

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Kimball to leave county role

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Jay County's community coordinator has resigned.

Nate Kimball, who has held the position since summer 2023, submitted his resignation in late November.

His resignation had not been announced publicly. The Commercial Review learned this week about his impending departure, which he and Jay County County Commissioners president Chad Aker subsequently confirmed.

Kimball serves as assistant director of regional economic development and planning at East Central Indiana Regional Planning District (ECIRP), which contracts with the county for Kimball's role as community coordinator and other projects. His last day is slated for Feb. 28.

### Coordinator's resignation is effective at the end of February

Aker confirmed that ECIRP has been looking into a replacement for Kimball and indicated the group will likely hire a person who lives in Jay County. He said Friday he couldn't disclose the candidate's name yet.

"They've chosen this particular person that's going to fit in really well with them, and that person will be trained by Nate and taking over for him, and will be here full-time," Aker said. "It is someone local that is

respected around here and is fairly known," he added.

The Commercial Review attempted to call ECIRP officials on Friday afternoon but was unable to make contact before press time.

Kimball will be transitioning into a role with his family's business, Ashton Land Surveyors of Muncie. He volunteered with the company during his time in college. "It's a family business, I don't

want that 50 years of hard work that my grandfather has put in to be for nothing in the long run when this is a business that is thriving and just needs somebody to step in and help out," said Kimball.

He's currently pursuing surveyor classes online at Vincennes University. In order to become certified, he'll need to complete his associate's degree in surveyor work — he already has a bachelor's degree in marketing — and train under a licensed surveyor for about five years. Kimball noted his job will likely consist of various work while he trains, including drafting, field work, research and other surveyor duties.

"Anywhere and everywhere that a surveyor might touch, I'm going to be in just so I can learn

the business and also learn the feel," he said.

Jay County Commissioners approved a two-year contract with ECIRP in August 2023. Kimball has been working for the county through ECIRP since then, attending local municipality government meetings and connecting officials to grant opportunities for their communities.

Most of his energy has been devoted to Jay County's owner-occupied rehabilitation program, a \$1 million effort toward repairing homes with new roofs, heaters or other necessities. The program is funded through American Rescue Plan Act dollars and a grant from Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. See **Kimball** page 2

## Ag Week breakfast is set for March 18

*There will be no charge, with donations accepted*

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

Don't make breakfast plans for the third Tuesday in March.

Local farmers have it covered.

The Jay County Ag Week Committee announced Thursday that it will host the Jay County Farmers Breakfast on Tuesday, March 18, in the Bob Schmit Memorial Exhibition Hall at Jay County Fairgrounds.

The breakfast is held as part of celebrating National Ag Week.

"The Farmers Breakfast is more than just a meal," said committee member Mark Tillman. "It's a chance to celebrate our agricultural heritage, honor the dedication of local farmers, and bring the community together in a meaningful way."

Breakfast, which will be served from 5 to 9 a.m., will include scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, toast and various beverages.

The bacon is a new offering this year at the urging and with the assistance of the county's pork producers. Two pigs will be donated, with Fisher Packing making the sausage and some bacon. And Indiana Pork Producers will provide additional bacon.

Another change from the traditional format is that there will be no charge for the breakfast. (Previously, the fee had been \$1.) Instead, free-will donations will be accepted.

Tillman said it had become difficult to sell tickets in advance and was generally more of a hassle than it was worth.

"If someone wants to pay, they can," said Tillman. "If they don't, they can have a free breakfast."

The event is open to the public.

Tillman also said the committee is working on planning a dinner for June. (A dinner had traditionally been held during ag week, but was canceled in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic and has not returned since then.)

## Sharing 600

Jay County High School boys basketball coach Jerry Bomholt shares a moment with his wife Dede before Friday night's game against the Bluffton Tigers. Bomholt was presented with a ball commemorating his 600th career win and honored with a standing ovation. He earned win No. 600 on Jan. 14 against South Adams in the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament. Friday's game was the first at home for the Patriots since then. For more on the game, see page 10.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Training with Tre

Sergeant Tre Nusbaumer (right) acts out a scenario Thursday with deputies Cory Locke and Steven Lothridge during Crisis Intervention Team training at Jay County Sheriff's Office in Portland. Responders from area departments gathered last week for the training intended for developing CIT teams to "help Hoosier communities improve their response when citizens experience a mental health crisis," according to CIT Indiana's website.

## Rokita faces more disciplinary charges

*AG accused of making false statements, dishonest behavior*

By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission filed a new round of charges Friday against Attorney General Todd Rokita — this time surrounding his defiant response to a prior reprimand.

In a sworn affidavit, Rokita accepted responsibility for misconduct in exchange for a public reprimand last year. In its new

complaint, the commission found that Rokita almost immediately released a statement contradicting his admission.

"This retraction of acceptance of responsibility demonstrates that the respondent was not candid with the court when he attested that he admitted he had violated Indiana Professional Conduct Rules," Adrienne Meiring, executive director of the disciplinary commission, wrote in the complaint.

Rokita now faces new charges for making false statements to the Supreme Court in the conditional agreement and affidavit; engaging in dishonest behavior and misrepresenting to the Supreme Court that he accepted responsibility for his misconduct; and violating a third rule for issuing a press release that contradicted his agreement.

See **Disciplinary** page 2

### Deaths

**Richard Rogers**, 90, Portland  
**Darlene Story**, 81, rural Bluffton  
**Larry Best**, 66, Dunkirk  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 53 degrees Friday.  
Mostly sunny skies are expected today with a high of 36. Highs Sunday and Monday are expected to be in the 50s. Lows will be in the 30s.  
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Jay County Public Library will offer card-making take and makes for teens and adults on Monday. Completed cards need to be returned to the library, 315 N. Ship St., by Wednesday, Feb. 12.

### Coming up

**Tuesday** — Results from the wrestling sectional at Jay County.  
**Wednesday** — Coverage of next week's Portland City Council meeting.  
**Thursday** — Details from Tuesday's Jay County Development Corporation meeting.



# Obituaries

## Richard Rogers

Aug. 12, 1934-Jan. 30, 2025  
Richard "Dick" Rogers, age 90, a resident of Portland, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025, at his home in Portland.  
Dick was born Aug. 12, 1934, in Montpelier, Indiana, the son of Paul and Minnie (Malott) Rogers. He graduated from Gov. I.P. Gray School and served in the Army National Guard and U.S. Army. Dick worked for Sheller Globe as a maintenance supervisor and owned and oper-

ated Rogers Sales and Service in Portland.  
Dick served at Sexton of Green Park Cemetery in Portland. He was a member of Trinity Arch Bridge Church in Portland and Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Association.  
Dick married Marilyn Kay Manor on Dec. 1, 1956.  
Survivors include:  
His wife of 68 years — Mari-



Rogers

lyn Kay Rogers, Portland, Indiana  
His children — Dave Rogers (wife: Kathy), Portland, Indiana, Teresa Bailey, Portland, Indiana, Christa Wall (husband: Jack), Portland, Indiana  
Six grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild  
He was preceded in death by his siblings, Clyde "Bus" Rogers, Mae Pursley, Barbara Garretson and Jessie Welch.  
Visitation will be held on Monday from noon to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod

Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. on Monday at the funeral home. Pastor Hugh Kelly will officiate and burial will follow at Green Park Cemetery in Portland.  
Memorials may be directed towards Stillwater Hospice or Trinity Arch Bridge Church.  
Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.com.  
**E. Darlene Story**, Feb. 24, 1943-Jan. 30, 2025. Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Walker & Glancy

Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.  
**Larry D. Best Sr.**, Feb. 2, 1958-Jan. 29, 2025. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.  
.....  
*The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.*

## CR almanac

Sunday 2/2	Monday 2/3	Tuesday 2/4	Wednesday 2/5	Thursday 2/6
<b>50/40</b>	<b>58/32</b>	<b>40/30</b>	<b>43/40</b>	<b>46/24</b>
Cloudy on Sunday. The temperature may jump to the 50s.	Monday's forecast shows mostly cloudy skies with a balmy high of 58.	Mostly sunny on Tuesday when the high will be in the 40s.	There's a 60% chance of rain under mostly cloudy skies on Wednesday.	Thursday has a 70% chance of rain with a slight chance of thunderstorms.

## Lotteries

<b>Hoosier</b> Midday Daily Three: 4-2-8 Daily Four: 5-5-3-0 Quick Draw: 6-11-13-21-26-36-41-42-45-49-50-57-61-63-64-70-72-75-76-80	Pick 3: 6-3-6 Pick 4: 5-8-8-8 Pick 5: 5-7-0-5-8
<b>Ohio</b> Midday	<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$89 million
	<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$59 million

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.79 March corn .....4.84 April corn .....4.91	March beans .....10.42 Wheat .....5.10
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.86 March corn .....4.90 April corn .....5.01	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.78 March corn.....4.74 Beans .....10.17 March beans .....10.22 Wheat .....5.29
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.79 March corn .....4.79 Beans .....10.37	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.74 March corn.....4.74 Beans .....10.17 March beans .....10.22 Wheat .....5.24

## Today in history

In 1790, the U.S. Supreme Court first assembled in New York City. Chief Justice John Jay, for whom Jay County is named, postponed the court's first session because some of the justices were unable to reach New York because of travel issues.  
In 1859, cellist and composer Victor Herbert was born in Dublin, Ireland. His best known work is the comic operetta "Babes in Toyland," which was inspired by Frank L. Baum's book "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz."  
In 1884, the first 10 volumes of the Oxford English Dictionary were published.  
In 1902, writer and poet Langston Hughes was born in Joplin, Missouri. He was known for his poems, stories and other writings about Black American Life. His most famous works include "The Weary Blues" and "The Big Sea."  
In 2004, Kurtis Hess won the 135-pound title in the sectional wrestling tournament at Jay County. He defeated Andy Myers of Adams Central, rolling out to an 8-3 lead in the first period and pinning him in the second.  
In 2022, the Class 3A No. 6 Jay County High School girls basketball team lost 36-33 in overtime to eighth-ranked Hamilton Heights in the opening round of the Class 3A Sectional 24 tournament at Yorktown. —The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Monday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.	house Community Center.
<b>Tuesday</b> 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, School-	<b>Wednesday</b> 5 p.m. — Jay County Redevelopment Commission, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. <b>Thursday</b> 4 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners special session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.

# Disciplinary ...

Continued from page 1  
"The lawfare continues and is aimed at silencing me because they don't like what I say on behalf of Hoosiers who spoke loudly at the ballot box recently. This is an attempt to take away their voices as well," Rokita said in a Friday statement.  
"These never ending investigations have created unnecessary distractions and expenses, and despite my offer to take responsibility well over a year ago, this matter continues to be revisited by politically passionate people who have weaponized the process, going well beyond what is fair and appropriate," he continued.  
The underlying case stemmed from Rokita's televised comments about Indianapolis doctor Caitlin Bernard, who oversaw a medication abortion for a 10-year-old rape victim from Ohio in 2022.  
Rokita was ultimately reprimanded late last year. Bernard, an OBGYN, was also disciplined before the Medical Licensing Board for discussing the procedure publicly.

Two hours after the high court handed down the reprimand, Rokita issued a public press release in which he maintained that his statements about Bernard had been "truthful." He said he agreed to the reprimand to bring the case to a conclusion in order to save taxpayers money.  
Grievances filed soon after by an Indiana doctor and attorney — questioning whether Rokita was sincere and contrite when he entered into the conditional agreement — resulted in the disciplinary commission opening a second investigation.  
Central to the disciplinary commission's complaint is Rokita's sworn conditional agreement regarding his discipline, and a subsequent press release issued by the attorney general.  
In a 2022 interview with Fox News commentator Jesse Watters, Rokita called Bernard an "activist acting as a doctor" and said his office would be investigating her conduct.  
That November, a split-decision and public reprimand from state Supreme Court justices found that

he had violated two of the Rules of Professional Conduct for lawyers:  
•They said Rokita's comments constituted an "extrajudicial statement" that he knew — or reasonably should have known — would be publicly disseminated and would prejudice related legal proceedings.  
•They also said his statements had "no substantial purpose" other than to embarrass or burden Dr. Caitlin Bernard.  
Rokita and the commission agreed to the discipline in the conditional agreement. In a sworn affidavit, Rokita admitted to the two violations and acknowledged he couldn't have defended himself successfully on the charges if the matter were tried.  
The parties disputed over a third charge — engaging in conduct "that is prejudicial to the administration of justice" — which the commission agreed to dismiss in exchange for "admission to misconduct" on the others.  
Rokita's punishment included a public reprimand and \$250 in court costs.

# Kimball ...

Continued from page 1  
Kimball plans to help his replacement take over the owner-occupied rehabilitation program.  
"My main priority for this person is to have them be able to take over the OOR, allow them not to leave these people high and dry," he said. "It's a million-dollar program, and it needs to be able to get out the doors."  
Aker pointed to past tensions between commissioners and Jay County Development Corporation, which previously received funding from the county annually and employed a director of community development — a similar role to Kimball's — before the role was cut after Christy Shauver resigned in 2022. JCDC and commissioners have been in contract negotiations for more than a year.  
He noted conversations with JCDC president Angela Paxson and shared his excitement about working with JCDC and ECIRP moving forward.  
"I think it's going to be good for Jay County," Aker said. "We feel that we can work together with (JCDC and ECIRP) and just be a benefit for the county and repair some of this dam-

age that's been done in the past couple years here, and I think we're ready to move past that at this point."  
Kimball also addressed strains between the county and JCDC over the last year and a half. The way Jay County residents have treated him despite tensions, he said, impressed him.  
"I think it's no secret that people have been butting heads and things like that, but I will say I've been highly impressed by the people of Jay County, especially those who may not have been overly thrilled that ECI was in the county for their own reasons," he said. "No one has, at least to my face, no one has spoken down to me or poorly of me, and I find that very, I guess, reassuring, that people in Jay County still wanted to be kind and be respectful, they just respectfully disagreed, and I thought that was very nice amidst the turmoil that has been occurring..."  
"I've very much enjoyed being able to take that away from this position, you know, people are still wanting to work toward at least common peace, and I think that's been very reassuring," he added.

## SERVICES

<b>Today</b> <b>Pottkotter</b> , Cyril: 10 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpburg Road, Fort Recovery. <b>Garringer</b> , Barbara: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
<b>Monday</b> <b>Story</b> , Darlene: 11 a.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier. <b>Stein</b> , Betty: noon, Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland. <b>Rogers</b> , Richard: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>Lochtefeld</b> , Dale: 5 p.m., The Gardens, 522 Western Ave., St. Henry, Ohio.
Service listings provided by <b>PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS</b> 120 N. Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201 progressiveofficeproducts.com

# Felony arrests

**Dissemination**  
A Muncie man was arrested Thursday for dissemination of matter that is harmful to minors.  
Bryan M. Vandevender, 41, 1820 E. 23rd St., is charged in Jay Superior Court with the Level 6 felony. He was being held on a \$6,000 bond in Jay County Jail.  
**Common nuisance**  
A Portland resident was arrested Thursday for maintaining a common nuisance.  
Jeffrey L. Shope, 44, 1212 N. Franklin St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance, a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.  
Shope was being held on a \$3,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

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# AUCTION

Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm ET

56.5 +/- Tillable  
4.05 +/- CRP  
1.02 +/- Non-Tillable

## 61.57 +/- total acres

**PROPERTY LOCATION:**  
5 miles southeast of Montpelier, IN at the intersection of 400 N and 700 E in Harrison Township, Blackford County.

Rick Johnloz: 260.827.8181 | Jason Johnloz: 260.273.9177

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Auctioneer: Russell D. Harmeier IN Auct. Lic. #AU1000277, HRES IN Auct. Lic. #AC69200019, Farm: Thomas L. Maddox and Ronald Maddox Trust

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# AUCTION

Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 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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Photo provided

## Five generations

Pictured are five generations of the Ronald, Mong, Smith and Wasson families. In the front are great great-grandmother Martha Sue Ronald holding Maizie Mae-Lynne Wasson. In the back row are mother Rosealynne Wasson, grandmother Amanda Smith and great-grandmother Evelyn Mong.

# Friend's financial woes never end

DEAR ABBY: A close friend — whom I've been urging for years to save for a rainy day — is now facing a very real storm. She was diagnosed with breast cancer and is undergoing treatment. Knowing her financial situation — living paycheck to paycheck despite her and her husband's high-paying jobs — I felt compelled to help by setting up a GoFundMe.

I have been managing updates on her journey, but the truth is, she has always been impulsive with money — spending bonus checks on gambling, cruises, fancy restaurants and vacations rather than building a safety net. Now, with this diagnosis, her past spending habits are coming back to haunt her. Many friends and family, knowing her history, are reluctant to donate. It's heartbreaking to see her struggle, but in spite of her illness, she still indulges in these expensive habits despite needing to save every penny. I've tried talking to her, but she's in a fragile state physically and emotionally. I feel conflicted. On one hand, I want to support her through this difficult time; on the other, I can't condone her continued spending.

I'm now planning to distance myself from the GoFundMe, because it feels dishonest to beg for donations for someone who won't prioritize her own financial recovery. What do you think, Abby? How do I balance my friendship with my moral compass? — SYMPATHIZING IN THE SOUTH

DEAR SYMPATHIZING: I think you should separate yourself from the GoFundMe project you started. As a good friend, you can continue supporting this woman emotionally, but you are not required to promote her getting money. If a recipient uses donated funds

Dear Abby



for a purpose other than what they are intended, it could be considered fraud.

DEAR ABBY: Our son, "Caleb," and his fiancée, "Lucy," are getting married next year. He is 26, and she is 24. Our last name is unusual and sounds like a dirty word when mispronounced, which it often is. After "a lot of thought," Caleb has decided to legally take Lucy's surname after their wedding. (She and her family are on board.) He was not asking his father's or my permission, but informing us of his plans.

Caleb is our only son. We also have a daughter. I support my son's decision, but his father does not. They no longer speak. My husband is also upset about future grandchildren carrying on a different family name. Abby, do you know of any men who have taken their wives' surnames? — WANTS PEACE IN THE FAMILY

DEAR WANTS PEACE: You may want peace, but it isn't up to you to solve this dilemma. Changing one's name for the reason your son stated may be unusual, but it isn't unheard of. Some couples decide to blend their names, as one former mayor of Los Angeles did. While your husband may be disappointed about the path your son has chosen, the decision is not his to make.

# FRHS names honor roll

Fort Recovery High School students were recently named to the school's first semester honor roll.

On the list with all A's were sophomores Kendall Buckland, Kenna Dues, Tyler Dues, Cadence Eber, Brady Evers, Carter Fortkamp, Ava Fullenkamp, Alexis Grisez, Russell Hart, Maddie Heitkamp, Makenna Huelskamp, Meredith Jones, Breaker Jutte, Grace Lochtefeld, Ian McCain, Cameron Muhlenkamp, Isaac Roessner, Madelyn Schoenlein, Amber Timmerman, Ivy Tobe, Jennifer Wendel, Brynn Willmann and Jase Wuebker.

Making the honor roll with all A's and B's were sophomores Brody Barga, Tyler Bertke, Deanna Brown, Alex Carreto, Aubree Heitkamp, Theresa Hipple, Jake Meyer, Catarina Moura, Emma Schmitz, Cara Shoemaker, Riley Stammen, Kiera Stump, Kaylor Wendel, James Westgerdes and Reed Westgerdes.

Earning a spot on the list with all A's were freshmen Joscie Bihn, Emily Boeckman, Alivia Brunswick, Makenzie Evers, Claire Gaerke, Malia Grisez, Paisley Hart, Henry Jutte, Elizabeth Kahlig, Cora Pearson, Kendall Ranly, Ally

Roesnner and Charlie Stammen.

Making the honor roll with A's and B's were freshmen Layla Armstrong, Brooke Bihn, Addison Brunswick, Kyra Brunswick, Riley DeRoo, Evan Diller, Jackson Dues, Haley Easton, Will Faller, Pete Guggenbiller, Madeline Hardwick, Lizzie Heitkamp, Tyler Kahlig, Courtney Klenke, Liza Knapke, Kinlee Kremer, Andy Niekamp, Madilyn Reinhard, Liana Schlarman, Hoyt Schmitz, Eliza Smith, Lilah Thien, Livy Timmerman, Madelyn Weigel and Jadyn Wyerick.

# 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.

ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each

month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

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

### Sunday

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

### Monday

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

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

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

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

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

Everyone is welcome.

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

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

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

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

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**WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?**

For Jay County Elementary Schools  
**February 3-7**

**Monday: Main Entrees:** Classic chicken sandwich **Alternate Entrees:** Cheesy italian pull apart, marinara sauce, cheddar BLT salad, croutons **Sides for all meals:** Smile potatoes

**Tuesday: Main Entrees:** Soft beef whole grain tacos **Alternate Entrees:** Cheesy italian pull apart, marinara sauce, cheddar BLT salad, croutons **Sides for all meals:** Southwest black beans

**Wednesday: Main Entrees:** Whole grain waffle, chicken sausage patty, syrup **Alternate Entrees:** Cheesy italian pull apart, marinara sauce, cheddar BLT salad, croutons **Sides for all meals:** Hash brown patty

**Thursday: Main Entrees:** Mashed potato & chicken bowl **Alternate Entrees:** Cheesy italian pull apart, marinara sauce, cheddar BLT salad, croutons **Sides for all meals:** Seasoned corn

**Friday: Main Entrees:** Classic pepperoni pizza **Alternate Entrees:** Chicken bacon ranch pizza, BBQ chicken pizza **Sides for all meals:** Seasoned peas and carrots

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# Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

### Friday's Solution

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

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

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# Pairing could end Electoral College

New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

A Republican congressman from Tennessee wants to amend the U.S. Constitution to allow Donald Trump to serve a third term. It's a bad amendment as written; the language Andy Ogles proposes reads "no person shall be elected to the office of the President more than three times, nor be elected to any additional term after being elected to two consecutive terms" — ridiculously allowing the current president to serve again while disallowing Bill Clinton or George W. Bush or Barack Obama from doing so.

But if this were done fairly, it just might make sense, provided it was paired with a far bigger, far more important idea: abolishing the Electoral College.

One can argue with a straight

## Guest Editorial

face that failing to allow voters to elect the president of their choice is an infringement on representative democracy. In one defensible worldview, giving voters the freedom to keep the man or woman they prefer at the tiller honors the will of the people more than imposing arbitrary term limits.

But there's no defensible worldview in which presidents should be chosen by a cockamamie system that gives small states disproportionate weight

and throws all votes in almost every state to whoever wins their plurality.

The Electoral College is so distorting, so bizarre, nobody on earth would come up with it if asked to design a fair way to choose a national leader. The least populous state in the union, Wyoming with a little more than half a million people, has three votes (two for two senators, one for one member of Congress) — as do other tiny states like Vermont, Alaska and the Dakotas. California, with nearly 40 million residents, has 54 electoral votes.

So a state with 66 times more people than another has just 18 times its electoral votes, which means Wyomingites' votes are nearly four times as powerful as Californians' in the race to rack up the magic number of 270.

We'd call it a funhouse mirror, but it's not funny at all.

It gets even worse when you add in the fact that winning California or Texas or Florida by even a single vote sways all of that state's 54, 40 or 30 votes into a candidate's column, essentially throwing away millions of ballots.

The smartest nearish-term fix to this abomination is for a critical mass of states to sign onto the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. States with 209 electoral votes have already signed onto the pledge, which commits to sending all Electoral College votes to whoever wins the most votes nationwide if and when states adding up to the threshold of 270 join in.

Individual states could also start following Maine and

Nebraska's lead and split up their electoral votes rather than doing winner-take-all. The problem with that, however, is that as long as most states remain winner-take-all, those that make the theoretically "fair" decision to apportion their electoral votes proportionately would be punching the dominant party in their own state in the face. That's what's called a collective action problem.

A constitutional amendment is a terrific idea. It's never going to happen because that would require the consent of many of the same states that get inordinate power from the lousy Electoral College. Maybe, just maybe, pairing it with permission for Trump to run again could do the trick. Call it a modest proposal.

## Embrace instinct for collective action

By SONALI KOLHATKAR  
OtherWords

When my multigenerational family of six evacuated our home this January, we wondered if the fires visible from our front porch would engulf our house as we fled.

Text reports of friends losing homes bombarded my phone as we settled into a cramped hotel room for the next three nights. Our home was just spared, but by the time I returned to a neighborhood covered in ash, more than two dozen families in my social network had become homeless overnight.

The devastating fires across Los Angeles claimed 28 lives and destroyed more than 10,000 homes. A significant portion of lost lives and homes were from my neighborhood of North Pasadena and Altadena, a low-to-middle income mixed-race neighborhood with a tight-knit community.

In the days after the fires, that community jumped into action.

Every other street corner sprouted in activity, gathering clothing, toys, non-perishable foods, water, baby formula, hygiene kits, and more. One donation hub stood two houses from a fire-destroyed home bearing a sign that said, "Altadena isn't just a city, we are a community!"

In North Pasadena, I met four young women who organized a similar donation hub on the front lawn of a relative's home. They'd all grown up in the neighborhood and weren't only coordinating donations of items and fundraising online, but also connecting people who needed housing with those who could provide it.

The Pasadena Community Job Center, a local organization connecting migrant workers and day laborers with employers, organized a massive cleanup drive in the form of "service brigades." A large cohort of young volunteers from the center hauled off fallen tree branches and broken fences from my neighborhood even as winds threatened to fuel new fires.

Small businesses also sprang into action. Independent bookstore Octavia's Bookshelf organized a "mutual aid" hub, and the Muslim grocery store EZ Halal partnered with neighboring Dym Books & Boba to lead a massive donation drive in their parking lot.

Online communities are also active. My local Buy Nothing group welcomed many new members and

Sonali Kolhatkar



acknowledged existing members who had lost homes. Members of the group — whose ethos is to share the wealth that already exists in our community — have rallied to support one another, offering air purifiers, N95 masks, furniture and more.

We may take such collective actions for granted in the wake of a disaster. After all, post-disaster unity is something humans exhibit routinely.

But consider this: a middle-class family loses their rented home in the fires, along with all their belongings, and the community rallies to support them. But if those same people were unable to pay rent because of an unexpected financial emergency, would their community spring up in the same manner?

Perhaps, but probably not. That's because we've normalized human suffering as an inevitable outcome of our economic system. We may recognize suffering during a disaster as an anomaly — but fail to see the slow-motion suffering that happens every day that way.

The truth is this: Poverty and climate change are both forms of violence. And they're both inevitable outcomes of an economic system designed to extract profits from people and the planet.

When disaster strikes, we have a strong human instinct to set aside profit, propriety and discrimination and simply help each other. In the absence of political manipulation and pro-billionaire propaganda, we tend to choose compassion — something I've personally seen on beautiful display in the wake of the Los Angeles fires.

It's this same instinct we need to rely on to transform an economic system that allows mass human suffering — whether from economic inequality or climate catastrophe — into one that upholds everyone's right to safety, security, and happiness.

.....  
Kolhatkar is the host of "Rising Up With Sonali," a television and radio show on Free Speech TV and Pacifica stations.

OtherWords is a free editorial service published by the Institute for Policy Studies.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ROUNDS UP WORK-AT-HOME GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND RETURN THEM BACK TO THE OFFICE...



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email: watterswork54@gmail.com

## Braun is back with old friends

By JOHN KRULL  
TheStatehouseFile.com

Perhaps the most important moment in Indiana Gov. Mike Braun's first State of the State address came at the beginning, before he even dove into his prepared text.

Braun looked around the chamber of the Indiana House of Representatives and said it was good to be back. He pointed to the spot where he sat as a first-year lawmaker 10 years ago.

It was a subtle reminder to the members of the Indiana General Assembly that Braun is the first Hoosier governor in more than 20 years to have experience as a state legislator.

His message was unmistakable. Braun was telling the assembled representatives and senators that, in his heart, he was one of them.

That's how he delivered the half-hour-long speech—as a kind of unquestioning soliloquy for those of like mind.

Braun said—several times—that he was eager to collaborate with anyone.

It was a claim undercut by his actions, the executive orders he had signed in the first days of his governorship. Collaboration depends upon consultation and negotiation, not top-down directives from an executive branch that is, according to the Indiana Constitution, supposed to execute rather than initiate policy changes.

In these early stages of his leadership of the state, Braun already has established himself as more of a divider than a unifier.

The state legislature's Black caucus skipped his speech to protest his executive order unilaterally ending state Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programs. The Black lawmakers instead held a rally to highlight their concerns.

They likely didn't make much headway.

Thanks to one of the most ruthless-

John Krull



ly gerrymandered district maps in America, Braun will deal with a state legislature that is about as likely to question one of his proposals as a dog is to pause before chowing down on red meat.

Certainly, the lawmakers weren't in a questioning mood while Braun spoke.

If they were, they would have asked, among other things, how the new governor was going to pay for the tax cuts for which he called.

He acknowledged, somewhat disingenuously, that his property tax relief plans would have an impact on local governments.

In truth, the impact would be severe. Braun would reduce the size of the state's budget by shifting the burden down to local communities, forcing elected officials in Indiana towns and cities to deal with what would amount to unfunded mandates from the state.

For that reason, even Republican mayors around Indiana have balked at endorsing Braun's plan. They know when someone's trying to stick them with the tab.

The overwhelmingly Republican legislators, though, applauded the idea because they like the idea of cutting taxes and letting someone else figure out how to pay for their folly.

Braun also vowed that he would crack down on illegal immigration.

Just where in the Indiana or U.S. Constitutions he found the authority for an Indiana governor to do this is not clear.

But, again, the GOP lawmakers were not of a mind to ask questions.

If they had been, they might have inquired why the governor felt the need to thunder that he would stop Indiana from being home to sanctuary cities for undocumented immigrants.

It's already illegal for any Indiana municipality to provide such a sanctuary.

Perhaps the legislators forgot they already passed such a law. Or maybe they think the rest of us are too stupid to read it.

The other parts of Braun's speech were the typical self-congratulatory bombast and boasting of a monied man who wants to run government like a business.

Businesses get to dispense with products, services or ideas that are too costly or don't bring in enough money.

Governments in a country such as ours don't get to—or at least aren't supposed to—write off citizens who are high-cost, low-yield, such as the elderly, the ill or the poor. In this land of liberty, everyone is supposed to have the same rights, even when protecting those rights becomes expensive.

Maybe Braun has the skills to address concerns about his proposals and the assumptions driving them.

But the fact is that he didn't even have to try.

As Braun pointed out at the start of his maiden State of the State speech, he was talking to a group of old friends, folks who think like he thinks and want what he wants.

Even if what he wants isn't entirely grounded in either law or reality.

.....  
Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism and Publisher of TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

# The Commercial Review

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JOHN C. "JACK" RONALD (1948-2022), Publisher Emeritus



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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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## 2-1 CRYPTOQUIP

JS KCMYNXUB NPAFQ CLFN  
XNCYZJY, NPBBJY YMQ BFNDJY,  
KJEUZ ZUFR DF XAYBBJSJFQ  
YB BAYL-FNFJEMB?

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** WHAT COULD YOU NAME A COMPANY THAT COMES TO PEOPLE'S HOUSES TO CLEAN THEM? "HOME SWEEP HOME."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals V

### CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to slow cooking. Each number corresponds to slow cooking. (Hint: 22 = E)

**A. 24 26 11 9 26 20**  
Clue: Not quickly

**B. 14 10 11 14 6**  
Clue: Ceramic vessel

**C. 15 18 17 10 22 23 15 22 18 16 24**  
Clue: Parts of a recipe

**D. 14 11 5 22 10 22 23**  
Clue: With the top on

Answers: A. Slowly B. crock C. Ingredients D. covered

### SLOW COOKING WORD SEARCH

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

**WORDS**

BARBECUE  
BASTE  
BLANCH  
BRAISE  
CARAMELIZE  
COOKING  
HOURS  
LOW  
MEALS  
PATIENCE  
PREPARE  
RECIPE  
REDUCE  
ROAST  
SEAR  
SIMMER  
SLOW  
SMOKE  
STEW  
TEMPERATURE  
TENDER  
TIMING

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Sheepish "Hello!"  
4 Out of control  
8 Regretted  
12 U.S. Navy vessel  
13 — Crunch (breakfast cereal)  
14 Singer Guthrie  
15 Mel of baseball  
16 Manitoba tribe  
17 The same hardy salad veggie  
21 Whatever amount  
22 Green shade  
23 Kick out  
26 Send electronically  
27 Extinct bird  
30 Sunrise direction  
31 Future flower  
32 Border on  
33 Tippy  
34 A Bobbsey twin

**35 Dish**  
**36 Cat's coat**  
**37 Three, in Rome**  
**38 Young person,**  
**meta-phorically**  
**45 Mideast airline**  
**46 Bern's river**  
**47 Actress Longoria**  
**48 Lighten Wall St.**  
**49 debuts**  
**50 Profit**  
**51 Times Sq.**  
**52 Salaf-mander**  
**53 Hosp. areas**

**2 Wine region**  
**3 Envelope abbr.**  
**4 Empha-size**  
**5 Tie the knot**  
**6 Autobahn auto**  
**7 Skate-boarder's protection**  
**8 Indian yogurt**  
**9 Language of Pakistan**  
**10 Power co. supply**  
**11 Stadium top**  
**19 Diplo-macy**  
**20 — -Mex cuisine**

**23 Long, skinny fish**  
**24 — alai**  
**25 Proposal fig.**  
**26 Gaiety**  
**27 CEO's degree,**  
**often**  
**28 Chic no more**  
**29 Chowd down**  
**31 Shop-per's quest**  
**32 Novelist Waugh**  
**34 Mother Teresa, for one**  
**35 Mass celebrant**  
**36 Mailed a tax return**  
**37 Toss**  
**38 Beheld**  
**39 Stage show**  
**40 Grate**  
**41 Super-hero's garment**  
**42 Vegas game**  
**43 Always**  
**44 D.C. baseball team**

**Solution time: 26 mins.**

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 2-1

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

## Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

### The case of the missing knives

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A Q 10 5  
♥ A 8 4  
♦ 8 7 3  
♣ K Q 7

**WEST**  
♠ J 8 7 4  
♥ J 10  
♦ J 9  
♣ J 9 5 4 2

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

**SOUTH**  
♠ K 9 2  
♥ K Q 6  
♦ A K 2  
♣ A 10 8 3

The bidding:  
East 1♣ South Pass West 1♠ North Pass  
Pass 2 NT Pass 6 NT

Opening lead — jack of hearts.

Assume you're in six notrump and West leads a heart. You have 11 sure tricks, and you need to find a 12th. There are two potential sources for this trick — one in spades, the other in clubs — and you are missing the jack of each suit.

Naturally, you hope that one suit or the other is divided 3-3, or that the singleton or doubleton jack of either suit will appear, in which case cashing the A-K-Q will do the job. Alternatively, you can attempt a finesse against one of the jacks later on if developments indicate that you should do so.

But in order to make an intelligent decision about whether to finesse eventually, you should first gather all the information you can about the East-West hands. Accordingly, you win the heart lead with the king and return the deuce of diamonds at trick two! Conceding a diamond at this point may prove very useful in deciding how to proceed later on.

As it happens, this deliberate concession of a trick at the outset enables you to make the slam easily. West soon afterward runs into a squeeze, and you don't have to bother trying to guess whether to finesse against either jack.

West wins the diamond with the nine and, let's say, returns the ten of hearts. You win with the queen and cash the A-K of diamonds and ace of hearts, reducing your hand to the K-9-2 of spades and A-10-8-3 of clubs.

In the meantime, West has also been forced to come down to seven cards, and whether he has elected to part with a spade from the J-8-7-4 or a club from the J-9-5-4, you are sure to score the rest of the tricks and make the slam.

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## Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

### Famous Hand

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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

**EAST**  
♠ K Q 9 6  
♥ 7 6 2  
♦ A J  
♣ K J 7 4

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

The bidding:  
West Pass North Pass East 1♠ South Pass  
Pass 1 NT Pass 2♣  
Pass 2♥ Pass 4♥

Opening lead — nine of clubs.

This deal occurred in an invitational pair tournament in the Netherlands in 1990. The winners were Enri Leufkens and Berry Westra of the Netherlands, who outdistanced a strong multinational field comprising 16 pairs of the world's best players.

When Westra-Leufkens held the North-South cards, the bidding went as shown. A panel of expert commentators, watching on Vu-Graph, predicted that four hearts would go down one after West led the nine of clubs, since declarer seemed certain to lose a club, a spade and two diamonds.

But Leufkens proceeded to demonstrate that they were sorely mistaken. He took East's jack of clubs with the ace and immediately returned the club ten. East won with the king and shifted to the A-J of diamonds, allowing the defenders to score their two diamond tricks before South could discard a diamond on the queen of clubs. In the process, however, dummy's 10-9 of diamonds became established.

After taking the diamond king, West shifted to a spade. East's queen losing to the ace. Leufkens now avoided the trap of playing the A-K of trump and then trying to get rid of his two remaining spades on two of dummy's winners.

Instead, he crossed to the heart ace, cashed the club queen, pitching a spade, and led the diamond ten. East was helpless. If he discarded, Leufkens would discard his last spade, so East ruffed and declarer overruffed. Leufkens then returned to dummy with the heart king — simultaneously drawing the last two opposing trumps — and disposed of his last spade on the diamond nine.

Thus, the "unmakable" contract came home, leaving the red-faced panel to partake of a generous portion of humble pie.

Tomorrow: Little strokes fell great oaks.  
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## 2-3 CRYPTOQUIP

IPZY EPRE HCG FKBDDZX FQNZ  
KZKFB BYEQ PBF TRJJRHZ  
FRDRX, GQC NBHPE FRG PZ  
NRXZ TQDR-FDRI.

**Saturday's Cryptoquip:** IF MONARCHS RULED OVER CROATIA, RUSSIA AND SERBIA, MIGHT THEY BE CLASSIFIED AS SLAV-EREIGNS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals H

### Maze Craze

Find the way through the maze to the finish line.

Start

Finish

### NEW WORD

## APTITUDE

a natural ability to do something

### Did You Know?

Reading a book in bed before going to sleep can promote a better night's rest.

### Get the Picture?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Library card catalog

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Layer  
4 Radiant  
9 Soup legume  
12 Dubai's country, for short  
13 Kin of "Presto!"  
14 Online chats, briefly  
15 Keyboard piece for two  
17 Impose  
18 Pained sounds  
19 Nobel-winning Mother  
21 "Hooray!"  
24 Story lines  
25 Hollywood's Gabor  
26 Genetic stuff  
28 Nasser's successor  
31 Stinging insect  
33 Pop  
35 Arias for one  
36 Animal's nose

**38 Mexican Mrs.**  
**40 Teeny**  
**41 "Phooey!"**  
**43 Disney exec**  
**45 1912 Olympic legend**  
**47 MGM motto start**  
**48 Tease formal-wear**  
**49 Teen's compound**  
**56 To and — cheer**

**58 Belittle**  
**59 Box office buys, slangily**

**DOWN**

1 Young dog  
2 Chou En- —  
3 Pro vote  
4 Acknowledged  
5 Blessing  
6 Actress Lucy  
7 "Get Here" singer  
8 Tends the lawn  
9 Stops talking  
10 Flightless birds

**11 Hammett pooch**  
**16 M-Q connection**  
**20 Some HDTVs**  
**21 Ever-green trees**  
**22 Nobelist Pavlov**  
**23 Latin ballroom dance**  
**27 Small batteries**  
**29 Sheltered cake layer**  
**32 Kitten's sound**  
**34 Visionary**  
**37 Designated**  
**39 Put on a clothes-line**  
**42 Succinct**  
**44 Lith., once**  
**45 Small combo**  
**46 Mound**  
**50 Non-Rx**  
**51 Newt**  
**52 — Lanka**  
**53 Boston squad, for short**

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 2-3

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14  
15 16 17  
18 19 20  
21 22 23 24  
25 26 27 28 29 30  
31 32 33 34 35  
36 37 38 39 40  
41 42 43 44  
45 46 47  
48 49 50 51 52 53  
54 55 56  
57 58 59

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



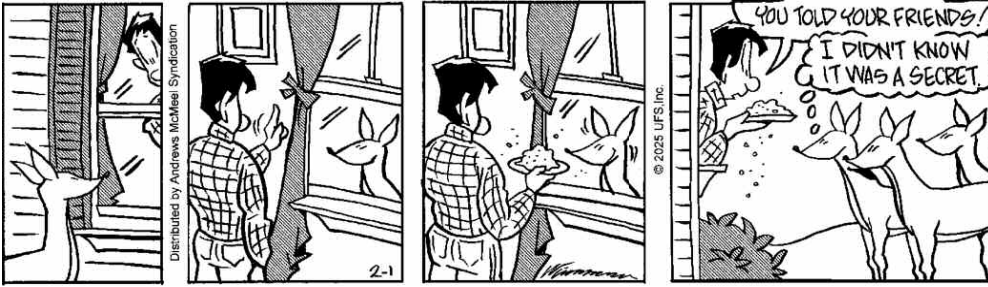
Peanuts



Peanuts



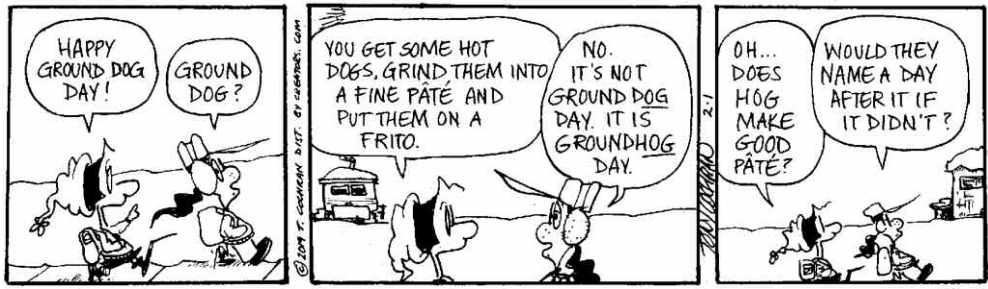
Rose is Rose



Rose is Rose



Agnes



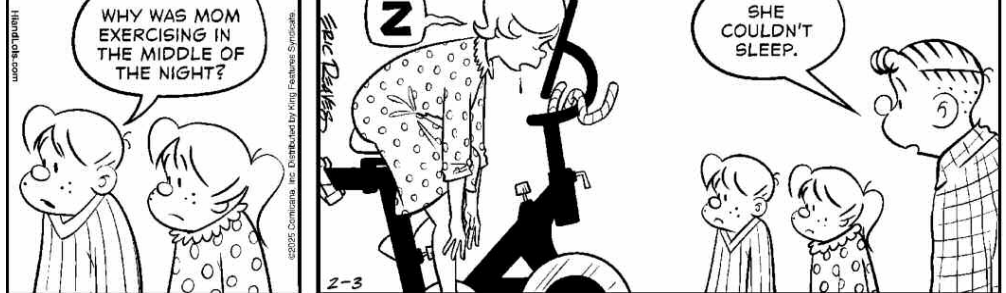
Agnes



Hi and Lois



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Between Friends



Blondie



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Beetle Bailey



**We Deliver**



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

**Laughter**

The Commercial Review *We Deliver*

A  
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**00 CLASSIFIEDS**

**CLASSIFIED ADS**  
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**ADVERTISING RATES**  
20 Word Minimum  
Effective 07/01/2018:  
Minimum charge....  
\$12.40  
1 insertion.....62¢/  
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2 insertions.....81¢/  
word  
3 insertions.....96¢/  
word  
6 insertions.... \$1.14/  
word  
12 insertions. \$1.52/  
word  
26 insertions. \$1.77/  
word  
Includes  
Online.....FREE  
Classified Display \$6.95/  
per column inch  
No borders or logos  
allowed on Classified  
Page  
Card of Thanks Up to  
100 words.... \$13.00  
In Memory Up to 100  
words.... \$13.00  
Advertising Deadline is  
12:00 p.m. the day prior  
to publication.  
Pre-Payment required  
for: Rummage sales,  
business opportunities,  
jobs wanted, boats and  
sporting equipment,  
wanted to rent, motor-  
ized vehicles, real  
estate and mobile  
homes.

**40 NOTICES**

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day it appears. We can-  
not be responsible for  
more than one days  
incorrect copy. We try  
hard not to make mis-  
takes, but they do hap-  
pen, and we may not  
know unless you call to  
tell us. Call before 12:00  
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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 Defen-  
dants 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 cap-  
tion 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 repre-  
sented 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 Def-  
endants 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 ADDI-  
TION TO THE TOWN OF  
PENNVILLE, INDIANA,  
EXCEPT FORTY-FIVE (45)  
FEET IN WIDTH OFF OF  
AND ALONG THE EN-  
TIRE SOUTH SIDE OF  
LOT THREE (3).

An answer or other response  
in writing to the complaint  
must be filed either by you or  
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(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 re-  
sponse.  
Dated: January 10, 2025  
Melissa Elliot  
Clerk of the Jay Circuit Court  
CR 1-25-2-1-2025-HSPAXLP

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## Five individuals led the Jay girls past Marion

MARION — The Patriot had five girls claim first-place finishes. The boys only had three.

As a result, the girls will roll into the postseason with a win, while the boys will have two weeks to reflect from the season-ending loss.

The Jay County High School girls swim team had no trouble taking down the Marion Giants 113-47, while the boys fell 87-77 on Thursday.

Brooklynn Byrum secured two wins for the Patriots (10-4) in the 200-yard individual medley and the 100 breaststroke. She finished the former race in 2 minutes, 38.49 seconds, and the latter in 1:24.68.

JCHS also got wins from Sophia Hoevel, Aubrey Millspaugh, Ariel Beiswanger

### Local roundup

and Kenzie Huey. Hoevel claimed the 50 freestyle (28.44), Millspaugh topped the 100 butterfly (1:16.45), Beiswanger took care of the 100 freestyle (1:06.60) and Huey got the backstroke (1:14.51). The girls won all three relays as well.

On the boys' side, Cooper Glentzer and Carson Westgerdes both grabbed a pair of victories. Glentzer won the 200 freestyle (1:58.25) and the 100 freestyle (54.05), while Westgerdes claimed

the 100 butterfly (1:04.37) and the 100 breaststroke (1:12.84).

Jay County (5-9) also got a first-place finish from Peyton Yowell in the 100 backstroke (1:07.32) and the 400 freestyle relay team.

### Offense stalled

NEW KNOXVILLE, Ohio — The Fort Recovery girls basketball team's offense stalled as it fell to the New Knoxville Rangers 38-21 on Thursday.

The Indians (10-10, 3-5 Midwest Athletic Conference) got off to a slow start, only scoring four points in the first quarter on baskets by Karlie Niekamp and Bridget Homan, while the former split a pair of free throws for the only second-period point. The Rangers (4-16, 2-6 MAC) put

up 21 during that same period, with 10 from Addie Albers. The NKHS junior finished with a game-high 21 points, while Paige Webb had nine.

Niekamp led the way with seven points for Fort Recovery, while Homan had six. Makenna Huelskamp hit a pair of shots, while Camron and Kennedy Muhlenkamp each had a bucket in the fourth.

### Girls split

BERNE — Fort Recovery's girls swim team split with Celina and Marion Local on Thursday, while the boys fell to the two teams at South Adams.

The girls totaled 79 points, falling to the Bulldogs by 16 and edging out the Flyers by 10. The

boys only managed 26, while Celina won with 54 and MLHS followed with 30.

Joelle Kaup and Livy Timmerman led the way for the girls, each winning two events. Kaup claimed the 50-yard freestyle in 26.18 seconds and the 500 freestyle in 6 minutes, 13.45 seconds. Timmerman took the 100 freestyle in 1:04.35 and placed first in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:31.22.

Neveah Lennartz had the other individual victory for FRHS. Her time of 1:33.25 won the 100 backstroke.

Carson Fullenkamp won the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly with swims of 25.86 and 1:04.00. The other individual first-place finish came from Caleb Smith in the 100 freestyle (55.84).

## Hopes ...

Continued from page 10  
"What we talked about — don't let the ball stick," said Teagle. "Never catch and hold it. Catch it, get rid of it. Catch it, attack. And if the ball's not sticking then and the zone shifts, you're gonna get some good looks. And I thought we did a pretty good job. ... As long as we were moving it, we were pretty successful."

The Patriots responded, going up by one in the final minute of the first half before Nolan Lambert hit a 3-pointer with three seconds left for a 25-23 Bluffton lead at the intermission.

The game was close the rest of the way, with the teams trading baskets back-and-forth in the third quarter. It was tied at 36, 38 and 40 before Petro's spin move against Cameron Williams led to the closing sequence and the game-winner from Grieser.

"We tried to shade the ball so it'd be pushed to our big guy on the wing," said Bomholt. "You've got Gradin on one side and

Tucker on the other. We figured if we've got 6-4 and 6-6 guarding the ball, our chances are pretty good. ..."

Griffin shot 7-of-8 from the free-throw line and hit a pair of 3-pointers for his team-high 15 points for the Patriots. Swoveland was a perfect 4-for-4 at the line and also hit two triples as he finished with 14. Jayden Comer, who made three shots from long distance, joined them in double figures with 10 points.

### Junior varsity

Jay County took control in the second quarter en route to a 59-46 victory. The Patriots were up by four after the opening period and then outscored Bluffton 9-2 in the second. They extended their lead to 17 at the end of the third quarter.

Benson Barnett's 16 points led the way for JCHS. Five players — Brock Wasson, Jacob Monroe, Nick Snow, Kade Sommers and Drew Schemenaur — added eight points apiece.

### Box score

Jay County Patriots vs. Bluffton Tigers					
<b>Boys varsity summary</b>					
<b>Bluffton (7-5, 4-1 ACAC)</b>					
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS		
Lambert	3-10	0-0	9		
Williams	2-3	0-0	6		
Gerber	0-1	0-0	0		
Morgan	2-2	0-0	4		
Grieser	8-13	5-7	22		
Green	3-4	0-1	6		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18-34</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>47</b>		
	<b>.470</b>	<b>5-8</b>			
<b>Def. rebound percentage: .789</b>					
<b>Jay County (8-6, 2-2 ACAC)</b>					
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS		
Comer	3-8	1-2	10		
Petro	2-2	0-0	4		
Dirksen	1-1	0-0	2		
Forthofer	0-2	1-2	1		
Phillips	0-2	1-2	1		
Griffin	3-9	7-8	15		
Swoveland	4-11	4-4	14		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13-35</b>	<b>13-16</b>	<b>46</b>		
	<b>.371</b>	<b>813</b>			
<b>Def. rebound percentage: .667</b>					
<b>Score by quarters:</b>					
<b>Bluffton</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>—47</b>
<b>Jay Co.</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>—46</b>
<b>3-point shooting:</b> Bluffton 6-16 (Lambert 3-11, Williams 2-3, Grieser 1-1, Gerber 0-1). Jay County 7-20 (Comer 3-8, Swoveland 2-4, Griffin 2-8).					
<b>Rebounds:</b> Bluffton 21 (Grieser 9, Williams 6, Morgan 2, Green 2, Gerber, team). Jay County 16 (Comer 3, Forthofer 3, Griffin 3, Swoveland 3, Petro 2, Phillips, team).					
<b>Assists:</b> Bluffton 14 (Gerber 7, Lambert 3, Williams 2, Grieser, Green). Jay County 9 (Griffin 4, Petro 2, Swoveland 2, Comer).					
<b>Blocks:</b> Bluffton 0. Jay County 4 (Petro 2, Forthofer, Griffin).					
<b>Personal fouls:</b> Bluffton 12 (Green 3, Lambert 2, Gerber 2, Morgan 2, Grieser 2, Williams). Jay County 7 (Forthofer 4, Petro, Dirksen, Swoveland).					
<b>Turnovers:</b> Bluffton 11. Jay County 14.					

Aiden Phillips of Jay County puts up a shot over a Bluffton defender during the fourth quarter Friday. The loss dropped the Patriots to 2-2 in the Allen County Athletic Conference.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Boys wrestling sectional at Jay County — 8:30 a.m.; Boys basketball at Blackford — 6 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Girls bowling tournament at Columbus — 11 a.m.; Boys basketball at Arcanum — 6 p.m.

**Monday**  
Jay County — Freshman boys basketball vs. New Castle — 6 p.m.; Junior high wrestling vs. Monroe Central — 6 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball at Celina — 6 p.m.

**Tuesday**  
Fort Recovery — Girls bowling MAC tournament at Minster — 4:30 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball MAC tournament — 5 p.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Nottingham Forest at Brighton & Hove Albion (USA)  
10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: AFC Bournemouth at Liverpool (USA)  
12 p.m. — College basketball: Florida at Tennessee (ESPN); Pitt at Wake Forest (ESPN2); Washington at Minnesota (BTN); Fordham at St. Bonaventure (USA)  
12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer:

Wolverhampton Wanderers at Aston Villa (NBC)  
1 p.m. — College basketball: Arizona at Arizona State (CBS); Creighton at Villanova (FOX)  
1 p.m. — NHL: Chicago Blackhawks at Florida Panthers (TNT)  
2 p.m. — College basketball: Kansas State at Iowa State (ESPN2); Wisconsin at Northwestern (FS1); Auburn at Ole Miss (ESPN)  
2 p.m. — LPGA Tour: MHIilton GV Tournament of Champions (NBC)  
2 p.m. — College wrestling: Michigan at Ohio State (BTN)  
2:30 p.m. — College basketball: George Washington at La Salle (USA)  
3 p.m. — PGA Tour: AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (CBS)  
3:30 p.m. — College basketball: Michigan at Rutgers (FOX)  
3:30 p.m. — NHL: New York Rangers at Boston Bruins (TNT)  
4 p.m. — College basketball: Georgia at Alabama (ESPN2); Kansas at Baylor (ESPN)  
4 p.m. — College wrestling: Indiana at Northwestern (BTN)  
5 p.m. — NBA: Atlanta Hawks at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)  
5:30 p.m. — College gymnastics: UCLA at Michigan State (FOX)  
6 p.m. — College basketball: Texas Tech at Houston (ESPN2)  
6 p.m. — College hockey: Wisconsin at Minnesota (FOX); Penn State at Michigan (BTN)

6 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Busch Light Clash at Bowman Gray (FS1)  
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: North Carolina at Duke (ESPN)  
8 p.m. — College basketball: UConn at Marquette (FOX); Notre Dame at Miami (ESPN2)  
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at New York Knicks (ABC)  
9 p.m. — College basketball: Arkansas at Kentucky (ESPN)  
9:30 p.m. — College basketball: New Mexico at Utah State (FS1)  
10 p.m. — College basketball: Syracuse at Cal (ESPN2)  
11 p.m. — College basketball: Gonzaga at St. Mary's (ESPN)

**Sunday**  
9 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Brentford at Tottenham Hotspur (USA)  
12 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Notre Dame at Louisville (ESPN2); Nebraska at Indiana (FS1)  
1 p.m. — College basketball: Ohio State at Illinois (CBS)  
1 p.m. — College wrestling: Minnesota at Rutgers (BTN)  
1:10 p.m. — NFL flag girls showcase (ESPN)  
1:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: USC at Iowa (FOX)  
2 p.m. — College basketball: South Florida at Florida Atlantic (ESPN2)

2 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Providence at Creighton (FS1)  
2 p.m. — LPGA Tour: MHIilton GV Tournament of Champions (NBC)  
3 p.m. — NFL Pro Bowl (ESPN)  
3 p.m. — PGA Tour: AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (CBS)  
3 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Minnesota at UCLA (BTN)  
4 p.m. — College basketball: Bradley at Northern Iowa (ESPN2)  
4 p.m. — NHL: Montreal Canadiens at Anaheim Ducks (FOX)  
4 p.m. — Women's college basketball: TCU at Iowa State (FS1)  
4 p.m. — New Balance Indoor Grand Prix track and field (NBC)  
5 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Washington at Ohio State (BTN)  
7 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Utah Hockey Club (FDSN Indiana)  
6 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at Philadelphia 76ers (ESPN)  
6 p.m. — College basketball: Seton Hall at DePaul (FS1)  
6 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Busch Light Clash at Bowman Gray (FS1)  
7:30 p.m. — College basketball: Nebraska at Oregon (BTN)  
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Memphis Grizzlies at Milwaukee Bucks (ESPN)  
9 p.m. — NHL: Calgary Flames at Seattle

Kraken (NBC)  
**Monday**  
3 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Chelsea at West Ham United (USA)  
7 p.m. — College basketball: Virginia at Pitt (ESPN)  
7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Duke at N.C. State (ESPN2)  
7 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Phantom BC at Mist BC (TNT)  
8:15 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Vinyl BC at Lunar Owls BC (TNT)  
9 p.m. — College basketball: Iowa State at Kansas (ESPN); North Texas at UAB (ESPN2)  
**Tuesday**  
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Marquette at St. John's (FS1)  
7 p.m. — College basketball: Kentucky at Ole Miss (ESPN); Minnesota at Penn State (BTN); Drake at Murray State (ESPN2)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at Cleveland Cavaliers (TNT)  
8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Georgetown at Xavier (FS1)  
9 p.m. — College basketball: Baylor at Texas Tech (ESPN2); USC at Northwestern (BTN)  
10 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Portland Trail Blazers (FDSN Indiana)  
10:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Colorado State at New Mexico (FS1)



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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Colson Post of the Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team takes contact from New Knoxville's Solly Stiles as he converts a 3-point play during Friday's 61-53 win for the Tribe.

## Post ...

Continued from page 10  
On the following play, NKHS ran a high ball screen to get Hoge downhill toward the basket. Post had to decide between stepping in to take the charge, or bailing out to Flederjohann in the right corner to prevent a kick-out 3-pointer. The junior chose to stay put, and it paid off with a charge that sealed the Rangers' fate with 27.1 seconds remaining.

"I just look for it all the time," Post said. "I mean, a charge is what (coach Leverette) wants me to do and I enjoy it. ..."

"It was awesome. I should have had one down there earlier. I didn't get it but we got one for the night."

The Indians also struggled with turnovers early in the final period, coughing the ball up on their first three possessions. FRHS finally broke through for a bucket off of a Breaker Jutte put-back at 5:34, but two more turnovers led to points for the Rangers.

At 4:23, the ball went out of bounds underneath Fort Recovery's basket, leading to Leverette telling his team to calm down and work to set solid screens. They did just that on the following play, as Jutte got a pin-down screen to flare up to the 3-point line. Brody Barga delivered the pass for one of his game-high six assists as Jutte knocked down the triple.

### Box score

Fort Recovery Indians vs. New Knoxville Rangers				7-18 (Flederjohann 4-6, Hoge 1-1, Schroeder 1-4, Rutschilling 1-6, Stiles 0-1). Fort Recovery 8-16 (Fortkamp 5-6, Jutte 1-1, Overman 1-2, Post 1-6, Dilworth 0-1).			
<b>Boys varsity summary</b>							
<b>New Knoxville (4-12, 0-6 MAC)</b>							
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS				
Rutschilling	4-11	0-0	9				
Schroeder	1-6	4-5	7				
Fiddrjhn	5-8	0-0	14				
Holland	0-0	2-2	2				
Stiles	0-2	0-0	0				
Hoge	3-8	0-0	7				
Jones	5-7	4-5	14				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18-42</b>	<b>10-12</b>	<b>53</b>				
	<b>.429</b>	<b>.833</b>					
<b>Def. rebound percentage: .524</b>							
<b>Fort Recovery (5-13, 2-5 MAC)</b>							
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS				
Overman	6-11	3-9	16				
Post	2-7	6-7	11				
Jutte	2-4	0-0	5				
Barga	2-3	1-2	5				
Dilworth	0-1	0-0	0				
Evers	3-5	0-0	6				
Fortkamp	6-7	1-2	18				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21-38</b>	<b>11-20</b>	<b>61</b>				
	<b>.553</b>	<b>.550</b>					
<b>Def. rebound percentage: .840</b>							
<b>Score by quarters:</b>							
<b>N. Knox. 10 11 19 13—53</b>							
<b>Ft. Rec. 14 16 19 12—61</b>							
<b>3-point shooting:</b> New Knoxville 1 (Stiles). Fort Recovery 2 (Barga 2).							
<b>Rebounds:</b> New Knoxville 15 (Hoge 4, Jones 3, Schroeder 2, Flederjohann 2, Team 2, Rutschilling, Stiles). Fort Recovery 31 (Barga 10, Post 5, Overman 4, Evers 4, Jutte 3, Team 3, Fortkamp 2).							
<b>Assists:</b> New Knoxville 6 (Rutschilling 2, Jones 2, Schroeder, Flederjohann). Fort Recovery 9 (Barga 6, Overman 2, Post).							
<b>Blocks:</b> New Knoxville 1 (Stiles). Fort Recovery 2 (Barga 2).							
<b>Personal fouls:</b> New Knoxville 16 (Rutschilling 3, Flederjohann 3, Stiles 3, Jones 3, Schroeder 2, Hoge 2). Fort Recovery 16 (Post 4, Barga 4, Fortkamp 4, Jutte 2, Dilworth, Evers).							
<b>Turnovers:</b> New Knoxville 7. Fort Recovery 11.							

"They had us frazzled and got up in us," Leverette said. "I mean we showed some experience and some grit there down the stretch to come together and finish."

Parker Jones matched Flederjohann's 14 points for New Knoxville, shooting 5-of-7 (71.4%) from the field and hitting 4-of-5 free throws. Rutschilling followed with nine, while Jay Schroeder and Hoge each had seven.

Gavin Fortkamp led the Tribe off the bench with 18 points. The sophomore found a home beyond the arc, hitting 5-of-6 shots from deep.

"It was just instinct," Fortkamp said. "I felt good and just kept shooting it."

Briggs Overman followed with 16 points, while Post had 11. Gavin Evers contributed six points while other forwards, Barga and Jutte, each had five.

## Wade ...

Continued from page 10  
A seeming picture of health when he was feted by the Heat at the start of this season, Wade revealed on his The Why with Dwyane Wade podcast that 40% of his right kidney was removed during that procedure.

"My own journey to have that surgery, I think it was the first time that my family, my dad, my kids, they saw me weak," Wade said during the episode of his podcast titled A Men's Wellness Conversation. "That moment was probably the weakest point I've ever felt in my life."

Wade, 43, said he was told the tumor could not be biopsied, so therefore the surgery was required.

"I had a personal decision to make, and what it was was, 'If this is cancerous, if this tumor, this cyst is cancerous, on your kidney, you're 41 years old, you probably need surgery because it's something that needs to be removed so it doesn't spread,'" Wade related.

Wade said the kidney screening was part of an exam he felt he needed after turning 40.

"I went in to get myself checked out, turned 40 years old, and I went in and I was like, 'Doc, I want to know everything about my body, head-to-toe. I've got some things that I'm feeling, I've got some stomach issues. These are the things I want us to check, but also check everything,'" Wade said.

### Former Miami Heat 13-time All-Star needed 40% of his right kidney removed

Wade said health problems for his father led to his decision to turn proactive.

"Thank God that I did do the surgery, because the tumor was cancerous," he said. "So I have one kidney, and I have another kidney that is 60 percent. They took 40 percent of my kidney to make sure that they could get all the cancer off of it."

Prior to Wade's arrival to the Heat, Alonzo Mourning, another Heat player with a jersey retired by the franchise, was felled by kidney illness, missing extensive time and ultimately undergoing a kidney transplant before returning to the Heat and sharing in the team's 2006 NBA championship with Wade.

Wade, now a minority owner of the Utah Jazz, said he consulted with Mourning, now a Heat executive, about the health scare.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Mallory's medals

Jay County High School honored four-time wrestling state champion Mallory Winner at halftime of Friday's boys basketball game against Bluffton. Winner never lost a match in the state tournament series, won the inaugural 170-pound IHSA state championship this season and finished her career with a 107-2 record.



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# Sports

## Tigers take away ACAC hopes

Grieser hits game winner to drop Jay County to 2-2 in conference

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The Patriots shot well from the free-throw line for the game. Their coach was left lamenting a couple of their late misses.

Two of the Jay County High School boys basketball team's three missed foul shots came in the last 2:30 of the game Friday night, leaving the door open for visiting Bluffton. The Tigers took advantage, with Declan Grieser burying a game-winning 3-pointer in the waning moments to give his team a 47-46 win over the Patriots.

"All you've got to do is make a free throw," said JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt, who was honored before the game for reaching his 600th career win Jan. 14 against South Adams in the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament. "We had two chances to make a free throw ...

"Games like that are going to help us in the tournament. ... I still like our chances. I still like the way we've improved."

The win kept the Tigers in contention for the conference title at 4-1 — Woodlan and Heritage also have one loss apiece — while the Patriots slipped to 2-2.

Bluffton (7-5, 4-1 ACAC) led most of the way after an early 8-0 run, but Jay County (8-6, 2-2 ACAC) pulled even late in the third quarter and then took the lead on an Eli Petro spin move along the left baseline with 3:51 remaining.

The Patriots led by as many as four after Griffin hit a pair of foul shots with 33.8 remaining. But they also had a couple of free-throw splits in the final 2:19, missing opportunities to expand their advantage.

The last of the misses — it came with 17.7 seconds to go — left the JCHS lead at two.

Bluffton ran one of its zone plays and had a cutter pop open underneath the basket, but didn't attempt the pass. The Tigers couldn't get to the screen that was supposed to follow, so a scramble ensued. Marshall Gerber was able to find a little space and send his seventh assist of the game to Grieser on the right side, setting up the junior for his game-winning shot.

"We just found a guy who scooted to the corner because we always say, 'If anything breaks down, get to the corner,'" said BHS coach Craig Teagle, who spent 17 years leading the Patriots before departing for Huntington North in 2015. "It's the hardest place to guard in that zone. And Dec hasn't shot a bunch of them, but he shoots it at a pretty high percentage. ... He's our post guy, but he can step out there and shoot it."

The Patriots got a timeout with one second left to set up their final play, but they never got a shot off. Cameron Williams of Bluffton disrupted Griffin's attempt to snag a long inbound pass from Gradin Swoveland, ending the home team's hopes.

The triple from Grieser came on his only attempt from long distance and capped game-high 22 point night. He shot 8-of-13 from the field and 5-of-7 from the line while grabbing nine rebounds to lead his team to a 21-16 advantage on the glass.

Jay County was up 5-3 early before the Tigers went on their run and pushed ahead 18-8 on Grieser's easy hoop in the paint on an assist from Gerber. Bluffton found success being patient and probing the Patriots' zone defense until they could locate an opening.

See **Hopes** page 8



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School sophomore Eli Petro goes to the basket to finish after a spin move around Cameron Williams of Bluffton during the fourth quarter Friday. The hoop gave the host Patriots the lead, but the Tigers got a 3-pointer from Declan Grieser in the waning moments to escape with a 47-46 victory.

## Post stands tall

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Leaving a strong 3-point shooter is often looked at as a cardinal sin in basketball.

If you aren't going to stay home, you have to get a defensive stop before the ball can get out to the threat.

So as Connor Hoge came barreling down the right side of the lane, Colson Post had a choice to make.

The junior chose to stand his ground. He took the contact, the whistle blew and the official put one hand to his head and another pointed to the Indians basket. And with the charge taken, the game was as good as over.

Post took a charge on Hoge to kill the last of the New Knoxville Rangers' momentum, propelling the Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team to a 61-53 victory on Friday night.

Before the charge, the Rangers (4-12, 0-6 Midwest Athletic Conference) were vying for a comeback. Fort Recovery (5-13, 2-5 MAC) kept the lead around eight points for most of the second half, but a pair of triples by Evan Fledderjohann and five Tribe turnovers helped NKHS get back into the game.

"They were definitely more aggressive in that fourth quarter," FRHS coach Bob Leverette said. "We had to go back to man and had some good stops down the stretch. They shot it really well there in the second half from three. That was the difference and what kind of kept them hanging around and within striking distance."

**Tribe junior takes charge to ice away Rangers in 61-53 victory on Friday**

"We hit a couple of free throws down the stretch, Colson Post takes a huge charge for that stop."

After Fledderjohann's second triple of the period — he finished with four to total 14 points — the Indians flipped back to man-to-man defense with Post on the shooter. Over the final four minutes, the Ranger only managed to fire off two more 3-pointers on a high ball screen and a baseline-out-of-bounds play, but Post's contests were enough to bother the shots for misses.

Still, New Knoxville managed to cut the deficit to 56-53 with 1:42 remaining off of a Preston Rutschilling triple. FRHS got a score from a Briggs Overman post up and Post hit two bonus free throws to give it some breathing room, but the Rangers still had some momentum.

See **Post** page 9

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## Wade reveals cancer diagnosis

By IRA WINDERMAN  
South Florida Sun-Sentinel  
Tribune News Service

MIAMI — Having kept the matter private including during his interview sessions when a statue of his likeness was unveiled on the steps of the Kaseya Center in October, Miami Heat icon Dwyane Wade revealed on his podcast this week that he had a cancerous tumor removed from his kidney in mid-December 2023.

See **Wade** page 9