

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Bentz pleads to sexual misconduct

*Former jail officer faces 7.5 years in prison*

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

A former Jay County Jail correction officer pleaded guilty Friday to engaging in sexual relations with an inmate.

William B. Bentz, 36, Portland, pleaded to three counts of sexual misconduct in which a service provider engages in fondling or touching with a person who is subject to lawful detention or supervision with the intent to arouse or satisfy sexual desires, all three Level 6 felonies. As a part of his plea agreement, a Level 5 felony for sexual misconduct when the service provider engages in sexual intercourse or other sexual conduct with the person subject to lawful detention or supervision was dismissed.

Bentz's sentencing hearing is scheduled for 11 a.m. March 13.

According to the probable cause affidavit filed in connection with the case, Bentz engaged in sexual acts with an inmate, identified as J.G., between March and April 2024. Bentz allegedly fondled the inmate's breasts and vagina on several occasions, allowed her to touch his penis and took her into an exam room at the jail and had her perform oral sex on him April 28.

The affidavit says video footage shows Bentz visiting J.G.'s cell and removing her from her cell block an "extremely abnormal amount of time(s)" between March 23 and April 28. He also took her into rooms that are off-camera on several occasions, according to the affidavit. Documents say J.G. could be seen rubbing her crotch with a smile on her face while talking to Bentz in the hallway or at her cell door.

"It is clear that Bentz and (jg) are engaging in way more than just work and officer inmate activity," the affidavit says.

See **Pleads** page 2

## JROTC colors

Jay County Junior-Senior High School JROTC members presented the colors for the playing of the national anthem Friday night before the Patriots' boys basketball game against Heritage. For details from the game, see page 10.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## House GOP proposes state budget

By WHITNEY DOWNARD  
Indianan Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

No tax holidays but increased dollars for the Department of Child Services highlight the House Republican version of the state's two-year budget in comparison to the one proposed by Gov. Mike Braun earlier this year.

Chief budget architect for Republicans, Rep. Jeff Thompson, said both camps found plenty to agree upon, aligning priorities for universal school vouchers and halting several large-dollar funds for the Indiana Economic Development Corp.

"We've looked at the governor's budget and he's done a wonderful job of setting the framework for opportunity for Hoosiers," said

Thompson, R-Lizton. "We'll continue discussion with him, consulting with him and look forward to working with him in the future."

Both the House and governor's version trim roughly 5% from agency budgets, which Thompson said would be geared toward administrative costs rather than staff or service reductions.

### *Bulk of new spending is for department of child services and department of correction*

"The way this administration is operating, we'll do a whole lot more with a whole lot less," Thompson said. "That's their mindset and I love that mindset."

Overall, the House budget will spend \$500 million more in 2026 and \$380 million more in 2027 than Braun, though the bulk of new spending goes to the Department of Child Services and the Depart-

ment of Correction. Those new dollars represent just under 2% of a \$47 billion budget.

The appropriation for schools increases by 2% each year, or from \$9.03 billion in the 2025 fiscal year to \$9.21 billion in 2026 followed by \$9.4 billion in 2027. The \$160 million for curricular materials is rolled into that foundational amount for schools.

Those dollars also include an estimated \$183 million over the next two years to expand school vouchers to all students, including those families earning more than \$220,000 annually. Thompson said public schools, where the majority of Hoosier students are educated, could get those dollars if they attract those high-income students.

See **Budget** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Kitchen with Kaiser

Eighth grader Carter Kaiser pours smoothies after finishing his part in Fort Recovery Middle School band's "Kitchen Fiesta" song during the winter band concert Sunday. Kaiser, a percussionist, played the blender while mixing an assortment of ingredients, including a banana. He delivered the final product to a few concertgoers.

## Judge halts aid freeze

By RACHEL OSWALD  
CQ-Roll Call  
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — A federal judge imposed a temporary restraining order on the Trump administration's executive order freezing all foreign assistance funding.

Judge Amir Ali of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued the preliminary injunction Thursday, ordering a temporary end to the freeze on foreign assistance spending agreements that were in existence before Jan. 20 at the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The temporary judicial relief followed a Wednesday court hearing with a coalition of international development contractors

### *Plaintiffs questioned legality of executive order*

and foreign aid nonprofits that had sued the Trump administration to stop enforcement of the freeze.

The plaintiffs, who include Chemonics International Inc. and the Global Health Council, challenged the legality of President Donald Trump's Jan. 20 executive order imposing a 90-day pause on all foreign development assistance funding.

The judge found that in this "early stage" of the case, the plaintiffs had met the legal standard for showing they were likely

to eventually succeed on the merits of their case, were likely to suffer irreparable harm if preliminary relief were not granted, and that an injunction was in the public interest.

One plaintiff whose work supports HIV prevention research and the distribution of HIV prevention medications to high-risk communities in African countries attested that the funding freeze had disrupted clinical trials and the rollout of lifesaving disease interventions.

### Deaths

**Larry Jackson, 86, Portland**  
**Leona Pyle, 62, Fort Wayne**  
See details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 28 degrees Friday. Freezing rain is expected today with a high around 40. Rain and snow are in the forecast tonight with a low in the upper 20s. More snow is possible Sunday with a high in the upper 20s.  
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Portland Fire Department's annual chili lunch is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16. Lunch is free, with free-will donations accepted for the annual firefighters' banquet and local charities. The fire department is located at 1616 N. Franklin St., Portland.

### Coming up

**Tuesday** — Results from the JCHS boys wrestling team at the semi-state tournament.

**Wednesday** — Details from Monday's Jay School Board meeting.



# Obituaries

## Larry Jackson

July 1, 1938-Feb. 12, 2025  
Larry Jackson, age 86, a former resident of Portland, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025, at Albany Health and Rehabilitation in Albany, Indiana.  
Larry was born July 1, 1938, the son of Lester and Mabel Kaderly.  
Larry retired from Teledyne Portland Forge in Portland after 30 years of service. He was a member of the Portland Moose and the Arch Bridge Cruisers. Larry was always there to help

anyone that needed a helping hand and could never tell a person no.  
Larry married Treadesa "Trudy" Murphy on June 29, 1968, and she passed away on Oct. 28, 2023.

Survivors Include:  
His son — Loren Jackson, Muncie, Indiana  
His daughter — Deb Crump, Portland, Indiana  
Three grandchildren — Kate-



Jackson

lyn Crump, Evan Jackson and Cassandra Jackson  
Two great-grandchildren — Marlea Crump and Mason Ritzenhouse  
He was preceded in death by his brothers and sisters.  
Visitation will be held Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday from 1 to 6 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will be held Friday at 2 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Liber Cemetery south of Portland.

## Leona Pyle

Jan. 11, 1963-Feb. 8, 2025  
Leona L. Pyle, age 62, was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on Jan. 11, 1963, to Paul and Elizabeth Lake. She passed away on Feb. 8, 2025, in Fort Wayne, Indiana.  
Leona loved spending time with her friends and family.  
Leona was preceded in death by her mother and several brothers and sisters.  
Leona is survived by her two sons, Trenton and Ryan Pyle; her father, Paul Lake; her

brother, Wayne Lake; and several nieces and nephews.  
Arrangements have been entrusted to Liechty Funeral Home in Berne, Indiana.  
.....  
*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 2/16	Monday 2/17	Tuesday 2/18	Wednesday 2/19	Thursday 2/20
<b>31/10</b>	<b>16/9</b>	<b>15/6</b>	<b>16/3</b>	<b>13/3</b>
Sunday will be snowy with wind gusts reaching up to 30 mph.	Mostly sunny on Monday when wind chill values may hit as low as -10 early.	Mostly cloudy skies on Tuesday when there's a chance of snow in the afternoon.	Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast for Wednesday. There's a chance of snow late.	There's a 20% chance of snow under mostly cloudy skies on Wednesday.

## Lotteries

<b>Hoosier</b> Midday Daily Three: 4-9-6 Daily Four: 6-9-3-9 Quick Draw: 6-10-26-32-36-38-39-41-44-45-47-49-53-54-55-57-58-59-66-74	Pick 3: 7-1-2 Pick 4: 4-3-9-6 Pick 5: 2-0-5-8-0
<b>Ohio</b> Midday	<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$172 million
	<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$40.5 million

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.88 March corn .....4.94 April corn .....5.02	March beans .....10.30 Wheat .....5.28
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.93 March corn .....5.01 April corn .....5.12	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.88 March corn .....4.91 Beans .....10.22 March beans .....10.26 Wheat .....5.47
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.94 March corn .....4.94 Beans .....10.25	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.82 March corn .....4.82 Beans .....10.05 March beans .....10.10 Wheat .....5.23

## Today in history

In 399 B.C., Socrates was sentenced to death in Athens, Greece, for impiety and corrupting youth. A philosopher, he became one of the first to debate moral and ethical thought.  
In 1898, the U.S.S. Maine battleship sank in the harbor of Havana, Cuba. More than half of its crew members died, inciting the violence against Spain and leading to the Spanish-American War, which lasted for eight months.  
In 1933, Chicago mayor Anton J. Cermak was shot by a bullet intended to kill then United States president-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt. Cermak died three weeks later.  
In 1954, animator Matt Groening was born in Portland, Oregon. The cartoonist is known for his comic strip, "Life in Hell," and TV series "The Simpsons" and "Futurama."  
In 1965, Canada adopted its present national flag, which depicts a maple leaf and colors across the region.  
In 1979, Leon Spinks became heavyweight boxing champion of the world after he defeated Muhammad Ali.  
In 1989, Soviet Union president Mikhail Gorbachev pulled troops from Afghanistan. The country had occupied Afghanistan since 1979.  
In 2005, Youtube launched in the United States. The website created to share and view videos now is the second-most visited online address.  
— The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Monday</b> 4 p.m. — Jay School Board executive session, General Shanks, 414 Floral Ave., Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 Floral Ave., Portland. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 Main St.	<b>Wednesday</b> 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North. 5:15 p.m. — Jay/Portland Building & Planning Inter-local Joint Board, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
<b>Tuesday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.	<b>Thursday</b> 3 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

# Budget ...

Continued from page 1  
"If they attract more students, they will get a lot more money. It's a good thing, because we may have some schools really gaining students and they'll receive a lot more funds and they'll have those to spend," Thompson said.  
That philosophy hews closely to Braun, who is a vocal "school choice" advocate.  
The budget also increases both Education Scholarship Accounts and Career Scholarship Accounts

from \$10 million to \$15 million each year.  
But while Braun had identified \$700 million in tax relief, much of those dollars won't carry over to the House's version. Tax holidays for school and youth athletic supplies as well as outdoor recreational equipment didn't survive and neither did a proposal to eliminate state income taxes on tips and retirement income.  
The House did double the tax credit for low-income seniors. About 335,000 Hoosiers earning under

\$40,000 qualified for the \$500 credit in 2022, which will double to \$1,000 under this budget.  
Thompson pointed to the General Assembly's commitment to lowering Indiana's income taxes to 2.9% by 2027 as well as ongoing property tax relief negotiations. More tax relief isn't off the table, he said.  
Both Braun and House Republicans struck funds for the Indiana Economic Development Corp., including a site acquisition and deal closing line items.

# Pleads ...

Continued from page 1  
J.G. told police she had been a willing participant in the relationship, but that Bentz was becoming more aggressive by the day, and it was beginning to scare her.  
She said Bentz paid a lot of attention to her. He asked her to write sexual letters to him, which he would collect from her during his shifts at the jail.  
"It started out as if she wanted the attention from Bentz but turned out to be more than she wanted and she wanted it to stop after some time," court documents said.  
She said he would refuse to stop, and she felt forced to participate.  
J.G. said Bentz asked her to pretend she was sick on April 28 and he removed her from her cell block and took her to the exam room to "check her vitals," the report says. She then performed oral sex on him. J.G. also said they fondled one another in the commissary room at one point.  
She said she exposed her breasts to Bentz while the jail commander was in the cell block in a separate cell area once and couldn't see them.  
She also alleged Bentz threatened her, saying she would "catch another charge" if she told anyone about their relationship. He would get upset if she didn't provide him with letters detailing sexual acts between them and threatened she would get in trouble if others found out about it, she told police. In exchange, Bentz provided her with tobacco pouches and gifts.  
J.G. told police Bentz informed her that he and his wife would like her to move in with them to be their "unicorn" once she was released from jail, court documents say.  
Bentz denied allegations when police interviewed him, saying he had done nothing wrong and didn't have a sexual relationship with J.G.  
Other inmates shared similar stories to J.G., although one said neither she nor any of her cellmates saw what Bentz was doing with J.G. in her cell.  
In Indiana, a Level 6 felony sentence ranges between six months and two and a half years, with an advisory sentence of one year. There's also up to a \$10,000 fine.

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 211**

**Contrary to public opinion the American Legion Post 211 is open for business. Regular Hours Public Welcome at 211 W Walnut, Portland**

QUALITY TILLABLE FARMLAND • BLACKFORD CO, IN

ONLINE at [halderman.com](http://halderman.com)

# AUCTION

**Monday, February 17th, 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

**HALDERMAN**  
REAL ESTATE & FARM MANAGEMENT  
800.424.2324 | [halderman.com](http://halderman.com)

HLSH RAJ-13086  
Auctioneer: Russell D. Harmeyer IN Auct. Lic. #AU10000277, HRES IN Auct. Lic. #AC69200019, Farm: Thomas L. Maddox and Ronald Maddox Trust

# Capsule Reports

**Lost control**  
A Portland man complained of arm pain after sliding off Division Road and flipping the van he was driving about 7:50 p.m. Wednesday.  
David L. Lopez, 24, was driving a 2015 Ford Transit east on the road just west of county road 600 East when he lost control on the slick road. The van went off the north side of the road and rolled onto its top, causing between \$10,000 and \$25,000 in estimated damage.  
Lopez was transported to IU Health Jay for his arm injury, and the vehicle he was driving was towed. There were five other passengers in the van who were not injured, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. The van is registered to Granger Land Trans of Mishawaka.

**Hurt head**  
A Portland man complained of head pain after sliding off county road 200 North and overturning his vehicle about 5:38 p.m. Wednesday.  
Tucker J. Pearson, 25, was driving a 2005 Chevrolet Silverado west on the road and crossing its intersection with county road 300 West when his car began sliding on the road. He tried to correct the vehicle and hit the brakes, causing the car to go off the north side of the road and flip in Alvin Cassel's yard at 3380 W. 200 North, Portland.  
Pearson's vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

**Backing accident**  
Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Portland teen backed into an oncoming vehicle in Jay County High School's parking lot about 3:37 p.m. Wednesday.  
Emma L. Hatzell, 17, was backing a 2013 Chevrolet Equinox out of a parking spot at 2072 W. Indiana 67, Portland. At the same time, Tyler R. Ellsworth, 19, Portland, was driving south through the parking lot and passing by Hatzell's vehicle. Hatzell backed out of her spot and into the driver's side door of Ellsworth's vehicle.

**NAPA AUTO PARTS**

## TOOL & FILTER SALE

**FEBRUARY 16-23**  
Union City Open House 18th  
Fort Recovery Open House 19th.

**Check out our HUGE supply of tools and filters now ON SALE**

**FORT RECOVERY NAPA**  
205 N. Wayne St. • Fort Recovery, Ohio. 45846 • 419 375 4137

**UNION CITY NAPA**  
308 W. Chestnut St. • Union City, Indiana. 47390 • 765 964 3191

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

**SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB**  
1-855-743-1911

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In-Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

### SERVICES

Saturday

**Fortman**, Dolores: 10 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpburg Road, Fort Recovery.

Friday

**Jackson**, Larry: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by  
**PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS**  
120 N. Meridian St.  
Portland, Indiana 47371  
(260) 726-9201  
[progressiveofficeproducts.com](http://progressiveofficeproducts.com)



Photo provided

## Bike donated

IU Health Jay Auxiliary Board of Directors donated a recumbent exercise bike to IU Jay Physical Therapy Services. Pictured in the front is Betty Haffner. In the second row, from left, are occupational therapist Kelly Minger, Sandy McGraw, Eunice White, physical therapist Macy Whitehair, Margie May, Pat Brockman and rehabilitation services manager Brian Ison.

# Need for speed scares woman

Dear Abby



DEAR ABBY: My husband is an adrenaline junkie who loves high speeds and fast cars. I am the opposite. I hate riding in fast cars, on roller coasters or anything adrenaline-related. I have explained to him many times that I don't enjoy going fast in his super-fast car, yet he keeps asking me to go with him. I'll do it sometimes, but I hate it. If I refuse to accompany him, he feels rejected. I have tried saying it nicely, but he keeps insisting I go on fast drives with him. I don't know what to do anymore. Please help. — SLOWER IN THE U.K.

DEAR SLOWER: You have already expressed your feelings. Your husband has chosen to ignore them. If you prefer not to ride with your adrenaline junkie spouse while he puts pedal to the metal ... DON'T GO! If he pouts because you are terrified, the problem is his. Stop making it yours.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I had dinner with some friends, a married couple. After dinner, we left the restaurant a few minutes apart and, as we were walking to our car, I told my husband the wife was "really intense and sometimes a lot to handle." I didn't realize they were still within earshot. My husband pointed out that they probably heard me, but I'm not sure. Can I do anything? I don't want to apologize if she didn't notice or take offense. But she IS really intense and may be angry. — OOPS! IN OREGON

DEAR OOPS!: Cross your fingers and wait it out. You will know whether you owe her an apology the next time you or your husband try to invite them out. If you're lucky, she didn't hear you.

Next time, wait until you're safely in your car to unsheathe your claws, pussycat.

DEAR ABBY: I need to live with someone because I'm on the verge of being homeless. I have been in homeless shelters, and I have also lived alone, but I can't do that again because it causes my anxiety and depression to act up.

I just started talking to this guy. We are starting to like each other, but we haven't met in person, and I am wondering if you think I could move in with that guy after a month? — NEEDS SHELTER IN ARIZONA

DEAR NEEDS SHELTER: No, I do not! It would be a huge mistake to move in with anyone you have known for only a month. If you think staying in a shelter until you can get on your feet and be independent causes your anxiety and depression to act up, it would be nothing compared to living with a stranger who might be abusive. As you stated, you haven't even met this person yet. A gamble like this is very risky, and I don't recommend it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeane Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## Jay County hosting FFA festivities

Jay County's activities for celebrating FFA kick off next week.

Jay County FFA will host a truck drive-in Tuesday and tractor drive-in Friday for high schoolers. They'll also have a

staff brownie breakfast at 7:15 a.m. Thursday.

Also, FFA members will be visiting Jay County elementary school students throughout the week and encouraging them to join FFA in seventh grade.

Other activities planned for next week include daily agricultural trivia for junior high, high school and staff members, daily dress-up themes and cornhole and trivia during lunch each school day.

## Community Calendar

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

### Today

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

### Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - 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 BREAK-

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

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

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

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

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through

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.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF — Meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. the third Monday of each month. The support group serves to help individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide.

### Tuesday

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

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

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

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

JAY COUNTY DEMOCRATS — Will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, at headquarters, 221 S. Meridian St., Portland.

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

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.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

### Friday's Solution

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

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.

Be prepared before the next power outage.

It's not just a generator. It's a power move.™

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase\* - valued at \$535.

Call 866-953-2203 to schedule your free quote!

GENERAC

\*Terms and Conditions apply.

## WHAT'S REALLY IN YOUR WATER?

Leaf Home Water Solutions will test your water for contaminants and make recommendations to ensure you get the cleanest, crispest water possible in your home.

**15% OFF** Entire Purchase\* **AND** **10% OFF** Seniors & Military

SOLUTIONS FOR CITY & WELL WATER - INCLUDING SALT-FREE OPTIONS

CALL FOR FREE WATER TEST  
855-966-4836 | Promo Code: 402

LEAF HOME WATER SOLUTIONS

MADE IN THE USA

\*One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. Offer valid at time of estimate only. License/Registration# MI 262100627, MN PC799379, NC 87823, L 33946, PA PA172050, TX 44085, WI 1423690.

## WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

For Jay County Elementary Schools  
February 17-21

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

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

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

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

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

**May Financial Group, Inc.**

Life • Health • Employee Benefits  
Medicare Supplements • Annuities • International Health

**Jeff Hall, Matt Franks**  
jeff@mayfg.com matt@mayfg.com

111 W. Main (260) 729-5200 Portland, IN

# Goals are not mutually exclusive

Walla Walla Union-Bulletin  
(Washington)  
Tribune News Service

Walla Walla's recent march for immigrant rights highlighted a fundamental truth about our community: Immigrants are an integral part of our town.

They contribute to the economy and culture, running businesses and providing essential services.

The demonstrators who took to the streets this last week made it clear that immigrants are not invisible; they are here, they belong and they deserve to

## Guest Editorial

be treated with dignity and respect.

It is vital that we as a community stand in support of our immigrant neighbors. The reality is that immigrants play a crucial role in our economy and society.

Events like the "Day Without

Immigrants" remind us that their absence would leave a significant void in our town and across the country.

Supporting immigrants does not mean that we must ignore the need for public safety. While the vast majority of immigrants are law-abiding, hardworking individuals, there are cases in which people do not have the same respect for laws and other people's safety.

When someone — immigrant or not — engages in violence, they should face consequences. Public safety and immigration

policy should work together, not against one another.

We can support our immigrant community and ensure that those who pose a threat are held accountable.

The discussion around immigration should involve fairness and common sense. Too often, conversations about immigration focus on division rather than unity. Those who come to this country to work hard and build better lives should be welcomed and policy should reflect that.

The U.S. is justified in removing those undocumented immigrants who are convicted of vio-

lent crimes through due process after arriving here. This is not racial discrimination; it's ensuring safety for everyone, including law-abiding immigrants who call this place home.

Monday's demonstrators showed courage in speaking for their rights and their place in our community.

Their voices remind us that Walla Walla is stronger united. We should continue to advocate for fair and humane immigration policies and recognize the need for safety and accountability. The two are not mutually exclusive.

# Managing records needs to be easier

Bloomberg Opinion  
Tribune News Service

The U.S. health-care system exchanges tens of millions of patient records a day. Thanks to recent technological advances, the ability to analyze such large amounts of data has improved markedly.

Why, then, are patients still filling out clipboards of redundant information, or juggling multiple passwords and portals to make a doctor's appointment?

Over the past 15 years, the government has spent more than \$35 billion attempting to modernize health data-sharing. Yet the typical patient experience has hardly improved. Designing a saner, more user-friendly system isn't only a matter of convenience; it should improve care, boost efficiency and lay the groundwork for technological advances to come.

The earliest medical-records systems started in academic centers in the 1960s and '70s. A "health IT" sector emerged about a decade later. By the early 2000s, a series of reports suggested the myriad benefits of digital records — from increased legibility to quicker access — would reduce medical errors and save lives.

President Barack Obama soon became an evangelist for this effort. "We will make sure that every doctor's office and hospital in this country is using cutting-edge technology and electronic medical records," he said in 2008, just before taking office. Two months later, Congress passed a fateful law to accelerate the digitization of health data, largely through incentive payments to providers that shuttled generous subsidies to vendors.

You might guess what happened next. Anxious to meet the subsidy deadlines and avoid penalties, providers adopted what software was available. Inferior products became an entrenched and detested feature of medical practice.

Lawmakers, once dazzled by the notion of data beaming between nodes of an interconnected health-care system, eventually realized they'd overlooked the industry's disincentives to share lucrative patient information with their competitors.

By then, the money was spent and providers were locked into an immature technology that frustrates patients and infuriates doctors. More than 70% of hospitals report challenges exchanging data across vendors, and 57% say they struggle to identify the correct patient.

Although almost all hospitals say they're able to

## Guest Editorial

offer electronic medical records, more than a fifth of patients haven't accessed their data within the past year. Meanwhile, many providers, especially in poorer areas, aren't digitized at all. Just 13% of family-medicine physicians say information in their electronic health-records system is easy to find and use.

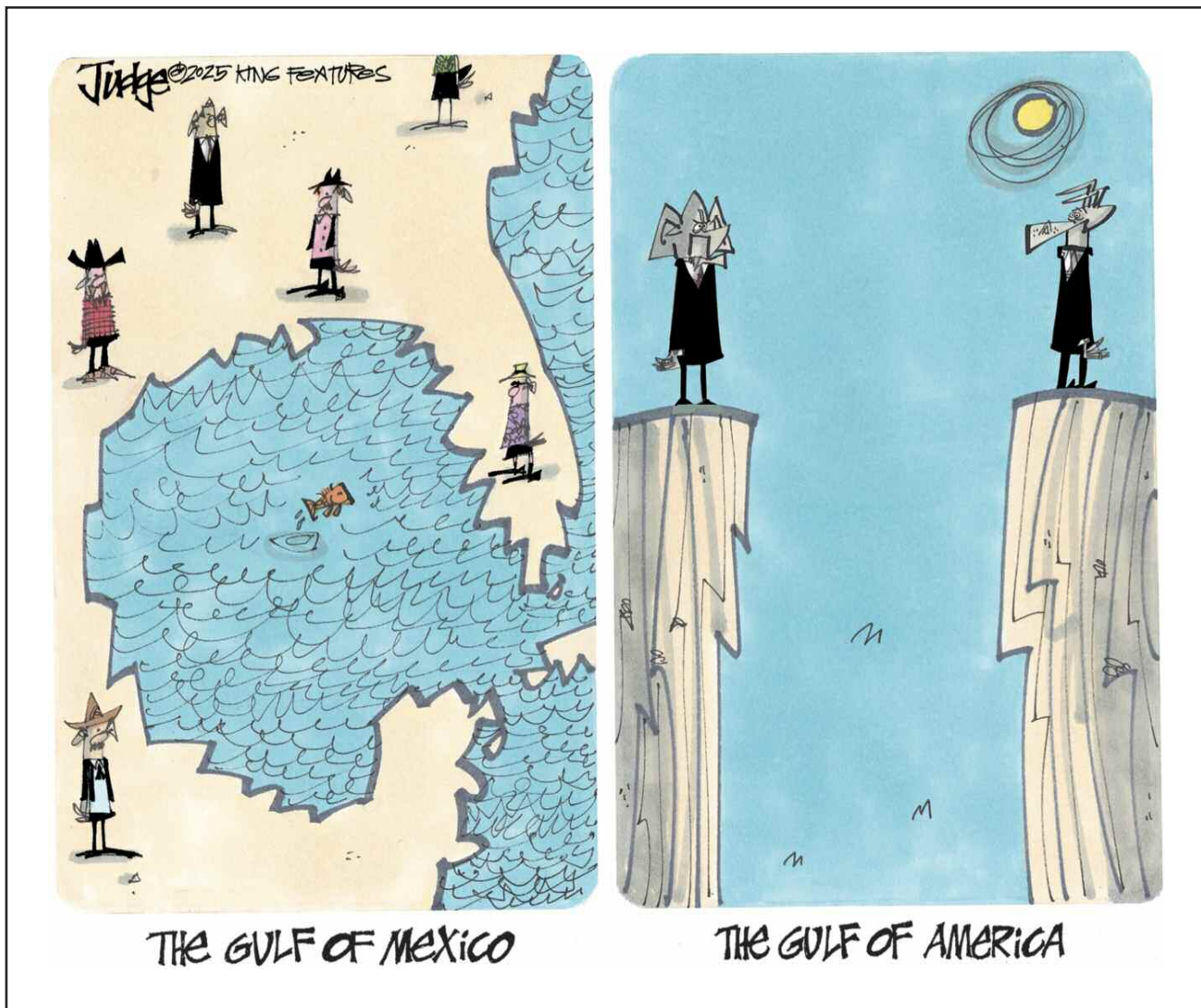
Fixing this dysfunction won't be easy. Many hospital executives have concluded that finding a new vendor isn't worth the cost or uncertainty. For providers who participate in Medicare, incentive payments are still tied to a litany of data-sharing requirements. (Those unsure about their qualifications can consult an "eligibility decision tree.") For all their flaws, the biggest electronic-records vendors deliver a product that reliably checks the boxes and sends the bills.

Even so, progress is still possible. A public-private effort to remove data-sharing impediments launched in 2022. Last year, a large vendor announced it will allow patients to share their health data with other apps. In theory, that should make it easier for a patient visiting a new doctor to preload personal information, insurance details and past records, as well as remove some of the waiting-room drudgery. It will also enable patients to upload records to artificial-intelligence tools for a "second opinion" or plain-English explanations of their diagnoses, which are becoming remarkably accurate.

If companies want consumers to use such products, they'll need to demonstrate they're serious about patient privacy and data security. Record-sharing alerts, similar to bank-transfer notifications, would be a good start.

Congress should likewise clarify how existing privacy and liability laws apply to these new applications. It should also fund basic research to determine how the use of electronic records improves health outcomes — which is, after all, the point.

The gap between the maddening inefficiencies and potential benefits of electronic health records is narrower than it may seem. With the right reforms, the American health-care business may yet enter the 21st century.



# Presidents made same mistake

By JOHN KRULL  
TheStatehouseFile.com

Joe Biden and Donald Trump are vastly different men — and vastly different presidents.

Yet they both made the same key, even fundamental, mistake at the beginning of their presidencies.

Biden, of course, was the blue-collar boy made good, the guy who went to state schools and worked his way through life bolstered by the strength of his unfailing amiability. His conquest of an early-in-life stammer allowed him to unleash a gift for blarney, which endeared him to friends and foes alike and obscured how keenly he studied and understood the processes of government.

That keen understanding allowed him as president to build a record of legislative accomplishments greater than any president since Lyndon Johnson — and perhaps since Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Trump is a trust-fund baby, a congenital hustler from Queens who has been failing upward from birth. He is contemptuous of systems and processes and scoffs at the idea of a meritocracy, believing that everything is a scam and that, when the action is flowing, everyone takes or gets taken.

His determination to survive in a world made up exclusively of those who con and those who get conned enabled him to develop an ability unrivaled in U.S. history to command the public's attention.

These are two men — two leaders — with fundamentally different views of life and approaches to leadership.

Yet, they both arrived at the same crucial misunderstanding when they arrived in the White House.

They both forgot why they were elected and decided to pursue courses of action unsupported and unsanctioned by the voters who elected them.

When Biden gained the presidency

John Krull



Even so, he declared that he had received a sweeping mandate.

Once in office, Trump began distancing himself from his campaign promises. He said that curbing inflation would be difficult to do and began manipulating data so online search engines would create the impression that deportations and other attempts to curtail undocumented immigration were more plentiful and aggressive than they were in reality.

Instead, he and his administration focused their attention on dismantling huge sections of the federal government. Some of this activity has been blatantly unconstitutional. Some initiatives, such as plutocrat Elon Musk's campaign to make government programs "more efficient," are clearly illegal.

Yet Trump, like Biden before him, has chosen to devote himself not to the issues that got him elected but instead to dedicate his time, energy and political capital to a far more sweeping personal agenda. That the more than 50 percent of the American public that didn't vote for him and a fair portion of the minority that did cast ballots for him doesn't and won't back this agenda doesn't seem to deter Trump.

Joe Biden paid a heavy political price for refusing to dance with the ones who bring him.

Donald Trump's followers always have been more willing than the supporters of most other politicians to accept broken promises and even outright lies from him.

But even they will eventually begin to realize that he isn't doing what they hired him to do.

And there will be a cost for that.

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

US PS 125820

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



The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to [letters@thecr.com](mailto:letters@thecr.com). They should be 700 words or fewer, signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

**RAY COONEY**  
President, editor and publisher  
**TONIA HARDY**  
Business manager

**LOUISE RONALD**  
Board chair  
**BRIAN DODD**  
Production manager

VOLUME 151—NUMBER 08  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2025

[www.thecr.com](http://www.thecr.com)

"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

**Subscription rates**  
Internet-only: Three days — \$3; Monthly auto-pay — \$10; 13 weeks — \$32; six months — \$60; one year — \$108.  
City (walking — where available): Monthly auto-pay — \$11; 13 weeks — \$36; six months — \$68; one year — \$122.  
Motor route (where available): Monthly auto-pay — \$12; 13 weeks — \$44; six months — \$74; one year — \$140.  
Mail: Monthly auto-pay — \$13; 13 weeks — \$49; six months — \$80; one year — \$151.  
Home delivery problems: Call (260) 251-9588

# Kennedy confirmed as HHS secretary

By LIA DEGROOT  
CQ-Roll Call  
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — The Senate voted Thursday morning to confirm Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to serve as Health and Human Services secretary.

The final vote was 52-48, with Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, a polio survivor, becoming the only Republican to vote against Kennedy. McConnell has become the rare GOP “no” vote on President Donald Trump’s nominations, also voting against Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and, yesterday, against Tulsi Gabbard as director of national intelligence.

“I’m a survivor of childhood polio,” McConnell said in a statement after the vote. “In my lifetime, I’ve watched vaccines save millions of lives from devastating diseases across America and around the world. I will not con-

done the re-litigation of proven cures, and neither will millions of Americans who credit their survival and quality of life to scientific miracles ... a record of trafficking in dangerous conspiracy theories and eroding trust in public health institutions does not entitle Mr. Kennedy to lead these important efforts.

“As he takes office, I sincerely hope Mr. Kennedy will choose not to sow further doubt and division but to restore trust in our public health institutions.”

The Senate vote came after

## McConnell was the only Republican to vote against

Democrats held the Senate floor throughout the night to voice their opposition to Kennedy’s confirmation in a series of blistering speeches.

Democrats are worried about Kennedy’s long history of sowing doubt in the scientific data that support vaccines and his inexperience with the federal health agencies.

But his Republican supporters are hopeful that Kennedy, 71, an environmental lawyer and anti-vaccine activist, can bring a new-found focus to chronic disease

and nutrition — areas that they think have been affected by industry influence in the health agencies. The sprawling department includes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health, among other agencies.

In their floor speeches, Democrats drew attention to Kennedy’s past and painted him as unfit to deal with the challenges facing the health care system, including high costs of care and the ongoing outbreak of H5N1.

But despite early outcry about his nomination, Kennedy’s confirmation came as little surprise after he clinched a key Finance Committee vote last week from Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Chair Bill Cassidy, R-Louisiana, who previously expressed concerns about the

nominee’s history of anti-vaccine advocacy.

In order to win Cassidy’s support, Kennedy had, among other commitments, pledged to allow the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee chair to weigh in on some staffing decisions at HHS.

But Sen. Patty Murray, D-Washington, said that she didn’t believe that Kennedy would carry out that commitment. She warned Republicans against being pushed by the Trump administration to accept decisions they don’t agree with.

“If you think RFK Jr. will change who he is, you are lying to yourself ... If you do not draw a line somewhere, you will cross every line you could ever imagine,” she said. “You will be pushed further and further into accepting things you never thought you would — things you never thought you could.”

# Felony court news

## Resisting police

Two local men were sentenced to serve time after pleading guilty to resisting police.

Brian W. Thompson, 57, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to resisting law enforcement, a Level 6 felony. Thompson was sentenced to one year in Indiana Department of Correction and assessed \$189 in court costs. As part of his plea agreement, two Class A misdemeanors for operating a vehicle with an alcohol concentration equivalent to 0.15% or more and operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person were dismissed.

Ricky L. Reynolds, 56, 13581 Hillgrove Fort Recovery Road, Fort Recovery, Ohio, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to resisting law enforcement, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 1.5 years at Jay County Jail with all but 60 days suspended and given credit for time served. Reynolds was placed on probation and assessed \$189 in court costs. As part of his plea agreement, a Level 6 felony for possession of methamphetamine, a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia were dismissed.

## Theft

Two Jay County residents were sentenced to jail after pleading guilty to theft.

Dillion W. Stolz, 33, 5211 N. 350 East, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to the Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail and given 260 days credit for time served. Stolz was assessed \$189 in court costs.

Kyle C. Hunt, 37, 31 West Leisure Lane, Dunkirk, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to the Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail and given 216 days credit for time

served. Hunt was fined \$25 and assessed \$189 in court costs.

## Auto theft

A Redkey woman was placed on probation after she pleaded guilty to auto theft.

Kiley R. Williams, 18, 309 West High St., Redkey, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to the Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but two days suspended and given two days credit for time served.

Williams was fined \$25, assessed \$189 in court costs and placed on probation for 363 days.

## Criminal trespassing

A Kokomo man was sentenced to jail after pleading guilty to criminal trespassing, a Class A misdemeanor, in Jay Superior Court.

Christopher Hollingsworth, 36, 1727 Kensington On Berkley, was sentenced to 258 days in Jay County Jail and given 258 days credit for time served. He was assessed \$189 in court costs. As part of his plea agreement, a Level 6 felony for residential entry and a habitual offender enhancement were dismissed.

## Burglary

A Kansas man was sentenced to seven years in prison for burglary.

William E. Alexander, 30, Pittsburg, Kansas, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to the Level 4 felony. He was sentenced to 7 years in Indiana Department of Correction with four years suspended and given credit for time served. Alexander was assessed \$189 in court costs. 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 5 felony for burglary, a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe, a Class A misdemeanor for theft and a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana.

## Sexual misconduct

A Portland man was sentenced to prison for engaging in sexual misconduct with a minor.

Derrick A. Miller, 43, 701 South Western Ave., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to the Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to four years in Indiana Department of Correction with two years suspended and given credit for time served. Miller was placed on probation and assessed \$189 in court costs.

As part of his plea agreement, a Level 6 felony for failure to register as a sex offender or violent offender was dismissed.

## Found guilty

A Dunkirk woman was sentenced to six years in prison after she was found guilty in court of drug possession and related charges.

Lizabeth A. Denney, 45, was found guilty by a Jay Circuit Court jury of the following: possession of a narcotic drug, a Level 4 felony; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 4 felony; maintaining a common nuisance, a Level 6 felony; and possession of paraphernalia, a Class A misdemeanor.

She was sentenced to six years in Indiana Department of Correction with four years suspended and given credit for time served. She was placed on home detention for two years, assessed \$189 in court costs and charged a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.

## Narcotic drug

A Pennville woman was sentenced to jail for possession of a narcotic drug.

Rebecca N. Foy, 24, 235 E. Maple St., Pennville, pleaded guilty in Jay

Superior Court to the Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but 90 days suspended and given 68 days credit for time served.

Foy was assessed \$189 in court costs, ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee and placed on probation for 275 days.

## Methamphetamine

Five Indiana residents were sentenced to serve time for possession of methamphetamine.

Tara L. Rogers, 47, 347 N Charles St., Parker City, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all of her sentence suspended and placed on probation.

Rogers was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. Also, in a separate Jay Circuit Court case, Rogers pleaded guilty to another Level 6 felony charge for possession of methamphetamine. She was sentenced to one year at Jay County Jail and given credit for time served. Rogers’ sentence was suspended, and she was placed on probation. She was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.

Amber N. Hicks, 40, 1958 S. 825 West, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony. She was sentenced to five years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. Hicks was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. She was recommended for purposeful incarceration, meaning upon completing a substance abuse treatment program the court would consider modifying her

sentence. As part of her plea agreement, two Level 6 felonies for maintaining a common nuisance and unlawful possession of a syringe and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia were dismissed and a notice to seek a habitual offender status was withdrawn.

Robert B. Hall, 50, 416 East Main St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail and given 354 days credit for time served. Hall was fined \$25, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.

Donald J. Weesner, 27, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to three years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. Weesner was assessed \$189 in court costs. As part of his plea agreement, a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe and a Class B misdemeanor for public intoxication were dismissed.

Rita K. Micheau, 57, 1958 S. 825 West, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony. She was sentenced to four years in Indiana Department of Correction, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of her plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance, a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe, a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia and a habitual offender enhancement. In a separate case, Micheau pleaded guilty to another count of possession of metham-

phetamine, another Level 5 felony. She was sentenced to four years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. (She was ordered to serve her sentence consecutive to the first sentence.) Micheau was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.

## Unlawful possession

Three Indiana residents were sentenced to jail after pleading guilty to unlawful possession of a syringe.

Laken Robbins, 35, 1209 West 17th St., Muncie, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to the Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to 540 days in Jay County Jail and given 79 days credit for time served. Robbins was fined \$25 and assessed \$189 in court costs. As part of her plea agreement, three Level 6 felony charges for possession of a narcotic drug, possession of methamphetamine and identity deception were dismissed.

Betty J. Leone, 30, 307 E. Charles St., Muncie, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to the Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all of her sentence suspended and given 186 days credit for time served. Leone was assessed \$189 in court costs and placed on probation. As part of her plea agreement, a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana was dismissed.

Joseph A. Winget, 34, 19 North Oak St., Redkey, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to the Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail and given 196 days credit for time served. Winget was fined \$25 and assessed \$189 in court costs. As part of his plea agreement, a Class C misdemeanor for operating a vehicle while intoxicated was dismissed.

# NOT-FOR-PROFIT SPECIALS

Advertise your not-for-profit organization  
in ALL of our publications with:

FOUR 4x4 ads in The Commercial Review  
TWO 4x4 ads in The News-Gazette  
ONE 4x4 ad in The News Times

for  
**\$330**

**GRAPHIC**  
PRINTING  
NEWSPAPERS



Call (260) 726-8141

or email

ads@thecr.com

Or run two 4x4 ads for your  
not-for-profit organization  
in the publication(s) of your choice  
during March for:

The Commercial Review – \$156

The News-Gazette – \$145

The News Times – \$120

Ads must run in March.

Rates do not apply to special sections.

2-15 CRYPTOQUIP

G Z G M S N F N J G B M F Y
Q A F Y S K K G F B L Z L A U G N A L N F A K
L K Q S F Q Z S P J F L A S P F A M G B H
G B C S T T Z S C L B L H S C S B N.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I MADE A MOST SUCCULENT MEAT DISH THAT EVERYONE DEVoured HURRIEDLY, AND THE ROAST IS HISTORY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals P

CRYPTO FUN
Solve the code to discover words related to Valentine's Day. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 3 = R)

WORD SCRAMBLE
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Valentine's Day.
O L V E

GUESS WHO?
I am singer born in England on February 13, 1974. I liked performing while I was in primary school. I went on to join a popular boy band in 1990 that had many hits. My friend Elton John helped me face by substance abuse problems, and I've turned my life around.



Fun FACT!
Around 250 million of these are grown for Valentine's Day each year. They are a popular offering as a gift of love.

2-17 CRYPTOQUIP

F H F V X G U C G P I R L H M D J D J C D U M
D P Z H W D G E T P N Q L H Q H X G E D
Q G P I T D M I V U T P N D A D U W X T A D
M L H R : C H P C H P Z H A T .

Saturday's Cryptoquip: I LIKE TO THINK OF PROFESSIONAL ARBITRATORS AS PEOPLE WHO ARE WORKING IN MEDDL E MANAGEMENT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals P



Double Word Puzzle
Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.
SORSE, DNCYA, GTIF, RBAE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY
FEBRUARY 14
1778: The United States flag is formally recognized by a foreign naval vessel for the first time.

VALENTINE'S DAY WORD SEARCH
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

- WORDS
ADORE, AFFECTION, BELOVED, BOYFRIEND, CANDY, CHAMPAGNE, CHERUB, CHOCOLATE, CUPID, DATE, FLOWERS, GIFTS, GIRLFRIEND, HEARTS, HUG, KISS, LOVE, MOVIE, POEM, RED, ROMANCE, ROSES, SWEETHEART, VALENTINE

How they say that in...
English: Love, Spanish: Amor, Italian: Amore, French: Amour, German: Liebe

Did You Know?
Conversation hearts started out as a throat lozenge invented by Boston pharmacist Oliver Chase.

Get the PICTURE?
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 40 Grant basis, at times
1 Interior design
6 Views
12 Made over
13 "Phoey!"
14 Aromatic herb
15 Found out, to Brits
16 Party pooper
17 "Dream on!"
19 Prof's helpers
20 Poker pot money
22 Covert agent
24 Jungfrau, for one
27 Melodies
29 Emmy winner
32 Paintings of artists, say
35 Dessert fruit
36 Not even one
37 Mom's mate
38 "— hoo!"

Yesterdays answer 2-15
Crossword grid with numbers 1-38.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A necessary assumption
West dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: J93, J6, AKJ74, Q108. WEST: Q65, KQ10, Q1062, J65. EAST: 10, 98742, 5, K97432. SOUTH: AK8742, A53, 983, A.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand
East dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: 4, KJ75, AKQJ106543. WEST: AKJ876, A107632, 2. EAST: Q9532, J854, Q64, 7. SOUTH: 10, KQ9, A109832, K98.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

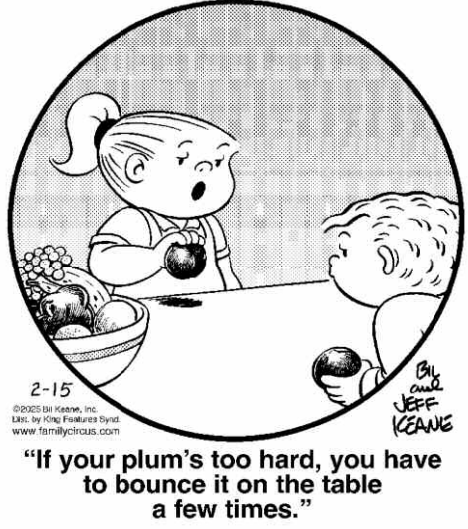
ACROSS 39 Always, in verse
1 Eye drop
5 Gullet
8 Grime
12 Jazz singer
13 Financial pro
14 Body sci.
15 Hearty dish
16 Abraham Lincoln's birthplace
18 Arm bones
20 Craig of "Skyfall"
21 Ms. Rowlands
23 Qt. fractions
24 George Washington's birthplace
28 Planted, as seed
31 Anger
32 Bellini opera
34 Steal from
35 Shade of blue
37 Gerald Ford's birthplace

Saturday's answer 2-17
Crossword grid with numbers 1-57.

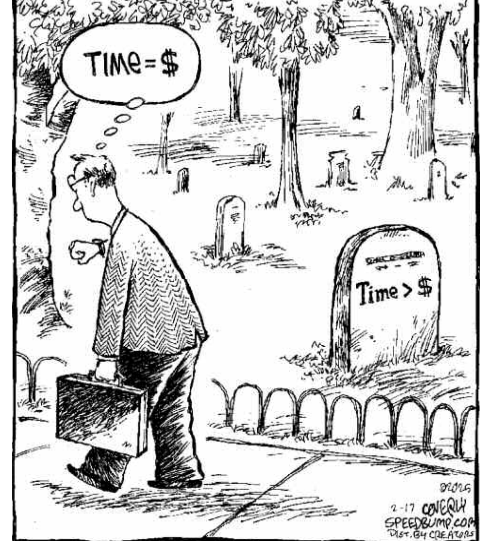
**SPEED BUMP** Dave Coverly



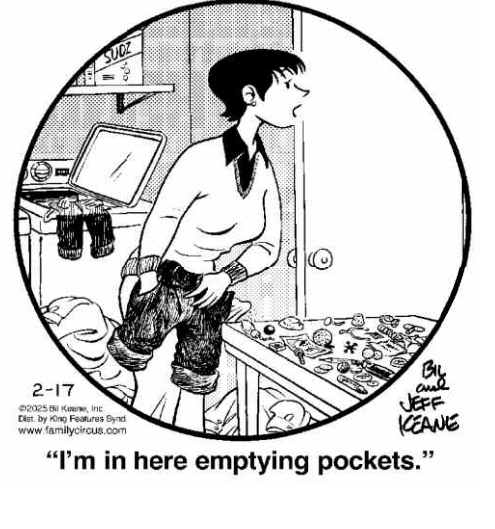
**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane



**SPEED BUMP** Dave Coverly



**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane



**Peanuts**



**Peanuts**



**Rose is Rose**



**Rose is Rose**



**Agnes**



**Agnes**



**Hi and Lois**



**Hi and Lois**



**Between Friends**



**Between Friends**



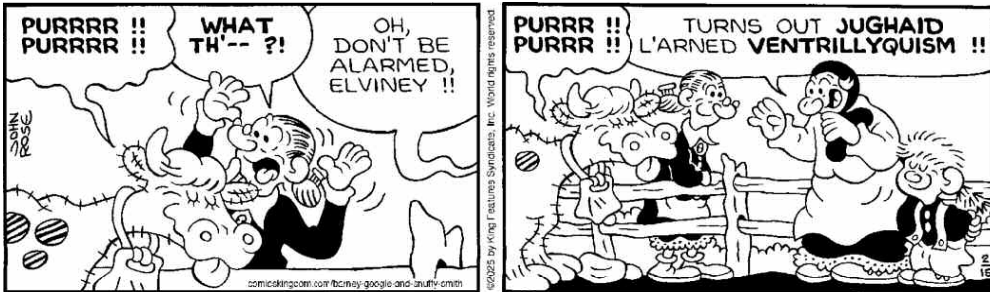
**Blondie**



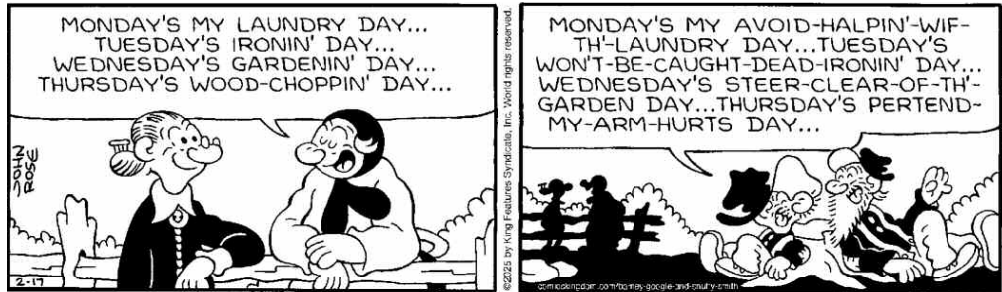
**Blondie**



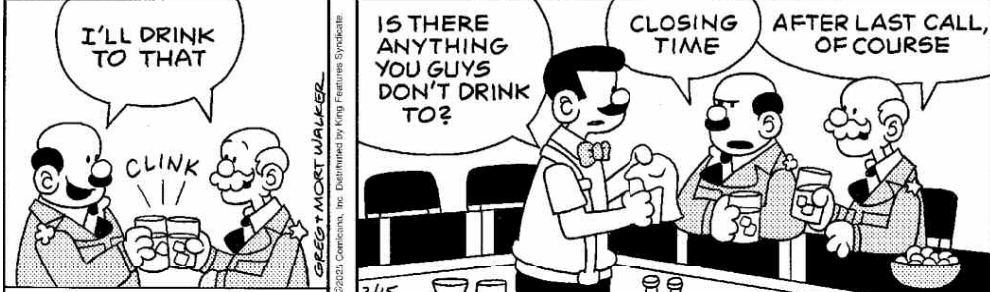
**Snuffy Smith**



**Snuffy Smith**



**Beetle Bailey**



**Beetle Bailey**



**We Deliver**

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

**Laughter**

The Commercial Review *We Deliver*

**40 NOTICES**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mistakes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.

**60 SERVICES**

**J. L. CONSTRUCTION & ROOFING LLC.** Amish crew. Custom built homes, new garages, pole barns, interior/ exterior remodeling, drywall, windows, doors, siding, roofing, foundations. 260-726-5062, leave message.

**SEAMSTRESS NAN HOMEMADE** Sewing and Alterations, Quilts, Baby Blankets, AppliquÉ, Zippers, Hemming, Memory T-Shirt, Special Orders, Wedding & Prom Gowns. 260.766.9334

**GOODHEWS ALL SEASON** Construction- Specializing in standing seam metal roofs. When Quality Counts, Count On US. A company you can trust. Member of the BBB. New Installation and repairs. Call Rodney Thornbury, owner 765-509-0191

**90 SALE CALENDAR**

**MARION YOUNG FARMERS**

Consignment Auction Mercer Landmark, Chickasaw, Ohio Between U.S. Rt. 127 & New Bremen on St. Rt. 274  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 15th**  
10 A.M.

PLEASE CONSIGN YOUR EQUIPMENT WITH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:  
Cole Luthman n 937-658-1380  
Jacob Wuebker -937-417-8798

Please call by Feb. 27 to Ensure Advertising WE WILL BE TAKING IN EQUIPMENT THURSDAY & FRIDAY before the sale No items Will be Consigned Saturday Morning  
**COLDWATER AUCTION SERVICE**

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

Located: Bulp Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN  
February 15th, 2025  
9:30 A. M.

**ANTIQUE-OLD & COLLECTORS ITEM**

CAST IRON: Griswold #10 Skillet, Favorite #12 Skillet, Wagner cornbread, & more. MARX Klown Katch & Spot Bowler Pinball games, CROCKS &

**STONEWARE:** 1 gallon early grey crock, 3 gallon bee sting crock, Blue & White baked beans, brown crock with lid, Steiff teddy bear, 1940is Girl Scout pins, vintage fishing lures, Ford oil can, skeleton keys, Railroad lock with key, Kenton Toy Co. cast iron driver and lady, Fram

*Bricker's Flowers & More*  
414 N. Meridian St. Portland  
Call or text to order 260-703-0304  
Open 9:30-5:00 Monday - Friday  
9:30-3:00 Saturday

**MAY FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.**

- Life • Health
- International Medical
- Employee Benefits
- Dental • Vision
- Medicare
- Supplements • Annuities

**MATT FRANKS**  
your hometown agent  
**(260) 729-5200**  
111 W. Main Street, Portland, IN

**BAIL BONDS**  
**Travis Weaver**  
**260-726-3189**  
across street from Jail

E and E Construction Amish Crew  
**BARN RESTORATION**  
Specializing in metal roofs, decks & more  
**FREE Estimates**  
**260-301-1777**

**90 SALE CALENDAR**

Filter diecut girl with swimsuit, Craftsman stamps, wood bucket, metal pot, and many other items not listed.  
**AUCTIONEERS NOTE:** Doors will open at 8 a.m. day of auction for preview.  
**RICHARD STACHLER**  
Loy Auction  
AC#31600027  
Auctioneers  
Gary Loy AU01031608  
Travis Theurer AU11200131  
Aaron Loy AU11200112  
Kayden Khayyata AU12400069

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Located: Bulp Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN  
February 22nd, 2025  
9:00 A. M.

**ANTIQUES-OLD & COLLECTORS-HOUSEHOLD GOODS**

Oak curved glass china cabinet with leaded glass, Oak Sellers kitchen cabinet with carmel slag glass inserts, Oak parlor table with carved dog, Coca Cola ice chest cooler, 1960is Shelby Cobra "500" Wheels and hub caps, vintage barberis chair, LIGHTED BEER SIGNS: 30+ , Budweiser Clydesdale Team Pool Table Light (in original box), gold handle walking sticks, Quaker State Oil Clock; Aurora Slot Car racing set,and many other items not listed.  
**GUNS-MOWERS-TOOLS**  
Taurus 9 mm, Keltec 380 auto, Colt Agent 38 SPL revolver, Glock 17-9mm, Lawn Boy self propelled push mower, drywall sprayer, McCulloch chain saw and many other items not listed.

**AUCTIONEERS NOTE:** Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. day of auction for preview. Please note that we will be running 2 rings a portion of the day.  
**MARLENE ARMIE RUNYON AND JAMES FAMILY**  
Loy Auction  
AC#31600027  
Auctioneers  
Gary Loy AU01031608  
Travis Theurer AU11200131  
Aaron Loy AU11200112  
Kayden Khayyata AU12400069

**100 JOBS WANTED**

**AL & JAYS ODD JOBS** Repairs-Cleaning-Assembly-Carpentry-Painting-Pet Sitting and many other services. CALL FOR A FREE QUOTE. 260-251-0636  
**AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR** any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.

**130 MISC. FOR SALE**

**SCRATCH PADS ARE BACK** various bundles sizes and XL pads. \$1.25 plus tax. Pick up at The Commercial Review Tuesday thru Friday 10am to 4pm.

**PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE** Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.

**130 MIS. FOR SALE**

**ALUMINUM SHEETS** 23"x30",.007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side..35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.

**190 FARMERS COL-UMN**

**AG RENTAL Spreaders:** BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309

**Out The CR**  
Classifieds  
[www.thecr.com](http://www.thecr.com)

**200 FOR RENT**

**LEASE SPACE** available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, [www.sycamore.space.com](http://www.sycamore.space.com)

**230 AUTOS, TRUCKS**

**WE PAY CASH** for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocumis Salvage

**260 PUBLIC AUCTION**

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

Mercer Landmark, Chickasaw, Ohio Between U.S. Rt. 127 & New Bremen on St. Rt. 274

**SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH**

10:00 A.M.  
PLEASE CONSIGN YOUR EQUIPMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING:

COLE LUTHMAN 937-658-1380  
JACOB WUEBKER 937-417-8798  
PLEASE CALL BY FEB 27 TO ENSURE ADVERTISING  
WE WILL BE TAKING IN EQUIPMENT THURSDAY& FRIDAY BEFORE THE SALE  
•NO ITEMS WILL BE CONSIGNED SATURDAY MORNING\*

**MARION YOUNG FARMERS CONSIGNMENT AUCTION**

Sale conducted by  
**COLDWATER AUCTION SERVICE**  
CR 2-15,22-2025

**250 PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Public Notice**

Alcohol & Tobacco Commission  
**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
The Alcohol Beverage Board of Jay County, Indiana will hold a public hearing at 11:00 am on February 25, 2025 at the City Council Chambers, 1616 N. Franklin Street, 1616 N. n Franklin St. in the city of Portland in said county, to investigate the propriety of holding an alcoholic beverage permit by the applicants listed herein to wit:

- DL3820719 Beer Wine & Liquor - Drug Store RENEWAL HOOK-SUPERX, LLC 802 N. MERIDIAN ST. Portland IN D/B/A CVS PHARMACY #6624
- LINDA M CIMBRON 45 BRIDGE STREET Warren, Secretary THOMAS S MOFFATT 29 HOMESTEAD CIRCLE Kingston, President
- MELAINE LUKER 45 SUSAN DRIVE Cranston, Secretary KIMBERLY DESOUSA 28 LARCHWOOD DR Cumberland, Secretary
- DL3822501 Beer Wine & Liquor - Drug Store RENEWAL WALMART STORES EAST LP 950 WEST VOTAW ST Portland IN D/B/A WALMART # 2388
- TIM SKINNER 3201 NW AVIGNON WAY Bentonville, President SARAH LITTLE 605 MAPLE DR Springdale, Secretary
- RR3816123 Beer Wine & Liquor - Restaurant (210) RENEWAL Greazy Pickle LLC 211 West Main Street Portland IN D/B/A GREAZY PICKLE
- CHRIS GRIESHOP 1843 EAST 100 SOUTH Portland, President THOMAS EMERICK 636 EAST MAIN STREET Portland, Secretary
- DL3826101 Beer Wine & Liquor - Drug Store RENEWAL HOOK-SUPERX LLC 1130 South Main Street Dunkirk IN D/B/A CVS PHARMACY # 6632
- LINDA M CIMBRON 45 BRIDGE STREET Warren, Secretary THOMAS MOFFATT 29 HOMESTEAD CIRCLE Kingston, President
- MELAINE LUKER 45 SUSAN DRIVE Cranston, Secretary KIMBERLY DESOUSA 28 LARCHWOOD DR Cumberland, Secretary
- RR3841090 Beer Wine & Liquor - Restaurant (210-1) RENEWAL FIREHOUSE BBQ & BLUES DUNKIRK LLC 126 E COMMERCE STREET Dunkirk IN D/B/A FIREHOUSE BBQ
- DL3833972 Beer Wine & Liquor - Package Store NEW JBMEnterprise LLC Location Pending Pennville IN

**250 PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Public Notice**

Local Fund Number		Local Fund Name		Beg. Cash and Inv. Bal. Jan 1, 2024	Receipts	Disbursements	End Cash and Inv. Bal. Dec 31, 2024
<b>Governmental Activities</b>							
01	Township General Fund	\$54,605.17	\$53,494.16	\$38,862.37	\$69,236.96		
11	Firefighting Fund	\$100,109.67	\$23,371.94	\$15,000.00	\$108,481.61		
81	Township Assistance Fund	\$20,635.88	\$2,045.47	\$6,119.74	\$16,561.61		
91	Levy Excess Fund	\$435.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$435.08		
95	Payroll Withholdings Fund-	\$271.14	\$1,707.62	\$692.96	\$743.52		
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$175,514.66</b>	<b>\$80,619.19</b>	<b>\$60,675.07</b>	<b>\$195,458.78</b>		

State of Indiana  
SS: Jay County  
I, Crystal Laux, Trustee of Bearcreek Township, Jay County, Indiana, do solemnly affirm under the penalty of perjury that the preceding report is complete, true and correct; that the sum with which I am charged in this report are all of the sums received by me; and that the various items of expenditures credited have been fully paid in the sums stated; that such payments were made without express or implied agreement that any portion thereof shall be retained by or repaid to me or any other person. I further affirm that a complete and detailed annual report, together with all accompanying vouchers showing the names of persons having been paid money by the township, have been filed as required by law in the office of the County Auditor; and that copies of such annual report are in custody of the Township Board and the State Board of Accounts. Said report is subject to inspection by any taxpayer of the township.  
Crystal Laux, Bearcreek Township Trustee  
Telephone: 260-997-4023  
Date this report was to be published 2/15/2025  
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, the Chairman of the Township Board of Bearcreek Township at its annual meeting this 11th day of February, 2025  
Jim Haffner, Township Board Chairman  
This report was received, accepted, and approved by the Township Board at its annual meeting, this 11th day of February, 2025.  
Bearcreek Township Board:  
Shelli Riggsbee  
Jim Haffner  
Kari Tressler  
CR 2-15-2025 - HSPAXLP

**260 PUBLIC AUCTION**

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

Located in the Bulp Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland Indiana on Saturday Morning

**FEBRUARY 22, 2025**

9:00 A.M.

**ANTIQUES - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS – HOUSEHOLD GOODS**  
Oak curved glass china cabinet with leaded glass (exceptionally nice); Oak cane display case (nice and very unusual); Oak 2 pc. display cabinet with large glass doors; Oak 2 pc. kitchen cupboard; Oak Sellers kitchen cabinet with carmel slag glass inserts; Oak parlor table with carved dog; stained glass window; Walnut corner cabinet; Oak display/showcase; Mahogany drophead desk; Oak round table; 6 Oak rabbit ear leather bottom chairs; Oak 2 pc. kitchen cabinet; Oak buffet; Oak pew; blanket chest; Oak smoker's cabinet; Coca Cola ice chest cooler; 1960's Shelby Cobra "500" wheels and hub caps; Oak pie safe; Oak buffet; Mail Pouch thermometer; 6 drawer dresser; vintage barber's chair; Harvest style table with 6 chairs; kitchen island; Oak dropleaf table; Oak 1 pc. cupboard; modern Oak glass door kitchen cupboard; primitive red color feed bin; Hoosier style cabinet; cedar lined blanket chest; Duncan Phyfe table with 6 chairs; Queen size bed; full size box springs and mattress; king size mattress; Maple kneehole desk; toddler bed; window air conditioner; Haier dorm size refrigerator; marble top stand; metal quilt rack; Lazy Boy leather recliner; leather footstool; bar stools; LIGHTED BEER SIGNS: 30+ to include Budweiser, Pabst, Old Style, Andeker, Coors, Hamm's, Hudepohl, Michelob, Schlitz, Miller, Stroh's and Old Milwaukee; Burger Beer clock; Budweiser Clydesdale Team Pool Table Light (in original box); NEON BEER LIGHTS: Miller Genuine Draft, Budweiser Guitar, and Bud Light; Bud Light rolling cooler; beer steins; Clydesdales horses and wagon; RCA Chipper & Nipper in box; brass grain probes; sleigh bells; lightning rod balls; arrows with colored glass; brass steam whistles; brass nozzles; CROCKS AND STONEWARE: #4 & #3 blue decorative, #2 Red Wing, #3 UHL, chicken waterer, AP Donagho, Western Stoneware jug, #5 jug, #4 Red Wing jug, Wm Radam's Microbe Killer #1 jug, several crock bowls, and other assorted crockery pieces; Wapak skillet; Daisy 4 qt. butter churn; Aladdin lamp; Goodrich Feeds large round sign; Mail Pouch Tobacco metal box, unusual; pantry box; wood wall clothes dryer with nice graphics; small wood barrels with spigots; Case pocket knives; Sheffield brass brace; hand corn shellers; Winchester hatchet; Marbles hatchet; gold handled walking sticks; FENTON: Favrene vase, hen on nest, basket, and other nice pieces not listed. large swirl marbles; Revell Apollo Moon Rocket; Gilbert Auto-Rama Slot Car racing set; Aurora Slot Car racing set; oil lamps; TOYS: Nylint dump truck, Tonka Texaco truck, Ertl airplanes, Hot Wheels Redlines, Matchbox, Red Gold car, Kiddie Car Classics, MF tractor, Farmall tractor, John Deere tractors, Pepsi bank, Coke semitruck and trailer, Fisher Cheese semitruck and trailer, Iron Horse locomotive, Coke truck and many other toys not listed. Regulator wall clock; Windsor type chair; glider rocker; GE dorm size refrigerator; outdoor metal table with 4 chairs; outdoor metal glider; outdoor metal chairs; yearbooks; TV trays; 1880 Madison County Indiana History book; hall tree; vintage newspapers; 1930's - 12' painted canvas farm advertising sign – Lorton Tractor Sales Ansonia Ohio; Quaker State Oil clock; large corbels; dinner bell; Parlor City CC, Bluffton cast iron cover; JEWELRY: (2) 14K – 9" chain, 14K – 11" chain, 10K bracelet, 10K chain, 925 chains, Bulova ladies watch, and 925 ring; wood rake; Longaberger baskets; Stop sign; coffee grinder; sugar buckets; parlor lamp; GREEN, PINK, AMBER ALONG WITH AMERICAN SWEETHEART MONAX DEPRESSION GLASS; Ft. Recovery Lumber and Bank rain gauges; Copper Farms thermometer; vintage motorcycle helmets; child's workbench; cast iron urn; 6 1/2' aluminum Christmas tree; Department 56 Original Snow Village pieces; Star Wars figures; McDonald 101 Dalmations Happy Meal Collection with display box; old car parts; snow shoes; table fans; photograph developers; butcher block top; old trophies; railroad calendars; fur stretchers; advertising items; 100's of old beer cans; vintage models; archery equipment; Speed punching bag; trucker caps; Renewal Invisible Head; telephone sign; old photographs; wood barrel; quilts; comforters; afghans; portable (tailgate style) gas grill; puzzles; Blue Ball jars; scooter; Portland Forge anvils; Pyrex; small chest type freezer; cast iron skillets; Kitchen Aid mixer; speakers and equipment; Longaberger cups; DVD's CD's; large assortment of decorations, all seasons; blankets; gas grill; bird houses; and many other items not listed.

**GUNS - MOWER – TOOLS**

Taurus 9 mm; Taurus PT111 9mm; S&W M&P 9 shield; Keltec 380 auto; Fie Titan Tiger 25 auto; S&W 9mm; Hi Point JCP 40 S&W; Western Auto Revelation 99 22 LR revolver; Ruger Mark 1 - 22; Colt Agent 38 SPL revolver; Taurus 9mm; Glock Coyote Tan with NS; Ruger P97 DC 45; Raven Auto; Jimenez Arms 22LR; Cobra CA 380; Phoenix Arms HP22A; Glock 17 - 9mm; S&W M&P 9mm; Ruger P89 - 9mm; Hi Point CF380; Ruger 9C-STC 9 mm; Heritage Rough Rider 22LR revolver; Taurus 38 SPL revolver; S&W M&P 45 compact; Lawn Boy self propelled push mower; fiberglass step ladder; drywall sprayer; McCulloch chain saw; lawn cart; hand tools; drop cords; rakes; shovels; weed trimmer and many other items not listed.

**AUCTIONEERS NOTE:** This auction offers a clean household goods with a nice variety of antiques and collectibles. Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. day of auction for preview. NOTE: We will be running 2 rings a portion of the day.

**MARLENE ARMIE RUNYON**

**& JAMES FAMILY**

LOY AUCTION AC#31600027  
AUCTIONEERS

Gary Loy AU 01031608 Aaron Loy AU11200112  
Travis Theurer AU 11200131 Kaden Khayyata AU12400069  
CR 2-15-2025

**GET IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS**

You never know what you might find in The Commercial Review Classifieds.

From a new car to a new home, to a new job, the Classifieds deliver!

Go to [thecr.com](http://thecr.com) or call 260-726-8141

**Wendel's**  
Carpets & Upholstery Cleaning  
Von Schrader Dry Foam Cleaning  
For Quick Drying, Residential & Commercial  
**Dave Wendel**  
Ph. 260-726-4520  
Cell 260-729-2797

**Dave's Heating & Cooling**  
Furnace, Air Conditioner Geothermal Sales & Service  
**260-726-2138**  
Now accepting MC/Disc/Visa

**BOOLMAN'S**  
Auto Sales & Service, Inc.  
Highway 67 W, Portland, Indiana  
**260-251-9735**

Family owned and operated since 1992  
**ALASKA Heating & Cooling**  
Albany: 765-789-8036  
**YOU are the reason we are in business!**  
**WE ARE CELEBRATING 29 YEARS IN BUSINESS!**

**Little JJ's Tree Service**  
Tree Trimming, Removal, Stump Grinding, Firewood available  
**765-509-1956**





The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jayden Comer of Jay County dribbles past Heritage's Taurean Brown during the second half Friday night. JCHS is now 9-8 and will be back at home tonight to take on Yorktown, which is 5-13 and last lost six in a row.

## Short ...

Continued from page 10  
Heritage took control early thanks to some easy baskets as well as a 4-for-4 start from 3-point range. Jay County got back to within two on a three-point play by Gradin Swoveland, only to have Davian Bates rain in a high-arc 3-pointer as time expired in the first half.

The visiting Patriots took advantage of a technical foul on the JCHS bench in the third quarter, hitting both free throws and then cashing in a Lybarger 3-pointer on the ensuing possession. A defensive stop and a score by LanTae Cassel pushed their lead back to a dozen points.

"Basketball can be a funny game sometimes, a game of runs, ups and downs," said Sovine. "You've just got to kind of ride the wave is what we tell these guys. That was a big turning point in the game. ... I thought we took advantage of it."

Jay County chipped away from there, closing the gap with a 9-2 run that included three Eli Dirksen baskets and a 3-point-

er from Benson Barnett. But it was unable to ever pull even.

The three from Griffin that left the host Patriots one point short was his fifth of the game as he led all scorers with 23 points. Dirksen tallied eight of his 14 in the second half and Swoveland added 12. Barnett entered the game for the first time in the fourth quarter and provided stable ball-handling and a defensive spark in addition to hitting his triple.

"He's had a good attitude this whole year," said Gary of the sophomore. "His tenacity, that stuff's contagious."

Lybarger led three players in double figures for Heritage as he made four 3-pointers en route to his 19 points. Cassel added 15 points and Taurean Brown scored 11. Braden Walter and Bates each added eight.

### Junior varsity

Jay County rallied from a double-digit deficit but fell short, 45-39.

JCHS trailed by as many as 14 points in the first half before closing

the gap to just two on a shot Nick Snow jumper in the final 30 seconds. But Heritage cashed in four free throws around a missed Jay County 3-pointer to hold on for the win.

Myles Harris totaled 15 points for Heritage while Kingston Galentine had 12.

Snow matched Harris for the game high with 15 points. Jacob Monroe added eight for JCHS.

### Freshman

A massive third quarter was key for Jay County as it overcame a half-time deficit for a 40-31 victory.

JCHS outscored Heritage 19-7 in the third quarter after trailing by six at halftime. It added 10 more points in the fourth quarter to preserve the win.

Dash Thacker led a balanced scoring attack for the host Patriots with seven points. Oak Gaerke and Kadyn Carpenter each had six, and Alex Miller, Owen Muhlenkamp and Brayden O'Brian added five apiece.

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Boys wrestling semi-state at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum — 8:30 a.m.; Boys basketball (including freshmen) vs. Yorktown — 6 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball sectional championship vs. Triad at Covington — 2 p.m.; Boys basketball vs. Tri-Village — 6 p.m.

**Monday**  
Jay County — Junior high swim vs. Adams Central — 6 p.m.

**Tuesday**  
Jay County — Boys basketball at Hamilton Heights — 6 p.m.; Junior high wrestling vs. Delta — 6 p.m.; Junior high swim at Muncie Southside — 6 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Boys bowling district at Beaver Creek — 9 a.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Leicester City at Arsenal (USA)  
10 a.m. — College softball: Texas A&M at

Oklahoma State (ESPN2)  
10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Fulham at Nottingham Forest (USA)  
12 p.m. — College basketball: Arkansas at Texas A&M (ESPN); Miami at Pitt (ESPN2); DePaul at Xavier (FS1)  
12 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Purdue at Indiana (BTN)  
12 p.m. — ARCA Menards Series: Hard Rock Bet 200 (FOX)  
12:30 p.m. — College basketball: Saint Joseph's at George Mason (USA)  
12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Crystal Palace at Everton (NBC)  
1 p.m. — College basketball: Wisconsin at Purdue (CBS)  
1 p.m. — Four Nations hockey: Finland at Sweden (ABC)  
2 p.m. — College basketball: Houston at Arizona (ESPN); West Virginia at Baylor (ESPN2); Washington at Penn State (BTN); Georgetown at Butler (FS1)  
2:30 p.m. — College basketball: UConn at Seton Hall (FOX); Duquesne at Dayton (USA)  
3 p.m. — PGA Tour: The Genesis Invitational (CBS)  
4 p.m. — College basketball: Auburn at Alabama (ESPN); Cincinnati at Iowa State (ESPN2); Stanford at Duke (ABC); Minnesota at USC (BTN)

4 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Georgetown at Creighton (FS1)  
6 p.m. — College basketball: Mississippi State at Ole Miss (ESPN); North Carolina at Syracuse (ESPN)  
6 p.m. — College hockey: Minnesota at Michigan (BTN)  
8 p.m. — NBA: Kia Skills Challenge, Starry 3-point Contest and AT&T Slam Dunk contest (TNT)  
8 p.m. — College basketball: Troy at Arkansas State (ESPN2); Kentucky at Texas (ESPN); Michigan State at Illinois (FOX)  
8 p.m. — Four Nations hockey: USA at Canada (ABC)  
10 p.m. — College basketball: Kansas at Utah (ESPN); Pepperdine at Gonzaga (NBC); Washington State at St. Mary's (ESPN2)

**Sunday**  
7:30 a.m. — Women's Super League soccer: Arsenal at Tottenham Hotspur (ESPN2)  
9 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Liverpool at Wolverhampton Wanderers (USA)  
12 p.m. — College basketball: Memphis at Wichita State (ESPN); Florida Atlantic at Temple (ESPN2)  
12 p.m. — College wrestling: Michigan State at Michigan (BTN)  
1 p.m. — College basketball: Michigan at Ohio

State (CBS)  
1 p.m. — Women's college basketball: UConn at South Carolina (ABC)  
2 p.m. — College basketball: Bradley at Drake (ESPN)  
2 p.m. — Women's college basketball: N.C. State at North Carolina (ESPN)  
2:30 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Daytona 500 (FOX)  
3 p.m. — College basketball: Nebraska at Northwestern (BTN); Creighton at St. John's (FS1)  
3 p.m. — Women's college basketball: LSU at Texas (ABC)  
3 p.m. — PGA Tour: The Genesis Invitational (CBS)  
4 p.m. — College basketball: South Florida at UAB (ESPN2)  
5 p.m. — College basketball: Iowa at Maryland (FS1)  
5 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Nebraska at Illinois (BTN)  
6 p.m. — College softball: Alabama at Oklahoma State (ESPN)  
7 p.m. — College basketball: Rutgers at Oregon (FS1)  
7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: USC at Washington (BTN)  
8 p.m. — College softball: Florida State at UCF (ESPN)

9 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Michigan State at UCLA (BTN)  
10 p.m. — NBA All-Star Game (TNT)

**Monday**  
12 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Iowa at Ohio State (FOX)  
1 p.m. — Four Nations hockey: Canada at Finland (TNT)  
2 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Kansas State at West Virginia (FOX)  
6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Duke at Notre Dame (ESPN); Michigan at Maryland (BTN)  
8 p.m. — College basketball: Duke at Virginia (ESPN)  
8 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Northwestern at Rutgers (BTN)  
8 p.m. — Four Nations hockey: Sweden at USA (TNT)  
9 p.m. — College basketball: Arizona at Baylor (ESPN)

**Tuesday**  
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Villanova at UConn (FS1)  
7 p.m. — College basketball: Oklahoma at Florida (ESPN2)



Come to Wings and Rings for our signature wings, seasonal specials, drinks and beers, then stay for more.

**Sports on TV**  
**Cold Beer on Draft**  
**Great Food on the Grill**

**WINGS and RINGS**

1204 W. Votaw St., Portland, IN  
(260) 726-9647

## Comeback falls short

*JC rallied from double-digit deficit twice but fell by one*

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

The host Patriots fell behind early and rallied to get within two late in the first half.

They saw their deficit balloon to double figures again in the third quarter, but clawed back again.

They just didn't have quite enough to get over the hump.

The Jay County High School boys basketball team missed one opportunity to tie the game late and then could only watch as time ticked away after a Tucker Griffin 3-pointer with three seconds left as it fell 64-63 Friday to the visiting Heritage Patriots.

"Frustrating loss," said JCHS interim coach Brogan Gary. "Competitive, back-and-forth game, one that we didn't give up on, so I'm proud of that."

"There's good moments to take away and to learn from. We just have to learn to start off with that intensity, that much aggression and togetherness."

JCHS (9-8, 3-3 Allen County Athletic Conference) scored the game's first points but trailed most of the way after falling behind 18-7 at the 2:44 mark of the first quarter. It kept fighting back, getting to within two on a Griffin drive with just under a minute to play.

Landon Lybarger of Heritage



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School sophomore Benson Barnett looks for space to create offense between a pair of Heritage defenders during the fourth quarter Friday. Barnett hit a 3-pointer as the Patriots rallied from a double-digit deficit only to fall to the visiting Patriots by one and slip to 3-3 in the Allen County Athletic Conference.

(11-8, 4-2 ACAC) split his free throws with 28.7 seconds to go, leaving the door open for Jay County to potentially pull even. Following a timeout, the home team got the ball to Jayden Comer for a 3-point try from the

left wing, but the sophomore could not get the shot to fall.

Another free throw split, this time by Lucas Taylor, proved enough for Heritage to hold on. It was able to let the final seconds tick off the clock without

inbounding the ball after Griffin's triple with three seconds to play.

"It's been an issue this year," said Heritage coach Kyle Sovine, whose team was coming off of consecutive losses to

Bluffton and Norwell. "We've had two or three that we've dropped at the end. ... That pressure can do some things to you. I thought we handled it well."

See Short page 9

# MARCH SPECIALS

Run a mid-sized ad in all of our newspapers,  
The Commercial Review (Portland),  
The News-Gazette (Winchester),  
The News Times (Hartford City) and  
The News and Sun (Dunkirk),  
and get MASSIVE DEALS (75% off)!

2x5	-\$90
2x7	-\$125
3x6	-\$160
4x5	-\$175
4x6	-\$210
5x5	-\$220

*Add color for \$80*

Rates do not apply to special sections.  
Ads must run in March.

**GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS**  
Call (260) 726-8141 or email ads@thecr.com

## Tribe Tankers' season end at regional meet

OXFORD, Ohio — The Indians' season ended in Oxford.

The Fort Recovery High School swim team competed in seven events at the OHSAA Division II Southwest District meet on Friday at Miami University (Ohio), but couldn't get anybody through to the state meet.

The top three individual finishers — top two in relays — in each event automatically qualify for the state finals, held at C.T. Branin Natatorium on McKinley's campus from Feb. 18-22. The remaining spots — 20 in individual events and 12 in relays — go to the best next-best times from each district.

Joelle Kaup had the closest shot of the Indians, finishing 10th in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 25.62 seconds. Kaup also swam the 100 backstroke,

### FRHS roundup

recording a time of 1 minute, 4.44 seconds, to take 18th.

Carson Fullenkamp had the highest finish of the boys, placing 25th in the 100 butterfly at 1:01.24. He also had a time of 2:24.13 for 31st in the 200 individual medley, while Caleb Smith placed 30th in the 100 breaststroke with a 1:12.52.

The girls sent the 200 medley relay and the 400 freestyle relay to the district. The latter placed 20th with a time of 4:17.98, while the former finished 23rd in 2:11.23.

### Elwer controls

DELPHOS, Ohio — Fort Recovery's boys basketball team couldn't slow down Cameron Elwer as the Bluejay poured in 41 points to push St. John's to an 81-43 victory.

Elwer scored all 41 points in the first three quarters before spending the fourth on the bench. St. John's (19-1, 9-0 Midwest Athletic Conference) scored 23 or more points in the first three periods, while only putting up eight in the fourth.

Braylon Dilworth put up a career-high 10 points to tie Briggs Overman as the leading scorers for Fort Recovery (6-15, 2-7 MAC). The Indians scored 18 in the third period, but failed to break double digits in the other three.

The Tribe will face Tri-Village today before opening the postseason at 6 p.m. Feb. 20 against seventh-seeded Houston at Troy.

### Tribe moves on

HUBER HEIGHTS, Ohio — The Fort Recovery boys bowling team finished as the runner-up in the OHSAA Division II bowling sectional at RollHouse Dayton on Thursday.

The Indians totalled 3,964 pins, second to Benjamin Logan with 4,137.

The finish punched the Indians a spot at the district meet at Beaver-Vu Lanes on Tuesday at 10:45 a.m. (The top 12 teams and 12 best individuals not on advancing teams clinch trips to the district.)

Riley Grieshop led the Indians with a 595 series, which put him 15th in the sectional. He rolled the Tribe's high game of 247 pins.

Reece LeFevre and Garrett Diller each placed in the top 50 in the tournament, with the former shooting 585 for 18th and the latter placing 44th with a 531 series.

Fort Recovery put up the second-best Baker score of 1,131 pins.

## Funeral Services

*to honor your loved one*

Many of us plan ahead for the events we anticipate. We plan for weddings, higher education, vacations, and other significant events. Understanding the benefits of pre-planning has prompted many to take the step to plan for their funeral. It gives you peace of mind, personal choice, and lower costs. (260) 726-7171

For immediate assistance or information about our preplanning services, please call or contact us online today.

*It's not a day in a life, but a life in a day.*  
**Baird-Freeman Funeral Home**  
221 N. Meridian St., Portland, IN • www.bairdfreeman.com • (260) 726-7171