

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Clearing the path

Ben Hammond removes snow from the sidewalks around his house at 304 W. Walnut St. Monday afternoon. Jay County got a couple of inches of snow Sunday and Monday.

## Substitute solution?

### School board OKs contract with firm to help with shortage

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

The shortage of substitute teachers is a nationwide problem.

Jay School Corporation will try an outside firm in an effort to help solve it.

Jay School Board on Monday approved a one-year contract with ESS to manage the corporation's substitute teachers and instructional assistants.

The board also received updates about COVID-19 and the process toward disposing of unused buildings.

Board members were presented with information about ESS, an education management and staffing firm, during its

December meeting because of struggles with finding substitute teachers. In an information packet presented again Monday, assistant superintendent Trent Paxson noted that the number of times without substitute teacher coverage more than tripled from 62 during the first quarter of 2020-21 to 213 during the same period this year. The number of active substitute teachers has dropped from 56 during the 2018-19 school year to just 30 this year. (Other teachers, aides and administrators have been used to staff classrooms when substitutes are not available.)

In response, the board has already increased the pay rates to \$103 for certified substitute teachers and \$85 for those who are non-certified.

ESS seeks to improve the process and attract more substitute teachers by using a web-based scheduling system (Will-Sub), offering various benefits and implementing a marketing plan. It also offers training for substitutes.

See **Substitute** page 2

## Humane Society to continue with animal control

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Jay County Humane Society is taking over as the main county animal control service.

Jay County Commissioners verbally agreed Monday to contribute \$13,750 quarterly toward the humane society for its animal contract services.

Midwest Pet Refuge and Jay County Humane Society have been providing animal control services to the county for more than a year. Each have been paid \$5,500 quarterly for their services. Tara Drumm, director of Midwest Pet Refuge, noted her organization mostly takes calls made to their facility and

not calls from Jay County Sheriff's Office.

Midwest Pet Refuge originally opted out of plans for contracting with the county as a long-term animal control service, but it has been helping with the transition since former animal control officers Bill and Kathy Fields' retirement at the end of 2020.

Portland City Council also approved an agreement with the humane society Jan. 19 at a rate of \$15,000 per year, plus additional funding for gasoline. (The city contributed \$17,500 to the humane society for its services in 2021.)

See **Control** page 5

## Transgender bill advances

By CASEY SMITH  
Associated Press/Report for America

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana lawmakers advanced a Republican-backed bill Monday that would ban transgender women and girls from participating in school sports that match their gender identity.

The bill would prohibit students who were born male but identify as female from participating in a sport or on an athletic team that is designated for women or girls. But it wouldn't prevent students who identify as female or transgender men from playing on men's sports teams.

House education committee chair Rep. Bob Behning of Indianapolis said the bill, which now heads to the full House, is supported by a "majority" of House Republicans.

The legislation drew nearly three hours of testimony in the committee on Monday, with opponents maintaining that it's unconstitutional, sexist and bigoted.

### Measure would create ban from school sports

"Sports are promoted for K through 12 kids not so they can become scholarship, pro athletes, but because ... sports participation builds self esteem, positive mental health outcomes, self confidence and scholastic achievement," said Emma Vosicky, executive director of GenderNexus, an Indianapolis-based social service agency for trans and nonbinary people and their families. "(This bill) wants to strip these benefits from a whole category of children as punishment for their experience and understanding of their gender."

Representatives from the American Civil Liberties Union

testified that the group intends to file a lawsuit if the "hateful legislation" is signed into law.

"There is no place in Indiana where trans girls have taken over girls sports teams," said Kit Malone, advocacy strategist at the ACLU of Indiana. "Trans people by whatever name used to call them are your neighbors, your friends, your family members, students in your schools. How can we possibly do this?"

Republican Rep. Michelle Davis of Greenwood, who authored the bill, said the purpose of the proposal is to "maintain fair competition in girls' sports."

See **Bill** page 5



Washington Post/Melina Mara

## Fire ravaged

Helped by strong winds, the Colorado Fire swept through the rolling ranch lands in the Palo Colorado community of Big Sur. Firefighters on Saturday were taking advantage of shifting winds while working against a blaze that prompted evacuations in California's Big Sur and shut down part of Highway 1 along the Pacific coastline, the latest wildfire to threaten a region known for its famous landscapes.

### Deaths

**Clela Saxman**, 86, Yorktown  
**Louise Knott**, 88, Coldwater, Ohio  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 32 degrees Monday. The low was 9 early in the day.  
Tonight's low is expected to drop to negative 2, with wind chills as low as negative 15. Skies will be mostly sunny Wednesday with a high of 14.  
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

One new candidate filed Monday to run for election in the May primary. Republican Alicia Corwin filed to run for Pennville Town Council.  
Also recently, Republican Kristin Morningstar filed to run for her party's nomination for auditor. She will take on Emily Franks in the primary.

### Coming up

**Wednesday** — Results from tonight's JCHS swim meet against Blackford and Burriss.

**Friday** — Coverage of Thursday's Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council joint session.



# Substitute ...

Continued from page 1  
The company currently is used by 27 Indiana school systems, including Delaware Community, New Castle and Yorktown schools. It is involved with more than 800 districts nationwide, including 188 in Arkansas, 129 in New Jersey and 110 in Pennsylvania.  
Board members had various questions about the service, including regarding background checks and how much

control principals have over who works in their building.  
Tom Hunt, ESS director of support services in the Midwest, explained that the company uses Safe Hiring Solutions (the same company Jay School Corporation currently uses) for its background checks. Principals can also make requests and offer feedback through the WillSub system. Local staff will also still be used to fill substitute roles

that are needed on short notice.  
Board members Ron Laux, Donna Geesaman, Mike Shannon, Phil Ford, Chris Snow and Jason Phillips, absent Vickie Reitz, voted in favor of trying out the ESS service on a one-year contract.  
ESS is paid based on how many substitutes it provides. The school corporation will pay for the service through coronavirus relief funding

provided by the federal government.  
The new system will be put into effect this spring, with the contract to run through the end of the 2022-23 school year.  
Gulley updated the board on COVID-19 in the schools, saying the corporation has seen an increase in cases just as the county has overall. (Jay County posted its highest number of new confirmed cases of COVID-19 on back-to-back days

with 53 Thursday and 70 Friday.)  
He had sent out a letter Jan. 13 asking parents to be prepared for possible closures related to staffing.  
Gulley reiterated that he intends to keep schools open as they have been thus far.  
"But it's been tenuous on staffing," he added.  
He noted that one bus route was shut down last week.  
See **Substitute** page 5

## CR almanac

| Wednesday<br>1/26  | Thursday<br>1/27   | Friday<br>1/28   | Saturday<br>1/29   | Sunday<br>1/30   |
|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>14/4</b>  | <b>29/17</b>   | <b>24/2</b>  | <b>18/6</b>  | <b>29/16</b>   |
| Skies will be mostly sunny and cold, with wind chill values as low as -15 degrees. | There's a 20% chance of snow, with freezing rain possible at night and wind gusts as high as 20 mph. | Friday will be mostly cloudy, with a high near 24 degrees. The low may dip to 2 degrees. | Mostly sunny skies are on the horizon for Saturday, with a low around 6. | Sunday's forecast is mostly cloudy, with the high reaching 29. |

## Lotteries

**Powerball**  
Monday  
11-29-30-47-53  
Powerball: 16  
Power Play: 3  
Estimated jackpot: \$91 million

**Mega Millions**  
Estimated jackpot: \$396 million

**Hoosier**  
Monday  
Midday  
Daily Three: 2-3-0  
Daily Four: 7-3-1-3  
Quick Draw: 2-5-7-8-10-11-21-26-37-39-41-46-50-56-62-65-66-70-76-80  
Evening  
Daily Three: 2-1-2  
Daily Four: 9-7-9-5  
Quick Draw: 6-9-11-18-19-32-35-37-42-47-54-60-61-

63-65-68-72-74-75-79  
Cash 5: 2-8-12-35-37  
Estimated jackpot: \$180,500

**Ohio**  
Monday  
Midday  
Pick 3: 7-1-4  
Pick 4: 1-3-8-4  
Pick 5: 6-6-4-2-3  
Evening  
Pick 3: 8-4-7  
Pick 4: 4-7-5-3  
Pick 5: 8-0-1-5-8  
Rolling Cash 5: 5-20-22-24-38  
Estimated jackpot: \$150,000  
Classic Lotto: 14-15-21-44-47-48  
Kicker: 9-5-7-5-1-0  
Jackpot: \$20.8 million

## Markets

**Cooper Farms Fort Recovery**  
Corn.....6.33  
Feb. corn .....6.35  
Wheat .....8.01

**POET Biorefining Portland**  
Corn.....6.42  
Feb. corn .....6.42  
March corn .....6.37

**The Andersons Richland Township**  
Corn.....6.22  
Feb. corn .....6.27  
Beans .....13.99  
Feb. beans .....13.99

Wheat .....8.06  
Feb. wheat .....8.06

**Central States Montpelier**  
Corn.....6.22  
Feb. corn .....6.22  
Beans .....14.00  
Feb. beans .....14.00  
Jan. wheat .....8.14

**Sunrise St. Anthony**  
Corn.....6.22  
Feb. corn .....6.22  
Beans .....13.86  
Feb. beans .....13.89  
Wheat .....7.81

## Today in history

**On Jan. 25, 1945,** the World War II Battle of the Bulge ended as German forces were pushed back to their original positions.  
**In 1533,** England's King Henry VIII secretly married his second wife, Anne Boleyn, who later gave birth to Elizabeth I.  
**In 1863,** during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln accepted Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside's resignation as commander of the Army of the Potomac and replaced him with Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker.  
**In 1915,** America's first official transcontinental telephone call took place as Alexander Graham Bell, who was in New York, spoke to his former assistant, Thomas Watson, who was in San Francisco, over a line set up by American Telephone & Telegraph.  
**In 1924,** the first Winter Olympic Games opened in Chamonix, France.  
**In 1945,** Grand Rapids, Michigan, became the first community to add fluoride to its public water supply.  
**In 1971,** Charles Manson and three women followers were convicted in Los Angeles of murder and conspiracy in the 1969 slayings of seven people.  
**In 2012,** Jay County Hospital Board approved a contract with HPSA Acumen for \$27,000 to look into obtaining a Health Professional Shortage Area designation for Jay County, which could potentially bring additional Medicare funds into physician offices.  
—AP and The CR

## Citizen's calendar

**Wednesday**  
6 p.m. — Jay County Soil and Water Conservation District, Miller Machine Shed, 705 E. 300 North, Portland.

**Thursday**  
1 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council joint session, former Judge Haynes Elementary School, 827 W. High St., Portland.

6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.

# Obituaries

**Clela Saxman**  
March 20, 1935-Jan. 20, 2022  
Clela Elizabeth Treece Saxman, 86, passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by loved ones including her Maltese on Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022, in Yorktown, Indiana.  
Clela was born in her grandparents' home on March 20, 1935, to George H. and Edith Caroline Bash Treece in Bryant Indiana. In the 1970s, the homestead was sold and became Bearcreek Farms. She graduated from Bryant High School in 1953 and continued her education by graduating from Ball State Teachers College in 1957 and obtaining her master's degree in 1961.  
Clela was married on Aug. 17, 1958, to Frederick William Saxman. He spotted her on the school bus and started writing her notes that were transferred by a friend. Invariably, he would wrap a piece of Juicy Fruit gum in his note. The rest was their love story.  
Clela and Fred owned Muncie's first Harley Davidson franchise from 1967 to 1974. They enjoyed many motorcycle trips with their only child, Lizabeth, attending Motormaid conventions in the summer.  
Clela's love of teaching spanned 41 years, 22 of which were spent at Yorktown Middle and High School. While there, she sponsored the FHA and took them on several skiing trips. For the last 20 years of her career, she was the department head and was in charge of the curriculum. To this day, she always said she had the nicest kids in school.  
Treatment and survival of breast cancer led to her retirement in 1998. With retirement, she and Fred wintered in Florida for 14 years. She enjoyed doing ceramics, playing shuffleboard, being a card shark and frequenting the flea market for trinkets and treasures.  
Clela was a member of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Muncie where she participated in the choir for many years. She was a talented pianist, an avid book reader and loved all animals. She created many sewing pieces, played dominoes with friends, loved riding her bicycle to feed the local ducks and would relax after a hard day by enjoying a Klondike Bar.  
Everyone that knew Clela was touched by her generosity, kindness and class. No adjectives are worthy enough to describe her as a mother, grandmother, teacher and friend.



Saxman

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother Orvis; half brothers Bill and Jim; and her husband Frederick.

She is survived by her daughter Lizabeth Ann (Liz) and her husband Ted Van Hooser; granddaughter Kathryn (Katie) along with her fiancé Nick Novotny; her half sister Mary Bridges; several nieces and nephews; and her beloved Maltese, Abby.  
The family would like to thank the caregivers from Home Instead, IU Health Ball Memorial Hospice, special friends Andrea Dyer and Dick Houser, Dr. Morgan Langhofer, Pastor Jerry O'Neal and niece Evelyn Stephenson.

Calling hours will be Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022, at Elm Ridge Funeral Home, 4600 W. Kilgore Avenue, Muncie, Indiana, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Calling hours are Friday, Jan. 28, 2022, will be from noon to 1 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 900 W. White River Boulevard, Muncie, Indiana.

Funeral services will be Friday, Jan. 28, 2022, at 1 p.m. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Masks and social distancing are required at Elm Ridge Funeral Home and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Burial will follow at Gravel Hill Cemetery in Bryant, Indiana.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Cancer Society, A Better Way, Muncie Animal Shelter and ARF.

## Louise Knoth

July 7, 1933-Jan. 20, 2022  
Louise Ann "Lou Ann" Knoth, 88, of Coldwater, Ohio, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022, at Briarwood Village in Coldwater.

She was born on July 7, 1933, in Portland, Indiana, to the late Linus and Esther (Krieg) Muhlenkamp.

In addition to her parents, Lou Ann was preceded in death by her husband, Cletus C. Knoth; her daughter-in-law, Judy Knoth; her siblings, Alvin (Delores) Muhlenkamp, Ernest Muhlenkamp, Irma Kuess, Elaine Carlisle and Juanita (Paul) Buening; and her in-laws, Armella (Nelson) Mangan and Virgil Krieg.

Lou Ann was a 1949 graduate of Coldwater High School. She married the love of her life, Clete Knoth, on Nov. 24, 1951. After her children were grown, she went to work for the Celina Manor in their dietary depart-



Knoth

ment for many years. Lou Ann was also a wedding cook throughout the years. In her free time, she enjoyed playing cards, bingo, sewing and making crafts. Lou Ann also liked to travel, even if it was just leaving the house to socialize with her family and friends. Lou Ann was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, the Altar Rosary Sodality, Catholic Order of Foresters and the American Legion Auxiliary in Fort Recovery.

Lou Ann is survived by her children, Pat (Eric) Sudhoff of Celina, Ohio, Linda (Steve) Steinbrunner of Coldwater, Kenny (Ann) Knoth of Coldwater, Carol (Greg) Doenges of Coldwater, Ginny (Dan) Dues of Coldwater, Don (Sharon) Knoth of Huntsville, Ohio, Dave (Vicky) Knoth of Coldwater, Connie (Chris) Walter of Celina, Steve Knoth of Coldwater, Jane (Ernie) Timmerman of Fort Recovery, Ohio, Kevin (Karen) Knoth of Coldwater and Tom (Renee) Knoth of Naples, Florida; 44 grandchildren; 98 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren; her siblings, Ivan (Sue) Muhlenkamp of St. Joe, Michigan, Lavaughn (Doris) Muhlenkamp of Portland, Ben (Susan) Muhlenkamp of Baldwin, Missouri, and Kathy (Tom) Coon of Little Rock, Arkansas; her brothers-in-law, Tom Carlisle of Dayton, Ohio, and Elmer Kuess of Celina, Ohio; her sisters-in-law, Janet Muhlenkamp of Portland and Rosie Krieg of Fort Recovery.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022, at St. Anthony Catholic Church, in St. Anthony, Ohio. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Guests may visit with Lou Ann's family on Monday, Jan. 24, 2022, from 3 to 8 p.m. and again on Tuesday from 9 to 9:45 a.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home in Fort Recovery.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Center of Neurological Development, P.O. Box 117, Burkettsville, OH 45310, or the Alzheimer's Association, Northwest Ohio Chapter, 480 W. Dussel Drive, Maumee, OH 43537.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockman-boeckmanfh.com.

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*The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.*

# Capsule Reports

## Meetings canceled

In response to the recent increase of COVID-19 cases in Jay County, Dunkirk Park Board has canceled its meeting that was scheduled for Wednesday.

Dunkirk's board of works and city council meetings that were scheduled for Monday were also canceled.

## Sliding bus

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000 after a Jay Schools bus driver lost control of the vehicle she was driving and struck a parked truck along

North Street in Portland about 7:10 a.m. Monday.

Paulette I. Wagner, 67, Portland, told Portland Police she was driving a 2022 Freightliner school bus on North Street and approaching the intersection with Wayne Street when the bus started sliding because of ice in the road. The bus sideswiped a parked 1999 Ford F150 registered to Aaron M. Franks of Portland.

Six children were on the bus at the time of the crash. There were no injuries.

See page 5

## SERVICES

Friday  
**Saxman**, Clela: 1 p.m., Holy Trinity Lutheran church, 900 W. White River Blvd., Muncie.

Service listings provided by  
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# Coronavirus test results are pending

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

I took a COVID test the other day. The results aren't back yet. I have tried to follow all the recommendations to avoid the disease. I got the shots for the flu and pneumonia, both COVID shots plus the booster. I have stayed home even more than usual. I have worn the masks. I wash my hands often and use hand sanitizer. I try to keep my distance from everybody. Even with all that I am apprehensive as to what the results will be.

The actual test itself wasn't as bad as I had heard. It was uncomfortable. The nurse who administered it said that

## As I See It



the discomfort only lasts a few seconds. She counted down from five and we were done. The hard part is waiting for the results. What makes this even worse is that they will contact me if the test is positive but not if it is negative.

On the way into the testing site we noticed that several of the light poles were covered with stickers. We wondered if it was some kind of graffiti. On

the way out we realized that the stickers said the person had been COVID screened on a particular date and were identical to the stickers we had been given. We chose not to add to the decorations.

Daughter Beth thinks that her son, Jacob, has the virus. So far his symptoms are mild but she is keeping him home from school just in case. I have no idea how children can handle their schoolwork. It seems like every day there are new rules as to what a teacher can and cannot teach. Plus, school is much more than facts and things to remember for the inevitable test. Socialization, manners,

following directions and any number of other things are learned in school.

There are other members of my family who have gotten mild cases of the virus. Thankfully, most of the ones who qualify for vaccinations have gotten the shots. Any little symptom is checked out. Even with all the precautions some people are still going to get sick. The best we can do is to listen to what the experts tell us. I believe that doctors, teachers and other trained professionals are much more reliable sources of information than some random article on the internet.

I am still baffled as to

why the store shelves are so empty. I understand that the supply chain is a tangled mess. I understand that there are fewer employees than there used to be. However, this pandemic has been going on long enough that we should have figured out how to get around the problems.

I don't want to buy a year's worth of anything at a time. The last thing I need is a dozen or so packages of toilet paper. I don't need a couple of cases of canned fruits or vegetables. Even so, I have found myself tossing a package of tea into the cart every time I go shopping. I have extra unopened packages

at home but I don't want to run out.

I hope this pandemic eventually winds down enough that we can once again go grocery shopping without feeling the need to stock up just in case the next time we go to the stores they are out of what we usually buy.

I hope your tests are negative. I hope my test is negative. I hope that your cupboards are full. If you think that the virus is a hoax then follow the precautions anyway. It won't hurt and will make the vaccinated among us feel better. Better yet it will get the vaccinated ones to quit nagging those of you who are not vaccinated.

## Grandparents lose visitation

DEAR ABBY: My grandson passed away three months before his daughter was born. When she was 6 months old, her mom moved in with her new boyfriend. We were allowed visits for a couple of years, but then that stopped, so we had to take the mom to court to get visitation again.

We learned our visits had been stopped because we referred to her boyfriend by his name instead of "Daddy." We are not allowed to tell our grandchild who her father is. At what age should a child be told the truth, and how is all this going to affect my granddaughter? — TRUTH TELLER IN THE SOUTH

DEAR TRUTH TELLER: Your former daughter-in-law may prefer her little one call her boyfriend "Daddy" because the man is the only father figure your granddaughter has ever known. The time for her to be told all the facts would be when she's old enough to understand the information AND her mother chooses to tell her about her biological father. The truth should not negatively affect her.

.....

## Dear Abby



out menu, which your friend appears to be trying to convince you to do. Because those birthday cards, which are supposed to invoke warm feelings, have the opposite effect, express that you would prefer she save her postage money.

.....

DEAR ABBY: I need your thoughts about a good friend who, at the end of the month of my birthday or the first week of the next one, hits me with a birthday card. Then she says she doesn't know my exact birthdate but at least she remembers the month and, therefore, I should be thankful. Four years later, I am tempted to tell her if it's not important enough to remember the day, then why bother? Am I wrong for feeling this way, or should I just be thankful she at least remembers the month? — BIRTHDAY BOY IN TEXAS

DEAR BIRTHDAY BOY: Frankly, you are being a bit picky. Not everyone feels as strongly as you do about personal milestones. That said, however, gratitude can't be ordered like an item on a take-

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are friends with another couple ("Allen" and "Laura") we enjoy very much. We live about an hour apart, so we don't see them as often as we'd like. When we do make plans, Laura almost always invites along her sister and her husband. While they are a nice couple, we would sometimes prefer it be just the four of us.

We are spending the winter in another state and have invited them to come for a visit. Laura is already hinting around about wanting to invite her sister and husband. How do I politely handle this? — CROWDED IN THE EAST

DEAR CROWDED: Handle this by "politely" telling Laura that you and your husband would prefer it just be a foursome this time, and "perhaps another time" you can include her sister. Period!

## New deadline set for history book

The deadline has been extended for Hoosier Homestead farmers to submit their farm history for publication.

Material for "Hoosier Homestead Farms," a book celebrating nearly 6,000 Indiana farms, is now due by March 30. Any farmer with a Hoosier Homestead Award can submit up to 300 words about their farm history, along with a photo of the farm, family, farm sign or anything else of significance.

Information requested includes the year your farm started, how many generations have worked or owned it, types of crops grown, places your crops are sold and the year your farm was inducted as a Hoosier Homestead Farm. The publisher's website at [acclaimpress.com](http://acclaimpress.com) has a page for farmers to fill out their history.

Copies of the book can be purchased on the web-

## Taking Note

site or by calling (573) 472-9800.

## Scholarship available

A scholarship is available to future professionals in the agriculture industry.

Helena Agri-Enterprises is offering \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors planning to study agriculture or science. The scholarship is available to the Class of 2022 in several counties and states, including Adams, Blackford, Delaware, Jay and Wells counties.

Applications are due Jan. 30, and winners will be notified by March 1. Students can visit [helena-homegrown.com](http://helena-homegrown.com) to apply.

## Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

### Today

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.

### Wednesday

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

Includes activities and devotional time.

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

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday at Harmony Cafe, 121 N. Meridian St.

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

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.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

### Saturday's Solution

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

The objective is to fill a nine-by-nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

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# Who really can't handle the truth?

To the editor:  
There were 574 "mostly peaceful" (Democrat definition) BLM riots where only 25 were killed, thousands of law enforcement officers injured, hundreds of business looted and burned and the White House under siege for days with 60 Secret Service officers injured.

In light of these facts, I have to laugh at the letter to the editor headlined "Banks can't handle the truth" about the Jan. 6 "insurrection," which by the Democratic definition above was a "mostly peaceful protest."

Congressman Jim Banks has opposed the partisan witch hunt aimed at ignoring the truth and trying to find anything to use against former President Donald Trump in 2024. The so-called bi-partisan committee investigating the riot is totally illegitimate because Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi fired the Republican-appointed members and appointed the two most avid Trump

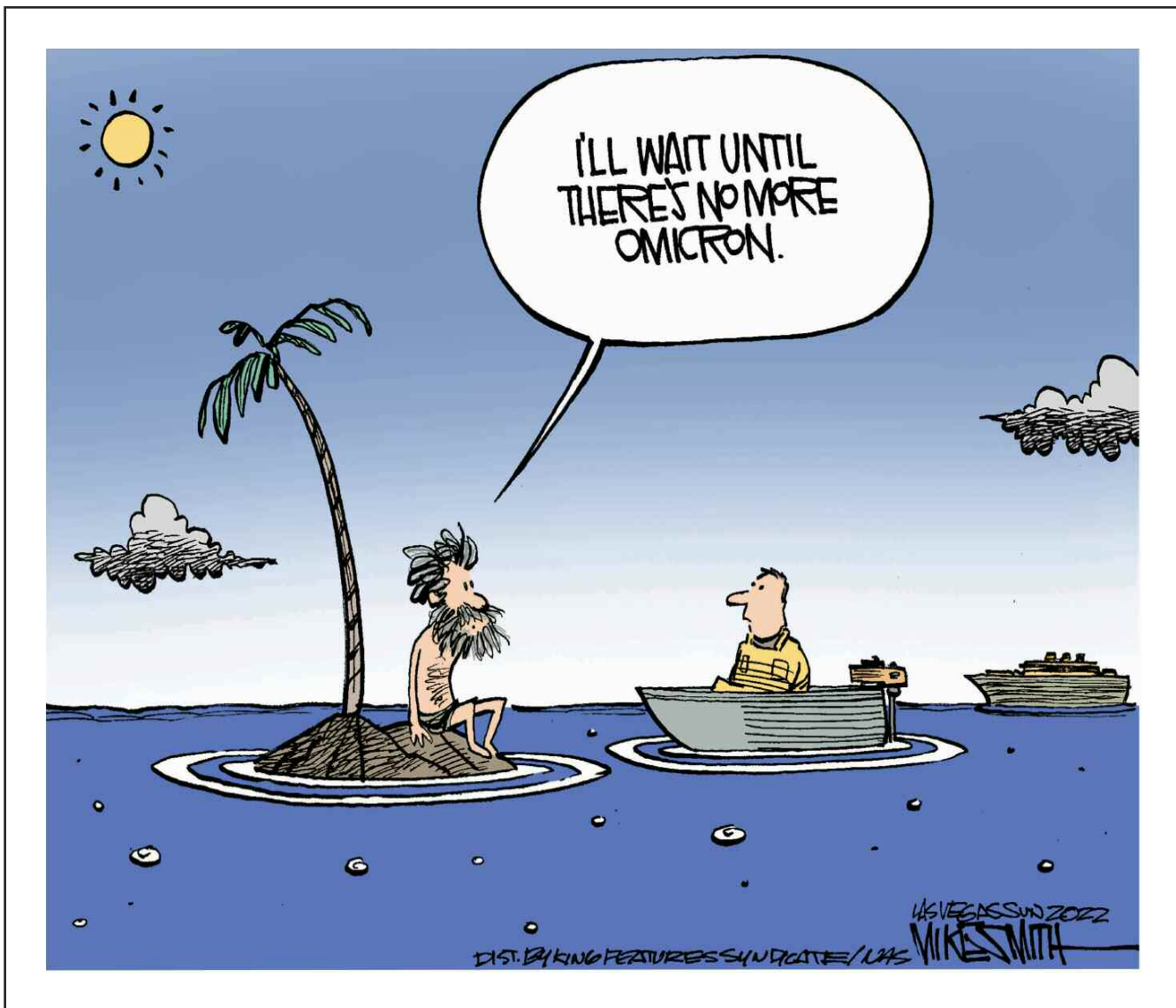
## Letters to the Editor

haters in the House. Because of that, the committee does not have a legitimate ranking member under House rules.

And while the supposed goal is to prevent it ever happening again, they have ignored the fact that Trump offered Pelosi 10,000 National Guard, hidden hundreds of hours of video and not investigated Pelosi's part in the lack of security or why Capital Police opened gates to admit rioters. Over 700 protesters have been arrested and interrogated by the FBI, DOJ and Homeland Security, but those results have not been released. And only one person was arrested for insurrection.

One has to wonder who can't handle those truths?

Stephen Erwin  
Portland



# Legal issues are cautionary tale

By ANDY MUKHERJEE

Bloomberg Opinion

What should be an ordinary commercial dispute between Amazon and the founders of a near-bankrupt retailer is shining a harsh light on the quality of legal and regulatory protection investors actually receive in India.

The long drawn-out saga has thrown up two questions for prospective investors, or those who already have business interests in India. First, what does a go-ahead from the country's antitrust authority even mean if an entire chain of investment based on that approval has to be unwound or reversed after two years? Second, can one rely on international arbitration to enforce Indian contracts, or will local courts get involved and throw a spanner into alternative dispute-resolution mechanisms?

Last month, Amazon was fined \$26.7 million (2.02 billion rupees) by the Indian competition watchdog. Worse, its \$192 million capital infusion in Future Coupons — a 2019 transaction — was put "in abeyance" for being economical with disclosures. The commission said it was denied an opportunity "to assess the effects of the actual combination," which gave Amazon strategic rights over publicly traded Future Retail. Never mind that those "effects," even if the trust-buster did get a chance to study them, are unlikely to have included concentration of power in the retail industry, for the simple reason that Amazon is not a retailer in India. It's an electronic marketplace for buyers and sellers.

Globally, the definition of what constitutes abuse of dominance is expanding beyond price fixing. As part of a broader crackdown on its tech titans, Beijing imposed a record \$2.8 billion antitrust fine on Alibaba Group for using data and algorithms to obtain an unfair advantage over merchants. Tencent Holdings was hauled up for not properly reporting past acquisitions and investments, and food-delivery app Meituan was punished for forcing restaurants into exclusive arrangements. Even outside China, large consumer tech platforms are facing increasingly hostile scrutiny. The Italian regulator recently handed a \$1.2 billion (1.1 billion euro) penalty to Amazon for discriminating

Andy Mukherjee



*Globally, the definition of what constitutes abuse of dominance is expanding beyond price fixing.*

against third-party sellers who do not use its logistics service.

Amazon's travails in India, however, have little to do with dominance. The foreign firm is legally barred from acting as a retailer that owns or discounts inventory. That explains why Amazon sought to control Future Retail indirectly, via its investment in Future Coupons, a related firm. To keep on the right side of Indian law, the global e-commerce giant has similarly kept its voting rights in another of its acquisitions — the local grocery chain More — below 26%. In doing those deals, however, the U.S. firm hasn't started wielding outside influence on India's \$800 billion-a-year consumer commerce. Mom-and-pop stores control 80% of the grocery market.

Future Retail founder Kishore Biyani did his deal with Amazon in 2019 because he was desperate: He wanted to channel funds to his debt-laden retail network, and Jeff Bezos was willing to be his white knight. The competition regulator gave the deal its approval. While providing the money, though, Amazon insisted on a list of restricted parties to which Future's assets couldn't be divested without its permission. On that list was Mukesh Ambani, Asia's richest man who also controls India's largest retail chain.

However, when the retail industry fell into an abyss after India's COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020, Biyani turned around and sold his 1,500-plus stores to Ambani's Reliance Industries. Amazon began arbitration proceedings in Singapore for breach of contract, jeopardizing the \$3.4 billion acquisition. Without that obstacle, Reliance's own 37 million square feet of retail space would by now have received a nice boost from Future's 16 million square feet. (Reliance is not a party to the legal squabbles between Future and Amazon.)

The freezing of the antitrust approval has put a question

mark around the very contract that Amazon is trying to enforce. When Future tried to use that loophole to get further hearings in Singapore quashed, a Delhi High Court judge remarked that for arbitration to speedily settle disputes, interference by courts must be kept to a minimum. "If the parties are encouraged to approach the court at every stage of the arbitration proceedings, the whole purpose of the arbitration would stand frustrated," the judge said. And yet, just a day later, a two-judge bench of the same court set aside the order, and imposed a stay on proceedings by the Singapore tribunal.

The clock is ticking. Future Retail recently missed a payment to banks, and Reliance's offer to buy the stores from the cash-strapped firm expires in March. Yet the dispute about the fate of its assets is far from over. Amazon is challenging the latest Delhi High Court order in India's Supreme Court and has appealed against the antitrust agency's volte face before a company-law tribunal. And that's the final point investors need to bear in mind: They must be ready for expensive and time-consuming litigation to protect the value of their transactions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government claims — with some justification — to have made India's bureaucratic labyrinth easier for global firms to navigate. Once they do enter, however, contract enforcement can be a whole different story.

.....  
*Mukherjee is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering industrial companies and financial services.*

# In Cuba, show trials never end

The Washington Post

On July 11, 2021, thousands of Cubans flooded the island's streets to protest political repression and economic misery. Inspiring as it was, the uprising — all but unprecedented in the 62-year history of Cuban communism — could not withstand the ferocious crackdown the regime launched, once officials got over their initial astonishment. The regime deployed troops, police and plainclothes goons yet again in November to snuff out an opposition attempt to carry out more marches. And now, in tightly controlled court proceedings across Cuba, the regime is staging what it intends to be the final episode in the drama that began on July 11: trials for hundreds of people accused of purported crimes, often punishable by long prison sentences.

Cuban authorities detained 1,377 people in the wake of July 11, of whom 727 remain in custody, according to Cubalex, a U.S.-based human rights organization. Since Dec. 13, more than 260 trials have been completed, according to the State Department. The trials are being compared with Cuba's notorious Black Spring, the four-day period in March 2003 during which the regime sentenced 75 Cuban dissidents to between six and 28 years each for political offenses. (Due in part to outside pressure, Cuba released the last of the Black Spring prisoners by 2011, with most going into exile.) Yet the Black Spring targeted committed pro-democracy activists and intellectuals. Those facing prison today are basically ordinary working-class people — many quite young, with five being minors aged 16 or 17.

This is in keeping with the spontaneity of the July 11 events, which surged from the desperation of Cuba's poorer neighborhoods, dispropor-

## Guest Editorial

tionately populated by Black people. One Cuban father, Emilio Román, told The Post that his two sons, Emiyoslan, 18, and Yosney Emilio, 25, joined the protests on the spur of the moment — and now face up to 15 and 20 years, respectively, for sedition. Román's 24-year-old daughter is also awaiting trial.

Through sweeping arrests and harsh sentences, the government clearly seeks to intimidate and thereby silence the broadest possible segment of its population. By doing so in trials whose results are essentially preordained the government further hopes to cover its policy in a patina of legality. As international human rights organizations have frequently noted, however, Cuban defendants lack the basic protections of due process — starting with the fact that the crimes many are charged with include vague offenses such as "contempt."

The Havana regime really isn't fooling anyone with the sham proceedings. Whether it's frightening anyone, of course, is a different question, and a crucial one, since what made July 11 so remarkable was that it showed how many ordinary Cubans were beginning to shed their fear of the government in the face of overwhelming need. To be sure, the answer is probably less hopeful — but not entirely hopeless. The mere fact that some families of detainees are willing to tell their stories to the international media is encouraging. It is now more evident than ever that Cuba's communist rule by force rather than consent. And they can't imprison everyone.

# The Commercial Review

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



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# Control ...

Continued from page 1  
Jay County Humane Society launched its fundraising campaign at the end of October to construct a new 4,000 square-foot facility. So far, the organization has raised about \$415,000 for its proposed new building estimated at just under \$1 million. (County officials committed \$275,000 in economic development income tax (EDIT) funds in 2021 toward the project in hopes of converting it into a countywide animal control facility.) It would house about 26 dogs and 120 cats and offer more enclosed areas for stages in the process, including rooms for intake, medical needs and adoption visits. "There is a slight possibility we could have a new shelter before the end of the year," said Mindy Weaver, co-chair of the campaign and treasurer of the humane society.

"Hopefully ... there's a lot going on in the background trying to get this done," added Julie Forcum, campaign co-chair and animal control task force chair. The humane society's current space at 1313 Shadeland Ave., Portland, sits at 1,008 square feet with 576 square feet of exterior kennel space. It holds about 12 dogs and about 20 cats. (Cats are confined to cages. The new facility would include cat colony rooms, similar to those at Midwest Pet Refuge, for free roaming.) Jay County Humane Society scaled back its initial plans presented to the county in 2020, with rough estimates for a new building at about \$1.1 million. Plans were then scaled back to reduce the price to a minimum of \$949,500. (The architectural designs leave space for future expansion.) Commissioner Chad

Aker suggested the county pay Jay County Humane Society for its services and Midwest Pet Refuge subcontract with the organization as needed. Weaver added Midwest Pet Refuge will be paid fairly for its contributions. Commissioners then verbally agreed to pay the humane society for its services quarterly. (No formal contract between the two entities has been signed.) They also paid \$5,500 claims from both organizations for animal control services from October through December. Also Monday, commissioners agreed to invest \$17,850 for restoration of the stained glass skylight in Jay County Courthouse. Some of the panels have separated from the metal framing and require repairs. Superintendent Bruce Sutton noted the process

from Bigelow Glass — it was the most expensive of the three bids presented — should be a more permanent fix for the problem as compared to the other proposals. All 45 panels will be removed and shipped to Bigelow Glass in Findlay, Ohio, to be cleaned, repaired and resized. It will take between three and six months. Jay Emergency Medical Service director Wes Miller also formally announced his resignation from the department. Commissioners appointed Larry Nuckols — he has worked as an EMS responder for more than 20 years — to take the position. Commissioners agreed to send a termination letter (effective April 1) to AccuMed, JEMS' previous billing company. The department has cited issues with AccuMed sending out bills in a timely

manner, with some taking as long as 45 days. JEMS directors Gary Barnett and John McFarland proposed Monday switching to a new billing company, MedBill of Indianapolis. A representative from MedBill noted their company sends bills out within 72 hours of receiving the information. Also, commissioners signed into effect a new ordinance specifying which animals are allowed in the courthouse. Per the ordinance, animals are only allowed if they are a service animal — county attorney Bill Hinkle noted emotional support or comfort dogs do not qualify as service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act — or a trained police dog, or if the animal's presence is required in court. Aker reminded commissioners they will meet with

Jay County Council at 6 p.m. Feb. 2 to discuss the future of Jay County Country Living (formerly known as Jay County Retirement Center). Commissioners tabled a decision on a bid from Charles McClain for 11.93 acres of farm ground near the residential center. In other business, commissioners: •Signed a right-of-way permit for Indiana Michigan Power to work along roads near Pennville, including county roads 300 North, 400 North, 750 West, 500 North, 600 North, 650 North, 900 North. •Selected a \$1,304 bid from Priority 1 Life Safety Systems of Fort Wayne for new security alarm equipment at the courthouse. •Made several appointments, including Judith Affolder, Diana Stultz and Jon Funk to the property tax assessment board of appeals.

# Bill ...

Continued from page 1  
She supported an amendment accepted by the education committee on Monday that removes postsecondary education athletics from the proposal. "I know from experience that

female athletes deserve fair competition and an even playing field," Davis said. "This bill will ensure just that — a fair and equal opportunity to compete — for Hoosier girls, now and in the future."

The legislation would also establish a civil action for violations, and schools wouldn't be subject to liabilities for complying with it. Davis said the grievance provisions could be filed by a coach or

an athletic director if a student on a team had an "unfair advantage" that was "blatant" or "extraordinary," although she acknowledged that students who are excluded from playing sports under the legislation could take

civil action, too. Idaho state Rep. Barbara Ehardt testified Monday at the Indiana Statehouse that the legislation "is not about humanity or inclusion," but rather "about competition and winning."

# Substitute ...

Continued from page 2  
Gulley also presented the board with an update about the progress toward disposal of the former Judge Haynes and Westlawn elementary school buildings. The board had previously voted to donate the Judge Haynes building to The Portland Foundation for an effort to create a child care facility. That process is currently "on hold," Gulley said, with Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council to tour the building at 1 p.m. Thursday as part of their process toward deciding whether to allocate funds for the project. Gulley said he has also invited city officials to take part in the tour. As for Westlawn, Gulley said thus far there has been no "civic interest" expressed in the building. He plans to send letters to brokers this week to seek proposals, with the board to select a broker at its February meeting. In other business, the board: •Honored elementary school teachers for their efforts to receive grants from Dunkirk Kiwanis. The organization awarded \$2,000 to Redkey Elementary and \$1,800 to Westlawn, with the board accepting those grants later in the meeting. •Approved the following: The purchase of a walk-in

combination cooler freezer for Bloomfield Elementary for \$89,853.33. •Received a list of policy changes — topics include public participation in board meetings, staff evaluation, graduation requirements and transportation — for their review. The board will vote on the changes at its next meeting. •Appointed Michael Brewster to Portland Park Board. •Were updated about curriculum changes for the junior-senior high school for the 2022-23 school year. They include the addition of math quantitative reasoning, U.S. government honors and topics in computer science as new courses and the elimination of principles of business operations and technology. •Approved a series of new hires, including Megean Rice as a Lifeskills teacher at Jay County Junior-Senior High School, Laura Homan as a preschool/resource teacher at West Jay Elementary School and Marvin Buckner as JCHS girls golf coach. •OK'd an overnight field trip for the JCHS show choirs for a competition at Homestead. Gulley noted that he plans to ask the board to modify its policy on out-of-state and overnight field trips to allow him to approve such requests in certain situations.



## How different vitamins affect the body

At the dawn of a new year, it's not uncommon for people take inventory of their personal health and strive to make positive changes. Being more conscientious of the foods they put into their bodies is a start, but some individuals may wonder if supplementation can help them go one step further. Nutrition Insight reports that 77 percent of American adults consume dietary supplements, and Nutraceuticals World indicates 98 percent of adult supplement users are taking vitamins and minerals. Individuals considering supplements should always discuss them with their physicians prior to including them in their health regimens. Even those who haven't considered supplements can discuss them with their physicians, as Harvard Health, MedlinePlus and the U.S. National Library of Medicine note that various products can provide some significant benefits. • **Vitamin A (retinoids/carotene):** Beta carotene can be converted into vitamin A as needed. It plays an important role in vi-

sion, keeps tissues and skin healthy, and also is involved with bone growth. • **Vitamin B1 (thiamin):** Helps convert food into energy, and is essential for brain health and nerve function. • **Vitamin B2 (riboflavin):** This works with other B vitamins by promoting growth and the production of red blood cells. • **Vitamin B3 (niacin):** Helps convert food into energy. It's also essential for healthy skin, blood cells, brain, and nervous system function. • **Vitamin B5 (pantothenic acid):** Helps make lipids, neurotransmitters, steroid hormones, and hemoglobin in the body. • **Vitamin B6 (pyridoxine):** This vitamin may reduce the risk of heart disease by helping to lower homocysteine levels. It also helps convert tryptophan into niacin and serotonin, a mood-regulating neurotransmitter. • **Vitamin B9 (folate):** Vital for new cell creation, it helps prevent brain and spine birth defects when taken early in pregnancy. It also may lower risk for colon cancer risk.



• **Vitamin B12 (cobalamin):** Vitamin B12 is important for metabolism and energy production. It also helps form red blood cells and maintain the central nervous system. • **Biotin:** Biotin helps to metabolize proteins and carbohydrates. It also promotes healthy bones and hair. • **Vitamin C (ascorbic acid):** This is an important antioxidant that promotes healthy teeth and gums. It also helps the body absorb iron and maintains healthy tissue by promoting wound healing. Vitamin C may help boost the immune system to help with illness prevention or recovery. • **Vitamin D (calciferol):** Also known as the "sunshine vitamin," vitamin D is made in the body after individuals spend time in the sun. It is

hard to get enough vitamin D from food sources alone. Vitamin D also helps the body absorb calcium, which is vital for healthy bones and teeth. • **Vitamin E (tocopherol):** An antioxidant that helps the body form red blood cells and use vitamin K. Scientists also are studying a potential relationship between vitamin E and a lower risk for Alzheimer's disease. • **Vitamin K (menadiene):** Vitamin K activates proteins and calcium essential to blood clotting. It also may help prevent hip fractures. In addition to these vitamins, the body needs various minerals, including calcium, iron, copper, iodine, magnesium, and more. Speak with a doctor or nutritionist to learn more about supplementation.

# Capsule Reports

Continued from page 2  
**Dogs hit**  
Two Portland men crashed their vehicles into dogs in rural Jay County over the weekend. Stormy Reynolds, 30, was driving west on county road 200 South about 8 p.m. Saturday when his 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan

struck a dog. Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000. Lee E. Habegger, 23, was driving his 2014 Jeep Compass east on county road 100 North about 7:40 a.m. Saturday when his car hit the animal. Damage is estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

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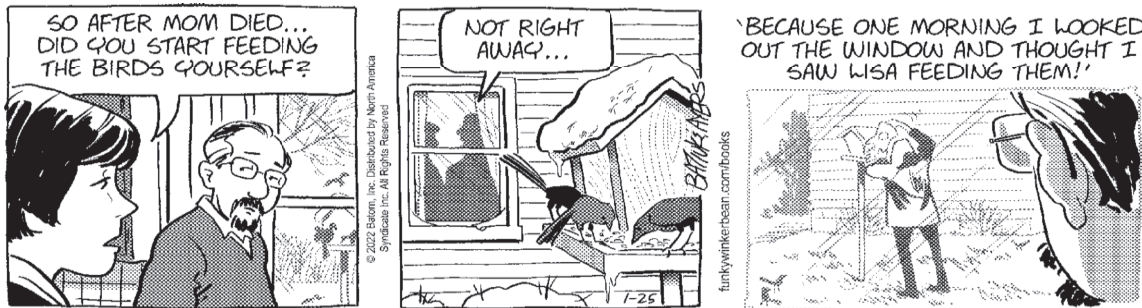
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Hi and Lois



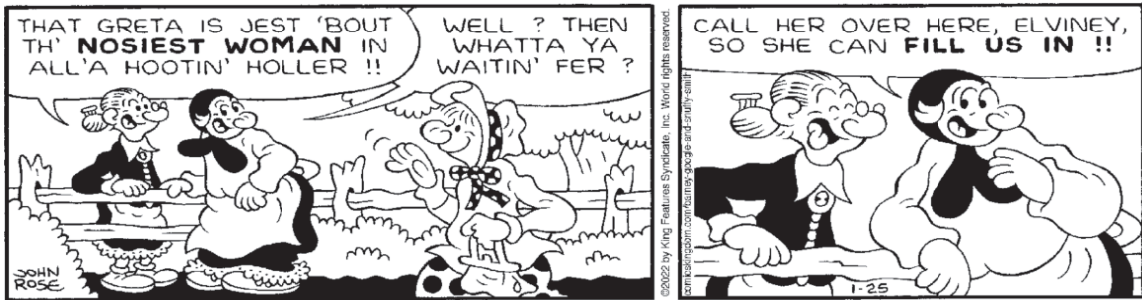
Funky Winkerbean



Blondie



Snuffy Smith

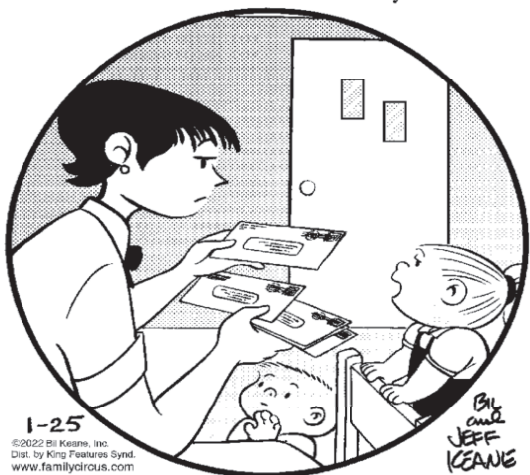


Beetle Bailey



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Daddy's lucky! He gets all the mail!

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Winning technique

South dealer. East-West vulnerable. NORTH: J 10 8 5, 10 9 6, J 9 5, A Q 10 7 6 3. WEST: 4, K Q 10 8 6 2, A Q 10 7 6 3. EAST: Q 9 4, Q 7 5, 7 4 3, K 9 4 2. SOUTH: A K 7 6 3 2, A K J 8 3 2, A, 4.

The bidding: South 2♣, West 2♦, North Pass, East Pass. South 2♠, West 3♣, North 4♣, East 5♣.

Opening lead — king of diamonds. Good technique in declarer play is simply a matter of consistently choosing the play that has the best chance to succeed.

In today's hand declarer was guilty of poor technique. He won the opening diamond lead and cashed the ace of spades, on which West showed out.

the A-K of hearts, hoping the queen would fall. When it didn't, he was down one.

Declarer should have made the contract. His proper play, after West shows out of spades, is to lead a low heart toward dummy!

Before discussing the reasons for this play, let's examine its effect. East wins the nine of hearts with the queen. South ruffs the diamond or club return, crosses to the ten of hearts and takes the indicated spade finesse to make the slam.

As the cards lie, declarer can also make the slam by playing the A-K-x of spades and later entering dummy with the jack of spades to take a heart finesse.

There is excellent reason for South to lead a low heart from his hand at trick three. If East started with Q-x-x-x, Q-x-x, x-x-x, Q-x or x-x, declarer cannot be prevented from eventually gaining entry to dummy with a heart.

Note that in his deliberations, South does not consider the possibility of East's being dealt a singleton small heart, since in that case the contract cannot be made no matter how he proceeds.

Tomorrow: No easy road to success. ©2022 King Features Syndicate Inc.

1-25

CRYPTOQUIP

ICAW TUSPAYA00, PYQLOG RADRYA SUA SYISGO PDYH SWH SYDDN, LKTCJ GDQ OSG JCAG'UA OJSWH-DSNKOC?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PROMINENT ACTOR WHO HAS A WAY OF COMPELLING EVERYONE TO GIVE HIM LOTS OF GIFTS: DONEE RANDALL. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals G

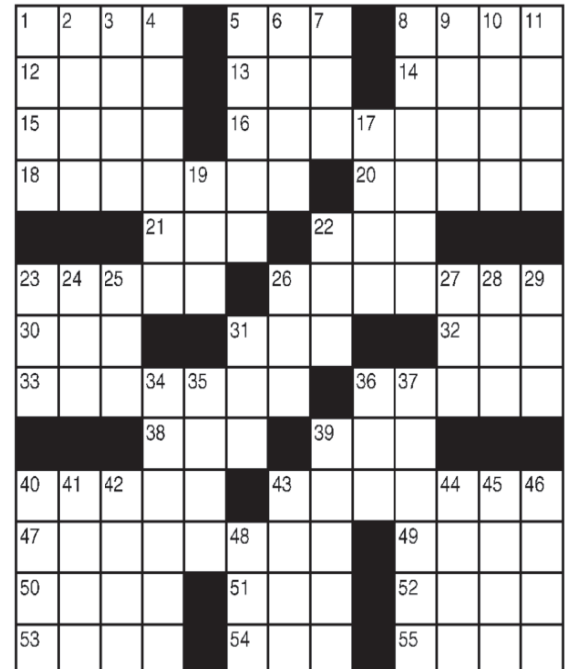
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 36 Dull, 38 Boy king, 39 Mandible, 40 Gold, 43 Capital of Nicaragua, 47 Work, 49 Reddish brown, 50 Jai —, 51 Flamenco cheer, 52 Pedestal part, 53 — Hari, 54 Quirky, 55 Swindle, 1 Mend a sock, 4 "Anna Christie" playwright, 5 Long rides?, 6 Caesar's "vidi", 7 Coffee vessel, 8 Lament, 9 Anger, 10 Actor Morales, 11 Deck in the ring, 17 Campus bigwig, 19 Permit fellow, 20 "Old Mac-Donald" refrain, 21 French article, 22 PC linkup, 23 Type of wheat, 26 Prayerful chants, 30 Commotion, 31 Do sums, 32 "As I see it," to a texter, 33 "How-to" books, 3 Mend a sock organizer, 4 "Anna Christie" playwright, 5 Long rides?, 6 Caesar's "vidi", 7 Coffee vessel, 8 Lament, 9 Anger, 10 Actor Morales, 11 Deck in the ring, 17 Campus bigwig, 19 Permit fellow, 20 "Old Mac-Donald" refrain, 21 French article, 22 PC linkup, 23 Type of wheat, 26 Prayerful chants, 30 Commotion, 31 Do sums, 32 "As I see it," to a texter, 33 "How-to" books, 24 Hi-tech organizer, 25 Very long time, 26 Rx writers, 27 Shred, 28 —, 29 Turf, 31 Flight stat place, 34 Perfect place, 35 Car, 36 Mover's vehicle, 37 Prizes, 39 Hollywood's Leto, 40 Mosque VIP, 41 "The Lion King" lioness, 42 Bitty biter, 43 Blend, 44 Avocado dip, for short, 45 Fed. food inspector, 46 Physics bit, 48 Romance

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-25



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## Jay County High School girls basketball

# Rolling again

**Dirksen's strong start leads the Patriots to big win**

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

The Patriots ran the opening play for Madison Dirksen.

She cashed it in and kept on rolling.

Dirksen had nine first-quarter points and led a group of four Jay County High School girls basketball players in double figure as the Class 3A No. 5 Patriots blasted the Southern Wells Raiders for the second time in nine days, 63-26.

"We had that set," said JCHS coach Kirk Comer, whose team topped Southern Wells 64-22 Jan. 14 in the semifinal round of the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament. "It was a set play coming off the tip. We wanted to get her off to a good start."

Dirksen scored on the

Patriots' opening possession off of an assist from Renna Schwieterman, then recorded a put-back bucket for a 4-0 lead. Southern Wells (6-13, 0-6 Allen County Athletic Conference) pulled even on a Riley Tappy 3-pointer, only to have Dirksen deliver again off of a Sophie Saxman assist.

The senior then shifted to the passing role, dishing off to cousin Breanna Dirksen for long two-pointer. She added a 3-pointer from another Schwieterman assist to close out a 15-point Patriot run to a 19-4 lead at the end of the opening period.

"It felt really good, especially after a few hard games," said Dirksen. "But coach told me '... you're mentally tough, just get back at it.'"

"Coach has emphasized, 'Make your first one and you'll feel a lot better ...' I haven't done that lately, but luckily I (did that tonight)."

The Raiders never closed to within single digits again, as Jay County led by 21 at half-time and 35 after three quarters before going heavily to its bench in the fourth.

See **Rolling** page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School senior Madison Dirksen launches a 3-pointer over Riley Tappy of Southern Wells during the Patriots' 63-26 victory Saturday. Dirksen scored nine of her team-high 14 points in the opening quarter in the final home game of her career.

# Tourney opener pits Jay against Huskies

The showdown happens in the first round.

Favorites Jay County and Hamilton Heights, which are both ranked in the top 10, will play in the opening game of the Class 3A Sectional 26 tournament at 6 p.m. Feb. 1 at Yorktown. The pairings were announced Sunday night during a special TV/radio broadcast on the IHSAA's Champions Network.

That opening game marks a rematch of last season's sectional championship, when Hamilton Heights held on for a 46-42 victory over the Patriots.

Both teams are championship-caliber again this year, with Jay County (18-3) ranked fifth in the most recent Indiana Coaches of Girls Sports Association Class 3A poll and the Huskies (15-5) ranked sixth. They share one common opponent — Delta — this season, each winning by more than 35 points.

The other opening-round game — it will follow at about 7:30 p.m. Feb. 1 — in the tournament at Yorktown will pit New Castle (11-8) against Burris (2-7).

See **Tourney** page 7



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# Linville leads grapplers

Grant Linville was the top performer this weekend as Jay County Wrestling Club had athletes competing in three tournaments.

Linville took first place at 83 pounds in the 12-and-younger division at New Haven.

Adding runner-up finishes for Jay County were Jackson Bonifas (86 pounds, 12-and-younger) and Khoden Bentz (49 pounds, 8-and-younger) at Maconaquah and Max Myers (63

pounds, 12-and-younger) at Antwerp, Ohio.

Also competing at New Haven were Max Byrum (third - 78 pounds, 12-and-younger) and Lennox Byrum (fourth - 59 pounds, 10-and-younger). Wrestling in the tournament at Maconaquah were Blake Wood (third - 8-and-younger, 49 pounds), Emalee Aker (third - 71 pounds, 10-and-younger) and Danica Chowning (fourth - 71 pounds, 10-and-younger).

# Pelicans top Indiana

By BRETT MARTEL  
AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Devonte' Graham scored 25 points, Josh Hart had 22 points and 10 rebounds, and the New Orleans Pelicans defeated the Indiana Pacers 117-113 on Monday night.

Graham, who was questionable before the game because of a sore left ankle, started and went 5 of 9 from 3-point range on a night when the rest of his team missed 20 of 21 from deep. Two of his 3s and eight of his points came in the final six minutes of a game that was tight until the end.

"I just want the ball in those moments," Graham said. "I just let it fly with confidence. My coaching staff and everybody's got confidence in me and I just take those shots — and thank God, they go in."

Hart, who briefly left the game in the third quarter after turning his left ankle, returned in the fourth

quarter and immediately hit the Pelicans' only other made 3 of the game. He grabbed his ninth rebound with 28 seconds left to help stave off the Pacers' comeback bid.

The short-handed Pacers stayed in the game — and led for a good portion of it — because of their 3-point shooting. They made 19 of 46 (41.3%) for the game.

Duane Washington Jr., an undrafted rookie out of Ohio State who'd made 17 3s for the season coming in, hit a career-best seven shots (on 12 attempts) from deep for a career-high 21 points.

"I just had a good rhythm coming into the game," Washington said. "My guys believe in me to make shots, and they put me in some great positions tonight to make a lot."

Pelicans leading scorer Brandon Ingram was sidelined by a right ankle sprain, while Pacers top scorer and interior defend-

er Domantas Sabonis was out with a left ankle sprain. Indiana was missing other prominent contributors, including Malcolm Brogdon (sore right Achilles) and Myles Turner (left foot).

The absence of Sabonis inside benefitted Pelicans center Jonas Valanciunas, who had 16 points, 12 rebounds and six assists.

Caris LeVert scored 19 and Chris Duarte 14 for the Pacers.

"We did a lot of very good things," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "I love the spirit we've played with."

Neither team led by more than eight points in a game that had 12 lead changes and 10 ties.

LeVert's 3 with 2 seconds left pulled the Pacers to 115-113 before New Orleans successfully inbounded the ball and Nickeil Alexander-Walker iced the game with two free throws to cap off his 14-point, six-assist performance.

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Girls basketball at Richmond - 6 p.m.; Swimming hosts quad meet - 6 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball at Tri-Village - 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at Coldwater - 5 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
Jay County — Junior high boys basketball in ACAC Tourney - TBA; Junior high girls basketball in ACAC Tourney - TBA

## TV schedule

**Today**  
6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Iowa vs. Penn State (BTN)

7 p.m. — Tennis: Australian Open (TNT)  
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: DePaul vs. Villanova (FS1); Cincinnati at Temple (ESPN)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Los Angeles Lakers at Brooklyn Nets (TNT)  
9 p.m. — Tennis: Australian Open (ESPN2)  
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Mississippi State at Kentucky (ESPN); Texas at TCU (ESPN)  
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Dallas Mavericks at Golden State Warriors (TNT)  
11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Arizona at UCLA (ESPN)

6 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Florida at Tennessee (ESPN2)  
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Vanderbilt at South Carolina (ESPN)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: New York Knicks at Miami Heat (ESPN)  
7:30 p.m. — NHL hockey: Chicago Blackhawks at Detroit Red Wings (TNT)  
8 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Oklahoma at West Virginia (ESPN2)  
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Marquette vs. Seton Hall (FS1)  
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Tulsa at Tulane (ESPN)  
10 p.m. — Tennis: Australian Open (ESPN2)  
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Phoenix Suns at Utah Jazz (ESPN)  
11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: San Diego State at Utah State (FS1)