

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

King to purchase stations from Weavers

Paperwork has been filed with Federal Communications Commission

Jay County's radio station will have a new owner.

Rob and Mindy Weaver are in the process of selling their Jay and Adams County radio stations to Mark King, Rob Weaver confirmed Friday.

Radio Insight first reported the sale, and WPGW Radio has also begun broadcasting notice as required under Federal Communications Commission rules.

King, a Portland resident, will purchase the Jay County stations (WPGW 100.9 FM and 1440 AM as well as 105.3 FM) for \$996,873.40 from the Weavers and the non-commercial WZJR 91.7 for \$55,740.54 from the couple and their son Kyle, Radio Insight reported. He will also purchase WZBD 92.7 FM in Adams County from the Weavers for \$343,905.69.

A stock sale filed by King in late January indicates he will pay a total of \$110,000 at closing with the remaining balance to be financed by the Weavers.

For additional details about the sale, see The Commercial Review next week.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Petting pony

Murphy Siegrist, 2, pets a pony during Fort Recovery FFA's petting zoo Friday afternoon. Fort Recovery Elementary students and local children visited Fort Recovery High School for the event, which had been postponed to Friday because of weather.

Commissioners approve EDIT funding

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Commissioners made a few funding decisions Thursday.

Council will consider whether to allocate dollars to those choices next month.

Jay County Commissioners reviewed applications again for this year's economic development income tax (EDIT) dollars.

Approved by commissioners Thursday included funding of \$35,000 for John Jay Center for Learning, \$15,000 for Arts Place's Arts in the Parks program, \$8,000 for Jay County 4-H Clubs, \$5,000 for Jay County 4th of July Committee, \$3,000 for East Central Indiana Small Business Development Center, \$2,500 for Dunkirk Fire Department and \$2,500 for Redkey Fireworks Committee.

Commissioners forwarded those requests to Jay County Council, which meets March 12.

Other requests for dollars — they included requests from Jay County Development Corporation, Jay County Chamber of Commerce and Jay County Fair Association — were put on hold.

Commissioners last year included \$323,000 EDIT dollars in their 2025 budget request for various entities or projects, which

John Jay receives \$35,000, Arts Place awarded \$15,000

included \$260,000 in a fund labeled as contractual services and \$63,000 split between John Jay Center for Learning (\$25,000), Arts in the Parks (\$15,000), Jay County Development Corporation services (\$10,000), Jay County 4th of July Committee (\$10,000) and East Central Indiana Small Business Development Center (\$3,000).

Jay County Council in September agreed on a split 3-2 vote to allocate no specific funding in that portion of the county's 2025 budget. Instead, it decided commissioners could approach the council to request additional appropriations for using EDIT dollars in 2025.

As of Friday, the county had more than \$2.15 million in its EDIT fund, with the county estimated to receive another \$775,747.50 by the end of the year.

Commissioners agreed Thursday to contribute \$35,000 to John Jay Center for Learning's High School Equivalency (HSE) program. The organization originally requested \$70,000.

Executive director Rusty Inman explained the HSE program serves the community in more ways than one.

"The way we attract other entities to come into the community or to raise wages is through education," he said.

Answering a question from commissioner Doug Horn, Inman said the HSE program serves an average of 45 to 50 people annually. Commissioner Duane Monroe asked how many of those are Jay County residents, with Inman saying the majority live in Jay County.

Commissioners president Chad Aker noted the county con-

tributed \$25,000 to John Jay Center for Learning last year, \$50,000 in 2023 and \$70,000 in 2022. Aker said he believes John Jay Center for Learning is valuable to the community, but he balked at the amount requested. He noted the county has contributed \$665,000 to the organization in total over the years.

"At some point I'd like to reduce those costs to the county," he said, suggesting the organization potentially charge more for its services or look into other solutions.

Monroe compared assets from John Jay Center for Learning and Arts Place to others seeking EDIT funding, pointing to a greater need for others.

Inman said the grants John Jay Center for Learning receives are restricted to certain uses and can make the organization's assets look more inflated. He pointed to a \$70,000 loss this year in the organization's budget.

Aker said he was in favor of contributing a portion of the request to John Jay Center for Learning. Horn suggested \$35,000, with Monroe and Aker agreeing.

Arts Place executive director Carolyn Carducci noted Arts

Place is about 75% funded through donations, endowments and grants. She pointed out the large amount of services rendered to communities.

Carducci briefly discussed Arts in the Parks, a summer arts program for school-aged students offered in 14 communities in Ohio and Indiana, including Jay County. Last year, there were 897 class registrations for the program in Jay County, with Carducci noting children may take more than one class. (There were more than 2,200 registrations across the 14 communities.)

Commissioners agreed to grant the full \$15,000 request to Arts Place.

Commissioners tabled a \$25,000 request from Jay County Chamber of Commerce.

Representative Zach Chenoweth explained the organization is no longer planning to ask for \$25,000, saying its request would likely now be closer to \$10,000.

"That would be tremendous for the budget, where we don't have to necessarily spend so much time and do so many events, as far as labor-wise, be more committee-side," said Chenoweth.

See **Funding** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Pig pass

The point guard pig (Carter Wellman) looks to pass during FFA basketball at halftime of Friday's Jay County High School boys basketball game against Norwell. For more on the game, see page 10.

First Lady to fundraise

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

After slashing a popular reading program from the budget, Gov. Mike Braun said Friday he asked First Lady Maureen Braun to spearhead an initiative to keep Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Indiana.

"She has agreed and she will work with philanthropic partners and in consulta-

tion with state leadership to identify funding opportunities for the book distribution program," the governor said in a news release.

The program gifts free, high quality, age-appropriate books to children from birth to age five on a monthly basis, regardless of family income.

Former Gov. Eric Holcomb included a statewide expansion of the program

in his 2023 legislative agenda. The General Assembly earmarked \$6 million for the program in the state's last biennial budget — \$2 million in the first year and \$4 million in the second — to ensure that all Hoosier kids qualify to receive free books.

But when Gov. Braun prepared his budget proposal in January he discontinued the funding.

Deaths

Ruth Kemp, 103, Portland
Karl Fennig, 86, rural Portland
Robley Evans, 75, Bluffton
Roselyn Huston, 85, Geneva
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 28 degrees on Friday.
Skies will be mostly sunny today with a high of 30 and winds gusting to 20 miles per hour. The high will climb into the upper 30s on Sunday and then the mid 40s on Monday.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

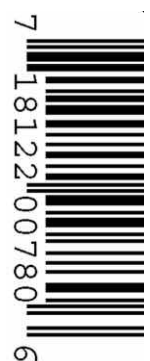
Jay County Civic Theatre will host a pre-audition night for its production of "Freaky Friday" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland. The event is an opportunity for newcomers to ask questions about the process and for anyone interested in auditioning to get tips and feedback from the staff.

Coming up

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

Wednesday — Details from Monday's Dunkirk City Council meeting.

Thursday — Results from the JCHS boys basketball game at Winchester.



Broadband office hosts listening sessions

Indiana Broadband Office is hosting a public listening session in Jay County next month. Sessions — they'll be offered across the state throughout the month — offer an opportunity to hear updates on Indiana's broadband expansion efforts and learn more about the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Opportunity (DO) programs and how they will impact communities.

The sessions also offer an opportunity for residents to ask questions and share feedback with state broadband officials.

Taking Note

Jay County's session will run from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. March 4 at Jay County Public Library in Portland. All sessions are open to the public.

Grants available

Portland Rotary has grant

dollars available. The organization recently announced it has allotted \$5,000 for local grants. Projects to be completed with the grant must occur between September 2025 and May 1, 2026.

Grant awards will range from a minimum of \$500 to a maximum of \$5,000. The two-fold application process requires approval from Portland Rotary and the Rotary District.

The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. March 28. To receive applications or ask questions,

email portlandindianarotary-grants@gmail.com.

New scholarship

Jay County Solid Waste Management District has a new scholarship program.

The district will be awarding two Jay County High School seniors with \$250 scholarships. To qualify, students must have volunteered with a group or organization manning recycling drop off centers throughout Jay County during their high school career. Applications are due before March 31.

Taking applications

Indiana Donor Network Foundation is accepting applications for educational scholarships.

The scholarships are open to immediate family members of Indiana residents who were organ, tissue or cornea donors, living donors, transplant recipients and Hoosiers waiting for transplants.

Applications are available online at indianadonornetwork.org/scholarships.

The deadline to apply is March 17.

Boyfriend refuses to ever leave his house

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with someone for 11 months. We're both each other's first relationship after being single for a few years following traumatic breakups. During our entire relationship, he has not cut his hair, left his house or socialized with anyone besides me, except via text.

He doesn't visit me, but he always leaves his door open for me. We have discussed going out, but he always finds a reason to stay inside. After a while, I realized they were just excuses. He claims to be fine, but his mother and I are worried. She told me

Dear Abby



he became this way after his breakup and COVID.

My boyfriend always seems happy around me and states that he wants to marry and have children. He also says "I love you" and expresses his desire to be with me. His social media shows a completely different man, but it was all prior to his breakup. What should I do? — DISCOURAGED IN MICHIGAN

DEAR DISCOURAGED: Because this man was a different person before his breakup and the COVID pandemic, and his mother is also worried about him, speak up. People who lose interest in things they used to do and no longer groom themselves may be suffering from depression, which his doctor could help him with.

Make it clear to your reclusive boyfriend that you have been patient for almost a year now, and if he wants to continue having a relationship with

you, he must consult a licensed mental health professional about his fear of leaving his house. Without professional help, he won't get better, and this could become your life as well.

DEAR ABBY: My husband's friends and their son came to spend the weekend at our new camper with us. We asked their son repeatedly in front of his parents not to do damaging things. After the weekend, at my husband's urging, I texted the woman about his behavior. When her husband texted mine about it, my husband

didn't back me up. My daughter told me she heard him tell the man on the phone that it was all me, and that they were welcome back when I was on vacation. I was furious.

That was three years ago, and my husband still hangs out with them. He has asked me to apologize so we can all be friends again. Am I wrong for demanding he tell the truth, that he wanted that text written, that he lied and it was NOT "just me"? I want him to back me up as he should have. — TICKED-OFF WIFE

DEAR WIFE: Face it. Your husband set you up and then chickened

out. Where he should have a backbone, it appears he has a wet noodle. You are not wrong for wanting him to fess up, but don't expect it to happen. On this subject, your husband is more interested in pacifying his buddy than what your feelings about it may be. You have my sympathy.

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

Fifty-three donate blood at Jay Community Center

Fifty-three donors gave blood Tuesday during American Red Cross' blood drive at Jay Community Center.

Donors included Ralph Frazee, Mark Tillman, John Hart, Sharon Schoenlein, Billy

Sipe, Michael Schmidt, Franklin Hogle, Jill Hemmelgarn, Rita Reynolds, Joyce Eldridge, and Donald Schlosser.

Also Dennis Negele, Jack Freeman, Denise Glentzer,

Sara Auker, Freeda Osenbaugh, Joni Penrod, Aaron Bergman, Mary Laux, Kevin Keller, Cheryl Gibson, Dustin Guggenbiller, Connie Ronald.

Douglas Shidler, Carla Pogue, Sarah Rines, Samuel Grobb, Eric

Rogers, Cara Cramer, Marilyn Knapke, Joel Taylor, Paula Barron, Kathy Ayers, Lorrissa Bousman, Jerry Bousman, Lindzy Upp, Jeff Geesaman, Margaret Reier, Madona Bruggeman and Tara Leese.

Also Tammy Krieg, Brian West, Duane Monroe, Barbara Myers, Nichole Parks, Cami Ashley, Benjamin Heath, Lillian Johnson, Elizabeth Skiver, Denise Culy, Molly Twigg, Ana Minnich and Jayne Pearson.

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 Fri-

day. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

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

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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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Wednesday

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

For Jay County Elementary Schools
February 24-28

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

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

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

Thursday: Main Entrees: Mini chicken corn dogs **Alternate Entrees:** Popcorn chicken, mini whole grain biscuit, cereal, goldfish & yogurt fun lunch **Sides for all meals:** French fries

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

george family DENTISTRY

112 North Ship Street, Portland, IN
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Ban betrays a promise to our allies

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

Republican and Democratic administrations alike benefited from the sacrifices of Afghans who put their lives on the line to support U.S. troops, and spread American values, in the 20-year war against the Taliban. Both have now betrayed the trust those allies placed in them.

The previous White House botched the August 2021 withdrawal from Afghanistan, ushering the Taliban back into power. It tried to atone in part by smoothing pathways for military interpreters and others who qualified for Special Immigrant Visas, as well as refugees including judges, journalists and women's rights activists, to emigrate to Ameri-

Guest Editorial

ca. By the end of President Joe Biden's term, close to 5,000 Afghans a month were successfully resettling in the U.S.

The current administration has thrown the system into turmoil. Its broad-ranging suspension of foreign aid has cut off funds that SIV holders were relying on to travel to the U.S. and upended the resettlement services meant to help them once they arrive, including rent support for their initial months. Mean-

while, a 90-day freeze on refugee admissions has blocked other Afghans who had received approval to migrate — and who rightly fear for their safety.

Together the measures have affected roughly 45,000 SIV applicants ready to fly out of Afghanistan and at least 15,000 qualified refugees, according to the coalition #AfghanEvac. Many of the latter are currently in Pakistan, which has launched a wave of deportations aiming to push migrants back across the border. Thousands of other Afghans whose cases are still in the application process now face uncertain futures.

This second abandonment compounds the damage to U.S. credibility and standing caused

by the first. Allies asked to support America in future conflicts will surely wonder whether any promises made to them will last past the next election. China and other rivals have gained yet another example to add to their long narrative of U.S. capriciousness and hypocrisy.

More scrutiny of foreign aid, which the president campaigned on, is fair game. But a blanket refugee ban is cruel and unjustified, as is the pause in aid to organizations supporting food security, education and other critical services around the world. Congress should press the White House to rethink both. In the meantime, legislators from both sides of the aisle should demand that the administration issue waivers for

Afghans who have been properly vetted and approved to come to the U.S., as well as for the services they require to reach the country and settle down. Other groups no doubt have strong arguments for relief; that's no reason to punish Afghans who face legitimate threats of persecution or even death because of their U.S. ties.

National Security Adviser Mike Waltz is a decorated veteran of the war in Afghanistan. He surely knows that the world is too dangerous for the U.S. to make its way without friends. If the administration wants to build "peace through strength," as it says, it should leave no doubt it will stand by those who risk their lives to stand by America.

Continue momentum for reading education

By **CHISOM OKORAFOR**
OtherWords

With an annual budget rapidly approaching \$1 trillion, the Pentagon already gets more discretionary tax dollars than any other agency.

Now congressional Republicans are proposing to hike that figure by anywhere from \$100 billion to \$150 billion — while slashing funding for programs like Medicaid, SNAP, and other programs that help keep Americans on their feet.

Lawmakers have it backwards: We need to invest more in those programs and less in the Pentagon, which simply can't account for how it's spending our money.

Late last year, the Pentagon failed its mandatory audit — yet again.

This isn't the first time this has happened, either — in fact, the Pentagon has failed every audit it's ever undergone. According to the Project on Government Oversight, the Defense Department is the only department to have achieved consistent failure over nearly 35 years of government audits. Quite the achievement.

While the Pentagon may not know where its money goes, we do know that about half of its budget each year goes to private, for-profit military contractors. The Pentagon's deep over-reliance on these corporations not only wastes billions of taxpayer dollars, but also feeds conflicts and contributes to weapons proliferation. Ultimately, this creates a fundamentally less secure world.

Much of the Pentagon's operations and personnel have been outsourced to "private military contractors," or PMCs. The use of PMCs exploded during the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars — by 2019, there were 1.5 times as many contractors on the ground in the Middle East as U.S. troops.

These corporations have turned our tax dollars into their private slush fund with rampant waste, fraud, and abuse.

Take for instance the time in 2020 when the Pentagon paid over \$52,000 for a trashcan. Or when a Pentagon contractor made a 9,400 percent profit margin off of a half-inch metal pin. Last year, reports emerged that Pentagon contractor Boeing made almost \$1 million in profit just from over-charging for spare parts on C-17 cargo planes, such as soap dispensers.

There are countless examples of Pentagon con-

Chisom Okorafor



There are countless examples of Pentagon contractors defrauding American taxpayers ...

tractors defrauding American taxpayers like this, and yet we keep writing them bigger and bigger checks. And the wealthier these companies and their executives get, the easier it is for them to throw their weight around in government.

Look at Elon Musk, President Trump's chief billionaire backer and the one he charged with rooting out "waste" from the government.

Musk, the wealthiest oligarch on the planet, has many glaring conflicts of interest as he meddles in the U.S. government. Not the least of which: he's a Pentagon contractor CEO himself, through his company SpaceX.

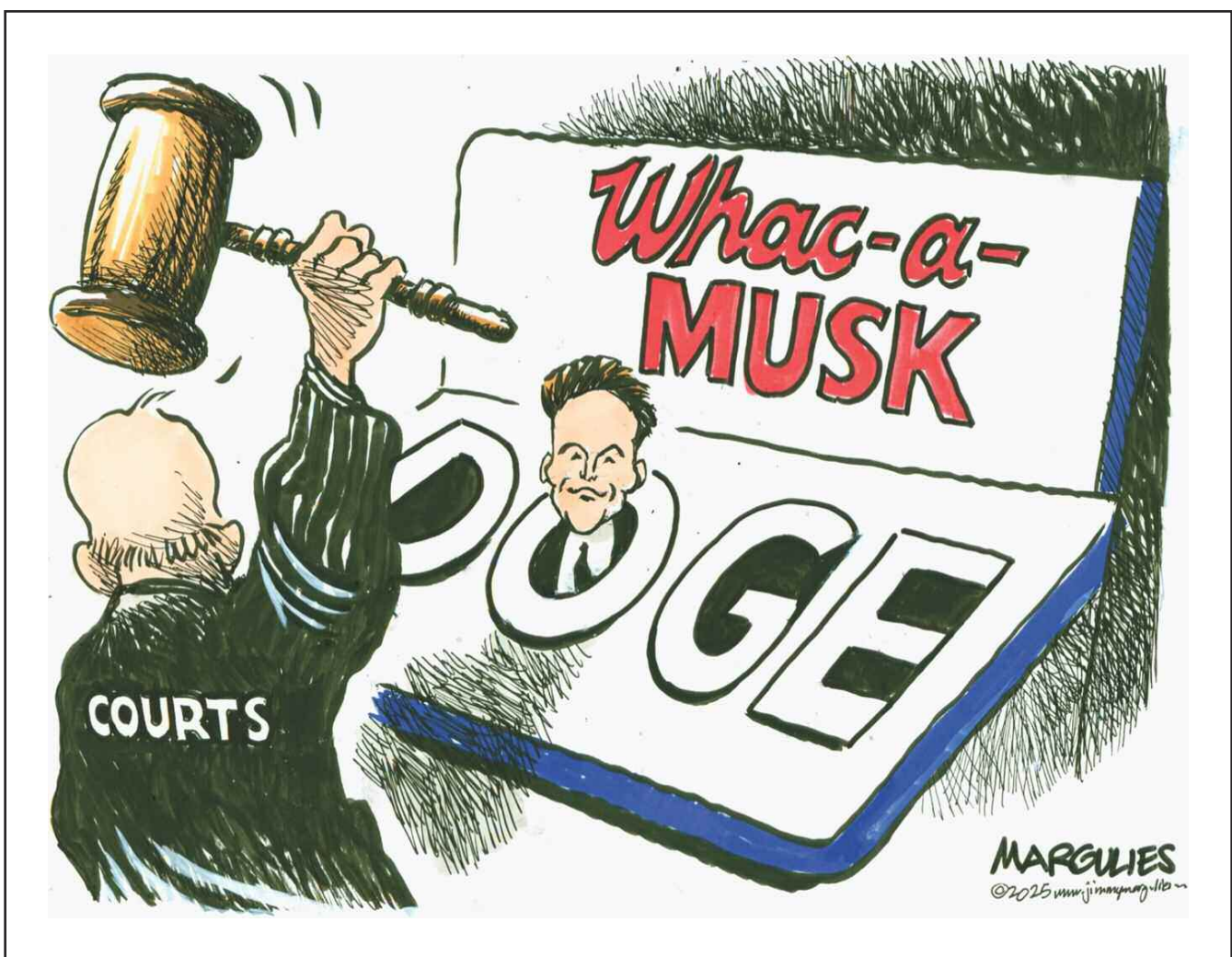
Contractor fraud isn't going away — in fact, it will only get worse with the most recent Pentagon budget's loosened restrictions on how these companies can spend taxpayer dollars. Despite this, there is little political will to crack down on the companies that are bleeding taxpayers dry.

Our politicians can't just allow the Pentagon to fail audit after audit forever. We have to curb our endless spending on the military — and put that money back into our real needs, like creating jobs, educating students, protecting our planet, and much more.

Targeting companies that make billions ripping off taxpayers is a perfect place to start.

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Okorafor is a Henry A. Wallace Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies.

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



Forget DEI; it's about decency

By **JOHN KRULL**
TheStatehouseFile.com

Many, many years ago, the newspaper where I worked required staff to go through diversity training.

At the introductory session, the facilitator went around the room and asked everyone how they felt about diversity.

When she came to me, I said calling it diversity training was a mistake, one that gave bigots a club they could use to give advocates for fair treatment a prolonged and persistent beating.

"It should be called 'decency training,'" I said.

Because what we were talking about in those sessions — treating all human beings with dignity and respect regardless of race, national origin, faith or sexual identity — was what I had been raised to think of simply as good manners. You treat other people as you want and expect to be treated yourself.

Using the word "diversity" spoke to outcomes rather than a process. It allowed critics to argue that the whole thing was about rigging the game when it truly was about the opposite.

We weren't trying to move whole groups of people to the finish line ahead of other groups. No, we were working to make sure that everyone made it to the starting line and had a chance to run the race.

I didn't make much headway with my argument all those years ago.

Diversity training was what they called it at that first session and diversity training is what it remained.

I still think, though, that my point was valid.

Those of us who want to see all human beings given a fair shake gave those who thought some people just didn't deserve an equal chance a huge advantage in the debate simply by not thinking through the nomenclature.

John Krull



We made it sound as if we were arguing for something new and radical and different, when in fact we often were talking about values that were at least as old as Scripture.

Do unto others....

If we'd called it decency training or even basic etiquette, we would have forced them to argue against simple good manners and principles that almost every major faith tradition embraces. Let them make the case that the Declaration of Independence's implicit promise that all people are created equal and are endowed with "certain unalienable rights," including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness was a mistake.

(Yes, I know the declaration's preamble refers only to men, but 18th-century usage often used masculine terms to speak for all of humanity. Yes, I know that was sexist. One of the things that is both the most infuriating and the most inspiring about this nation's founders is that they put all their shortsighted flaws and prejudices on display while also crafting and enshrining language and principles that have allowed Americans ever since to indict them for those flaws and prejudices.)

But we decided to stick with diversity training as the label.

Flash forward several decades.

Now, the Donald Trump-led federal government and a host of state governments have declared war on DEI — diversity, equity and inclusion.

Or, as I prefer to think, on decency, fairness and simple politeness. (To

exclude someone for no valid reason is rude.)

These actions by the president and his minions will be costly. Denying reality always is.

Businesses, colleges and other parts of American life didn't decide to start encouraging employees, students and others to treat others with courtesy and consideration out of nowhere. Those enterprises did so because the world was changing. Human beings were becoming more transient, moving from one country and culture to another with increasing rapidity.

Schools, corporations and communities that wanted to be successful — wanted to secure both talent and markets — needed to figure out ways to reach across cultural divides and redress historic grievances.

That still is the case.

The world is not going to change any slower because Donald Trump and his followers prefer to stick their heads in the sand.

The opposition from Trump and his supporters, though, creates an opportunity for us to do a reset on the discussion. We now can reframe the debate.

How about if we start by ditching DEI as an acronym?

Instead, how about if we start saying to everyone everywhere — regardless of race, religion, national origin, gender or sexual identity — that we're going to treat you with decency, with fairness and with good old-fashioned courtesy, because that's what goodhearted people do?

Let the president and his crew take issue with that.

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

The Commercial Review



US PS 125820

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VOLUME 151—NUMBER 213
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025

www.thecr.com

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.

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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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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 — \$12; 13 weeks — \$37; six months — \$70; one year — \$125.
Motor route (where available): Monthly auto-pay — \$13; 13 weeks — \$45; six months — \$76; one year — \$144.
Mail: Monthly auto-pay — \$14; 13 weeks — \$51; six months — \$83; one year — \$156.
Home delivery problems: Call (260) 251-9588

2-22 CRYPTOQUIP

IOJL Z IJLH HG HOJ NWCF
VSWLLZLR HG VECPOWKJ W
OGCKJ GN HIG PGSGCK, Z

RGH W CGWL NGC FB FGLJB.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE THIS SLIMY VEGETABLE POD IS GOOD ENOUGH, THOUGH NOT VERY REMARKABLE. IT'S MEDI-OKRA.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals G

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to heart health. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 11=R)

A. 15 6 5 11 10
Clue: Pumps in chest

B. 13 5 11 14 3 4 23 5 12 13 20 1 5 11
Clue: Having to do with the heart

C. 2 11 6 12 12 20 11 6
Clue: Force of blood moving through body

D. 23 6 12 12 6 1
Clue: Vein or artery

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to heart health.

AQPEUL

Answers: A. heart B. cardiovascular C. pressure D. vessel

GUESS WHO?

I am a singer born in Canada on February 16, 1990. I began to gain a following after anonymously uploading my songs to YouTube. I went on to release a mixtape, which was met with acclaim. I have since won multiple Grammy awards.

Answer: The Weeknd



Health FACT:

There are 60,000 miles of these in the average human body.

Answer: Blood vessels

2-24 CRYPTOQUIP

B X B D B Q Y A G R S G M D Q X A
X B M D O D S M Q P X O A S G S M O Q S
D T M P S O D Q X A E Q P M P O D :
O Y E - R Q M O T M G E O D D P G X Q Y D .

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN I WENT TO THE FARM PLANNING TO PURCHASE A HORSE OF TWO COLORS, I GOT A ROAN FOR MY MONEY.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals U

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1. Chest organ
3. Blood pressure (abbr.)
6. Dramatic start of an illness
8. Discomfort
9. Tube blood moves through

DOWN
1. Free from illness
2. Counteracts poison
4. Forcing to move through
5. Adequate or alright
7. College property

Answers:
Across: 1. Heart 3. BP 6. Attack 8. Pain 9. Vessel
Down: 1. Healthy 2. Antidote 4. Pumping 5. OK 7. Campus

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

FEBRUARY 20

1521: Juan Ponce de León sets out from Spain for Florida.
1792: George Washington signs the Postal Service Act.
1872: The Metropolitan Museum of Art opens in New York City.

NEW WORD

PULSE
a rhythmic throbbing of the arteries as blood is pumped

HEART HEALTH WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS
AORTIC BLOOD PRESSURE CARDIAC CARDIOLOGIST CHOLESTEROL CORONARY FAILURE HEART MITRAL PACEMAKER PRESSURE PULMONIC PULSE STRESS STROKE SYSTOLIC TACHYCARDIA THROMBOSIS TRIGLYCERIDES VALVES VENTRICLE

How they say that in...

English: Heart
Spanish: Corazón
Italian: Cuore
French: Coeur
German: Herz

Did You Know?

The average resting heart rate for an adult is between 60 and 100 beats per minute.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?
Answer: Blood pressure cuff

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Enlist again
5 Fraud
9 Texter's "Wow!"
12 Off-white
13 Meditative
14 Queen — ("Halo" singer's nickname)
15 Melville mariner
16 Castle defense
17 "— Spartacus!"
18 Barbie, e.g.
19 Diner order
20 Favorites
21 Chapel vow
23 Goof up
25 Postal delivery
28 Gleams
32 Venezuelan corn patty
33 Cameo shapes

DOWN
1 Peruse
2 Reverberate
3 Russian river
4 Leisure area for everyone
5 Emblem
6 "Neato!"
7 Playing marbles
8 Wrestling surface
9 Theater award

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-22

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			

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The bidding tells the tale

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 8 6 2
♥ 8 5 3
♦ A Q 8 4
♣ Q 5

WEST
♠ K J 4
♥ Q J 10 9 4
♦ 9
♣ K 10 9 3

EAST
♠ Q 9 3
♥ A K 7 6 2
♦ 5 2
♣ 8 7 4

SOUTH
♠ A 7 5
♥ —
♦ K J 10 7 6 3
♣ A J 6 2

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1♦ 1♥ 2♦
4♥ 5♦

Opening lead — queen of hearts.
Whatever value you place on your 13 cards when you first see them, that value seldom remains the same as bids are made — or not made — by the other three players.

Thus, South's hand is a minimum opening bid in terms of its high-card strength, but it rises greatly in value when his partner bids two diamonds. It then grows still more in value when both opponents bid hearts.

This is because East-West are likely to have considerable honor-card strength in hearts, which in turn means that North's high cards are apt to be in the other three suits — exactly where South would like them to be. South's five-diamond bid is based in large part on these factors.

West led the heart queen, ruffed by South. Declarer then cashed the K-A of trump and led dummy's queen of clubs, losing the finesse to West's king. South later lost two spade tricks to finish down one.

However, declarer should have made the contract. West's opening lead had marked him with the Q-J of the suit, and his partner with the A-K. It followed — since West had made a vulnerable overcall in a suit headed by the Q-J — that West was highly likely to have most of the missing honor cards in spades and clubs — and in particular, the club king.

South should therefore have initiated the club suit by leading the club deuce toward dummy. Had he done that, South would have gotten home safely. If West took the king, declarer would later discard two spades from dummy on the A-J of clubs and thus lose only one club and one spade to make the contract.

And if West did not take the king of clubs, the outcome would be the same. South's only losers in that case would be two spade tricks.

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

North dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 3 2
♥ 7 3
♦ A 4
♣ A K Q 10 8 4

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

EAST
♠ J
♥ Q 9 8 6 5
♦ Q 9 5
♣ 9 6 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 7 6
♥ K 4 2
♦ K 7 6 3
♣ J 5

The bidding:
North East South West
1♠ Pass 1♦ Pass
3♠ Pass 4♠ Pass
4♦ Pass 4NT Pass
5♦ Pass 6NT Pass

Opening lead — ten of spades.
This deal occurred in the Mixed Pairs at the 2002 world bridge championships. North-South were many-time women's world champion Judi Radin, playing with the hero of many a deal reported in this column, Zia Mahmood (now known to all simply as Zia).
After Radin's three-club rebid, Zia characteristically pressed on to slam, learning along the way via Roman Key Card Blackwood that North either held three aces or two aces and the king of clubs.

Tomorrow: A rare finesse.
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Begged
5 Rule, for short
8 Hendrix hairdo
12 So-so
14 Banister
15 Isolate
16 Bean of India
17 Guitar great
18 Kampa-la's land
20 Prestigious prize
23 Whirl
24 Apple tablet
25 More impudent
28 Sleuth
29 Baby hooter
30 Marseilles monarch
32 Marie Curie, for one
34 Indy circuits
35 Elizabeth of "Jacob's Ladder"

DOWN
1 Downing St. VIPs
2 Shelter

Solution time: 21 mins.

Saturday's answer 2-24

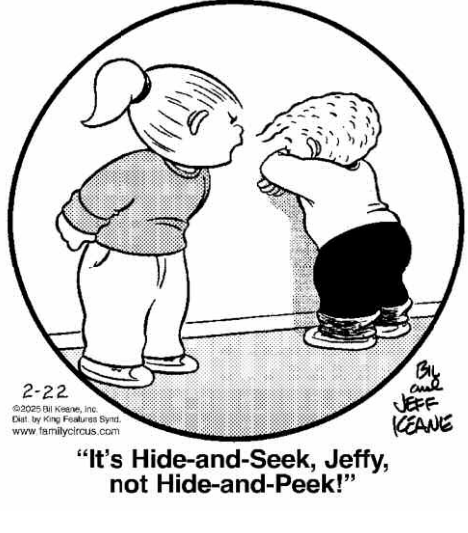
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19				20		
		21	22			23				
24						25		26	27	
28						29		30	31	
		32	33					34		
		35						36		
37	38	39				40				
41				42	43			44	45	46
47				48						
49				50				51		

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

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



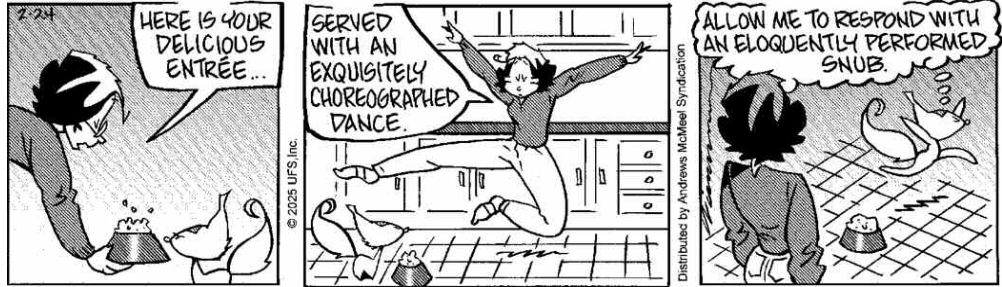
Peanuts



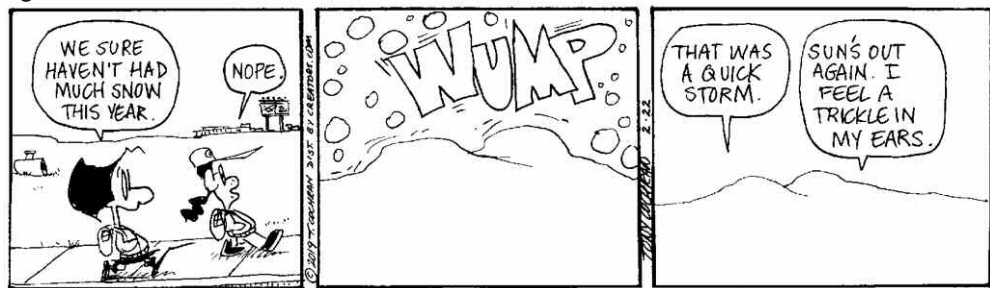
Rose is Rose



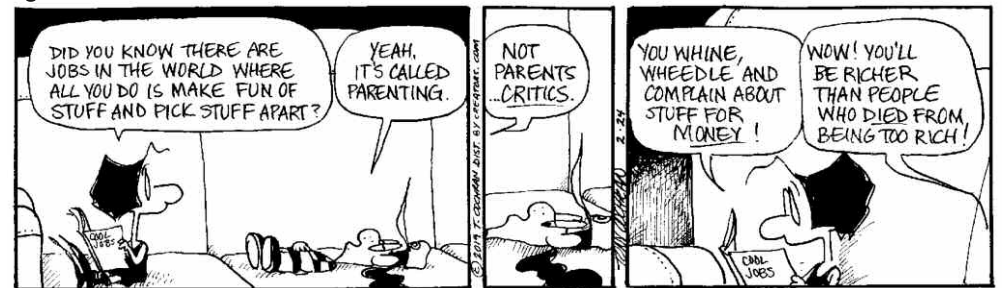
Rose is Rose



Agnes



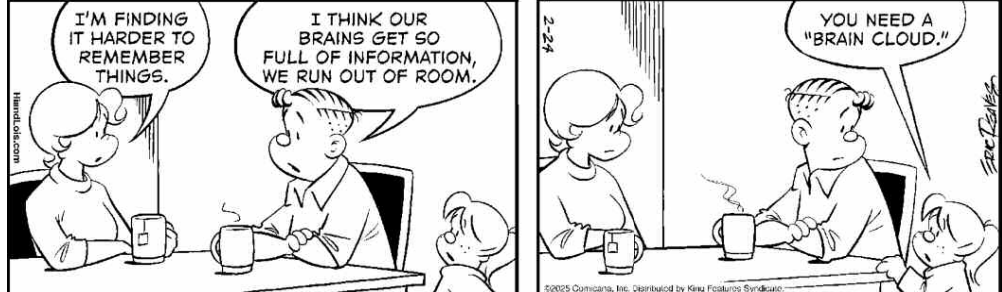
Agnes



Hi and Lois



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Between Friends



Blondie



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Beetle Bailey



We Deliver

Laughter



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.

The Commercial Review We Deliver

Tribe takes one at Troy

Aggressive play gives Indians 59-50 win over Houston in sectional championship

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

TROY, Ohio — Neither team could find significant separation in the first half.

Coming out of the locker room at the intermission, the Tribe was ready to attack the Wildcats. Being the aggressor paid off for the Indians.

The sixth-seeded Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team jumped on top of the No. 7 seed Houston Wildcats in the OHSAA Division VI Southwest 1 sectional championship hosted by Troy on Thursday, controlling the glass and getting to the foul line at will to earn a 59-50 victory.

After falling in the first round last season, the win advances the Indians (7-16) to the district opener in which they will face the No. 5 seed Riverside on Tuesday at approximately 7:30 p.m.

"I'm just super excited," said FRHS coach Bob Leverette. "We knew it was going to be a dog fight. (Houston's) a Shelby County League team. They're in the same boat we are. It's 0-0 (now) but we both had pretty tough seasons. Felt like we were both pretty battle-tested and know it would be down to the wire. We made our free throws, I'm just proud of our kids and we get to go play for a second."

The Indians came out of the locker room with aggression and looked to get to the rim.

As a result, Fort Recovery got to the free throw line at a large clip, found success on the offensive glass and even got some opportunities for kick outs.

FRHS went on a 10-4 run over the first 3 minutes, 17 seconds, of the third period. Breaker Jutte opened the quarter with a bucket on an assist from Briggs Overman, before Grant Fortkamp hit a three off a Overman outlet pass.

Jeffrey Leist, who led Houston (5-18) with 13 points, scored the Wildcats' first bucket 45 seconds into the period. The Tribe grabbed the ball right of the net and Grant Fortkamp stormed down the floor to score just eight seconds later.

Davis Burks then got to



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Fort Recovery High School's Colson Post gets fouled by Davis Burks of Houston during the 59-50 OHSAA Division VI Southwest 1 sectional championship at Troy on Thursday. Post made both free throws to help the Indians go 21-for-32 from the foul line.

the free throw line to cut the HHS deficit to 27-24 before Brody Barga scored on an offensive rebound in transition and Fortkamp hit a pair of free throws after being fouled by Joseph Mohler on a curl cut.

The teams traded baskets through the rest of the third before Barga finished with back-to-back baskets on an offensive rebound and in transition to go up 38-32. Barga put forward a strong day as he led the Indians in points,

rebounds, assists and field goal percentage. The sophomore had a double-double with 15 points on 6-of-7 shooting (85.7%) and 14 rebounds and also dished out four assists.

Barga found a lot of his success on the offensive

Box score			
Houston Wildcats vs. Fort Recovery Indians		Score by quarters: Ft. Rec. 13 7 18 21—58 Houston 14 6 12 18—50	
Indians varsity summary			
OHSAA Division VI Southwest 1 Sectional Championship			
Fort Recovery (7-16)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Overman	2-7	7-14	12
Post	1-6	4-4	7
Jutte	3-4	3-4	9
Barga	6-7	3-4	15
Dilworth	1-2	0-0	3
Evers	1-4	0-0	2
Fortkamp	3-7	4-6	11
Totals	17-37	21-32	59
	.459	.656	
Def. rebound percentage: .646			
Houston (5-18)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
ABowman	0-0	0-0	0
Burks	3-12	2-2	8
Steiner	1-4	0-0	3
Cole	0-1	0-0	0
Pollock	2-4	0-1	4
SBowman	3-6	0-0	6
Crim	4-12	0-0	12
Mohler	2-3	0-0	4
Leist	6-10	1-2	13
Totals	21-52	3-5	50
	.404	.600	
Def. rebound percentage: .440			
3-point shooting: Fort Recovery 4-6 (Overman 1-1, Dilworth 1-1, Fortkamp 1-1, Post 1-3). Houston 5-23 (Crim 4-11, Steiner 1-4, Cole 0-1, Mohler 0-1, Burks 0-6).			
Rebounds: Fort Recovery 34 (Barga 14, Evers 6, Post 3, Fortkamp 3, Overman 2, Jutte 2, Dilworth 2, Team 2). Houston 22 (Burks 4, Pollock 4, SBowman 3, Crim 3, Leist 3, Steiner 2, Team 2).			
Assists: Fort Recovery 8 (Barga 4, Overman 2, Post, Evers). Houston 8 (Burks 4, Crim 2, ABowman, SBowman).			
Blocks: Fort Recovery 0. Houston 3 (SBowman 2, Pollock).			
Personal fouls: Fort Recovery 13 (Barga 4, Fortkamp 3, Jutte 2, Dilworth 2, Evers 2). Houston 26 (SBowman 5, Steiner 4, Mohler 4, Leist 4, Burks 3, Crim 3, ABowman 2, Pollock).			
Turnovers: Fort Recovery 15. Houston 13.			

glass as he pulled down six of the team's 14 offensive rebounds, resulting in four buckets for him.

"I'm 6'5" obviously, but it's all positioning," Barga said. "I watch Dennis Rodman on documentaries, getting it off the backboard, getting in the right position and all that stuff."

The Wildcats got the score down to four points with 5:22 left to play, but the free throw line became a major factor down the stretch. After Burks cut the game to 43-39, FRHS scored the next six points on free throws from Overman and Colson post and a Barga drive.

With a 10-point advantage and only three minutes remaining, the Indians only needed one more bucket from Jutte on a baseline-out-of-bounds play assisted by Barga before bonus free throws took them home.

Fort Recovery outscored Houston by 18 points at the foul line. The Tribe shot 21-for-32 (65.6%) on free throws, including 11-for-15 (73.3%) in the fourth quarter, while the Wildcats went 3-for-5 (60%).

On the defensive end of the floor, Leist carved the Indians up inside during the first half before quieting down and Luke Crim found his 3-point shot late in the third quarter to hit

four triples. While Houston's big man and shooter found ways to score, the Indians held the HHS guards — Burks and Skylar Boman — to just 14 combined points.

Jutte started his day on Bowman, but as the Houston senior got into foul trouble, he switched onto Burks to finish off the game.

"(Bowman) was their dude that kind of created everything and we wanted to keep him out of the paint," Leverette said about matching him up with Jutte, a 6 foot, 5 inch forward. "Once he fouled out, Breaker had to go to the next best guy and he did a really good job on him. We lost (Crim) a few times near the end and let him hit a couple of threes, but overall pretty solid efforts."

Fort Recovery had a balanced offensive attack as Barga was supported by 12 points from Overman, 11 by Fortkamp, nine from Jutte and seven from Post. Braylon Dilworth and Gavin Evers each scored a basket as well for three and two points, respectively.

Next up, the Indians will face the Pirates of Riverside (8-15). The team from De Graff beat the fourth-seeded Northeastern 55-53 to make it to the district opener.

Pair of twos

Glentzer picks up No. 2 seeds in sectional prelims

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

It's been a decade since the Patriots sent anyone to the state finals.

In many of the ensuing seasons, they haven't had anyone seriously contending for a trip to Indianapolis.

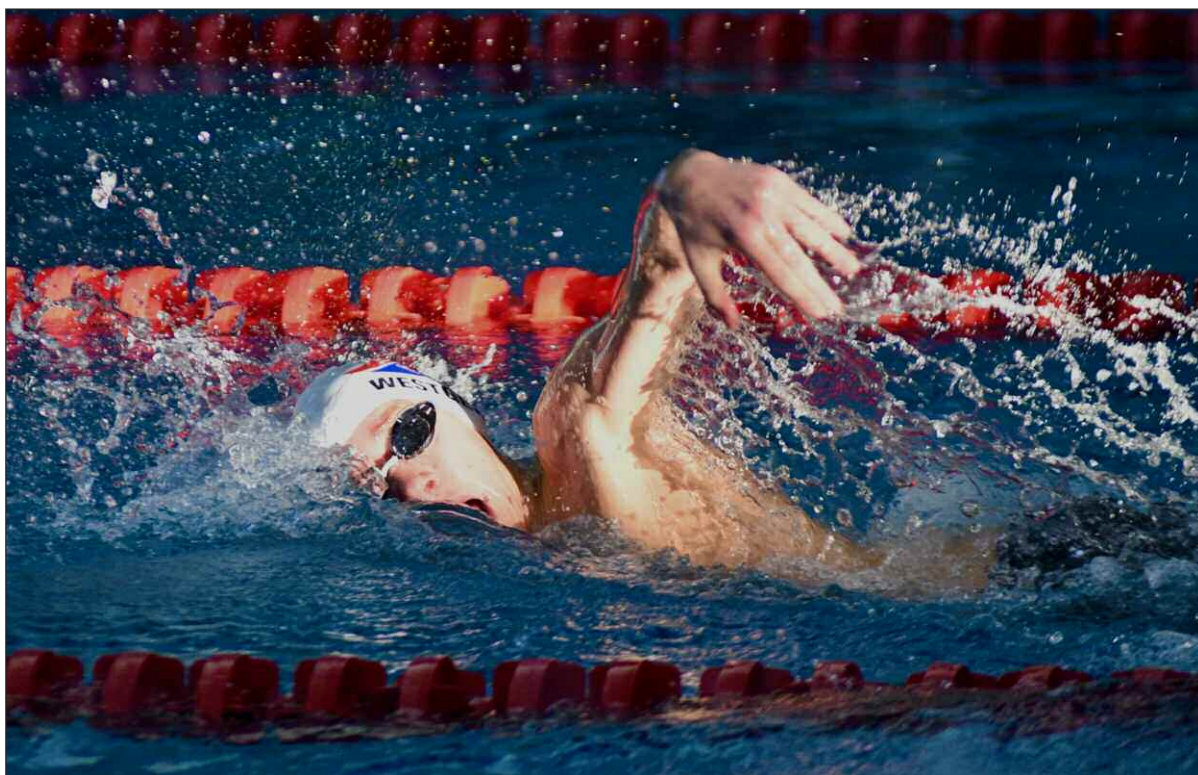
Though not the favorite in either of his events, a freshman is on the verge of breaking that drought.

Cooper Glentzer led the host Jay County High School boys swim team as he earned a couple of No. 2 seeds Thursday in the sectional preliminaries.

"It's exciting," said JCHS coach Matt Slavik. The team's last individual state qualifiers were James Keen and Sok Vormohr in 2015. (A relay also qualified that season.)

"With Cooper being a freshman, it's breathed some new life into this team with him, between him and Carson. ... Cooper ... seeded second in both the fly and 500 free, normally not two events you are competing in, I think he's got a legitimate shot to get out. So we'll see. Saturday's going to be a fun day."

The top 16 swimmers from Thursday's preliminaries advance to swim in the championship and consolation finals as the meet resumes Saturday. (Diving begins at 9 a.m., with swimming to follow at 1 p.m.) The top swimmer in each event Saturday will advance to the IHSAA Boys Swimming State Finals on Feb. 28 and March 1 at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Carson Westgerdes, a Jay County High School freshman, swims the 200-yard freestyle during Thursday's sectional preliminaries. Westgerdes earned the No. 7 seed in the event and teamed with Cooper Glentzer, Peyton Yowell and Lincoln Clamme for the No. 4 seed in the 400 freestyle relay.

Based on Thursday's results, the Patriots project for a seventh-place finish, as finals berths were difficult to come by beyond the pair from Glentzer. Bluffton, the top seed in five events including a pair of relays, is projected to repeat as the sectional champion by about 100 points, with Delta, Norwell and

Muncie Central in a three-way skirmish for second. Belmont and Burriss look to be in a battle for fifth ahead of Jay County, Huntington North, South Adams, Blackford and Adams Central.

"Overall, I thought it was a great meet," said Slavik. "We had significant time drops

across the board. ... They did what the goal was. I was happy with how everybody performed. ... Big improvement over where we've been the last couple of years."

Glentzer showed he is within striking distance of a state berth, especially in the 100-yard butterfly. His time of 54.55 sec-

onds put him just 0.24 seconds behind Bluffton's top-seeded James Isaac Wheeler, the defending champion.

The Patriot freshman is also the No. 2 seed by a couple of seconds to Delta's Zach Baty in the 500 freestyle after posting a time of 4:59.75 Thursday. (His time was less than a second off of the school record of 4:59.18 set by James Keen in 2014.)

The next best result for Jay County in the preliminaries came in the 400 freestyle relay, with Carson Westgerdes, Peyton Yowell and Lincoln Clamme joining Glentzer to pick up the No. 4 seed with their time of 3:43.41. The same quartet was fifth in the 200 freestyle relay.

Westgerdes and Yowell each made championship finals in one event. Westgerdes, a freshman, was seventh in 1:59.89 in the 200 individual medley while Yowell, a junior, took the No. 8 spot as he finished in 53.57 in the 100 freestyle.

"Peyton Yowell, he came back in the 100. I wasn't expecting him to come back in the 100," Slavik said. "He just finished ninth in the 50. In both, moved up two spots."

Also qualifying for Saturday's consolation finals were Yowell (ninth — 50 freestyle), Matthew Fisher (10th — 100 backstroke), Westgerdes (13th — 100 freestyle) and Clamme (16th — 100 breaststroke).

Max Klopfenstein, David Keen, Kamdyn Carter and Matthew Fisher teamed for ninth in the 200 medley relay in 2:01.22.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County's Aiden Phillips puts up a shot over Garry Riley of Norwell during the second half Friday. Phillips grabbed offensive rebounds that led to a pair of free throws and a Tucker Griffin 3-pointer in the fourth quarter.

Takeover ...

Continued from page 10
"That thing ends up being an absolute monster in a two-point loss," he said. "That's really not our kids' fault. That's no one's fault. We played for the last shot. We did everything right. We got a good look. If we make that shot, they inbound the ball and don't even get a shot off. ...

"It's a one in 200 type shot, maybe more. But it went in today."

Griffin had 11 of Jay County's 15 points in the second quarter and seven of its 10 in the third, when the other three came on a triple from sophomore Brock Wasson. He hit all of his four two-point tries from the field, added four 3-pointers and went 7-of-8 from the line for his 27 points.

He also shared the game high of six rebounds with teammates Jayden Comer and Phillips as the Patriots posted a 29-14 rebounding advantage.

"For him to have his Senior Night go this way, he deserves it," said Gary. "He's been great for us from a leadership standpoint. He brings the passion. He brings the grit. That stuff's contagious."

Josh McBride's 22 points and five rebounds were the team high for Norwell. Adam added five assists.

After Norwell scored the first five points and the Patriots tallied the next six, the rest of the game was tight. JCHS trailed just once in the

Box score			
Jay County Patriots vs. Norwell Knights			
Boys varsity summary			
Norwell (10-10)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Wallis	4-5	0-0	9
Riley	1-1	0-0	2
AMcBride	4-13	3-3	11
JMcBride	7-13	4-5	22
NmcBride	2-7	0-0	5
Thornton	0-1	0-0	0
Totals	18-40	7-8	49
	.450	.875	
Def. rebound percentage: .619			
Jay County (11-9)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Comer	0-3	0-0	0
Barnett	0-1	0-0	0
Wasson	1-2	0-0	3
Dirksen	0-1	2-2	2
Forthofer	3-6	0-2	6
Phillips	1-3	2-2	4
Griffin	8-14	7-8	27
Swoveland	3-7	3-4	9
Totals	16-27	14-18	51
	.432	.778	
Def. rebound percentage: .955			
Score by quarters:			
Norwell	10	12	15 — 49
Jay Co.	12	15	10 — 16 — 51
3-point shooting: Norwell 6-14 (JMcBride 4-8, Owen Wallis 1-1, NMcBride 1-6, AMcBride 0-5). Jay County 5-17 (Griffin 4-10, Wasson 1-1, Comer 0-2, Swoveland 0-2, Barnett 0-1, Dirksen 0-1).			
Rebounds: Norwell 14 (JMcBride 5, AMcBride 4, Wallis 2, team 2, Riley). Jay County 29 (Comer 6, Phillips 6, Griffin 6, Forthofer 5, Dirksen 2, team 2, Barnett, Swoveland).			
Assists: 10 (AMcBride 5, JMcBride 3, Wallis, NMcBride). Jay County 6 (Comer 4, Phillips, Swoveland).			
Blocks: Norwell 1 (Wallis). Jay County 0.			
Personal fouls: Norwell 14 (JMcBride 4, Riley 4, Wallis 3, AMcBride, NMcBride, Thornton). Jay County 15 (Comer 3, Wasson 3, Dirksen 3, Swoveland 3, Griffin 2, Phillips).			
Turnovers: Norwell 8. Jay County 12.			

second half — 37-35 after a Josh McBride 3-pointer to open the third quarter — and its seven-point lead a few minutes later was the largest of the game.

Jay County is off tonight and will learn its tournament draw Sunday before closing the regular season with a visit to Winchester on Tuesday and a home game against Bellmont on Friday.

Junior varsity

Jay County struggled in the third quarter and could not recover in a 51-34 loss to the Knights.

The Patriots trailed by just one at the end of the

first quarter before getting outscored 16-5 in the second. Their deficit hovered around a dozen points in the third quarter and Norwell pulled away late in the fourth.

Brock Wasson hit three 3-pointers en route to his team high 11 points for the Patriots. Eight of those came in the third quarter.

Benson Barnett added nine points, and Brady Jetmore totaled six.

Trey Privett matched Wasson with three triples and 11 points for Norwell. Cooper Bunn joined him in double figures with 10 points and Noah Comer had nine.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys swim sectional at Jay County — 1 p.m. (diving preliminaries — 9 a.m.)
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball district championship vs. Arcanum at Monroe — 5:30 p.m.

Monday
Jay County — Junior high wrestling at South Adams — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high swim vs. Norwell — 6 p.m.

Tuesday
Jay County — Boys basketball at Winchester — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball district semifinal vs. Riverside at Troy — 7:30 p.m.

TV sports

Today
7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Everton at Manchester United (USA)
10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Ipswich Town at Tottenham Hotspur (USA)
12 p.m. — College basketball: Tennessee at Texas A&M (ESPN); Oregon at Wisconsin (FOX); TCU at Cincinnati (ESPN2)
12 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Penn State at Michigan (BTN)
12:30 p.m. — College basketball: Richmond at Saint Joseph's (USA)

12:30 p.m. — NHL: Minnesota Wild at Detroit Red Wings (ABC)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Aston Villa vs. Chelsea (NBC)
1 p.m. — PGA Tour: Mexico Open (NBC)
1:30 p.m. — PVF volleyball: All-Star Match (CBS)
1:30 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: Atlanta (FS1)
2 p.m. — College basketball: Iowa State at Houston (ESPN); Wake Forest at N.C. State (ESPN2); Penn State at Minnesota (BTN)
2 p.m. — Club Friendly women's soccer: San Diego Wave at Bay (FOX)
2:30 p.m. — College basketball: Rhode Island at Saint Louis (USA)
2:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Iowa State at Baylor (FOX)
3 p.m. — NHL: Washington Capitals at Pittsburgh Penguins (ABC)
4 p.m. — College basketball: Auburn at Georgia (ESPN); Oklahoma State at Kansas (CBS); Virginia at North Carolina (ESPN2); Washington at Iowa (FS1)
4:30 p.m. — MLS soccer: Los Angeles FC at Minnesota United (FOX)
6 p.m. — College basketball: Akron at Ohio (ESPN2); Kentucky at Alabama (ESPN); Boise State at Nevada (FS1)
6 p.m. — College hockey: Ohio State at Minnesota (FOX)
7 p.m. — NHL: Anaheim Ducks at Boston Bruins (FOX)
8 p.m. — College basketball: Duke at Illinois (FOX); Butler at DePaul (FS1)
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lak-

ers at Denver Nuggets (ABC)
10 p.m. — College basketball: BYU at Arizona (ESPN); Cal at Stanford (ESPN2)

Sunday
9 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Newcastle United at Nottingham Forest (USA)
12 p.m. — College basketball: UConn at St. John's (FOX)
12 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Notre Dame at N.C. State (ESPN); Purdue at Ohio State (BTN); West Virginia at TCU (ESPN2); Villanova at Providence (FS1)
1 p.m. — NBA: New York Knicks at Boston Celtics (ABC)
1 p.m. — MLB Spring Training: St. Louis Cardinals vs. Houston Astros (FDSN Indiana)
1 p.m. — NHL: Edmonton Oilers at Washington Capitals (TNT)
1 p.m. — PGA Tour: Mexico Open (NBC)
1 p.m. — U.S. Indoor Championships track and field (NBC)
1:30 p.m. — College basketball: Purdue at Indiana (CBS)
1:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Richmond at VCU (CBS)
2 p.m. — College basketball: Florida Atlantic at Memphis (ESPN2); Xavier at Seton Hall (FS1)
2 p.m. — Women's college basketball: North Carolina at Louisville (ESPN); Indiana at Michigan State (BTN)
3 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series:

Ambetter Health 400 (FOX)
3:30 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Golden State Warriors (ABC)
3:30 p.m. — NHL: New York Rangers at Pittsburgh Penguins (TNT)
3:45 p.m. — College basketball: Ohio State at UCLA (CBS)
4 p.m. — College basketball: Drake at Northern Iowa (ESPN2)
4 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Illinois at USC (FS1); LSU at Kentucky (ESPN)
4 p.m. — College gymnastics: Michigan at UCLA (BTN)
5 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Clippers at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)
5 p.m. — SheBelieves Cup women's soccer: United States at Australia (TBS)
6 p.m. — College basketball: USC at Rutgers (FS1)
6:30 p.m. — College wrestling: Purdue at Nebraska (BTN)
7 p.m. — NBA: Memphis Grizzlies at Cleveland Cavaliers (ESPN)
7 p.m. — College basketball: North Carolina at Florida State (ESPN)
8:30 p.m. — College wrestling: Iowa at Oklahoma State (BTN)
9:30 p.m. — NBA: Oklahoma City Thunder at Minnesota Timberwolves (ESPN)

Monday
5 p.m. — TGL golf: Los Angeles Golf Club at New York Golf Club (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — NBA: Denver Nuggets at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)
7 p.m. — Women's college basket-

ball: Baylor at Kansas State (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — College basketball: Michigan at Nebraska (FS1)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Houston at Texas Tech (ESPN)
9 p.m. — TGL golf: Boston Common Golf at Atlanta Drive GC (ESPN2)
11 p.m. — College basketball: Kansas at Colorado (ESPN)

Tuesday
1 p.m. — MLB Spring Training: Toronto Blue Jays vs. St. Louis Cardinals (FDSN Indiana)
2:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Crystal Palace at Aston Villa (USA)

7 p.m. — College basketball: Duke at Miami (ESPN); Providence at Marquette (FS1); Baylor at Cincinnati (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Cleveland Cavaliers at Orlando Magic (TNT)
1 p.m. — NHL: Seattle Kraken at St. Louis Blues (FDSN Indiana)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Mississippi State at Alabama (ESPN2); Iowa at Illinois (FS1)
9 p.m. — TGL golf: The Bay Golf Club at Jupiter Links Golf Club (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Los Angeles Lakers (TNT)
11 p.m. — College basketball: New Mexico at San Diego State (FS1)

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Tucker takeover

JCHS senior pours in 27, including first-half buzzer beater in two-point victory

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

In his first and only season as a Patriot, Tucker Griffin has made an impact.

On Senior Night, his fourth 3-pointer gave him 27 points and his team a seven-point lead.

Then he turned it over to the team's leading scorer.

Junior Gradin Swoveland scored seven of his nine points in the final 2:30 Friday in support of Griffin's big night to help the Jay County High School boys basketball team hold on for a 51-49 victory over the visiting the Norwell Knights.

"We deserved that one," said JCHS interim coach Brogan Gary. "To fight through adversity and for us to find ways to make winning plays and understand what that looks like is a big thing for us. So this is a huge win."

Griffin's triple midway through the fourth quarter off of an offensive rebound and assist from Aiden Phillips capped a 9-0 run that gave the Patriots (11-9) their biggest lead of the night at 44-37. But Norwell (10-10) would not go away, tying the game at 46 with less than two minutes to go.

Swoveland drove into the lane to reclaim the lead and, after a Josh McBride pass into the teeth of the JCHS defense led to a turnover, he added a couple of free throws with 15.4

seconds on the clock to extend the lead to four.

A three-point play by the Knights kept them in the game, and they had a chance after Swoveland split free throws with eight seconds to go. But Norwell was unable to get anywhere close to the basket, instead getting a fading Adam McBride 3-point try from deep on the left wing that clanged off the rim and was no good at the buzzer.

"We got a good look at the end there, it just didn't drop," said Norwell coach Michael McBride. "I thought it was a pretty good look for us ... We wanted to get to the rim. We weren't able to do that, but we got a second option coming off that."

After Cole Forthofer and Swoveland scored Jay County's first six points, Griffin carried the offense for the next 22 minutes.

The highlight came at the end of the first half as he snagged a rebound off of a Norwell miss and launched a 3-pointer from the west side of Indiana as outlined on the Patriots' court. He buried the shot for a 25-22 halftime lead.

"The kids were all jacked up," said Gary. "It's an exciting moment. My biggest thing was to keep building off of that."

McBride agreed that the three-quarter-court heave was a turning point.

See **Takeover** page 9



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School sophomore Brock Wasson defends against Owen Wallis of Norwell during the third quarter of the Patriots' 51-49 victory Friday. Wasson and classmate Benson Barnett started the third quarter for JCHS, with Wasson hitting a key 3-pointer that broke a 29-29 tie.



Photo provided

Strong season

Pictured is the Jay County Junior High School seventh grade boys basketball team that finished the year with a 19-2 record. In the front row from left to right are Roman Clamme, Lyle Beiswanger, Jaylen Brown, Dillon Dunnington and Eli Homan. Back row are coach Dusty Pearson, Job Dirksen, Finn Hemmelgarn, Bentley Comer, Abram Leed, Jade Westgerdes and Kellan Tout. Not pictured is Jenson Edwards.

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Jay County Soil & Water Conservation District

Annual Meeting/Program - Wednesday, February 26, 2025
6:00 PM - Bob Schmit Memorial Building
Jay County Fairgrounds

Guest Speaker - Joe Caudell
Department of Natural Resources'
Deer Research Biologist.



Joe will talk about the deer population estimate project that DNR is currently working on and how EHD affects deer population.

The dinner/program is free & everyone is encouraged to attend.