

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Attempted murder charged

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

A Portland woman was arrested Tuesday night for the attempted murder of her child. Raven Myers, 24, is being held on a \$50,000 bond at Jay County Jail after she allegedly cut her 2-year-old daughter's wrists.

She was preliminarily charged with attempted murder, a Level 1 felony.

Julie Cline called Portland Police about 8:41 p.m. to report

Woman was arrested after allegedly cutting child's wrists

her great-grandchild missing. More than an hour later, she called 911 stating her granddaughter, Myers, had come to her house with the child but

that she had been injured. When police responded to 216 E. North St., they found a 2-year-old girl with cuts on her wrists. The child was taken by police

to IU Health Jay, and she was later transferred to Riley Hospital for Children of Indianapolis. Portland Police Chief Mitch Sutton and investigator Jeff Hopkins confirmed this morning that the child is alive.

The call initially came in as an attempted suicide; responders believed Cline was reporting that Myers had slit her own wrists rather than her child's wrists.

According to Hopkins, Indiana Department of Child Serv-

ices had placed the child with Cline. Myers is allowed visitation with her daughter, but is not allowed to be left alone with the child.

Jay County prosecutor Wes Schemenaur noted this morning his office will be gathering information, and formal charges will be filed in court sometime in the next few days.

In Indiana, attempted murder carries a sentence of 20 to 40 years with an advisory sentence of 30 years.



Photo provided

First step complete

Miss Jay County Fair Queen Abby Benter (pictured) took part in the first phase of the Indiana State Fair Queen Pageant Saturday with contestants taking part in a six-minute interview and delivering a one-minute speech, all via Zoom. The in-person portions of the preliminary round, which include professional wear and formal wear, have been postponed. Those will be held April 10 at the Indiana Farmers Coliseum, with the finals and crowning of the Indiana State Fair Queen to follow.

Official OWI charge is filed

Official charges have been filed against a Jay County Commissioner for drunk driving.

Brian R. McGalliard, 52, Dunkirk, was charged Tuesday in Jay Superior Court with operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. The case stems from his arrest just after 5 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

Jay County prosecutor Wes Schemenaur also filed a motion to appoint a special prosecutor to handle the case. The court recommended McGalliard's drivers license be suspended immediately.

According to a Portland Police Department report, officers pulled over a vehicle along Indiana 67 near the intersection with county road 75 South about 5:11 p.m. Dec. 31. A second vehicle also stopped, and its driver pointed to a GMC pickup truck in a driveway to the north. She told police she had been behind the vehicle and that its driver had been driving all over the road.

According to the report, dash camera footage of the stop shows a GMC pickup truck in the distance turn into a highway at 2086 W. 75 South. The report says footage shows McGalliard exit the truck, walk to the house and walk back to the truck.

McGalliard told police he was traveling from Dunkirk to Portland, the report says. He had bloodshot eyes, slurred speech and smelled of alcohol, according to the report. The truck he had been driving was also running.

He refused field sobriety tests and told police he wanted to consult with an attorney before taking a chemical test, the report

Jay County commissioner faces one Class C misdemeanor

says. After officer Tre Nusbaumer received a search warrant from Jay Circuit Court Judge Brian Hutchison less than an hour later, McGalliard was taken to IU Health Jay for a blood test.

Results from the blood test are still pending.

McGalliard began his first term as a commissioner representing the south district in January 2021. His term continues through December 2024.

When reached for comment Jan. 4, McGalliard referred The Commercial Review to a Facebook post he made after the incident. It reads as follows:

"I was involved in a situation that resulted in being suspected of a class C misdemeanor for driving under the influence. I possibly overindulged on New Years Eve and I take full responsibility for my actions. I sincerely regret my actions and feel terrible. From the bottom of my heart, I apologize to all the citizens of Jay County. When I ran for public office I stated that I would not runaway from or sidestep tough situations and this is clearly one of those tough situations. I am human, I made a huge mistake and I take full and total responsibility for my actions."

COVID still a challenge

By TOM DAVIES
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb extolled the state's economic expansion during the annual State of the State speech Tuesday night while saying many challenges remain from the ongoing health crisis.

Holcomb's speech before lawmakers gathered inside the Statehouse avoided topics where he's facing disagreements with fellow Republicans who are pushing one proposal that would force businesses to allow exemptions from any workplace COVID-19 vaccination requirements and another bill seeking broad business and individual tax cuts.

Much of the governor's address focused on touting the state's economy, pointing to low

Holcomb addresses economy, 'extraordinary personal toll' of the ongoing pandemic

unemployment and its large — and growing — state budget surplus because of a big jump in tax collections. But he was most personal when discussing the pandemic and "the extraordinary personal toll it's had on our families."

Indiana's COVID-19 death toll since March 2020 is approaching 20,000 people, which Holcomb pointed out is more than the populations of Indiana

communities such as Huntington, Crawfordsville and Jasper.

Holcomb described Indiana's hospitals as "under siege" and praised healthcare workers for their efforts at a time when the state's current COVID-19 surge has pushed hospitalizations for the illness to their highest level since mid-December 2020 before the vaccines were widely available.

See COVID page 5



The Commercial Review screenshot

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb stops for a brief chat with State Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle), who represents Jay County, prior to his State of the State address on Tuesday.

Deaths

Joan Franks, 81, Parker City
Kay DeVoss, 69, Redkey
Daniel Gillum, 68, Bryant
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 32 degrees Tuesday. The low was 12.

In review

Four candidates filed Tuesday to run in the May primary election. New candidates are Democrats Nancy Cline for Greene Township Trustee and Greene Precinct Committeeman and Crystal Laux for Bearcreek Township Trustee, and Republicans Steven Cash for Penn Township Trustee and James Brewster for Wayne Township Trustee.

Coming up

Thursday — Coverage of tonight's Jay County Council meeting.

Saturday — Results from the semifinal round of the ACAC basketball tournaments.



60th anniversary



Donna and Joe Roberts - 1962

Donna and Joe Roberts

Joe and Donna Roberts are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary Thursday. Donna and Joe were married Jan. 13, 1962. They own and operate JD Roberts enterprises, LLC. They both worked at The Jay Garment Company and Berne Apparel until the plants were closed. They are the parents of Troy Roberts (wife: Julie), the late Sherry Green (husband: Rob) and Tina Martin (husband: Shane). They have seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.



Donna and Joe Roberts - 2022

Man prone to outbursts

DEAR ABBY: I am becoming more and more irritated with people. My fuse is short and I'm prone to bursts of anger. Today I watched another driver run a red light, and I proceeded to honk my horn, lower my window and give the guy my middle finger. (Yeah, I know it was risky, but I couldn't resist the impulse.)

Dear Abby



I am sick of people! They are, in my opinion, self-centered, inconsiderate jerks who need to be smacked. Stupid questions also set me off. I have been snapping at my wife and kids, which is not something I intend. What can I do to get a grip on my temper and not act out the way I have been doing? Is something wrong with me? — REALLY A NICE GUY IN MICHIGAN

DEAR NICE GUY: The "Season to be Jolly" has always been stressful, as is its aftermath, when it's time to pay the bills. This last holiday season has been more stressful than most for any number of reasons.

Anger is a normal emotion. Everyone experiences it from time to time. But lowering one's car window, playing the

horn like a musical instrument and giving other drivers the finger is not only unwise, but dangerous. These days it could get you killed. For the record, a bad mood is not a valid excuse for taking it out on someone you think has asked a stupid question. If a query is sincere, no question is "stupid." Your loss of self-control — if recent — could be related to frustration or misdirected anger at something out of your control. Does experiencing these feelings mean there is something "wrong" with you? Not necessarily, as long as you find ways to manage your emotions before exploding. We are all human. We all make mistakes.

My booklet, "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It," offers suggestions for

directing angry feelings in a healthy way. It contains suggestions for managing and constructively channeling anger in various situations. It can be ordered by sending your name and address, plus a check or money order for \$8 to Dear Abby Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Illinois, 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

It takes self-control and maturity to react calmly instead of striking out in anger. Recognizing what is causing these negative emotions can go a long way to help you avoid taking them out on others. I sometimes wonder whether anger management should be added to school curriculums to help the next generation learn to communicate in a healthy manner, rather than simply reacting.

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 www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Warm weather will return again

By KWAME DAWES

It is hard to tell whether in ten years readers will know what a "drop down menu" is, but that is the beauty and risk of poetry — to find poetry in the present vernacular, and to hope its accuracy and beauty justify its use.

Sidney Burris, in his poem, "Runoff," is in hope, too. The promise of spring for him, is a metaphor for one of many functions of the imagination.

American Life in Poetry

In this instance it is the capacity to believe in a better future by seeing it before it comes.

I imagine that readers will get that part, long into the future.

Runoff

January's drop-down menu leaves everything to the imagination: splotch the ice, splice the light, remake the spirit...

Just get on with it, doing what you have to do with the gray palette that lies to hand. The sun's coming soon.

A future, then, of warmth and runoff, and old faces surprised to see us. A cache of love, I'd call it, opened up, vernal, refreshed.

American Life in Poetry Press, 2021). Poem reprint is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetry.foundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2021 by Sidney Burris, "Runoff" from *What Light He Saw I Cannot Say*, (LSU Press, 2021). Poem reprint ed by permission of the author and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2021 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author; Kwame Dawes, is George W. Holmes Professor of English and Glenna Luschei Editor of *Prairie Schooner* at the University of Nebraska.

Community Calendar

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

Today
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — For caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias, the group will meet at 6 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at Blackford Community Hospital conference room, 410 Pilgrim Boulevard in Hartford City. For more information, call Joni Slentz or Lisa Garrett

at (765) 348-1072 or (800) 272-3900.

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 — BRANNA'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 (260) 726-9625 or (260) 703-0534.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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.

Brides Section

in The Commercial Review Specials

Full page color (only one available)

\$525

1/2 page color - \$425

1/2 page black and white - \$225

Big business card (3x3.5)

\$78

Deadline is Jan. 13



Contact

Lindsey Cochran

260-726-8141

L.cochran@thecr.com

The ticket turned out to be lucky

By JACK RONALD

The Commercial Review

I bought a Powerball ticket the other day, and it nearly ruined my weekend.

Ordinarily, I'm not a big customer of the lottery industry. But every once in awhile, when the jackpot reaches stratospheric levels, I'll reach for my wallet and pay what some refer to as "the stupidity tax."

So it was that not long before Christmas, when the Powerball bundle was heading toward \$500 million, I took the plunge.

At first, like most lottery ticket buyers, I found myself focusing on the jackpot.

What would I do with that sort of money? Even after taxes, that's a Scrooge McDuck-sized pile of cash.

The possibilities were nearly endless:

Back in the Saddle



•Travel — post COVID — was on the list.

•So was making sure that our grandchildren's college education was taken care of. We've started 529 plans for all of them, but this would take things to a whole new level.

•And while our kids are doing well, it would be wonderful to assure a meaningful measure of security for their futures.

•Meanwhile, there's a piece of lakefront property in New Hampshire that Connie and I have often dreamed of.

Those were just the self-indulgent things on the list. At the same time, there were many good things that could be done on a community level:

•Endowments for Arts Place, John Jay Center for Learning, Jay Community Center, Friends of the Limberlost and Jay County Public Library.

•With that kind of money, I daydreamed, I could be a one-man redevelopment commission, a kind of a force of nature for rescuing local downtowns. The former Stewart Brothers Furniture building would be acquired to become the new home for Dunkirk's library and the Glass Museum. Downtown Portland and downtown Redkey would get serious facelifts. Unencumbered by local politics and second-guessing, I'd go all out.

And then, just as quickly as

the daydreams began, misgivings materialized:

•How would that kind of windfall affect my friendships? Would it create a barrier? Would I become the bank of last resort for acquaintances who had fallen on hard times?

•Would we have to move? Would we have to go somewhere that could provide some measure of anonymity?

•How could we help our grandchildren and children without ruining their lives? It's one thing to help, but you don't want to create dependency. No one wants to create a generation of "trust fund babies." At least, I don't.

And finally, just about the time I pulled into the driveway at home, there was something more.

At this stage in my life — I think it was Garrison Keillor who referred to it as the time when the closing credits begin to roll — it's

inevitable that I find myself wondering how I want to be remembered after I'm gone.

For me, the answers were simple. I want to be remembered as a good husband, as a good father, as a good boss, as someone who had an impact on his community and as someone who tried to make a difference in the world.

Would I trade all that to be remembered as "the guy who won the Powerball"?

The answer was no.

But I have to say that the question bothered me all weekend. I could feel the lottery ticket in the pocket of my jeans, and for all I knew it was a winner.

So it was a relief Monday to find out that the jackpot was growing and my ticket was just another piece of paper to be recycled.

I don't think I have ever felt luckier.

Make your voices heard

Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)

The political mood across the nation is fraught with tension and irritability, a situation you would expect to be magnified in states that are closely divided along ideological fault lines.

But here in Indiana, where one political party has maneuvered itself into a position of outright dominance, the atmosphere isn't much different than in swing states.

That's because the Republican Party, which enjoys supermajority status in both houses of the legislature as well as controlling the executive branch, faces pitched internal battles over specific issues in the realms of education, public health and taxation.

That's the backdrop as Hoosier legislators convened this week for another session of the Indiana General Assembly.

This session is technically the continuation of the session that began last January, an eventful four months that produced a new biennial budget as well as triggering a lawsuit by the governor against the legislature itself.

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to rage across the state and culture battles over vaccine mandates, masking, voting rights and racial education, there is no reason to believe this session will be any less dramatic.

This is destined to be an important session that will hold a number of items relevant to Hoosiers.

Because Republicans hold the power, there isn't much Democrats can do — at least not directly — to exert influence.

Democratic votes, however, will become crucial in instances where Republicans need support to resolve their own internal disputes.

Rep. Todd Huston of Carmel is serving as speaker of the House. Sen. Rodric Bray of Martinsville is the Senate president.

We urge citizens to interact with their representatives.

It's easy to contact legislators to share views.

Hoosier Editorial

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to rage across the state and culture battles over vaccine mandates, masking, voting rights and racial education, there is no reason to believe this session will be any less dramatic.

Here's how:

•Members of the Indiana House of Representatives can be reached by phone at (800) 382-9842.

•Members of the Indiana Senate can be reached at (800) 382-9467.

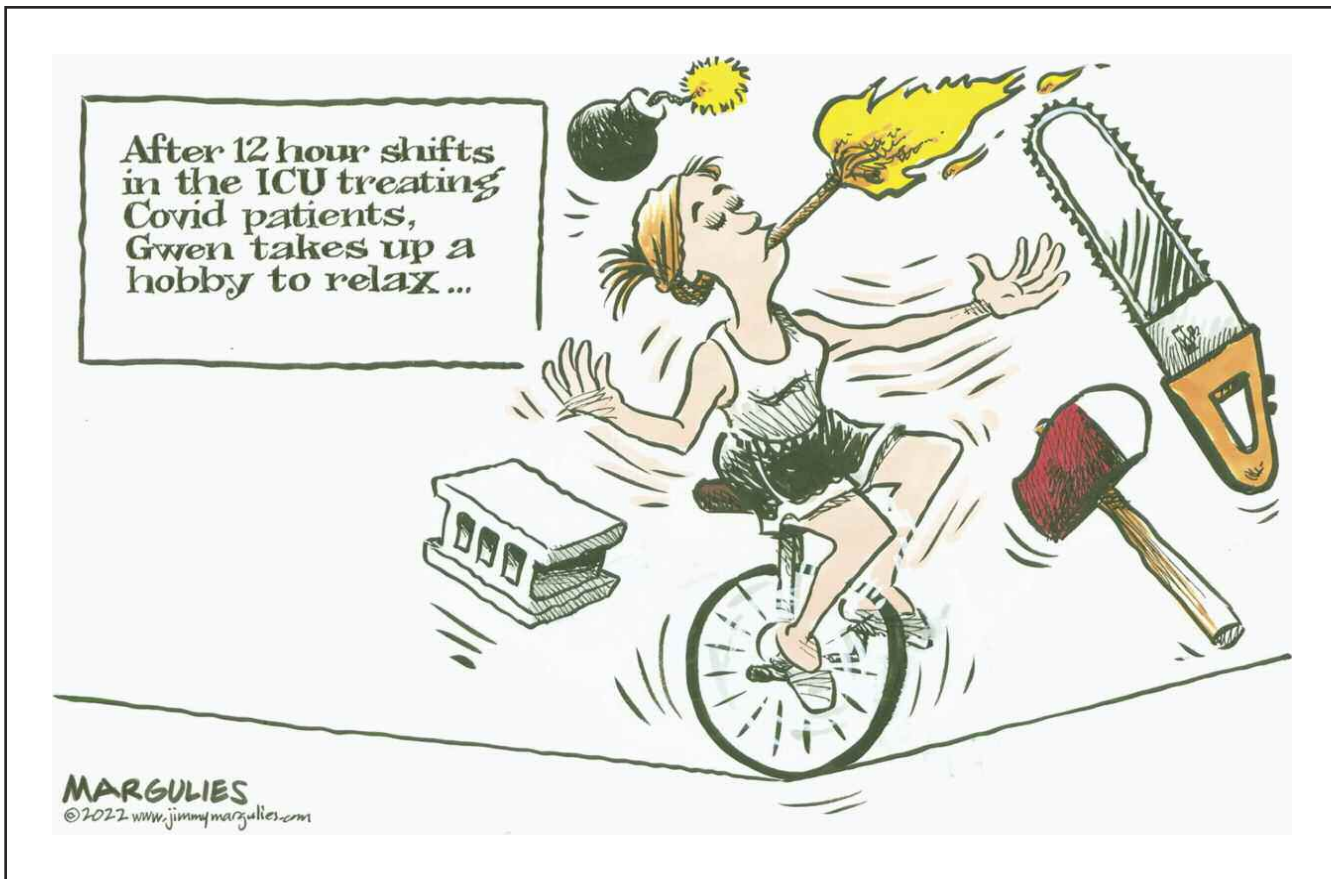
•The mailing address for representatives and senators is 200 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204.

•If you have online access, there is a wealth of information, including email addresses of legislators, about the General Assembly and related services at IN.gov/legislative.

Government is at its best when the people are informed and engaged.

Lawmakers work for you.

Let them know your opinions.



Manufacturing faces reckoning

By HEATHER LONG

The Washington Post

The Great Resignation that has seen over 43 million Americans leave their jobs in the past year shows no sign of slowing. Job quitting hit a record in November.

Restaurants and hotels have had the highest resignation rates, and that's hardly surprising. The pandemic has caused millions of workers to reassess their lives and walk away from low-paying jobs. Many are getting hired quickly elsewhere for more money and better hours. Health care workers are also quitting at record rates, as doctors, nurses and aides face burnout after their harrowing experience these past two years.

But another part of the resignation story has received far less attention. Manufacturing has weathered the biggest surge in workers quitting — a nearly 60% jump compared with pre-pandemic. No other industry has seen an increase like that.

It's a remarkable shift. Manufacturing has long been glorified in American society for offering a middle-class lifestyle. President Joe Biden campaigned on reviving the sector; so did former president Donald Trump. News stories lamented the loss of manufacturing jobs in the Great Recession. Yet suddenly workers are voluntarily leaving these jobs at rates never seen before.

Part of what's going on here is the coronavirus. In manufacturing, you can't work from home. A worker at a factory in Ohio that produces a popular kitchen appliance told me she lives in constant fear of an outbreak. The company she works for has an official policy requiring all workers to wear masks, but it's not enforced.

"Last Thursday, I decided to count how many people were wearing masks properly," said Alicia, who asked that her last name not be used out of fear of retribution for speaking to the media. "Out of 200 people I saw, only 12 were wearing it properly.

Heather Long



Most had the mask down on their chin."

Numerous factory workers also said staffing is so low right now that they are basically being forced to work six days a week. Alicia said a young mom she used to work with took a job at a gas station to have more control over her schedule.

But something deeper is driving the spike, too. The reality is the sector no longer provides the good-paying jobs it once did. From 1976 to 2006, average hourly pay for a rank-and-file factory worker was substantially higher than the average across all industries for nonsupervisory workers. Now manufacturing pay is below average.

Pay raises have been especially meager in "nondurable" manufacturing. Food-preparation facilities such as meatpacking plants are a prime example. The pay is low, conditions are harsh, and there have been severe COVID-19 outbreaks. As retail stores, restaurants and warehouses hike pay, nondurable manufacturing jobs look less attractive. Average pay for rank-and-file warehouse and transportation workers is now over \$25 an hour vs. \$22.62 for nondurable manufacturing workers.

Some economists point out that hiring in manufacturing has been robust, suggesting many workers are quitting one factory and going to another where they can earn more. That's likely true, but the industry is still down almost 220,000 workers.

Another important shift has been the rise of the two-tiered pay system in manufacturing. While some manufacturing jobs are unionized and

come with pay around \$30 an hour and generous benefits, more and more factories are also employing temporary workers. Temps typically make closer to \$20 an hour, with fewer benefits.

The two-tiered system is dragging down overall pay, especially for newer workers. This issue was at the heart of the recent strike at Kellogg's breakfast cereal plants. Kellogg's ultimately agreed to raise temp pay from about \$22 to \$24.11 an hour and to move more temp workers into the higher-paying tier.

Workers had almost no leverage during the Great Recession, when jobs were scarce and manufacturers said they needed to cut costs to survive. But things are vastly different now. Job openings are near record highs, and there aren't enough workers to fill them. This is the best job seekers' market ever recorded. And the manufacturing sector overall looks strong.

Workers understand this. There have been about 140 walkouts at manufacturing businesses since the pandemic began, according to Payday Report, which tracks worker uprisings.

Manufacturing workers want higher pay. But they also want respect, a safe workplace and more flexible schedules, and they're willing to walk out if they don't get it.

The past year has been a story of worker empowerment. So far, the biggest pay increases have gone to the bottom quarter of workers — those making under about \$17 an hour. Will the next rung of workers see similar big gains in 2022? What happens in manufacturing will be telling.

An industry that has quietly looked for ways to reduce labor costs is now facing a reckoning.

Long is a columnist and member of The Washington Post's Editorial Board. She was formerly U.S. economics correspondent from 2017 to 2021.

The Commercial Review

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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter." — Thomas Jefferson

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COVID ...

Continued from page 1

The governor hasn't reimposed any virus precautions since letting the statewide mask mandate expire in April but urged more vaccinations as Indiana has the country's ninth lowest rate for a fully vaccinated population at 52%, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"If you haven't been vaccinated, I encourage, I plead, I beg of you to speak with your doctor and do so," Holcomb said. "I say this, even if you've disagreed with every position I've taken. I want us both to be around to continue those disagreements."

Those remarks came as House Republicans could later this week vote on advancing a bill that would force businesses to grant broad exemptions to any COVID-19 vaccination requirements in response to conservative grievances over government-ordered virus precautions. The state's major medical and business groups have opposed the proposal — and Holcomb has repeatedly said he believed employers should have the freedom to make such decisions themselves.

Democrats faulted Holcomb for not crediting the American Rescue Plan signed in March by President Joe Biden for helping boost the state's finances and not offering ways to further help residents still struggling from the pandemic.

Holcomb's speech highlighted the state's budget surplus that is triggering anticipated \$125 payments to all taxpayers this spring under Indiana's automatic taxpayer refund law. Holcomb has said he has an open mind about possible tax cuts proposed by House

Republicans while believing such a decision should until a new two-year state budget is drafted in 2023 and there is more certainty about the economy.

The governor raised possible future expenses to improve Indiana's public health system and help reduce the state's high obesity and smoking rates and low percentages of childhood immunizations.

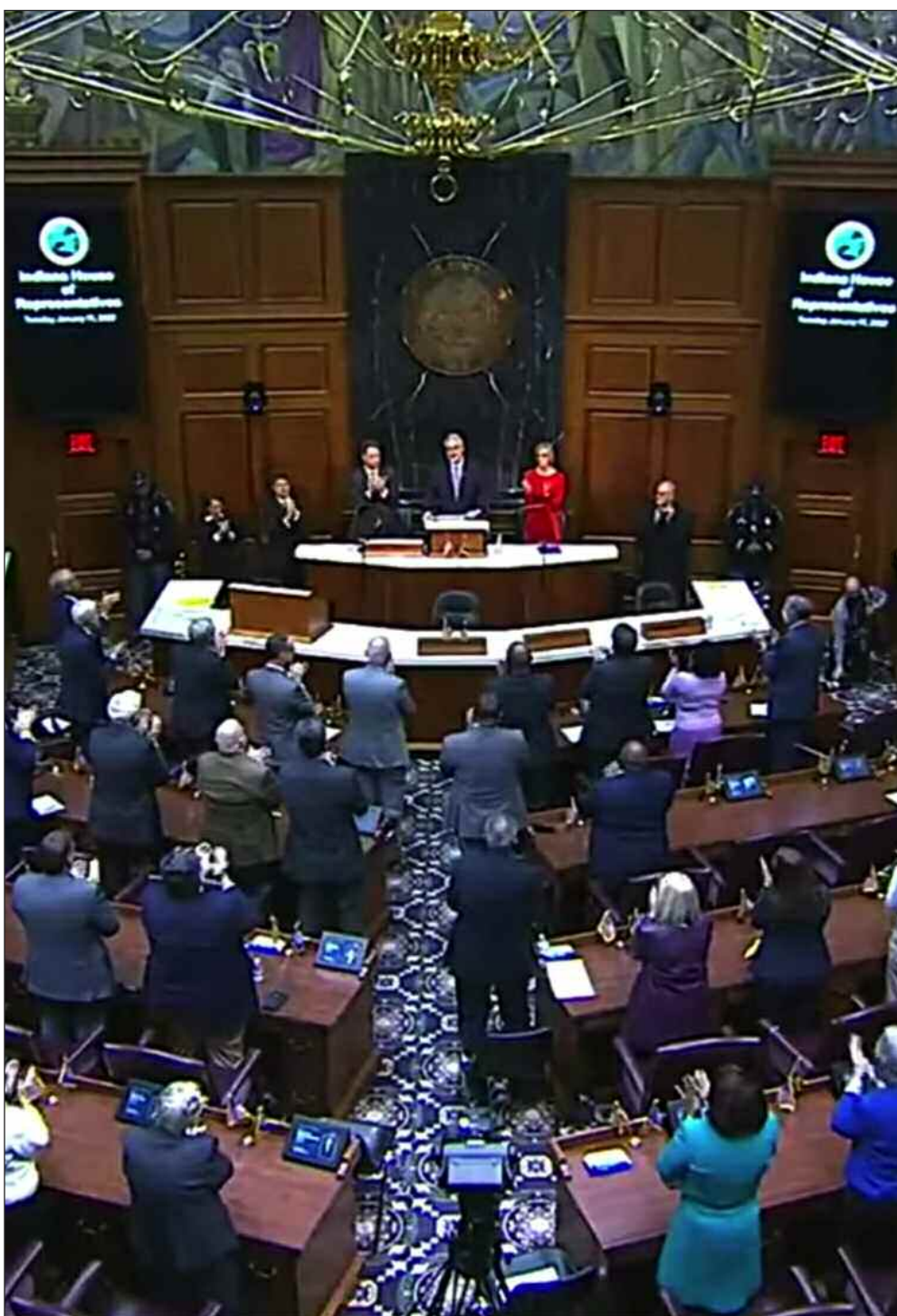
"Like everywhere else in America, our efforts to tackle addiction in our communities have been compounded by the pandemic and we've seen increased fentanyl use," Holcomb said. "So we must double down to reach more people with substance use disorder and get them into recovery and back to their families, back to work, back to school."

Holcomb also didn't discuss during his speech the push by conservative lawmakers for mandating that classroom materials be vetted by parent review committees and placing restrictions on teaching about racism and political topics. Instead, Holcomb focused his remarks on education to the funding increase that lawmakers approved last spring that he said had bumped up annual salaries for new teachers to at least \$40,000 in about 80 of school districts.

Democrats criticized the Republican-dominated Legislature for the attention it is giving to divisive cultural issues.

Senate Democratic Leader Greg Taylor of Indianapolis said more attention was needed on tackling matters such as Indiana's high childcare costs and raising the minimum wage.

"The governor, paint-



The Commercial Review screenshot

Members of the Indiana General Assembly applaud Tuesday night during Gov. Eric Holcomb's State of the State address.

ing a rosy picture financially for the state of Indiana, still has not addressed those issues," Taylor said. "There's nothing to address the unrelenting health crisis that we're in. There's

nothing, no plan to increase wages."

Holcomb returned to the Indiana House chamber for the speech after pre-recording the televised address last year. He had planned to give the speech

to a small live audience in the House chamber because of COVID-19 precautions but that was called off amid FBI warnings about protests in the wake of the deadly siege on the U.S. Capitol.

Hospitals report record numbers

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana hospitals are reporting a record number of COVID-19 patients as the highly contagious omicron variant continues driving a statewide surge, the state's latest coronavirus update shows.

Indiana's COVID-19 hospitalizations reached 3,467 on Monday, eclipsing the previous pandemic peak of 3,460 the state set on Nov. 30, 2020, according to an update posted Tuesday on the state health department's coronavirus dashboard.

COVID-19 patients occupied 38.4% of Indiana's intensive care unit beds Monday and the state had only 10.6% of its ICU beds available overall.

Indiana also reported 11,932 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday as the omicron variant continued spreading.

Brian Tabor, president of the Indiana Hospital Association, said the surge in COVID-19 patients, combined with non-COVID-19 patients who delayed treatment earlier in the pandemic but are now seeking care, has created a "crisis" for Indiana's hospitals.

"Indiana hospitals are overwhelmed with the highest number of patients on record and have reached a state of crisis with dwindling capacity left to care for patients," he said Tuesday in a statement.

Tabor said Indiana's emergency departments are seeing between 8,500 and 10,000 visits per day, and at any given time several hundred patients are waiting in ERs for hospital beds to open up.

Bill gets pushback

By CASEY SMITH
Associated Press/Report for America

INDIANAPOLIS — School board members from across Indiana voiced opposition Tuesday to a Republican-backed proposal that would add political party identifications to what are now nonpartisan school board elections throughout the state.

The bill's author, Republican Rep. J.D. Prescott of Union City, said the impetus of the bill stemmed from voter demands for more transparency from school board members.

He contended during a bill hearing at the Indiana Statehouse on Tuesday that knowing a candidate's party affiliation will help voters know where a school board candidate stands "on the political spectrum" and how they view national issues. Political party chairs will also help recruit more candidates and lead to more engagement in the election process, Prescott said.

"School boards handle one of the largest budgets with our local elected office," Prescott said. "When I look at Republicans or Democrats, I think you can tell a difference between financial responsibility and moral character in some cases."

Candidates running for school boards would be required to identify as a Republican, Democrat or Independent, according to the legislation.

Currently, Indiana is among 42 states where local school board elections are held without any party identification on the ballot for candidates.

More than a dozen school board members from districts across Indiana pushed back on the plan, however, arguing that such steps would needlessly further insert politics into local school decisions.

Terry Spradlin, executive director of the Indiana School Boards Association, said politics may compromise the ability of

school boards "to put kids first" and make school board members "feel conflicted about where their allegiances lie."

Spradlin said the school board association instead recommends moving to a hybrid system, where local voters would decide whether to create a partisan school board for their school district.

"We believe candidates for school board should be elected on their qualifications, merits, experience and platform, no matter their political party affiliation. School boards are not immune from political conflict ... but inviting politics into the boardroom ... could have the unintended consequence of further fueling such conflict," Spradlin said. "There is no Democrat or Republican way to transport and feed children, pay bills, plan facility improvements, or approve school calendars."

Adam Burtner, director of government affairs for the Indy Chamber, testified that partisan school board elections would shift electoral accountability from "engaged voters and parents" to "political parties and apparatuses." That change could jeopardize nonpartisan interests of the business community and overall innovation in Indianapolis, he added.

"It's our view, and frankly our fear, that this disincentives thoughtful, qualified candidates to run, and leads our school districts down a path of more partisan division and toxicity, and less successful outcomes for Hoosier students," Burtner said.

John O'Neill with the Indiana State Teachers Association, the state's largest teachers union, further testified that the House bill would cause school board elections to become "beholden" to party leaders' influence. They system in place is working, he said, with "open dialogue, debate and problem solving" already taking place in open forums at board meetings.

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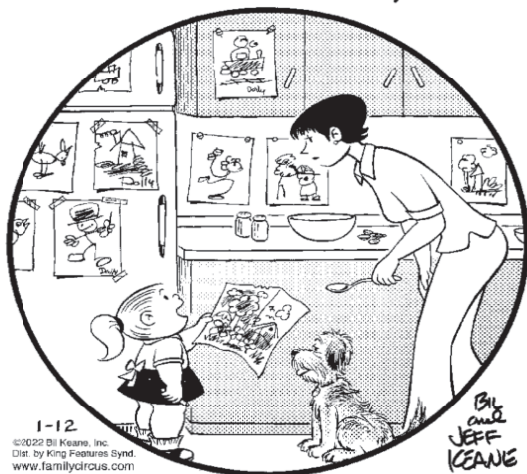
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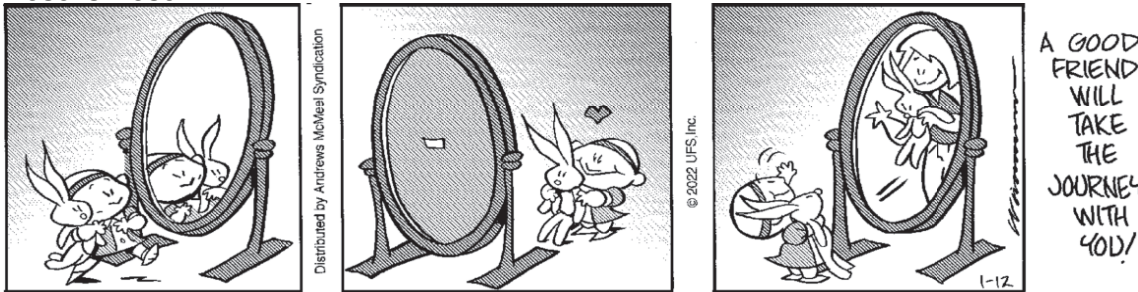


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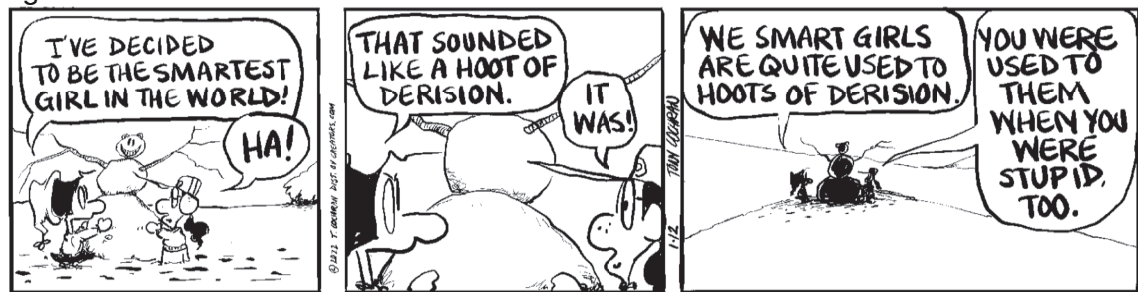
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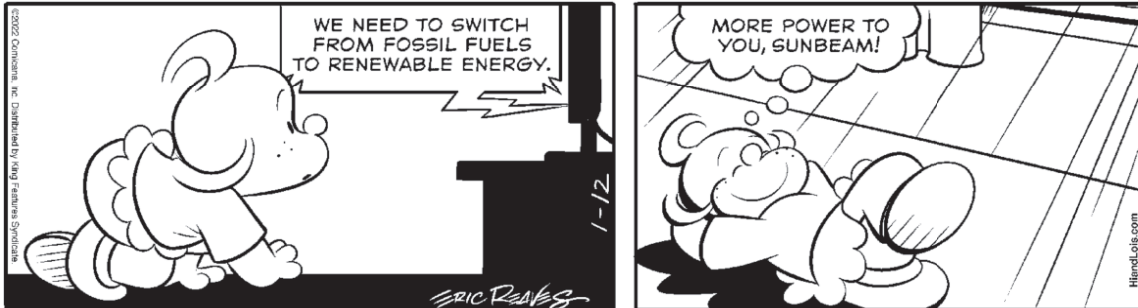
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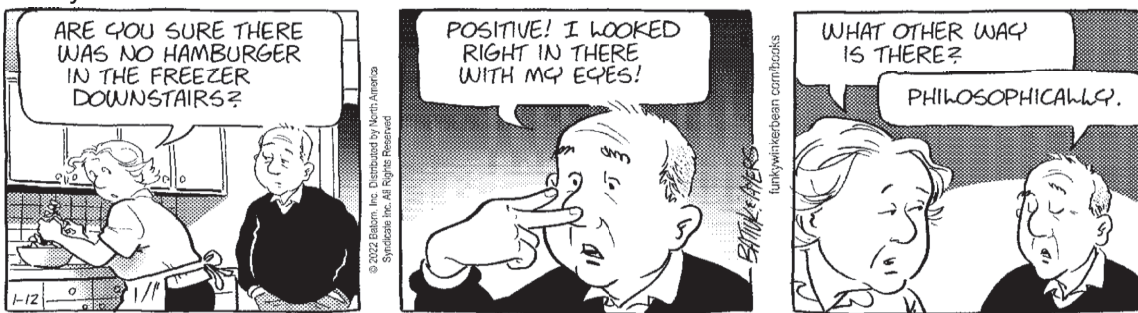
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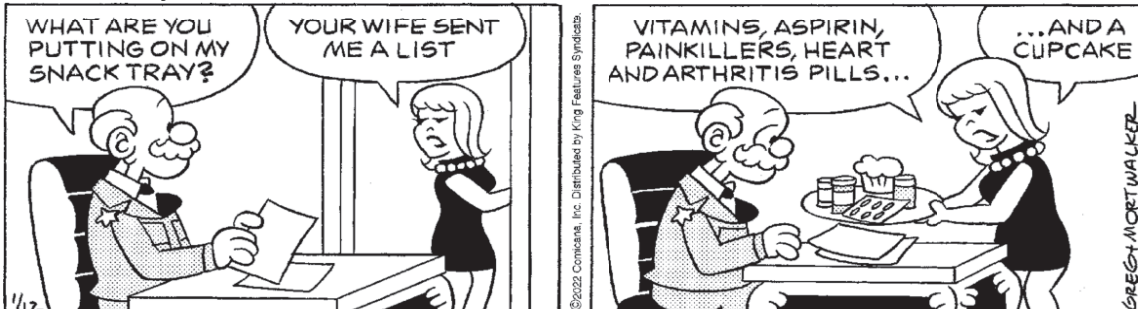
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Sports

Jay rolls over Bruins

The Patriots had a match added to their schedule Tuesday.

They barely broke a sweat in rolling to another win.

Jay County High School's wrestling team won four of the six contested matches Tuesday and were the beneficiaries of a series of forfeits as they dominated the visiting Blackford Bruins 69-7.

The Patriots stacked up three swift pins in the victory, with no one faster than Daidrick Retz. The 145-pounder finished off Todd Thornburg in just 24 seconds. Other first-period pins came from Landon Garringer (106) in 36 seconds over Travis Luckey and Max LeMaster (HWT) in 40 seconds over Gage Latham.

Cameron Clark, the 10th-ranked 138-pounder in the state, scored the other win for JCHS. He edged Bryan Hernandez 3-2.

The lone wins for Blackford came from Ian Reed (160) over Benson Ward 6-0 and Mathew Bailey (195) over Tristin Stout 5-3.

The Patriots (17-2) were the beneficiaries of eight forfeits against the short-handed Blackford squad. They will close their dual season Thursday at Homestead, before heading to the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament on Jan. 21.

Make it two

Schwieterman climbs to 2nd on all-time list as both JCHS squads advance to tourney semifinal

MONROE — All of the Patriots are headed to the semifinal round of the tournament.

One of them will head there as the second-best scorer in the history of the program.

Renna Schwieterman scored 23 points Tuesday to climb to No. 2 on the Jay County High School girls basketball all-time scoring list and power her team to a 48-38 victory over Adams Central in the opening round of the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament.

The Patriot boys joined the girls in advancing to the semifinal round with their 39-31 victory over the host Jets.

Thanks to the boys win, both JCHS teams will play Southern Wells at home Friday night. The girls will start the festivities at 6 p.m. with the boys game to follow. (Championship games are scheduled for Saturday night at South Adams.)

The victory was the 11th in a row for the Jay County girls (14-2), but it did not come easy. After topping Adams Central 76-34 just a month earlier, the Patriots found themselves trailing by three after the first quarter. They were able to erase that deficit with a 17-point second quarter and



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Renna Schwieterman prepares to release a layup during the Jay County High School girls basketball team's game Jan. 4 against Concordia. She scored 23 points Tuesday to lead the Patriots to victory over host Adams Central in the opening round of the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament and move to No. 2 on the JCHS program's all-time scoring list.

stayed ahead in the second half for the 10-point win.

It was the closest game JCHS has played since a 46-43 victory Nov. 26 over Woodlan. Each of the nine wins in between

had come by at least 21 points.

Schwieterman spread out her scoring as she dropped in at least four points in each quarter while also grabbing 10 rebounds. She hit nine

free throws as the Patriots outscored Adams Central 10-1 at the line.

It was her fourth 20-point game in a row and eighth of the season and pushed her career scoring total to 1,079 and move

ahead of Shelby Caldwell (1,071) and Carissa Phillips (1,073) for second on the program's all-time scoring list. She now trails only Indiana Basketball Hall of Famer Shannon Freeman (1,458). (She is on pace for more than 1,600 career points.)

Izzy Rodgers followed with nine points, including a pair of 3-pointers. Madison Dirksen added six points.

Alivia Dalrymple and Kylee Roe totaled 14 and 13 points, respectively, to lead Adams Central.

After both boys teams struggled to score when they met in Monroe three days ago, Jay County turned in a much better first quarter with 15 points. It shot 12-of-23 (52%) in the first half — it hit for just 29.5% in Saturday's 35-25 victory — to build a 10-point lead.

The shooting prowess disappeared in the second half with the Patriots going just 2-of-13, but they hit nine fourth-quarter free throws to preserve the win.

Ethan Dirksen paced JCHS with 16 points, including 10 in the first half and a 4-for-4 effort at the foul line in the fourth quarter. Josh Dowlen followed with seven points.

Ethan Poling and Micah McClure each had 11 points for Adams Central.

Tigers top Patriots

The Patriots won diving and the opening swimming event of the evening.

Victories, however, were difficult to come by the rest of the way.

Jay County High School's swim teams managed just four victories Tuesday night as they both fell to the visiting Yorktown Tigers.

Despite winning just three events, the Patriot girls nearly used their depth to pull off a team victory only to fall to Yorktown by a 155-152 score.

The JCHS boys lost 138-91.

The Patriots got off to a strong start as they swept diving, with Maddy Snow winning the girls event with 161 points. Jamie Mapes was uncontested on the boys side and scored 128.7 points.

Kenzie Huey, Mara Bader, Morgan DeHoff and Zion Beiswanger provided a strong swimming start for Jay County as they teamed to win the 200-yard medley relay by about four and a half seconds in 2 minutes, 6.97 seconds. But the home team would win just one more race the rest of the night while Maria Alexander, Grace Huisman, Riley Powers, Henry Ko, John Hicks and Gannon Crosser all earned two individual victories for the Tigers.

The only other individual win for Jay County came from junior Mara Bader in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:13.61. She was also the runner-up in the 200-yard individual medley.

Adding second-place fin-



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Nick Lyons swims to a second-place finish in the 100-yard backstroke Tuesday during the Jay County High School boys swim team's 138-91 loss to Yorktown.

ishes for the Patriot girls were Emily Dues (100 butterfly), Morgan DeHoff (100 freestyle), Natalie Wehrly (diving) and Kenzie Huey (100 backstroke).

Runner-up efforts for the JCHS boys came from Josh Monroe (200 freestyle), Nick Lyons (100 backstroke) and Kyle Sanders (100 butterfly).

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Thursday
Jay County — Wrestling at Homestead — 6:30 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at Blackford — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball vs. Heritage — 6 p.m.; Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. Marion Local — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball vs. Marion Local — 5 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
6:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Xavier at Villanova (FS1)
7 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Boston Celtics at Indiana Pacers (BALLY)
7:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Dallas Mavericks at New York Knicks (ESPN)

10 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Brooklyn Nets at Chicago Bulls (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Toronto Maple Leafs at Arizona Coyotes (TNT)

Thursday, Jan. 13

7 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Philadelphia Flyers at Boston Bruins (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Portland Trail Blazers at Denver Nuggets (TNT)

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