

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Credit union construction



Romary Architects

CrossRoads Financial Federal Credit Union is planning a renovation project for its main branch on Votaw Street in Portland to begin this spring and be complete by the end of the year. The artist's renderings of the plans show the view of the facility from a ground angle (above) looking northwest and from above (right). The work will include a new entryway, on the south side of the building and upgrades for the drive-thru lanes and parking lot.



## CrossRoads will build a new entrance

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

The local credit union will be getting a facelift.

During the CrossRoads Financial Federal Credit Union annual meeting Saturday at Jay County Fairgrounds, president and CEO Donald Gillespie announced plans for a \$1.1 million renovation project at the main branch in Portland.

He also announced a special dividend totaling \$270,000 that will go to the credit union's about 8,900 members following a record year that saw a net

income of more than \$1.9 million. It marks the first time a dividend has been offered in the 74-year history of the organization.

"I'm very excited," said Gillespie after the meeting. "We've done a lot of work on this, not only the project ...

"To be able to give \$270,000 back to your membership, that's remarkable. ... I have a good board of directors who were willing to take that and give it back."

The renovation project will focus on the south side of the

main branch — 1102 W. Votaw St. — creating a new entrance and larger lobby area as well as the drive-thru lanes and parking lot. Once the project is complete, customer parking will be located on the west side of the building. The current atrium will be knocked out and sidewalks will be adjusted to connect with the west parking area. Customers will go through a glass entryway area — handicapped accessible — and then into the larger lobby space.

The south side of the building, which currently offers some customer parking, will be

used as drive-thru service lanes as well as an outer bypass lane for those who use the ATM to be able to access the exit. Tellers will be equipped with headsets that are intended to improve service and cut down on background noise and other drive-thru improvements are planned. All three lanes will be open at all times.

Gillespie said a fourth drive-thru lane was considered, but data shows customer traffic does not warrant such an addition.

See **Construction** page 5

## County funding may be coming to JCDC

**Commissioners OK \$100,000, subject to council approval**

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Jay County Development Corporation may be getting funding from the county again.

Jay County Commissioners agreed Monday to move forward with contributing \$100,000 in economic development income tax (EDIT) funds to the organization.

The decision, which involves a six-month service agreement, is contingent on approval from Jay County Council.

JCDC board president Angela Paxson visited Monday's meeting and reminded commissioners about her organization's \$261,975 funding request for a three-person staff. Paxson noted the group has several applicants for the economic development director position — previous executive director Travis Richards resigned in November but is continuing to assist JCDC on a part-time basis — but are holding off on interviews until the board knows it will have funding available.

Commissioner president Chad Aker explained that he and Paxson met last week. He pointed to a service agreement that he said mirrors JCDC's agreement with Portland. Aker asked Paxson to share the proposal with her board.

"It was a little less restrictive than what we talked about before," Aker said.

County officials and JCDC have been in contract discussions for more than a year.

See **JCDC** page 2

## Palestinians return to Gaza

By ETHAN BRONNER  
Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

Tens of thousands of Palestinians are traveling back to the devastated neighborhoods of northern Gaza after being displaced during the Israel-Hamas war, as a fragile 42-day ceasefire moves into a second week.

Israeli troops stepped away from large parts of the Netzarim Corridor that divides the north of the territory from the south to enable them to pass on Monday, at first on foot and later by car. They are leaving behind temporary camps lacking adequate sanitation and food and water supplies, but will arrive at their former homes in an area largely reduced to wreckage.

"It's like a river of returnees," said Ashraf Ghaben, a Gazan journeying by foot with his wife, sister and seven children. He knows his house in

### Israeli troops stepped away from Netzarim Corridor

Beit Lahia, in the far north, is badly damaged beyond repair, but is making the trip regardless.

The mass migration began after the second round of hostage-for-prisoner exchanges took place over the weekend, with a dispute over the freeing of the last abducted female civilian, Arbel Yehud, briefly delaying proceedings. She will now be released by Hamas on Thursday, along with the remaining woman soldier and one unnamed other.

They're among 33 hostages to be returned to Israel in exchange for scores of Palestinian prisoners during the six-week truce agreed to earlier

this month, with the influx of humanitarian aid into Gaza increasing to 600 trucks a day.

Hamas provided a list showing that, of the hostages agreed to be freed in the first part of the ceasefire, eight are dead, according to an Israeli official familiar with the situation.

Access to northern Gaza was banned shortly after the start of the war in October 2023, when Israel told civilians to make way for the bombardment of Gaza City, once the territory's largest urban center, with an air and ground campaign that destroyed much of the area.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

## Cheers to third

Mallory Winner (left) and Brenna Ruble of the No. 4 Jay County High School girls wrestling team burst with excitement as No. 5 Amara Crawford pinned No. 9 Brylee Blackwell of Mooresville to pull off a 47-30 upset and guarantee a top-four placement at the IHSGWCA Girls Team State Duals on Saturday hosted by Fishers. For the full story, see page 8.

### Deaths

Patricia Karn, 84, Portland  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 33 degrees Sunday. The low was 23.

Expect a low in the lower 30s tonight with winds gusting to 30 miles per hour. Skies will be mostly sunny Wednesday with a high in the upper 30s and windy conditions.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Jay County Civic Theatre will hold auditions for its June production of the musical "Freaky Friday" from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, March 10, and Tuesday, March 11.

Call backs will be Thursday, March 13.

For more information, go to jaycountycivic.org or email jaycountycivic@gmail.com.

### Coming up

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

**Thursday** — Coverage of this week's Redkey Town Council meeting.

**Friday** — Results from the JCHS girls basketball game at Norwell.



# JCDC ...

Continued from page 1  
The county, which typically provides the bulk of JCDC's budget, did not make any payments to the organization in 2024 amid contract negotiations.

Per the proposed service agreement Monday, JCDC's services to the county include:

- Administrative and marketing services as it pertains to new business recruitments and existing business expansion, with primary objectives to include retaining jobs in Jay County, providing expansion opportunities to local businesses and recruiting new businesses in Jay County
- Meeting with businesses to determine whether their infrastructure needs are being met
- Engaging in activities to evaluate and assist in obtaining locations for economic development opportunities
- Providing resources to the county's grant writer/community developer for grants and project development
- Assisting businesses in securing tax abatements

•Working with Jay County Redevelopment Commission and other local or regional groups for developing and implementing economic development projects in Jay County

•Providing services to economic development income tax (EDIT) advisory committee

•Maintaining an executive committee, which shall include one commissioner and one council member. (These members are also members of the JCDC board.)

•Reporting to commissioners and council at least quarterly

•Assisting the county with other economic development projects as requested

•Providing written reports of activities at each regular board and executive committee meeting

Aker suggested JCDC stick to a two-person staff and work with East Central Indiana Regional Planning District for community development needs instead of hiring a third employee. He also asked Paxson about JCDC's short- and long-term goals.

She explained the organization needs to meet with municipalities to gain their input before setting goals. She also shared its reasoning for a third staff member.

"I would like our new executive director to be out in the county more, visiting with our industries, visiting with our towns, and that's why I was pushing for a third person, so that (they) can have some help with the tax abatements and the other requests that come in," she said.

Paxson asked for a direction from commissioners to know what to expect financially moving forward or a financial contribution made in good faith.

Aker questioned why Portland contributes less than the county each year, saying the city appears to benefit more from the organization than other municipalities or the county.

Commissioner Doug Horn pointed to rural Jay County residents working in Portland.

"They can't help where the factories are," he said.  
Commissioner Duane Monroe

compared the county's contributions to JCDC in 2022 and 2023. If the county were to contribute the same amount from 2022 at a 4% increase for inflation, he said, it would provide JCDC approximately \$248,000 for the year.

He noted Portland City Council's decision at the beginning of the month to pay its \$50,000 allocation to JCDC in two payments, one this month and the other in July.

Monroe suggested moving forward with contributing \$100,000 now and another payment — its amount would depend on when JCDC hires another director — in July.

"I'm not thinking that high of an amount," responded Aker, suggesting the county give \$50,000 to the organization now and another payment later.

He also recommended Portland contribute JCDC \$100,000 annually.

"We're getting about twice as what the city is," said Horn, looking at JCDC's budget breakdown. "We've got to find some common

ground someplace to get started."

Aker noted commissioners requested \$140,000 in the 2025 budget for JCDC. He pointed to council's decision last year to allocate no specific funding in the local income tax economic development portion of the 2025 budget. (Council members suggested commissioners could approach them in January to request additional appropriations for the dollars.)

"Ultimately, there's a lot of things that need to be done," said Monroe, voicing support for JCDC working with East Central Indiana Regional Planning District to continue existing projects.

He then made a motion to contribute \$100,000 to JCDC, with county attorney Wes Schemenauer confirming that would include a six-month service agreement. Monroe and Horn voted in favor.

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For more commissioners' news, see Wednesday's newspaper.

| CR almanac  |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Wednesday<br>1/29   | Thursday<br>1/30  | Friday<br>1/31  | Saturday<br>2/1                                   | Sunday<br>2/2  |
|   |   |   |   |  |
| <b>41/25</b>  | <b>49/41</b>  | <b>47/26</b>  | <b>33/28</b>                                      | <b>47/32</b>   |
| Mostly sunny skies on Wednesday when wind gusts may reach up to 30 mph. | Thursday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies also with a chance of snow at night. | Rain is likely Friday when there's a 60% chance of showers. Snow possible late. | Saturday has a 50% chance of snow in the morning. | Mostly cloudy on Sunday when highs will be in the upper 40s. |

## Lotteries

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| <b>Powerball</b><br>Estimated jackpot: \$56 million  | 22-25-28-32-37-38-41-42-43-46-56-57-58-65-68-79<br>Cash 5: 1-16-20-27-30<br>Estimated jackpot: \$207,000   |
| <b>Mega Millions</b><br>Estimated jackpot: \$44 million  | <b>Ohio</b><br>Sunday<br>Midday<br>Pick 3: 6-5-3<br>Pick 4: 6-6-0-0<br>Pick 5: 8-5-2-1-5<br>Evening<br>Pick 3: 7-0-1<br>Pick 4: 6-1-1-2<br>Pick 5: 4-6-0-0-7<br>Rolling Cash 5: 1-5-28-31-32<br>Estimated jackpot: \$110,000 |
| <b>Hoosier</b><br>Sunday<br>Midday<br>Daily Three: 3-6-9<br>Daily Four: 4-7-8-2<br>Quick Draw: 3-4-5-7-8-11-14-25-34-38-41-44-47-52-56-61-71-72-73-78<br>Evening<br>Daily Three: 4-5-5<br>Daily Four: 3-2-3-2<br>Quick Draw: 4-9-11-14 |  |

## Markets

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b><br>Corn.....4.82<br>Feb. corn .....4.79<br>March corn .....4.66   | Feb. beans .....10.44<br>Wheat ..... 4.84  |
| <b>POET Biorefining Portland</b><br>Corn.....4.85<br>Feb. corn .....4.85<br>March corn .....4.89    | <b>ADM Montpelier</b><br>Corn.....4.76<br>Feb. corn .....4.76<br>Beans .....10.39<br>Feb. beans .....10.42<br>Wheat .....4.99        |
| <b>The Andersons Richland Township</b><br>Corn .....4.78<br>Feb. corn .....4.78<br>Beans .....10.41 | <b>Heartland St. Anthony</b><br>Corn.....4.75<br>Feb. corn .....4.75<br>Beans .....10.21<br>Feb. beans .....10.26<br>Wheat .....4.74 |

## Today in history

**In 1547,** England's king Henry VIII died. His 9-year-old son, Edward VI, assumed the crown.

**In 1813,** Jane Austen's renowned English novel, "Pride and Prejudice," was published anonymously. More than 20 million copies of the work have been purchased since then.

**In 1871,** Paris, France, surrendered after a four-month siege during the Franco-German War.

**In 1915,** Congress created the United States Coast Guard.

**In 1935,** Iceland became the first western country to legalize abortion.

**In 2005,** Portland street department workers were still cleaning up the effects of the Jan. 5 ice storm. About 60% of the debris had been collected, street and park department superintendent Jeff Harker said. He estimated the limb collection would cost more than \$50,000 out of the department's annual \$1.1 million budget.

— The CR

## Citizen's calendar

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Today</b><br>6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.                                  | <b>Feb. 4</b><br>5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.<br>7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.<br>7 p.m. — Salamonia Council, Schoolhouse Community Center. |
| <b>Monday</b><br>5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. |  |

# Obituaries

## Patricia Karn

May 9, 1940-Jan. 24, 2025  
Patricia Karn, age 84, of Portland passed away on Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, at her residence.

She was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, on May 9, 1940, the daughter of Williard Joseph and Fern (Grinnells) Micheau. She was married on Aug. 18, 1962, to Norman Karn and he passed away on Oct. 20, 2021.

Patricia was the director of Head Start for many years and also had taught home economics. She was a graduate of Western Michigan University and a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church,

and enjoyed camping and traveling.

Surviving are three sons, Kris Karn (wife: Brenda) of Portland, Kelly Karn (wife: Sharon) of Portland and Kraig Karn (wife: Shirley) of Portland; one daughter, Kristen Sager (husband: Charles) of Redkey; brother Williard "Butch" Micheau of Portland; 14 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Bob Micheau.

A memorial mass will be held on Thursday Jan. 30, at 10 a.m. in Immaculate Conception Catholic



Karn

Church with Fr. Martin Sandhage presiding. The family will receive guests on Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home.

Memorials can be made to the choice of the donor.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

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*The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.*

*There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.*

# Felony court news

## Strangulation

A man was sentenced to jail for strangulation.

Gary L. Hines, 45, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to the Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 545 days in Jay County Jail with all but 176 days of his sentence suspended and given 176 days credit for time served. Hines was placed on probation for 369 days, fined \$25, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$50 domestic violence prevention and treatment fee.

As part of his plea agreement, four Class A misdemeanors for domestic battery, interference with reporting a crime, resisting law enforcement and possession of marijuana, and a Class B misdemeanor for criminal mischief.

## Dealing drugs

Two men were sentenced in Jay Circuit Court to serve time in prison for dealing methamphetamine.

Blake W. Price, 33, pleaded guilty to dealing methamphetamine, a Level 2 felony. He was sentenced to 22 years in Indiana Department of Correction with five years suspended and given credit for time served. Price was placed on probation, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. He was recommended for purposeful incarceration, meaning upon completing a substance abuse treatment program the court would consider modifying his sentence. As part of his plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: a Level 4 felony for dealing in a narcotic drug, two Level 6 felonies for possession of methamphetamine and unlawful possession of a syringe and a Class A misdemeanor for driving with a suspended license.

Eric L. Garringer, 32, 955 S Blaine Pike, Portland, pleaded guilty to dealing methamphetamine, a Level 4 felony. (He was originally charged with a Level 3 felony.) Garringer was sentenced to eight years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. Garringer was assessed \$189 in court

costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. He was recommended for purposeful incarceration, meaning upon completing a substance abuse treatment program the court would consider modifying his sentence. As part of his plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: three Level 6 felonies for possession of cocaine, possession of a narcotic drug and resisting law enforcement and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. A habitual offender enhancement was also withdrawn.

## Theft

Two Indiana residents were sentenced to serve time for committing theft.

Tasasha D. Evans, 34, 9515 Pendleton Pike, Indianapolis, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to theft, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to 18 months in Indiana Department of Correction with 184 days suspended and given credit for time served. Evans was assessed \$189 in court costs.

Jarrad D. Hill, 37, 6509 Liberty Drive, Fort Wayne, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to theft, a Class A misdemeanor. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but 90 days suspended and given 90 days credit for time served. Hill was assessed \$189 in court costs and placed on probation for 275 days. As part of his plea agreement, Hill's charge was lessened from a Level 6 felony.

## Domestic battery

Two Jay County residents were sentenced to jail for domestic battery.

Jeremy A. Fravel, 47, 944 Sandy Hollow Lane, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to domestic battery, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 910 days in Jay County Jail with all but 48 days suspended and given eight days credit for time served. Fravel was fined \$1,000, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$50 domestic violence prevention and treatment fee. He was placed on probation for 862 days. As part of his plea agreement, a habitual offender enhancement to his sen-

tence was dismissed.

Kyle D. Hitchens, 30, 108 Rick Drive, Dunkirk, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to domestic battery, a Class A misdemeanor. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but four days suspended and given four days credit for time served. Hitchens was fined \$1, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$50 domestic violence prevention and treatment fee. He was placed on probation for 361 days. As part of Hitchens' plea agreement, his charge was lessened from a Level 6 felony, and the following charges were dismissed: a Level 6 felony for strangulation, a Level 6 felony for domestic battery and a Class A misdemeanor for interference with reporting a crime.

## Causing injury

A Decatur man was sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to drunk driving and causing injury.

Timothy D. Johnson, 44, 333 N. 16th St., Decatur, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to operating a vehicle while intoxicated causing serious bodily injury, a Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to 1,825 days in Indiana Department of Correction with all but 730 days of his sentence suspended and given 13 days credit for time served. Johnson was placed on probation for 1,095 days, fined \$1, assessed \$189.50 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug and alcohol countermeasures fee. Johnson was ordered to submit to an evaluation within 30 days of his sentencing for substance abuse counseling. The court recommended Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles suspend his license for 730 days retroactive to Sept. 25, 2023. As part of his plea agreement, a Level 5 felony for causing serious bodily injury when operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol level of 0.08% or more and a Class C misdemeanor for driving without a license were dismissed.

## Drunk driving

Two men were sentenced to  
Joshua M. Best, 41, 932 West High St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Supe-

rior Court to operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 545 days in Indiana Department of Corrections and given two days credit for time served. Best was assessed \$189.50 in court costs, fined \$25 and ordered to pay a \$200 drug and alcohol countermeasures fee. The court recommended Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles suspend his license for 730 days retroactive to Aug. 5.

Brian G. Johnson, 33, 100 Bon Bon Drive, Union City, Ohio, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol concentration equivalent to 0.15% or more, a Class A misdemeanor. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but 30 days suspended and given eight days credit for time served. Johnson was placed on probation for 335 days, assessed \$189.50 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug and alcohol countermeasures fee. He was ordered to submit to an evaluation within 30 days of his sentencing for substance abuse counseling. The court recommended Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles suspend his license for one year retroactive to June 27. As part of his plea agreement, his charge was lessened, and a Level 6 felony charge for operating a vehicle while intoxicated was dismissed.

## SERVICES

### Tuesday

**Blomeke,** Joni: 10:30 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery.  
**Bailey,** Dorothy: 3 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

### Thursday

**Karn,** Patricia: 10 a.m., Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 506 E. Walnut St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

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## Jimmy Carter had honesty, integrity until the bitter end

By **JAMES FULKS**  
The Commercial Review

The New Year certainly came in with a loud bang.

There were two serious incidents of senseless violence and devastation beyond comprehension in Southern California.

However, 2024 bowed out with a touch of bitterness as we bade farewell to President Jimmy Carter.

He was a man with more true character, decency, integrity and honesty in his pinkie toe than the vast majority of so-called political statesmen of today have in their entire being.

Carter was a Navy man. How many of you know the origins of the phrase, "The Bitter End"?

It's actually a term that goes all the way back to the earliest days of seafarers. It is a nautical term.

In the days of old wooden, masted, canvas sail, tall ships, the anchors were usually attached to the ship by rope.

The rope was attached to "bollards" or "bits" on the deck of the vessel.

The last few fathoms of rope

**Fulksy  
Mayhem**



This is very serious on large vessels like my old former Old Noble Grey Lady, because each anchor weighed 30 tons and each individual link of the anchor chain weighs approximately 350 pounds.

So, if the anchor was deployed in too deep of water, once it gets that much weight payed out, there's no stopping it.

Serious damage can occur when an anchor is deployed in too deep of water.

The weight of the anchor and chain can literally rip the bollards or "bits" right off of the ship and do major damage as they are ripped off of the deck.

Hence the phrase, it went to the bitter end.

Of course, it could easily end the career of the skipper who ordered it dropped or the Bos'n who dropped it. Or worse, it could end a deck hand's life were he in close proximity to it as it happened. So, also a bitter end to a career or a life.

You'll never use the phrase "the bitter end" again without thinking about the origins of it now.

had colorful rags attached to it. So, when dropping the anchor, the appearance of the colorful rags, as the rope payed out, warned the Bos'n that the rope was nearing its end.

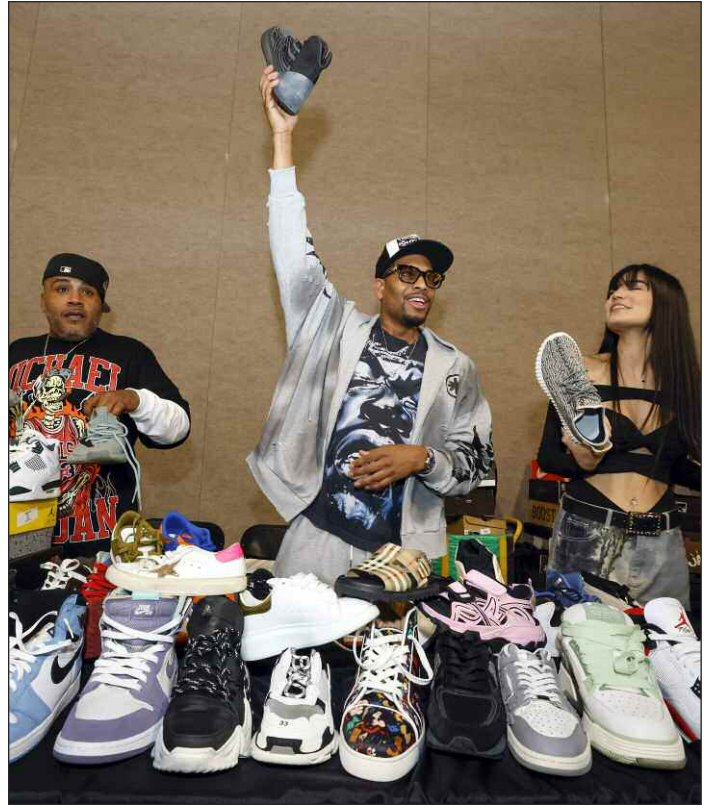
In later years, ships got much larger, requiring far heavier anchors.

Chains became the way to attach the much heavier anchor to the ship's bollards.

Since the chain on larger ships is stowed below decks in a chain locker and not plainly visible, the custom is to paint each link at the end of each "shot" of anchor chain red.

To those unfamiliar, a "shot" of chain is 15 fathoms (90 feet).

On the last "shot" of anchor chain, every link is painted red, meaning once you start seeing consecutive links painted red you are running out of chain.



Tribune News Service/Miami Herald/AI Diaz

## Showing off shoes

Entrepreneurs, from left, Jason Guerra, Jay Samuels and Valeria Olivero shout as they sell shoes during this month's Sneaker Con at the Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

## Sister ready to confront wife

DEAR ABBY: My brother died of cancer a year ago. During his entire 50-year marriage, I felt bad about the way his wife treated him. She snapped at him and bit his head off from the time they were first married until his death, even while he was dying. Never once did I hear him speak harshly in return.

I kept my mouth shut because I didn't want to make things worse for him. He was an easygoing, warm, fun person who was loved by many throughout his life. Now that he's gone, I'd really like to speak my piece to my sister-in-law. I think it would help me heal to finally say what needed to be said but I never could.

I don't care that it might end my relationship with her. There are

**Dear Abby**



how watching your brother be verbally abused by his wife, even on his deathbed, made you feel.

Say you do not wish to lose the close relationship you enjoy with him/her, but that now, for the sake of your own healing from the loss of your brother, you finally intend to air those feelings to their mother. Because you don't plan to have anything more to do with the woman, you can speak your mind.

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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](http://DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

two now-adult children, one of whom I am very close to. Your thoughts? — CONFLICTED IN IOWA

**DEAR CONFLICTED:** If you do what you are contemplating, it will likely end your relationship with at least one of your brother's children.

Before approaching your brother's widow, have a discussion with the adult child with whom you are close. Explain

## Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

### Today

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

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

Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

**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 - BRANNA'S HOPE** — A faith-based recovery group for

substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

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

### Wednesday

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

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

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

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

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

**A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE** — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions,

will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

### Thursday

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

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## Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

### Saturday's Solution

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

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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# Lawmakers have unenviable task

By NIKI KELLY  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

I don't feel bad for lawmakers very often. But trying to solve the national problem of high health care costs and accessibility from a state-level perspective is rough. And almost impossible.

The best they can hope for is less of an annual increase, which is honestly downright depressing.

The first issue is identifying the problem. In many situations, you can easily find the villain in a story and focus on getting justice that way. But the health care system is so complicated that there are a lot of villains.

Hospitals. Insurance companies. Pharmacy middlemen. Drug manufacturers.

Whenever there is a hearing on these topics, these stakeholders point at each other like that Spider-Man meme. The fact is all of them are responsible, in part, for a system that focuses more on money than patients.

Niki Kelly



Indiana legislators, bless their hearts, have been trying to address that problem for years. They have created a database where Hoosiers can see the costs of procedures and shop around key health care needs. They have stepped up oversight on mergers and monopolies. They have limited "surprise" billing for emergency out-of-network services.

And yet, there are still 450,700 uninsured Hoosiers. That's 6.8% of the state's population, according to KFF. About 600,000, or 12%, of adults in Indiana reported having medical debt in a given year from 2019 and 2021. The U.S. average

of people reporting medical debt is 8.6%.

To make any real progress, lawmakers are going to have to become more prescriptive — which isn't easy for the GOP supermajorities who otherwise believe in letting capitalism work without government intervention.

To start with, I'm heartened by an effort to clamp down on the billions in assets that non-profit hospitals have. Republican Fort Wayne Rep. Martin Carbaugh wants to take away the nonprofit status if hospitals are charging exorbitant prices.

Another promising bill is about prior authorization. We've all been there. You go to your doctor, who has treated you for years and knows your personal situation. They order a test, and the insurance company comes back and says you can't have the test. They know better — or at least their algorithm does. Theoretically, prior authorization might save money. But it also

endangers patients and second guesses doctors. A bill by GOP Sen. Tyler Johnson — a doctor himself — would severely limit how often doctor's orders can be blocked.

Another reason hospital prices are so high is site of service. Companies have bought up doctor's offices, hospitals, imaging centers and other health care facilities and treat them all as hospitals, regardless of where they are physically located. That allows them to charge a higher rate. This change would cost hospitals tens of millions, and they have fought it for years.

And let's not forget about drug prices. Transparency isn't working, so it might be time for hard caps on certain life-saving medications. Insulin is the obvious one, but there are lots more. An EpiPen that can stop fatal allergic reactions is another example. Heck, my dad has an inhaler that costs \$800 a month. It helps him breathe, and he spent weeks last year trying to find a way to

get the cost covered. Meanwhile, drug companies and pharmacy benefit managers — the middlemen between pharmacies and drug manufacturers — are reaping obscene profits. This is another opportunity for helping Hoosiers.

Several of these bills are already moving this session, and I hope you share the same optimism I have.

I don't know if any of these changes would mean a cut in health care costs, but I do know it would show that my representatives care enough to try new things — even things they might traditionally not be comfortable with — because what we have isn't working.

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

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

## Trump and Biden find common ground

Bloomberg Opinion  
Tribune News Service

If it wasn't already clear — after nearly 250 years — that the pardon power is a standing invitation to abuse and corruption, two presidents confirmed it on the same day this week.

On his way out of office, Joe Biden issued a "preemptive" clemency for his siblings and their spouses; for a raft of public officials, including former medical adviser Anthony Fauci and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley; and for the lawmakers and staffers who worked on the Jan. 6 committee.

This followed a historic spree of pardons and commutations during Biden's presidency and echoed his hazily rationalized pardon of son Hunter in December.

On his way into office, meanwhile, Donald Trump granted indiscriminate clemency to nearly 1,600 people charged in relation to the Jan. 6 attack — including hundreds found guilty of assaulting or impeding police officers at the U.S. Capitol — thereby erasing years of work by federal prosecutors, grievously undermining the rule of law and setting what promises to be an awful precedent for the remainder of his term.

These acts are not equivalent. Trump is pardoning hundreds of violent rioters because they supported him politically. Biden's family pardons are surely self-serving, but his clemency for public servants — in light of the prosecutions that Trump and his associates have threatened — is at least plausibly defensible.

Together, though, these measures make a mockery of the original rationale for the pardon power. As Alexander Hamilton summarized it in 1788: "The criminal code of every country partakes so much of necessary severity, that without an easy access to exceptions in favor of unfortunate guilt, justice would wear a countenance too sanguinary and cruel."

The idea was to enshrine the virtue of mercy in the Constitution, not to grant the president an extrajudicial perk to protect his friends and family.

Trump's shameful pardons had to compete for

## Guest Editorial

attention during a first day that included revoking dozens of his predecessor's executive orders, withdrawing from the Paris climate treaty and the World Health Organization, ending federal diversity initiatives, delaying a ban on TikTok, limiting birthright citizenship, and much else. But they may prove to be among his most consequential acts of that day.

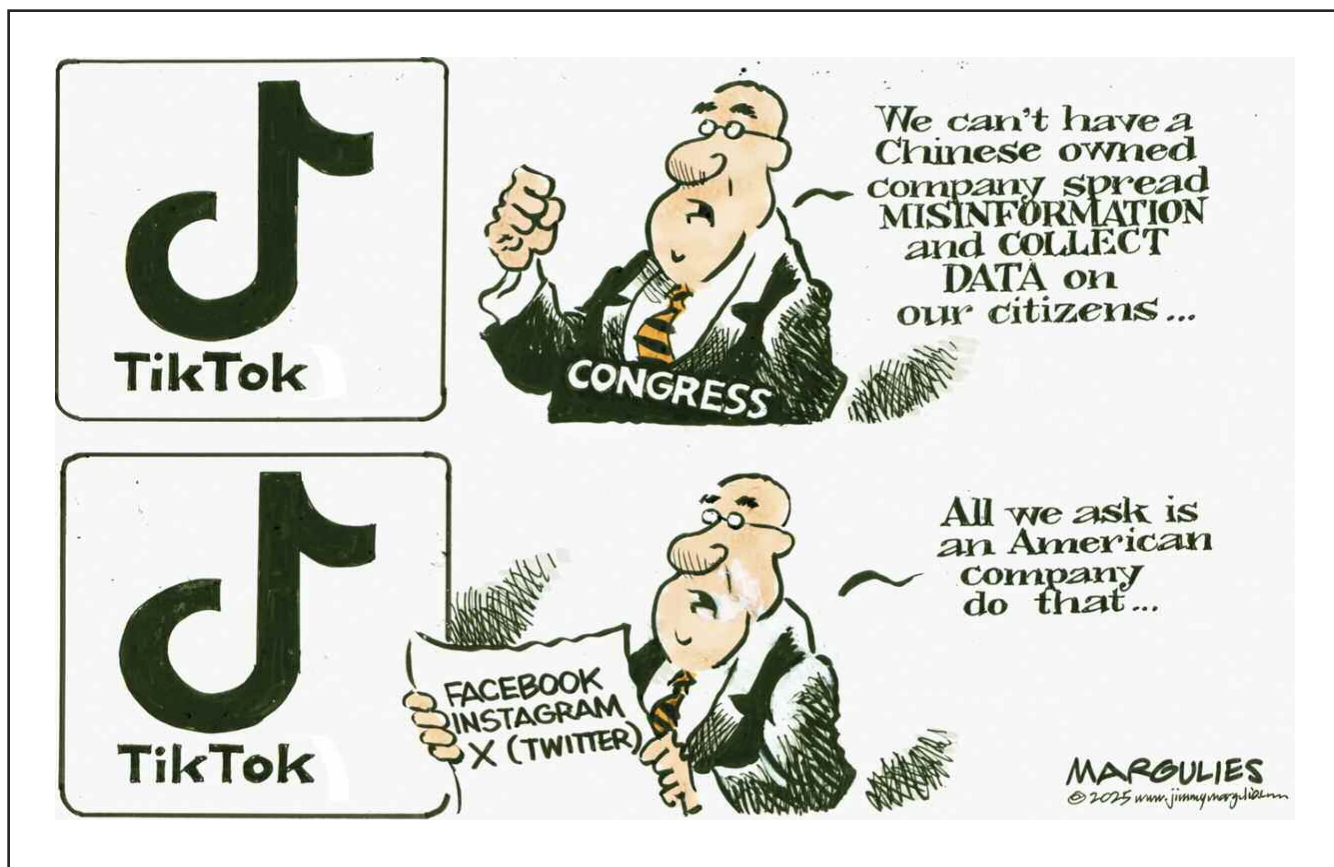
A president armed with a preemptive pardon power, along with the broad immunities already conferred on the office, could have vast scope for corruption.

Unfortunately, the Constitution envisions that the power will be mostly self-regulating — that is, constrained by a president's sense of responsibility or indeed shame. As one pardon attorney advised Congress in 1952: "In the exercise of the pardoning power, the president is amenable only to the dictates of his own conscience, unhampered and uncontrolled by any person or branch of government."

Conscience is not among Trump's most salient characteristics. Making matters worse, whatever moral high ground Democrats in Congress might've claimed to constrain the misuse of this power has been gravely eroded.

Even if they reclaim the majority, the tools typically available to the opposition — launching investigations, issuing subpoenas, naming and shaming, and so on — will carry less credibility in light of Biden's actions.

One might hope that such bipartisan malfeasance will finally move Congress to make a serious effort at curtailing this power; a bill introduced in 2020 offers a decent place to start. But while such reforms are worth pursuing, they'll only help at the margin — and this perennial problem will, in all likelihood, continue.



## Was Husted playing the odds?

By THOMAS SUDDER  
cleveland.com  
Tribune News Service

Republican Gov. Mike DeWine's appointment of Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, a fellow Republican, to the Senate is resetting Ohio's 2026 game-board, notably the race to succeed DeWine, who will be term-limited home in January 2027.

On Tuesday, Husted, 57, assumed the Senate seat previously held by Cincinnati Republican JD (James David) Vance, 40, Donald J. Trump's vice president and very likely his presidential heir.

Till Husted, of Upper Arlington, accepted the Senate appointment, it seemed certain he'd seek 2026's GOP gubernatorial nomination, likely vying for it with fellow Republican David Yost, Ohio's attorney general, who announced Thursday he's running for governor.

(Meanwhile, former state Health Director Dr. Amy Acton, a Bexley physician once in DeWine's Cabinet, is seeking Democrats' 2026 gubernatorial nomination.)

Yost, 68, earlier Ohio's state auditor, and before that, Delaware County's auditor and prosecuting attorney, is a master of self-promotion. (And for almost a century, the AG's office has intermittently been a GOP path to the governorship. Examples: DeWine; John W. Bricker; Thomas J. Herbert; and C. William O'Neill, later the Ohio Supreme Court's chief justice.)

Yost — though not to be underestimated — likely deterred then-Lt. Gov. Husted less from running for governor than did another Republican, Cincinnati-born biotech tycoon Vivek Ramaswamy, who's expected to soon announce his own gubernatorial quest.

Also seeking the GOP's gubernatorial nod is State Treasurer Robert C. Sprague, of Findlay, a member of Hancock County's Cole family, long-

Thomas Sudder



standing Republican stalwarts who've included two congressmen (one of them, in 1919, was among the American Legion's founders) and former Ohio House member and appellate judge Ralph D. Cole Jr.

Ramaswamy, 39, of Upper Arlington, a graduate of Harvard College and Yale Law School, sought last year's GOP 2024 presidential nomination, but ended up backing Trump.

With fellow Trump satellite, South Africa-born billionaire Elon Musk, Ramaswamy was co-running Trump's Department of Government Efficiency. But Ramaswamy was reportedly pushed out of DOGE after clashing with Musk, and for saying last month that U.S. popular culture celebrates "the prom queen over the math olympiad champ, or the jock over the valedictorian" — implying that justified H-1B visas, which admit technologically skilled foreigners to the United States, not something that anti-immigrant Republicans want to hear.

Trump has indicated he'd endorse Ramaswamy for governor. Trump's endorsement of Vance in Ohio's 2022 GOP senatorial primary is believed to have helped Vance clinch the Senate nomination.

Sure, there are stumbling blocks along appointed Sen. Husted's path to winning, in November 2026, the remaining two years of Vance's Senate term, then winning a full six-year Senate term in November 2028.

First, as previously noted, since 1914, when Ohioans started directly

electing U.S. senators, governors have appointed six (men) to unexpired U.S. Senate terms. Five failed to win election to the seat; a sixth, the GOP's Frank B. Willis, a Lewis Center native, had won a full Senate term in 1920 but then was picked by Gov. Harry L. Davis (once Cleveland's mayor) to serve the couple weeks remaining in Warren Harding's term after Harding left the Senate in 1921 to move to the White House.

Second, though Husted hasn't been accused of any wrongdoing in Ohio's House Bill 6/FirstEnergy scandal, he was long politically close to the Akron electric utility, whose full-court Statehouse lobbying was as subtle as a Sherman tank rolling over a flower bed.

Ironically, returning the HB 6 mess to Ohio's dashboard were federal racketeering indictments, announced on Jan. 17, just a few hours before DeWine made Husted a senator; of two former FirstEnergy executives, ex-President Charles E. Jones and ex-Senior Vice President Michael Dowling. (They're presumed innocent unless proven guilty.)

Maybe because Ohio voters are used to sleaze, the HB 6 scandal — which still requires Ohio ratepayers to subsidize, with millions of their dollars, old, coal-burning power plants — hasn't seemed to ding Husted politically, or for that matter, DeWine.

But given a potential three-way race for 2026's GOP gubernatorial nomination, including likely Trump-backed Ramaswamy and news-magnet Yost, Husted's taking a Senate seat, then running in 2026 to keep it against a foe fielded by Ohio's demoralized Democrats, maybe looked like a decent bet to the former University of Dayton football star. So, Husted placed it.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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# Construction ...

Continued from page 1  
The parking lot will be redone, with the three drive-thru lanes marked. The Votaw Street drive-way will become an entrance only for space and safety reasons — Gillespie noted a recent traffic accident at that site — with all customers to exit via Industrial Park Drive.

Construction is expected to start this spring, with a goal of completion by the end of 2025. Romary Associates of Fort Wayne is the architect for the project. A contractor has not yet been hired. The branch will remain open through construction, board chair Joday Auker said.

Discussion about a renovation project began in earnest in August in conjunction with the closure of the branch at 905 N. Meridian St. Gillespie and Auker both mentioned rumors following that closure and said the upgrades at the main branch are, in part, a message to the community.

“We are here to stay,” said Auker. “Because we sold the North Meridian branch, I don’t want people to think the credit



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

CrossRoads Financial Federal Credit Union president and CEO Donald Gillespie shakes hands with John Hart after presenting him with a gift during the organization’s annual meeting Saturday in the Bubp Building at Jay County Fairgrounds. Hart is retiring after serving for 30 years on the CrossRoads supervisory committee.

union is folding up or hurting by any means. We’re going to invest into this building and let everybody know that we are here to stay and we’re

here to serve all of our members for a long time to come.”

Gillespie noted the record year with a net income of \$1.91 million in

2024. That’s up by 49% over the previous mark of \$1.28 million set just a year earlier.

In the financial report, CrossRoads vice presi-

dent Jeff Whetstone announced total assets of \$90.19 million. That number is up by \$2.42 million from the previous year and has nearly doubled in the last decade.

The record net income led to the decision to provide the special dividend, an idea for which former chair Dale Pearson had been an advocate.

“I want to thank the board because we pushed for this; Dale, you pushed for this for a lot of years, didn’t you?” said Gillespie. “We’ve got a lot of things going on. ... But we also know who makes us, and that’s the membership. So we wanted to make sure we gave back something to you ...”

Gillespie explained that one dividend per member — a little over \$30 apiece — would be distributed. They should see it reflected in their account by the end of March.

Addressing the closure of the Meridian Street branch, Auker said the property has been sold to a local business (Bollenbacher and Associates) but the CrossRoads ATM at the site will remain in operation. To compensate for the closure, the main branch is now open in the

lobby until 5 p.m. on weekdays and the drive-thru until 7 p.m. The drive-thru is also open until 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

Gillespie noted that all employees were retained following the closure of the Meridian Street branch.

Also at the annual meeting:

•Auker reported that the credit union received all 1s and 2s in its National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) review, which rates capital adequacy, asset quality, management, earnings, liquidity risk and sensitivity to market risk. It received a 2 overall, the second-highest rating available.

•John Hart was honored as he retired after 30 years of service on the credit union’s supervisory committee

•Margaret Ralph, Reda Theurer-Miller and Auker were re-elected to the board of directors.

•Auker reported that \$100 each was donated to 10 local not-for-profit organizations from money raised via employees paying \$1 to wear jeans to work on Fridays. In addition, sponsorships were provided to dozens of local organizations.

# Ardagh solar facility to launch in March

Ardagh Glass Packaging – North America is planning to bring a new renewable energy solar facility online in March.

The 13-megawatt solar facility is located in Madera, California, and will supply electricity to the Ardagh glass manufacturing facility in the city. VALTA Energy is building the facility and will handle its operation as well. “Ardagh’s solar field in Madera exemplifies our commitment to adding renewable electricity in the regions where we operate,” said Alex Winters, chief sustainability officer at Ardagh Glass Packaging. “I want to extend my gratitude to our project partners and especially to our dedicated Madera and Engineering teams for their commitment to completing this project safely.”

Ardagh operates glass manufacturing facilities in Dunkirk and Winchester.

## BSU appoints

Ball State University has named Nancy Abashian as its dean of university libraries.

Abashian currently serves as a senior director for public services at Binghamton University Libraries in New York. She will take over her new role on April 15.

“Dr. Abashian impressed us throughout the national search process with her commitment to fostering innovation, inclusion,

## Business roundup

and collaboration,” said BSU provost and executive vice president for academic affairs Anand R. Marri in a press release. “Her extensive experience in strategic planning, program development, and public services positions her to make a significant impact on our campus. I am also deeply grateful to Dr. Amy Petts for her outstanding service as interim dean of University Libraries, ensuring a seamless transition.”

## Site expanding

The expansion project at IU Health Saxony Hospital in Fishers is expected to be substantially complete this year.

The construction will double the existing size of the hospital and help expand services including cardiovascular, orthopedics, surgery and primary care. Planning on the \$300 million project began in 2018 with groundbreaking delayed until following the height of the coronavirus pandemic.

“We’ll add a pediatric emergency department, staffed 24/7 with Riley Children’s emergency

medicine physicians and nurses,” chief operating officer Soula Banich told Towne Post Network. “We’ll have peds specialists, so there will be the Riley IU Health name added on there. We’ll be doubling our imaging capabilities, and offsite we’ve recently opened our McCordsville clinic and Noblesville clinic. We’ll continue to stay on the market in Fishers to see where we need to grow.”

## Grants awarded

CVS Health Foundation last week announced \$4 million in grants as part of its Healthy Aging Initiative.

The grants include support for the Center for Better Aging in Chicago, Atlanta Regional Collaborative for Health Improvement, EngageWell Independent Provider Association in New York City and Palm Health Foundation in Boynton Beach, Florida.

“People over the age of 65 are enjoying longer, more active lives and make up the largest generation of older adults in U.S. history,” said Sheryl Burke, CVS senior vice president of corporate social responsibility and chief sustainability officer, in a press release. “We’re excited to work with each of these organizations that are making a significant impact by preparing and providing the health care and resources our communities

need for the generational shift of aging Americans.”

## Celebrating 50

LifeStream Services is celebrating 50 years of service this year.

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

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

It is also creating a keepsake cookbook of recipes from community members. To make a submission, go to [lifestreaminc.org/50threcipecollection](http://lifestreaminc.org/50threcipecollection).

For additional details about the plans for the year, visit [lifestreaminc.org/50th-anniversary-landing-card](http://lifestreaminc.org/50th-anniversary-landing-card).

## Drop off food

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

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

## Courses offered

Indiana Chamber of Commerce is offering various safety

training courses throughout the year.

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

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

For more information about the training courses and details about other offerings, visit [indianachamber.com](http://indianachamber.com).

## Training offered

ServSafe training will be available at John Jay Center for Learning in Portland.

The next session is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Additional sessions are scheduled for March 25 and April 29.

The certification course is open to all food service employees and emphasizes safe food- and beverage-handling practices to minimize the risk of food-borne illnesses.

For more information, or to register, call (260) 729-5525.

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**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane

"You didn't get the fly, but that raisin will never walk again."

**Contract Bridge** By Steve Becker

**The bread-and-butter hands**

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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

**EAST**  
 ♠ Q J 6 5  
 ♥ Q 7  
 ♦ 10 8 2  
 ♣ A 7 6 3

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

The bidding:  
 East South West North  
 Pass 1♣ Pass 1NT  
 Pass 4♣

Opening lead — king of clubs.

Over the long haul, the successful bridge player scores most of his points on the so-called bread-and-butter hands. He does nothing extraordinary or brilliant in these hands; he just does things the way they ought to be done.

As a case in point, examine this deal where South went down in four spades. West led the king of clubs and continued with the ten, ruffed by declarer. South played the A-K of trump, and after East

showed up with the Q-J-6-5, had to lose two trump tricks and a heart to go down one.

One could argue that South was the victim of bad luck, but the fact is that he himself was responsible for the outcome. He did not play the hand as it should have been played.

After ruffing the club at trick two and playing the ace of trump, South should have led a low diamond to the jack and returned a trump from dummy. In the actual case, this line of play would have brought home the contract.

If East follows low on the second trump lead, South makes the safety play of the eight, guaranteeing only one trump loser whether West follows suit or not.

If East plays the jack or queen on the trump lead from dummy, declarer wins with the king, returns the ten to East's remaining honor and likewise ensures only one trump loser. All told, the defenders get no more than a spade, a heart and a club.

It is true that the suggested method of play would not succeed if West held the Q-J-x-x of trump. In that case, the effort to guard against a 4-1 trump break would, unfortunately, turn out to be a futile exercise in good technique.

Tomorrow: The sure way.  
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**Peanuts**

SUPPERTIME!

WELL?

HOW COME YOU DON'T DANCE WITH JOY ANY MORE WHEN I BRING OUT YOUR SUPPER?

DON'T FORCE YOURSELF!

**Rose is Rose**

WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO IN SUCH A RUSH, PASQUALE?

I'M GOING TO READ A COMIC BOOK TO A SNOWMAN.

IS THAT MY NEW ISSUE OF RANGER RORY... AND THE SPACE URCHINS?

**Agnes**

OK... I'VE WRITTEN A LOVE SONG THAT'S SO POWERFUL IT WILL BOND COUPLES TO EACH OTHER INTO ETERNAL DEVOTION WITHIN MINUTES.

DON'T PLAY IT AROUND ME.

YOU DON'T WANT ETERNAL DEVOTION?

HECK NO! WHO HAS THAT KIND OF TIME?

HOW LONG SHOULD LOVE LAST?

MY MOM SAYS JUST UNTIL THE NEWS COMES ON. SHE HAS TO WORK IN THE MORNING.

**Hi and Lois**

WHAT'S WRONG?

I'VE BEEN REPLACED.

YOU'RE NO LONGER HEAD OF THE EASTERN SALES TEAM?!

I'M NO LONGER CAPTAIN OF THE BOWLING TEAM.

**Between Friends**

AT SOME POINT WE NEED TO PURGE OUR HOUSE OF THE LAST THIRTY YEARS OF "STUFF"...

-BUT I GUESS WE DON'T REALLY NEED TO WORRY ABOUT IT NOW...

WE CAN SAVE THAT JOB FOR OUR RETIREMENT WHEN WE HAVE MORE TIME

ANOTHER REASON TO KEEP WORKING

**Blondie**

BUMSTEAD, YOU'D BETTER HAVE ONE GREAT EXCUSE FOR MISSING THE OFFICE MEETING THIS MORNING

I SURE DO, BOSS

SEE? A FRESH BOX OF CHOCOLATE ECLAIRS

SMACK! I HAVE TO ADMIT, A FRESH BOX OF CHOCOLATE ECLAIRS IS ONE GREAT EXCUSE!

**Snuffy Smith**

WHAT'S THIS WE HEAR 'BOUT YA STARTIN' UP A TRIVIA NIGHT, PARSON?

YEP, EV'RY TUESDAY EVENIN' AT TH' PARSONAGE !!

AN' OF COURSE WE'LL STILL BE ANSWERIN' TH' BIGGER QUESTIONS AT OUR USUAL PLACE ON SUNDAYS !!

**Beetle Bailey**

I HAD SUCH A GOOD IDEA IN MY DREAM LAST NIGHT!

WHAT WAS IT?

HERE, I WROTE IT DOWN! YOU'LL SEE!

BAVILH SURF...  
 ON CRAB BOO BOO  
 WIFE LE BBBBRR  
 BREADSOFT CLOKS  
 CHOOCHOOL

**CRYPTOQUIP**

GD G XOBCT LB R UTJAER BP  
 KAQOURWC DRWT LB DRWT,  
 G QGEKL XLRPL FGLK "FKRJT,  
 KTJJB LKPT!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DELICIOUS BREAKFAST BUNS WHOSE CONSUMPTION HELPS YOU THINK OF THE PERFECT WORD: SYNONYM ROLLS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals T

**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

37 Bracelet site  
 1 Valley crowds  
 5 Unruly Dean's list stat  
 9 Dean's list stat  
 12 Pinnacle  
 13 Each  
 14 Science room  
 15 Show loyalty  
 17 Mentalist Geller  
 18 Green land  
 19 Critic Roger  
 21 Finished  
 24 Love god  
 25 Parli-mentarian  
 26 Raised children, say  
 30 Lucy of "Kill Bill"  
 31 Desert haven  
 32 Call — day  
 33 Native of Yerevan  
 35 Read quickly  
 36 Mast

**DOWN**

2 Suitable  
 3 Floral choice  
 4 Surpass  
 5 Bryn —  
 6 Mayberry boy  
 7 Automa- ton, for short  
 8 Orbs  
 9 Crafter's adhesive  
 10 Henry VIII's Catherine  
 11 Slightly  
 16 Josh  
 20 "— voyage!"  
 21 First lady of scat  
 22 Dark film genre  
 1 German article  
 23 Chicken  
 24 Actress Moran  
 26 Twosome  
 27 Botanist Gray  
 28 List- ending abbr.  
 29 "Great" dog  
 31 Jackie's Ari  
 34 Ecol. watch- dog  
 35 Stuck-up  
 37 Request  
 38 "Hey!"  
 39 Nest egg choices  
 40 "— 18" (Uris novel)  
 41 Optimist's credo  
 44 Mao — -tung  
 45 Celestial altar  
 46 Like Abner  
 47 Country music's Greenwood

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | U | M | P | D | A | H | S | C | U | T |   |
| H | A | I | R | C | A | R | E | W | A | R | E |
| D | E | C | I | P | H | E | R | E | R | D | E |
| D | A | L | E | A | R | B | O | D |   |   |   |
| C | U | K | E | S | M | D | I | V |   |   |   |
| S | T | E | S | S | O | I | R | E | E | S |   |
| T | A | T | S | K | I | T | S | B | E | T |   |
| H | O | S | I | E | R | Y | N | O | A | H |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| E | N | B | L | O | C | O | U | R |   |   |   |
| K | A | R | L | H | E | R | C | U | L | E |   |
| E | T | U | I | E | M | B | E | D | D | E |   |
| D | O | T | E | R | T | S | A | L | L | S |   |

Yesterday's answer 1-28

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School freshman Amelia Heath puts up a shot Saturday night against Kenzie Paxson of host Southern Wells during the Patriots' 52-34 victory. JCHS out-rebounded the Raiders as they picked up their ninth victory of the season.

## Bounced ...

Continued from page 8  
"That's such a key in girls basketball and it's such a key for Raylah Newton to be playing with confidence," said McIntire. "She's been shooting the ball extremely well at practice ...

"That was a big key for us ... her hitting that three. It gave us a little breathing room there."

Jay County never trailed, scoring the game's first five points and forcing nine first-quarter turnovers to spark some easy offense en route to a 13-5 lead. All but two of their first-half hoops were assisted as they shared the ball, leading to six players contributing five or more points.

Reaching double figures along with Newton were Hallie Schwieterman with 11 and Natalie Carreno with 10. Elizabeth Brunswick had eight to go along with her team highs of nine rebounds and five assists, and Alexis Sibray and Gabi Petro each notched five.

"That's showing the character of our kids," said McIntire. "We're sharing the basketball and looking for that open person. That's what we need to do."

While Needler shared the team-high scoring total of 10 points for the Raiders, that came in under her 13.5 average and with far less efficiency. A

| Box score   |               |               |            |
|---|---------------|---------------|------------|
| <b>Southern Wells Patriots at Southern Wells Raiders</b>  |               |               |            |
| <b>Girls varsity summary</b>  |               |               |            |
| <b>Jay County (9-11, 3-2 ACAC)</b>  |               |               |            |
|   | <b>FG-FGA</b> | <b>FT-FTA</b> | <b>PTS</b> |
| Sibray  | 2-7           | 0-0           | 5          |
| Newton  | 5-8           | 1-2           | 13         |
| Schwieterman  | 5-15          | 0-2           | 11         |
| Carreno   | 5-7           | 0-0           | 10         |
| Petro   | 2-3           | 0-0           | 5          |
| Brunswick   | 4-9           | 0-0           | 8          |
| May   | 0-1           | 0-0           | 0          |
| Heath   | 0-2           | 0-0           | 0          |
| <b>Totals</b>   | <b>23-52</b>  | <b>1-4</b>    | <b>52</b>  |
|   | <b>.442</b>   | <b>.250</b>   |            |
| <b>Def. rebound percentage: .610</b>  |               |               |            |
| <b>Southern Wells (15-6, 3-3 ACAC)</b>  |               |               |            |
|   | <b>FG-FGA</b> | <b>FT-FTA</b> | <b>PTS</b> |
| Beavans   | 3-14          | 2-2           | 10         |
| Coffel  | 0-2           | 0-0           | 0          |
| Davis   | 4-12          | 0-0           | 8          |
| Meyer   | 1-1           | 0-0           | 2          |
| Paxson  | 2-3           | 0-0           | 4          |
| Ripperger   | 0-2           | 0-2           | 0          |
| Thomas  | 0-2           | 0-0           | 0          |
| Needler   | 3-15          | 4-10          | 10         |
| <b>Totals</b>   | <b>13-51</b>  | <b>6-14</b>   | <b>34</b>  |
|   | <b>.255</b>   | <b>.429</b>   |            |
| <b>Def. rebound percentage: .625</b>  |               |               |            |
| <b>Score by quarters:</b>   |               |               |            |
| <b>Jay Co.</b>  | <b>13</b>     | <b>15</b>     | <b>11</b>  |
| <b>S. Wells</b>   | <b>5</b>      | <b>11</b>     | <b>11</b>  |
|   | <b>7</b>      | <b>—</b>      | <b>34</b>  |
| <b>3-point shooting:</b> Jay County 5-18 (Newton 2-5, Petro 1-2, Sibray 1-4, Schwieterman 1-5, Carreno 0-1, May 0-1). Southern Wells 2-15 (Beavans 2-8, Davis 0-3, Coffel 0-1, Ripperger 0-1, Thomas 0-1, Needler 0-1).         |               |               |            |
| <b>Rebounds:</b> Jay County 37 (Brunswick 9, Carreno 7, Schwieterman 6, Sibray 5, Newton 3, Petro 3, Heath 2, May, team). Southern Wells 36 (Needler 17, team 5, Davis 3, Meyer 3, Beavans 2, Coffel 2, Paxson 2, Ripperger 2). |               |               |            |
| <b>Assists:</b> Jay County 13 (Brunswick 5, Schwieterman 3, May 2, Sibray 2, Newton). Southern Wells 4 (Beavans, Coffel, Paxson, Needler).  |               |               |            |
| <b>Blocks:</b> Jay County 6 (Carreno 3, Schwieterman 2, Brunswick). Southern Wells 2 (Paxson, Needler).   |               |               |            |
| <b>Personal fouls:</b> Southern Wells 14 (Sibray 3, Petro 3, Newton 2, Carreno 2, Brunswick 2, Schwieterman, May). Southern Wells 9 (Needler 4, Beavans 2, Davis, Meyer, Ripperger).  |               |               |            |
| <b>Turnovers:</b> Jay County 16. Southern Wells 16.   |               |               |            |

51% shooter from the field this season, Jay County limited her to 3-of-15 (20%). Carreno was a big part of the success defensively as she came off the bench and had the assignment against Needler in the second half.

"We just shut her down," said the senior, adding that her job was essentially not to get sealed off in the post. "It was hard. She was a really good player, but I just had to get around her and be straight up, be strong." And despite Needler's 17

rebounds, the Patriots were able to post a 37-36 advantage on the glass. Carreno followed Brunswick with seven boards, Schwieterman pulled in six and Sibray grabbed five.

The win put the Patriots in position to claim third place in the conference as both teams entered with two ACAC losses to trail Class 2A No. 7 Bluffton and Woodlan. JCHS can lock up the No. 3 spot with a win at home Tuesday over Heritage (1-17, 0-5 ACAC).

## Third ...

Continued from page 8

"I just fought off my back and had enough stamina," Ruble said. "It's very big. Before the match they told me, 'Whatever you do, don't get pinned.' So that just kept my mind focused on not getting pinned and doing what's best for my team."

Moorseville got six points back in the 125 weight class before the Patriots reeled off four straight pins from Manor (1:47), Lingo (3:11), Maleah Parsons (23-16, 1:33) and Gage (1:45) to go up 35-24.

A pin by No. 15 Allie Silcox (29-12) in the 170 match pulled MHS within five points, and with a forfeit for each team - Jay County giving up the 100 and the Pioneers surrendering the 190 - the match fell on the shoulders of Crawford.

The freshman and No. 9 Brylee Blackwell (29-13) didn't get much going in the first period and the Pioneer chose to start the second on top. Crawford got the reversal just nine seconds in and 20 seconds later started to run a near fall. The fifth-ranked wrestler's efforts resulted in a pin at the 1:10 mark to secure the win for the team.

Jay County had little trouble rolling through Lafayette Jefferson, getting points from the following wrestlers:

- Rowles in the 100 weight class with a 15-2 major decision
- Willis in the 110 with a 24-9 technical fall (2:38)
- Ruble in the 120 with a pin (0:16)
- Reagan VanSkyock (10-12) in the 130 with a forfeit
- Manor in the 135 with a pin (0:19)
- Lingo in the 140 with a pin (2:17)
- Parsons in the 145 with a forfeit
- Gage in the 155 with a pin (4:54)
- Haley Ridenour (6-4) in the 170 with a pin (0:36)
- Winner in the 190 with a pin (0:35)
- Crawford in the 235 with a forfeit

Jay County couldn't generate the points needed to move on to the championship dual, as they fell to the eventual state champions Merrillville. Rowles, Ruble, Gage, Winner, and Crawford combined for 30 points with the first three coming via pin. A key point to the loss was the Patriots inability to avoid getting pinned, as six of the seven losses came via fall.

## Roundup ...

Continued from page 8  
Kennedy Muhlenkamp led all scorers as she poured in seven buckets and five free throws, totaling 19 points. Karlie Niekamp followed right behind, as she scored eight of her 15 points in the first quarter.

Bridget Homan had a strong third period for Fort Recovery (9-9) to help the sophomore finish with eight points.

Presley Cox finished with 12 points for the Jets (3-12), but only got 12 points of support from her teammates.

### First for Kaup

The Fort Recovery boys and girls swim teams set a new school record and had a Midwest Athletic Conference champion Saturday as the teams finished sixth and fifth, respectively, at the 2025 Cav Invite held at Jay County.

The girls racked up 51 points to finish fifth, while Versailles dominated the field with 144. The two boys managed to get 25 points, avoiding last place, which went to St. Henry with 13. New Bremen won the boys' side with 136 points.

Joelle Kaup had the

top finish, claiming first in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1 minute, 5.22 seconds. Kaup beat out Erin Fredrick of Versailles by 6.38 seconds.

While Caleb Smith's time of 1:09.54 didn't win him the 100 breaststroke, it set a new record for the Indians. He also had the highest finish for the boys, placing second in the 50 freestyle.

The Indians also took second in the 400 freestyle relay, as Kaup, Liza Knapke, Aubrey Shuttlesworth and Livy Timmerman combined to swim a 4:27.72.

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
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.

**Wednesday**  
Jay County — Girls basketball at Norwell (varsity only) - 6 p.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
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)

**Wednesday**  
1 p.m. — College football: Reese's Senior Bowl practice (ESPN2)  
7 p.m. — NBA: Detroit Pistons at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)

7 p.m. — College basketball: Wisconsin at Maryland (BTN); TCU at Texas Tech (ESPN2)  
7 p.m. — NHL: Philadelphia Flyers at New Jersey Devils (TNT)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Denver Nuggets at New York Knicks (ESPN)  
8 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at New Orleans Pelicans (ABC)  
8 p.m. — College basketball: Xavier

at Creighton (FS1)  
9 p.m. — College basketball: Texas at Ole Miss (ESPN); Rutgers at Northwestern (BTN)  
9:30 p.m. — MHL: Pittsburgh Penguins at Utah Hockey Club (TNT)  
10 p.m. — NBA: Oklahoma City Thunder at Golden State Warriors (ESPN)  
10 p.m. — College basketball: UNLV at Utah State (FS1)

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|---|---|---|---|---|

**Jay girls basketball beat Southern Wells handily, see story below**

**FRHS boys basketball has rematch with Marion Local, see Sports on tap**

# Sports

## First time, third place

*Jay girls wrestling claimed third at the inaugural team state duals*

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review

FISHERS — The Patriots were looking to make history.

They rolled through the first round without much trouble.

A freshman secured a big victory as part of a 12-points swing that shifted the momentum in the Patriots' favor.

They ran into a buzzsaw in the semifinal as they also suffered from an emotional hangover from the prior big victory.

But in their final match of the day, a plethora of athletes came together, playing their parts to secure some hardware.

The No. 4 Jay County High School girls wrestling team fell short of a spot in the championship match at the inaugural IHSGWCA Girls Team State Duals on Saturday, but bounced back to beat No. 2 Franklin Community 45-27 to claim third place.

The Patriots (12-1) opened up the day with a 63-18 domination of Lafayette Jefferson before upsetting No. 3 Mooresville 47-36. After the emotion-filled victory, Jay County fell to the hands of No. 8 Merrillville 53-30, leading to the 18-point win against the Grizzly Cubs.

Merrillville went on to win the title 47-34 against No. 1 Franklin Central. Unlike in the boys wrestling, the girls tournament was a single-class event, meaning the placements are representative of their spots in the entire state.

"Being a single-class team state and finishing third, you're finishing third in the entire state, so it's pretty awesome," said JCHS coach Eric Myers. "I think for our program, it's pretty cool that we had girls represented in the first girls individual state championship in 2017 and we were able to qualify and participate in the



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School's Reagan VanSkyock hits No. 4 Maddison Whitted of Mooresville with a single-leg takedown late in the first period of the 130-pound match at the IHSGWCA Girls Team State Duals on Saturday at Fishers. The Patriots beat MHS 47-30 to claim a top-four spot.

first team state championship this year. It says a lot about the Jay County program and our girls program to be here for both beginnings."

The Patriots got support in a bunch of different places to claim the third-place dual with FHS. They first got on the board when Alison Tipton (13-16) got thrust into the 120-pound contest at the last second. The sophomore got

up early on Alayna Dale (15-14) with a single leg takedown and two 4-point near falls in the first period. Tipton chose to start neutral in the second period, and circled around Dale for a takedown after 35 seconds but started to run out of steam, allowing a reversal.

After an injury timeout and a pep talk from her coaches, Tipton went back out and held on for a 15-8 decision.

"To be honest, it was (assistant coach) Troy (Jacks)," Tipton said. "He told me to suck it up and just keep going and he really helped me through that."

Brenna Ruble (38-10) followed with a pin of Haylee Maxey (1-11) in 35 seconds before Franklin pulled ahead 12-9 with its own pin. JCHS grabbed a 9-point advantage after Emily Manor (32-9) pinned Samantha Carrico (19-

17) after 1 minute, 22 seconds, of the 135 contest and Lina Lingo getting a forfeit in the 140.

A pair of Franklin's individual state placers pulled them back to even, but No. 5 Lily Bridges (37-5) only managed to beat Madison Gage (23-16) in a 1-0 decision with an escape.

No. 1 Mallory Winner (41-0) reclaimed the lead after dragging Rachel Mills (4-8) back into the circle to pin her in 24 seconds.

Another state-medalist gave Franklin six more points, but the Patriots finished the dual with wins via fall from No. 5 Amara Crawford (39-5) and No. 11 Tatiana Willis (30-10) and a forfeit for No. 5 Katie Rowles (37-7) in the 100 weight class.

"I know it means a lot to us," said Willis, who is one of the four seniors that ended their career on a high note. "I know we had some losses today and we're all taking those pretty hard, but we're proud of the ones that we've won and happy to get third."

To even get hardware, Jay County had to upset the Pioneers. JCHS opened with a 23-6 technical fall by Rowles in the 105 match against Miia Williams (26-14).

The dual looked as if it was starting to turn south for the Patriots as Mooresville rattled off three consecutive pins.

Ruble was on pace to make it a fourth straight pin as Peyton Nedelsky (20-16) as the junior had the Patriot nearly on her back in the second period. Ruble executed a risky roll to get a reversal to stay alive and send the contest to the third. Nedelsky attempted a double-leg takedown, but Ruble countered it for a takedown and pinned her at 1:03 to complete a 12-point swing and get the momentum on Jay County's side.

See **Third** page 7

## Jay bounces back against the Raiders

By **RAY COONEY**

The Commercial Review

PONETO — The Patriots recorded assists on 10 of their 12 made baskets in the first half.

They made offense difficult for Southern Wells' leading scorer Ashlie Needler.

They even earned a slight edge on the glass, an area that has typically been a weakness.

Jay County High School's girls basketball team turned in a strong bounce-back effort Saturday night to beat the host Raiders 52-34 ahead of Sunday's sectional tournament draw.

"Our kids gritted it out," said JCHS coach Sherri McIntire, whose team was coming off of losses to Bluffton and Delta. (Those teams have a combined record of 33-6.) "They made a run at us in the second half and we held on and stood our ground and then went on a little run ourselves. I was just pleased with the maturity that we were able to do that and have so many people contribute to that."

The Patriots (9-11, 3-2 Allen County Athletic Conference) locked down the win late in the third quarter after seeing

a 14-point halftime lead dwindle to just five as Southern Wells (15-6, 3-3 ACAC) put together a 9-0 run. Following a Raider timeout, Jay County narrowly avoided a turnover and Natalie May was able to get the ball to Raylah Newton in the right corner. The junior buried a 3-pointer to start a 7-0 spurt to end the period that put them back in control.

"On that possession we actually had a steal and then dropped it and they picked it up and hit a corner three," said Southern Wells coach Kyle Penrod. "And that was just crushing. Because if we get a score going the other way it's a big difference."

The lead stayed at nine points or more the rest of the way and JCHS finished with an 11-2 stretch for the 18-point win.

Newton's key triple was part of a game-high 13-point scoring effort, marking the second time in three games that she has led the Patriots in points.

"I definitely have (been playing with more confidence)," said Newton. "I think it's just my coaches and teammates that have faith in me and believe in what I can do."

See **Bounced** page 7

## JCHS draws the bye

The Patriots got an opening-round bye.

They know all too well how tough their semifinal opponent is likely to be.

Jay County High School's girls basketball team came away with a bye in the IHSAA tournament draw held Sunday and will likely have a rematch against Delta in the semifinal round of the Class 3A Sectional 24 tournament at Connersville.

The opening round of Sectional 24 will feature Yorktown (13-6) against New Castle at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, with Delta (14-5) and Hamilton Heights (9-15) to follow. Jay County (9-11) will get the winner of the second game in the semifinal round at approximately 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, after Connersville (14-7) plays the Yorktown/New Castle winner at 6 p.m.

The championship game

### Local roundup

is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8.

The Patriots have split their four games with sectional opponents this season, including a 64-33 loss Thursday to Delta. Their other loss came to Yorktown while it defeated Hamilton Heights and New Castle.

JCHS won its last sectional championship in 2006.

### Streak snapped

FORT RECOVERY — The Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team snapped a nine-game losing streak with a 57-32 victory over the Mississi-

nawa Valley Blackhawks on Saturday.

The Indians (4-12) dominated MVHS (5-9) from behind the 3-point arc in the second quarter, draining six threes en route to 22 points. The Blackhawks managed three triples of their own, but only totalled 13 points.

Briggs Overman led the way with 23 points scored in the game, all of which came in the first three periods. Colson Post and Breaker Jutte followed with 11 and 10, respectively.

The last FRHS win came just shy of one month prior, when it beat South Adams on Dec. 27.

### Seniors power

ARCANUM, Ohio — The two seniors led Fort Recovery's girls basketball team to a 51-24 domination of the Franklin Monroe Jets on Saturday.

See **Roundup** page 7

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