	
			.412	
			.923	
			.692	
Def. rebound percentage: .692				
Score by quarters:				
Jay Co.	13	13	16	7—49
S. Adams	5	13	12	15—45
3-point shooting: Jay County 4-14 (Comer 4-10, Dirksen 0-1, Swoveland 0-1, Griffin 0-2). South Adams 5-13 (Herring 3-4, Lehman 1-5, Copaert 1-1, McKean 0-2).				
Rebounds: Jay County 24 (Forthofer 12, Comer 3, Griffin 3, Phillips 2, Swoveland 2, Petro, Dirksen. South Adams 22 (Lehman 7, McKean 5, Copaert 4, Herring 3, Team 2, JRoe).				
Assists: Jay County 9 (Griffin 4, Comer 2, Swoveland 2, Forthofer). South Adams 7 (Lehman 3, McKean, Scott, Copaert, Herring).				
Blocks: Jay County 4 (Forthofer 2, Petro, Griffin). South Adams 0.				
Personal fouls: Jay County 15 (Swoveland 4, Petro 3, Forthofer 3, Phillips 3, Comer, Griffin). South Adams 16 (JRoe 5, McKean 3, Herring 3, Scott 2, Copaert 2, Lehman).				
Turnovers: Jay County 13. South Adams 19.				

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Girls wrestling team state duals at Fishers — 10 a.m.; Girls basketball (varsity only) at Southern Wells — 7:30 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball at Adams Central — 9 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys bowling vs. Minster at Coldwater — 9:15 a.m.; Girls bowling vs. Minster at Coldwater — 1:15 p.m.; Girls basketball at Franklin Monroe (varsity only) — 10 a.m.; Swim MAC meet at Jay County — 1 p.m.; Boys basketball vs. Mississinawa Valley — 4:30 p.m.

Monday
Jay County — Junior high girls basketball ACAC tournament at home — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball ACAC tournament at South Adams — 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Fort Recovery girls basketball vs. South Adams — 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball at New Knoxville — 5 p.m.

Tuesday
Jay County — Swim tri meet — 6 p.m.; Girls basketball (varsity only) vs. Heritage — 6:30 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball vs. Wapahani — 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Fort Recovery boys basketball at Marion Local — p.m.; Middle school girls basketball vs. New Knoxville — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today
3 a.m. — Grand Slam tennis: Australian Open (ESPN)
10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: AFC Bournemouth at Nottingham Forest (USA)

12 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at San Antonio Spurs (ESPN)
12 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Michigan State at Michigan (BTN)
12:30 p.m. — College basketball: Pitt at Syracuse (ESPN2); Georgetown at Providence (FOX)
1:30 p.m. — College basketball: Seton Hall at Creighton (FS1); Michigan State at Rutgers (CBS)
2 p.m. — College wrestling: Iowa at Ohio State (BTN)
2:30 p.m. — College basketball: Kentucky at Vanderbilt (ESPN); Texas A&M at Texas (ESPN2)
2:30 p.m. — IMSA SportsCar Championship: Rolex 24 at Daytona (USA)
3 p.m. — NBA: Denver Nuggets at Minnesota Timberwolves (ABC)
3 p.m. — College basketball: New Mexico at UNLV (FOX)
4 p.m. — College basketball: Oregon at Minnesota (BTN)
4 p.m. — PGA Tour: Farmers Insurance Open (CBS)
4:30 p.m. — College basketball: Duke at Wake Forest (ESPN); Baylor at Utah (ESPN2)
4:30 p.m. — Horse racing: Pegasus World Cup (NBC)
5:30 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at Dallas Mavericks (ABC)
5:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: UConn at Creighton (FOX)
6 p.m. — College hockey: Minnesota at Michigan State (BTN)
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Houston at Kansas (ESPN); Notre Dame at Virginia (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — College basketball: UConn at Xavier (FOX)
8 p.m. — U.S. Figure Skating Championships (USA)

8 p.m. — Wrestling: AEW Collision (NBC)
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Golden State Warriors (ABC)
8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Tennessee at Auburn (ESPN); Oklahoma at Arkansas (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — College basketball: Cincinnati at BYU (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — NHL: Nashville Predators at Anaheim Ducks (FOX)
11 p.m. — College gymnastics: Washington at Michigan (BTN)

Sunday
3 a.m. — Grand Slam tennis: Australian Open (ESPN)
7:30 a.m. — Women's Super League soccer: Chelsea at Arsenal (ESPN2)
9 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Tottenham Hotspur at Leicester City (USA)
12 p.m. — College basketball: Maryland at Indiana (CBS); Duquesne at Fordham (USA)
12 p.m. — IMSA SportsCar Championship: Rolex 24 at Daytona (NBC)
1 p.m. — College basketball: Nebraska at Wisconsin (BTN); UAB at Memphis (ESPN2)
2 p.m. — Women's college basketball: UCLA at Maryland (NBC)
2 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Fulham at Manchester United (USA)
3 p.m. — NFL Playoffs: Washington Commanders at Philadelphia Eagles (FOX)
3 p.m. — College basketball: Northwestern at Illinois (BTN)
3 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Texas at Ole Miss (ESPN); Baylor at TCU (ESPN2)
5 p.m. — College gymnastics: Arizona at Arizona State (ESPN2); Nebraska

at Maryland (BTN)
6 p.m. — PVF volleyball: Vegas Thrill at Orlando Valkyries (FS1)
6:30 p.m. — NFL Playoffs: Buffalo Bills at Kansas City Chiefs (CBS)

Monday
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Penn State at Michigan (BTN)
7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: South Carolina at Tennessee (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Lunar Owls BC at Vinyl BC (TNT)
7:30 p.m. — NHL: Vancouver Canucks at St. Louis Blues (FSDN Indiana)
8 p.m. — College basketball: Iowa at Ohio State (FS1)
8:15 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Laces BC at Rose BC (TNT)
8:30 p.m. — College basketball: N.C. State at Duke (ESPN)
8:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Purdue at Illinois (BTN)
10 p.m. — College basketball: UCLA at USC (FS1)
10:30 p.m. — College basketball: Iowa State at Arizona (ESPN)

Tuesday
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: St. John's at Georgetown (FS1)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Kentucky at Tennessee (ESPN); Toledo at Ohio (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Philadelphia 76ers (TNT)
8 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Northwestern at Iowa (BTN)
8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Marquette at Butler (FS1)
9 p.m. — College basketball: North

Carolina at Pitt (ESPN); Baylor at BYU (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — NBA: Milwaukee Bucks at

Portland Trail Blazers (TNT)
11 p.m. — College basketball: San Jose State at San Diego State (FS1)

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The Patriot escape

Jay pulls out 4-point win after beating Starfires by 47 earlier in the year

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

BERNE — On Jan. 14, the Patriots decimated the Starfires by 47 points to pick up Jerry Bomholt's 600th career win.

The Patriots traveled to the Stardome again, but the game couldn't have looked any different.

Ten days after picking up a 47-point victory in the Allen County Athletic Conference tournament opener, the Jay County High School boys basketball team escaped with a 49-45 victory over the host South Adams Starfires on Friday.

The win comes on the tail of a narrow victory over a sub-.500 Hagerstown team on Tuesday and what Bomholt evaluated as a poor week of practice.

"We didn't practice well this week ... and it showed," Bomholt said.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Aiden Phillips of the Jay County High School basketball team dives on the floor for a loose ball in the 49-45 win over South Adams on Friday. Phillips finished with four points in the win.

"There was energy missing. You see it all the time at the college level and with other high school teams. For what-

ever reason, we couldn't find the energy. It seemed like every time we got ready to get out of the gate, we'd stumble a

little bit and do some God awful things. We had a stretch where we were trying to pull away and made three straight

passes right to them and they converted. It wasn't one of our better performances."

See **Escape** page 9

Patriots finish second at ACAC

Lothridge, Byrum, Heskett, Myers and Ortiz claim titles

MONROE — A Patriot won the opening weight class.

Another won the final bracket.

Three more championships came in between.

It was nearly enough to take the whole tournament.

The titles from Corbin Lothridge, Alan Ortiz, Griffin Byrum, A.J. Heskett and A.J. Myers led the Class 2A No. 5 Jay County High School boys wrestling team to 255.5 points Friday night as it finished a half-point behind host and champion Adams Central in the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament.

The Class 1A No. 2 Flying Jets edged JCHS thanks to their five individual championships and three runner-up finishes. Bluffton was third with 200 points, four more than South Adams in the seven-team field.

Lothridge (26-8) got the Patriots started strong in the finals with a 6-1 victory over Brock Sprunger of South Adams to win the 106-pound title. Byrum (31-3) made it two-for-two for Jay County by pinning Max Adams of South Adams in the championship match at 113.

At the end of the tournament, eighth-ranked Ortiz (31-2) eked out a 4-3 victory to earn the 285-pound title. In between, Heskett (30-4) pinned Bluffton's Parker Nash to win at 144 and Myers (16-4) scored a 14-5 major decision over Max Nussbaum of Adams Central to earn the 190-pound crown.

Caleb Sibrary, wrestling at 157, earned the lone second-place finish for the Patriots as he made the finals before falling to Adams Central's Maverick Dubach by pin in 54 seconds.

Finishing in third place for Jay County were Sylas Wenk at 120, Cooper Glassford at 126, Gabe Ardizzone at 150 and Brice Coy at 215.

Jay tankers take second

Glentzer, Snow and Wentz win titles for Jay County

A Patriot freshman boy kicked off his conference meet career with two titles.

A senior girl closed with a third straight crown. One of her junior teammates earned the only other individual win for the team.

The first-place efforts from Cooper Glentzer, Maddy Snow and Avery Wentz, along with a pair of relays, led Jay County High School to runner-up finishes Friday as it hosted the Allen County Athletic Conference Swimming and Diving Championships.

The Patriot girls scored 341 points to trail champion South Adams, which finished with 412. The boys had 272 points for a distant second behind Bluffton (484).

Cooper Glentzer led the way for Jay County with his two victories, including a dominant win in the 500-yard freestyle. He finished more than a length of the pool ahead of the field in 5 minutes, 17.26 seconds, to beat Bluffton's Graham Linderwell by 22 seconds.

The freshman was also strong in the 100 butterfly, posting a time of 54.98 to beat Isaac Wheeler of the champion Tigers.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Maisey Keller of host Jay County High School swims the backstroke leg of the 200-yard individual medley Friday during the Allen County Athletic Conference Championships. Keller finished seventh in the race as she helped the Patriot girls to a runner-up finish behind South Adams.

Snow delivered a strong start for the girls team as she cruised to her third consecutive ACAC title. She scored 179.25 points to finish nearly 55 ahead of runner-up Adelynn Fiechter of Bluffton.

Wentz picked up the only other individual victory for the Patriot girls in the tightest race of the night. She out-touched Bluffton's

Tess Frauhiger by one hundredth of a second for the top spot in the 100 backstroke in 1:10.7.

In addition to his individual wins, Glentzer joined Carson Westgerdes, Lincoln Clamme and Peyton Yowell for first in the 200 freestyle relay in 1:37.89.

Wentz led off the winning 200 medley for the JCHS girls as she

joined Sophia Hoevel, Lauren Fisher and Brooklynn Byrum for a time of 2:05.59.

Adding second-place finishes were Carson Westgerdes (200 individual medley) for the boys, and Aubrey Millsbaugh (200 individual medley), Fisher (100 butterfly) and Byrum (500 freestyle) for the girls.



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- and The News Times (Hartford City).

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Business Card (2x2) - \$60

Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Deadline for ads is February 3.





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