

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Former trustee pleads guilty

A former Bearcreek Township Trustee has pleaded guilty to wire fraud.

United States District Court Judge Holly A. Brady last week accepted the guilty plea from Katina Miller, the former trustee, to one count of wire fraud. The plea was announced in a U.S. Department of Justice press release Monday.

Brady, of the Northern District of Indiana, will determine Miller's sentence after considering federal statutes and sentencing guidelines.

Miller had been charged in January with two counts of wire fraud, acting U.S. Attorney Gary T. Bell said in the press release. She pleaded guilty to one count and admitted

Miller pleaded to one count, 'admitted devising a scheme to divert money for her benefit'

to "devising a scheme to divert money for her benefit," the release continued.

Documents filed in connection with the case indicate that Miller embezzled nearly \$87,000 in township funds from January 2015 through December 2018. She was accused of using

township bank accounts to pay for personal expenses with debit cards, ATM withdrawals and checks payable to herself.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Stacey Speith is the prosecutor for the case, which is a result of an FBI investigation.

Miller, a Democrat, was

uncontested for Bearcreek Township Trustee in the 2014 general election, taking office in January 2015. She lost a 2018 primary challenge to Crystal Laux, 48-5. Miller resigned as trustee on Dec. 24, 2018, one week before her term was set to expire, citing "personal circumstance."

Questions about Miller's handling of the township's finances came to light shortly after Laux took office.

And Indiana State Board of Accounts compliance report in February 2019 indicated that Miller failed to file several financial records during her time in office and had not furnished them despite repeated requests.

The state board of accounts said the township's 2015 annual financial report was never filed and bank statements were missing for December 2017 and January 2018.

It also said Miller did not provide necessary documents to the IRS. It could not determine if withheld payroll taxes were properly paid to the IRS and Indiana Department of Revenue.

And the township's firefighting fund was overdrawn at the close of 2017.

Other records the state board of accounts said were missing included information about penalties, interest and other charges and applications for township assistance.

Dunkirk council moves rate forward

Hearing on stormwater utility rate is March 8

By ROSE SKELLY

The Commercial Review

After a one-year delay, city officials are moving forward with a plan to implement a stormwater utility rate.

Dunkirk City Council gave initial approval Monday to assess a \$10 monthly stormwater utility fee for every parcel of land in city limits.

A public hearing and second council vote are required before the fee goes into effect.

The proposed ordinance has been in the works since 2019 and was originally intended to go into effect in 2020. However, in light of water and sewage utility increases and the coronavirus pandemic, council elected to wait until this year to implement the new utility rate.

"I think it's time we need to get our stormwater rate started up and know what it's going to cost the residents," said Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins.

The purpose of the proposed rate is to cover the operating costs of maintaining the stormwater systems in the city, estimated at about \$50,000 annually. The stormwater utility fund would also accumulate, allowing the city to pay for needed upgrades to the system. According to the city's master plan, there are \$2 million worth of repairs needed over the next few years, including replacing storm sewers, improving the retention pond and updating the GPS and GIS databases.

"Your fee, stormwater rate, should be based on the needs of your stormwater utility," said Doug Baldessari of Baker Tilly, the accounting and consulting firm that was contracted to complete the stormwater utility study.

See **Rate** page 2



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Overtime elation

Alli Vaughn (24) and her teammates Whitley Rammel (32), Kierra Wendel (20) and Paige Forktamp (14) celebrate after the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team held off the New Bremen Cardinals for a 53-50 victory in the Division IV sectional final on Saturday at Fort Site Fieldhouse. For more on the game, see page 10.

FR moving forward with new field

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Construction of a new baseball/softball facility is expected to begin soon.

Fort Recovery School Board members on Monday authorized superintendent Larry Brown and

treasurer Deanna Knapke to enter into an agreement with Fort Recovery Athletic Boosters for the project.

Fort Recovery Diamond Club proposed the project in April 2017 after the club cited limited facilities, poor location and drainage

problems with the current high school baseball field located at the west end of Caldwell Street. At an estimated \$1 million, the new facility is being funded by local donations in addition to a loan.

Initial plans called for the field to be constructed to the south of the

high school softball field on the east side of the Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School property. It would also include a new press box, restrooms, concession building, bleachers with canopies and a batting cage for the softball team.

See **Field** page 6

Farmers argue against ordinance

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Local farmers voiced their frustrations about no-truck rules again.

Jay County Farm Bureau representatives took another stab at altering the truck restriction ordinance parameters at Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.

The ordinance has met with fierce opposition since taking effect in July 2019. The no-truck rules restrict travel for trucks (e.g. motor vehicles exceeding 20,000 pounds, tractors and semitrailers) on a number of county roads. First violations

carry a \$50 minimum fine and a \$2,500 maximum fine. A subsequent violation carries a minimum fine of \$500 and a maximum fine of \$2,500.

"We felt this ordinance is infringing on free trade," Farm Bureau president Barry Miller said, explaining that it costs farmers more in mileage each harvest season.

As a representative of about 1,300 bureau members in Jay County, he said, Miller offered three potential solutions supported by the majority of the group:

- Eliminate the no-truck ordinance

See **Ordinance** page 6



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Jay County Commissioners Rex Journey (left) and Brian McGalliard review quotes for new boilers for Jay County Courthouse during Monday's meeting in the courthouse auditorium.

Deaths

Diane Shawver, 63, rural Portland
Helen Williams, 51, Portland
 Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature Monday was 39 degrees. The low was 32.
 Today's forecast calls for a low of 32 with winds gusting as high as 25 miles per hour. Skies will be partly sunny Wednesday with a high of 42.
 See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Need to fill out a birth announcement, engagement or wedding form to have your special event announced in the newspaper? They're now available electronically. Just go to thecr.com, hover over "Forms" and select the form you'd like to fill out.

Coming up

Wednesday — Results from tonight's FRHS boys basketball sectional semifinal.

Thursday — An update on the ongoing coronavirus pandemic in Jay County.



Obituaries

Diane Shawver

Jan. 30, 1958-Feb. 19, 2021
Diane M. Shawver, age 63, a resident of rural Portland, passed away from Parkinson's Disease and Lewy body dementia on Friday, Feb. 19, 2021, at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Center.

She was a 1976 graduate of Jay County High School and earned her bachelor of science and master of arts degrees in elementary education from Ball State University in Muncie. She taught second and

third grade in Waresboro, Augusta and Savannah, Georgia, for 30 years and returned to Jay County after retirement.

She was a member of the Bluff Point Friends Church, Friends of the Jay County Library and the Pike Friends and Neighbors Home Economics Club.

Diane Shawver was born Jan. 30, 1958, in Jay County, the



Shawver

daughter of Merle and Helen (Jellison) Shawver.

Survivors include: Two brothers — Jeff Shawver (wife: Alana), Portland, and Peter Shawver, Farmland

Three sisters — Tammy Shawver, Nancy Shawver and Karen Shawver, all of Portland
Nine nieces and nephews — Dawn, April, Britney, Bryan, Leanna, Hannah, Caleb, Adrian and Alivia

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, James Shawver.

Visitation for family and

friends will be held from noon to 2:30 p.m. on Friday in the Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 2:30 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Brian Riggs will officiate the service and burial will follow in the Bluff Point Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to Spay Away the Stray of Jay County or the Lewy Body Dementia Association.

Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.com.

Helen Williams, Portland, Oct. 13, 1969-Feb. 14, 2021. Services will be at 3 p.m. Thursday at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Wednesday 2/24	Thursday 2/25	Friday 2/26	Saturday 2/27	Sunday 2/28
42/25	35/22	41/31	48/34	46/35
The high will climb to 42 degrees under partly sunny skies. It'll be windy, with gusts up to 25 mph.	Skies will be mostly sunny with a high of 35.	We'll get the rare sunny day in the winter with a high in the low 40s.	The forecast calls for mostly sunny skies with the high climbing into the upper 40s.	The high will be in the mid 50s. There is a chance of snow and rain continuing into the evening.

Lotteries

Powerball Saturday 4-8-22-32-58 Powerball: 4 Power Play: 10 Estimated jackpot: \$90 million	17-19-24-28-30-32-34-46-51-53-60-62-67-73-75-80 Cash 5: 2-5-11-12-34 Estimated jackpot: \$115,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$22 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 9-5-4 Pick 4: 0-1-1-5 Pick 5: 8-4-3-0-7 Evening Pick 3: 1-1-9 Pick 4: 1-1-3-3 Pick 5: 4-6-1-4-1 Rolling Cash 5: 6-9-25-31-34 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000 Classic Lotto: 1-4-17-28-31-32 Kicker: 9-8-3-7-8-4 Jackpot: \$4.9 million
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 2-2-8 Daily Four: 0-9-6-9 Quick Draw: 03-10-12-18-20-21-25-32-37-40-44-47-48-55-59-61-70-71-72-77 Evening Daily Three: 5-6-0 Daily Four: 0-4-4-3 Quick Draw: 1-11-13-16	

Markets

The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....5.55 March corn.....5.60 Beans.....14.23 March beans.....14.23 Wheat.....6.57 March wheat.....6.57	Wheat.....6.09 July wheat.....6.24 Sunrise St. Anthony Corn.....5.33 March corn.....5.36 Beans.....13.98 March beans.....14.02 Wheat.....6.32 March wheat.....6.32
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....5.75 March corn.....5.75 April corn.....5.69 May corn.....5.69	Central States Montpelier Corn.....5.53 March corn.....5.56 Beans.....14.11 March beans.....14.11 Wheat.....6.43 March wheat.....6.45
Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....5.50 March corn.....5.70	

Today in history

On Feb. 23, 1836, the siege of the Alamo began in San Antonio, Texas.
In 1861, President-elect Abraham Lincoln arrived secretly in Washington to take office, following word of a possible assassination plot in Baltimore.
In 1870, Mississippi was readmitted to the Union.
In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt signed an agreement with Cuba to lease the area around Guantanamo Bay to the United States.
In 1942, the first shelling of the U.S. mainland during World War II occurred as a Japanese submarine fired on an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing little damage.
In 1945, during World War II, U.S. Marines on Iwo Jima captured Mount Suribachi, where they raised two American flags (the second flag-raising was captured in the iconic Associated Press photograph).
In 1954, the first mass inoculation of school children against polio using the Salk vaccine began in Pittsburgh as some 5,000 students were vaccinated.
In 1971, Dr. Max R. Peters of Redkey was selected president of Jay United Fund for You (JUFFY) during a meeting in Pennville.
In 1981, an attempted coup began in Spain as 200 members of the Civil Guard invaded the Parliament, taking lawmakers hostage. (However, the attempt collapsed 18 hours later.)
—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 5 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.
Monday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Rate ...

Continued from page 1

While water and sewage utilities are based on usage, stormwater rates are typically based on the impervious areas of each parcel of land. Impervious surfaces, such as concrete driveways, do not allow water to seep into the ground; instead, the water runs off into the city's stormwater system. Typically, residential lots are charged a flat stormwater rate and non-residential parcels' impervious areas are assessed and charged accordingly.

Implementing the utility fee will cost the city an estimated \$50,000 each year for the first two years, including a study to determine the impervious areas of each non-residential parcel. Together with the normal operating costs of the stormwater system, the city will spend about \$100,000 each year on the stormwater utility during the first two years.

With the \$5 and \$7.50 monthly plans (adjusted to account for about 20% of uncollectible fees), the city won't "break even" on the fee until the third year. The \$5 monthly fee would result in a deficit of about \$36,000, while the \$7.50 would lead to a deficit of about \$4,000.

"For the first two years, basically, the

money's going to the set-up," noted council president Jesse Bivens. "We're going to have to do \$7.50 or \$10 to make anywhere close to where we're thinking."

Ultimately, council decided on a \$10 monthly fee. They also chose to have the fees assessed on biannual property tax bills as opposed to monthly utility bills.

A public hearing for the stormwater rate will be at council's next meeting on March 8.

In other business, council members Tom Johnson, Lisa Street, Kevin Hamilton and Bivens, absent Bryan Jessup:

- Canceled several outstanding utility debts that cannot be collected because of death or property transfers.
- Paid claims of \$182,309.63.
- At Dunkirk Board of Works and Public Safety's meeting earlier Monday, Robbins commended city employees for their work to clear the streets and sidewalks during recent snowstorms. The city has been without a salt spreader for the past two weeks after a chain broke, resulting in employees spreading salt by hand. The board also heard that Robbins will be looking into grants to purchase body cameras for Dunkirk Police Department.

Guard killed at prison

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind. (AP) — An Indiana inmate convicted of a 2002 triple murder fatally stabbed one corrections officer and seriously injured another at the maximum-security prison where he's serving a 130-year sentence, authorities said Monday.

The wounded Indiana State Prison officers were transported Sunday to a hospital in Michigan City, where one was pronounced dead and the second was listed in stable condition after being transferred to a South Bend hospital, authorities said.

The Indiana Department of Correction identified the slain officer as Lt. Eugene Lasco, 57, of LaPorte County, and the

injured officer as Sgt. Padrick Schmitt, 22, of Lake Station.

Schmitt was stabbed multiple times by an inmate and when Lasco went to help Schmitt, the inmate stabbed him, too, the DOC said.

Inmate Tymetri Campbell, 38, faces several preliminary charges, including murder, for allegedly attacking the officers Sunday afternoon in a common area at the prison in Michigan City, Indiana State Police Sgt. Ted Bohner said Monday.

Bohner said he did not know what type of weapon was used in the stabbing and that no additional details, including a possible motive, would be im-

mediately released on the attack, which state police are still investigating.

The Indiana Department of Correction posted a statement on Facebook saying that, "Our thoughts and prayers are with our staff and their families."

The Indiana State Prison is a maximum security prison with about 2,300 inmates that is home to Indiana's death row, according to the DOC's website. It's located about 34 miles west of South Bend in Michigan City, a city along Indiana's Lake Michigan shoreline.

Campbell is serving a 130-year sentence after pleading guilty to three murders in the 2002 shooting, WISH-TV reported.

Capsule Reports

Drunk driving

A Portland man drove off road and hit a utility pole about 1:30 a.m. Saturday.

Nathan L. Link, 31, was driving east on county road 300 North when he veered off the road and hit a pole with his 2000 Ford F3D. His vehicle got stuck in the field.

Link appeared to be intoxicated, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. He failed field sobriety tests and was given a blood alcohol content test. He was arrested and preliminarily charged a Class B misdemeanor for operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

He was booked into Jay County Jail and later released on \$1,000 bond.

His vehicle was towed from the scene, with damage estimated less than \$1,000.

Flippant gesture

A Portland woman driving through the Walmart parking lot told police her vehicle was side-swiped by another driver about 4:19 p.m. Saturday.

Barbara A. Miller, Portland, was driving

north in row six of the lot at 950 W. Votaw Street when she noticed another vehicle driving the wrong way. Miller told Portland Police Department she stopped her 2013 Ford Escape and honked at the other driver to get their attention.

Miller said the other driver, whose identity is unknown, gave her a dirty look and raised a middle finger in her direction. The driver then continued south and hit Miller's driver side mirror, according to a police report. Damage is estimated less than \$1,000.

Driveway collision

A Salamonina woman driving on county road 600 East collided with a vehicle leaving a driveway about 12:58 p.m. Sunday.

Mark W. Pearson, 51, began driving his 2002 General Motors Savanna Van west out of his driveway and did not see Emilee P. Kirby, 28, driving south on the road. Their vehicles then collided.

Kirby's 2012 Chevrolet Traverse was towed. Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

SERVICES

Today

Holcomb, Mable: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Thursday

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

Friday

Shawver, Diane: 2:30 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

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¹In Texas, the Auto Program is underwritten by Southern County Mutual Insurance Company, through Hartford Fire General Agency, Hartford Fire Insurance Company and its affiliates are not financially responsible for insurance products underwritten and issued by Southern County Mutual Insurance Company.
²Savings amounts based on information reported by customers who switched to The Hartford from other carriers between 1/1/19 and 12/31/19. Your savings may vary. First Accident Forgiveness is not available to CA policyholders. Terms and conditions apply. *\$9 is a limited time offer and not available in all states. Email address required in most states. Allow 4-7 weeks for delivery. Bidder not included. *Based on customer experience review shared online at www.thehartford.com/aarp as of June 2020.

A helping hand for 4-H

Beginning this week and running through Friday, March 5, the

Tire Center

of Portland will donate its net profits from all tire sales to Jay County 4-H's capital campaign.

"Where Tires Are Not A Sideline"

TIRE CENTER

421 N. Meridian (260) 726-8947 Portland, IN

Something always leads to worry

By DIANA DOLECKI
Special to The Commercial Review
Our daughter and her family live in Texas. If you have been following the news then I don't need to say more.

As I See It



The recent winter storms have caused all sorts of problems. The electricity that most of us never think about was no longer an invisible, but reliable convenience. The unusual cold crept into our daughter's wellhouse and froze the pump. Turning on a tap, running the dishwasher and most bathroom activities reminded them that they no longer had running water. Luckily, the neighbor across the street let them use their shower. The local home improvement stores

quickly ran out of replacement parts. I haven't yet received the call telling me that everything is back up and running. As usual, when one part breaks it throws the whole system off. If one of Beth's family had been a plumber, they could have made a fortune, even if they slashed their prices. The highways are treacherous. The first real snow or ice is always a challenge. Either people drive like little old

ladies, prompting other people to whip around the slow pokes while yelling at the offending driver, and using rude hand gestures, or they drive like usual and inevitably crash. When I last talked to Beth, she wasn't sure if she had to spend the night at work or not. It wouldn't have been the first time she stayed overnight at the hospital because of bad weather. One of her step-sisters and her baby spent a week with them. She was babysitting the young ones while Beth and her hubby went to work. Grandson Jacob and the other kids enjoyed the rare snow and ice. The trampoline was covered in snow and provid-

ed a different experience than when it was warm and dry. They pelted each other with snow. It didn't look like the kind of snow suited for making snowballs. The snow made clouds around the kids instead of striking them. This was a good thing as they were throwing as hard as they could. They did have a fireplace so they weren't entirely without heat. The electric finally came back on but nobody was sure how reliable it would be. When it came time for bed, they rolled out a sleeping bag and lots of blankets. All the kids slept together and on top of each other. They would have slept in a

heap even if they had a huge bed to sleep in. And, no, the baby didn't sleep with the rest of the kids. We have been told that climate change means not just that the earth is getting warmer but that weather may go to extremes. I think this winter is making up for the mild winters we have had recently. My Texas family isn't prepared for a few days of Mother Nature reminding us that she is a powerful force to be reckoned with. Maybe I should include plastic plumbing pieces such as connectors and elbows in the next care package. The adults are exhausting themselves trying to fix things that they don't know how to repair. The

young ones are grateful they have the day off. Eventually our lives will return to normal even though normal will be different than we are used to. The recent frigid temperatures have pointed out the places in our homes that need attention. We may need to protect pipes from freezing, or add insulation to keep ourselves from freezing. Our weather predictor has said that the temperatures should begin increasing for the next few days. At that point we will stop worrying about the snow and begin worrying about flooding. It's always something. For now, my family is warm, and safe, and dry. I hope you are, too.

Personality darkens following miscarriage

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I suffered a miscarriage five months ago, in the 12th week. I'm still not doing well. I have put on a facade to get by, but I'm just starting to realize how deeply this is affecting my life.

I used to be a happy, friendly person. Always a smile on my face and laughter to be shared and hugs for my loved ones. Since the miscarriage, I put on a fake smile and try to be who I once was, but I can't keep doing it. Every day there is a moment from that day or the aftermath that floods my mind. I'm angry, bitter, mad at the unfairness, and I no longer have compassion or sympathy for others.

This isn't me. I don't want to be this way. My happiness has been

Dear Abby



loss of your child. Your depression and the fear you have about another pregnancy are not unusual after a tragedy like the one you have experienced. You are grieving, and the emotions you are feeling are to be expected. Please schedule an appointment with your OB/GYN and tell your doctor about all of these feelings, because the doctor can refer you to someone who can help you work through this. It will take time, but I assure you it is doable. DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been together for close to a year now. In the beginning, we were crazy about each other and everything was great.

Our hometowns are two hours apart so, to make it work, he bought us a house right in between. It was an hour each way to our parents' houses. I thought it was the perfect compromise. But now he's telling me he isn't happy here in our new town, and he needs to sell the house and move back home. He says he still wants to be with me and that we are going to make it work, but I can't help but be scared that this is gonna be the end of our relationship. Should I tough it out and see if we can actually make it work? Or do I call it quits and let go because maybe it is just not meant to be? — MIXED UP IN MASSACHUSETTS DEAR MIXED UP: You left out one important fact in

your letter to me. WHY does your boyfriend need to sell the house you share and move back home? Is he so closely tied to his parents that being an hour away is too far? Is it work-related? Is he dissatisfied with your relationship? Ask him these questions because the answers will tell you what you can expect. My advice is to let things play out a bit more before making any decision other than to put the house on the market. Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

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

Tuesday
BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.
THE LANDING — A 12-step program for those in sixth through 12th grade will meet at 5:55 p.m. each Tuesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 703-0777 or (260) 726-5273.
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.
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.
JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard's Restaurant.
Wednesday
FRIENDS OF THE OPERA HOUSE — The Friends of Fort Recovery Opera House committee will have an open meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24 in the Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School auditoria about revitalizing the opera house above Brockman

Appliance. The public is welcome.
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.
PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday at Harmony Cafe, 121 N. Meridian St.
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.
STRESS AND ANXIETY CLASS — Meets each Wednesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (206) 726-9625 or (260) 703-0534.
EUCHRE CLUB — Will

meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.
Thursday, Feb. 25
CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday 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.
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 Thursday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.
Saturday
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. upstairs at True Value Hardware, Meridian Street, Portland. For more information, call (260) 729-2532.
Monday
PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restau-

A very special thank you to:
Dr. Mark Haggengos, State of the Heart Hospice, Baird Freeman Funeral Home, Rev. Dave McClellen for all his visits and beautiful service, Family & friends, and everyone for their prayers, calls & cards
The family of Dick Glassford

Swiss Village
Now Seeking:
Part-Time Transportation Driver
Swiss Village is now seeking a Part-Time Transportation Driver to work up to 20 hours per week. Hours will vary from 8am-4:30pm M-F, with an on-call rotation for evening and weekend hours required. Responsibilities include providing high quality transportation for Swiss Village residents utilizing Swiss Village designated vehicles and keeping a log of transportation provided. This position requires an active Indiana Chaffeur's License or endorsement or willingness to obtain upon hire and the ability to pass the Indiana DOT physical. This position also requires CPR certification or the willingness to become CPR certified within 6 months of hire. The successful candidate must have the physical ability to push wheelchairs, be flexible, and must have a clean driving record.
Apply online at www.swissvillage.org or send Resume to:
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Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

5	8	9	3	1	6	2	4	7
2	7	1	4	8	5	6	3	9
3	6	4	7	2	9	8	1	5
7	9	3	5	6	2	1	8	4
1	4	2	8	3	7	9	5	6
6	5	8	1	9	4	3	7	2
8	2	5	6	4	3	7	9	1
9	1	7	2	5	8	4	6	3
4	3	6	9	7	1	5	2	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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Minimum wage reasoning sound

To the editor:
Twenty years ago, my beautiful wife and I decided to go to Groton, Connecticut, to see our grandson, Chris, who was stationed at the submarine base there.

Never having been northeast before, a tour of New England was in order, abbreviated as it was to be.

Upstate New York was absolutely beautiful. And Big. Really big.

Serendipity guided us to Rut-

Letters to the Editor

land, Vermont, where I found an old friend and her family at the Norman Rockwell Museum.

Maine lobster was cheap, maple syrup wasn't. Baltimore blue crab was yummy.

Sticker shock was my first reaction at the toll bridge. Eight bucks. The Verrazano Bridge was \$12.

According to the first-base coach for the Brooklyn team the Portland Rockets beat at Battle Creek, Michigan, a few years back, the toll is now 16 bucks. Nobody present could imagine why anyone would pay to go to Jersey.

At any rate, Bill De Blasio, the mayor of New York City, made an issue of obtaining a \$15 mini-

mum wage for New Yorkers. Good. They need it.

Here in Portland, we have a bridge, a unique bridge to say the least, but I can cross it free. Everyone can.

In an editorial recently, The Commercial Review editor and publisher Ray Cooney stated he was against a \$15 minimum wage. At this point in time, I wholeheartedly agree. Our cost of living here is far cheaper than the Big Apple's.

One issue I did have was citing

restaurant workers and waiters as especially needy. For a lot of waiters, \$15 would be a cut in pay. The power of the tip, ya know.

In the final analysis, Ray's reasoning was spot on. A \$15 minimum wage is a doable thing, but not overnight. Natural inflation rates will make it doable.

Heck, I used to get a bottle of that good fire-brewed Stroh's for a quarter.

Larry Chittum
Portland

Storm serves as a reminder

By LEO MORRIS
Indiana Policy Review

Profound apologies to my brother.

It was just a couple of weeks ago that I wrote of hating him for basking in 70-something sunshine in Texas while hapless Hoosiers were shoveling through several inches of snow and preparing for sub-zero temperatures.

Mere days after my outburst, the Lone Star State was slammed with a massive storm of historic proportions. My brother lost power and had to carry water into the house from the rain-collection tanks. One minute he was a happy 21st century man, popping a pod into the Keurig and binge-watching Netflix, and the next he was Pa in Little House on the Prairie.

It's not that I tempted fate and called the wrath of the weather gods down on him. It was just a slightly exaggerated form of the taunting we usually do — he fake-sympathizes with me in winter, and I return the favor when he's sweltering in August.

It's more like it turned out that I was preemptively rubbing salt in his wounds. I could have made him feel worse about his predicament only if I were, say, a nationally famous U.S. senator who sneaked off to Mexico while his constituents huddled in shivering misery.

(Speaking of which, I can name a politician or two in Indiana for whom, if they expressed a desire to flee to Mexico, I would gladly buy the tickets, if they promised not to come back in the spring.)

What has been happening in Indiana, as challenging as it might seem, is just normal winter. Mother Nature is being typically fickle, and, dare I use such a currently politically charged word? — divisive. She goes along day after day being agreeable, even pleasant, then turns on us.

What hit Texas was once-in-a-generation, life-altering. Wrath-of-God weather. It was the kind of event that turns your world upside down and lives forever in the stories you tell your grandchildren. The tornado that destroys a block, the tsunami that takes out a village. Being in the path of a flood or a forest fire.

For me, and for all Hoosiers old enough to have been here at the time, such an event was the Blizzard of '78.

I was living in Michigan City, and my friend Mike, the city editor of the paper we worked for, and I drove to South Bend to watch a Notre Dame basketball game. On the way home

Leo Morris



Mother Nature is being typically fickle, and ... divisive. She goes along day after day being agreeable, even pleasant, then turns on us.

afterward, one of us remarked, "Boy, this snow is getting heavy."

Yeah, well. The next day I got up and saw that our city had virtually disappeared, sucked into a raging vortex of white fury. My wife and I lived just a few blocks from the newspaper office, so we decided to walk there, the only mode of transportation possible.

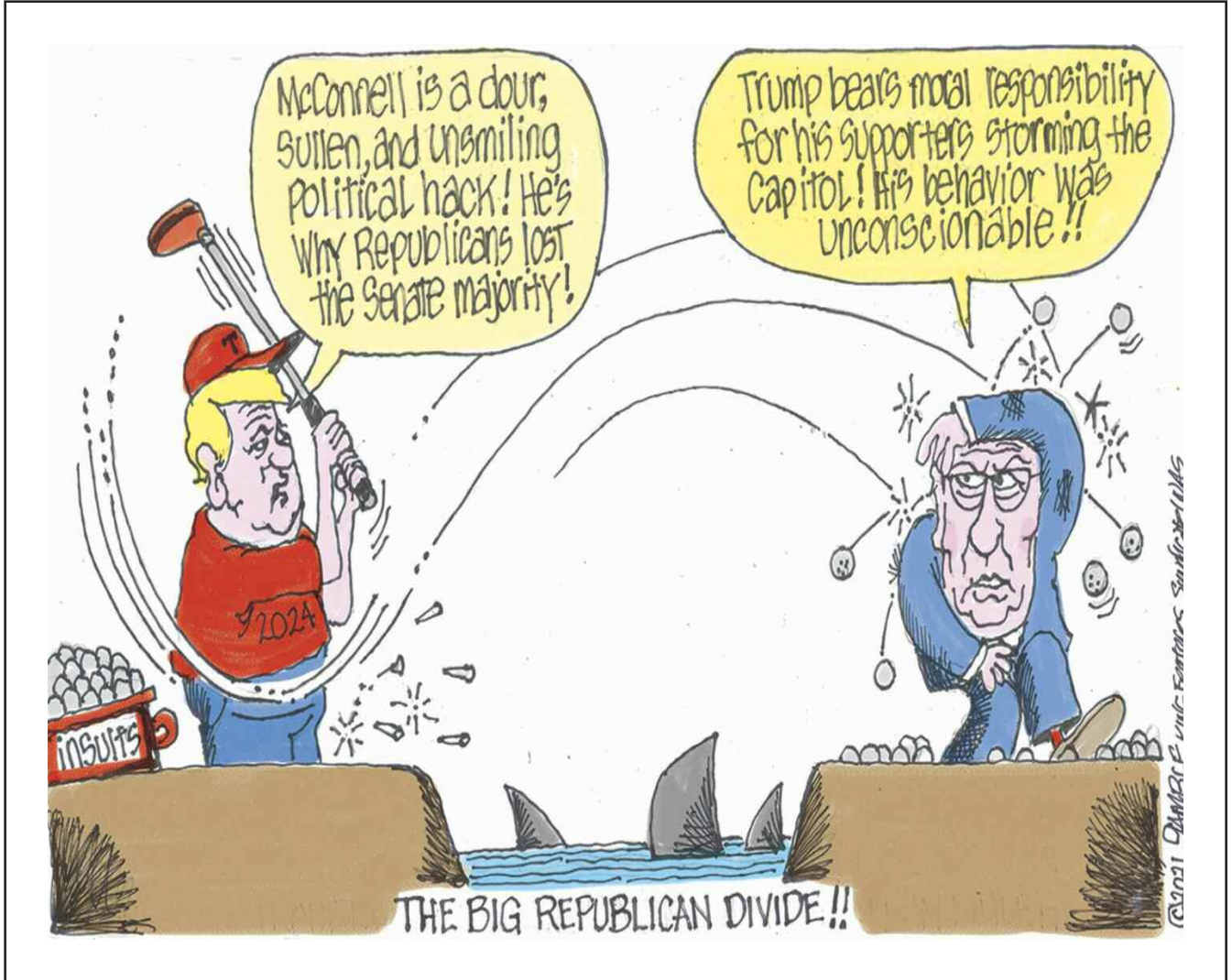
If memory serves, it took us almost an hour to walk those few blocks. We kept getting turned around in the blowing snow, and most of the time we weren't even exactly sure where we were. It is sobering now to think we might have died in that storm, just a few hundred feet from the newspaper office.

I remember that days afterward, we walked in awe down the middle of a once-busy street, with snow on both sides stacked up above our heads. If felt like being at the bottom of a deep canyon on an alien, frozen planet.

Living through something like that is, or at least should be, a humbling experience.

We can get so puffed up with self-righteous indignation about our own superiority and the moral failings of weaker mortals. We need to remind ourselves occasionally — or at least pay attention when the universe reminds us — that we are all fragile creatures often at the mercy of an indifferent environment.

"We're all in this together" is not just a COVID-19 cliché. It is a sobering and humbling fact.



GOP should forgive Tanden

By HUGH HEWITT
Special to The Washington Post
"WWTLD."

What would Ted Lasso do ... with Neera Tanden's nomination to become director of the Office of Management and Budget?

Apple TV Plus's first big hit has attracted fans because of a rare (in these times) combination of earnest, aw-shucks dialogue and relentless good cheer. No spoilers, but Lasso is "Major League" meets "Bend It Like Beckham," and has become an unexpected smash hit because it is anchored in, wait for it, forgiveness. Millions are clapping. They may not know why, but it is because forgiveness is inspiring. Almost everyone gets dealt mercy by Ted — deserved or not.

Tanden, head of the liberal Center for American Progress, is a lawyer, activist, former senior Hillary Clinton aide and ubiquitous presence on cable television and Twitter. Because Tanden is smart, funny and quick, she's capable of leaving a mark. I know — I have more Tanden-inflicted scars than the villains in all the Zorro movies and television episodes combined. She has displayed the same cutting ruthlessness on Twitter as she has on set. Which is to be expected. She's a serious left-liberal, though not as far to the left as Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, so she's left some marks on Team Sanders as well. She should also be confirmed as OMB director.

All political people, especially senators, should live with the same rules of political debate as the rest of us. They should not use their confirmation power to protect themselves from online criticism, however hurtful. Everyone draws the line at threats. But Tanden has just clobbered people the good old-fashioned way: with words. By 19th-century standards she is actually tame. More to the point, it's the 21st century; online and television and radio barbs are part of freedom's fray. Which brings us back to Ted Lasso — and the Constitution. Lasso, an American football coach hired to lead a mediocre British soc-

Hugh Hewitt



cer team, embodies a cross section of old-school virtues out of place in a postmodern world. The success of the show is an argument that more of that Lasso-ian temperament would serve us all well. Don't take yourself so seriously. Tone it down, please. And Tanden's decidedly non-toned-down past may sink her nomination. West Virginia Democratic senator Joe Manchin III announced Friday that he would not support Tanden, citing her "overtly partisan statements" and the consequent "toxic and detrimental impact" on her ability to work with Congress.

Tanden has apologized for her tart language. Senators — not just Manchin but also Republicans — should accept that and vote to confirm her.

It would be one thing if Tanden had been nominated to a lifetime appointment for a federal judgeship, for which a higher standard applies and judicial temperament is part of the equation. But that test doesn't apply with the same force to executive branch officials, and, in any event, presidents are entitled to broad deference in how to assemble their Cabinet. New presidents who have four years to succeed deserve their team in place, absent disqualifying personal flaws or other serious cause for concern. There are exceptions to every rule, but "mean tweets" doesn't even come close.

This is especially true when it comes to the Office of Management and Budget, which is almost an extension of the White House staff. The closer one gets to the Oval Office, the more deference a president's nominees should receive on policy grounds. The secretaries of state and defense and the attorney general

might need to have been living above the public fray, but the fray exists to elevate presidents and parties. Disqualifying the most effective of the pugilists is going to rebound on both parties, whose younger generations are full of Twitter addicts who approach debate like the locker room of soccer club AFC Richmond. Finally, senators should remember there will be another GOP president. He or she will want their own team — and that team should be full of the party's best minds, including those who have displayed sharp elbows on air and online. For 40 years, I've watched fine nominees be pulled under withering insinuation and false accusations. From John Agresto, unsuccessfully nominated to be the national archivist by President Ronald Reagan, to Andy Puzder, unsuccessfully nominated to be secretary of labor by President Donald Trump, I've seen friends of surpassing talent denied the opportunity to serve because of ridiculous overreaction and fictional charges. It's time to reset the confirmation bar to exclude only serious objections, not the fact that some senators carry grudges and that the group as a whole wants a safe harbor from mean tweets. One or more GOP senators should step forward and set a precedent for the next Republican administration: "I am voting to confirm Neera Tanden despite what she has said or written about me or my fellow senators because the president deserves his first team on the field early. And we expect the Democrats to play by the same rules in four or eight years."

The GOP may get played, but it's in the interests of both parties to forgive the small stuff and encourage the recruitment of talent. Confirm Tanden — and start a new page for executive branch nominees.

Hewitt, a Post contributing columnist, hosts a nationally syndicated radio show on the Salem Network. He is also a political analyst for NBC, president of the Nixon Foundation and a professor of law at Chapman University Law School.

The Commercial Review

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus



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

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VOLUME 148-NUMBER 212
TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 23, 2021

www.thecr.com

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Security officials cast blame

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Testifying publicly for the first time about the Jan. 6 insurrection, former security officials are poised to cast blame on the Pentagon, the intelligence community and each other for the disastrous failure to anticipate the violent intentions of the mob and defend the Capitol.

In prepared remarks before two Senate committees Tuesday, former Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund will describe a scene that was “like nothing” he had seen in his 30 years of policing.

“When the group arrived at the perimeter, they did not act like any group of protestors I had ever seen,” the ousted chief will say, arguing that the insurrection was not the result of poor planning but of failures across the board from many agencies.

Congress is set to hear from the former U.S. Capitol security officials for the first time about the massive law enforcement failures on Jan. 6, the day the violent mob laid siege to the building and interrupted the presidential electoral count.

Three of the four scheduled to testify Tuesday before two Senate committees resigned under pressure immediately after the deadly attack, including Sund.

Much remains unknown about what happened before and dur-



Bloomberg/Eric Lee

Demonstrators steal a Metropolitan Police riot shield outside the U.S. Capitol building during the Jan. 6 insurrection in Washington. Three former top U.S. Capitol security officials are facing aggressive questions from two Senate panels digging into the lapses that allowed a mob of Donald Trump’s supporters to overwhelm police officers and ransack the building as Congress was certifying the presidential election results.

ing the assault, and lawmakers are expected to aggressively question the former officials about what went wrong. How much did law enforcement agencies know about plans for vio-

lence that day, many of which were public? How did the agencies share that information with each other? And how could the Capitol Police have been so ill-prepared for a violent insurrec-

tion that was organized online, in plain sight?

The rioters easily smashed through security barriers on the outside of the Capitol, engaged in hand-to-hand combat with police

officers, injuring dozens of them, and broke through multiple windows and doors, sending lawmakers fleeing from the House and Senate chambers and interrupting the certification of the 2020 presidential election. Five people died as a result of the violence, including a Capitol Police officer and a woman who was shot by police as she tried to break through the doors of the House chamber with lawmakers still inside.

Former Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Michael Stenger and former House Sergeant-at-Arms Paul Irving will speak publicly for the first time since their resignations at the hearing, which is part of a joint investigation by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and the Senate Rules Committee. They will be joined by Sund and Robert Contee, the acting chief of police for the Metropolitan Police Department, who sent additional officers to the scene after the rioting began.

The hearing is expected to be the first of many examinations of what happened that day, coming almost seven weeks after the attack and over one week after the Senate voted to acquit former President Donald Trump of inciting the insurrection by telling his supporters to “fight like hell” to overturn his election defeat.

Facebook lifting ban in Australia

By ROD MCGUIRK
Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — Facebook announced Tuesday that it would lift a ban on Australians viewing and sharing news on its platform after it struck a deal with the government on proposed legislation that would make digital giants pay for journalism.

The social media company caused alarm with its sudden decision last week to block news on its platform across Australia after the House of Representatives passed the draft law. Initially, the blackout also cut access — at least temporarily — to government pandemic, public health and emergency services, fueling outrage.

Facebook’s cooperation is a major victory in Australia’s efforts to make two major gateways to the internet, Google and Facebook, pay for the journalism that they use — a faceoff that governments and tech companies the world over have watched closely. Google also had threatened to remove its search functions from Australia because of the proposed law, but that threat has faded.

“There is no doubt that Australia has been a proxy battle for the world,” Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said.

“Facebook and Google have not hidden the fact that they know that the eyes of the world are on Australia, and that is why they have sought to get a code here that is workable,” he added, referring to the bill, the News Media Bargaining Code.

In fact, this week, Microsoft and four Euro-

pean publishing groups announced they would work together to push for Australian-style rules for news payments from tech platforms.

The legislation was designed to curb the outsized bargaining power of Facebook and Google in their negotiations with Australian news providers. The digital giants would not be able to abuse their positions by making take-it-or-leave-it payment offers to news businesses for their journalism. Instead, in the case of a standoff, an arbitration panel would make a binding decision on a winning offer.

Frydenberg and Facebook confirmed that the two sides agreed to amendments to the proposed legislation. The changes would give digital platforms one month’s notice before they are formally designated under the code. That would give those involved more time to broker agreements before they are forced to enter binding arbitration arrangements.

A statement Tuesday by Campbell Brown, Facebook’s vice president for news partnerships, added that the deal allows the company to choose which publishers it will support, including small and local ones.

“We’re restoring news on Facebook in Australia in the coming days. Going forward, the government has clarified we will retain the ability to decide if news appears on Facebook so that we won’t automatically be subject to a forced negotiation,” Brown said.

Vaccine eligibility is now expanded

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana residents age 60 to 64 are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, state health officials announced Tuesday in the latest expansion of the state’s vaccine rollout.

The Indiana Department of Health said the expansion makes the free shots available to another 432,000 Hoosiers. Indiana’s vaccine eligibility pool had previously included Hoosiers age 65 and older, health care workers, long-term care residents and first responders.

Additional groups will be added as more vaccine becomes available, officials said.

The health department said people age 60 and older represent more than 22 percent of Indiana’s population but account for 64 percent of the state’s

COVID-19 hospitalizations and 93.3 percent of its COVID-19 deaths.

Vaccine appointments for the age 60 to 64 group will be available over the next four to six weeks to align with the state receiving its expected weekly vaccine allocation, the state health department said.

To schedule a vaccine, Hoosiers can visit ourshot.in.gov and select a location from one of more than 370 clinics around the state.

Hoosiers who do not have a computer or cell phone or those who need assistance scheduling an appointment can call 211 or contact one of Indiana’s Area Agencies on Aging or AARP. Nearly 70 libraries around the state also are helping Hoosiers schedule their appointments.



Herbs and spices that can promote healthy hearts

A nutritious diet is a key component of a healthy lifestyle. When paired with regular physical activity, a nutritious diet can help people dramatically reduce their risk for various diseases, including heart disease.

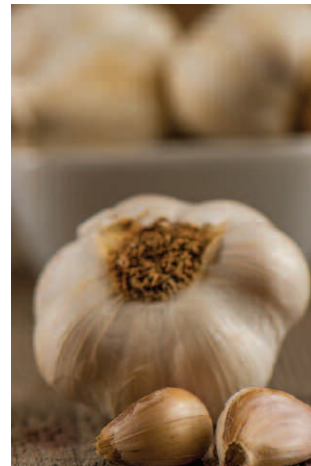
According to the World Health Organization, ischemic heart disease and stroke claim more lives each year than any other disease, annually accounting for roughly 15 percent of all deaths across the globe. Many deaths caused by heart disease can be prevented, and eating a healthy diet is a great preventive measure that anyone can take.

Though some people may associate healthy diets with bland foods that lack flavor, people can incorporate various heart-healthy herbs and spices into their favorite dishes to make them more nutritious and flavorful.

· **Garlic:** Garlic has long since earned its place on the

kitchen spice rack. However, botanically, garlic is neither an herb or a spice but a vegetable. Regardless of how it’s classified, garlic is loaded with flavor and can be used to improve just about any recipe, all the while benefiting heart health. The United States-based health services provider Mercy Health notes that garlic can help lower blood pressure and reduce bad cholesterol levels.

· **Cayenne pepper:** Few ingredients may change a recipe as quickly as cayenne pepper. The addition of cayenne pepper can instantly make dishes more spicy. But cayenne pepper brings more than a little extra kick to the dinner table. Healthline notes that various studies have shown that capsaicin, the active ingredient in cayenne pepper, can provide a host of health benefits. One such study published in the British Journal of Nutrition found that adding capsaicin



to a high-carbohydrate breakfast significantly reduced hunger and the desire to eat before lunch. Eating less can help people more effectively control their body weight, which in turn reduces their risk for heart disease.

· **Turmeric:** Garlic and even cayenne pepper may already be staples in many people’s kitchens, but that’s not necessarily so with turmeric. A yellow spice often used when preparing Indian foods,

turmeric has anti-inflammatory properties thanks to curcumin, the part of turmeric responsible for giving it its yellow color. Experts acknowledge that turmeric needs to be studied more to definitively conclude its effects on heart health, but WebMD notes that one small study indicated that turmeric can help ward off heart attacks in people who have had bypass surgery.

· **Coriander:** A popular herb used across the globe, coriander is sometimes mistaken for cilantro. Though the two come from the same plant, cilantro refers to the leaves and stems of the coriander plant, while the coriander in recipes typically refers to the seeds of that plant. Mercy Health notes that coriander seeds may help reduce bad cholesterol and high blood pressure, both of which are significant risk factors for heart disease.

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Ordinance ...

Continued from page 1
•Create a county sticker for farm trucks to provide proof they are owned by county landowners and are exempt from road restrictions

•Design a long-range plan for county roads to allow for heavier traffic and continual upgrades implemented in stages

“Semis are not going to go away,” Miller said. He estimated that at least 50 or 60 semis drive down his road (county road 300 North) each day. “I know it costs a lot of money. I pay taxes — I pay a lot of taxes toward a lot of that stuff, but we need to develop a plan as we repair roads to build them to handle the increase in traffic and traffic weight.”

Farm Bureau member Greg Miller of Pennville added that local farming has expanded over the years, with farmers tending to thousands of acres.

“Farming has gotten so big anymore that you can fill a semi in 8 minutes, and if a person has to go through town — and I’m just gonna use 200 South as an example — you’re probably looking at a minimum of 10 minute(s) increase in time,” he said.

“In planning time, same thing happens, we lose 10 minutes here and 10 minutes there ... so, you know, I understand the intent, but farmers aren’t on the roads every day of the week.”

A sticker, Barry Miller continued, would make it easier for law enforcement to fine commercial trucks and identify trucks exempt from the rule. (Farmers tending to the land on each specified portion of road, such as county road 200 South between U.S. 27 and Indiana 67, are authorized to drive on it.)

Commissioner Rex Journey asked if a county exemption sticker had been used in any other counties. The group diverged from the question for a few minutes before county attorney Bill Hinkle jumped into the conversation.

“Well, that’s my question that Rex just asked: Are you aware that any other county is doing this?” Hinkle asked. “Because the first thing that comes to my

mind is you’re discriminating between Jay County truckers and anybody else’s regular truck. I don’t know if you can do that.”

Farm Bureau regional manager Drew Cleveland said Jay County is the only county with these restrictions, so others do not need stickers.

“We’re the only county that has no-truck signs? That’s not true,” interjected highway superintendent Donnie Corn. Hinkle also shook his head.

Cleveland then clarified, “No, you’re the only county that put restrictions on a 1-mile section of the road.”

“If you’re making that restriction, you’re going to tell a semi to turn, turn, turn,” he continued. “That’s going to put a lot more stress on the road instead of just driving.”

Currently, the specified roads in the ordinance are not designed for heavy truck traffic.

Commissioner Chad Aker asked Corn what it would take to convert a county road to support truck traffic. Corn said it would be an extensive process, noting when the roads were built years ago, the county didn’t have nearly as much truck traffic.

“There’s some roads out there that’s probably only got 2 inches thick of asphalt, versus your typical road should have a 3.5-inch binder base of asphalt with 1.5-inch to 2 inches of surface coat on top of it,” Corn said.

He estimated it would cost around \$500,000 to repave a mile of road with asphalt versus chipping and sealing it.

County auditor Anna Culy noted state funding for roads has decreased the last few years. (Projects like the reconstruction of Como Road are funded primarily through Community Crossings grants through Indiana Department of Transportation.)

“The commissioners didn’t create this to hamper you farmers,” Corn said, addressing the group. “Our infrastructure is so much better, in good shape right now, versus all our surrounding counties.”

Cleveland, Barry Miller and Greg Miller asked commission-

ers to consider revisiting the ordinance and making changes for the local farming community.

Commissioners have to look at all aspects of the problem, Aker said, emphasizing they are not trying to hinder farmers — “we love our farmers” — but they need to find a good balance to keep others in the community satisfied with road conditions. Journey said he would review the ordinance, and Aker agreed he would look into the sticker proposition if possible (although he, too, voiced concerns about it amounting to discrimination).

Commissioners also learned Monday that Jay County Retirement Center may be taking in some of the Mercer County Home residents when it closes in June, according to retirement center director Hope Confer. Jay County’s facility can house up to 48 residents, Confer explained. It currently houses 18.

In addition, the retirement center will be installing a new water filter in the basement to follow state requirements for safe drinking water.

Also Monday, commissioners heard from Jay Emergency Medical Service directors John McFarland and Gary Barnett.

What roads are impacted?

Jay County Commissioners updated the county’s truck ordinance, effective July 1, 2019. The ordinance prohibits vehicle with a weight exceeding 20,000 pounds from using certain county roads. The roads involved are listed below.

- Como Road between Indiana 26 and Indiana 67.
- County road 100 North between U.S. 27 and county road 200 West.
- County road 200 South between U.S. 27 and Indiana 67.
- County road 200 West between county road 300 North and Indiana 67.
- County road 250 West between county roads 900 South and 800 South.
- County road 300 East between Indiana 26 and Division Road.
- County road 400 South between Indiana 1 and Indiana 67.
- County road 400 South between Como Road and U.S. 27.
- County road 500 North between county roads 750 West and 650 West.
- County road 500 South between Indiana 1 and Indiana 67.
- County road 500 South between county roads 1150 West and 1225 West.
- County road 750 West between county roads 300 North and 400 North.
- County road 750 West between county roads 450 North and 400 North.
- County road 750 West between Indiana 18 and county road 550 North.
- Division Road between the eastern edge of the City of Portland and county road 300 East.
- County road 1150 West between county 500 South and the Dunkirk City Limits.

McFarland mentioned he is hoping to have several advanced emergency medical technicians graduating from his class this spring.

Three of those students who already work for the county have expressed an interest to continue to paramedic school. Such education must be provided by a postsecondary institution, he explained, and it requires some 800 hours of training. If possible, McFarland would like to see John Jay Center for Learning join with one of its partnering qualified institutions — such as Ivy Tech Community College or Vincennes University — to provide a satellite paramedic program in Jay County.

Commissioners also signed a claim for the expansion of the Pennville library. Renderings are close to being completed, Culy said. The approximately \$350,000 project is mostly funded from the \$333,000 Jay Region! received for being a finalist for the 2019 Stellar Communities designation.

In other business, commissioners:

•Agreed to draft a new ordinance for installing stop signs at the intersections of county roads 300 East, 600 East and 700 East with county road 200 South

to make each intersection a four-way stop. Corn said in a previous meeting there have been at least four deaths resulting from accidents in those areas.

•Selected three quotes: \$77,093 for six new courthouse boilers from Allied Mechanical of New Haven, \$47,230 for five new snow plows from MacAllister Machinery of Fort Wayne and \$4,699.80 for a new copier at Jay County Sheriff’s Office from Perry Pro-Tech of Fort Wayne.

•Approved the following requests: one from Arch Bridge Kroozers to use the courthouse restrooms May 22 during its annual car show, and another from Gerald Burkholder of Bryant-based B & B Farms to close county road 550 North between county roads 150 West and 250 West on July 30 and 31 for chuckwagon races.

•OK’d Corn purchasing a new salt bed for \$23,285 with his department’s budget.

•Signed the emergency declaration issued last week (and later rescinded) during hazardous weather conditions.

•OK’d a five-year mitigation plan proposed by emergency management director Amy Blakely. It is required to keep in compliance with federal and state law.

Field ...

Continued from page 1

In a school board meeting last year, representatives from the club said they hoped to begin construction at the conclusion of the 2020 Fort Recovery High School softball season. (The 2020 spring sports season was canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic.) Superintendent Larry Brown estimated the project may be done as soon as spring 2022.

Also Monday, school board accepted the resignation Brent Niekamp as athletics director and transportation director, effective July 31, 2021. (See related story on page 10.)

High school principal Tony Stahl also recognized students for their recent achievements.

Ellie Hummel placed in the top 10 (out of 350-plus competitors) in the video production, digital marketing and the fundamentals of web design contest

for the Business Professionals of America. Luke Keller, who is in the automotive program with the Tri Star Career Compact, received a silver medal at the Southwest Ohio Regional Skills Competition for automotive service technology. He’ll move on to compete at state.

Anna Wendel will be this year’s Fort Recovery representative for the Franklin B. Walter scholarship, Stahl announced.

Middle school principal Ryan Steinbrunner noted two students are far behind in the virtual academy and school staff are working to help those kids get caught up in their work. But five or six students, he continued, are expected to be finished with their online school-work by March.

“Those families have even reached out to us asking if there’s anything supplemental they can do and what they can contin-

ue to work on until the end of the year,” Steinbrunner said.

In other business, school board members Anne Guggenbiller, Jake Knapke, Greg LeFevre, Don Wendel and Nick Wehrkamp:

•Reassigned three employees to new positions for the 2021-22 school year: Tami Brunswick from intervention specialist to kindergarten teacher; Kim Minnich from first grade teacher to kindergarten teacher; and Chelsea Kahlig from high school intervention specialist to elementary intervention specialist.

•Accepted \$2,912 in donations, including \$2,800 from Fort Recovery Athletic Boosters for baseball and track.

•Approved an annual one-year contract with Healthy Lawns Inc. of Coldwater, Ohio, for maintaining football, baseball, softball and practice fields.



March Into Spring

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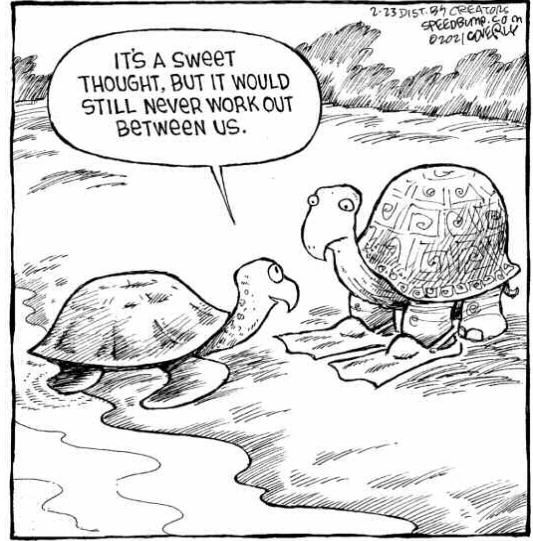
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Dave Coverly

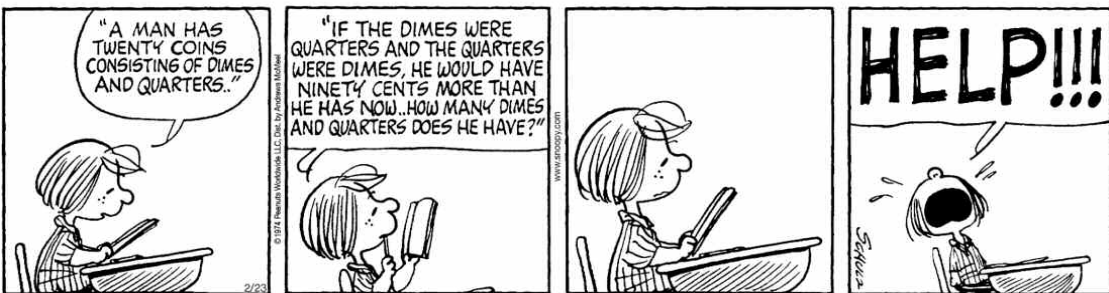


THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



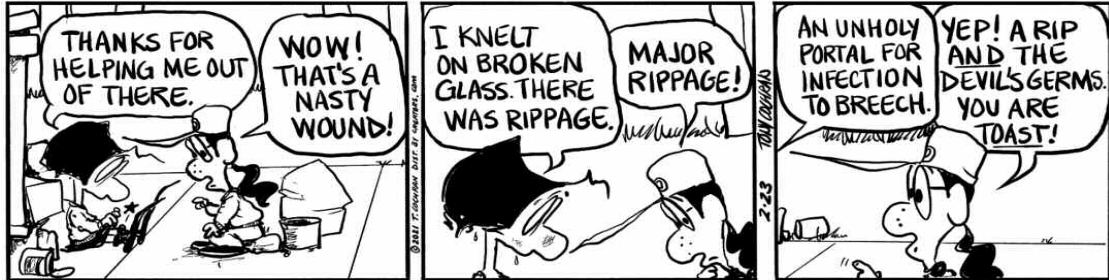
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



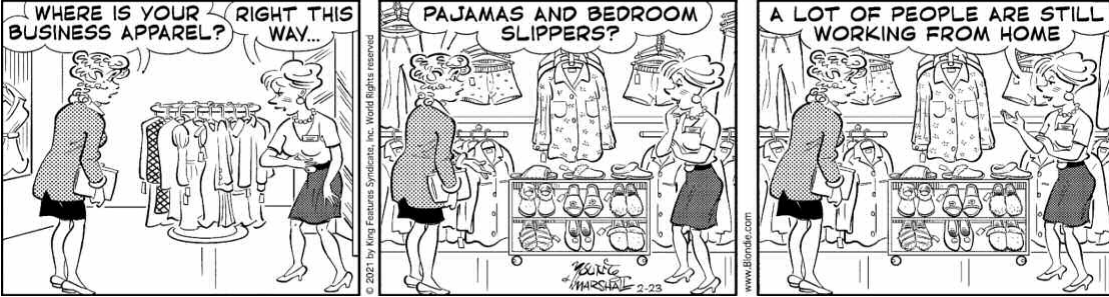
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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 3413 W 100 S, Portland, IN
Saturday, March 6, 2021 10:00am

7+ acres w/4brm, 1 1/2ba, ranch style home. 2011 Lincoln MKX, 1999 Dodge 1500 Laramie SLT, 1978 Dodge PW-250 JD Z-930M, 3010NF diesel non-running, 42 pull-type combine; 2005 Polaris; EZ-GO golf cart; skid steer; 6x10 trailer. Bush Hog; power washer; 5500watt generator; welder; PTO seeder; wrenches shop tools; log chains; 3-wheel bike. Wood washing tub; 30gal cast iron kettle, dinner bell; mantle clocks; furniture; 5gal crock; lamps; mirrors; dresser; twin bed; end tables; gun safe; washer/dryer; upright freezer; kitchen smalls; much more.

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AU19700040
260-726-5587
Zane Shawver
AU10500168
260-729-2229

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall, Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland, IN
Saturday, February 27th, 2021 10:00am

Household Goods-Old & Collectors Items; Hover Round mobility cart; Jazzy mobility cart; Oak 4 drawer dresser w/mirror, 4 drawer marble top commode; 4 piece bedroom suite; 3 cushion sofa; Bavaria 4 place setting china; Samsung flat screen TV; 2 Lazboy recliners; Camel lighters, presser cooker; Western Flyer wagon; crock pots; Coke crates; cast iron skillets-Wagoner; Quality Pro 20 hp 46" deck riding mower; John Deere 5.5 hp 21" electric start push mower; Poulan 4 1/2 hp mower; 1 1/2 ton floor jack; work bench; ventless gas wall heater; and many other items not listed.

Auctioneers Note: This is only a partial listing of the items to be sold. Please note that we will be running 2 rings during a portion of the day. It is recommended you follow COVID-19 guidelines by wearing a facial mask and social distancing

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Ben Lyons AU10700085
Travis Theurer
AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Troy Foust AU19800068

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Located on 100 S between S Knox Rd & Hwy1, South Side (Half a mile west of Hy 1 on 100 S)

Monday, March 8, 2021
Time 4:30 pm
Real Estate: 55 acres located on section 26 of Knox Twp., Jay County, Indiana. Practically all tillable with frontage on CR 100 S. Farm sells on site.

Terms on Real Estate: Cash with 10% non-refundable deposit day of auction. Balance due at closing. Sale not subject to buyer obtaining financing. Arrange financing if needed prior to auction. Final sale subject to owner confirmation.

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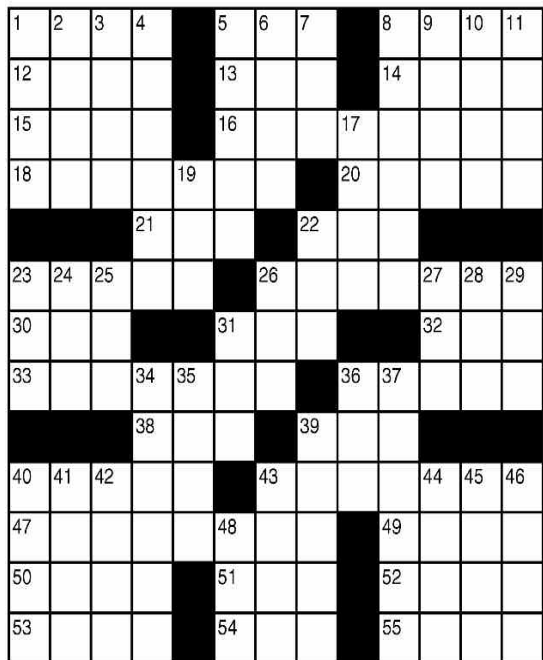
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 "Pow!" | 1 "— on first?" |
| 5 Cave mammal | 2 Luau dance |
| 8 Farmer's place | 3 Arkin or Alda |
| 12 Video-streaming site | 4 Breakfast bread |
| 13 Lawyers' org. | 5 Iraqi port city |
| 14 Grenoble girlfriend | 6 "That's not — idea" |
| 15 "Frozen" snowman | 7 Sunbather's goal |
| 16 Disinfect | 8 Going together |
| 18 Actress Isabel of "The Jeffersons" | 9 Send forth |
| 20 Ravi's instrument | 10 Minnelli of "Cabaret" |
| 21 "— Little Teapot" | 11 Lusty look |
| 22 Zero-star review | 17 "This — outrage!" |
| 23 Bitten by a bee | |
| 26 Tapas bar drink | |
| 30 Football filler | |
| 31 YMCA class | |
| 32 Massachusetts cape | |
| 33 "Evil Ways" band | 19 Texter's "Wow!" |
| 36 Trademark doll | 22 Standard Sweden |
| 38 Raggedy bear | 24 — Maria (coffee liqueur) |
| 39 Calendar abbr. | 25 Coffee vessel |
| 40 Vermont ski town | 26 Hot tub |
| 43 Holy place | 27 Sony rival |
| 47 Deli purchase | 28 Charged bit |
| 49 Saab model | 29 Toss in |
| 50 Level | 31 MSNBC rival |
| 51 — Paulo | 34 Garish |
| 52 Really | 35 From the top |
| 53 Do in | 36 Chignon |
| 54 French Mrs. | 37 Take back |
| 55 "— chic!" | 39 Sierra Nevada lake |

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-23



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READ THE CR THEN RECYCLE

Patriot boys swimmers finish sixth at sectional

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The Patriots improved on their preliminary times in just over half of their events.

In a meet that saw Delta break three sectional records, that wasn't nearly enough to compete for a team title or state berths.

The host Jay County High School boys swim team's top finish in any event was fourth as it placed sixth in the 11-team field with 179 points in the sectional meet that concluded Saturday.

"For us to come in and swim the way we swam, I'm extremely pleased with how our kids performed to their capabilities," said JCHS coach Matt Slavik. "They all got in and gave it everything they had."

Delta, led by Brady Samuels' record swims in the 50-yard freestyle and 100 butterfly and Sam Bennett's record diving effort, won seven events to take

its seventh straight sectional title with 426 points. Norwell was the runner-up with 320.

The lone Patriot who will continue his season is senior Justice Murphy, who advanced to tonight's diving regional at Fishers with a fourth-place finish in the event that was contested Friday. The winner of each swimming event advances to the state finals while the top four divers move on to the regional.

Jay County's Kyle Sanders wasn't able to repeat his effort from the preliminary round two nights earlier, but still posted the best Saturday finish for the team as he matched Murphy from the night before. He was about a half-second off of his preliminary pace in the 200 freestyle, placing fourth in 1 minute, 55.45 seconds. He was also seventh in the 100 freestyle.

The Patriots were able to cut time in all three relays,



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

with Nick Lyons, Griffin Mann, Aaron Funkhouser and Sanders delivering the highest of those finishes with a fifth-place effort in the 200 medley relay in 1:50.05. Sam Crump, Funkhouser, Mann and Sanders were fifth in the 400 freestyle relay in 3:42.93, and Konner Sommers, Ralph Link, Wyatt Kunkler and Lyons came in eighth in the 200

freestyle relay by slicing more than two seconds for a time of 1:43.18.

"Our depth is in our relays," said Slavik. "Our relays are young ... When I look at those relay splits and look at where they started the year at to where they ended the year at, it's been truly positive."

Mann followed Sanders in the individual events by taking fifth place in the 100

breaststroke and seventh in the 50 freestyle.

The only individual event that saw multiple Jay County swimmers cut time was the 500 freestyle, in which Kunkler dropped 2.43 seconds for 11th place in 5:48.83 and Josh Monroe sliced 0.44 seconds for 13th place in 5:52.95.

"Wyatt Kunkler and Josh Monroe both swam lights out," said Slavik. "They

Jay County High School sophomore Josh Monroe competes in the 500-yard freestyle at Saturday's sectional meet. Monroe and his classmate Wyatt Kunkler each dropped time in the event to place 13th and 11th, respectively.

swam to the maximum of their abilities. That's what we like to see ..."

Also scoring for the Patriots in consolation races Saturday were Monroe (ninth - 100 breaststroke), Ralph Link (12th - 100 breaststroke), Kunkler (13th - 200 freestyle), Lyons (13th - 100 backstroke), Sommers (13th - 100 butterfly) and Funkhouser (16th - 50 freestyle).

Box score

Jay County Patriots vs. Seton Catholic Cardinals. Boys varsity summary. Seton Catholic (6-7) FG-FGA FT-FTA PTS. Jay County (7-8) FG-FGA FT-FTA PTS. Score by quarters. S. Cath 10 13 15 11 — 49. Jay Co. 10 19 12 16 — 57. 3-point shooting: Seton Catholic.

8-23 (Casper 5-10, Moynihan 1-1, Falcone 1-4, Hogg 1-4, Harvey 0-3, Himes 0-1). Jay County 7-28 (Dowlen 4-11, Dirksen 3-8, GMuhlenkamp 0-4, Faulkner 0-2, Pearson 0-2, Bennett Weitzel 0-1). Rebounds: Seton Catholic 31 (Moynihan 13, Himes 4, Falcone 3, Gregory 3, Harvey 3, Casper 2, Davis 2, team). Jay County 35 (Dirksen 12, GMuhlenkamp 7, Weitzel 6, Pearson 4, Dowlen 3, AMuhlenkamp 3). Assists: Seton Catholic 4 (Gregory, Himes, Moynihan, Casper), Jay County 10 (GMuhlenkamp 4, Dirksen 2, Weitzel, Faulkner, Dowlen, Pearson). Blocks: Seton Catholic 0. Jay County 4 (Pearson 2, Weitzel, Dirksen 4). Personal fouls: Seton Catholic 19 (Moynihan 4, Casper 4, Gregory 3, Harvey 3, Davis 2, Falcone, Himes, Hogg), Jay County 12 (Pearson 4, Weitzel 2, Dirksen 2, GMuhlenkamp 2, Dowlen, AMuhlenkamp). Turnovers: Seton Catholic 14. Jay County 8.

Sweep ...

Continued from page 10. The rest of the Patriots' points would come from the free-throw line. Though the home team missed a few foul shots, including one front end of a one-and-one, they went 11-of-15 from the stripe over the final four minutes to salt away the win. They were able to do so in part because they stayed under control even when Seton Catholic shifted from its two-three zone to man-to-man in an effort to increase the defensive pressure, turning the ball over just three times in the second half. "Probably the thing that won the game for us more than anything was we took care of the basketball," said Bomholt, whose team had eight turnovers for the game. "That's two nights in a row now we've been single digits. "We rebounded with them, which we needed to do. And then being able to knock down enough free throws down the stretch."

Jay County executed a scoring relay in the first half. After Dowlen scored the first 12 points, Adam Muhlenkamp came off the bench to pour in nine in a row of his own. Then Ethan Dirksen, who had struggled early, tallied the last eight of the half including a 3-pointer coming off of a screen with six seconds left for a 29-23 halftime lead. Dirksen added the first two points of the third quarter to run his streak to 11 in a row. The trio continued their run, scoring the first 39 Patriot points before Weitzel finally hit a pair of free throws with three seconds left in the third quarter. "It sure as heck wasn't designed that way," said Bomholt. Dowlen scored 18 points, including four 3-pointers, to lead the Patriots, while Dirksen added 16 to go along with a team-high 12 rebounds. Muhlenkamp, who made all four of his field-goal attempts, joined them

in double figures with a career-high 11. Seton Catholic got 15 points from Casper, all of which came from long distance. Junior varsity. Jay County blanked the Cardinals in the first quarter and never looked back in a 44-21 victory. After taking a 7-0 lead in the first seven minutes, six different Patriots scored in the second quarter as they took a 23-11 lead into halftime. They extended the advantage to 18 points in the third quarter and then hit 5-of-6 free throws in the fourth. Blake Bogenschutz hit a trio of 3-pointers on the way to a game-high 11 points to lead JCHS. Owen Ransom added eight points, and Brady Davis scored seven. Mike Henry and Andrew Wagner each had six points for Seton Catholic, which scored 15 of its 21 from long distance.

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION Saturday, February 27th 10:00 pm 4-H Building, at Jay Co. Fairgrounds Portland, IN Alsip Auctioneering will be selling the estate of Morris Alsip due to a sudden illness. Our intent was to hire a third party auction service because of the personal nature of the sale. However, I know my father would want me to handle this for him. I became an auctioneer at the age of 20 and he has been by my side every step of the way. I want to thank the Auctioneers and the ones who have asked to help with set up. The weather is making set up more difficult so pictures will be added on a day to day basis prior to the sale. We have a large amount of Antique smalls including Jewelry, Silver and Gold, Advertising Signs, Furniture, Toys, Guns and a lifetime of tools. There is also a car hauler trailer and a corn pellet stove. We are not sure what we will find and this is just a start to the listing. Make sure to check back for updates. This will be a great sale we hope you can attend. Terms Cash, good checks, and credit cards (3% Service Fee) Maurice Alsip Estate AU19400112 Terry Drake, Auctioneer AU10600020 Chad Briker, Auctioneer-AU11600027 All Statements made day of the auction take precedent over any written materials.

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION Saturday, March 13, 2021 11:00 am 40 Acres on St. Rt. 49 Rockford, OH Auction to be conducted at 9920 St. Rt. 49 Chattanooga, OH next to the Chattanooga Fire House. This Real Estate Parcel of real estate contains 40 acres more or less with 39.4610 acres tillable and 0.0830 acres of woods, the farm has average tilling. Terms on real estate: \$30,000 down day of auction, balance at closing within 30 days. The Real estate will selling with no contingencies. Possession to be the day of auction. The taxes and assessments will be prorated to the day of closing. Note: Contact the auctioneers, Frank Arling or Brandon Arling for information packet. Owner: Paul E. Wrenn Jr. & Burt Worthing Trust, Lisa Harper Successor Trustee for Paul E. Wrenn Jr. Terms: Any statements made day of sale supercedes prior statements or advertisements, not responsible for accidents. Portions of this auction may be recorded. Auctioneer licensed by the State of Ohio. Licesbds Real Estate Agent in Ohio. Go to our website at www.arling-evers.com or auctionzip.com Frank (Wills) Arling-Osgood, OH 419-582-3801 or 937-670-6886 Brandon Arling-Maria Stein, OH 567-644-4851

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY COUNTY, SS: IN THE JAY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CAUSE NO. 38C01-2102-MI-5 IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF Genevieve Marie McBride, Petitioner NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Genevieve Marie McBride, whose mailing address is: Portland, Indiana 47371 in the Jay County, County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that Genevieve Marie McBride has filed a petition in the Jay County Court requesting that her name be changed to Genevieve Marie Villas. Notice is further given that the hearing will be held on said Petition on April 6, 2021 at 1:00 pm. Genevieve Marie McBride, Petitioner Date, February 5, 2021 Judicial Officer CR 2-16,23,3-2-2021-HSPAXLP

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2-23 CRYPTOQUIP SZYU NHDDBA RUO OLYA RJJ ZLGCUW XL NMLDB LHX JYRMMK MLHO ULCAYA, OL XZYK SYRJ OYYJ-GMHWA? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OLD COMICS CHARACTER WHO CONDUCTED LONG SIGHTSEEING RIDES IN MOTOR COACHES: BUS-TOUR BROWN. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals K

THE CLASSIFIEDS Find it Buy It Sell It! (260) 726-8141 250 PUBLIC NOTICE Public Notice NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE DLC#B403-217 By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Jay County, Indiana, in Cause No. 38C01-1911-MF-000035, wherein AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC was Plaintiff, and Damnic Skinner, was a Defendant, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and costs, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 11th day of March, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. of said day, at the 120 N. Court Street, Ste. 305, Portland, IN 47371, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jay County, Indiana: Lot Number Seventeen (17) in Meeker's Second Addition to the town (now city) of Portland, Jay County, Indiana. 38-07-21-204-115.000-034 and commonly known as: 709 E Main St, Portland, IN 473771. Subject to all liens, encumbrances, rights of redemption, easements and restrictions of record not otherwise foreclosed and extinguished in the proceedings known as Cause #38C01-1911-MF-000035 in the Circuit Court of the County of Jay Indiana, and subject to all real estate taxes, and assessments currently due, delinquent or which are to become a lien. Said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's Attorney. F Dwane Ford Jay County Sheriff Doyle & Poutty, P.C. a 41 E Washington St, STE 400 Indianapolis, IN 46204 CR 2-9,16,23-2021 HSPAXLP

260 PUBLIC AUCTION Public Notice LOCATED: Located on 100 S between S Knox Rd & Hwy 1, South Side (Half a mile west of Hwy 1 on 100 S) Monday, March 8, 2021 4:30 P.M. REAL ESTATE 55 acres located in section 26 of Knox Twp, Jay County Indiana. Practically all tillable with frontage on CR 100 S. Farm sells on site. Terms on real estate: Cash with 10% non-refundable deposit day of auction. Balance due at closing. Sale not subject to buyer obtaining financing. Arrange financing if needed prior to auction. Final sale subject to owner confirmation. OWNER: Larry Denney and Others Statements made sale day take precedence over written ad SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE AC31800004 AUCTIONEERS Pete D. Shawver Zane Shawver Lic# AU19700040 Lic# AU10500168 260-726-5587 260-729-2229 More Photos available at www.auctionzip.com & www.auctionsoft.com CR 2-23,3-2-2020

Sports

For(tkamp) the win

Tribe senior's putback seals sectional title

By CHRIS SCHANZ

The Commercial Review
FORT RECOVERY — Kierra Wendel was on point from the free-throw line.

But she had a rare double miss from the stripe in overtime, her team leading by just one.

Paige Fortkamp covered for her classmate.

Fortkamp pulled down the offensive rebound on Wendel's second miss and put it back for two points. At the other end, the Cardinals' attempt at a game-tying 3-pointer bounced off the rim as the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team hung on for a 53-50 victory in the Division IV Wapakoneta District sectional championship game Saturday night at Fort Site Fieldhouse.

"It's a game of highs and lows," said Fort Recovery coach Holly Gann, whose team won its sixth consecutive sectional championship. "You just hope that your high is when the time runs out."
New Bremen coach Chris Burden, whose fifth-seeded Cardinals (13-10) trailed by a dozen in the first half but held a two-



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

point advantage with 1:57 to play in regulation, was pleased with the way his squad battled down the stretch. "Couple things go our way that's a different game," he said. "Games like that, it's the little things. We talk a lot about that. "Fort Recovery did the little things at the right time." Fort Recovery (16-6), which is seeded fourth, advances to the district semifinal against the Midwest Athletic Conference

foe Minster Wildcats, at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at Wapakoneta. The Wildcats, the district's top seed and ranked fourth in the state, won state titles in 2018 and 2019 and were en route to the state tournament in 2020 before it was canceled because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Minster defeated Fort Recovery 58-27 when they met during the regular season Feb. 4. The Indians had a chance to win it at the end of regulation

but Fortkamp's potential game-winning triple didn't go in. Fort Recovery won the tip in the extra period, and 12 seconds in Alli Vaughn drained a trey from the left wing on a Wendel assist. The home team never trailed again.

New Bremen's Madison Cordonnier, who led the Cardinals with 17 points, hit a jumper from the left elbow to bring the Cardinals within one, 49-48, with 1:45 to go.

See Win page 9

Niekamp to leave AD role

By CHRIS SCHANZ

The Commercial Review
Brent Niekamp will be returning to the classroom.

Fort Recovery School Board on Monday accepted the resignation of Niekamp as athletics and transportation director, paving the way for the former educator to return to teaching.

"I just really miss the classroom, to be honest," said Niekamp, who will remain football coach. "Between that and just the time involved, it was a decision that (my wife) Kim and I came to. "Not much more to it than that."

Niekamp will honor the remainder of his contract and relinquish his duties as AD and transportation director July 31.

"The board shared their appreciation for Mr. Niekamp's services in recent years and his willingness to complete this academic school year in that role," Fort Recovery Local Schools' superintendent Larry Brown said in a press release distributed at the Monday's school board meeting.

Niekamp, 40, started his teaching career at Fort Recovery in the fall of 2003, and two years later became the fourth coach of the Tribe football team.

See Leave page 9



Niekamp



53



50

Sweep success

Jay Co. conquers double weekend

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review
The last time the Patriots had a two-victory weekend was late in the 2018-19 season.

They proceeded to lose their final four games of the year.

Coach Jerry Bomholt hopes this weekend's sweep can be a spark for a strong finish.

Jay County High School's boys basketball team followed Friday's victory over Norwell by outscoring the Seton Catholic Cardinals 21-11 down the stretch for a 57-49 win.

"All in all, man, you've got to be happy," said Bomholt. "We came in here — our goal was to win two games this weekend. And we did it."

The Patriots (7-8) had lost their previous four games — the last three were by three, six and four points — before this weekend's sweep.

"In two of those, we're down with the ball, 30 seconds to go and down by two, and we can't make a play," Bomholt added. "Now we're looking around and saying, 'We can do this.' And they have."

"I'm happy for them because slowly they're getting some confidence ... They're coming through and being successful in those situations. And that's neat. That's neat to watch."

Sam Casper's 3-pointer on the Cardinals' first possession of the fourth quarter evened the score at 41. That's when the Patriots came through.

Josh Dowlen, who scored Jay County's first dozen points, responded to Casper's triple with one of



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

his own. Then Bennett Weitzel recorded a put-back basket that caused Seton Catholic (6-8) coach Josh Jurgens to take a timeout. After the visitors failed to score, Bomholt had his squad burn about a minute off the clock passing and dribbling the ball back-and-forth around the arc.

"They could pull away and run clock because we

weren't scoring," said Jurgens, adding that in part his team got away from its inside game with 6-foot, 6-inch post player Jake Moynihan. "We can't live and die by the three when we've got a kid like Moynihan. We've got to find a way to feed him, try to find a way to get him the ball the right way."

See Sweep page 8



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