

The Commercial Review

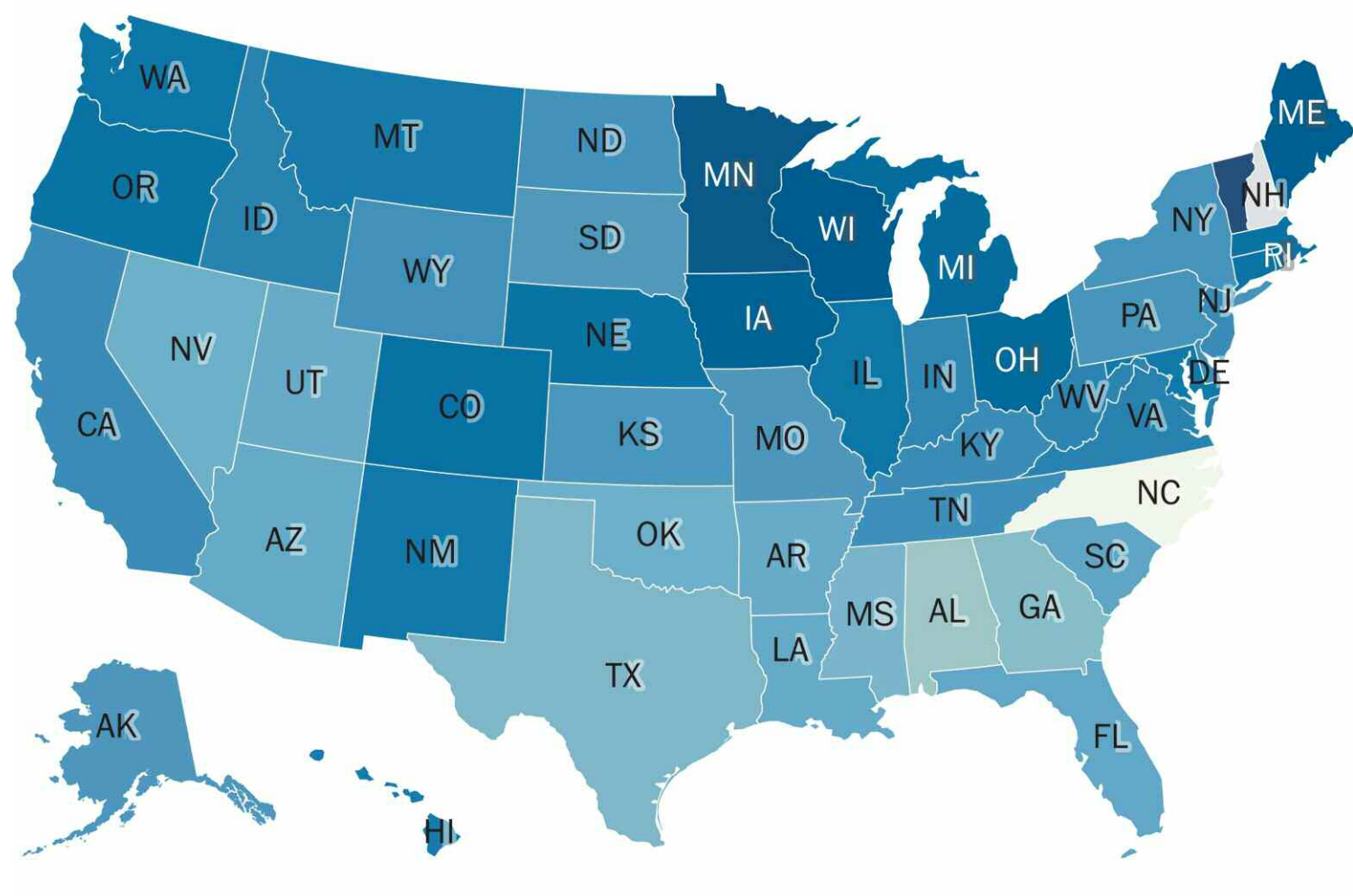
Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Record cases

Share of vaccinated people with boosters



The Washington Post

Vaccine boosters provide robust protection against severe disease from the omicron variant in the United States, according to three reports released Friday that use real-world data to show the shots are effective at keeping vaccinated people out of the hospital. One of the new CDC reports analyzed data from hundreds of thousands of emergency room visits, urgent care visits and hospitalizations between August 2021 and Jan. 5, 2022. It showed that a third dose of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna shots reduces the chance of hospitalization by 90% compared to unvaccinated people, and reduces the chance of a trip to the emergency room by 82%.

Jay County stays red after hitting highs for new confirmed cases of COVID-19 three days in a row

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Jay County is in the midst of breaking the wrong kind of records.

The county matched its record for confirmed new cases of COVID-19 in a single day with 49 on Jan. 19. A day later, it broke that record with 53. The next day, it broke the record again with 70.

The highest case totals over the course of the nearly two-year coronavirus pandemic kept Jay County solidly “red”

(extreme risk for the spread of coronavirus) in the Indiana State Department of Health’s update today.

The entire state of Indiana was red for the second consecutive week.

The local numbers for cases per 100,000 residents and seven-days positivity rate — the two metrics the state uses to determine coronavirus risk — have skyrocketed in the last three weeks.

The county had 1,404 cases per 100,000 from Jan. 17 through

23, by far the highest total of the pandemic. The number was at 983 last week and was 283 just three weeks ago.

Jay County’s seven-day positivity rate has soared to 28.1%, also by far the highest during the pandemic. The positivity rate was 15.64% last week.

January is now on pace to be the worst month for new cases of COVID-19 during the pandemic at an average of 27.6 cases per day. (The county has had 25 or more cases 13 of the last 14 days.) The previous high

was 22.8 cases per day in November 2020.

Hospitalizations in District 6, which includes Jay County, had been declining before going back up in the last few days. As of Sunday, there were 279 patients hospitalized because of COVID-19, but the number had climbed back to 300 Wednesday. That’s down from a recent high of 380 in mid-December. (The number had been as low as 127 in early November.)

See Record page 2

Jay rate hits 1.1%

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Already historically low unemployment rates have gotten even lower.

In Indiana Department of Workforce Development estimates released Wednesday, Jay County posted an unemployment rate of just 1.1% in December.

The rate is down 0.6 percentage points from November, which was already the lowest in at least 30 years.

Even so, that number put Jay County in the middle of the state’s 92 counties. Nineteen counties came in below 1%.

The county’s historically low unemployment combined with similar rates in the surrounding area — all of the adjacent counties are at 1.5% or lower — have made hiring a challenge for local employers.

“In a recent survey of our industries, not a single respondent said that they were fully staffed,” said Jay County Development Corporation executive director Travis Richards. “So an extremely low unemployment number is not a surprise to anyone at this point.”

Richards estimated that more than 200 jobs are currently open in Jay County at industries alone.

He noted that labor force participation nationwide has declined over the last two decades after continually increasing from the 1940s through the 1990s. In 2001, the participation rate was 66.7%. Since then, it has dropped to 61.9%.

“Right now what we’re seeing is there were a lot of Baby Boomers who retired early during COVID,” said Richards. “And the generations behind the Baby Boomers are not as large. We just don’t have as many people to replace them.”

When Jay County posted an unemployment rate of 2.1% in October it was the lowest on record on the Indiana Department of Workforce Development website, which has statistics back to 1990.

See Rate page 2

Curriculum bill advances

By CASEY SMITH
Associated Press/Report for America

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana lawmakers are moving forward with a series of contentious Republican-backed bills that they say would increase transparency of K-12 school curricula and restrict students from accessing “harmful materials” at libraries.

One proposal, which was approved by the House on Wednesday, would require classroom materials to be posted online and vetted by parent review committees, and restrict teaching about racism and politics.

It would also limit what teachers can say in class on sensitive subjects, prohibiting them from using materials that “present any form of racial or sex-stereotyping or blame on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, religion,

color, national origin, or political affiliation.”

The bill now heads to the Senate, where it could be taken up as early as next week.

House lawmakers on Tuesday rolled back the bill’s language a second time to address ongoing concerns raised by teachers and education advocates during Statehouse testimony in recent weeks.

While the amended bill stipu-

lates that schools must still post class materials online, educators are only required to post “bibliographic materials,” rather than daily lesson plans. Any “pre-planned” curriculum for the academic year would need to be made available on the school’s website or online learning management system by Aug. 1, annually.

See Bill page 2

Measure would require classroom materials to be posted online



Japan News

Help on the way

The Osumi, a Maritime Self-Defense Force transport ship, is seen leaving Kure, Hiroshima Prefecture, for Tonga on Monday. The ship had departed for Tonga on Monday to provide aid to the southern Pacific nation recently ravaged by an undersea volcanic eruption and subsequent tsunami.

Deaths

John Bright, 90, Portland
Elizabeth Strietelmeier, 95, Berne
Elaine Grube, 69, Fort Recovery
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 18 Wednesday. The low was negative 4 early in the day with wind chills as low as negative 13.
Expect a low of 13 tonight. Skies will be sunny Friday with a high of 18.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Two new candidates filed to run for office Tuesday. Republicans adding their names to the ballot for the May primary were Cindy Bracey for Jay County Council District 4 and Matt Caster for Jackson Township Advisory Board.

Coming up

Friday — Coverage of today’s Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council joint session.

Saturday — Results from Friday’s Jay County High School boys basketball game at Bluffton.



Obituaries

John Bright

April 29, 1931-Jan. 26, 2022
John William Bright, age 90, of Portland passed away Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022, at Reid Hospital in Richmond.



John was born in Winchester on April 29, 1931, the son of John Paul and Anna Jane (Day) Bright. He was married on Oct. 24, 1951, to Barbara Gaynell Chew, and she passed away on Oct. 4, 2020. John served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict. He was a 1949 Portland High School graduate, attended Butler University and graduated from Ball State University. John was a teacher and a coach, having taught in Cambridge City, Selma and Albany. He was also principal at

Randolph Southern. He is a member of Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, 1949 Indiana All-Star Team, American Legion Post 211 and Church of the Brethren in Portland.

Surviving are one son, Bill Bright of Fresno, California; three daughters, Diana Jobe (husband: Joe) of Portland, Bonnie Sabo (husband: Mike) of Novi, Michigan, and Rebecca Thornburg (husband: Steve) of Portland; one brother, Doug Bright (wife: Nancy) of Jacksonville, Florida; one sister Beth Korahas (husband: Jimmy) of Jacksonville, Florida; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Private family services will be held in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Kevin McClung presiding. Burial will be in the Salamonina Cemetery with military graveside honors.

Memorials can be made to the Jay County Community Center or American Legion Post 211.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Betty Strietelmeier

Sept. 22, 1926-Jan. 24, 2022
Elizabeth "Betty" A. (Steinkamp) Strietelmeier, age 95, formerly of Columbus, Indiana, passed away Monday, Jan. 24, 2022, at Swiss Village in Berne where had been a resident since 2006.



Betty was born in Columbus on Sept. 22, 1926, the daughter of Edward and Esther (Weber) Steinkamp. She was married in 1947 to Robert Strietelmeier and he passed away in 2007. She was a homemaker and member of

Grace Lutheran Church in Columbus where she and her husband were among the founding members. Betty was active in the church serving as a Sunday School teacher for 36 years and a Mid-Week Church School teacher for 25 years. She was a rider of horses, a trainer of dogs, an avid gardener, and a devoted grandmother.

Surviving are one son, Mark Strietelmeier (wife: Cindy) of Indianapolis; two grandchildren, Ed Strietelmeier (wife: Laura) and Kate Homan (husband: Tony); and three great-grandchildren Isaac Homan, Eleanor Strietelmeier and Elizabeth Strietelmeier.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother Darrell Steinkamp; and a daughter, Sandy Strietelmeier.

Private family services will be held with burial in the Garland Brook Cemetery in Columbus,

Indiana. Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland, Indiana, is handling the arrangements.

Memorials may be made to the Samaritan Fund, Swiss Village, 1350 W. Main St., Berne, IN 46711.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Elaine Ann Grube, Fort Recovery, died Wednesday in Fort Recovery. A Mass of Christian Burial is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Monday at St. Paul Catholic Church in Sharpsburg.

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

Friday 1/28	Saturday 1/29	Sunday 1/30	Monday 1/31	Tuesday 2/1
18/1 Mostly sunny skies and cold, with a high near 18. Northeast wind around 10 miles per hour.	20/12 Sunny and cold, with a high near 20. Calm wind becoming southwest around 5 mph.	29/15 Mostly cloudy, with a high near 29.	35/25 Mostly sunny, with a high near 35.	44/36 Rain likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36. The chance of precipitation is 60%.

Rate ...

Continued from page 1 (The previous low at the time was 2.4% in September 2019.)

The rate then dropped to 1.7% in November and now 1.1% this month. The local unemployment rate in December 2020 was 3%.

Jay County was tied with Carroll, Dearborn, Decatur, Jefferson, Morgan, Noble, Ripley, Shel-

by, Spencer, Tippecanoe, Wabash and Washington counties.

Low unemployment has been the trend across the state. After 58 counties were below 2% in November, 39 were at 1% or lower this month. The state average was 1.3%.

LaGrange County was lowest in Indiana at 0.7%. Adams County was among six counties tied

for second-lowest in the state at 0.8%.

Lake County posted the highest rate in Indiana at 2.5%. Howard County came in at 2.4% and Fayette County was next at 2%. Every other county in the state was below 2%.

Area rates are as follows:
Adams County: 0.8%, down 0.6 percentage points, t-second lowest
Blackford County: 1.4%,

down 0.38 percentage points, t-15th highest

Delaware County: 1.5%, down 0.59 percentage points, t-12th highest

Jay County: 1.1%, down 0.6 percentage points, t-40th lowest

Randolph County: 1%, down 0.6 percentage points, t-20th lowest

Wells County: 0.9%, down 0.5 percentage points, t-eighth lowest

Lotteries

Powerball
04-11-38-49-69
Power Ball: 16
Power Play: 3
Estimated jackpot: \$91 million

Estimated jackpot: \$5.6 million

Hoosier
Midday
Daily Three: 1-7-7
Daily Four: 7-3-8-0
Quick Draw: 04-06-08-11-14-15-21-22-29-31-40-45-49-51-65-66-73-74-75-78
Evening
Daily Three: 8-3-8
Daily Four: 5-5-2-9
Quick Draw: 02-04-05-07-11-14-16-17-18-24-28-37-43-44-54-57-59-65-69-80
Cash 5: 01-09-10-17-45
Hoosier Lotto: 02-03-13-22-27-44

Ohio
Midday
Pick 3: 6-0-3
Pick 4: 6-5-7-9
Pick 5: 0-9-7-3-8
Evening
Pick 3: 5-1-6
Pick 4: 9-8-1-7
Pick 5: 9-9-7-7
Rolling Cash: 6-12-15-17-29
Classic Lotto: 6-24-39-40-44-46
Kicker: 0-7-9-1-8-0
Estimated jackpot: \$20.5 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$421 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery
Corn.....6.33
Feb. corn6.36
Wheat7.67

Wheat 7.72
Feb. wheat 7.72

Central States Montpelier
Corn.....6.21
Feb. corn6.21
Beans14.39
Feb. beans14.39
Jan. wheat 7.80

POET Biorefining Portland
Corn.....6.35
Feb. corn6.37
March. corn6.35

Sunrise St. Anthony
Corn.....6.20
Feb. corn6.20
Beans14.27
Feb. beans14.27
Wheat7.47

The Andersons Richland Township
Corn.....6.20
Feb. corn6.25
Beans14.37
Feb. beans14.37

Today in history

On Jan. 27, 1967, astronauts Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Edward H. White and Roger B. Chaffee died in a flash fire during a test aboard their Apollo spacecraft.
In 1880, Thomas Edison received a patent for his electric incandescent lamp.
In 1888, the National Geographic Society was incorporated in Washington, D.C.
In 1944, during World War II, the Soviet Union announced the complete end of the deadly German siege of Leningrad,

which had lasted for more than two years.
In 1945, during World War II, Soviet troops liberated the Nazi concentration camps Auschwitz and Birkenau in Poland.
In 1972, Henry County Circuit Court ruled in favor of The Commercial Review in a libel suit brought against the paper by former Indiana State Police lieutenant Robert L. Davis.
In 1973, the Vietnam peace accords were signed in Paris.
—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
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.
Friday
8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St.

Bill ...

Continued from page 1
A provision allowing lawsuits if a school doesn't respond to complaints about teachers was also amended to cap civil damages for violations at \$1,000. Allegations would still be subject to a statute of limitation of 30 business days and must show "willful or wanton" violations of the law, according to the amended bill.

A failed amendment by Democratic Rep. Ed DeLaney of Indianapolis — who said the bill would lead to increased litigation — would have made the state responsible for legal fees, rather than school districts.

"We're afraid of change. We want to tell our kids everything's alright the way it is ... And we want to tell some parents that if you think the teacher went a step too far, go make a complaint," DeLaney said Wednesday. "So what do we want our kids to do? We don't want them to be awake. We want them to be asleep. That's what this bill proposes — put our kids, and their minds, and their futures to sleep."

Republican Rep. Tony Cook of Cicero, who authored the bill, argued his goal is to "empower parents" by increasing transparency

around classroom curricula, while still allowing for the teaching of historical injustices.

"All measures in this bill are required to ensure that parents have opportunity to be aware, in real time, of what and how material is being taught in their students classrooms," Cook said.

House Republicans are pushing ahead with the bill, even after the Senate effectively defeated a similar proposal.

The Senate bill, authored by Republican Sen. Scott Baldwin of Noblesville, would have prohibited K-12 schools from requiring a student or employee to "engage in training, orientation, or therapy that presents any form of racial or sex stereotyping or blame on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color, national origin, or political affiliation." Teachers would also not be allowed to "include or promote" such concepts in class.

Baldwin drew widespread condemnation this month when he said teachers must be "impartial" when discussing Nazism and other political ideologies. He later walked back his comments, saying he meant to say he "unequivocally" condemns Nazism, fascism and Marxism, and

that he agrees that teachers "should condemn those dangerous ideologies."

Some language from Baldwin's bill was at the heart of another proposal that advanced to the full Senate on Wednesday.

The author of that bill, Republican Sen. Jim Tones of Wadesville, said his legislation would remove educational purposes as a reason that public schools and libraries could claim legal protection for sharing "harmful material" with minors. That includes books and other materials deemed to be obscene, pornographic or violent.

Legislators additionally pushed forward a bill on Wednesday that would ban transgender women and girls from participating in school sports that match their gender identity.

The proposal, which could get approval from the full House on Thursday, 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.

Record ...

Continued from page 1
The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is vaccination, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Boosters are now recommended for everyone 12 and older five months after the initial vaccination. (The CDC also recommends that masks be worn indoors in areas of "substantial or high transmission," which includes Jay County.)

The state's website indicates Jay County currently has eight vaccination sites — CVS in Portland and Dunkirk, Walgreens in Portland and Jay County Health Department, as well as IU Health Jay and its primary care provider practices. (Vaccines for children 5 to 11 years old are available only at the

health department and the IU Health Jay sites.)

Walk-in vaccinations are now available at Jay County Health Department from 9 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Also, the state department of health has also set up a coronavirus testing and vaccination clinic at Blackford County Fairgrounds, 310 E. Park St., Hartford City. It is open from noon to 8 p.m. today through Saturday. Appointments are not needed and all testing and vaccinations are free. (IU Health offers free rides to any vaccination site in the state by calling (888) 484-3258.)

At-home COVID-19 tests are now available for free from the federal govern-

ment. They can be ordered at covidtests.gov.

Jay County continues to rank sixth-lowest in vaccination rate among Indiana's 92 counties. Its rate is 39.3%. Marion County is highest in the state at 78.1%.

Coronavirus is mainly spread through droplets or particles from an infected person coughing, sneezing, talking or breathing.

The virus causes a range of symptoms, including fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, which can appear two to 14 days after exposure.

SERVICES

Friday

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

Monday

Grube, Elaine: 10:30 a.m., St. Paul Catholic Church, 517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery

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

Service listings provided by

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Portland, Indiana 47371

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UP COMING EVENTS
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June 28th - Ticket info available on location

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Open 7 days a week at 10:30 AM

Distant son is jailed

DEAR ABBY: My 38-year-old son is in jail for meth. He's been an addict for many years. I tried several times to help him, but he always relapsed. He has been in rehab. His mother and I divorced when he was 7. He was a great kid until the divorce. After that, he became distant and wouldn't talk much to me.

His mother tried to make up for the divorce by doing everything for him. When I wanted him to do something, like his homework, he would just sit and stare. I couldn't punish him because I was afraid he wouldn't want to come to my place when it was my weekend to have him. I did things with him and tried to show him I loved him, but I think he blamed me for the divorce. (It was my wife who wanted it.)

I don't think he ever loved me like a son normally loves his father; the way I loved and respected mine. He rejected any advice I tried to offer and paid no attention when I tried to teach him something.

I'm trying to decide if I want to contact him. I feel like I have always had to do the heavy lifting to try to have a relationship with him, and he made no effort at all to sustain one with me. If I never heard from

Dear Abby



him again, I really wouldn't miss him. All he has ever been is a taker. So I'm asking: Should I bother trying to get in contact with him while he is in jail? — FRUSTRATED FATHER IN TEXAS

DEAR FATHER: Your son is sick — an addict. That he is in jail will hopefully mean he can attain sobriety. Reach out to him one more time. He may believe you deserted him and his mother because she allowed him to believe it, which would explain his attitude toward you all these years. It might be of some benefit to him to be reminded that you love him and care about his well-being. Once he is clean, he may have a different attitude where you are concerned. If not, at least you tried.

DEAR ABBY: I have ended a four-year romantic relationship. When times were good, they were very good. I had some of the most joyful and wonderful

experiences of my life with him, my children and his family. We were planning to spend the rest of our lives together:

However, when the going got rough, he started seeing other women and, later, was hateful to one of my tween children. Even as I write that last part, I am appalled. I know in my head the relationship had to end, yet I continue to cry over the loss every day, and my sleep remains disrupted.

What's the matter with me that I'm pining over a man who turned so sour? I should feel relieved, right? How can I help myself move through this? — TOO MANY TEARS

DEAR TEARS: I sympathize with your disappointment. We have all been there. Now wipe your nose, dry those tears and remind yourself that, had the romance continued, you might have married someone who would verbally abuse your children and cheat on you. You aren't crying over the loss of "him" as much as grieving the loss of a dream that didn't come to fruition. Stay busy and focus harder on looking ahead, and you will move through this more quickly.



Photo provided

Casey winner

Jay County Civic Theatre last month honored Jason McGraw with its Tom Casey Lifetime Achievement Award. McGraw has been involved with Jay County Civic Theatre for more than 20 years, including serving on the organization's board of directors. He has directed more shows than anyone in the history of Jay County Civic Theatre, including "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," "Grease," "The Little Mermaid" and "Elf the Musical."

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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

Community Calendar

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

Today

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 Port-

land. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each 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.

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

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

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

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

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6 p.m. each Monday at A Second

Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

Tuesday

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

THE LANDING — A 12-step program for those in sixth through 12th grade will meet at 5:55 p.m. each Tuesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 703-0777 or (260) 726-5273.

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'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.

Find Local Businesses & Services

Fortkamp Foam
3226 Wabash Road
Ft. Recovery, OH
419-852-1390
Fortkampfoam.com

Hopkins Repair, LLC
Auto & light truck repair
Mon-Fri. • 7am-4pm
Call Scott Hopkins
260-251-0459

Adair Processing
190 N. Union St.
Pennville, IN
260-731-3221

All Weather Heating and Air Conditioning
(260)726-4822
24 hr Emergency Service
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Dr. Thomas Banta
1413 W. Votaw St.,
Portland
260-726-7822

Display Craft Signs
630 E. Votaw St.
Portland, IN
260-726-4535

Baird Freeman Funeral Home
221 N. Meridian St.
Portland, IN
260-726-7171

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition
100 N. Meridian St.,
Portland, IN 47371
Email: jcdpccontact@gmail.com

Dunn Family Dental Care
110 W. North St.
Portland, IN 47371
260-726-8007

All Circuit Electrical, LLC
5510 N. US 27, Bryant, IN
260-997-8336
www.allcircuitelectrical.com

Ohio Valley Gas
129 E. Main St.,
Portland
260-726-8114
www.ovgc.com

Williams Auto Parts, Inc.
1127 Detroit Ave.
Portland, IN
8-5:30 Mon-Fri,
Closed Sat & Sun.
Used auto parts since 1951
(260) 726-8001
www.williamsautoparts.com

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765-768-6224
www.fuquachrysler.com

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419-375-4951
www.ehomeidea.com

This local business listing runs 4 times a month with packages of either \$25, or \$50.
Give us a call at 260-726-8141 to be included

Why are more not participating?

By MORTON J. MARCUS

I've been reading a 309-page story that could become a delightful movie about corporate deceit and anti-social behavior.

The managers of JUUL would be hilarious, if played by the Marx brothers. Sadly, those managers caused widespread teen addiction and added costs for our schools.

Remember when cigarette smoking was readily accepted in public places? When the U.S. Surgeon General submitted a report in 1964 on the link between cancer, heart disease and cigarettes, we increased regulations on "coffin nails." Twenty years later, smoking was banned from public areas including airplanes, hospitals and restaurants.

In the 1990s, Attorneys General

Eye on the Pie



across America sued tobacco companies and won massive awards for the states in compensation for health care provided to smokers. Since 1999, Indiana has received \$2.9 billion for smoking cessation and related programs, including \$146 million in 2021.

Then, along came vaping, the process of heating a chemical solution producing a gas which, like cigarettes, contains nicotine and can be inhaled. Quickly,

JUUL's products captured the market. This was achieved by targeting children in junior and senior high schools.

Although JUUL denies such targeting, its use of social media, packaging and flavor additives made it "cool" for those 13 to 23. A steady and growing stream of health problems among the young led to many studies and even a Congressional hearing about vaping.

JUUL products deliver more nicotine than cigarettes in a single puff, speeding the process of nicotine addiction. Whereas cigarettes burn out, ending the intake of nicotine, JUUL delivers its higher volume nicotine long after any cigarette might last.

In 2018, the JUUL Labs, Inc. (JLI) sold a 35% interest in itself

to Altria, the former Philip Morris mega-corporation, for \$12.8 billion. Armed with the experience of Altria in selling tobacco to the youth market, JUUL expanded the market for nicotine addiction. Originally promoted as a convenient, reliable way to quit smoking, JUUL and other e-cigarette producers knew early addiction promotes long-term sales.

As young people became addicted to e-cigarettes, school counselors and teachers had to contend with increased disruptive behaviors and new health issues of students. Critical time lost to education and guidance was a real cost not reported in annual financial statements.

Today, a multi-state lawsuit representing over 250 school dis-

tricts is progressing. Yet only 15 are from Indiana. Why so few? There are no financial risks, no fees to pay for the school districts. All they have to do is answer a questionnaire which is mainly yes/no.

From my reading of the submission on behalf of the Carmel Clay Schools, the blatant deceit of JLI management will be exposed and a good financial boost for the schools realized. Why aren't the school boards in other communities participating? Are they so blessed that they have no vaping epidemic and no use for added funds?

.....

Marcus is an economist. Email him at mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com.

Board changes are for the better

The Washington Post

The Securities and Exchange Commission last summer approved a proposal by Nasdaq to require that most boards of directors among the exchange's approximately 3,000 companies include at least one woman as well as at least one person of color or one LGBTQ person.

Despite howls from conservatives, somehow the world has survived.

Nasdaq's initiative, which takes effect starting this year, was groundbreaking for a U.S. securities exchange. It is not very novel in other contexts.

California already had laws mandating that public companies headquartered in the state have women and, by 2023, members of underrepresented communities on their boards.

Many European countries, including Britain, Germany and Norway, where capitalism thrives, require more gender diversity than Nasdaq envisions.

Still, it would be wrong to discount Nasdaq's efforts, spurred by the racial reckoning that followed George Floyd's murder.

At the time Floyd was killed by a White Minneapolis police officer, in May 2020, more than three-quarters of Nasdaq's members did not meet the inclusion criteria it subsequently proposed.

More than 80% of the directors on boards of the Fortune 500 were White, and while the number of female directors serving on those boards was expanding quickly, there had been little movement toward racial diversification.

Conservatives protested that board membership should depend exclusively on professional qualifications; GOP members of the Senate Banking Committee harrumphed that "America's corporate boardrooms are not the place for social engineering."

Those very arguments had been deployed for decades to exclude women, African Americans and others from jobs at every level and in every industry in the U.S. — including at major media outlets.

In fact, highly qualified women and minorities were seldom named to

Guest Editorial

corporate boards because board members and chief executives, who did most of the hiring, were White males who recruited from their own White, male networks.

Goldman Sachs, whose command of corporate governance surely exceeds that of GOP politicians, backed Nasdaq's move. The argument that there is no "pipeline" of qualified minorities is preposterous.

To cite one telling example, the New York Times reported that the chairman of MIT's chemical engineering department — Paula T. Hammond, a Black woman and prominent cancer researcher — had never even been approached before 2020 to join the board of any publicly traded company.

That was the case even though her scientific and managerial expertise made her an obvious selection to serve on a pharmaceutical or biotechnology company board.

There are encouraging signs.

At least a dozen states, including California, have adopted or are considering laws that would set quotas to diversify corporate boards or set disclosure requirements, a means of forcing corporations that drag their feet to explain their recalcitrance.

Last year, nearly 60% of S&P 500 firms disclosed their board members' ethnic and racial background, more than double the rate a year earlier.

Nasdaq firms that do not comply with the new guidelines will be required to explain why — a form of naming and shaming. More progress is needed. Luckily, there are plenty of incentives for firms to make strides, and not just political and public pressure.

An exhaustive study by the management consultancy McKinsey & Co. shows that companies whose boards feature more gender and ethnic diversity are more profitable than those dominated by White males.



Smith deserves some credit

By MARGARET SULLIVAN

The Washington Post

When Evan Smith co-founded the Texas Tribune back in 2009, digital-first nonprofit newsrooms were something of a rarity. There was ProPublica, only two years old at the time, MinnPost in Minneapolis, the Voice of San Diego, and a few others.

So his move from top editor of the award-winning Texas Monthly magazine, at the urging of venture capitalist John Thornton, was considered slightly bizarre.

"The tone of the coverage was almost mocking," Smith recalled, soon after he announced he would step down as the Tribune's CEO at the end of this year. "It was 'what does this joker think he's doing?'"

As it turns out, Smith and company — he and Thornton recruited Texas Weekly editor Ross Ramsey to join the endeavor — had a good idea of what they were doing, or figured it out along the way.

The Austin-based Tribune has grown from 17 employees to around 80 (more than 50 are journalists), raising \$100 million through philanthropy, membership and events, including its annual Texas Tribune Festival that has attracted speakers from Nancy Pelosi to Willie Nelson. Most important, it has done a huge amount of statewide news coverage with a focus on holding powerful people and institutions accountable.

These days, such newsrooms are springing up everywhere; there are now hundreds of them. They are easily the most promising development in the troubled world of local journalism, where newspapers are going out of business or vastly shrinking their staffs as print revenue plummets and ownership increasingly falls to large chains, sometimes owned by hedge funds.

In Baltimore, the Banner — funded by Maryland hotel magnate Stewart Bainum — is hiring staff and expects to start publishing soon. In Chicago, the Sun-Times is converting from a

Margaret Sullivan



traditional newspaper to a nonprofit as it merges operations with public radio station WBEZ. And in Houston, three local philanthropies working with the American Journalism Project (also co-founded by Thornton) announced a \$20 million venture that will create one of the largest nonprofit news organizations in the country.

"These newsrooms are popping up like mushrooms after a rainstorm," Smith, 55, told me.

He's right about the growth of nonprofit news — and he's also one of the reasons it's thriving. "A true pioneer," wrote Peter Lattman, managing director of media at the Emerson Collective, the philanthropic corporation funded by Laurene Powell Jobs.

As a speaker at Trib Fest myself, I've seen Smith in action — a promotional force of nature, energetic organizer, prodigious fundraiser, and lively onstage interviewer.

Emily Ramshaw, who started at the Trib as a reporter and was named its top editor in 2016, called him "an innovator, a ringleader and a fearlessly ambitious local news entrepreneur." What's more, she told me, Smith has brought along "a whole series of news leaders who have grown up in his image."

Ramshaw counts herself among them; she left the Trib in 2020 to found a new nonprofit news organization, the 19th, which covers the intersection of gender, politics and society.

The Trib's new editor is Sewell Chan, most recently at the Los Angeles Times, where he was the top opinion-side editor; and previously at the New York Times and The Washington Post. Smith counts it as a triumph for

nonprofit newsrooms that it's no longer unusual for them to attract the likes of Chan, or of Kimi Yoshino, who was managing editor of the L.A. Times before being named editor in chief of the Baltimore Banner.

"Now when people like Sewell Chan or Kimi Yoshino come to a nonprofit newsroom, no one is mocking their decisions," Smith said. (He has no immediate plans for what he'll do after stepping down as CEO, saying that it simply was the right time to make the move; he'll remain as an adviser for another year.)

The Trib's journalism is influential well beyond its own free website. More than 400 Texas Tribune stories appeared on the front pages of newspapers throughout the state last year, provided free of charge. The site has done investigative projects on the effect of sex trafficking on young girls, the influence of religious belief on the lawmaking of Texas legislators, and an investigation, part of its voting rights coverage, into the state's review of voting rolls. In 2019, it announced it was joining forces with ProPublica to form a new investigative unit based in Austin.

"No state is more in need of watchdog reporting than Texas," Smith said when that effort was launched. "It's a target-rich environment if you're in the business of holding people in power and institutions accountable."

But far from the only one. With local news outlets withering in many communities — statehouse coverage, in particular, has dwindled despite its importance — and democratic norms under attack in many states, the need for that kind of watchdog reporting is acute everywhere.

If local journalism proves itself up to these challenges — and I fervently hope it will — Evan Smith will deserve a share of the credit, no matter what he decides to do next.

.....

Sullivan is *The Washington Post's* media columnist.

The Commercial Review

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



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

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

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34 Kan. neighbor
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36 Preten-tious

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90 SALE CALENDAR

LAND AUCTION
Saturday, January 29th, 2022
TIME 10:00 A.M.
AUCTION LOCATION: Bryant Community Center
(107 South Main 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
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128 total acreage located within Section 17 of Wabash Township in Adams County, Indiana. The land is non-tillable and will be offered as one of three tracts:
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Jay rolls in 1st round

Both Patriot teams are moving on.

The host Jay County Junior High School's eighth grade girls basketball team knocked off Adams Central 19-14 Wednesday in the opening round of the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament.

The seventh grade team clobbered the Jets, 29-1.

Alexis Sibray led the eighth grade team to its victory with nine points. Mya Kunkler and Rainah Cross added four points apiece.

Hallie Schwieterman's nine points set the pace for the Patriot seventh graders. Gabi Petro and Lizzy Brunswick each had six points.

Both teams advance to the semifinal round tonight. Championship games are set for Saturday.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Conference competitor

Abigail Johnson of the Jay County High School girls swim team competes in the 200-yard freestyle Friday night during the Allen County Athletic Conference Championships. Johnson placed seventh in the event for host JCHS, which won its fifth consecutive conference title.

Skinny ...

Continued from page 8

Delta at 3-16 and Yorktown at 5-16. (Jay County beat those teams by a combined 79 points.)

Sectional 24 also includes 2-7 Muncie Burris and 11-9 New Castle.

A close look at this year's girls pairings reveals that there are 11 sectionals in which the two teams with the best records meet in the first round.

There are also 47 teams with losing records who received first-round byes.

Teams should be rewarded for what they accomplish in the regular season. The blind draw doesn't do that.

The IHSAA should look at changing how it sets up its playoff brackets in all sports.

Brackets should be seeded, and the most fair way to do this is to have

the coaches handle the seeding. Elsewhere, this takes place at a seeding meeting the Saturday morning before postseason play is slated to begin. This allows coaches to seed the brackets based on the most recent results available.

I know we don't like to tinker with things as sacred as Hoosier Hysteria, but the IHSAA made a major change to the postseason format in 1997-98 when it moved to the four-class system we've grown to accept.

It's time for the IHSAA to make another big change and eliminate the blind draw.

Contact CR sports editor David Vantress at 726-8141 or by email at d.vantress@thecr.com. Follow him on Twitter at @journalodave1966.

Pacers allow record 158

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Charlotte coach James Borrego gave his players a simple instruction Wednesday night.

Let it fly.

The Hornets didn't disappoint. They made 24 3-pointers, broke the franchise's single-game scoring record and produced the highest point total in the NBA this season with a 158-126 win over the Indiana Pacers.

"Tonight we we kind of got in that zone in the third quarter and we didn't look back," said Kelly Oubre Jr., who scored a career-high 39 points and made a career-best 10 3-pointers. "None of us were going for numbers today. We just wanted to play hard."

The numbers, though, were incredible. Oubre was 12 of 18 from the field and only missed five 3s. LaMelo Ball had his fourth triple double of the season with 29 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds.

In all, four Hornets players topped the 20-point mark as they tied a season-best from beyond the arc.

Charlotte also snapped a two-game losing streak and pulled off a four-game sweep of the injury-depleted Pacers, who eliminated the Hornets in the play-in round last season.

It was no surprise to Borrego.

"We were due for one of these games," he said. "We just got rolling, one guy after another and just a great game offensively tonight and a great third quarter defensively. That's what turned the game."

The Pacers, led by 17 points from both Goga Bitadze and rookie Isaiah Jackson, lost their third straight and seventh out of nine.

Playing without three starters, Indiana simply couldn't keep up, and it didn't much time to see what was coming.

Charlotte opened the game by scoring 12 of the first 15 points and led 71-70 at the half. The Hor-

nets opened the third quarter with seven straight points and used a 13-2 spurt to take a 104-82 lead with 4:18 to go.

They broke the franchise mark, fittingly, on a 3 from Myles Bridges with 5:14 to go and coasted to the final buzzer.

"It happens, you've just got to keep going and playing tougher like we did on the West Coast," Bitadze said. "It's hard. It's not like you're going to forget about it. You've got to use it as motivation."

Tip ins

Torrey Craig and Lance Stephenson each had 14 points and Stephenson had 10 assists. ... Bitadze had six rebounds. ... Chris Duarte scored 11 points while Justin Holiday and Caris LeVert each had 10. ... Two-time All-Star Domantas Sabonis (sprained left ankle), Myles Turner (left foot) and Malcolm Brogdon (sore right Achilles tendon) all sat out.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today

Jay County — Girls basketball at Heritage — 6 p.m.; Swimming vs. Marion — 6 p.m.; Gymnastics at Huntington North — 6:30 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball hosts Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament — TBA

Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. Coldwater — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball vs. Coldwater — 5 p.m.

Friday

Jay County — Boys basketball triple-header at Bluffton — 5 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys basketball at Coldwater — 6 p.m.

Saturday

Jay County — Wrestling host sectional — 8:30 a.m.; Gymnastics at Western Invitational — noon; Boys basketball triple-header vs. Blackford — 6:30 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Swimming in Cavalier

Invitational at Jay County — 9 a.m.; Girls basketball at Troy Christian — noon; Boys basketball at Mississinawa Valley — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball at Celina — 10 a.m.

TV schedule

Today

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)

Friday

3:30 a.m. — Tennis: Australian Open — Semifinals (ESPN)

7 p.m. — Men's college basketball:

Rhode Island at Dayton (ESPN2)

7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: St. John's at DePaul (FS1)

7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Los Angeles Lakers at Charlotte Hornets (ESPN)

9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: UNLV at Colorado State (FS1)

10 p.m. — NBA basketball: New York Knicks at Milwaukee Bucks (ESPN)

11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Boise State at Fresno State (FS1)

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A one-shot decision

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♦K Q 5
♥A J 7 4
♦Q 8 3
♠K 10 4

monds and ace of clubs to put South down one.

As can be seen, had East played the ace of diamonds rather than the ten — paying blind obedience to the rule of "third-hand high" — declarer would have made the contract. The question, therefore, is why did East decide to play the ten?

The answer lies in East's assessment that rising with the ace would almost surely hand South the contract. After dummy came down, East could see that, in due course, declarer would score seven spades, the ace of hearts and the king of clubs. East also knew from his partner's lead of the diamond deuce (fourth-best) that South had three diamonds. The play of the ace at trick one would thus ultimately establish the diamond queen as declarer's 10th trick.

WEST

♦2
♥Q 10 8 5
♦K J 5 2
♠A J 7 3

EAST

♦9 3
♥9 6 2
♦A 10 4
♠Q 9 6 5 2

SOUTH

♦A J 10 8 7 6 4
♥K 3
♦9 7 6
♠8

East could think of only one case where putting up the ace would be right. If South held ♠AJxxxxx♥xx♦jxx♠x. East would have to take the diamond ace and return a heart before declarer could establish the king of clubs for a heart discard.

But East reasoned that if declarer had this hand, West would have led the heart king from K-Q-x-x rather than a diamond from K-x-x-x. East therefore placed South with the king or queen of hearts, which meant that playing the diamond ten offered the best chance to defeat the contract.

The bidding: South West North East 3 South Pass 4 North Pass

Opening lead — two of diamonds. Certain defensive plays are considered by many to be virtually automatic, such as playing second-hand low or covering an honor with an honor. But those with sufficient experience have learned that there are exceptions to all such "rules."

Take this case where a defender could easily go wrong playing by rote. West had a choice of unattractive leads against four spades and finally settled on the two of diamonds. Declarer played low from dummy, and East, after considerable thought, inserted the ten! When this held, the defenders quickly collected the A-K of dia-

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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1-27 CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF PEOPLE WHO ARE BRAND NEW TO BOXING ARE INEXPERIENCED, SOME MIGHT CALL THEM NEO-FIGHTS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals Y

90 SALE CALENDAR 110 HELP WANTED 160 WANTED TO BUY 230 AUTOS, TRUCKS 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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There are several great pieces of furniture, chicken themed decor, and many other great items!

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF INTENT PUBLIC NOTICE

Dunkirk Partners, LLC, 5282 Booth Road, Liberty, IN, is submitting Notice of Intent to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Water Quality, of our intent to comply with the requirements of 327 IAC 15-5 (Rule 5) for Storm Water Discharge associated with Construction Activity at 1001 S Main St, Dunkirk, IN 47336, for construction of a new retail store. The site will have its main access off S Main St (SR-167). The runoff will be detained on-site with a slow release to the city storm system. Questions or comments regarding this project should be directed to: Shane Coffman at Dunkirk Partners, LLC, 765-458-7896. CR 1-27-2022-HSPAXLP

Public Notice

State of Indiana
County of Jay
CASE NO. 38C01-2201-MI-1
Re: The Name Change of Minor Madison Rose Thomas and Gavin Craig Thomas
Name of the Minor Chastity Dawn Hambrick, Petitioner

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, Chastity Dawn Hambrick, as a self-represented litigant, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name on January 12, 2022 to change the name of Gavin Craig Thomas to Gavin Craig Hambrick and to change the name of Madison Rose Thomas to Madison Rose Hambrick.

The petition is scheduled for hearing in the Jay Circuit Court on March 9, 2022 at 10:20 AM, which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date.

January 12, 2022, Date
Jon Eads
Clerk, Circuit Court
CR 1-27-2,10-2022-HSPAXLP

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Sports

The **Skinny**



Baders help earn academic honor

Jay County High School alums Alex Bader (2018) and Eliza Bader (2021) contributed to the Ball State University women's swimming and diving team earning Scholar All-America honors from the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America.

The Cardinal women qualified for the honor for the 22nd consecutive semester, posting a 3.57 team grade point average with 32 athletes. A team GPA of 3.0 is required for the honor. The Ball State men also earned the academic nod, with an overall team GPA of 3.33 for 29 athletes.

The Cardinal women's team GPA was the best of all NCAA Division I programs in Indiana, while the men's was second-best in the state, behind only Purdue's 3.39.

Collegiate Check-up

Last week, Alex Bader, a senior, was also part of a 200-yard medley relay team that took first place in its event during a meet against Eastern Michigan, which the Cardinals lost, 167-133. She combined with freshman Hannah Jones, junior Shelby Crist and junior Apsara Sakbun to win the event in 1 minute, 45.04 seconds.

Bader also won the 100 breaststroke (1:04.80).

Eliza Bader finished sixth in the 50 freestyle (25.56).

Vivienne Kunkler Jay County - 2019

Won a pair of events for the Bethel University women's swimming team in a quad meet with Wabash College, Indiana Wesleyan University and Manchester University.

Kunkler took the 100-yard breaststroke (1 minute, 9.50 seconds) and also won the 200 breaststroke (2:31.50).

She was also part of a 200 medley relay team that won its event (1:53.61) along with Pilot teammates Mikaela Vanasdale, Kayla Logeals and Elisabeth Wolfe.

Kierra Wendel Fort Recovery - 2021

Saw action off the bench in a pair of games for Edison State College last week.

Wendel played 16 minutes in the Chargers' 90-62 home win over Hocking College on Jan. 19. She scored seven points on 3-of-5 shooting from the field, also going 1-for-2 from the free-throw line. She added a rebound, a steal and an assist.

Wendel recorded eight minutes in Edison State's 96-72 victory on the road at Bryant and Stratton College on Jan. 22. She grabbed two rebounds and had one assist.

Noah Arbuckle Jay County - 2020

Pitched five innings of relief for Huntington University in the Foresters' 13-9 loss to Benedictine University of Mesa on Jan. 21.

Arbuckle gave up four runs — all earned — on five hits with a walk and two strikeouts.

Blind draw needs to go

By DAVID VANTRESS

The Commercial Review

With Sunday night's IHSAA girls basketball sectional pairings program, one of our favorite times of the year — Hoosier Hysteria — is officially upon us.

Also upon us is a debate that, sure as winter sweeping across the plains, accompanies post-season prep sports time in Indiana.

Is it time to get rid of the blind draw?

Every year, the IHSAA seems to give us more fodder for the "yes" side of that argument.

And 2021-22 is no different, with the added bonus of one of our local teams affected by the arbitrary nature of the blind draw.

Elsewhere, playoff brackets are set according to merit. At post-season time, successful teams are rewarded with higher seeds and sometimes a first-round bye.

The two best teams in a playoff bracket should not see each other until the finals.

Not so here in the Hoosier state. With the blind draw, the two best teams in a sectional can, and often do, meet in the first round, and teams with few or no wins can get the byes.

Byes are a valuable commodity at the end of a long season: They can help a banged-up team by giving them a few more days to get healthy.

Or, with the new wrinkle we've been dealing with for the past two years, by giving them a few more days to clear a COVID-19 outbreak.

This year's sectional draw for Class 3A Sectional 3A, which includes Jay County, has the 19-3 Patriots facing 15-5 Hamilton Heights. They are ranked sixth and eighth in the state, respectively.

The two best teams in the bracket meet in the first round.

And the teams that got the two byes in the bracket?

See *Skinny* page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Molly searches

Jay County High School sophomore Molly Muhlenkamp looks for a teammate to pass to during the Class 3A No. 6 Patriot girls basketball team's 63-26 victory over Southern Wells. JCHS visits Heritage tonight to close out the regular season before opening sectional play Tuesday at Yorktown against eighth-ranked Hamilton Heights.

IU clobbers Lions

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — Xavier Johnson had 19 points, Race Thompson added 18 and Trayce Jackson-Davis scored 13 of his 15 in the first half to help Indiana cruise to a 74-57 win over Penn State on Wednesday night.

Johnson shot 7 of 12 from the field and had six assists. Jackson-Davis added six rebounds, four assists and four blocks.

The Hoosiers (15-5, 6-4 Big Ten) rebounded from an 80-62 home loss to Michigan last Sunday for their fifth win in the last six games. Indiana looked like the team that, despite never cracking into the Top 25, received at least 35 votes in each of the first four AP polls this season. The Hoosiers had eight of their 10 blocks and forced seven turnovers while they limited Penn State to 16.7% (6 of 30) shooting in the first half for a 46-17 lead.

Indiana shot 51% (26 of 51) from the field, 10 of 13 from 3-point range and 12 of 15 from the free-throw line and committed just nine turnovers.

Jalen Pickett hit 4 of 7 from 3-point range and finished with 14 points, five rebounds and five assists for the Nittany Lions (8-9, 3-6). John Harrar added 13 points and nine rebounds.

Jackson-Davis scored in the paint 13 seconds into the game to spark a 12-0 run that culminated when Miller Kopp stripped the ball from Seth Lundy and threw it ahead to Xavier Johnson for a layup with 15:57 left before halftime and Penn State trailed by double figures the rest of the way.

Thompson scored six points in a 9-0 spurt that made it 31-8 with 7:41 left in the half and Jackson-Davis made a put-back dunk — leaping to grab the rebound with both hands before throwing down a left-hand finish — to give the Hoosiers a 31-point lead with 1:35 remaining.

The Hoosiers, who the all-time series against Penn State 42-13, avenged a 61-58 loss to the Nittany Lions on Jan. 2.

Rob Phinisee left with an injury late in the first half and did not return.

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