

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

New trial dates slated

First murder trial to start on March 15

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Most of the high-profile trials slated in Jay Circuit Court have been rescheduled.

Jay Circuit Court on Thursday set new trial dates for Ryan A. Markle 40, Portland, who is charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in death, a Level 1 felony.

New trial dates have also been set for Esther J. Stephen, 30, Portland, Shelby N. Hiestand, 19, Portland, Roger L. Boyd, 35, Portland, and Cory M. Jones, 44, Dunkirk, all of whom are charged with murder, and Jennifer F. Young, 35, Portland, who like Markle is charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in death, a Level 1 felony.

The court's docket today included a scheduling hearing for a new trial date for Hannah L. Knapke, 19, Fort Recovery, who is also charged with murder.

In some of the cases, multiple trial dates have been set. Jay Circuit Court schedules primary trials as well as back-ups in order to help keep cases moving in the event that the primary case gets canceled or moved.

Most of the trials have already been rescheduled at least once because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The most recent cancellations came in December when Indiana Supreme Court announced it was suspending jury trials statewide until March 1 because of the potential spread of COVID-19.

See Trial page 2



Volley time

Westlawn Elementary School students played some volleyball in Joella Rinker's gym class Thursday afternoon. Pictured above, sixth grader Joshua Johnson connects on a serve. At right, kindergartener Amelia Laswell keeps her eye on the ball as she waits for it to descend.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Road funding bill clears committee

By RILEY EUBANKS
The Commercial Review

INDIANAPOLIS — A bill that would change the way highway funds can be used is being sent to the Indiana Senate for a vote.

Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle), who represents northeast Indiana and Jay County in the Senate, voted in favor of Senate Bill 207, which passed out of the chamber's appropriations committee in an 11-2 vote Thursday despite criticism over the bill's exclusivity and that money would be moved away from highway construction.

The bill, which Holdman noted is a "long ways away from being finalized," would allow counties and municipalities that implement excise and wheel taxes to move funding away from highway construction and rehabilitation

Measure would allow shifting money to cover operational costs

toward operational costs in 2022 and '23.

Jay County is among the 55 counties in Indiana that has a wheel tax (a 10% flat tax on passenger vehicles, semis, motorcycles and motor driven cycles). Its excise tax charges trailers weighing less than 10,000 pounds \$7.50 and any loads larger than that \$40.

The bill would allow the county to only have to commit 40% of

its motor vehicle highway fund toward construction costs while the rest could go toward highway equipment, right of way acquisition and other costs like fuel and oil.

Additionally, the bill would temporarily redefine items allowed to be purchased from the highway building fund — that 40% total — to include any costs associated with snow removal and de-icing such as

salt or other necessary equipment.

State law currently requires 50% of any motor vehicle highway fund to go toward that highway building fund, a requirement Holdman said he constantly receives complaints about, while the rest is allowed to go toward operational costs.

"I've been flooded, as most members have, from municipal leaders to provide some relief from the 50-50 requirement from (motor vehicle highway) funds," Holdman said.

Jay County auditor Anna Culy shared in that frustration.

Jay County had a motor vehicle highway fund total of \$4,272,568.80 this year while Portland and Dunkirk have funds of \$1,309,569 and \$244,933, respectively.

See Funding page 2



Washington Post/Demetrius Freeman

President-elect Joe Biden speaks Jan. 8, 2021. Biden has unveiled his \$1.9 trillion "American Rescue Plan" that includes funding for additional stimulus checks, speeding the coronavirus vaccination process and support for unemployment.

Biden unveils plan

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR and BILL BARROW
Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. — President-elect Joe Biden has unveiled a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus plan to end "a crisis of deep human suffering" by speeding up vaccines and pumping out financial help to those struggling with the pandemic's economic fallout.

Called the "American Rescue Plan," the legislative proposal would meet Biden's goal of administering 100 million vaccines by the 100th day of his administration, and advance his objective of reopening most schools by the spring. On a parallel track, it delivers another round of aid to stabilize the economy while the public health effort seeks the upper hand on the pandemic.

"We not only have an economic imperative to act now — I believe we have a moral obligation," Biden said in a nationwide address Thursday. At the same time, he acknowledged that his plan "does not come cheaply."

\$1.9 trillion proposal includes stimulus checks, unemployment boost

Biden proposed \$1,400 checks for most Americans, which on top of \$600 provided in the most recent COVID-19 bill would bring the total to the \$2,000 that Biden has called for. It would also extend a temporary boost in unemployment benefits and a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures through September.

And it shoehorns in long-term Democratic policy aims such as increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour; expanding paid leave for workers and increasing tax credits for families with children.

The political outlook for the legislation remained unclear. In

a joint statement, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer praised Biden for including liberal priorities, saying they would move quickly to pass it after Biden takes office next Wednesday. But Democrats have narrow margins in both chambers of Congress, and Republicans are expected to push back on issues that range from increasing the minimum wage to providing more money for states, while demanding inclusion of their priorities, such as liability protection for businesses.

See Plan page 2

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 44 degrees Thursday. The low was 33, and there was a trace of snow overnight.

Tonight's low will be 28 with flurries or snow showers possible. Expect snow showers Saturday with a high of 34.

See page 2 for an extended forecast.

Correction

A story in Thursday's edition of The Commercial Review contained incorrect information. It noted that two Jay County employees' salaries are higher than their counterparts in Blackford County. In fact, their salaries were lower than their Blackford County counterparts prior to receiving raises Wednesday.

Correction

Documentation from Jay County Sheriff's Office listed an incorrect address for a local man who was arrested last week for dealing in methamphetamine, a Level 2 felony.

The address for Thomas D. Brinkerhoff, 27, has since been updated in Jay Circuit Court documents. It is listed as 2035 S. 425 East, Portland.

Coming up

Saturday — Results from tonight's JCHS girls basketball in the ACAC tournament.

Wednesday — Coverage of Tuesday's Portland City Council meeting.



Trial ...

Continued from page 1
At Thursday's scheduling hearing, Markle's trial was tentatively set for May 6 and 7. If that timeframe is not available, additional possible dates were set for May 17 and 18 and Sept. 13 and 14. In addition to the neglect of a dependent resulting in death charge, he is also charged with possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor.

The charges stem from the March 6 death of Hayden Markle, the 3-month-old son of Ryan Markle and Jennifer Young. An autopsy found the

cause of death to be acute intoxication. Young, who faces the same charges, has a trial set for April 29 and 30. If those dates are not available, additional dates are set for July 12 and 13.

The first of the rescheduled high-profile cases is Stephen's murder trial, which is now set for March 15 through 19.

Stephen, Hiestand and Knapke are all charged for their alleged roles in the Jan. 12, 2020, murder of Shea Briar, 31, Portland. According to court documents, Stephen and Hiestand admitted to plotting to kill Briar

over a custody dispute. Stephen and Briar shared a child.

Probable cause affidavits filed in connection to the cases indicate that the three women drove Briar to northern Jay County, where Hiestand shot him while Stephen was distracting him.

Hiestand's trial is slated for Aug. 9 through 12. A trial date for Knapke was expected to be scheduled today.

Boyd, who is charged with the Sept. 5 murder of James P. Miller, 49, Montpelier, has a trial scheduled for April 5 through 9.

Court documents indicate that Boyd, who previously served as K-9 officer for Jay

County Sheriff's Office and for Dunkirk Police Department, admitted to shooting Miller outside a house at 1215 S. Bridge St., Portland. Police say Boyd told them the shooting was in self defense and that he believed Miller had a weapon, though police say no such weapon was found.

Brittney Shewmake, 28, Portland, who faces charges multiple charges in relation to Miller's murder, has a trial set for June 10 and 11. If those dates are not available, secondary dates are set for July 19 and 20.

She is charged with criminal confinement while armed with

a deadly weapon, a Level 3 felony, and assisting a criminal, a Level 5 felony.

A trial has been set for July 26 through 30 for Cory Jones, who is charged with the Aug. 22 murder of Shanna Jones, 47, Dunkirk.

Court documents indicate that Shanna Jones was found dead at 10402 W. 400 South, Dunkirk, during a welfare check. Police say Cory Jones' father, Ray Jones, told police his son said he accidentally shot Shanna Jones. The U.S. Marshal Service's Fugitive Task Force arrested Cory Jones three days later in Martinsburg, West Virginia.

CR almanac

Saturday 1/16	Sunday 1/17	Monday 1/18	Tuesday 1/19	Wednesday 1/20
34/30	33/26	31/25	36/25	35/28
Cooler with a 30% chance of snow in the morning turning into a rain-snow mix in the afternoon.	Cloudy with a 40% chance of snow in the afternoon. Near or below freezing all day and night.	Martin Luther King Jr. Day will be mostly cloudy with temperatures below freezing.	Warmer under mostly cloudy skies with no rain or snow currently projected.	Cooler during the day but warmer at night under mostly cloudy skies.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$640 million	27-29-30-40-52-55-56-57-60-65-67-72-74-76-77-79 Cash 5: 16-31-35-37-41 Estimated jackpot: \$265,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$750 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 9-7-9 Pick 4: 0-0-3-6 Pick 5: 2-5-2-7-6 Evening Pick 3: 8-3-5 Pick 4: 4-0-8-6 Pick 5: 1-8-9-3-8 Rolling Cash: 3-9-23-28-33 Estimated jackpot: \$164,000
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 9-3-9 Daily Four: 9-6-1-6 Quick Draw: 2-9-12-14-16-18-22-23-27-34-35-53-54-55-65-68-75-79-78-80 Evening Daily Three: 00-6-4 Daily Four: 7-4-6-3 Quick Draw: 4-8-10-11-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....5.25 Wheat6.55	Central States Montpelier Corn.....5.19 Feb. corn5.21 Beans14.11 Feb. beans14.11 Wheat 6.70 March wheat 6.72
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....5.34 Feb. corn5.37	Sunrise St. Anthony Corn.....5.05 Feb. corn5.09 Beans13.86 Feb. beans13.96 Wheat6.55 Feb. wheat6.55
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....5.23 Feb. corn5.28 Beans14.20 Feb. beans14.24 Wheat 6.80 Feb. wheat 6.80	

Today in history

On Jan. 15, 2020, Chinese officials said they couldn't rule out the possibility that a new coronavirus in central China could spread between humans, though they said the risk of transmission appeared to be low.

In 1862, the U.S. Senate confirmed President Abraham Lincoln's choice of Edwin M. Stanton to be the new Secretary of War, replacing Simon Cameron.

In 1865, as the Civil War neared its end, Union forces captured Fort Fisher near Wilmington, North Carolina, depriving the Confederates of their last major seaport.

In 1892, the original rules of basketball, devised by James Naismith, were published for the first time in Springfield, Massachusetts, where the game originated.

In 1929, civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta.

In 1942, Jawaharlal Nehru was named to succeed Mohandas K. Gandhi as head of India's Congress Party.

In 1943, work was completed on the Pentagon, the headquarters of the U.S. Department of War (now Defense).

In 1971, the Bryant High School boys basketball team racked up 55 second-half points in a 95-74 victory over the Marion Bennett Trojans. Tom Weigel led the Owls with 38 points.

In 1973, President Richard M. Nixon announced the suspension of all U.S. offensive action in North Vietnam, citing progress in peace negotiations.

—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 4 p.m. — Jay School Board executive session, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Port-	land. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Tuesday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council via Zoom	

Funding ...

Continued from page 1
Redkey, Pennville, Bryant and Salamonina have motor vehicle highway funds of \$69,900, \$54,541, \$15,702 and \$10,000, respectively. Though the budgets are smaller, all four towns would qualify for the funding mechanism under the bill.

Hypothetically under the bill, Dunkirk would have had to spend about \$24,000 less this year toward highway building. This bill, if enacted in its current state, would only be in effect in 2022 and '23.

Portland, however, is currently ineligible for the proposed funding flexibility as it does not have a separate wheel tax. Currently, only 12 Indiana cities and towns — mostly in northeast Indiana — have its own wheel tax.

Indiana law only allows cities with a population of at least 5,000 to implement a wheel tax, so there's a clause in the bill allowing for municipalities with a population of 4,999 or fewer to automatically qualify for the temporary funding strategy.

This clause would allow every Jay County municipality except Portland to use an extra 10% of its motor vehicle highway fund toward operational costs.

Additionally, Portland would be forced to only use half of its highway fund toward snow removal and de-icing while Jay County and the rest of its municipalities could use any money from the fund toward those causes, all because the city doesn't implement a wheel tax.

"Yeah, I'm not sure we should

require the wheel tax," Holdman said in a phone call after the meeting, noting other committee members and testifier's concerns Thursday morning.

Sen. Blake Doriot (R-Middlebury) introduced the bill to the Senate committee and said it was designed to help counties and municipalities in northern Indiana to have available funds for snow removal and de-icing in light of budget restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is not immediately the case in Jay County — all of its municipalities' motor vehicle highway funds except Salamonina's either stayed the same or increased this year compared to 2020 budgets — but the impact of the pandemic is expected to affect subsequent budgets, which prompted a response from the Senate.

"I do this very cautiously," Doriot said while introducing the bill. "I'm probably the most pro-roads member of the Senate."

Holdman said he is in favor of the relief for counties and municipalities, noting "tough times" are ahead from a potentially smaller motor vehicle highway fund in future budgets because the price of fuel is down and people are traveling less.

The bill's fiscal note recognized that \$29.9 million that would've went toward highway construction and rehabilitation could be re-appropriated as a result of the bill, with an even higher, incalculable figure possible depending on how many counties choose to spend highway con-

struction money on snow removal and de-icing.

New bills
Holdman introduced three new bills at the full Senate meeting Thursday.

Senate Bill 383 would make various changes to corporate tax reporting, including forcing corporations with a gross income of more than \$1 million to file taxes electronically.

Senate Bill 384 would increase the maximum amount Allen County and Evansville can collect under professional sports and convention development area (PSCDA) taxes from \$3 million to \$4 million.

Senate Bill 400 would require the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles to create an electronic filing system to process vehicle titles and other required information, among other changes. Joining Holdman in authoring the bill are Sens. Chris Garten (R-Scottsburg) and Michael Crider (R-Greenfield).

State Rep. J.D. Prescott (R-Union City), who represents Jay County in the Indiana House of Representatives, also introduced a new bill at the full House session Thursday.

House Bill 1489 would allow teachers who aren't part of a union to enter a contract with a school corporation that would normally be a violation under the corresponding collective bargaining agreement.

Prescott was also added as a co-author to House Bills 1005, 1463 and 1543, all of which are available to read on iga.in.gov.

Capsule Reports

Deer hit
Wild deer caused two accidents in Jay County this week.

Kimbra L. Chenoweth, 54, Portland, was driving west on county road 650 South just east of Indiana 27 about 6:25 p.m. Tuesday when a deer ran across the road.

She was unable to avoid hitting the animal with her 2010 Toyota Highlander, which was towed from the scene, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

Vickie J. Betz, 60, Portland, was driving west on Indiana 26 when she drove into a deer with her 2005 Chevrolet Tahoe. Damage is estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

Semi accident
A Missouri semi driver attempted to pass a Bluffton woman turning left on Indiana 67 about 2:55

p.m. Monday and drove into the back of her vehicle with his semi.

Martha A. Rivas, 24, Bluffton, was driving east on the highway near county road 250 East with Mary R. Hilty, 24, Geneva, and Lucinda L. Shetler, 20, Berne, when she missed her right turn into a driveway. She slowed down and moved to the left lane to turn into another driveway when her 2014 Chevrolet Express drove into a 2015 Freightliner truck, driven by Thomas Jourdain, 48, St. Louis.

Jourdain told officers from Jay County he was behind Rivas when she stopped her vehicle, so he drove into the left lane to pass her. She turned into the same lane in front of him, he said, and he wasn't able to stop before colliding with her vehicle.

Both vehicles were towed from the scene, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Sonoco accident
Damage was estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Portland teenager drove into a semi that was attempting to turn into the Sonoco packing plant at 1619 N. Meridian St., Portland, at 9:25 a.m. Wednesday.

Terry J. Allen, 61, Saint Marys, Ohio, was northbound on Meridian Street (U.S. 27) when he attempted to turn east into Sonoco from the middle lane. Christopher A. Landon, 17, was in the right lane and failed to notice Allen was turning.

Landon drove his vehicle into the semi and it was dragged into the parking lot, according to a Portland Police Department accident report. Landon was driving a 2003 Ford F250 registered to Andrew W. Landon, Portland, and Allen was driving a 2012 semi registered to Classic Carriers Inc. in Versailles, Ohio.

SERVICES

Today

Klopfenstein, Garnet: 1 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Theurer, Mike: 3 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Monday

Sutter, Rosa: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

PROGRESSIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS

120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

Felony arrests

Obstructing justice
A Portland resident was arrested Thursday for allegedly obstructing justice.

Jason W. Hensley, 46, 3562 E. 300 North, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for obstructing justice, a Class B misdemeanor for disorderly conduct and two Class A misdemeanors for resisting an officer and possession of marijuana. His bond from Jay County Jail is \$3,000.

Drug possession
A Portland resident was arrested Friday for alleged drug possession and theft.

Mariah C. Ullom, 21, 995 S. Boundary Pike, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for possession of a controlled substance, a Class A misdemeanor for theft and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. Ullom's bond from Jay County Jail is set at \$1,000.

Sheriff's Department will be taking applications for the following positions

- Full time Merit Deputy
- Full & Part time Correction Offices
- Part time Dispatcher

Will be accepting applications until 1/22/21

Swiss Village

**Now Seeking:
Vice President of Healthcare Services**

Swiss Village, Inc., a premier, top-quality, not-for-profit Continuing Care Retirement Community related to the local Mennonite Church Congregation, is seeking a progressive, engaged, and compassionate individual to fill the role of Vice President of Healthcare Services. The successful candidate will possess an Indiana Health Facility Administrator license or be immediately qualified to transfer from a reciprocal State and will serve as the Administrator of Record for the Nursing Center. The successful candidate will possess a Bachelor's Degree in Health Administration or a related field, with a Master's-level preferred, plus at least five years of successful management experience at a similar operation in a similar role. The successful candidate will also possess an in-depth knowledge of CMS, State, and Life Safety regulatory guidelines.

The successful candidate will join an actively engaged 7-member Senior Leadership Team and will be offered an attractive salary and benefit program.

Swiss Village, Inc. is home to over 300 happy and content residents who are currently served by over 350 engaged, dynamic, and caring employee team members. More information about Swiss Village, Inc. can be found at www.swissvillage.org.

Interested qualified candidates, please submit a Cover Letter and Resume to:

Swiss Village, Inc.
Taylor Lehman, VP of HR Management
1350 West Main St., Berne, IN 46711
Or: taylorl@swissvillage.org

Board elects new clerk-treasurer

Jay County Historical Society has a new clerk-treasurer.

The society's board of directors met December and elected Bob Vance to replace Judy Zearbaugh, who chose to retire after serving in that position since 2012. She will continue to serve as a board member, per the society.

Rob Weaver and Phil Rager will continue to serve as co-presidents of the board, Claudia Jones and Kay Locker will stay as co-vice presidents and Jane Spencer will still be secretary after officer elections were held at the December meeting.

Other board members are Sylvia Morrill, Blake Watson, Karen Resler, Sue Sommers, Janice Stucky, Jeff Bowen, Carter Leonard and Nathan Springer.

Beatles art in Blackford

You won't need a "Ticket to Ride" into Blackford County to

Taking Note

see some John Lennon art for free.

A new exhibit at the Blackford County Arts Center titled "Only Imagine" will feature art from the famed Beatles guitarist and Hartford City native John Knox daily until Feb. 18.

The original art pieces from Lennon were donated to the center by David Hodges.

The Blackford County Arts center is located at 107 W. Washington St., Hartford City, is open from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday except Tuesdays, when it is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

New workout for seniors

Just in time to satisfy New Year's Resolutions, there's a new workout program designed for older adults.

LifeStream Services has a new video-based workout program from Geri-Fit that is designed to help seniors build strength. Videos last 45 minutes and can be downloaded and followed along from the safety of their home.

The Geri-Fit program can increase muscular strength, improve balance and coordination, boost motor skills and reaction time, enhance flexibility and gait, lessen arthritic conditions, and help manage chronic disease, according to a LifeStream press release.

To learn more about the program, visit lifestreaminc.org/wellness or call (800) 589-1121.

Woman stuck in a sexless marriage

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are both enlisted Army (he — 20 years, two Iraq deployments; I — 15 years, one Iraq deployment). We met in the service and have been married for 10 years.

Three years after our wedding, my husband told me he was no longer physically attracted to me. It hurt. A lot. It has been seven years since that day, and we're still together. I don't feel loved, appreciated or valued. I'm a logic-driven person. Emotions don't come easy for me. I have always been open about my thoughts and feelings, even the painful ones.

Since that day, I resent him, and I have told him such. He doesn't understand why I can't just "get over it" and continue to live our lives. He has refused therapy multiple times. I don't have a family of my own, and we have no children together. Must I appreciate the friendship we have, or is it time to push for a meet-in-the-middle resolution? — UNAPPRECIATED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR UNAPPRECIATED: That you would feel resentment after what your husband told you is normal. It appears that intimacy is either unimportant to him, or he is finding it elsewhere.

Your self-esteem may be below ground level, but you have a right to be able to feel loved, appreciated and valued. Since you are receiving none of those, there is no "meeting in the middle." Where you need to meet is a lawyer's office so you can officially end a marriage that died seven years ago.

DEAR ABBY: My dad has never been great at communicating. I'm the only one who seems to communicate

Dear Abby



with him, even though I'm across the country. Over the last few years, until recently, his new wife, "Dorie," helped to bridge the gap. I loved having Dad around even if it was second hand from her.

When my aunt, his sister, died suddenly, somehow I was appointed to write the obituary. Having never written one, I inadvertently omitted Dorie's name in the article. She became enraged and defensive. I apologized, but I also showed my teeth a bit because she was so rude about an honest mistake. Now communication with Dad is as strained as it was before. I think she screens and answers his messages, so I'm unsure if it's him replying.

Dad was sick recently, and she didn't bother to tell me. I learned about it through Facebook. I'm a nice person, but she really upset me. I have already apologized and explained it was a mistake. I want a relationship with my dad. Should I apologize again? — FRUSTRATED DAUGHTER IN THE WEST

DEAR DAUGHTER: Yes. Apologize for reacting the way you did (showing your teeth) after the obituary "disaster." Dorie's feelings were already hurt because of your omission. If you can, smooth over what happened. However, recognize that your relationship with your father didn't make him a better communicator. You were keeping tabs on him through the efforts of his wife.

'Rock Camp' among new movies

By MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN

The Washington Post

The caricature of Rock 'n' Roll Fantasy Camp, a venture started in 1997 by promoter David Fishof to give un-famous music aficionados the opportunity to rub elbows with (and pick up a few performing tips from) such rawk gods as Vinny Appice, who drummed for Black Sabbath, and Megadeth's Dave Mustaine, is one perpetuated by a famous "Simpsons" episode, in which middle-aged suburban dads rocked out with the likes of Mick Jagger and Elvis Costello. And that stereotype of nerdy-nobody-meets-notable is both borne out and, to a certain degree, dispelled by "Rock Camp: The Movie," an entertaining and surprising look at several participants and "counselors" at the 23rd annual iteration of the camp, which took place in 2019 over the course of five days in Las Vegas. There is, of course, the expected incongruity of watching accountant Tammy Fisher — a grandmother (!) and camp veteran switching her focus from drumming to vocals — but also the delight of seeing the effect of music on

Blake Meinhardt, an autistic teenager with a singular love (and unmistakable talent) for the guitar. Just as you can imagine that rock camp is for its participants — whose skill levels vary, but not their passion — the film "Rock Camp" is an eye-opening treat. Unrated. Available at afisilver.afi.com, angelikaanywhere.com and themiracletheatre.com. Contains nothing objectionable. 87 minutes.

Acasa, My Home

The documentary "Acasa, My Home" is a portrait of a Romanian family that is trying to make the transition from life in a hut in the wilderness, where they have spent two decades, to government housing in Bucharest. According to Slant magazine, the "poignant" film is at its most moving "when it lingers on the face of children who are impotent to return to the world they used to call home." Unrated. Available at afisilver.afi.com. In Romanian with subtitles. 86 minutes.

American Dream

"American Dream," a thriller

directed by Oscar-winning cinematographer Janusz Kaminski ("Schindler's List," "Saving Private Ryan") stars Luke Bracey, Michiel Huisman and Nick Stahl in a story about a violent Russian mobster who becomes involved in the construction project of two naive Americans. The participation of a few recognizable actors and an acclaimed cinematographer scarcely renders the "dull" project less anonymous, according to Variety. R. Available on various streaming platforms. Contains violence, some grisly images, a sexual assault, coarse language and some sexuality and nudity. 83 minutes.

Don't Tell a Soul

In the cat-and-mouse thriller "Don't Tell a Soul," Rainn Wilson plays a security guard who becomes trapped in a well while chasing two brothers (Fionn Whitehead and Jack Dylan Grazer) who have robbed a house to pay for the medical bills of their sick mother (Mena Suvari). R. Available on various streaming platforms. Contains strong language, some violence, teen drug use and a sexual reference. 83 minutes.

Community Calendar

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

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. upstairs at True Value Hardware, Meridian Street, Portland. For more information, call (260) 729-2532.

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.

Monday

JAY COUNTY DRUG

PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at 3:30 p.m. the third Monday of each month in room 106 at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

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

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

BRYANT AREA COMMUNITY CENTER — Walking from 9 to 10 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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

WEST JAY COMMUNITY CENTER GROUP — Doors open at 10:30 a.m. Bingo will begin at 11 a.m. Euchre begins at 1 p.m. There is a \$1 donation for center's expenses. For more information, call (765) 768-1544.

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

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 5:30 p.m., with the meeting at 6 p.m., in the fellowship hall at Evangelical Methodist Church, 930 W. Main St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5312.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6 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.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

Tuesday

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

BREAKING NEWS

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Use the recycling trailers properly

Jay County Solid Waste District is there to help. But its job is not to clean up your mess.

Issues with Jay County residents leaving their recyclables where they're not supposed to have been a regular problem for years.

The solid waste district's board bought signs to place at the recycling trailers and at the district office in an effort to solve the problem. It later spent thousands of dollars to put in security cameras at the district office.

Editorial

Still, the behavior continues. On Dec. 31, the district announced on its Facebook page that the recycling trailers at Jay County Sheriff's Office and Bloomfield Elementary School

were full. It was noted that they could not be emptied until Jan. 4. (That should not have surprised anyone, given the holidays.) It was asked that no one leave additional items at those sites until the trailers had been emptied.

But by Monday, Jay County Sheriff's Office had posted a photo of recyclables left outside of the locked trailers. And it wasn't just a few items. It was a large pile of boxes, bags and even loose cardboard.

In simple terms, someone — or

several someones — left their mess for someone else to clean up.

That's not a nice surprise to find at work anytime, let alone after the holidays.

The recycling trailers are provided for the community at no cost to the taxpayers. Funds that pay for using the trailers, hauling them and recycling the items come from tipping fees at Jay County Landfill. And the cost continues to go up.

If the community wants to

continue to have this recycling option available, we need to follow the rules.

If the trailers are open, place your items inside in an orderly manner.

If they are locked, they are full. Either head for another trailer or take your items back home with you.

It's a privilege to have recycling trailers provided for public use.

Please make sure you're using them properly. — R.C.

Daily Student needs support

By RILEY EUBANKS
The Commercial Review

These past few years have been a blunt lesson in the importance of local journalism.

You likely understand that sentiment if you subscribe to this publication.

It was easy to miss in the midst of the chaos of the past week, but a cry for help came from one of Indiana's premier student-media publications.

In a solemn letter Jan. 7 from the editors of the Indiana Daily Student — Indiana University's editorially independent student-run weekly newspaper — it was revealed that, at its current pace, the newspaper will run out of money in May.

The letter, which you can read in full at bit.ly/3pZDPKC, is harrowing and seemingly reveals that the university has failed its students and the community. IU and its alumni — both which have a considerable amount of money — have to step in to guarantee the publication continues with editorial independence.

Not only is the Daily valuable to the City of Bloomington, it also provides a pipeline for Hoosier journalism students to learn valuable lessons on teamwork and reporting and design that they need in order to have any chance of becoming valuable journalists in the professional world.

These aren't lessons that can be learned in the classroom alone. Past members of student-media, myself included, will tell you that journalism is learned through practice rather than in any classroom.

Without the Daily, we risk losing countless generations of professional journalists. Or, worse yet, being left with journalists who don't know how to do the job.

Jay County has benefited from past and current reporters who have served the community with skills they learned at the Daily. The man I consider to be my journalism mentor spent his college days writing recaps of basketball games in between getting yelled at by coach Bob Knight.

Indiana, and subsequently the rest of the country that is filled with past Daily reporters and would benefit from hiring more, cannot afford to lose this newspaper.

It's become obvious the Daily is in need of change. Per the letter, the

Take it to the Bank



Not only is the Daily valuable to the City of Bloomington, it also provides a pipeline for Hoosier journalism students to learn valuable lessons on teamwork and reporting and design ...

newspaper pays over \$100,000 a semester out of its primary account to its advisers, even paying for their health insurance coverage.

That's a tab that needs to be picked up by the university, as it is elsewhere. But that shouldn't come at the expense of the newspaper losing its ability to freely report on what needs to be covered.

The editors even want the university to help them create a new business model for the Daily, writing, "If the university refuses to recognize how urgently we need its help in creating a new model, and no one else steps in, we don't know what more we can do to save our newspaper."

They shouldn't have to publish a letter to receive the university's attention and help. They're students, and they're just trying to have a platform to learn.

We've seen how much this university has put into athletics, its sprawling campus and the arts. Now it's time for IU to pay up and provide a place for its student journalists to learn (and make a little bit of pocket change while doing it, too).



It's time to end 'whataboutism'

By DANIEL SUDDATH
News and Tribune (Jeffersonville & New Albany)

There's not much that can be added to the commentary that's already been stated about the Jan. 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol.

But like so many tragedies that we've too often experienced in recent years, a pattern has emerged from that horrific day that threatens to again undermine the important lessons we should all be focused on after a blatant attack on free elections.

Here's pretty much how scenarios unfold on social media after such events.

- We come together briefly to acknowledge a wrongdoing and express our sorrow or our "thoughts and prayers" for those directly affected by the tragedy.
- Slowly but surely, we start pointing fingers and hurling accusations against those we believe to be responsible, and most importantly, their followers. This is usually tied to political beliefs.
- Lines start to be drawn.
- Our sorrow and pain starts turning to anger.
- Some of those accused of being enablers concede they made a mistake and vow to correct it.
- Overwhelmingly, most on the side of the accused dig their heels in and look for a way to defend their convictions.
- The dreaded "Whataboutism" takes place.

In this latest fiasco, many who have supported President Donald Trump said they disagreed with the rioters who stormed the Capitol, but they then counterbalance that statement by asking why more people didn't speak out against protests and destruction of property last summer during the height of racial injustice demonstrations.

The classic "Whataboutism" play I'm not a father (except to two cats who adopted me) but I know parents are quite familiar with this strategy. Johnny gets scolded by Pops for not mowing the lawn, and Johnny reminds his father that he didn't yell at his brother when he was a day late taking out the trash.

Of course the dispassionate can immediately notice the fault of this

Daniel Suddath



retort — that having an overgrown lawn and an overflowing trash can are both bad and that one doesn't justify the other. But for the Johnnys out there that just want the Pops off of their backs, it seems like a legit defense.

But it's not, and especially when we're comparing the destruction of private property to an attempted coup.

It's chilling to even write that word, but we're at a decisive point in our history and it's a time to state exactly what's happening. Damaging a business is wrong. It's not even on the same playing field as trying to reverse the most important part of our republic — the ability to choose our leaders.

"Whataboutism" is a weak play under normal circumstances, and it's infuriating now. It's also something that can be addressed.

Joe Biden will have opportunities once he's sworn in as President to shape the path of our country for generations to come. But if he's to sincerely make a lasting impact, he will have to ruffle some feathers both in his own party and of those who have pledged unwavering loyalty to Trump.

He can start by calling for an election audit. I fully believe the election was legit and Biden won rather easily, but his presidency will begin with a sizable portion of the population believing that Trump was cheated. There are some people who have been so deceived they wouldn't believe Biden won if there was video of each vote being cast, but an audit would provide substantial and undeniable proof that Trump lost.

And while some Democrats might balk at that idea, an audit could also help their party in the future in that it could show that mail-in voting is safe and fair.

Biden can call for an end to

destructive forms of protest and push for laws to be enacted that will severely punish those who deviate from a Constitutionally-protected practice into a crime. Some Democrats also won't like that, but again, strategically, it could help their cause by removing an arrow from the quiver of Republicans who want to paint the party as a bunch of out-of-control protesters who want to burn down the country.

This should have occurred last summer, but too many corporations and politicians were consumed with White Guilt. They'd ignored racism for so long that they fell over each other in their rush to attempt to correct it, and in doing so, excused some bad actions such as the all-out assault on federal buildings in Portland.

Overwhelmingly, protests in places like Louisville were peaceful. But the "what about" crowd has used those times when a few protesters committed criminal actions to excuse a sea of MAGA supporters pushing their way into the Capitol.

Biden should also call for more restrictions on the giant tech companies that rule our new world. It's a natural progression and what was eventually required of newspaper, radio and television.

We cannot function in a society where we are bombarded by lies, misrepresentations and propaganda. Social media is the most powerful communication tool on the planet. The private companies that own the platforms must be held accountable for what they allow to be communicated to anyone who has access to a cell phone, tablet or computer. It should have happened long before Trump egged on extremists with lies.

But these are just steps that can be taken to encourage sensible thought and action. Ultimately, We the People are responsible for our future. Judging by our rhetoric and the events of last week, we are the biggest threat to ourselves.

If we don't rid ourselves of this belief and ideological war we're waging on each other, "Whataboutism" will be the least of our worries.

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We welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be 700 words or fewer, signed and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for content and clarity. Email letters to news@thecr.com.

Plan ...

Continued from page 1
“Remember that a bipartisan \$900 billion #COVID19 relief bill became law just 18 days ago,” tweeted Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas. But Biden says that was only a down payment, and he promised more major legislation next month, focused on rebuilding the economy.
“The crisis of deep human suffering is in plain sight, and there’s not time to waste,” Biden said. “We have to act and we have to act now.”
Still, he sought to manage expectations.
“We’re better equipped to do this than any nation in the world,” he said. “But even with all these small steps, it’s going to take time.”
His relief bill would be paid for with borrowed money, adding to trillions in debt the government has already incurred to confront the pandemic. Aides said Biden will make the case that the additional spending and borrowing is necessary to prevent the economy from sliding into an even deeper hole. Interest rates are

low, making debt more manageable.
Biden has long held that economic recovery is inextricably linked with controlling the coronavirus.
The plan comes as the nation is in the grip of the pandemic’s most dangerous wave yet. So far, more than 385,000 people have died of COVID-19 in the U.S. And government numbers out Thursday reported a jump in weekly unemployment claims, to 965,000.
Under Biden’s multipronged strategy, about \$400 billion would go directly to combating the pandemic, while the rest is focused on economic relief and aid to states and localities.
About \$20 billion would be allocated for a more disciplined focus on vaccination, on top of some \$8 billion already approved by Congress. Biden has called for setting up mass vaccination centers and sending mobile units to hard-to-reach areas.
With the backing of Congress and the expertise of private and government scientists, the Trump administration delivered

two highly effective vaccines and more are on the way. Yet a month after the first shots were given, the nation’s vaccination campaign is off to a slow start with about 11 million people getting the first of two shots, although more than 30 million doses have been delivered.
Biden called the vaccine rollout “a dismal failure so far” and said he would provide more details about his vaccination campaign today.
The plan also provides \$50 billion to expand testing, which is seen as key to reopening most schools by the end of the new administration’s first 100 days. About \$130 billion would be allocated to help schools reopen without risking further contagion.
The plan would fund the hiring of 100,000 public health workers, to focus on encouraging people to get vaccinated and on tracing the contacts of those infected with the coronavirus.
There’s also a proposal to boost investment in genetic sequencing, to help track new virus

strains including the more contagious variants identified in the United Kingdom and South Africa.
Throughout the plan, there’s a focus on ensuring that minority communities that have borne the brunt of the pandemic are not shortchanged on vaccines and treatments, aides said.
With the new proposals comes a call to redouble efforts on the basics.
Biden is asking Americans to override their sense of pandemic fatigue and recommit to wearing masks, practicing social distancing and avoiding indoor gatherings, particularly larger ones. It’s still the surest way to slow the COVID-19 wave, with more than 4,400 deaths reported just on Tuesday.
The pace of vaccination in the U.S. is approaching 1 million shots a day, but 1.8 million a day would be needed to reach widespread or “herd” immunity by the summer, according to a recent estimate by the American Hospital Association. Dr. Leana Wen, a public health expert and

emergency physician, says the pace should be even higher — closer to 3 million a day.
Biden believes the key to speeding that up lies not only in delivering more vaccine but also in working closely with states and local communities to get shots into the arms of more people. The Trump administration provided the vaccine to states and set guidelines for who should get priority for shots, but largely left it up to state and local officials to organize their vaccination campaigns.
It’s still unclear how the new administration will address the issue of vaccine hesitancy, the doubts and suspicions that keep many people from getting a shot. Polls show it’s particularly a problem among Black Americans.
“We will have to move heaven and earth to get more people vaccinated,” Biden said.
Next Wednesday, when Biden is sworn in as president, marks the anniversary of the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the United States.

In review

Quake hits

MAMUJU, Indonesia — A strong, shallow earthquake shook Indonesia’s Sulawesi island just after midnight today, toppling homes and buildings, triggering landslides and killing at least 42 people.
More than 600 people were injured by the magnitude 6.2 quake, which sent people fleeing their homes in the darkness. Authorities were still collecting information about the full scale of casualties and damage in the affected areas.

Injured

NEW YORK — An articulated bus dramatically plunged off a bridge in New York City late Thursday, leaving its front half hanging over a highway ramp, its fall broken only by the road below.
The driver was seriously injured in the crash just after 11 p.m. near an interchange of the Cross Bronx and Major Deegan expressways, and seven passengers suffered minor injuries, fire officials said. They were taken to hospitals. No other vehicles were involved.
One part of the bus remained on the bridge, with the other half vertical, its smashed front end resting on a ramp connecting the two expressways.

To withdraw

MOSCOW — Russia said today that it will withdraw from an international treaty allowing surveillance flights over military facilities after the U.S. exit from the pact, compounding the challenges faced by the incoming administration of president-elect Joe Biden.
Russia’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the U.S. withdrawal from the Open Skies Treaty last year “significantly upended the balance of interests of signatory states,” adding that Moscow’s proposals to keep the treaty alive after the U.S. exit have been cold-shouldered by Washington’s allies.
—Associated Press



Bloomberg/Paul Hanna

Snow in Spain

A snowplow clears ice and snow in Madrid on Tuesday. Freezing weather sweeping the northern hemisphere is causing chaos in energy markets and damaging infrastructure with households from Japan to Pakistan and France being asked to curb their electricity use. A relatively rare weather phenomenon with the potential to disrupt the polar vortex — the winds that usually keep cold air contained in the far north — is threatening to send an Arctic blast across North America, Europe and Asia.

Kessler to lead vaccine science

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR and MATTHEW PERRONE

WASHINGTON — President-elect Joe Biden has picked a former Food and Drug commissioner to lead vaccine science in his drive to put 100 million shots into the arms of Americans in his administration’s first 100 days and stem the COVID-19 pandemic.
Dr. David Kessler, who will have the title of chief science officer of COVID response, headed the Food and Drug Administration in the

1990s under presidents of both political parties. He has been acting as a top pandemic adviser to Biden and his appointment was announced today by the presidential transition office.
Kessler will work out of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, assuming responsibility for the scientific side of Operation Warp Speed, an effort launched under the Trump administration to rapidly develop vaccines and treatments. The drive has already produced two highly

effective vaccines, and more are on the way.
Nonetheless, the nation’s vaccination campaign has gotten off to a slow start, and most of the vaccine being delivered to states by the federal government is not being used right away.
A person advising the Biden transition team said Kessler will take on the role now being carried out by Dr. Moncef Slaoui, a prominent vaccine scientist and innovator who has been serving as chief advisor to Operation Warp Speed.

Several vaccine candidates in the pipeline are in final clinical trials, and one company is expected to soon apply for FDA emergency approval for its formulation. The person spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.
Army Gen. Gustave Perna, who has been in charge of vaccine delivery under Operation Warp Speed, is expected to stay on.
Kessler, 69, will be able to start immediately as his post does not require Senate approval.

Riot probe opened

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and ERIC TUCKER

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department’s internal watchdog said today that it will investigate how the department and its law enforcement agencies prepared for and responded to last week’s riots at the U.S. Capitol.
The investigation by the inspector general’s office will examine whether information was shared by the Justice Department to other agencies, including the Capitol Police, about the potential for violence.
The inspector general said it “also will assess whether there are any weaknesses in DOJ protocols, policies, or procedures that adversely affected the ability of DOJ or its components to prepare effectively for and respond to the events at the U.S. Capitol on January 6.”
The review is one of multiple ones launched by inspectors general, including

at the departments of homeland security and defense and at the Interior Department, which oversees the Park Police.
The initiation of the review signals early concern within the watchdog community that the preparations for, and response to, the breach of the Capitol by loyalists of President Donald Trump was lacking.
The Capitol Police said that it had prepared for only First Amendment activity at the Capitol on the day that lawmakers had assembled to certify President-elect Joe Biden’s victory over Trump, even though Trump himself had encouraged his supporters to “fight like hell.”
The review is likely to also include an assessment of intelligence that the Justice Department — and particularly the FBI — had collected before and after the riot. It comes days after the FBI conceded that one of its field offices compiled an internal bulletin that warned of potential violence aimed at Congress.

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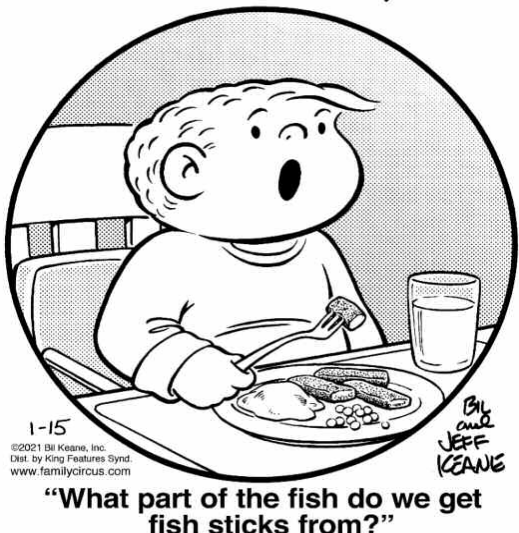
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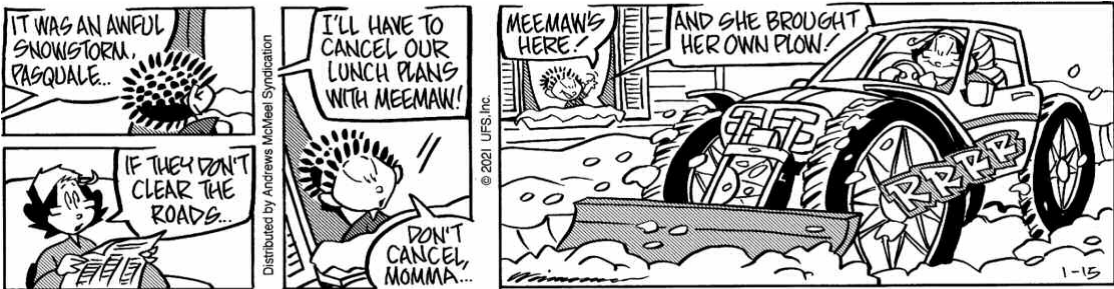
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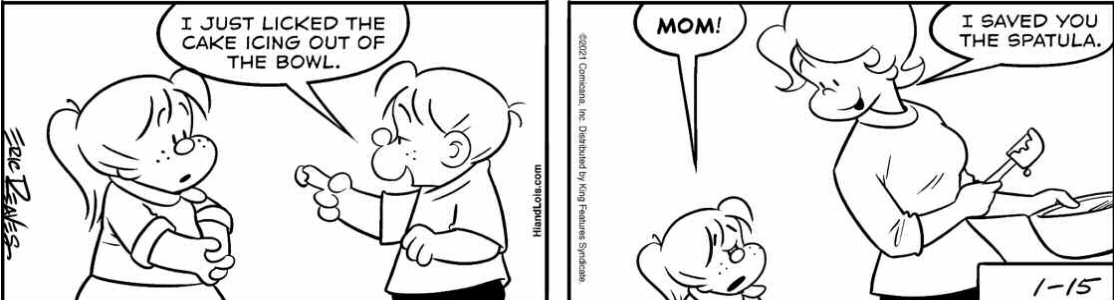
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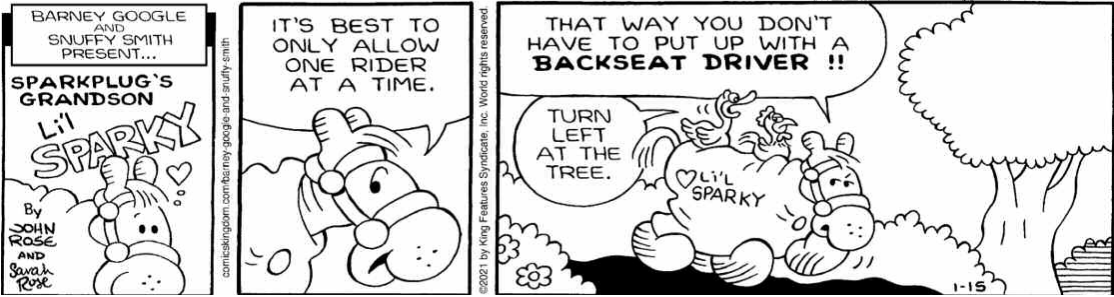
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solution time: 25 mins. Includes a solution key for the puzzle.

90 SALE CALENDAR

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Oak furniture; organ stool; Duncan Phyfe table; dressers/chests; baking/mixing dishes; music books/sheets; furniture; mink coats; metal signs; Pink, green, yellow depression; Zippos/knives; Rainbow sweeper; Quasar Super-ware oven; Maytag washer/dryer; large assortment glassware; bottles. Coins; bills; 4' Santa; Fenton; Christmas village; Jet 3 Ultra mobility cart; tillers; mowers; grinders; saws; tools; Mitsubishi S-370D garden tractor; much more.

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Ballard contemplates Rivers returning to Indy

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis Colts general manager Chris Ballard heard the locker room talk.

Coach Frank Reich wants Philip Rivers back as the starting quarterback next fall. Two-time All-Pro linebacker Darius Leonard wants another chance to get Rivers his missing Super Bowl ring. So do Leonard's teammates.

Now, the Colts general manager may be on board, too. Ballard said Thursday he believes the 39-year-old quarterback can keep winning games and perhaps even a championship — if he

chooses to come back.

"Do I think Philip can still play? Absolutely I do," Ballard said on a season-ending Zoom call. "Philip and I had an hour talk yesterday. He's going to take time and we're going to take some time, and we'll meet here in about a month and figure out which way we're going to go forward. Look, Philip needs to make a decision about if he for sure wants to play. Do I think Philip Rivers is a winning quarterback that we can win and go to the Super Bowl with? Absolutely I do."

Rivers was emotional at times following Saturday's 27-24 post-season loss to Buffalo, though he

gave no indication he would retire after his 17th season in the league.

He played better as the season went on, which might have been expected because he joined a new team and had almost no off-season work with his new receivers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through Indy's first five games, Rivers threw five interceptions and four TD passes. Over the final 12, he had 22 TD passes and six interceptions.

Rivers finished 2020 with the second-highest completion percentage of his career (68%) while leading the Colts to an 11-5 mark and their second playoff appearance since 2015.

But he played the final seven games with an injured toe on his right foot. Ballard said Rivers was scheduled to meet with doctors Thursday about whether to have surgery.

"What I told Philip was we both need to take a month and decide on what direction we want to go, and this was after he told me he wasn't 100% sure," Ballard said. "If this was a 30-year-old Philip Rivers or a 35-year-old Philip Rivers, we're not having this talk. But this is a 39-year-old Philip Rivers who might have one, maybe two years left. I told Philip, I was honest, we need to go through the process. 'Do we want you

back? Yeah, but I need to go through the process.' He needs to go through the process with (wife) Tiffany and the family to see if he wants to play again."

He already has a new gig lined up, too: head coach at St. Michael Catholic High School in Fairhope, Alabama.

Rivers said his answer will hinge on one factor.

"Whatever God's will is for me and my family," he said Saturday. "If it's here in Indy playing another year then we'll be here, and if it's not, I'll be on the sidelines with a ballcap coaching the heck out of a high school football team down in south Alabama."

Humbled ...

Continued from page 8
"He's a tough kid," Myers said of Wenk. "He's hard-nosed and all the other cliché things I can say. He's a determined kid, so whenever he's tired he's able to fight through those things."

Freshman Cody Rowles got the other win on the night for Jay County. He pinned Conner Pederson just 56 seconds into their 106-pound match.

"He just continues to dominate," Myers said. "(He) takes care of business."

Jay County has a week to rebound from the setback before hosting the Allen County Athletic Conference duals Jan. 22 and then it begins the postseason Jan. 30.

"(This loss) is definitely something we can refocus ourselves," Myers said. "We were probably flying a little bit high getting invited to team state and performing pretty well there."

The Patriots, who at the time were ranked fifth in the state, finished third.

"Then we come out and kind of fall flat here," Myers continued. "I think that gives us a lot to work on when we get back in the (wrestling) room and hopefully get us back on track for our conference tournament and state tournament series."



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Jay County High School freshman Tony Wood (in back) locks in a cradle during his 120-pound match against Giovanni Arsini of Homestead on Thursday at JCHS. Wood won by an 8-3 decision, but the Class 2A No. 3 Patriots lost to the Spartans, 37-24.

Sabonis, Pacers down Trail Blazers

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Domantas Sabonis had 23 points and 15 rebounds to lead the Indiana Pacers past the Portland Trail Blazers 111-87 on Thursday night.

Malcolm Brogdon added 25 points and seven assists for the Pacers, who improved to 4-1 on the road this season and snapped an 11-game losing streak in Portland. Indiana led by 25

in the second quarter and maintained a double-digit advantage the rest of the way.

CJ McCollum and Damian Lillard each scored 22 for Portland. The loss was costly: During the third quarter, center Jusuf Nurkic left the court holding his right wrist and the Blazers later announced he had sustained a fracture.

The Trail Blazers (7-5) were playing the second of a back-to-back after winning in Sacramento 132-126 on Wednesday night. Lillard had a season-high 40 points and Portland tied a franchise record with 23 3-pointers in that one.

The Blazers lead the NBA in 3s but they were off against the Pacers, making just 13 of 43 (30.2%).

Jags ...

Continued from page 8
"This is a great day for Jacksonville and Jaguars fans everywhere," Khan said in a statement. "Urban Meyer is who we want and need, a leader, winner and champion who demands excellence and produces results."

"While Urban already enjoys a legacy in the game of football that few will ever match, his passion for the opportunity in front of him here in Jacksonville is powerful and unmistakable."

Meyer went 187-32 — a staggering winning percentage of 85.3 — in stops at Bowling Green (2001-02), Utah (2003-04), Florida (2005-10) and Ohio State (2012-18). He ranks seventh all time in collegiate winning percentage, trailing only Notre Dame legends Knute Rockne and Frank Leahy among coaches at major programs.

But some doubts remain about Meyer's ability to make a smooth transition to the NFL, where motivational tactics tend to be moot and losing multiple games every year is a given. Meyer never lost more than five times in any season as a college head coach; he went 83-9 at Ohio State.

Still, Meyer has been eyeing an NFL move for months. He researched the league with help from former players and friends, started assembling a potential staff and learned how the front office works. Meyer and Khan have been friends for years, building a relationship while both were living in Big Ten country.

"I've analyzed this decision from every angle — the time is right in Jacksonville," Meyer said in a statement. "And the time is right for me to return to coaching. I'm excited about the future of this organization and our long-term prospect for success."

Jacksonville was the most attractive opening. The Jaguars have 11 picks in the 2021 draft, including five in the top 65, and are nearly \$100 million under the projected salary cap.

Adding to the appeal:

Khan, a billionaire businessman, has shown a penchant for patience and a willingness to spend big.

Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence is a lock to land in Jacksonville with the top pick and will be the centerpiece of the team's latest rebuild.

Meyer replaces Doug Marrone, who was fired after losing the final 15 games in 2020. Marrone went 25-44 in four-plus seasons with the Jaguars, including 2-1 in the 2017 postseason. Marrone failed repeatedly to fill the team's long-standing hole at quarterback, and Khan kept him and general manager Dave Caldwell around a year longer than many expected to make them clean up a fractured locker room and a stressed salary cap.

Khan also interviewed Kansas City offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy, Atlanta defensive coordinator Raheem Morris, San Francisco defensive coordinator Robert Saleh and Tennessee offensive coordinator Arthur Smith.

The general belief was the job was Meyer's if he wanted it. He clearly did, with some stipulations.

He will have the leeway to put his touch on every aspect of the organization, the kind of overhaul Jacksonville hasn't seen in nearly three decades of existence. Khan is switching to a coach-centric model that could give Meyer final say in personnel. Meyer and the next general manager will report to Khan, who wants to be more involved in the most significant roster decisions.

There's little doubt, though, that Meyer will be calling the shots.

Meyer's health remains a concern, though. He stepped down at Ohio State in 2018 mostly because of a congenital arachnoid cyst in his brain, which required surgery in 2014 and bothered him throughout his final season with the Buckeyes. He also resigned at Florida for health reasons in December 2009 only to change his mind the following day and instead take a leave of absence.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Girls wrestling state final at Hamilton Heights — 4 p.m.; Girls basketball ACAC tournament semifinal vs. Bluffton at Bluffton — 7 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. Marion Local — 5:30 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Girls basketball ACAC

tournament final vs. TBA at South Adams — 7 p.m.; Junior varsity wrestling at Tri Invitational — 9 a.m.; Junior high wrestling at Belmont Quad — 9:30 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. Crestview — noon; Boys basketball at Wapakoneta — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball vs. Celina — 10 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 18
Fort Recovery — Freshman boys basketball at St. Henry — 6 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
7 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Duquesne at St. Bonaventure (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Dallas Mavericks at Milwaukee Bucks (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NBA Basketball: New Orleans Pelicans at Los Angeles Lakers (ESPN)
11 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Fresno State at Nevada (FS1)

Saturday
Noon — Men's College Basketball: Georgetown at Providence (FS1); Nebraska at Maryland (BTN); North Carolina at Florida State (ESPN); Georgia at Ole Miss (ESPN2)
1 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: San Diego State at Utah State (CBS)
2 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Michigan at Minnesota (ESPN2); Marquette at St. John's (FS1); Kentucky at Auburn (ESPN)

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South and have the following hand:

♠K8♥5♦KQ1074♣AK963			
1. You bid One Diamond, your partner responds One Spade, you bid Two Clubs and partner bids Two Spades. What would you bid now?			
2. You bid One Diamond, partner responds One Spade, you bid Two Clubs and partner bids Two Hearts. What would you bid now?			
3. You are the dealer, and the bidding goes:			
1♦	West	1♥	East
2♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
?			

partner to three. He might well have something like: ♠QJ9762♥83♦A5♣J84, in which case you'd surely want to be in four spades.

2. Three clubs. It is true that the three-club bid may not reveal your extra values, but at this juncture, it is more important to describe the two-suited nature of your hand. You might well be on the way to a slam, but before you can consider how high to go, you must clarify your distribution.

You need not worry that partner will pass three clubs. Since he has already made two forcing bids, he can't stop bidding now. His next bid should help to clarify where the final contract belongs.

3. Four notrump. Four spades is a cuebid announcing first-round control of spades and interest in a slam, and you should be delighted to cooperate with partner by using Blackwood. How far you go will depend primarily on how many aces partner has. In the unlikely event that he responds with five diamonds, indicating only one ace, you will pass; if he bids five hearts (two aces), you will bid six diamonds; and if he bids five spades (three aces), you will bid a grand slam.

Tomorrow: Ingenuity.
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1-15 CRYPTOQUIP

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Humbled by Homestead



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Blake Pruett, left, of the Jay County High School wrestling team, returns Ryan Schoff of the Homestead Spartans to the mat during their 160-pound match Thursday night at JCHS. Pruett pinned Schoff in 5 minutes, 4 seconds, but the Class 2A No. 3 Patriots lost to the Spartans, 37-24.

Riding high after stellar team-state performance, Patriot wrestlers have rally come up short

By CHRIS SCHANZ
The Commercial Review

The Patriots needed wins in each of the final three matches.

Not only did they need those victories; to catch the Spartans, the wins needed to come by pins.

The Spartans proved a worthy opponent.

Jay County High School's wrestling team had its chance at a rally come up short on Thursday with a 37-24 loss to the Homestead Spartans.

"There was just a lot of places before that where we left points on the board," said JCHS coach Eric Myers, whose Patriots dip to 25-3 on the year in dual matches. "We gave up pins when I don't think we should have. That put a lot of pressure on our matches at the end. We were getting wins there, we needed bonus points and that's a lot of pressure to put on those guys."

"I know they like that pressure, and they're able to do that, but it's tough to dig out of a hole like that."

Tony Wood, a freshman ranked 11th in the state at 126 pounds,

'We haven't wrestled as a varsity team since (IHSWCA) Team State on (Jan. 2). We looked like it. We looked like we were growing mold over the top of us. We definitely didn't wrestle our best.'

—Eric Myers, Jay County wrestling coach

dropped down to 120 and earned an 8-3 decision over Giovanni Arsini to pull the Patriots within striking distance, 34-18.

In order to overtake the Spartans, the Patriots had to win each of the final three matches by pin to secure a two-point match victory.

But Nathan Houser prevented Ethan Reiley — he's ranked 14th at 120 pounds — from pinning him in their 126-pound bout. Reiley won 13-7, making it 34-21 Homestead and guaranteeing the

Spartans would win the dual.

Freshman Cameron Clark, who is seventh in the state at 132 pounds, had a 7-1 advantage over Jacob Miller in their bout. Miller scored a reversal, getting Clark in a headlock and then notched a two-point near fall to trim the margin to 7-5.

Clark earned three points in the third period for a 10-5 win.

"Cameron Clark looked pretty good," Myers said. Clark's win pulled the team score to 34-24. "Fought out of a scary situation

where he was up pretty big. Gave up a headlock, was able to fight off that and come back and win pretty solidly."

In the final match of the night, Homestead's Easton Arsini got a late three-point near fall for a 5-4 win over R.J. Heskett to stop the Patriot comeback.

"We haven't wrestled as a varsity team since (IHSWCA) Team State on (Jan. 2)," Myers said. "We looked like it. We looked like we were growing mold over the top of us."

"We definitely didn't wrestle our best."

Blake Pruett pinned Ryan Schoff with 56 seconds remaining in their 160-pound match for the Patriots' first win of the day. Two bouts later, freshman Bryce Wenk had a 7-1 lead in the first period of his 182-pound match against Nolan Schoff. Visibly gassed in the second and third periods, Wenk gave up three points but fended off any late attack by Schoff to hang on for a 7-4 decision.

See **Humbled** page 7

Tribe splits with VW

Indian girls win while boys fall to Cougars

VAN WERT, Ohio — Fort Recovery High School's boys and girls swim teams split with the Van Wert Cougars on Thursday at YMCA of Van Wert County.

The Tribe girls got a 62-28 victory, while the boys fell 48-29.

Shelby Stammen and Audra Bubp were both dual-event winners.

Local roundup

Stammen was first in the 200-meter freestyle and the 400 freestyle. Bubp was victorious in both the 200 individual medley and 100 breaststroke.

Autumn Burk (50 freestyle), Ava Bubp (100 butterfly) and Teigen Fortkamp (100 backstroke) all had individual wins as well.

Grace Klingshirm, Allison Knapke, Audra Bubp and Fortkamp teamed to win the 200 medley relay, while Katie McIntosh-Thobe, Ava Bubp, Stammen and Burk combined to win the 400 freestyle relay.

Sage Wendel and Isaac Knapke were the lone individual winners for the FRHS boys. Wendel got a win in the 400 freestyle, and Knapke touched the wall first in the 100 breaststroke.

Alex Hiser, Isaac LeFevre, Michael Braun and Wendel teamed to win the 400 freestyle relay.

Jay 7th blanks Heritage

The Jay County Junior High School seventh grade girls basketball team shut out the visiting Heritage Patriots on Thursday, 31-0.

The eighth graders also won, 35-15.

Raylah Newton scored 14 points to lead the seventh graders. Mya Kunkler and Calie Yates had six points apiece, while Alexis Sibray contributed five points.

Daisy Muhlenkamp hit two 3-pointers on her way to a team-best 14 points in the eighth grade game. Jenna Dues had six points while Meredith Dirksen finished with five points.

Williams, Purdue defeat Hoosiers

BLOOMINGTON (AP) — Trevion Williams scored 22 points and pulled down 10 rebounds, Eric Hunter Jr. knocked down timely 3-pointers and Purdue defeated Indiana 81-69 Thursday night.

The Boilermakers (9-5, 4-3 Big Ten Conference) were 11 of 17 from beyond the arc, Hunter leading the way with three, Jaden Ivey, Sasha Stefanovic and Brandon Newman each adding a pair. The Hoosiers were just 3 of 18 from distance.

Even missed 3s turned into points for Purdue with Williams available for putbacks, including a one-handed tap-in.

Williams scored 16 of his points in the second half when Purdue led for every one of the final 20 minutes. The double-double was Williams' fifth this season, first since Dec. 29.

Ivey added 13 points, Newman 12 and Hunter 11.

Purdue is on a streak of eight straight wins against Indiana, the program's longest since nine in a row (1929-1935).

Newman and Williams finished out the game with six straight free throws in the last 45 seconds as Indiana, which had come as close as six points with under a minute to play, turned to fouling.

The Boilermakers converted 20 of 31 free throws in a game that saw 51 fouls including a handful of technicals.

Trayce Jackson-Davis led Indiana (8-6, 3-4) with 25 points and four rebounds.

Armaan Franklin added 14 points, seven boards and three steals. Race Thompson scored 13, had 10 rebounds, three assists and a pair of steals.

Meyer to coach Jags

By MARK LONG
AP Pro Football Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Urban Meyer has won everywhere he's coached. Small colleges. Big-time programs. He's been a difference maker at each stop during his storied career.

He's ready to try something new: the NFL.

Meyer agreed to become head coach of the Jacksonville Jaguars on Thursday, leaving the broadcast booth and returning to the sidelines after a two-year absence that followed another health scare.

The 56-year-old Meyer was team owner Shad Khan's top target for weeks, maybe even months, and the deal was signed shortly after their third and final meeting in seven days. They met last Friday on Khan's yacht in Miami, again Wednesday and once more at the facility Thursday.

Hiring the longtime college coach with three national championships signifies a new direction for a franchise that has lost 105 of 144 games since Khan took over in 2012.

See **Jags** page 7

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