

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Lazer focused



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

John Hankins closes the glass cover on one of his CO2 laser engravers in his garage Tuesday. Hankins owns Johnny Lazer, a custom design business in Portland. He can perform engraving, printing and some cutting jobs.

Hankins' hobby has been amplified since he returned home to Portland

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

John Hankins placed a wooden cutting board inside one of his laser engraving machines, making sure to align it with the edge of the honeycomb grid.

He turned on his heels, stooped to a nearby laptop and started a design template. Hankins' configurations took a few minutes, moving back and forth between both pieces of equipment as he figured coordinates and other measurements. He then closed the engraver's glass cover and

carefully watched the laser cutting head begin to etch a design into the board.

Hankins has been engraving items for about four years. He now also prints custom designs onto materials and is working on getting a license to make custom firearms. His custom design business, Johnny Lazer, celebrated with a ribbon cutting Jan. 20.

It all started as a hobby when Hankins purchased a desktop laser on Facebook. Within two weeks, family, friends and acquaintances were asking if he could create

designs for them on different items.

"Before I knew it, I had jobs lined up," he said. "I wasn't really trying to get into it as a job or anything, (it) just kind of fell into place."

Hankins is self-taught, having learned his trade from Youtube videos, Facebook groups and manuals, as well as through his own trial and error with the laser engravers. He's learned various programs, such as Adobe Illustrator for designing and Kothari for his ultraviolet printers, to expand his capabilities.

A Portland native, Hankins lived in Texas for about 10 years before returning to his hometown in 2020. He shifted his work from an indoor office to a 12-foot by 32-foot shed in November 2020, and in July, Hankins upgraded to a 32-foot by 40-foot garage beside his home at 1007 W. Arch St.

As he's picked up more and more jobs through the years, he's invested in more equipment.

"I've been fortunate enough to upgrade," Hankins explained, gesturing to his various large machines.

See Lazer page 5

Bill would tighten mail-in voting

Measure would require swearing inability to vote in person

By TOM DAVIES
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS

Democrats and voting rights activists are objecting to a Republican-backed proposal that would require Indiana voters who request mail-in ballots to swear under possible penalty of perjury that they won't be able to vote in person at any time during the 28 days before Election Day.

An Indiana House committee endorsed the bill 12-7 along party lines Tuesday, sending it to the full Republican-dominated House for consideration.

Republican Rep. Tim Wesco of Osceola defended the proposal he's sponsoring as an updating of the state's mail-in ballot law to reflect the greater availability of early in-person voting over the past couple decades.

"I believe the best policy is to encourage people to vote in person, whether on Election Day or in-person early as much as possible," Wesco said.

Democrats cited hours-long lines at early voting sites in Indianapolis during the 2020 election and argued that the change would discourage people from selecting their most convenient way of casting a ballot under the penalty of perjury.

Indiana's current mail-in voting limits allow people to vote by mail only if they fall into one of several categories.

See Voting page 2

Russia threatens retaliation

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia warned today it would quickly take "retaliatory measures" if the U.S. and its allies reject its security demands over NATO and Ukraine, raising pressure on the West amid concerns that Moscow is planning to invade its neighbor.

The Kremlin has repeatedly denied it has any such designs, but the U.S. and its NATO allies are worried about Russia deploying an estimated 100,000 troops near Ukraine and launching a series of sweeping military maneuvers.

As part of the drills, motorized infantry and artillery units in southwestern Russia practiced firing live ammunition, warplanes in Kaliningrad on the Baltic Sea performed bombing runs, dozens of warships sailed for training exercises in the Black Sea and the Arctic, and Russian fighter jets and paratroopers arrived in Belarus for joint war games.

At stake is the future of

Kremlin making demands of NATO and Ukraine

Ukraine: Russia has demanded guarantees that NATO will never admit the country and other ex-Soviet nations as members and that the alliance will roll back troop deployments in other former Soviet bloc nations. Some of these, like the membership pledge, are nonstarters for NATO, creating a seemingly intractable stalemate that many fear can only end in a war.

Speaking to lawmakers, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said he and other top officials will advise President Vladimir Putin on the next steps after receiving written replies from the United States to the demands. Those answers are expected this week — even

though the U.S. and its allies have already made clear they will reject Russia's top demands.

"If the West continues its aggressive course, Moscow will take the necessary retaliatory measures," Lavrov said.

But he indicated Russia wouldn't wait forever. "We won't allow our proposals to be drowned in endless discussions," he said.

He mocked fears of an imminent invasion, saying that "our Western colleagues have driven themselves up into a militarist frenzy," adding sardonically that "the Ukrainian elite itself has grown a bit scared by the Western scare."

See Threatens page 5



For The Washington Post/Zack Wittman

Manatee recovery

Maggie Mariolis, a SeaWorld animal rescue specialist, chaperones Corleone, a rehabilitated manatee, as he is transported in a box truck back to his original home at Blue Springs State Park from the Sea World rehabilitation center in Orlando, Florida, on January 17.

Deaths

Dustin Dotson, 37, Portland

Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature topped out at 23 degrees Tuesday. The low was 3. The temperature continued to drop to a low of negative 4 this morning with wind chills as low as negative 13.

Tonight's low will be 5. Expect a high of 29 Thursday. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Three new candidates have filed to run for office.

New candidates are Republicans Matt Goldsworthy for state convention delegate and Ronald Paxson for Penn Township advisory board, and Democrat Shelli Rigsbee for Bearcreek Township Advisory Board.

Coming up

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

Saturday — Results from Friday's JCHS boys basketball game at Bluffton.



Voting ...

Continued from page 1
They include being 65 or older, confined to their homes, scheduled to work throughout the 12 hours Election Day polling sites are open or being absent from their home counties on Election Day. None of those restrictions currently involve the early voting period.

Democratic Rep. Carey Hamilton of Indianapolis said many parents who are busy with their children and don't control their work schedules won't know whether they can get to an early voting location.

"They're threatened with perjury themselves to be able to get an absentee ballot to be able to safely know that they can safely vote and as opposed to the unsure reality of early voting," Hamilton said.

Wesco downplayed such concerns, saying "This is an honor system, basically, check the box and vote absentee by mail."

Julia Vaughn, executive director of the voting advocacy group Common Cause Indiana, said while county election officials don't investigate whether those voting by mail actually meet the

requirements, the threat of perjury charges would scare off some people from requesting mail-in ballots.

"We haven't had problems in terms of fraud connected with voting by mail," Vaughn said. "So this new language is completely unnecessary and really does a disservice to voters."

Election officials and many political campaigns encouraged mail-in voting in 2020 because of COVID-19 concerns.

That pushed mail-in balloting to nearly 600,000, along with some 1.3 million in-person early votes

cast, according to the state election division. Mail-in voting jumped about 3-1/2 times from 150,000 ballots in 2016, when almost 1 million people cast early in-person votes.

Democratic Rep. Tonya Pfaff of Terre Haute said she didn't agree with actions to discourage mail-in voting.

"Why do you why do I physically need to stand there and push a button when I can spend time at home researching my candidates, seeing their policies?" Pfaff said. "I don't understand the philosophy of why I need to stand there."

Obituaries

Dustin Dotson, Portland, Jan. 12, 1985-Jan. 23, 2022. Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Antioch Cemetery, rural Portland.

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

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

CR almanac

Thursday 1/27	Friday 1/28	Saturday 1/29	Sunday 1/30	Monday 1/31
29/15	20/-1	17/8	31/17	35/26
Skies will be mostly cloudy Thursday, with wind gusts as high as 30 mph. Snow is possible late.	The temperature may dip below zero Friday night under mostly cloudy skies. The high may reach 20.	Saturday will be sunny, with highs peaking in the upper teens. Otherwise, cool at night.	Mostly cloudy skies are expected again Sunday, with the high reaching about 31.	The forecast is mostly sunny for Monday, with the high climbing to 35.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$91 million	Quick Draw: 5-9-16-20-25-30-34-37-39-40-42-46-47-54-60-69-70-71-72-77 Cash 5: 8-16-19-27-45 Estimated jackpot: \$194,000
Mega Millions 3-12-38-53-58 Mega Ball: 13 Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$421 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 2-1-5 Pick 4: 3-5-3-3 Pick 5: 8-5-6-5-6 Evening Pick 3: 0-6-9 Pick 4: 0-4-5-8 Pick 5: 7-0-3-7-2 Rolling Cash: 1-5-21-28-32 Estimated jackpot: \$162,000
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 0-8-2 Daily Four: 3-1-5-5 Quick Draw: 1-2-6-12-13-16-20-22-25-28-39-45-48-53-56-64-70-71-74-75 Evening Daily Three: 3-8-2 Daily Four: 2-2-5-7	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.24 Feb. corn6.26 Wheat7.75	Wheat 7.80 Feb. wheat 7.80
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.28 Feb. corn6.30 March corn6.28	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.14 Feb. corn6.14 Beans14.08 Feb. beans14.08 Jan. wheat 7.90
The Andersons Richland Township Corn6.13 Feb. corn6.18 Beans14.04 Feb. beans14.04	Sunrise St. Anthony Corn.....6.14 Feb. corn6.14 Beans13.96 Feb. beans13.96 Wheat7.57

Today in history

On Jan. 26, 2020, the U.S. consulate in the Chinese city of Wuhan, the epicenter of the coronavirus epidemic, said it would evacuate its personnel and some private citizens aboard a charter flight. Five cases of the new coronavirus were now confirmed in the United States, including new cases in California and Arizona; all involved people who had traveled to Wuhan.

In 1861, Louisiana passed an Ordinance of Secession, becoming the sixth state to break free from the United States.

In 1911, the Richard Strauss opera "Der Rosenkavalier" (The Cavalier of the Rose) premiered in Dresden, Germany.

In 1915, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Rocky Mountain National Park Act, which created America's 10th national park.

In 1962, the United States launched Ranger 3 to land scientific instruments on the moon. (The probe ended up missing its target by more than 22,000 miles.)

In 1972, Darwin J. Williamson, co-owner of Williams & Spencer Funeral Home in Portland, died at his home at the age of 70.

In 1992, Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton, appearing with his wife, Hillary, on CBS' "60 Minutes," acknowledged "causing pain in my marriage," but said past problems were not relevant to the campaign.

—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
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.



Photo provided

Pet of the week

Angel, a bully breed that is spayed, up to date on vaccinations and heart worm negative, is available for adoption from Jay County Humane Society, 1313 Shadeland Ave., Portland. The fee is \$100. The shelter can be reached at (260) 726-6339.

Capsule Reports

Town hall closed
Ridgeville Town Hall will be closed until March 1. A drop box is available for payment of utility bills.

Intersection collision
Two Redkey women were flown to a Fort Wayne hospital after their vehicles collided at the intersection of Indiana 1 and county road 400 South about 5:37 a.m. Saturday.

Irene Martinez, 54, was driving her 2007 Town and Country Chrysler north on Indiana 1 and approaching the intersection while Piper J. Hamiel, 60, was driving east on

county road 400 South. Hamiel wasn't able to see out of her windows because of frost obscuring her vision, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. Her 2010 Ford Fusion entered the intersection and collided with Martinez's Chrysler.

Hamiel sustained a head injury, and Martinez received a lower leg injury. Both drivers were flown to Lutheran Hospital. Damage is estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

Raccoon hit
The vehicle a Berne woman was driving struck a raccoon at the intersection of Indiana 67 and county road 700 West about 5:30 a.m. Thursday.

Erin M. Shepherd, 28, told Jay County Sheriff's Office she was driving south on the highway and approaching the intersection when an animal ran in front of the 2014 Toyota Sienna she was driving. She wasn't able to avoid hitting the animal with her vehicle.

Damage to the Toyota — it is registered to Edgar Pimentel of Berne — is estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

Felony arrests

Methamphetamine
A Portland man was arrested Saturday for drug possession.

Charles P. Shultz, 52, 1237 N. U.S. 27 Lot 2, was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony for possession of methamphetamine and a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe.

He's being held without bond in Jay County Jail.

Failed to appear
A Portland man was arrested Monday for failing to appear in court.

Bradley K. Spencer, 37, 1212 N. Franklin St., has three original Level 6 felony charges for possession of methamphetamine, maintaining a common nuisance and unlawful possession of a syringe, as well as a Class A misdemeanor for possession of marijuana.

Spencer is being held without bond in Jay County Jail.

Probation violation
A Portland man was arrested Friday for violating his probation.

Daniel I. Davidson, 42, 824 W. High St., was preliminarily

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SERVICES

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

Monday
Dotson, Dustin: 2 p.m., Antioch Cemetery, rural Portland.

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FR honor roll students listed

Fort Recovery Middle School released its second nine weeks honor roll.

Making the list for receiving all A's were the following students:

•Sixth graders Brooke Bihn, Jocelyn Bihn, Emily Boeckman, Alivia Brunswick, Claire Gaerke, Paisley Hart, Henry Jutte, Kendall Ranly, Ally Roessner and Hoyt Schmitz

•Seventh graders Kenna Dues, Tyler Dues, Cadence Eber, Brady Evers, Carter Fortkamp, Ava Fullenkamp, Alexis Grisez, Makenna Huel-skamp, Meredith Jones, Breaker Jutte, Grace Lochtefeld, Ian McCain, Jake Meyer, Cameron Muhlenkamp, Isaac Roessner, Madelyn Schoenlein, Kiera Stump, Amber Timmerman, Jennifer Wendel, and Brynn Willmann

•Eighth graders Evvian Briner, Elisa Evers, Alivia Grube, Brodie Hart, Aubrie N. Heitkamp, Madison R. Heitkamp, Olivia Knapke, Cora Kremer, Danielle Schmitt, Megan Weitzel, Georgia Wenning and Leah Wuebker

Those named to the honor roll for receiving all A's and B's were:

•Sixth graders Layla Armstrong, Addison Brunswick, Kyra Brunswick, Riley DeRoo, Evan Diller, Braylon Dilworth, Jackson Dues, Haley Easton, Mackenzie Evers, William Faller, Malia Grisez, Pete Guggenbiller, Madeline Hardwick, Elizabeth Heitkamp, Trip Huntsman, Elizabeth Kahlig, Tyler Kahlig, Courtney Klenke, Liza Knapke, Shelby Knapke, McKinlee Kremer, Mason

Laux, Madeline Muhlenkamp, Andrew Niekamp, Hudson Overman, Stella Patch, Cora Pearson, Charity Pohlman, Braylon Rammel, Madilyn Reinhard, Liana Schlarman, Ali Siegrist, Eliza Smith, Charlie Stammen, Lilah Thien, Kolton Thompson, Livy Timmerman, Madelyn Weigel and Jady Wyerick

•Seventh graders Brody Barga, Tyler Bertke, Owen Boeckman, Deanna Brown, Kendall Buckland, Des-tiny Ervin, Grant Fortkamp, Sophia Guggenbiller, Russell Hart, Aubree M. Heitkamp, Madelyn M. Heitkamp, Adyson Homan, Hudson McAbee, Emma Schmitz, Angel Serio, Cara Shoemaker, Aubrey Shuttleworth, Riley Stammen, Ava Timmerman, Ivy

Tobe, Ethan Wenning, James Westgerdes, Reed Westgerdes, Will Westgerdes and Jase Wuebker

•Eighth graders Gabriel Acheson, Elijah Albers, Reed Albers, Ella Bechtol, Aiden Brunswick, Ryker Brunswick, Rylee Bubp, Kyla Dues, Zoe Dues, Nevaeh Elsass, Zackary Ervin, Mallory Evers, Lucas Fortkamp, Carson Fullenkamp, Raymond Grube, Isabell Hartings, Jameson Heitkamp, Caden Homan, Jenna Homan, Maleiah Kaffenberger, Cayson Kaikala, Wesley Keller, Dylan Klenke, Brylee Kremer, Reece LeFevre, Autumn Leuthold, Russell Pohlman, Colson Post, Anthony Roessner, Hayden Siefing, Jesse Springer, Reece Wendel, Tyler Wendel and Koda Will

Food memories are everlasting

By KWAME DAWES

Like music, one supposes, food, the memory of its procuring, preparing and consuming, leaves an indelible mark on us that is visceral and easily stirred.

We all must eat, and so we all know our own private litany of foods of our childhood. Susan Nguyen calls her poem an "Ode to Hunger," reminding us that the line between satiation and need is so thin, and sometimes sits at the

American Life in Poetry

heart of what many of us remember about the insecurities of our food supply. Which is why her ode to hunger is a praise song to the food that defeats hunger: the simple humble foods of our sustenance.

Ode to Hunger

Praise SPAM fried with fish sauce and sugar
jackfruit, 25lbs. of it carved on newspaper, latex sap sticking fingers
Praise Kraft mac and cheese: small miracle of powdered cheddar
pork floss in the big Tupperware
Sara Lee Praise soy sauce and rice
Shrimp Cup Noodles, 3 minutes 'til done
Praise the soft insides of baguettes
the first star fruit, pocketed and sliced
to Chef Boyardee
to durian, sweet scent of garbage
to pickled mustard greens, Lean Cuisine
pizza bagels after school
Praise Women, Infants, and Children
banana blossoms, heart thinly sliced in vinegar,
drained of all color

American Life in Poetry "Ode to Hunger" from 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 Susan Nguyen, "Dear Diaspora" (University of Nebraska Press, 2021). Poem reprinted by permission of the author and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2022 by The Poetry Foundation.

Incident leads to insecurity

DEAR ABBY: I'm a lesbian. My girlfriend and I have been together for a couple of months now. We fell in love quickly and we're getting ready to move in together. I'm really excited about it, but an "incident" happened recently while we were spending time together. We were watching TV, and I noticed she was on a website looking at women wearing bikinis. At first I thought, "Are you serious? Right in front of me?" So I looked over and asked her about it. She looked back at me and said, "What?"

It made me feel incredibly insecure. I know she loves me, but she doesn't understand how hurt I was seeing that. It made me feel like I'm not enough. What should I tell her? Should I break up with her? Or am I wrong to feel this way? — TORN IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR TORN: Your relationship is new. Looking at pictures of people dressed in swimming attire is hardly indicative of a porn addic-

Dear Abby



tion or a hint that you are not "enough." Before you two move in together, you both need to talk this through, and you ABSOLUTELY need to learn to deal with your feelings of insecurity because, if you don't, they could eventually drive away any of your love interests. Please, get to know each other for a longer period before taking your relationship to the next level by moving in.

DEAR ABBY: I've wanted to be a pilot for a long time. But because of my medical history and my need to be

on medicine, both of which are disqualifying, it's not possible. I have been good at handwriting comparisons as a hobby, specifically in legal cases, although I am unpaid. Also, I may get a job as a mail clerk at a federal department.

How can I move past this major disappointment where I'm grounded (job-wise) for life? I pray, and have given free psychic readings. I'd like to find love but I struggle with emotional regulation. Please help. — ALL OVER THE PLACE

DEAR ALL OVER: Your first order of "business" needs to be finding a job you can enjoy other than flying. Once that's done and you are on firm financial footing, explore those hobbies of yours. Rewarding relationships are based on mutual interests.

Between your job and your hobbies, you may meet someone with whom you can have a romantic relationship.

Community Calendar

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

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 — BRI-ANNA'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.

Thursday

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

PTSD SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 6 p.m. every Thursday at the Portland American Legion Post, 211 W. Walnut St., Portland.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 251-8792.

A BETTER LIFE — BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Thursday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Saturday

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

Monday

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

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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

BREAKING NEWS

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SUBSCRIBE & SAVE

The spam offers are never-ending

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

The message on the computer screen said, "We're sorry to see you go."

To which I responded with a mumble, "Yeah, right."

Email lost its novelty back in the days when AOL was in its infancy.

It continues to be a tremendous convenience, keeping us in touch with one another and allowing us to work from home or the other side of the globe.

But every year — maybe every month — the inbox becomes more cluttered. An enormous amount of the email received each day is unwanted and useless.

So it was the other day that I set out to un-clutter my inbox by

Back in the Saddle



"unsubscribing" to things I never subscribed to in the first place.

Every single one was a sales pitch of some sort, and many of them had me scratching my head.

Over the course of an evening, I unsubscribed to:

- A site selling pet supplies online. Since we don't have any pets, that seemed like an easy call.

- A site that thought I needed a snowblower. Another misfire. I shovel when the snow comes, and if I were going to buy a snowblower I can think of nearly half a dozen local merchants I could do business with.

- A site that insists I need to buy a magic pillowcase that will help me sleep better, smooth away my wrinkles and probably add years to my life.

- A site that wants to help me sell my timeshare. I don't have a timeshare.

- A matchmaking site that apparently doesn't know I've been happily married for more than 50 years.

- An invitation to join a class action lawsuit over something I've never heard of.

- Sites offering home mort-

gages, home repair services and car insurance, all of which I would handle locally when I can meet people face to face.

- And my favorite, a site pitching a special brand of kitty litter. Since we are dog people rather than cat people and I have a mild allergy to felines, this seemed to have been misplaced. (Maybe they were suggesting I spread the kitty litter on the sidewalk ice after I use the snowblower I don't have.)

Then there's the granddaddy of them all: AARP, the American Association of Retired Persons. I get email from the organization several times a day and am currently being offered a "January Special." I suspect there will be a "February Special" in just a few weeks.

None of these sites makes it very easy to unsubscribe. You have to read the fine print. And even then, you have to type in your email address, which makes you wonder if that's just going to be added to another marketing database.

Does unsubscribing work? Sometimes, but it doesn't happen overnight.

I unsubscribed to the email spam from the magic pillowcase people more than a week ago and am still getting junk in my inbox.

Fortunately, we're a Mac household and Macs have excellent spam filters.

It was somehow reassuring that the computer knew an important message about toenail fungus relief wasn't something I needed to see.

Bill would hinder our COVID fight

Herald Bulletin
(Anderson)

During his State of the State address last week, Gov. Eric Holcomb called on Hoosiers to get vaccinated against the coronavirus.

"We know that people who are getting vaccinated and boosted overwhelmingly stay out of the hospital, stay out of the ICU and don't die," he said. "If you haven't been vaccinated, I encourage, I plead, I even beg you to speak to your doctor and do so."

Too bad the Indiana House of Representatives isn't on the same page. Instead, our elected representatives seem headed in exactly the opposite direction.

Through Monday, not even 53% of Hoosiers had been fully vaccinated. Indiana recorded almost 37,000 new COVID-19 cases that day. The seven-day average was approaching 14,000.

The average for deaths was above 70, and public health experts say the number will go up before it comes down.

COVID deaths in Indiana had exceeded 19,000 at the time of the governor's speech. By Monday, the total had topped 20,000.

Indiana hospitals are crying for help, and many employers have answered the call.

They've begun seeking proof of vaccination from their employees, and they've started requiring those who refuse the vaccines to work from home or undergo regular testing to ensure they're not spreading the virus.

The state of Indiana should be supporting employers in these efforts. These are reasonable requirements aimed at ensuring a healthy workforce.

They're intended to protect both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated from the spread of COVID-19.

So how does the Indiana House of Representatives react? It passes a bill placing restrictions on those very employers.

The Indiana Chamber of Commerce opposes House Bill 1001, arguing the measure will make employer-imposed vaccine mandates nearly impossible to enforce.

Rep. Ed DeLaney, a Democrat from Indianapolis, argued on the

Hoosier Editorial

The state of Indiana should be supporting employers in these efforts. These are reasonable requirements aimed at ensuring a healthy workforce.

House floor the bill would do nothing to improve the state's woe-ful vaccination rate.

"This bill sets a horrible example of civic non-responsibility and tells our children that if you don't like it, you don't have to do it and the state will back you up," DeLaney said. "It teaches indifference."

There are, of course, lawmakers who think the bill does too much. Republicans Jim Lucas of Seymour and John Jacob of Indianapolis questioned the effectiveness of the vaccines and insisted the bill should do more to protect "bodily autonomy." They suggested public health professionals should be promoting ivermectin.

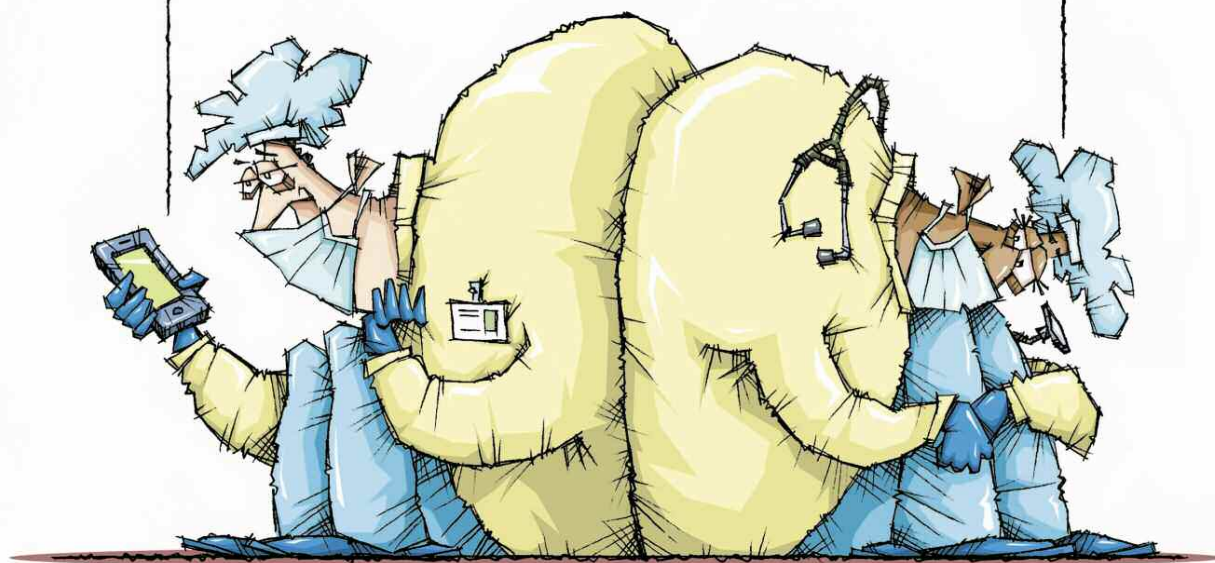
Lucas and Jacob are wrong, but they do make an important point. This is a bad bill.

If lawmakers aren't going to help in fighting this pandemic, they should at least get out of the way.

The Indiana Senate should reject HB 1001. The bill will do nothing to make things better, and it might very well make things worse.

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Intel's investment is great news

By HENRY OLSEN
Special To The Washington Post

Some good news for American workers and our national security: Intel announced on Friday that it intends to build a new semiconductor manufacturing plant in Ohio. There could be even more good news like this if the government committed to supporting more such investments.

Manufacturing provides good jobs for many Americans, especially those without four-year college degrees. They may not be cutting-edge or terribly exciting, as I know well. I spent two summers working on the line in a plant dipping silicon wafers in acid for eight hours a day to ensure there were no impurities. Standing on one's feet moving wafers from one acid vat to another did not exactly tax the mind, but it did provide a steady income for my co-workers and their families.

The average manufacturing wage of \$24 an hour may not sound like much, but it's better money than many can make in retail jobs or in the leisure and hospitality sector. For many with only a high school diploma, it's the difference between a shot at the middle class and life in poverty.

Semiconducting manufacturing is especially important to the country. Semiconductors are the lifeblood of the modern economy, as the global chip shortage has shown. That means that any world power must have an ample supply of them in case of conflict. Today, the United States is dependent upon Asian exporters such as Taiwan, South Korea and Japan for its chip supply. That exposes our economy to pressure from Communist China, giving Beijing another potential lever to expand its malign influence.

The pandemic also exposed how dependent the free world is on goods manufactured in China or nations within its potential sphere of mili-

tary influence. China produces nearly 29 percent of the world's manufacturing output, roughly as much as the United States, Germany and Japan combined. Nearly half of the world's supply of ingredients needed for medicines is produced in China, and Chinese firms dominate the world's market for medical protective gear. China is also the world's largest exporter of steel, and other Asian nations such as South Korea and Vietnam rely heavily on Chinese steel for their products. The list goes on and on, but the overall picture is clear: Outsourcing manufacturing to China and other Asian nations has created massive security risks even as it saved consumers billions of dollars.

It's thus in the national interest for the U.S. government to bring as many of those jobs back as possible. This would raise wages for lower-skilled workers and create a virtuous circle that would likely increase the labor supply while also helping those most hurt by globalization. It would also reduce U.S. exposure to Chinese blackmail or blockade, enhancing our ability to maintain global leadership. The more the United States can produce domestically or in nearby nations far from Chinese influence, the more freedom of action we possess globally.

But this won't happen without government intervention. Lower wages and weaker environmental laws abroad tip the scales in favor of shipping manufacturing offshore. Individual firms make investment deci-

sions to pad their own bottom lines, not the nation's. If we want more manufacturing at home to enhance domestic tranquility and national security, we will have to pay for it collectively. That means some combination of subsidy and tariff protection that will reverse the free trade consensus that has reigned for decades.

Overcoming that dominant paradigm won't be easy. Economic libertarians will resist the increased government power that will come from this. Individual firms will be leery of the move, as many clearly benefit from the present arrangement and are unsure how they will fare under a new economic order. If the government tries to micromanage investments too much, it will inevitably pick many losers as well as winners. That is not only bad for the economy, but also raises the temptation for corruption.

The alternatives, however, are far worse. Great powers have lost wars when too dependent on overseas supply. Athens did not lose the Peloponnesian War to Sparta because its enemies took their city; it lost because Sparta successfully blocked the shipment of grain from the Black Sea that fed the city. Germany almost brought Britain to its knees in both world wars by using submarines to cut off the nation's supply lines. This has never happened to the United States because it has always been largely self-sufficient. Globalization, however, has removed that ancient advantage and exposed America as a result.

U.S. domestic economic power allowed it to become the global superpower, facilitating the spread of freedom worldwide. Bringing manufacturing home, thus, won't just enrich American workers; it will enrich the world.

Olsen is a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

Henry Olsen



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Lazer ...

Continued from page 1
His largest laser, which operates on 75 watts, has a 36-inch by 24-inch engraving space. He also has a more powerful 90-watt laser with a 24-inch by 16-inch engraving area. Both are carbon dioxide lasers, which can be used on wood, acrylic, leather and a variety of other materials. "Anything that you can think of, the lasers can pretty much mark on," Hankins said.

He's usually willing to experiment with different items for engraving or printing, but he noted it can take time to configure the right measurements, especially for something with which he is not familiar.

Hankins' newest gadget, a fiber laser, can mark and cut into some types of metal. He plans to apply for a type 7 federal firearms license soon, which would allow him to manufacture and sell custom handguns, rifles and other related weapons.

His two ultraviolet printers also allow him to print designs, varying from phrases on tumblers to logos on golf balls. He adjusts the device so each item sits about a millimeter away from the printer head to ensure a high-quality print.

"The possibilities you have with these (are endless)," said Hankins, pointing out the 9.5 inches between the printer head and the plate. "If it fits under here, it can print on it."

Despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, his business has taken off in the last few years. The nature of his work, he believes, is a big reason for that.

"It's really helped my business because people, for the past year, year and a half — you know, since COVID's been going on — it seems like a lot of people prefer to buy stuff online or prefer to send a message, 'Hey, can you make this?'" Hankins said. "So



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Through his Johnny Lazer business, John Hankins uses carbon dioxide lasers to engrave designs on wood, acrylic, leather and a variety of other materials.

it's really helped me grow and expand, so it's been a blessing for my business ... there's a lot of people that are having some hard times right now, so I'm extremely blessed."

Hankins currently works the night shift as a police officer at IU Health Jay, although he noted

he would love to be doing custom designing as a full-time career. His night-time routine has made it difficult for him to set up at vendor events — so far, his business has mainly picked up orders through word of mouth.

But soon, Hankins said, he's prepared to start advertising

and possibly rent out a space during events such as the Tri-State Antique Engine and Tractor Show and Jay County Fair.

Hankins can be reached for custom design inquiries via his business' Facebook page (facebook.com/JohnnyLazeer) or by phone at (260) 729-2389.

School board comment measure advances

Bill regarding party affiliation dies in committee

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana legislators advanced a bill on Tuesday that would force public comment in school board meetings, while a separate proposal seeking to add political party identifications to what are now nonpartisan school board elections throughout the state was effectively abandoned.

A House bill requiring school boards to accept oral public comment at every meeting, allowing no less than three minutes per person, was approved by the full House and now heads to the Senate.

The legislation is a response to contentious school board meetings in Indiana over the last year, during which some districts chose to temporarily suspend public comment periods.

A related Republican-backed proposal that would require candidates running for school boards to identify as a Republican, Democrat or Independent did not advance from the House elections committee by the Tuesday deadline, however.

Threatens ...

Continued from page 1
Asked by lawmakers if Russia could expand military cooperation with Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua as part of its retaliatory measures, Lavrov responded that Moscow has close ties with those countries in the Western Hemisphere and is seeking to deepen them. He noted Putin spoke by phone with the three nations' leaders last week and they agreed to "consider ways of further deepening our strategic cooperation."

Earlier this month, Lavrov's deputy pointedly refused to rule out the deployment of Russian military assets to Cuba and Venezuela if Moscow's security demands aren't met.

The countries' defense ministries were planning more contacts to bolster military cooperation, Russia's ambassador to Cuba Andrei Guskov told the Interfax news agency.

NATO said this week it was bolstering its deterrence in the Baltic Sea region and the U.S. ordered 8,500 troops on higher alert for potential deployment to Europe.

Western nations have also sent planeloads of weapons to help Ukraine strengthen its defenses.

Amid the escalating tensions, Ukrainian officials have sought to calm nerves.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said that while the concentra-

tion of Russian troops near Ukraine poses a threat, "their number is now insufficient for a large-scale offensive."

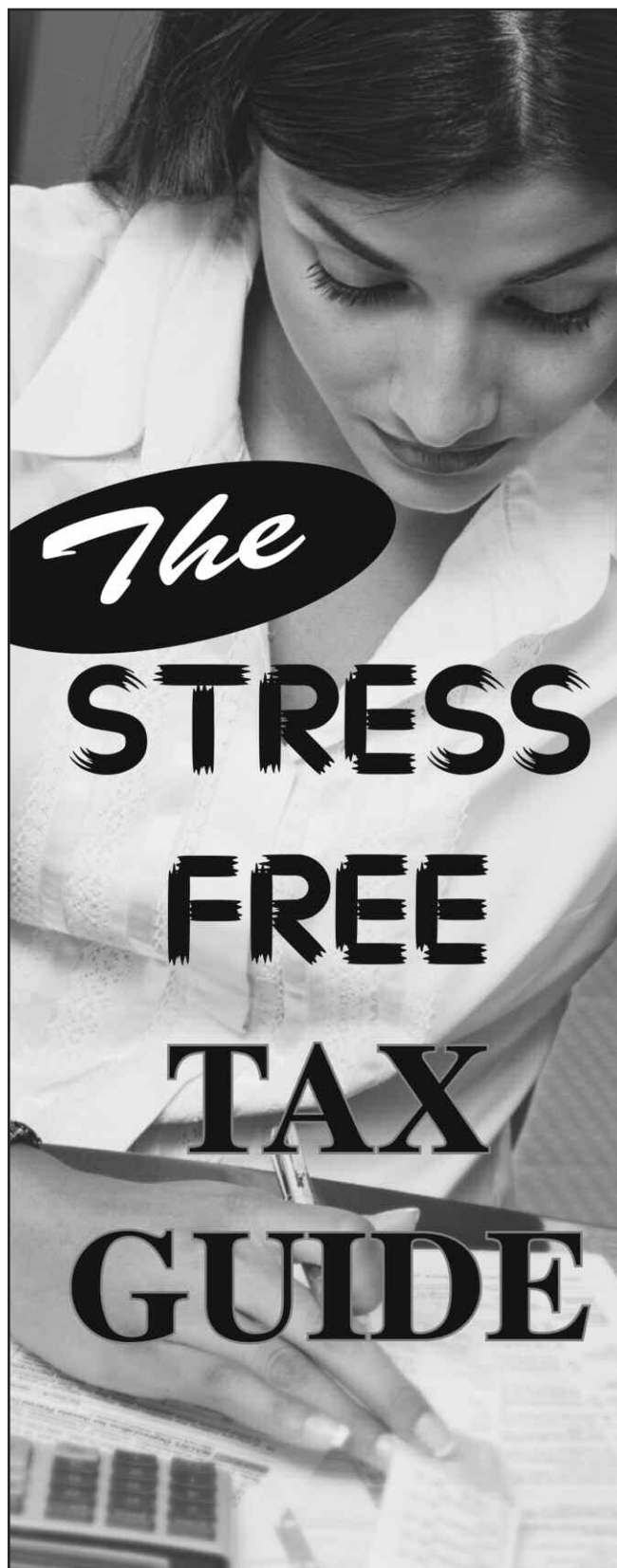
"They are still missing some key military elements and systems to mount a big, full-scale offensive," Kuleba told reporters.

As others have pointed out, he noted that causing alarm could be an end in itself. Russia, he said, hopes to destabilize Ukraine by "spreading panic, raising pressure on Ukraine's financial system and launching cyberattacks."

"President Putin would be happy to see that plan succeed so that he doesn't even need to turn to military force to put Ukraine in a vulnerable position," he said.

His comments were latest from Ukrainian officials seeking to reassure their citizens. Speaking late Tuesday in speech to the nation, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukraine was "strong enough to keep everything under control and derail any attempts at destabilization."

Amid the tensions, the U.S., Britain, Australia, Germany and Canada have moved to withdraw some of their diplomats and dependents from Kyiv, a move that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy sought to play down Tuesday as part of a "complex diplomatic game."



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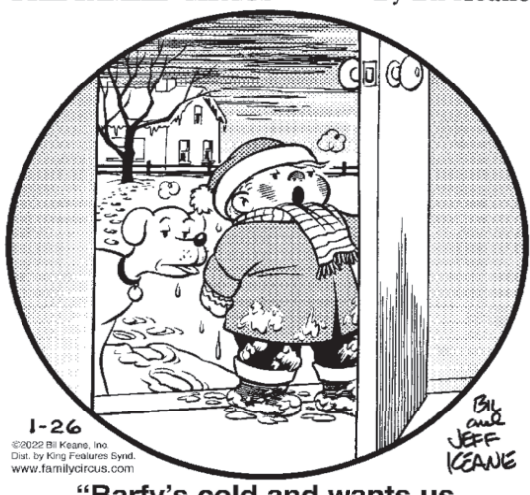
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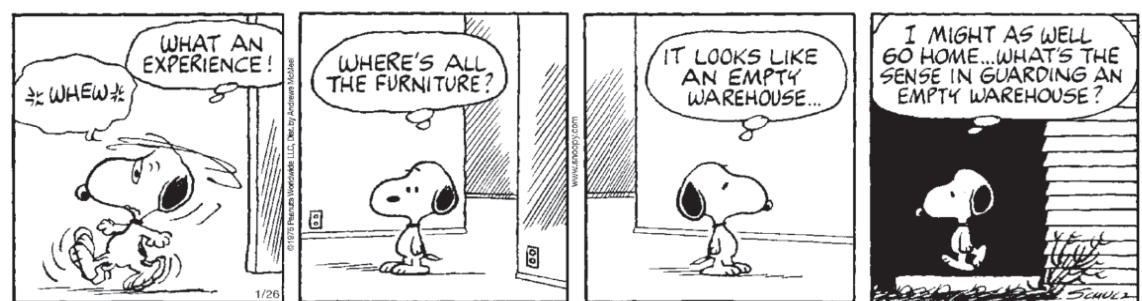
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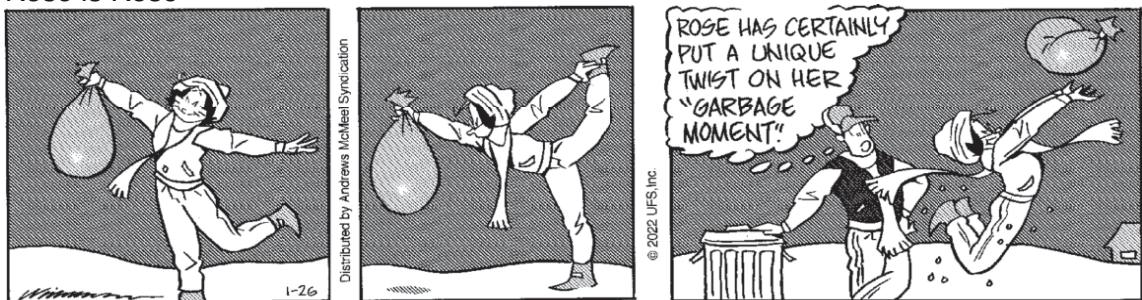


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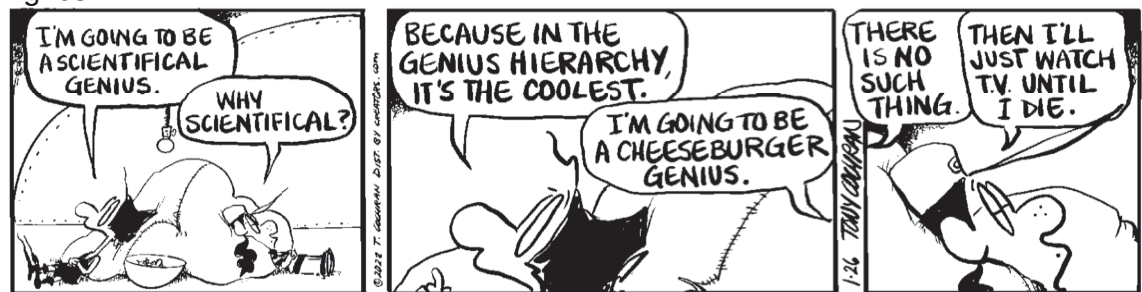
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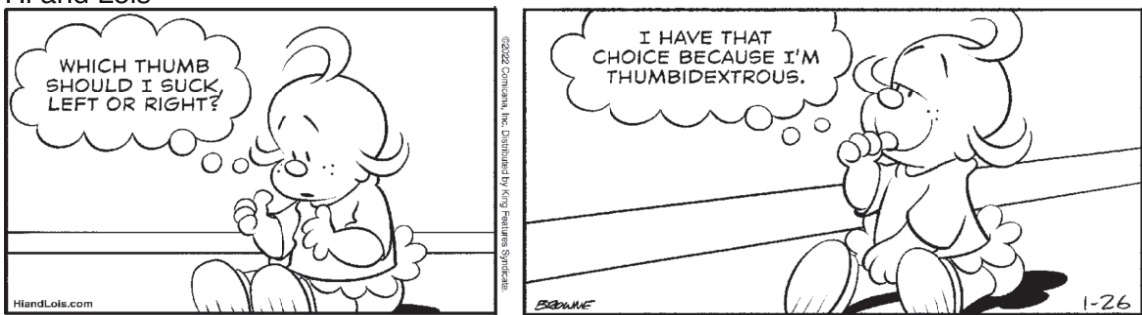
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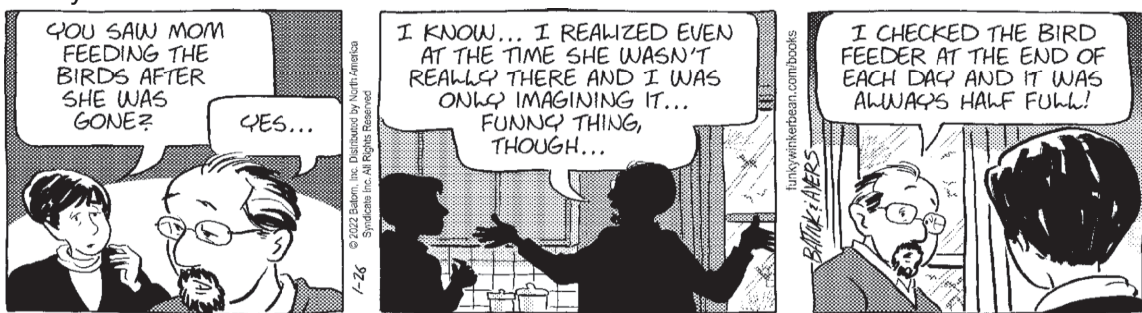
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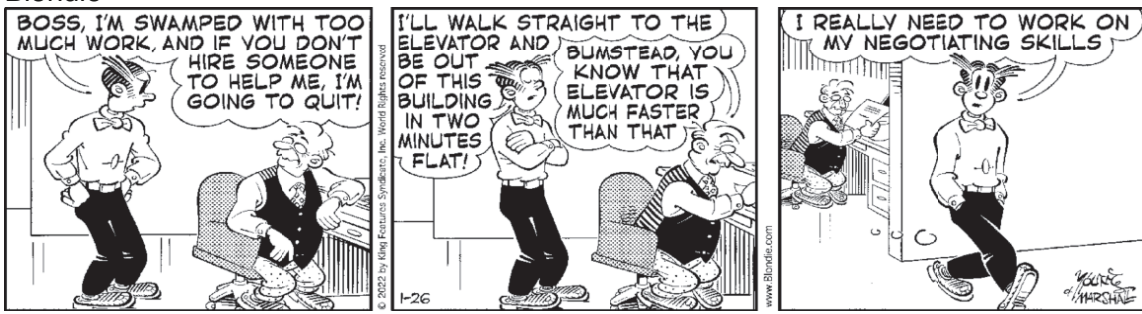
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Senior ...

Continued from page 8
Tuesday night. Jay County got event wins from their 200-yard medley relay team of Emily Dues, Elayna Paro, Mara Bader and Zion Beiswanger (2 minutes, 8.73 seconds); from Bader in the 50-yard freestyle (27.21) and the 100-yard butterfly (1:05.45); from Kenzie Huey in the 100-yard backstroke (1:15.73); and from Kyle Sanders in the 100-yard backstroke (1:02.32). (Bader's win in the 50 freestyle led an effort in which the Patri-

ots took three of the top four spots, with Aubrey Millsbaugh finishing third and Abigail Johnson fourth.) Jay County also swept the 400-yard freestyle relays: The Patriot girls' quartet of Morgan DeHoff, Beiswanger, Millsbaugh and Huey won their event in 4:42.11, while the boys' unit of Nick Lyons, Josh Monroe, Sommers and Sanders posted a mark of 3:53.42 in taking their race. Jay County's Maddy Snow finished second in

the 1-meter diving event but set a new personal best (189.10). Portland resident Nico Minnich won the 100-yard butterfly for Burris, posting a time of 1:04.16. Of the Patriots' 14 seniors, 11 are foreign exchange students, hailing from nations including Ukraine, Italy, Spain, Turkey, Latvia and Tajikistan. Two — Adinai Temirbekova (eighth — girls 50 freestyle) and Efe Akinci (sixth — boys 100 freestyle) — finished in the top eight Tuesday.

These students get much from participating in extracurricular activities, especially interscholastic sports, Jay County coach Matt Slavik said. But they contribute just as much. "The biggest thing is just bringing a different perspective to our kids," Slavik said. "Most of them have never been involved in organized sports in any fashion before they got here ... It's a great experience for our kids and for us adults too. We learn about their

countries, and it opens our eyes and kind of shrinks the world a little bit." One of the main things foreign exchange students leave with their hosts, teammates and coaches, Slavik said, is a greater appreciation for what we have in our country. "At the end of the day, what you'll hear from every one of these kids is that we're pretty fortunate in this country," Slavik said. "We take a lot of things for granted."

Local ...

Continued from page 8
The BOSS event, which will feature wingless spring cars, is scheduled for April 23. It will open the series' 2022 season. "We remain committed to our goal of creating a solid base for weekly racing, but as our team grows stronger, we have become comfortable with bringing in additional shows," said Montpelier promoter Larry Boos. "The BOSS group mixes well with our growth approach, and we welcome their return to see if we can produce a fifth different winner."

Ortiz makes HOF; Bonds, Clemens out

By JAKE SEINER
AP Baseball Writer

David Ortiz gazed at his phone, his pursed lips revealing nerves rarely seen from one of the game's great clutch hitters. Pedro Martinez's hand rested on Ortiz's shoulder, and Martinez grinned when the good news came through. The former teammates embraced, and Martinez welcomed Ortiz into a rare space in baseball history. Big Papi is bound for Cooperstown — and on the first ballot, too. Ortiz was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in his first try Tuesday, while steroid-tainted stars Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens were denied entry in their final year under considera-

tion by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Ortiz, a 10-time All-Star over 20 seasons mostly with the Boston Red Sox, was named on 77.9% of ballots, clearing the 75% threshold needed for enshrinement. He's the 58th player inducted in his first time up for consideration. "Man, it's a wonderful honor to be able to get in on my first rodeo," Ortiz said. Big Papi was among baseball's most recognizable faces through the 2000s and 2010s. His enormous grin endeared him to fans, but the Dominican's hulking frame menaced pitchers, especially in the late innings. Three of his 23 career game-ending hits came during Boston's

drought-breaking 2004 postseason, when the Red Sox thwarted the rival Yankees and then won their first World Series title in 86 years. He's the fourth Hall of Famer born in the Dominican Republic, joining Juan Marichal, Martinez and Vladimir Guerrero. "I can imagine how New England has to feel about one of its babies getting into the Hall of Fame today," Ortiz said. "I'm not even going to tell you about the Dominican Republic." The left-handed hitter was signed by Seattle as a teenager and traded to Minnesota as a minor leaguer. He made his major league debut with the Twins in 1997 but hardly looked like a future Hall of Famer

there. He was released in 2002, signed by Boston and slugged 31 homers the next season. Ortiz said he joined the Red Sox to learn what made stars like Martinez, Manny Ramirez and Nomar Garciaparra great. Martinez helped pave the way, encouraging first-year general manager Theo Epstein to sign the 6-foot-3 slugger. "Once I figured it out, it was going to be a wrap," Ortiz said. "That team was surrounded by so many superstars, and I went in there like a sponge ready to learn." Martinez became a mentor for his countryman. Now, they share the honor of being first-ballot inductees. "I feel so proud to have been

your teammate, to have been your brother, to have been someone there for you when you needed me," Martinez said. "I'm so glad I have you in my life. "Well deserved," he added. "Welcome to Cooperstown." Ortiz batted .286 with 541 home runs with Boston and Minnesota while making 88% of his plate appearances as a designated hitter, the most by anyone in the Hall. He passes Edgar Martinez, who was a DH for 71.7% of his plate appearances. Ortiz also has performance-enhancing drug baggage, but enough voters looked past a reported positive test that came during survey testing in 2003 that was supposed to be anonymous.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Junior high boys basketball in ACAC Tourney — TBA; Junior high girls basketball in ACAC Tourney — TBA

Thursday
Jay County — Girls basketball at Heritage — 6 p.m.; Swimming vs. Marion — 6 p.m.; Gymnastics at Huntington North — 6:30 p.m.

TV schedule
Today
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 (ESPNU)

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)

Thursday
3:30 a.m. — Tennis: Australian Open — Semifinals (ESPN)
5 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Wisconsin at Nebraska (BTN)

6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Mississippi at South Carolina (ESPN)
7 p.m. — Soccer: CONCACAF qualification — El Salvador vs. United States (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Los Angeles Lakers at Philadelphia 76ers (TNT)
8 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Ohio State vs. Minnesota (ESPN)

8 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Michigan State at Penn State (BTN)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Purdue at Iowa (FS1); East Carolina at Memphis (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Minnesota Timberwolves vs. Golden State Warriors (TNT)
11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Stanford at USC (FS1)

40 NOTICES 60 SERVICES 90 SALE CALENDAR 90 SALE CALENDAR 110 HELP WANTED 130 MISC. FOR SALE 200 FOR RENT

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Saturday, January 29th, 2022
TIME 10:00 A.M.
AUCTION LOCATION: Bryant Community Center (107 South Malin Street, Bryant, IN) REAL ESTATE
This auction consists of two land offerings; one offering in Adams County, and the other within Jay County. Both offerings are a part of the WRP Program and are excellent hunting and recreational areas! All land will be auctioned from the Bryant Community Building at the address above, but for inquiries or to see the land, contact the auctioneers!
JAY COUNTY OFFERING

This offering consists of 43 +/- acres, located within Section 3 of Wabash Township in Jay County, Indiana. OWNER(S): William & Janet Knapke, and Martin Collins
ADAMS COUNTY OFFERING
128 total acreage locating within Section 17 of Wabash Township in Adams County, Indiana. The land is non-tillable and will be offered as one of three tracts: OWNER(S): William & Janet Knapke
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JANUARY 29, 2022
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UPCOMING AUCTIONS
Bricker Auction Company 414 N Meridian St. Portland, IN Jan. 29th - Smith and Others Personal Property Auction Online Only Auction - First item closes @ 7:00 PM Feb. 5th - Joyce Tipton Auction Online Only Auction- First item will be closing @ 7:00 PM Pick-up Address: 710 W Main St Portland, IN 47371
There are several great pieces of furniture, chicken themed decor, and many other great items! Previews are held on Fridays from 12:00 - 5:00
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250 PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Public Hearing on Application to Amend and Expand an Economic Revitalization Area and Declaratory (Preliminary) Resolution;
Proposed Adoption of Confirmatory Resolution
The County Council of Jay County, Indiana, meeting in the Jay County Courthouse Commissioners' Room, located at 120 North Court Street, #11, Portland, Indiana 47371 has scheduled for Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. (EST) a public hearing concerning the Final Economic Revitalization Area Resolution, confirming the designation and enlargement of an Economic Revitalization Area and the grant of Real, Distributable and Personal Property Tax Abatement, filed by Rose Gold Solar, LLC, with the Council.
The Council, on January 12, 2022, adopted a Declaratory (Preliminary) Resolution pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-12-1 et seq. declaring certain real estate located in Knox Township in Jay County, Indiana as an Economic Revitalization Area for purposes of permitting real, state assessed utility distributable and personal property tax deductions. A description of the affected area is available and can be inspected in the office of the Assessor of Jay County, Indiana. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Council may take final action on this designation by a Confirmatory Resolution. All interested persons are welcome to attend and make their concerns, remonstrances or objections, known to the members of the Council before the Council takes final action.
Dated: January 21, 2022
Anna Culy, Auditor
Jay County, Indiana
CR 1-26-2022 - HSPALFP

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East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A J 3
♥ 8 5 2
♦ K 6 3
♣ A 7 4 2

WEST
♠ 8 6 5
♥ K J 4 3
♦ J 10 9 7
♣ J 6

EAST
♠ K 7 4 2
♥ 10 9 7 6
♦ 8 4
♣ Q 8 5

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 9
♥ A Q
♦ A Q 5 2
♣ K 10 9 3

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1NT Pass 3NT
Opening lead — jack of diamonds.
There are no magic rules that govern declarer's play. The best approach in a given hand is usually more a matter of common sense than anything else, and certainly does not depend on any all-encompassing formula.
Take this case where South is declarer in three notrump. He starts with seven tricks and needs to increase them to nine. The most obvious method of play is to win the diamond and take a spade finesse. If West has the king, two

additional spade tricks will immediately accrue, solving declarer's problem right away.
However, attacking spades at once has a serious drawback. If East has the king, he will win and most likely shift to a heart, and the contract trick — and in the actual case will — go down.
For this reason, South should avoid, or at least defer, any method of play that allows East to gain the lead and launch a potentially deadly heart attack. The A-Q of hearts are a formidable combination so long as West is on lead, but their power is considerably diminished if East obtains the lead. East is Public Enemy No. 1, and the hand should be played so as to avoid him, if at all possible.
Declarer should therefore win the first diamond in his hand, lead a club to the ace and return a club. If East follows low, South should insert the ten, being willing to lose the trick to West. This play automatically produces trick No. 8, since the clubs are bound to be divided 3-2 if the ten loses to West.
Whatever West returns, South is certain of at least nine tricks, because he can now take the spade finesse in complete safety. Win or lose, he can't be defeated.

TOMORROW: A one-shot decision.
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1-26 CRYPTOQUIP
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LMSRHSQLSMNSV, GIOS OLFJK
NPBB KJSO MSI-ULFJKG.
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First item closes @ 7:00 PM
Feb. 5th - Joyce Tipton Auction
Online Only Auction
First item will be closing @ 7:00 PM
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Sports

No. 6 Patriots trounce Devils

RICHMOND — The No. 6 Jay County High School girls basketball team easily won its penultimate contest of the 2021-22 regular season Tuesday night, besting the Richmond Red Devils in a non-conference contest, 60-36.

With the win, Jay County improved to 19-3 on the season. It took no time at all for the Patriots to assert their dominance as they outscored Richmond 19-3 in the opening period. They pushed the lead to 27 points by halftime.

Renna Schwieterman led Jay County with 22 points. Madison Dirksen added 12 and Izzy Rodgers chipped in with 11. Sophie Saxman had seven rebounds.

Jay County also won the junior varsity contest, 41-13. Daisy Muhlenkamp had 13 points and Cassie Petro added 10.

The Patriots play Thursday night at Heritage with a chance to wrap up a perfect Allen County Athletic Conference slate with a win.

Track adding
MONTPELIER — Montpelier Motor Speedway announced Monday that it will be adding several special events this year, including one featuring the Buckeye Outlaw Sprint Series (BOSS). See Local page 7

50-second senior



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School senior Konner Sommers swims the freestyle during the Jay County Invitational on Jan. 8. Sommers broke the 1-minute mark in the 100-yard freestyle for the first time in his career Tuesday on Senior Night, posting a time of 59.47 seconds.

Sommers breaks 1-minute in 100 free

By DAVID VANTRESS
The Commercial Review

Tuesday was a night to celebrate seniors. One of them made it extra special.

Konner Sommers set a career milestone Tuesday, joining the 50-second club as the Jay County High School swim teams hosted the Burriss Owls and Blackford Bruins for Senior Night.

The effort from Sommers helped the boys to a split. They defeated Blackford 105-95 but lost to Burriss 144-82.

The Patriot girls swept the evening, besting the Owls 147-100 and the Bruins 163-84.

Sommers' breakthrough swim came in the 100-yard freestyle as he broke the 1-minute mark for the first time in his career. He finished the first 50 yards in 28.53

seconds and stayed strong in his second 50 for a time of 59.47 seconds.

He said it's been a career goal to make it into the 50-second club in the 100 freestyle and that support from his teammates helped him finally get over the hump.

"It's special to do it on Senior Night as a senior," Sommers said, who had already showed

the ability to crack the 1-minute mark earlier in the night when he turned in a time of 27.68 in the 50 freestyle. He added that he hopes finally achieving a long-time goal will boost his confidence heading into the postseason. (Jay County closes the regular season Thursday against Marion before hosting the sectional preliminaries Feb. 3.)

See Senior page 7

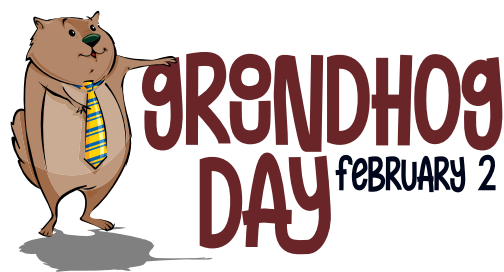
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