

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Radio relay



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

WPGW owner Rob Weaver (right) and owner-to-be Mark King shake hands this week while meeting at the radio station office west of Portland. Final approval of the sale from the Federal Communications Commission is expected this spring. Weaver plans to stay on to help with the transition process, saying he'd like to be retired within two years.

Sale of stations likely to be complete this spring; Weaver plans to stay on to help during transition

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

At 76, Rob Weaver was looking for an exit strategy.

On a suggestion from a mutual friend, he and Mark King connected in early 2024.

In the next few months, the sale will be complete.

King, a Portland resident, is in the process of purchasing WPGW Radio and its sister stations from Weaver and his family.

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

The sale won't trigger an immediate retirement for Weaver, who has owned and operated the stations for more than four decades.

"I told Mark that I would stay with him for a year or two, for however long he wants me to be here ... to help him through the transition," said Weaver. "I'm very positive on Mark's business ability, but he hasn't been in the radio business so I think I can be of some help to him in guiding him through some of those early stages ..."

He said he plans to be retired within two years.

"I'm not leaving right away," he added.

"I want Rob here as soon as he wants to stay here," King said. "This isn't Rob leaving right now. Rob's going to be here."

Weaver said he had been looking for a buyer for "a while" when King was suggested as a possibility. The latter was immediately interested.

"This opportunity doesn't come along, at all, hardly ever," said King. "Rob's been here 45 years. I think it's a solid opportunity business-wise. It's something I've

always felt is, in many regards, along with the paper, the heart and soul of Jay County. I feel like it's an opportunity to be part of that ..."

"I just feel like it's, for me, a way to help the community, give back."

The potential buyer and seller began discussions about the possibility and had hoped to have the transaction complete by the end of 2024.

WPGW began broadcasting notices about the potential sale a couple of weeks ago, as required by the Federal Communications Commission.

See **Radio** page 2

Grants include \$ for roof, training

Foundation awards nearly \$380,000 for projects

Local organizations and teachers will receive nearly \$380,000 in assistance for various projects.

The Portland Foundation announced \$377,318 in grants for its spring cycle this week and \$2,354 in Teacher Creativity Mini Grants.

"As always, The Portland Foundation is very pleased to be able to award these grants," said Doug Inman, executive director of The Portland Foundation, in a press release. "The generosity of Jay County citizens over the last 74 years allows the Foundation to carry out its mission — to enhance the quality of life for the people in Jay County."

Bryant Area Community Center received about a quarter of the overall funding — \$96,000 — for a new roof.

The only other grant of more than \$25,000 went to John Jay Center for Learning at \$31,800 for its SkillsTrac Industrial Maintenance training program for Jay County High School seniors. John Jay was also awarded \$7,000 for its summer robotics and STEM camps, \$6,000 for its senior learning series and \$5,000 for its speaker series.

The Portland Foundation awarded \$25,000 grants to Arts Place for its MusicWorks program, Jay County FFA Alumni on a \$1 for \$1 matching basis for the construction of a new pavilion and Jay Community Center for its Boomer sports programs. The community center was also awarded \$22,435 for its summer day camp.

Receiving \$20,000 each were A Better Life — Brianna's Hope for addiction treatment and its Hope Fest event and Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition for its peer addiction support team.

Jay County Fair Association was awarded \$17,260 for the electrical portion of its infield renovation project. Portland Morning Optimist Club received \$14,266 for an ice maker.

Receiving \$10,000 each were the Jay County 4th of July Committee for its annual activities and Youth Service Bureau of Jay County for its Keeping At Risk Students in School (KARS) program. West Jay Community Center was awarded \$8,500 for its summer day camp.

See **Grants** page 2

Deal falls apart in White House clash

By JENNIFER A. DLOUHY, JOSH WINGROVE and HADRIANA LOWENKRON

Bloomberg News Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — The United States and Ukraine failed to sign a critical minerals agreement after a Friday meeting between Donald Trump and Volodymyr Zelenskyy devolved into a fiery exchange, fracturing relations between the two countries.

Trump took umbrage with Zelenskyy's doubts that the U.S. president's efforts to broker a deal with Russia would lead to lasting peace. The Ukrainian leader departed the White House following the public spat, and a planned signing ceremony and press conference were canceled.

Meeting with Zelenskyy devolved into fiery exchange

U.S. officials said the minerals deal — which Trump had cast as a necessary step to repay American support as he sought to negotiate an end to the war directly with Russia's Vladimir Putin — was not signed before Zelenskyy's departure.

"He disrespected the United States of America in its cherished Oval Office. He can come back when he is ready for Peace," Trump said in a

social media post shortly before Zelenskyy left the White House.

The clash, played in front of the television cameras, is a major setback for Zelenskyy, who was hoping the in-person meeting with Trump would help smooth out his relations with the American president and commit him to stronger backing for his country following his tilt toward Moscow.

See **Clash** page 2



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Andrew Harnik

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, left, talks with President Donald Trump, right, on Friday in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, D.C. They failed to reach a deal after a fiery exchange.

Deaths

Donna Imel, 93, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 58 degrees Friday.

Skies will be mostly cloudy today with highs in the lower 30s and winds gusting to 25 mph. The high will be in the mid 30s Sunday and mid 40s Monday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Multiple arts activities are scheduled for this weekend. The final performance of the Jay County Drama Club's production of "If a Woodchuck Could Chuck Wood" is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday. Fort Recovery's junior high and high school choirs will hold their cabaret concert from 5 to 8 p.m. Sunday.

Coming up

Tuesday — Photos from the Fort Recovery choir cabaret concert.

Wednesday — Coverage of next week's Jay School Board meeting.

Thursday — Details from Tuesday's Portland Park Board meeting.



Radio ...

Continued from page 1
The process is currently in a 30-day waiting period during which members of the public can make comments to the FCC about the potential sale. The FCC will then review the sale documents for possible approval.
Weaver said he expects that deal to be finalized this spring.
In addition to WPGW (100.9 FM, 105.3 FM and 1440 FM) for \$996,873.40, the sale includes the non-commercial WZJR 91.7 for \$55,740.54 and WZBD 92.7 FM in Adams County for \$343,905.69. King filed a stock sale in late January. It indicates he will pay

\$110,000 at closing with the remainder to be financed by the Weavers (Rob, his wife Mindy and his son Kyle).
King said this week that the remainder of the deal will be paid over a six-year period.
He said he doesn't plan any major changes for the stations as he takes over ownership.
"We're gonna keep this local. It's gonna be family owned," said King, noting that his son Christian will also be involved in the station. (Christian is currently working Saturdays at WZBD.) "I think I'd be very arrogant to come in and say, 'I'm gonna make wholesale changes

across the board' because this is something that Rob has built ... This is always gonna be Rob Weaver's station, to some extent, even when he leaves the station.
"He may not have created this station, but Rob's the one who ... built it into what it is today ... It's working well. I don't see where any major changes need to be made."
Weaver is a graduate of Marion High School and Ball State University and was a math teacher when he got involved in radio calling games for the Union City Indians. He was brought on to become the voice of the Jay County Patriots after

the school opened in 1975 and gave up teaching two years later for a full-time gig in radio. In the mid-1980s, he and his wife Mindy became majority owners of WPGW.
While discussing the sale, he thanked his wife for all of her support.
"She's not been directly involved in the operation of the radio but she's been directly involved in the success of what we've done," Weaver said.
King is a 1986 graduate of Jay County High School got his bachelor's degree in 1991 from Taylor University, where he studied history. He has been in

sales — business forms, labels, stock paper, laundry detergent, antiques — throughout his career, including as an auctioneer. He is currently self-employed and plans to continue his sales work while making the radio stations his new priority.
"At first ... I need to learn the radio end of the business," King said. "I'm not sure if I have a voice made for radio. I plan on staying behind the scenes initially ... and learning the intricacies and nuances of the radio business from Rob ..."
"Everything is in place. I just need to stay out of the way and not mess anything up."

CR almanac

Sunday 3/2	Monday 3/3	Tuesday 3/4	Wednesday 3/5	Thursday 3/6
36/23	46/39	54/50	53/29	39/31
Mostly sunny on Sunday with highs again in the mid 30s.	Monday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a chance of rain late.	There's a 70% chance of rain Tuesday under mostly cloudy skies. Thunderstorms possible late.	Wednesday's forecast shows a 90% chance of rain with temperatures in the mid 50s.	Mostly sunny skies are expected Thursday when the high will be in the upper 30s.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 1-4-4 Daily Four: 3-0-8-6 Quick Draw: 1-5-8-18-22-23-30-35-40-46-48-52-54-57-58-62-63-67-76-79	Pick 3: 4-3-2 Pick 4: 9-3-5-0 Pick 5: 3-8-7-2-2
Ohio Midday	Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$272 million
	Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$41.6 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.50 April corn4.62 May corn4.68	April beans10.16 Wheat5.11
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.66 April corn4.75 May corn4.79	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.57 April corn4.57 Beans10.05 April beans10.07 Wheat5.10
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.68 April corn4.70 Beans10.14	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.50 May corn4.55 Beans9.96 April beans10.01 Wheat4.91

Today in history

In 1692, Sarah Good, Sarah Osborne and Tituba were interrogated in Salem, Massachusetts, to determine if they practiced witchcraft, launching the Salem Witch Trials. More than 150 men and women in the area were arrested and charged with exercising witchcraft and sorcery. It resulted in 19 people being hanged, one man being pressed to death and others dying in prison.
In 1810, Frédéric Chopin was born in Zelazowa Wola, Poland. The famous pianist wrote solos and concertos during the Romantic period.
In 1972, Yellowstone became the first national park.
In 1904, Glenn Miller was born in Clarinda, Iowa. A leader in the big band era, some of his most famous hits

include "In the Mood" and "Chattanooga Choo Choo."
In 1932, Charles Lindbergh's son was kidnapped from his nursery at the mansion Hopewell, New Jersey. Although they paid the kidnapper a ransom to return their child, the Lindberghs found their son dead several days later near their home. The man found guilty of the crime, Bruno Hauptmann, was electrocuted in 1936. As a result, kidnapping became a federal offense.
In 2019, Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team defeated the Ridgmont Golden Gophers, 58-24. Grace Thien led the Indians, scoring 19 points and extending her school record of 3-pointers made in a season to 76.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 4 p.m. — Jay School Board executive session, Jay County Junior-Senior High School, 2072 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, Jay County Junior-Senior High School, 2072 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort	Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St. Tuesday 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. Wednesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners executive session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
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Obituaries

Donna Imel

Aug. 27, 1931-Feb. 27, 2025
Donna Imel, age 93, a resident of Portland, passed away Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025, at her home in Portland.
Donna was born Aug. 27, 1931, in Adams County, Indiana, the daughter of Orlando and Rose Marie (Fairchild) Brunner. She worked for Jay Garment for nine years and then was a homemaker.
Donna married Carl Imel Sr. on April 22, 1950, he passed away on Feb. 26, 2018, after 68 years of marriage.
Survivors include:
Two sons — Carl Imel Jr. (wife:

Ruby), Pennville, Indiana, and William Imel (wife: Lisa), Portland, Indiana
Two daughters — Rosemary Armantrout (husband: William), Portland, Indiana, Donna Marie Imel, Bluffton, Indiana, and Betty Imel, Portland, Indiana
Twelve grandchildren and several great-grandchildren
She was preceded in death by a daughter, Rebeca Sue Imel; and a brother, Eugene M. Brunner.
Visitation will be held Monday from 4 to 6 p.m. at Williamson-



Imel

Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow the visitation at the funeral home at 6 p.m.
Burial will be held at a later date at Antioch Cemetery south of Portland.
Memorial may be directed to the Portland Fire Department.
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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

Grants ...

Continued from page 1
Awarded \$5,000 each were Dunkirk Volunteer Fire Department for Fourth of July fireworks, Jay County Historical Society for its Heritage Festival, Kate's Kart for the purchase of new books and Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana for the Asbury Senior Safety Net site.
Other grants were: \$4,100 to Dunkirk Beautification Committee for

the Webster Depot Park Summer Concert Series; \$3,920 to Jay County Cancer Society for its Dueling Pianos show; \$3,037 to Jay Patriot Band Boosters on a \$1 to \$1 matching basis for new band equipment; and \$3,000 to Jay County Public Library for its Kindergarten Prep School (KIPS) program.
Receiving Teacher Creativity Mini-Grants, which cover the costs (\$300 or less) of learning experiences that teachers

feel are important to their students but are outside the budget of their school, are as follows:
•\$300 each for Natalie Corcoran and Andrea Oswalt (Redkey Elementary School) for a "Glow Day" activity; Erin Homan (Jay School Corporation Preschool) for items for activities and events; Beth Mathewson (East Jay Elementary School) for the "Basic Writing Series"; Lindsey

Peterson (East Elementary School) for an American Sign Language club; and Carly Sanderson (Zion Early Learning Center) for a computer.
•\$279 for Laurie Chrisman (Jay County Junior-Senior High School) for a subscription to EduProtocols Plus.
•\$275 for Sarah Davidson (East) for a communication board.
The next grant application deadline is Thursday, June 26.

Clash ...

Continued from page 1
Instead, the vicious tone of the exchange is likely to sow further doubt about Ukraine's ability to stand up to Russia's three-year invasion as it struggles with manpower on the battlefield and still relies heavily on U.S. military aid. It's also likely to alarm European allies, who have already been scrambling to fill the void being left by Washington.
The Ukrainian leader angered Trump and Vice President JD Vance when he said he did not believe the planned deal would do enough to deter further Russian aggression.
"Putin will never stop and will go further and further," Zelenskyy said, adding that the Russian leader "hates Ukrainians" and wanted to destroy the country. "We can do it, but it's not enough," he added of the deal.
As Zelenskyy sought to make his point, Trump and Vance lit into the beleaguered leader, suggesting his approach — delivered in the Oval Office — was disrespectful and inhibiting an end to the bloody three-year war.
"It's going to be very hard to do business like this," Trump said, telling Zelenskyy he was not sure the Ukrainian leader could make a deal. "You've got to be more thankful, because let me tell you, you don't have the cards. With us, you have the cards, but without us you don't have any cards."
"You're gambling with World War III," Trump continued. "And what

you're doing is very disrespectful to the country — this country — that's backed you far more than a lot of people said they should," he said. "You're either going to make a deal or we're out, and if we're out, you'll fight it out. I don't think it is going to be pretty."
The meeting had been intended as a moment of unity between the leaders, who were set to sign the natural resources agreement, which was designed to satisfy Trump's concerns that U.S. aid would not be repaid. Trump had touted the agreement as a major commitment from the United States to Ukraine as he initially welcomed Zelenskyy to the White House for a high-stakes meeting with stark implications for the fight to repel Russia's invasion.
"It's a pathway to peace. It's a pathway to getting something solved," Trump said.
The deal, however, did not offer the explicit security guarantees Zelenskyy had wanted, instead focusing on the economic partnership between the U.S. and Ukraine. Zelenskyy told Trump that Putin had repeatedly violated previous agreements and that Ukraine would never accept a simple ceasefire to conclude the war. He insisted to Trump that the mineral deal was not enough to ensure Ukraine's security.
The underlying tension between the leaders was obvious. Trump had his eyes closed and was tapping his fingers as Zelenskyy stressed his concerns about Putin reneging on an

agreement. When Trump downplayed the threat of a future attack, the Ukrainian leader shook his head.
"I'm in the middle. I want to solve this thing. I'm for both," Trump insisted. "It's wonderful to speak badly about somebody else, but I want to get it solved."
Then the meeting exploded when Vance, sitting nearby, criticized Zelenskyy's approach.
"Do you think that it's respectful to come to the Oval Office of the United States of America and attack the administration that's trying to prevent the destruction of your country?" Vance asked.
Trump said Zelenskyy had "tremendous hatred" for Putin and suggested that the anger could be inhibiting a deal, while also defending his warm relations with the Russian leader as more likely to yield results.
"I could be tougher than any human being you've ever seen. I'd be so tough, but you're never going to get it done that way," Trump said.
The leaders also sparred after Zelenskyy suggested Trump did not understand the issue because the United States was protected by an ocean, and didn't face the looming threat from Russia.
"You're in no position to dictate what we're going to feel. We're going to feel very good. We're going to feel very good and very strong. You're right now not in a very good position. You've allowed yourself to be in a very bad position," Trump said.

Felony courts

Dealing narcotics
A Dunkirk man was sentenced to more than a decade in prison for dealing narcotics.
Cody J. Barger, 38, 125 West Jay St., pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to dealing in a narcotic drug, a Level 2 felony. He was sentenced to 25 years in Indiana Department of Correction with 11 years suspended. He was recommended for purposeful incarceration. As part of his plea agreement, two level 6 felonies for unlawful possession of a syringe and maintaining a common nuisance were dismissed.

SERVICES

Today

Evans, Robley: 10:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 215 E. Dustman Road, Bluffton.

James, David: 5 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Monday

Imel, Donna: 6 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

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Contest winners

Jay County Elementary Oratorical Contest kicked off Feb. 20 at West Jay Elementary School. Winners included students pictured at left. From left to right are first place Londyn Cavanaugh from East Jay Elementary School, first place Anna Fisher from Bloomfield Elementary School, second place Sam Gibson from Bloomfield Elementary School and second place Malak Elshiekh from East Jay Elementary School. These students will compete in the County Oratorical Contest at 6 p.m. Thursday at Jay County Public Library.

Boyfriend wants lie detector test

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating this guy for five years. Two years ago, one of his friends came on to me through a text. I told him I'm not the kind of woman who cheats. He respected that and didn't text me again. I told my boyfriend the very next day, and he no longer trusts me! Ever since then, he questions what I'm doing and where I am and accuses me of lying every time. He thinks I have slept with every one of his friends. He tracks me. He put cameras up and accuses me of deleting everything.

I have never cheated on him or even thought about it. All of his accusations are pushing me away. He wants me to take a lie detector test to prove I'm innocent. I don't feel I should have to take one when I'm doing nothing wrong. I literally sit in my house and go nowhere but the grocery store. I don't talk to a single person.

I chose to do all that so he would stop accusing me, but he always finds something wrong. Should I take this test to prove he's been wrong about me this whole

Dear Abby



time? Part of me worries that even if I take this test, he will find something else and it's never gonna stop. — PRISONER IN OHIO

DEAR PRISONER: Red flag alert! Your boyfriend's insecurity is off the charts. His controlling behavior has nothing to do with you and everything to do with his own insecurities. What he is doing to you is sick and abusive. You will never be able to assuage this man's suspicions.

For your safety, I URGE you to end this romance while you still have enough self-esteem to manage it. If you are afraid for your safety as you do that, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 and ask for guidance.

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.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

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

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

Sunday

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

will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

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

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

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

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

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

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appoint-

ment, 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.

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

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

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

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

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the

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Sudoku

4								
9	3							7
2			3	6				8
1					5			3
		5		8				
	8		7			9		
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Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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*Ads must run in March

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

The Commercial Review

Trump is doing what he promised

To the editor:
I have read several articles about the Department of Government Efficiency and cutting waste, but not one word about the waste and corruption they found. No more Tampons for Taliban or Drag shows in Peru or dozens of similar items. Millions of dollars stopped to fund illegal immigration and millions to far left news organizations around the world and in the U.S. About 85,000 bureaucrats are taking a buyout

Letters to the Editor

plan and thousands have been fired. And 500,000 Social Security payments to people with no Social Security Number. And then there is the column

headlined "Presidents made the same mistake." I won't use the L word but the "misinformation" was astonishing. Columnist John Krull claims President Joe Biden has a record of legislative accomplishments greater than any since President Lyndon Johnson. Would that be the Inflation Reduction Act that was really a climate act that was a slush fund for left wing projects and actually increased inflation. He says President Donald

Trump scoffs at the idea of meritocracy. That must be why he is replacing race-based hiring with merit-based hiring. He said Trump began manipulating search engines so it would look like deportations and other attempts to curtail illegal immigration were more aggressive than they were in reality. That must be why thousands have been deported and illegal immigration at the border is down 94% in just one month.

He says Elon Musk's campaign to make government more efficient is clearly illegal. So far, no court has said so. And while he claims that a majority of voters don't back Trump's agenda polls show that they do. Polls also show that 70% of voters believe Trump is doing exactly what he promised to do. Stephen Erwin
Portland

We can not turn our backs

By NATE LAMAR

Recently I made my fourth business trip to South Africa, although the first for my current employer.

Nate LaMar



While I don't pretend to be an expert on South Africa, for years I have studied in-depth its troubled history, politics, and economics, and engaged first-hand in its often-turbulent business climate.

As a result, prostitution near laborers' camps ran rampant. The cancellation of President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is a mistake, not only for public health reasons, but also to keep South Africa from drifting further into the orbit of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), an expanding group that seeks to replace U.S. global leadership, but is essentially a front for China's "debt trap diplomacy" Belt & Road Initiative.

President Donald Trump recently abolished the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through billionaire (and South African native) Elon Musk.

In adhering to West Point's strict Honor Code and Cadet Prayer (choosing the harder right over the easier wrong), my classmate,

John Voorhees, who managed USAID's information technology security, refused to turn over its database to Musk's deputies upon their entry, as they lacked security clearances. Just for doing his job, he was among the first USAID employees to be fired. He should someday be featured in a modern-day adaptation of "Profiles in Courage."

While I am the first to admit there were some bizarre, and even sordid, USAID projects that never should have existed in the first place (though Musk admittedly lied about one (Financial Times, Feb. 18)), within almost any taxpayer-funded budget, one can find waste, fraud and abuse, ranging from government contract cronyism, to nepotism, to lavishly unnecessary hotel expenses (I witnessed this in the defense industry and called it out to my chain-of-command).

But just as the Voice of America helped Western democracies to win the Cold War and dislodge Communism in most, but not all, of the world, USAID has also helped to "win hearts and minds" in the interests of foreign policy, especially in South Africa with its 32.1% unemployment (The Economist, Feb 15-21, 2025).

As if abolishing USAID weren't enough, Trump announced a cut to all of South Africa's aid from the U.S.

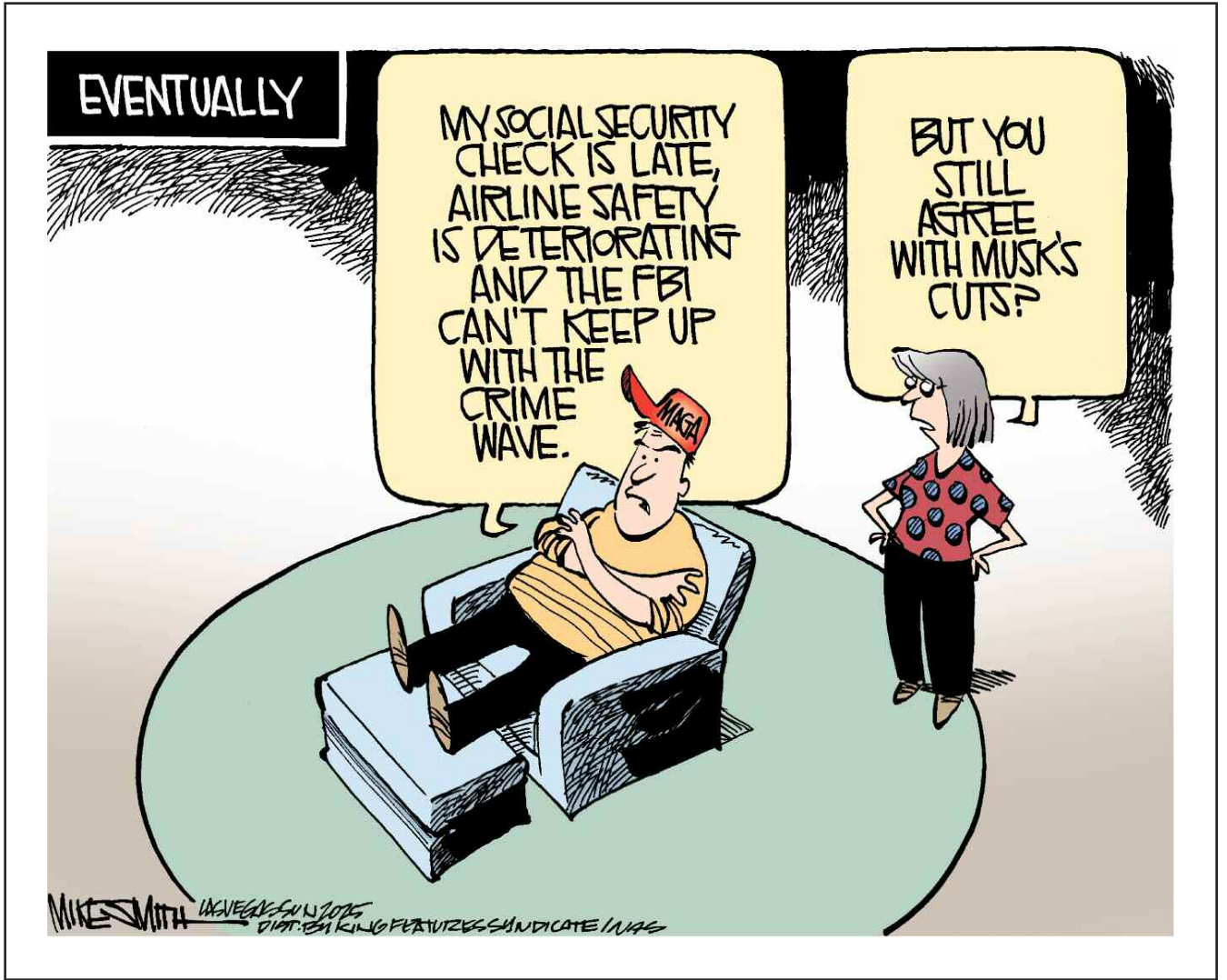
This included ending the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief funding, through which USAID was the conduit. South Africa's high rate of AIDS is a legacy of apartheid, when black migrant laborers were not allowed to bring their families to live with them.

The reason Trump cut all aid is because South Africa recently revived talk of land expropriation from its farmers without compensation. As a result, Trump announced that South African farmers could come to the U.S. as refugees (Henry County, Indiana, already has some Afrikaners working at a Dutch dairy farm). I agree with this offer by Trump, especially because since apartheid ended with South Africa's first free election in 1994, over 7,000 white farmers have been murdered. Within a few days of Trump's announcement, the server crashed at the South African Chamber of Commerce in the U.S., as it received 20,000 inquiries about the offer (The Citizen, Feb 12). Gibson, an Uber driver from Zimbabwe, told me that, if South Africa expropriates land from its farmers without compensation, it will become another Zimbabwe-like basketcase unable to feed itself.

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), the most left-wing Parliament, recently revived the apartheid era song, "uMama uyajabula uma ngibulala iBhunu ("My mother is happy when I kill a Boer"). Boer means farmer in both Afrikaans and Dutch.

It is my hope that USAID can be revived with stricter controls, perhaps under the Department of State. We cannot afford to turn our backs on South Africa now; China and Russia will take full advantage.

LaMar, an international director, served as Henry County Council president from 2009 to 2019.



Pence is walking a lonely road

By JOHN KRULL

TheStatehouseFile.com

Mike Pence made news the other day.

The Indiana native and former vice president of the United States during Donald Trump's first presidency took issue with his former boss.

Trump has stated, among other departures from fact, that Ukraine started the war it now wages with Russia.

Pence would have none of it. "Mr. President, Ukraine did not 'start' this war," Pence posted on X. "Russia launched an unprovoked and brutal invasion claiming hundreds of thousands of lives. The Road to Peace must be built on the Truth."

Pence also posted a story from Fox News confirming Russia's assault on Ukrainian sovereignty. The post was part of a pattern for Pence.

He did not endorse Trump during the 2024 presidential election. He also has delivered muted but unmistakable criticisms of the president in the years since the two men served together.

And, of course, there was the ugly, ugly end to their official relationship.

After Election Day 2020, Trump pressured Pence to help him steal that presidential election. When Pence refused — arguing, correctly, that he lacked the constitutional authority to do what Trump demanded — Trump summoned a mob to Washington, D.C. The president stirred the passions of the crowd to a murderous rage and urged those gathered to direct their anger at Pence.

The mob marched off to the U.S. Capitol with its members screaming, "Hang Mike Pence."

Pence made it to safety only with the aid of the U.S. Secret Service.

Since then, Pence has said that he bears Trump no personal animosity for trying to get him killed, but he has made clear he does not

John Krull



think Trump has the character to serve as president.

Pence's condemnation of Trump's lies about the Russia-Ukraine War is but the latest example of him trying to establish a conservative argument against the president's rule.

This has made the former vice president a lonely man.

The president's MAGA base long ago turned against Pence, labeling him a renegade and a turncoat for resisting Trump's unconstitutional attempts to hold onto power following the 2020 election. When Pence launched a 2024 presidential campaign, he didn't even make it to the Iowa caucuses, largely because the Republican base that had sustained for so long had abandoned him.

In favor of Trump.

Nor did Pence's ouster from MAGA's ranks win him many new friends among his former political opponents.

Citing the former vice president's enthusiastic cheerleading during most of Trump's first presidency, Democrats and other Trump opponents dismissed Pence's opposition as a self-interested conversion.

Too little, too late, they said.

But given all that the president's critics say is at stake — the fate of the United States as a self-governing society and a representative democracy — can they really afford to be picky about the timing and nature of anyone's conversion to the cause?

The reality is that those who are concerned about Donald Trump's ongoing attacks on American institutions and constitutional

safeguards need all the friends and allies they can find.

Mike Pence is doing two important things here.

The first is that he's making a case that what Donald Trump is doing is not conservative. Conservatives historically have revered and fought to preserve American institutions, traditions and constitutional safeguards. Trump is determined to trash all three.

Because Pence's conservative credentials are impeccable, he can make that argument in a way that few others can — and, in doing so, he can create space for other principled conservatives, however recently they might have rediscovered those principles, to make their opposition to Trump's assaults on their values known.

The other thing Pence is doing is making clear that the truth matters.

In this Trump era, far too many Republicans and conservatives have become comfortable with the practice of lying to secure a political advantage, however temporary that advantage might be.

Pence is working to separate conservatism from mendacity.

This shouldn't be controversial, but it is in Donald Trump's America, where routinely lying is not just condoned but venerated.

I've known Mike Pence a long time. He and I agree that the sun rises in the east and sets in the west — and just about everything else is up for debate.

I know how devoted he has been to the GOP and what a wrenching thing it must be for him to criticize a Republican president.

But he's doing so because he loves his country.

And that merits respect.

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.

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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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3-1 CRYPTOQUIP

AIFZVNI HDXN HPQM XN MPH
ITIKZHIR IMPVBD HP DZKI
NMPQ-UZFIJR NTPUIN, XN XH
AITPQ NJX TIKIT?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU'RE ASKING ME TO CONSUME THIS CURLY CABBAGE VARIETY EVERY DAY AT DINNER TIME? OH, KALE NO!
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals L

Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

Birth and death

- 1) What is the most common type of star found in the Milky Way?

- 2) What country drinks the most milk per capita?

_____ (1) Red Dwarf stars
_____ (2) Finland

3-3 CRYPTOQUIP

CQDDR GL COX RGXW YBJY
LDDI QOXBY JY BGHD BJVXOVX
GFY OV WHJII DVZIGWFQDW:
YBD ZQJYD RJVD.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THIS TOWN IS NOT ELEVATED ENOUGH TO HAVE SNOW-PACKED SLOPES, IS IT BELOW SKI LEVEL?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals G

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to springtime. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 10 = R)

A. 2 7 22 19 21 10 4
Clue: Blooms

B. 6 15 11 4
Clue: Beginnings of flowers

C. 19 23 10 12 16 5
Clue: Temperate climate

D. 10 23 9 26 14
Clue: Lots of wet precipitation

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to spring.


SBRDI


Answers: A. flowers B. buds C. warmth D. rain

kids' corner

What's the Difference?

Find the four difference between pictures.

A 

B 

Answers: 1. Missing tooth 2. Smile on tooth is bigger machine 3. Missing toothbrush 4. Missing controls on machine

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

FEBRUARY 26

1775: The British East India Company factory on Balambangan Island is destroyed by pirates.

1909: Kinemacolor, the first successful color motion picture process, is first shown to the public.

1995: Barings Bank in England collapses after a broker loses billions.

NEW WORD

TARTAR

a hard deposit that forms on the teeth

SPRING HAS SPRUNG WORD SEARCH

D N P C T S H G W E A K R W L N P F N K
W U E G R R R R T Z W B D P W Z Y E W L
K F E L G C S E E S R H L Z G N K U C K
S O U I L F W I W B L D Z T N P I D I U
C U D G C O T C N O I F H U W N N R K I
I H N S N O P A D S L R S K K P D O T L
I G L S E I R L U N E F T W I W R I H K
C Z U A H E R F L O P C M H G O S F W G
H T D P N I R P I E O N T S W D E C D R
N I N L T U N T S K U N O S W G G T E
F U O I D S O E A G C H I R P I N G I E
T Y F N K H K L N I N D T S E N Y T N N
L N G G E O E S E G L I N E A D T P I Y
G N N H M W G C H R I P N G C P G M D F
H U I G U E G F C B R I G E D B P Z I T
L B D E F R S I C C P N R A K H F O Z F
E W D I S S I K R T A W B K R A E N B A
W A U R D T B R E E Z E C H U D W S G P
N S B M R B L O O M S T I F F B E A K U
S W O R G Y A R Z D P G B K A L P N I F

GUESS WHO?

I am a professional wrestler born in Massachusetts on April 23, 1977. I pursued a career in bodybuilding and worked as a chauffeur at a limousine company. I went on to win 25 wrestling championships, including 16 WWE World Heavyweight titles.

Answer: John Cena

WORDS

APRIL
AWAKENING
BLOOMS
BREEZE
BUDDING
BUNNY
CHIRPING
EGGS
FLOWERS
GARDEN
GREEN
GROWS
INSECTS
NEST
POLLEN
REBIRTH
SAPLING
SHOWERS
SPRING
SUNNY
SUNSHINE
TREES

Body FACT!

Children are born with 20 of these, which will increase to 32 as they age.

Answer: Teeth

How they say that in...

English: Dental
Spanish: Dental
Italian: Dentista
French: Dentaire
German: Zahn

Did You Know?

It is important to visit the dentist at least twice per year for a thorough dental cleaning and examination of the mouth.

Answer: Brushing teeth

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Brushing teeth

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Bread spread
- 4 Barber-shop prop
- 8 "The Martian" actor Michael
- 12 Nest egg letters
- 13 Rent —
- 14 Wax-coated cheese
- 15 TV type
- 16 Bigfoot's cousin
- 17 Yearn
- 18 Grammy-winning "Don't Leave Me This Way" singer
- 21 007 creator Fleming
- 22 Hit CBS series
- 23 "Papa" of classical music
- 26 HBO rival
- 27 Fragrant neckwear
- 30 Rainbow
- 31 —/her/ hers
- 32 Roll up
- 33 Sailor's chart

DOWN

- 34 Carefree
- 35 "Bolero" composer
- 36 Beach lotion
- 37 Luau dish
- 38 Pulitzer-winning author of "The Night Watchman"
- 45 Swiss peaks
- 46 French cheese
- 47 Spell-down
- 48 Marriage vows
- 49 Auto designer
- 50 — pickle
- 51 Contra-dict
- 52 Casual tops
- 53 NASCAR advertiser
- 1 Pan covers
- 20 Mil. morale booster
- 23 That guy
- 24 Notre Dame coach
- 25 Shrill bark
- 26 Bashful
- 27 Candy heart word
- 28 Before
- 29 Unwell
- 31 Low-risk wager
- 32 Equitable
- 34 Family docs
- 35 Cowboy shows
- 36 Wimp
- 37 Nobel, for one
- 38 Set down
- 39 Shoppe description
- 40 Atop
- 41 Sea flier
- 42 Nile bird
- 43 Penny
- 44 Pile

Solution time: 26 mins.

T	V	S	E	P	A	D	E	M	U	R	
H	A	T	X	E	S	I	R	A	N	I	
O	N	O	P	E	P	P	E	R	P	O	T
N	N	W	O	P	I	U	M				
G	A	S	H	A	C	L	S	A	N	G	
	A	F	T	P	O	T	P	I	E		
P	E	A	R	L	D	R	E	A	M		
H	O	T	P	O	T	F	D	A			
O	N	E	S	U	P	A	Y	O	G	A	
	K	N	E	L	T	P	A	L			
P	O	T	R	O	A	S	T	S	E	M	T
H	U	R	O	N	T	E	A	R	E	O	
D	I	A	N	A	O	R	R	A	D	S	

Yesterday's answer 3-1

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A matter of logic

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 10 9
♥ A 6 2
♦ 8 4 2
♣ K Q 7 4

WEST
♠ A 6
♥ K 10 9 8 4 3
♦ A 10 5
♣ 9 2

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

SOUTH
♠ K J 8
♥ Q 7 5
♦ K Q J
♣ A J 10 8

The bidding:
East Pass South 1 NT West 2♥ North 3 NT
Opening lead — ten of hearts.

This deal occurred in a pair championship. The contract at every table was three notrump, and in each case, declarer failed to make it. However, subsequent analysis showed that the contract should have been made.

The play was fairly uniform at the various tables. West led a heart, and declarer won East's jack with the queen. After cashing four club tricks, declarer led either a spade or a diamond. West took the ace of whichever suit was led and returned the king of hearts to dummy's ace.

South could now have cashed eight tricks, but at some tables, when he attempted to establish a ninth trick, West took his other ace and ran his hearts to put the contract down two.

All the plays seem so normal that it is difficult to see where declarer went wrong. But the fact is that each declarer missed an opportunity to make the contract.

The winning play is to allow East to win the opening heart lead with the jack! Once South does this, the contract cannot be stopped.

Let's assume East returns a diamond. West takes the ace, but what can he do next? If he returns a heart, declarer scores the queen and finishes with 10 tricks; with any other return, South drives out the spade ace and winds up with nine tricks.

It can be argued that ducking the jack of hearts is easy to do when all 52 cards are in view, but actually the play can be supported by simple logic.

It is certainly reasonable to credit West with both missing aces as well as a six-card suit for his vulnerable overcall. Furthermore, the six-card suit must be assumed since the contract cannot be made if West has only five hearts (and both aces), whether or not declarer wins the first heart.

All indications thus point clearly to ducking the jack of hearts at trick one.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Heavy weight
- 4 Audacious
- 9 Brady Bunch girl
- 12 Year in Spain
- 13 "Bleeding Love" singer
- 14 Lyric poem
- 15 Quarterback for the Buffalo Bills
- 17 Present location?
- 18 Chef
- 19 Garten
- 21 Shocked
- 24 Ray of McDonald's
- 25 Lyricist
- 26 Chick's mom
- 28 Bigfoot's relatives
- 31 Long ride?
- 33 Homer's cry
- 35 Spanish eyes

DOWN

- 1 —
- 2 Lennon's partner
- 3 Refusals
- 4 Scald
- 5 Akin
- 6 "You've got mail" co.
- 7 Furtive one
- 8 Cranky due to skipping lunch, say
- 9 Mini-strike
- 10 Big fusses
- 11 On deck
- 16 Hasten
- 20 Works the soil
- 21 Monet works
- 22 Edge
- 23 "A Death in the Family" author
- 27 Auction signal
- 29 "Understood"
- 30 Round
- 32 Pearl Harbor site
- 34 With-it person
- 37 Powerful engine
- 39 Is a bad winner
- 42 Evaluate
- 44 Cleric's garment
- 45 End-of-week letters
- 46 Indy event
- 50 Mrs. in Mexico
- 51 Select, with "for"
- 52 Swiss canton
- 53 Surpass

Solution time: 21 mins.

J	A	M	C	O	M	B	P	E	N	A		
I	R	A	A	C	A	R	E	D	A	M		
L	C	D	Y	E	T	I	P	I	N	E		
T	H	E	L	M	A	H	O	U	S	T	O	N
	I	A	N	C	S	I						
H	A	Y	D	N	S	H	O	L	E	I		
I	R	I	S	S	H	E	F	U	R	L		
M	A	P	G	A	Y	R	A	V	E	L		
	S	P	F	P	O	I						
L	O	U	I	S	E	R	D	R	I	C	H	
A	L	P	S	B	R	I	E	B	E	E		
I	D	O	S	E	N	Z	O	I	N	A		
D	E	N	Y	T	E	E	S	S	T	P		

Saturday's answer 3-3

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

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 7 6 4 2
♥ A K 4 2
♦ 7 6
♣ Q 9 3

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

EAST
♠ J 9 8
♥ J 10 9 7
♦ 10 4 2
♣ K 7 2

SOUTH
♠ A K
♥ Q 8 6 5 3
♦ A K Q
♣ A 10 6

The bidding:
South 2♥ West Pass North 4♥ East Pass
Opening lead — five of diamonds.

This famous hand was played by Ewart Kempson, British star, many years ago. He got to six hearts, and West led a diamond. When dummy was tabled, making the slam seemed to be a cut-and-dried proposition, as declarer's only loser appeared to be a club.

But after winning the diamond with the queen and leading a trump to the ace, on which West showed out, Kempson discovered that he would have to lose a trump trick also.

Never one to give up easily, Kempson made the slam anyway by means of an extremely unusual squeeze-endplay. He began by cashing the A-K of spades, then led a heart to dummy's king and ruffed a spade.

Kempson now cashed the ace of diamonds and ruffed the king in dummy. Next came a trump to the queen, producing this position:

West
♠ Q
♥ J 8 5
♦ J 8 5
♣ J 8 5

East
♠ J
♥ J
♦ K 7 2
♣ K 7 2

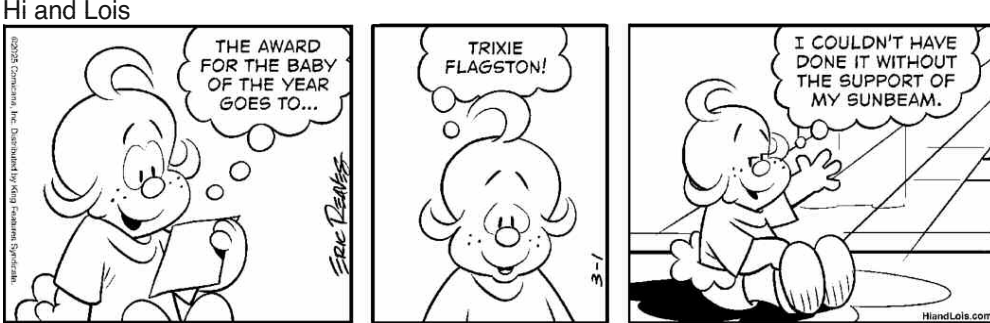
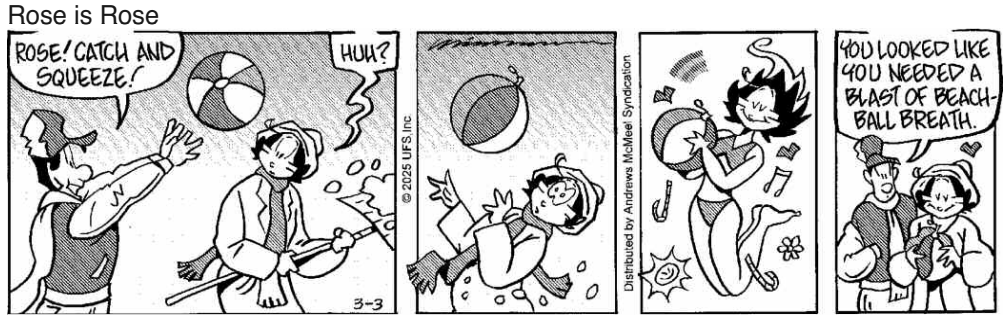
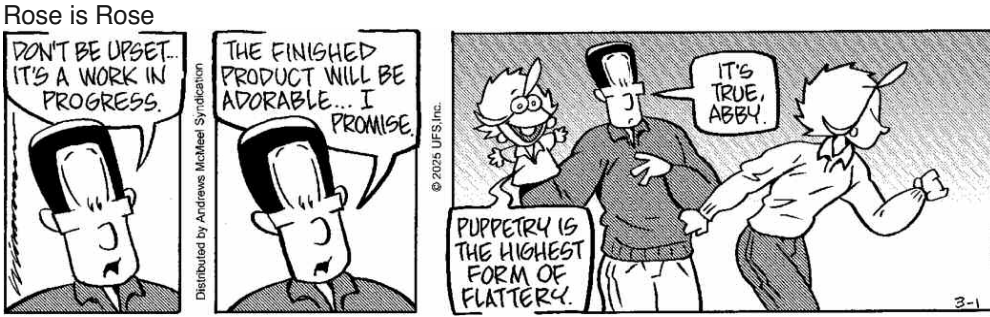
Kempson led the trump eight, and West, who could not afford to part with the queen of spades, discarded the five of clubs. Dummy thereupon discarded the seven of spades, and East, compelled to win the trump trick, had to return a club. It did not matter which club East led at this point. In practice, he returned the deuce. South playing the six, West the jack and dummy the queen, Kempson then took the obvious club finesse, and it was all over.

Note that it would not have helped West to play the eight of clubs instead of the jack. In that case, declarer would win with dummy's nine and return the queen to achieve the same result.

Tomorrow: Eliminating the luck element.

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



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*

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word
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word
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word
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THURSDAY & FRIDAY
before the sale
No items Will be Con-
signed Saturday Morn-
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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Bubp Exhibi-
tion Hall at the Jay
County Fairgrounds, 806
W Votaw St., Portland,
IN
March 8th, 2025
9:30 A. M.
ANTIQUES-OLD &
COLLECTORS ITEMS
CAST IRON: Wapak
#9, Griswold #8 & #9,
Wagner chicken fryer
and Sidney griddle;
GRANITE AND PORCE-
LAIN: coffee pots, pans,
roasters and other
pieces, Carnival Glass,
Milk Bottles to include
Union City, McCoy pitch-
er, Fiesta plates, Green
Depression Glass,
tobacco tins, Edison
records, wood pulleys,
Pepsi and Coke cases,
Quaker State oil can,
wood Barrel, CROCKS
AND JUGS; #8 Clover,
#5 UHL, #3, crock
bowls, metal signs,
wood spigots, feed
sacks including Haynes
Milling, pulleys, printer
trays; and many other
items not listed.
AUCTIONEERS NOTE:
This is only a partial list-
ing of the many items to
be sold.
ROGERS FAMILY
Loy Auction
AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer
AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kayden Khayyata
AU12400069

The Commercial Review

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After 5:00 p.m.

Leave Message Please.

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Saturday Morning:

8:00 a.m.

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309 West Main St.,
Portland.

Front Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Circulation Department

Hours:

10:00 am - 4:30 p.m.

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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday March 15th,
2025
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 783 S 600E
Portland, IN.
OPEN HOUSE Sunday
March 2nd & Sunday
March 9th 1-3p.m. or for
private showing phone
auctioneers.
REAL ESTATE
30 Acres in Section 21,
Noble Twp., Jay County.
Sold in parcels and
combinations.
Tract 1: 2 Acres with 3
bedroom farmhouse
containing 2272 sq. ft.
finished living area and
30 x 48i pole
barn/garage. Partial
basement. Pole barn
has cement floor, 3
overhead doors and
office area.
Tract 2: 28 Acres with
approx.. 20 tillable, bal-
ance being wooded and
road frontage on CR
600 E.
OWNER: LARRY BICK-
EL ESTATE By Kent
Bickel, PR.
Note: Check Auctionsoft
and AuctionZip for more
photos.
SHAWVER AUCTION-
EERING AND REAL
ESTATE
AC31800004
AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587

PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY, MARCH
29TH, 2025
9:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 3430 W
State Road 67, Portland,
IN or 3 Ω miles west of
Portland at the corner of
Hwy 67 and County
Road 200 South.
NOW ACCEPTING
CONSIGNMENTS
UNTIL
NOON, THURSDAY,
MARCH 27TH, 2025.
Farm Tractors-Farm
Equip.-Construction
Equip.-Trucks-Trailers-
Vehicles-Riding Mowers-
ATV's-Attachments-Misc
TERMS: CASH OR
GOOD CHECK NOT
RESPONSIBLE FOR
ACCIDENTS
NOT RESPONSIBLE
FOR NO SHOWS
AUCTIONEERS NOTE:
Indiana Sales Tax will be
collected at this auction.
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& FARMERS OWNERS
AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
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Pole barns, roofing,
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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Notice to Taxpayers of Additional Appropriations
Notice is given to the Taxpayers of Jackson Township, Jay
County Indiana that the proper legal officers will consider the
following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for
the current year at their regular meeting place 5341 W 400 N
Portland, IN. 47371
At 6:30 p.m. on the 18th day of March 2025
Fund Name General Township Fund
Major Budget Classification Amount
Personal Services: Salaries and Wages \$1,725
Total for General Township Fund \$1,725
Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be
heard. The additional appropriations as finally made will be re-
ferred to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF).
The DLGF will make a written determination as to the suffi-
ciency of funds to support the appropriations made within fif-
teen (15) days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action taken.
Dated 2-25-2025
Rex Pinkerton, Fiscal Officer
CR 3-1-2025-HSPAXLP

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260 PUBLIC AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

LOCATED: 783 S 600 E. Portland, Indiana
**SATURDAY
MARCH 15th, 2025**
10:00 A.M.
LAND
REAL ESTATE

30 Acres in Section 21, Noble Twp, Jay County.
Sold in parcels and combinations.
Tract 1: 2 Acres with 3 bedroom farmhouse
containing 2272 sq ft finished living area and 30' x
48' pole barn/ garage. Home has gas forced air,
wood furnace, and ventless heaters. Partial
basement. Pole barn has cement floor, 3 overhead
doors, and office area.
Tract 2: 28 Acres with approximately 20 tillable,
balance being wooded and road frontage on CR
600 E.

Open House: Sunday March 2nd 1-3pm,
Sunday March 9th 1-3pm, or for private showing
phone auctioneers.

**OWNER:
LARRY BICKEL ESTATE**
by KENT BICKEL, PR.

NOTE: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip
TERMS ON REAL ESTATE: Cash with 10% non-
refundable day of the Auction, balance at closing.
Closing to be 30-45 days. Sale not subject to buyer
obtaining financing.

TERMS ON PERSONAL PROPERTY: Cash
NOTE: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for
more photos.

STATEMENTS MADE SALE DAY TAKE
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SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING
AND REAL ESTATE
AC31800004

Pete D. Shawver Zane Shawver
Lic# AU19700040 Lic# AU10500168
260-726-5587 260-729-2229

More Photos available at www.auctionzip.com
CR 3-1-2025

PUBLIC AUCTION

Located in the Bubp Exhibition Hall at the
Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland Indiana
on Saturday Morning
MARCH 8, 2025
9:30 A.M.

ANTIQUES - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS
CAST IRON: Numerous skillets to include Wapak
#9, Griswold #8 & #9, Wagner, Lodge, Victor,
Favorite Piqua, National, and Sidney along with
Wagner chicken fryer and Sidney griddle;
GRANTE AND PORCELAIN: coffee pots, pans,
roasters, and other pieces; comforters; wood blocks;
Maytag oiler; vintage Allen County Farm and
Business Directories; Carnival Glass; Milk bottles
to include Union City, Meadow Gold, ; wall pockets;
rolling pins, McCoy pitcher; Deckers Lard tin;
Maytag oiler; slaw cutters; coffee grinder;
insulators; wood utensils; Fiesta plates; lanterns;
copper tea pots; Green Depression Glass; Bubble
dishes; Goebel figurines; tobacco tins; Edison
records; cookie cutters; wood train; milk bottle tops;
wood planes; wood shutters; draw knife; hog
scraper; wagon seat; wood pulleys; wood boxes;
stillards; buttons; license plates; Emerson electric
fan; water pump; 2 man saws; jobber; buck saws;
coal hod; GALVANIZED: watering can, tubs, pails,
and other pieces; ammo boxes; hanging scales;
single & double trees; Pepsi and Coke cases; milk
can; fogger; nail keg; corn sheller; canning jars;
metal letters; Quaker State oil can; hand auger; hay
forks; wood barrel; egg basket; wood totes; wire
baskets; CROCKS AND JUGS: #8 Clover, #5
UHL, #5 jug, #5 Heart jug, #3, crock bowls; pitcher
pump; milk box; weather vane stands; metal signs;
seeder; yardsticks; Wapak flat iron; Sunshine Seed
Co trays; utensils; wood crate; Tonka dump trucks;
Jet Oil wood box; tins; sprinkler; Gene Stratton
Porter books; wood spigots; Wagner Magnalite
pans; rug beaters; fans; feed sacks including Haynes
Milling; Pyrex; JFK puzzle; Tiger Tin; pulleys;
puzzles; spun aluminum cannister set; Smile cookie
jar, mugs, zinc lids; old wrenches; aluminum pitcher
glasses set; cheese boxes; printers trays; and many
other items not listed.

AUCTIONEERS NOTE: This is only a partial
listing of the many items to be sold. This auction
offers a nice collection of items.

ROGERS FAMILY

LOY AUCTION AC31600027
AUCTIONEERS
Gary Loy AU 01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

CR 3-1-2025

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State ...

Continued from page 10
 “We definitely struggled with the mental game, which is probably the first time this year we’ve had this much of a problem with staying positive,” Rosegrant said, while commending Schoen for trying her best to inject energy into the group. “We had a lot of really good strike balls that didn’t turn into strikes. Had a lot of close spares that should have been (converted).”

“I think that brought the team down and we couldn’t get out of the funk once we were in it.”

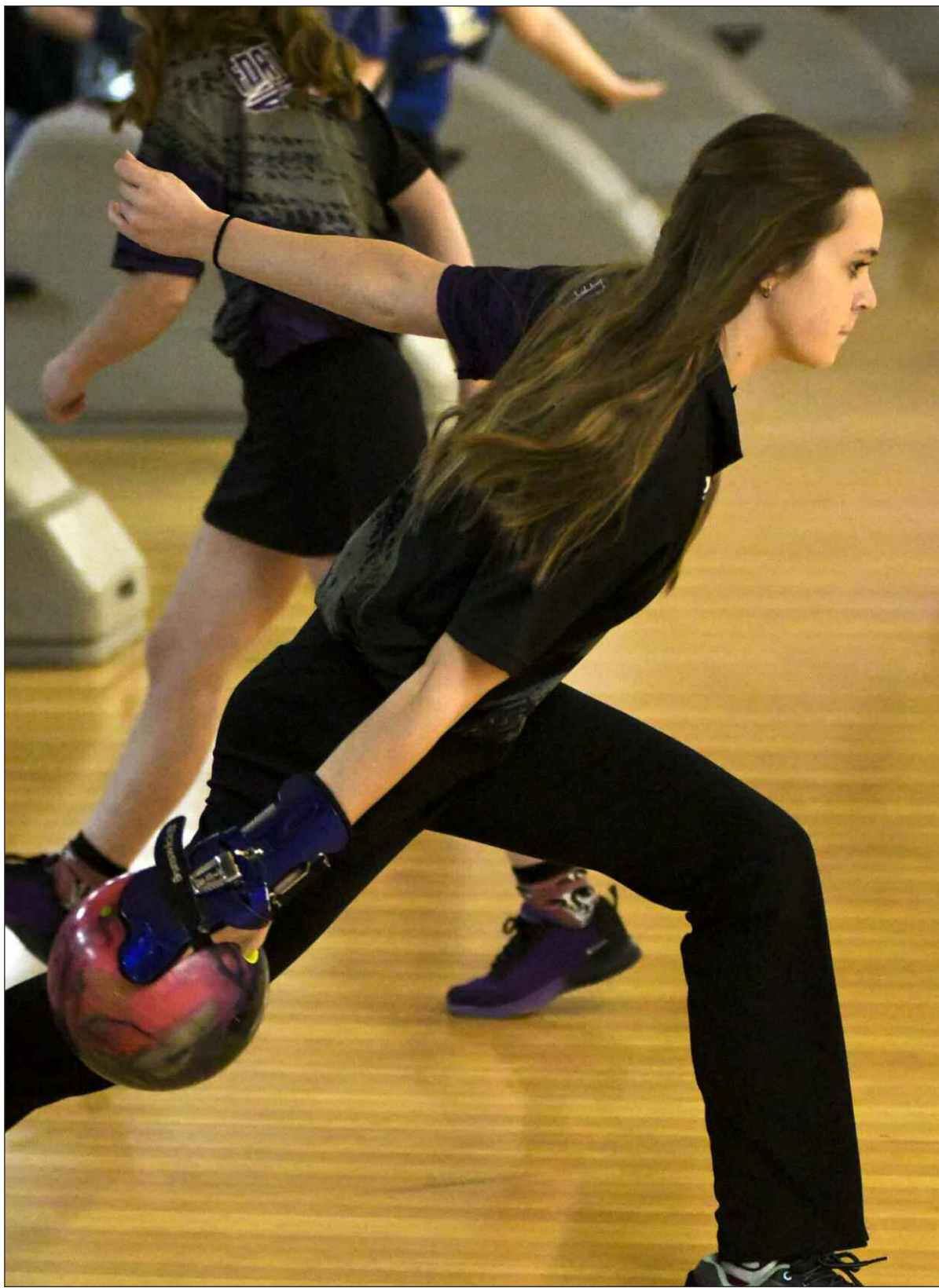
Despite the struggles during the individual games, FRHS only sat 49 pins out of eighth place. The Tribe couldn’t make up the ground as it couldn’t break 170, rolling games of 168, 129, 141, 156 and 161.

Fourth-seeded Urbana claimed the Division II crown, beating the No. 6 seed Harding in the final. Napoleon’s Arianna Kiessling earned the individual state title with games of 198, 248 and 257 for a 703-pin series.

As a team, Fort Recovery only filled 135 out of 200 frames (67.5%) and finished with a 37.4% strike percentage (82-of-219).

Four of the Indians bowled donned the Indians’ logo for the final time as DeRoo, Heitkamp, Lauber and Schoen are all set to graduate. While they didn’t manage to crack the top eight, the quartet led the Indians to their only state appearances as a team in back-to-back seasons.

“I think it was a great senior season,” Heitkamp said. “Us seniors really pulled it together and it was awesome to come back to state again this year.”



Emily Lauber slides during a practice shot at H.P. Lanes on Friday as the Fort Recovery High School girls bowling team competed at the OHSAA Division II state tournament. The Indians came up short of advancing to bracket play after knocking down 3,268 pins in the qualifying round to place 12th out of 16 teams. Lauber is one of four seniors along with Saidy DeRoo, Kayla Heitkamp and Ella Schoen, who bowled their final tournament for the Tribe.

The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

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Gambill ...

Continued from page 10
Griffin had 17 of his game-high 23 points in the first half while Comer went 6-of-8 from long distance for 18 points. Swoveland joined them in double figures with 11 points.

Comer and Griffin each had four assists while Swoveland added three.

"When we move the basketball, when we make that extra easy pass and don't let that ball stick, then we're dangerous," said Gary, whose team had nine players score. "We get open looks.

"We've been really stressing that in practice and we can finally see the rewards of it. It's exciting."

It was the second hot game in a row from beyond the arc for JCHS, which shot 11-of-21 (52%) after hitting 13-of-20 (65%) against Winchester.

Jay County also posted a 33-24 advantage on the glass, with Swoveland grabbing nine boards, Griffin seven and Aiden Phillips six.

Junior varsity

Jay County owned the first three quarters en route to a 52-45 victory.

The Patriots built a seven point lead at the end of the first quarter and pushed ahead 27-12 at the half. They extended that lead to 20 points through three quarters before Belmont made a run late.

Brock Wasson hit three 3-pointers en route to his dozen points to lead JCHS. Nick Snow added 10 points and Kade Sommers added eight.

Derick Vogel tallied a game-high 18 points to pace Belmont, Isaac Baker added nine.

Freshman

The Patriot pulled away with a 20-point final quarter for a 52-40 victory.

Jay County was up by five at the end of the first half before getting outscored 17-10 in the third quarter. It bounced back with the big fourth to snag the double-digit victory.

Dash Thacker scored 11 of his team-high 18 points

Jay County Patriots vs. Belmont Braves			
Boys varsity summary			
Belmont (5-18)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Johnson	0-0	0-0	0
WBaker	1-4	2-3	4
Selking	4-13	0-0	12
IBaker	0-1	0-0	0
Hackman	2-3	0-0	5
DaVogel	1-4	0-0	2
CSummers	1-1	0-0	3
BBaker	0-1	0-0	0
Krull	5-12	2-2	16
LSummers	2-6	0-1	4
White	0-0	0-0	0
DeVogel	0-1	0-0	0
Totals	16-46	4-6	46
	.348	.667	
Def. rebound percentage: .692			
Jay County (13-9)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Comer	6-8	0-0	18
Schemenaur	0-0	0-0	0
Jetmore	0-0	0-0	0
Barnett	1-3	0-0	2
Wasson	2-3	1-1	6
Petro	1-4	1-2	3
Dirksen	1-3	2-2	4
Gambill	0-0	1-2	1
Phillips	2-4	0-0	4
Griffin	9-15	2-3	23
Swoveland	5-10	0-1	11
Sommers	0-0	0-0	0
Totals	27-50	7-11	72
	.540	.636	
Def. rebound percentage: .806			

for the Patriots in the final period. Alex Miller added 11 points and Oak Gaerke scored eight.

Belmont got 18 points from Malachi Lavine while Corbynn Omlor added eight.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Junior high wrestling at Jay County Invite — 9 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys bowling State at Columbus — 10:45 a.m.; Boys basketball district final vs. Anna at Troy — 11 a.m.

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

Tuesday
Jay County — Boys basketball sectional opener vs. Yorktown at New Castle — 6 p.m.; Junior high swim vs. Blackford — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today
Saturday
3 a.m. — MotoGP: Thailand Grand Prix (FS1)
12 p.m. — College basketball: UConn at Providence (CBS); Clemson at Virginia (ESPN2); Miami at North Carolina (ESPN); Saint Joseph's at Fordham (USA); Maryland at Penn State (BTN); Butler at Villanova (FOX); Auburn at Kentucky (ABC)
12 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Providence at Georgetown (FS1)
1 p.m. — PGA Tour: Cognizant Classic (NBC)
2 p.m. — College basketball: Texas Tech at Kansas (ESPN); Oklahoma at Ole Miss (ESPN2); Minnesota at Nebraska (BTN)
2:15 p.m. — College basketball: Seton Hall at St. John's (CBS)
2:30 p.m. — IndyCar: Grand Prix of St. Petersburg (FS1)
3 p.m. — NHL: Boston Bruins at Pittsburgh Penguins (ABC)
4 p.m. — College basketball: Alabama at Tennessee (ESPN); Purdue Fort Wayne at Cleveland State (ESPN2); USC at Oregon (BTN); Utah State at Colorado State (FS1)
4:30 p.m. — College basketball: Cincinnati at Houston (CBS); Creighton at Xavier (FOX)

6 p.m. — College basketball: Pitt at Louisville (ESPN2)
6 p.m. — NHL: Columbus Blue Jackets at Detroit Red Wings (ESPN)
6 p.m. — College gymnastics: Big Four Meet (BTN)
7 p.m. — NRL rugby: New Zealand Warriors at Canberra Raiders (FOX)
8 p.m. — College basketball: Georgia at Texas (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — NHL: Los Angeles Kings at St. Louis Blues (FSDN Indiana)
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Golden State Warriors at Philadelphia 76ers (ABC); Milwaukee Bucks at Dallas Mavericks (NBC)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Arizona at Iowa State (ESPN)
9 p.m. — Women's college basketball: USC at UCLA (FOX)
10 p.m. — College basketball: West Virginia at BYU (ESPN)
11 p.m. — College basketball: Gonzaga at San Francisco (ESPN2)
11:30 p.m. — NRL rugby: Cronulla Sharks at Penrith Panthers (FS1)

Sunday
3 a.m. — MotoGP: Thailand Grand Prix (FS1)
10 a.m. — Indy NXT Series: Grand Prix of St. Petersburg (FS1)
12 p.m. — College basketball: Florida Atlantic at South Florida (ESPN2)
12 p.m. — IndyCar: Grand Prix of St. Petersburg (FOX)
12 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Louisville at Notre Dame (ESPN)
1 p.m. — NBA: Denver Nuggets at Boston Celtics (ABC)
1 p.m. — NHL: Toronto Maple Leafs at Pittsburgh Penguins (TNT)
1:30 p.m. — College basketball: Wisconsin at Michigan State (CBS)
1:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Michigan at Illinois (BTN)
2 p.m. — College basketball: North-ern Iowa at Bradley (ESPN2)
2 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Kentucky at South Carolina (ESPN); Marquette at UConn (FS1)
3 p.m. — PGA Tour: Cognizant Classic (NBC)
3:30 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: EchoPark Automotive Grand Prix (FOX)

3:30 p.m. — NHL: Boston Bruins at Minnesota Wild (ABC)
3:45 p.m. — College basketball: Illinois at Michigan (CBS)
4 p.m. — College basketball: Memphis at UAB (ESPN)
4 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Kansas State at Iowa State (ESPN2)
4:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Ohio State at Maryland (FOX)
5 p.m. — NBA: Chicago Bulls at Indiana Pacers (FSDN Indiana)
5 p.m. — College gymnastics: Big Four Meet (BTN)
6 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Dallas Stars (TNT)
6:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: TCU at Baylor (FS1)
7 p.m. — NBA: Oklahoma City Thunder at San Antonio Spurs (ESPN)
8:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Villanova at Creighton (FS1)
9:30 p.m. — NBA: Minnesota Timberwolves at Phoenix Suns (ESPN)

Monday
1 p.m. — MLB Spring Training: Baltimore Orioles vs. Boston Red Sox (ESPN)
3 p.m. — TGL golf: The Bay Golf Club vs. Los Angeles Golf Club (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Wake Forest at Duke (ESPN)

7 p.m. — TGL golf: New York Golf Club vs. Boston Common Golf (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — MLB Spring Training: Cincinnati Reds vs. Milwaukee Brewers (FSDN Indiana)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Kansas at Houston (ESPN); Wichita State at North Texas (ESPN2); UCLA at Northwestern (FS1)
11 p.m. — College basketball: Eastern Washington at Montana (ESPN2)

Tuesday
1 p.m. — MLB Spring Training: Washington Nationals vs. St. Louis Cardinals (FSDN Indiana); New York Mets vs. St. Louis Cardinals (ESPN)
7 p.m. — NBA: Houston Rockets at Indiana Pacers (FSDN Indiana)
7 p.m. — College basketball: LSU at Kentucky (ESPN2); Creighton at Seton Hall (FS1)
7 p.m. — TGL golf: Jupiter Links Golf Club vs. Atlanta Drive GC (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Golden State Warriors at New York Knicks (TNT)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Auburn at Texas A&M (ESPN); BYU at Iowa State (ESPN2); Indiana at Oregon (FS1)
10 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Clippers at Phoenix Suns (TNT)
11 p.m. — College basketball: Arizona State at Arizona (ESPN)

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Sports

Gambill pays off

Senior cashes in for first point as Jay rolls

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

In the fourth quarter of a blowout, the Patriots fans had reason to roar.

Caden Gambill was heading to the scorer's table.

The reaction was even louder three and a half minutes later when he scored his first varsity point.

Gambill, a Jay County High School senior, split a couple of free throws with 1:24 remaining to give the Patriots their final point as they closed the regular season Friday with a 72-46 blowout of the visiting Belmont Braves.

"It feels good with it being my last home game of the year and of my high school career," said Gambill. "It felt like all the hard work paid off."

The victory sends the Patriots into the tournament on a three-game winning streak after it beat Norwell 51-49 on Feb. 21 and Winchester 68-57 on Tuesday. It marked the third time they have won by 20 or more points this season.

"What a great night," said JCHS interim coach Brogan Gary. "What a great finale to end our season this way. I don't even know if we could have drawn up something better than this. We're all on a high. Exciting night."

The game was well in hand — the Patriots took control with a 14-0 run in the second quarter — when Gary sent Gambill to the scorer's table with 4:58 left in the game. The student section, which had started chanting Gambill's name late in the third quarter, went wild.

Jay County looked to get the senior the ball, but struggled to do so for several minutes. Finally, as the clock ticked under a

minute and a half to go, he took a pass on the left block. He fought up a shot against Derick Vogel and Cameron Summers. It didn't go in, but he was fouled on the play.

Gambill missed his first attempt at the free-throw line.

"I'm very nervous," said Gambill. "I have sweaty hands, so I was just hoping to not airball it. But luckily I didn't airball either one of them."

The second, he sank for his first varsity point.

"It means a lot," said Gary. "Everybody is aware of the sacrifice and commitment he's done and contributed for four years for this program. He comes in and works hard each and every day. He's an example for our JV team ..."

"He deserves it. I'm so proud of him."

The highlight for Gambill came in a game in which the Patriots never trailed as Gradin Swoveland opened the scoring and Tucker Griffin followed with a 3-pointer. They had just a four-point lead at the end of the first quarter that was cut to three when Belmont's Gavin Krull hit a triple early in the second.

The next three minutes were all Griffin and Swoveland.

Griffin started with a 3-pointer and then split a pair of free throws before Swoveland scored the next four points. A Griffin drive for a three-point play followed, and then Swoveland buried a 3-pointer off of a Griffin assist for a 30-13 lead.

The Braves never threatened again, and JCHS started the second half on a 12-2 run that included three Jayden Comer 3-pointers.

See **Gambill** page 9



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School senior Caden Gambill puts up a shot against Derick Vogel (left) and Luke Summers of Belmont late in the game Friday. Gambill split a pair of free throws for his first varsity points in the Patriots' 72-46 victory.

State struggles

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

COLUMBUS, Ohio — After graduating only one starter from the team came up just 13 pins short of the top eight teams at state a year ago, the Indians had high hopes heading into the state tournament.

The Tribe looked poised to crack the top eight this season, as it put up the third-highest total among the state qualifiers at the district level.

But a rough start to the day set the Indians back, and they never managed to recover, once again leaving them out of the finals.

Fort Recovery High School's girls bowling team finished 12th at the OHSAA Division II State tournament at H.P. Lanes on Friday, only managing 3,268 pins.

At the state tournament, teams had five bowlers roll three individual games before throwing five Baker games. The top eight teams were then seeded into a bracket, where they would bowl a best-of-five Baker games to advance.

Fort Recovery rolled a 3,824 at the Southwest district tournament, which only got beat out by Versailles (3,849) and Napoleon (3,844). Both the Indians and Versailles — the Tigers shot a 3,370 — got left out of the top eight as Mechanicsburg claimed the final spot with 3,404, which was 136 pins ahead of the Tribe.

"It was very disappointing," said FRHS coach Alison Rosegrant. "We are a better team than what we showed today. The hardest part of this is, coming in we were third place in terms of numbers, we expected a lot better performance and just didn't show up today."

Fort Recovery got off to

a rocky start as the five individuals combined for 832 pins, which sat 11th of the 16 teams.

Deanna Brown put up the best game of 194, which was the Tribe's high for the day. She rolled four strikes and filled five of the other six frames except for a 6-7-10 split in the second. Emily Lauber's 171 was the second best game. Despite leaving the first four frames open with three splits, she found a way to come back with five strikes over the final four frames, including four in a row.

FRHS also got games of 159, 156 and 152 from Kayla Heitkamp, Ella Schoen and Lilah Thien, respectively.

"I think we just had a hard time finding our groove and knocking down pins," said Heitkamp. "We had some weird splits and (the breaks) weren't in our favor today."

Things didn't get much better in the second and third individual games. Schoen led the second batch of games with a 190 powered by a turkey from the fourth frame to the sixth. Brown followed with a 185 with only one open frame (a chopped 4-7 in the fifth). Heitkamp finished with a hambone for a 174 and Thien had a 165. Lauber bowled the first six frames before

freshman Jady Weyerick took over in the seventh, combining for a 129.

Brown's third game again led FRHS, as the sophomore filled nine frames for a 192. Schoen followed with 182 pins. Heitkamp and Thien finished one pin apart with games of 156 and 155, respectively. Weyerick again finished the final four frames of a game as Sady DeRoo rolled the first six, to total 153 pins.

In all, Brown led Fort Recovery with a 571 series, which tied with Brianna Carter of Westfall for 20th. She missed all-state recognition by 20 pins as Bryan's Haylie Federspiel took the final spot. (The top five bowlers made the first team All-State, sixth through 10th were second team and 11th through 15th were honorable mentions.) Schoen finished 39th with a 528, Heitkamp's 489 was good for 60th and Thien finished 72nd with a 472.

The Indians struggled to find consistency, as different bowlers struggled with their ball coming up light, others were heavy and nearly all of them had pin action that left splits and difficult fills. Even solid hits didn't always turn out as the Tribe had eight ringing 10s (or ringing 7s for Brown, who is a lefty).

See **State** page 8

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