

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Commission gets updates

*Applications are available; facade program modified*

By **RAY COONEY**  
The Commercial Review

Portland Redevelopment Commission spent the bulk of Friday's meeting receiving updates on various initiatives, including the formation of a "riverfront" district and changes to the city's facade improvement program.

Consultant Ed Curtin of CWC Latitudes reported to the redevelopment commission that Portland City Council on Dec. 20 approved the establishment of a riverfront district. Such a district, which allows communities to provide additional liquor licenses at a lower cost, is intended to help drive economic development in the downtown area.

By state statute, a riverfront district can be any area within a quarter-mile of a river. Portland's district covers Meridian Street from Water Street to about Arch Street and also extends west along Walnut Street to just past Commerce Street and Main Street to between Ship and Pleasant Streets.

Specific guidelines are required for those who receive liquor licenses, including that they are required to sell at least \$150,000 in food annually and have more than 50% of their sales be food. Eligible businesses would have to be open for at least 300 days each year. The licenses are non-transferable and must be renewed annually.

Applications for the licenses are available now at Portland City Hall. The application fee is \$250.

Jay County Development Corporation executive director Travis

Richards also updated the commission on changes to the city's downtown facade program that were approved Jan. 18. They include:

- Increasing the funding maximum to \$50,000 from the previous \$15,000. (A 50-50 match is required.)

- Changing the funding to a grant rather than a five-year forgivable loan. (Grant funding is disbursed as reimbursement for work completed.)

- Extended the deadline for projects to be completed to 12 months from the previous six.

The facade program, overseen by a board that includes members from the city's redevelopment and historic preservation commissions, offers funding to help improve the exterior of downtown buildings. Richards noted that the program currently has \$60,000 available in economic development income tax funds. Additional dollars are available from the redevelopment commission if additional projects arise.

Redevelopment commission members Rusty Inman, Reda Theurer-Miller and Dave Teeter, absent Mike Simons and Joe Johnston, discussed taking a more active approach — sending letters and/or visiting downtown businesses — to attract more participants to the program.

They also named Inman and Johnston to the facade improvement program committee.

(An additional two members are appointed by Portland Historic Preservation Commission.)

See **Updates** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Shoveling away

Ralph Armstrong shovels snow from the walkway leading to his house at 710 W. Walnut St. in Portland on Friday afternoon.

## Death toll higher than delta

By **CARLA K. JOHNSON**  
AP Medical Writer

Omicron, the highly contagious coronavirus variant sweeping across the country, is driving the daily American death toll higher than during last fall's delta wave, with deaths likely to keep rising for days or even weeks.

The seven-day rolling average for daily new COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. has been climbing since mid-November, reaching 2,267 on Thursday and surpassing a September peak of 2,100 when delta was the dominant variant.

Now omicron is estimated to account for nearly all the virus circulating in the nation. And even though it causes less severe disease for most

people, the fact that it is more transmissible means more people are falling ill and dying.

"Omicron will push us over a million deaths," said Andrew Noymer, a public health professor at the University of California, Irvine. "That will cause a lot of soul searching. There will be a lot of discussion about what we could have done differently, how many of the deaths were preventable."

The average daily death toll is now at the same level as last February, when the country was slowly coming off its all-time high of 3,300 a day.

More Americans are taking precautionary measures against the virus than before the omicron surge,

according to a AP-NORC poll this week. But many people, fatigued by crisis, are returning to some level of normality with hopes that vaccinations or prior infections will protect them.

Omicron symptoms are often milder, and some infected people show none, researchers agree. But like the flu, it can be deadly, especially for people who are older, have other health problems or who are unvaccinated.

"Importantly, 'milder' does not mean 'mild,'" Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said this week during a White House briefing.

See **Toll** page 2

## Retrospect

### Patriots closed with tight win

Twenty-five years ago this week, the Patriots had a strong finish to their regular season.

The Jan. 30, 1997, edition of The Commercial Review featured coverage of the Jay County High School girls basketball team knocking off Muncie Central 56-54 in its regular-season finale.

The Patriots (13-6) trailed by one in the waning moments before senior Linda Cash took a pass from teammate Kerri Evans and hit an 8-footer off the backboard for a 55-54 lead. After a miss by the Bearcats, Evans grabbed the rebound and was fouled with just one second left. She hit 1-of-2 at the line for the final margin.

Cash and Evans had both already made key plays prior to the hoop

that gave JCHS the lead and the rebound that helped preserve the win. The former hit a pair of free throws with 1:05 left to tie the score at 52 while the latter pushed the Patriots ahead 53-52 on a free throw with 40 seconds left.

Muncie Central then moved ahead with 25 seconds on the clock before Cash hit what would be the game-winning shot.

Before the closing moments it was Julie Marsh who powered the Patriots. She hit nine field goals and was a perfect 5-for-5 from the line for a team-high 23 points.

Jamie Glassford, Ashley Schnepf Cash and Evans followed with six points apiece.

Christy Jones led all players with 25 points for Muncie Central.



The Commercial Review/Mike Snyder

## Houchin resigns to focus on election

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A southern Indiana state senator has decided to resign from her seat just weeks after announcing a campaign for Congress.

Republican Sen. Erin Houchin of Salem's resignation from the state Senate was announced Thursday and is effective Feb. 4. Her resignation letter didn't cite a reason for her decision.

But a campaign spokesman confirmed Houchin was stepping down to focus on her bid for the GOP nomination in the May 3 primary to replace Republican Rep. Trey Hollingsworth, who isn't seeking reelection this year.

Houchin was first elected to the state Senate in 2014. She finished second to Hollingsworth in a crowded 2016 Republican primary for the 9th District congressional seat, which the then-political unknown won after millions of campaign spending from his family's wealth.

### Deaths

**Erma Nearon**, 91, rural Portland

**Brenda Gillum**, 63, Bryant

**Harold Betz**, 66, Fort Recovery

Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 28 degrees Friday.

Skies will be mostly sunny today with a high of 21 and wind chills as low as negative 5. Expect a low of 12 tonight followed by a high of 30 Sunday under partly sunny skies.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available today. Trailers will be open from 9 a.m. to noon in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, and Dunkirk City Park.

### Coming up

**Tuesday** — Results from today's sectional wrestling tournament at Jay County High School.

**Wednesday** — Coverage of Tuesday's Jay County Development Corporation board meeting.



Obituaries

Erma Nearon

June 20, 1930-Jan. 27, 2022 Erma Dell Nearon, age 91, of rural Portland, passed away Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022, at her residence.

She was born in Muncie on June 20, 1930, the daughter of Marvin and Helen (Richards) Rigby. She was married on April 16, 1949, to Bernard Nearon and he passed away on July 11, 1997. She was a homemaker and was a cook at Noble School. She and her husband owned B & E Antiques and she also raised goats.



Nearon

Surviving are two sons, Larry Nearon (wife: Sondra) of Redkey and Dave Nearon (wife: Linda) of Fort Recovery; two daughters, Mary Strosnider of Ansonia, Ohio, and Emily Daughtery of Portland; one sister, Virginia Flatt of Anderson; seven grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and 11 bonus grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Margaret; four brothers; and two sisters.

Funeral services will be Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022, at 2 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Brad Ratliff presiding. Burial will follow in the Salamonina Cemetery. Visitation will be Tuesday from noon to 2 p.m.

Memorials can be made to Fort Recovery Nazarene Church Kids Vision Program. Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com

Brenda Gillum

Oct. 30, 1958-Jan. 27, 2022 Brenda Gillum age 63, a resident of Bryant, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Brenda was born on Oct. 30, 1958, in Portland, the daughter of Reginald and Lois (Craig) Gillum. She graduated from Jay County High School in 1977 and worked for CTS in Berne and FCC in Portland.

Survivors include: One daughter — Dusti Gillum, Bryant, Indiana

Two grandchildren — Danica Jo Phillips and Markola Daniel Gillum

Three sisters — Pam Best, Portland, Indiana, Cheryl Loper, Portland, Indiana, and Jackie Michaels (husband: Jack), Anderson, Indiana

Visitation will be held on Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Services to celebrate Brenda's life will follow at Gravel Hill Cemetery, west of Bryant. Memorials may be directed



Gillum

toward Jay County Humane Society. Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.com.

Harold Betz, Fort Recovery, Oct. 31, 1955-Jan. 27, 2022. Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at W.H. Dick & Sons-Hellwarth Funeral Home in Celina, Ohio.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city, 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

Table with 5 columns: Sunday 1/30, Monday 1/31, Tuesday 2/1, Wednesday 2/2, Thursday 2/3. Includes weather icons and temperature forecasts (30/17, 34/27, 45/30, 36/22, 29/4).

Capsule Reports

Candidates file

Several new candidates filed Friday to run in the May primary election.

New filers included Democrat Fred Bailey and Republicans Jeff Hopkins and Michael Brewster for state convention delegate, Republican Greg Shreeve for Madison Township Advisory Board and Democrat Joseph Lloyd for Rich-

land Township Advisory Board.

Bailey is also running for precinct committeeman.

First in four

The Jay County High School Academic Team recently opened its competition season by taking first place in four disciplines in a five-team event at Northeastern. (The

meets are being conducted virtually this year.)

JCHS won in math, fine arts, social studies and interdisciplinary.

Winning teams were: Math — Lucas Lyons, Trenten Hamilton, Dartaven Fosnaugh and James Larrowe. Fine arts — Isaac Braun, Emma LeMaster, Mackenzie Brown and Hannah Boggs

Social studies — Alex Ardizzone, Tessa Miller, Raine Keen and Lainey Reynolds

Interdisciplinary — Ella Stockton, Ardizzone, Braun and Hamilton. The Jay County science team of Annie Syeda, Braun, Hamilton and Lyons finished second. The academic team's next competition is scheduled for Wednesday.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 6-0-0 Daily Four: 9-2-6-0 Quick Draw: 2-4-7-12-20-23-24-26-28-38-43-45-51-58-59-60-63-67-69-80

Ohio Midday Pick 3: 2-1-3 Pick 4: 8-3-9-8 Pick 5: 9-8-5-8-4 Evening Pick 3: 1-4-7

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn: 6.43 Feb. corn: 6.45 Wheat: 7.71

POET Biorefining Portland Corn: 6.46 Feb. corn: 6.48 March. corn: 6.46

The Andersons Richland Township Corn: 6.31 Feb. corn: 6.36 Beans: 14.58 Feb. beans: 14.58

Wheat: 7.76 Feb. wheat: 7.76

Central States Montpelier Corn: 6.31 Feb. corn: 6.31 Beans: 14.60 Feb. beans: 14.60 Jan. wheat: 7.84

Sunrise St. Anthony Corn: 6.31 Feb. corn: 6.31 Beans: 14.48 Feb. beans: 14.48 Wheat: 7.51

Today in history

On Jan. 29, 1820, King George III died at Windsor Castle at age 81; he was succeeded by his son, who became King George IV.

In 1919, the ratification of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which launched Prohibition, was certified by Acting Secretary of State Frank L. Polk.

In 1929, The Seeing Eye, a New Jersey-based school which trains guide dogs to assist the blind, was incorporated by Dorothy Harrison Eustis and Morris Frank.

In 1936, the first inductees of baseball's Hall of Fame, including Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth, were named in Cooperstown, New York.

In 1963, the first charter members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame were named in Canton, Ohio (they were enshrined when the Hall opened in September 1963). Poet Robert

Frost died in Boston at age 88.

In 1964, Stanley Kubrick's nuclear war satire "Dr. Strangelove Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb" premiered in New York, Toronto and London.

In 1972, the Bryant High School boys basketball team knocked off Fort Recovery 74-70 in a game at St. Henry. It marked the first time the Owls had defeated FRHS twice in the same season.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter formally welcomed Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping to the White House, following the establishment of diplomatic relations.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan announced in a nationally broadcast message that he and Vice President George H.W. Bush would seek reelection in the fall.

—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Tuesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center building, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. Wednesday 6 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council joint session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Toll ...

Continued from page 1 At one urban hospital in Kansas, 50 COVID-19 patients have died this month and more than 200 are being treated. University of Kansas Hospital in Kansas City, Kansas, posted a video from its morgue showing

bagged bodies in a refrigeration unit and a worker marking one white body bag with the word "COVID."

"This is real," said Ciara Wright, the hospital's decedent affairs coordinator. "Our concerns are, 'Are the funeral homes going to come fast

enough?' We do have access to a refrigerated truck. We don't want to use it if we don't have to."

Dr. Katie Dennis, a pathologist who does autopsies for the health system, said the morgue has been at or above capacity almost every day in January.

Updates ...

Continued from page 1 Theurer-Miller, who is also a member of Portland Main Street Connect, reported to the redevelopment commission that she is continuing to work on getting bids for spring flowers for the downtown planters. She added that new planters have been put in place at the Arch Bridge after the previous planters were removed during an Indiana Department of Transportation construction project last year. (Jay County FFA will help maintain the planters again this year.)

She added that more than 400 visitors attended the inaugural Christmas in Brick Alley event. It was the first event held in the alley north of Community Resource Center following a project to rehabilitate the area.

In other business, the board: •Approved a contract with consulting firm Baker Tilly for financial advisory services regarding the

potential formation of a residential tax increment financing district. The firm will study the economic impact of a residential TIF district on Jay School Corporation — Jay School Board must approve such a district — provide services as needed during the TIF creation process and review potential projects.

•Heard Inman ask about the effort to tear down the Bailey Building at the southwest corner of Main and Commerce streets. Portland Mayor John Boggs reported that a structural engineer looked at the building and it has been deemed a "hazard to public safety." He noted that one of the challenges to removing the building is that it shares a wall with The Greazy Pickle. The city is working with the owners of the bar and restaurant on finding a potential new location.

•Re-elected Inman as president, Theurer-Miller as vice president and Simons as secretary.

Felony arrests

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

Colin J. Bradburn, 46, 904 W. Arch St., has an

original Level 6 felony charge for unlawful possession of a syringe.

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

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH? For Jay County Schools January 31-February 4. Menu for Monday through Friday including entrees, sides, and meals.

SERVICES Monday Grube, Elaine: 10:30 a.m., St. Paul Catholic Church, 517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery. Tuesday Steinbrunner, Joseph: 10:30 a.m., St. Joe Catholic Church, 1689 St. Joe Road. Wednesday Gillum, Brenda: 2 p.m., Gravel Hill Cemetery, rural Bryant.

BRICKER AUCTION COMPANY MULTI-PARCEL LAND AUCTION LAND LOCATED @ 7625 E RIVER ROAD MONTPELIER, IN Auction will be conducted at the Bricker Auction House 414 N Meridian St. Portland, IN Feb. 12th 3:15 PM Personal Property will sell first at 2:00 Chad Bricker Auctioneer Aul11600027 Preview by Appointment Tel: 260-251-4445 Cell: 260-703-0839



Photo provided

## Book donations

The Auxiliary at IU Health Jay recently donated books to the Healthy Beginnings Program to gift to families when their babies graduate the program on their first birthday. Pictured second to right is Connie Fear, director of volunteer services, with volunteers and members of the Healthy Beginnings team.

## Resorts use birds for pest control

By JARED RANAHAAN

Special to The Washington Post

The next time you're lounging poolside at a palatial resort, you may notice a hotel worker who seems odd in a luxury setting: a professional falconer strolling around with a raptor on their gloved arm.

Though falconry has historically been used for hunting, the modern practice has found a home at resorts across North America, the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates. The birds of prey function as a pseudo force field for resorts, providing an environmentally conscious form of pest control. According to the Los Angeles Times, there were 137 active permits issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for predatory-bird pest management between 2007 and 2019, with hotels, museums, vineyards, airports and even landfills getting involved.

"The presence of these predatory birds is a natural, nonlethal means of intimidating and scaring away nuisance birds," said Paige Hansen, a falconer at coastal Georgia's Sea Island Resort.

During the spring and the summer in Sea Island, Georgia, Hansen walks around the beach club with

a raptor on her arm to deter boat-tailed grackles from stealing food. The resort employs three dedicated falconers to care for the birds. That includes daily weighing and feeding, training and hunting exercises, and clearing their enclosure. The resort's roster includes six Harris's hawks, one peregrine falcon, one Eurasian eagle owl, one barn owl and an Eastern screech owl.

In addition to keeping the property free from these chatty, raven-like grackles, Sea Island's falconry program has also served as a major draw for nature lovers and animal enthusiasts over the past decade.

According to Jon Kent, the property's director of outdoor pursuits, the falconry program debuted in 2011 strictly as a pest control measure. But constant interest from guests created demand for organized activities ranging from a brief Hawk Walk — where guests head to nearby Rainbow Island, try on a falconer glove and practice recalling the bird — to the full Falconry Experience, a program that offers an opportunity to watch Earth's fastest bird, the peregrine falcon, hunt its flying prey.

## Landscaping program offered

There's a program next week for locals in need of landscaping advice.

Purdue Extension Office is hosting a free program at 6 p.m. Tuesday for those eager to learn more about planting and caring for trees at home.

Jonathan Ferris of Wayne County's Purdue Extension Office will speak at Jay County Public Library

### Taking Note

and share tips for introducing and maintaining trees on a property.

Those interested can call the office at (260) 726-4707 to sign up.

### Reading challenge

Jay County Public Library is hosting a winter reading challenge. For each book read, participants will receive one entry into a drawing for prizes.

The event is on until Feb. 26.

## Niece hasn't paid back loan for legal bill

DEAR ABBY: Several years ago, my adult niece, with whom I am very close, found herself in some legal difficulties and needed an attorney. At the time, due to some medical issues, she wasn't working and could not afford the attorney's retainer, so I offered to lend her the money. I told her she could repay me once she began working again. Nine months later she sent me a check for \$500 and, two months after that, another one for \$500. The retainer was \$2,600. My niece has been steadily employed for the last two years, yet I have received no further payment. I regret I didn't set up a formal repayment plan, but I never dreamed she'd default on the loan.

### Dear Abby



Her mother told me she is saving up to buy a house and, apparently, she has money to spend on friends and others. I never told her parents that I loaned her the money, and I have no idea if she ever did, although I assume she hasn't. I'm torn between approaching my niece to remind her that the loan has not yet been repaid and risk damaging the

relationship we have, or suck it up and accept that I'll never see the money.

Because of the pandemic, my husband has been out of work for many months. While we are not desperate, the money she owes me could be put to good use. Please advise. — GOOD DEED IN THE MIDWEST

**DEAR GOOD DEED: Meet with or contact your niece to ask her for the money she still owes you and, when you do, explain that your husband hasn't worked in many months and you need it. Agree upon a repayment plan. However, if she reneges again, DO discuss it with her parents. Perhaps they can**

**"encourage" their daughter to do the right thing. There must be a reason they didn't front her the money for her legal problem. Let's hope it wasn't because she stiffed them, too.**

.....

DEAR ABBY: A female relative wants to have a child. She is 30. However, her significant other of six years hasn't proposed. She feels her biological clock is ticking — loudly. What would you suggest family advise her to do?

I feel that a woman who wants a child should have one if she can afford to, regardless of whether or not she's married. But I understand her preferring to be married first. Time is run-

ning out on the likelihood of developing a new relationship this late in the process. What's a girl to do? — WONDERING IN OHIO

**DEAR WONDERING: The "girl" should ask her boyfriend of six years if he wants to be married to her. If the answer is yes, AND he wants to be a father, her problem will be solved. However, if the answer is no — and she can afford it — she should proceed on her path to motherhood without him. Someone may come into her life later who would love to be a husband and a dad. And, if not, she will have fulfilled her biological imperative.**

## Community Calendar

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

### 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 - BRIANNA'S HOPE** — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the

Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS** — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

### Wednesday

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

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## Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

### Friday's Solution

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

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

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# Conspiracy theories are not truth

To the editor:  
I read Steve Erwin's response to my letter to the editor headlined "Banks Can't Handle the Truth" with great interest.

Mr. Erwin is correct in that we have a Congressional Committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol that is political. It most certainly is political because it is a committee in the House of Representatives made up of all politicians, Democrats and Republicans alike. Not the best option, I agree.

What was the best option? We could have had an independent, non-political and bi-partisan

## Letters to the Editor

commission modeled on the one established to investigate the 9/11 terror attacks.

The co-chairs of that 9/11 commission — former Congressman Lee Jordan, D-Indiana, and former New Jersey GOP Gov. Tom Kean — said this:

"The Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol was one of the darkest

days in the history of our country. Americans deserve an objective and an accurate account of what happened. As we did in the wake of Sept. 11, it's time to set aside partisan politics and come together as Americans in common pursuit of truth and justice."

Why did Americans not get what they deserve? Congressman Jim Banks and many of his fellow Republicans voted against the creation of the independent commission.

The supreme irony and dishonesty is obvious. Congressman Banks says he is against the Congressional investigation

committee because it is political, yet he voted against the establishment of a commission that would have not been political.

Since we are talking about truth, Mr. Erwin is completely incorrect regarding National Guard troops being offered by former President Donald Trump to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. This is another conspiracy theory that has been debunked many times by the Department of Defense, Mayor of the District of Columbia, former White House staff, congressional testimony and the House sergeant-at-arms. It never happened.

Also, there have been many more than one person charged with insurrection, but we do not know the total count because much of the court proceedings and documents have not been made public. According to the FBI, there are many more insurrection charges pending. It should also be noted that the leader of Oath Keepers and 10 associates have been charged with Seditious Conspiracy, a charge one step below treason.

Yes Mr. Erwin, one does have to wonder who can't handle the truths.

Stephen Ogborn  
Fort Wayne

## Make the process more meaningful

By JENNIFER RUBIN  
The Washington Post

Ninety percent of the time spent during Supreme Court confirmation hearings is, candidly, wasted. Most senators use their time to pontificate or to ask questions the nominee plainly cannot answer ("Was Citizens United rightly decided?"). They do nothing to inform the public about the potential justice's qualifications, ethical standing or judicial style.

But before we throw in the towel and conclude that these hearings are entirely worthless, consider what sort of questions should be asked and what they could tell us about the nominee.

For starters, we need to know more about the judge's ethical antennae:

- Would you continue to follow the code of ethics applicable to lower court judges if you are confirmed? Why shouldn't the Supreme Court formally adopt that code for itself?

- Should justices speak at partisan settings? Should they be concerned that their attendance at a group with a particular ideological bent would create the appearance of bias?

- Should justices attend the State of the Union address?

We also need to know how the nominee treats precedent, which conservatives used to respect but now blithely wipe away when they "have the votes" to radically shift the law:

- Should justices reverse decades of settled law? If so, when?

- What factors go into the determination on whether to abandon precedent?

- Should a change in the composition of the court decide whether precedent stands?

- In what instances have you reversed precedent that your lower court set? In what instances did you think the precedent was wrong, but nevertheless followed it?

The public should also learn about the nominee's interest in making the Supreme Court transparent and accessible:

- During the coronavirus pandemic, the Supreme Court made audio of its oral arguments accessible to the public. How is that different from video coverage? Does opening up proceedings to average Americans help educate them about the court?

- When is it appropriate to resort to the "shadow docket," or reach decisions without a full briefing, hearing and signed written opinions?

- Should justices provide written explanations as to

Jennifer Rubin



why they did or did not recuse themselves in a given matter?

The nominee is unlikely to share her thoughts about particular cases, but she should be forthcoming about her methodology:

- Explain how justices should regard foreign law.

- Explain in general terms how you view the deference owed to the executive branch on matters of national security.

- If a statute broadly prohibits conduct or sets forth a clear test for determining whether there is a violation, should the court offer its own test or "guideposts" in place of those Congress established?

- The language of Section 1 of the 14th Amendment is quite broad: "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Should the Supreme Court consider only the people and subject matter at issue at the end of the Civil War? If not, how would you defend broader applications of the amendment that Congress and the states did not envision at the time?

- Is voting the sole province of the states under the Constitution?

- How do you treat cases of first impression?

Let's face it: The minds of virtually all the senators are made up before the nominee is sworn in. But confirmation hearings can play a role in educating the public and in trying to reestablish judicial norms.

If senators hope to restore any sense of dignity to the process, they should avoid trying to establish where the nominee stands on hot-button political issues and focus instead on the larger picture: Will this person restore some measure of confidence in the Supreme Court? If we can incentivize nominees to act more like judges and less like partisan team players, there may still be hope for the judiciary.

.....  
*Rubin writes reported opinion for The Washington Post.*



## Farm assessments will go up

By LARRY DEBOER

Farmland property taxes have been falling. Total property taxes paid by agricultural property owners fell 2.3% per year from 2017 to 2021, mostly because of lower farmland assessed values.

But farmland prices are rising. A Purdue Agricultural Economics survey showed that average farmland selling prices increased 12.5% from 2020 to 2021. Eventually, farmland assessed values will rise too.

Assessments of houses are based on their selling prices, but that's not true for farmland. Farmland assessed values are based on a statewide base rate per acre, times a soil productivity factor, and for some acreage, minus an influence factor for characteristics such as frequent flooding.

Changes in the assessed value of farmland depend mostly on changes in the base rate. That's the dollar amount per acre established each year by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance. It's calculated with a formula that divides rents and net farm income by an interest rate. The formula uses the calculations from six years and drops the highest, then averages the remaining five. For taxes in 2022, the six years were 2015 through 2020.

You can see the DLGF's calculations and all the data at [in.gov/dlgef](http://in.gov/dlgef). Click on Assessments in the menu to the left, then on Agricultural Land Assessments.

The base rate increased a lot between 2008 and 2015, rising from \$880 to \$2,050 per acre, because of the increase in corn and soybean prices. They enter the numerator of formula as part of the net income calculation. Commodity

prices peaked in 2013 and began to fall. Eventually that reduced the base rate. It fell each year from 2015 to 2021. The base rate for taxes in 2022 will be \$1,290 per acre.

But commodity prices increased in 2021. The base rate formula will reflect that increase for taxes in 2023. That year the prices from 2015 will be dropped, and the prices for 2021 will be added. The DLGF's data shows the average price of corn in 2015 as \$3.86 per bushel. The average price in 2021 was \$4.93, 28 percent higher. Soybean prices were higher too.

Drop the old lower prices, add the new higher prices, run the formula, and the base rate of farmland rises from \$1,290 this year, to \$1,500 for taxes in 2023. That's a 16 percent increase.

The assessed value of farmland may not depend directly on farmland selling prices, but the same factors that influence the selling price also influence the base rate. Roughly speaking, selling prices and assessed values rise and fall together, with the base rate about two years behind.

The higher base rate means that tax bills for farmland owners will go up. If farmland assessments rise faster than other assessed values, farmers will pay a bigger share of total property tax revenue. There are complications,

Larry DeBoer



though. Indiana home values have been rising fast too, so the assessed values of homes will go up. That should offset part of the tax shift to farmers.

Taxable assessed values will rise faster than usual for 2022 taxes and likely keep increasing. A bigger tax base would increase the total revenues that local governments collect — except that Indiana imposes a maximum levy and restricts the increase of the maximum each year. The "maximum levy growth quotient" is based on how fast incomes rise, and it will be 4.3 percent in 2022. About three-quarters of all Indiana local governments set their property tax levies at or near the maximum. Those governments can't increase their levies more than 4.3 percent, no matter what happens with assessment growth.

That means, if taxable assessed values grow faster than the maximum levy growth quotient, tax rates will fall. They won't fall enough to reduce the tax bills of farmland owners (or homeowners), but most farmland tax bills won't rise by the full 16 percent increase in the base rate.

Most owners of business land, buildings and equipment will see their assessments rise less than farmland and homes. Their tax bills will increase less and could even fall.

Farmland values are increasing, and that means the era of falling farmland taxes is over. Come 2023, farmland property taxes are likely to rise.

.....  
*DeBoer is a Purdue University agricultural economist. Email him at [ldeboer@purdue.edu](mailto:ldeboer@purdue.edu).*

# The Commercial Review

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



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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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## Cooper donates

Cooper Farms recently presented EverHeart Hospice with a \$2,000 donation from its Turkey Trot 5K. The race brought in more than 230 runners this year. The funds will be used for EverHeart's Legacy Program, which provides keepsakes for the families of patients.

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# Meeker's BOND invests

An investment firm led by a Portland native made a major investment this week.

BOND Capital, along with several other firms, invested a total of \$60 million in Australian start-up Eucalyptus, Financial Review reported Thursday.

Jay County High School graduate Mary Meeker is a partner with BOND.

Eucalyptus is an online health start-up based in Sydney that is considering bringing new weight-loss drugs to Australia. The company builds and launches digital health brands and services.

The most recent investment, which includes Blackbird, NewView Capital, W23 Ventures, OneVentures, Airtree and Athletic Ventures along with BOND, is on top of \$30 million raised last year.

"Burning extra money on the build side is always worthwhile," Eucalyptus co-founder and CEO Tim Doyle told Financial Review, emphasizing the importance of speed in such a venture. "Particularly in the engineering world, if you have to pay more to get people through the door then that's very much worth it in the context of a business that is losing money across the rest of the business anyway."

## Adams hires

Adams Memorial Hospital announced this week that Paul Knell has joined its corporate medical services team as corporate client liaison.

Knell previously worked as a physical therapy assistant at Adams Memorial for 11 years. He recently completed his bachelor's degree in business management.

## O'Reilly sponsoring

O'Reilly Auto Parts has signed on as the title sponsor of the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series rookie of the year program for 2022.

Through the partnership, O'Reilly will pay \$15,000 to the rookie of the year winner, \$5,000 to the runner-up and \$2,500 to the third-place finisher in the rookie standings. There will also be product rewards.

"We are thrilled to have O'Reilly Auto Parts come on board as title sponsor of the Rookie of the Year program in 2022," said Lucas Oil Motorsports director of corporate sales and marketing Wayne Castleberry in a press release. "With their partnership we are able to increase

## Business roundup

the cash awards to the rookies that compete in the program."

## Resuming surgeries

IU Health has announced it will resume some elective surgeries, with some procedures potentially beginning as early next week.

Hospitals in the IU Health system indefinitely postponed elective surgeries in the fall with the delta variant of coronavirus hit in Indiana. They have been halted ever since.

Decisions on what patients and procedures move forward first will be handled at each hospital, IU Health vice president and associate medical chief executive Dr. Paul Calkins told the Indianapolis Star.

It will be "a bit of a judgment call," he said. "We're hoping to get to everybody as quickly as we can."

## Leadership changes

NextEra Energy has announced several leadership changes that will become effective March 1.

John Ketchum, who has been with NextEra for 19 years, has been named the company's new president and CEO.

Current president and CEO Jim Robo will become executive chairman during a transition period.

Other changes include naming Eric Silagy as president and CEO of Florida Power & Light, Rebecca Kujawa as president and CEO of NextEra Energy Resources and Kirk Crews as executive vice president and chief financial officer.

NextEra owns and operates Bluff Point Wind Energy Center in Jay and Randolph counties.

"It is an honor to be selected to lead the absolute best team in the energy sector," said Ketchum in a press release.

## Contest is open

Walgreens is inviting high school students to take part in its Expressions by Walgreens competition.

The contest awards prizes for visual arts, video production and spoken word "to empower teens to use art to voice their opinions on issues of importance to them." The

program encourages self-expression on issues including cyber-bullying, self-esteem, body image, the COVID pandemic and social justice.

"Walgreens created Expressions out of a desire to help young people cope with some of life's difficulties," said Walgreens chief medical officer Dr. Kevin Ban in a press release. "Expressions incentivizes high school students to turn away from negative devices and exercise their creative devices."

For more information about the program, or to submit an entry, visit ExpressionsChallenge.com.

## Tyson expanding

Tyson Foods has announced that it will expand its Immigrant Connection Program and all of its plants, reported KWQC TV 6 of Davenport, Iowa.

The program launched last year in Joslin, Illinois, focuses on helping its employees become U.S. citizens. It includes free legal counsel with no application fees.

"The beauty of this program is we're able to bring that (help) directly to the team members and alleviate some of that concern that happens," said Carolyn O'Connor, Esperanza Legal Assistance Center's immigration legal specialist.

Tyson officials told KWQC that about 40% of the company's employees are legally approved to work in the U.S. and eligible to pursue citizenship.

## Awards announced

West Lafayette Smart City Challenge has awarded \$15,000 to build tools to increase public safety.

The winning teams for the challenge were a Virginia-based start-up and two teams of engineering students from Purdue University.

Their concepts are as follows:  
•Metaverse Technologies — A smart intersection beacon platform that will anonymously collect data from intersections, process the information and deliver messages to improve safety.

•Communicative LED Pathways — An Internet of Things-based audio and visual platform to improve situational awareness of non-motor vehicle roadway users.

•Traffic Real-time Analysis Weather System — An Internet-of-Things-based street sign platform that delivers automated artificial intelligence derived messages based on roadway conditions.

# Housing project proposed

By KRISTY DEER  
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)

NEW PALESTINE — Farmland in the southern part of the county — as it has in many other places — has become a prime target for developers.

A developer has expressed a strong interest in purchasing 118 acres, currently being farmed, on the northwest corner of county roads 500 West and 300 South, near the new roundabout. The plan is to build a subdivision of 353 homes.

While the property is just outside New Palestine town's boundaries and therefore under the county's jurisdiction, representatives for the developer wanted to let town officials know about their plans. The town will be called upon to provide sewer service to the area.

Melissa Garrard, the entitlements manager for Forestar Group, a

national real estate company, spoke to the town council during a recent meeting and highlighted several aspects of the development, tentatively called Providence, including eight open-space green areas. One will be near the roundabout.

"We'll put a big pond there, so you'll have a great view from the roundabout as you're driving by there," Garrard said. The main entrance would be north of the roundabout on 500 West.

Traffic entering the neighborhood would negotiate a large traffic circle just inside the entrance with streets leading into the neighborhood in three directions. Garrard said the builder is open to getting feedback from the town on amenities when adding things like a walking trail and a park.

In the northwest corner of the property, which

backs up to the campus of New Palestine Intermediate School on county road 200 South, early plans call for a trail that would link to the school property if that is something the community and school officials want.

Garrard said the developer plans to have a buffer around the subdivision, giving it an identity.

Part of the county's approval will have to include a zoning change to allow for more than one home per acre. Garrard noted the county's comprehensive plan calls for residential development in the area, so they are hopeful for a positive outcome when they approach county officials.

While she said the developers would be interested in having the property annexed into the town, it would be a long process.

## Jay County

**Soil & Water Conservation District**  
Annual Meeting/Program - Wednesday, February 23, 2022  
6:00 PM – Bob Schmit Memorial Building – Jay County Fairgrounds



**Guest Speaker**  
**Scott Ham**  
Manager, Silver Creek Water Corporation

Scott will share a high energy & entertaining look at soil, water, wildflowers, invasive plants & pollinators. He motivates landowners to have a positive approach to conservation!

The dinner/program is free & everyone is encouraged to attend.  
Reservations must be received on or before Monday, February 14th.  
Please RSVP at 260-726-4888, ext. 3015 or [bettie.jacobs@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:bettie.jacobs@in.nacdnet.net)

1-29 CRYPTOQUIP

UP AIXMQABFAQOM TMVFRQ JFRQA AXLOQGURC QX BGOJ XR, Lfvto go AGXNSK CX

PURK F CNLTOS LFBGURO. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHY DO I ALWAYS CRUSH UP SOME PLUM TOMATOES TO ADD TO MY BATHWATER? BECAUSE IT'S ROMA-THERAPY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals M

CRYPTO FUN. ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ. Solve the code to discover words related to slow cooking. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 12 = C)

WORD SCRAMBLE. Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to slow cooking. NTUOECR

Guess Who? I am a singer born in New York on January 25, 1981. I studied at the Professional Performing Arts School. I am the first singer to receive five Grammy Awards at once after releasing my debut album. I also sang on a Jay Z New York-themed song.

kids' corner. Includes icons for a laptop, calculator, and paper airplane.

HEALTH FACT: TRUE OR FALSE? YOU CAN WEAR YOUR EYES OUT BY USING THEM TOO MUCH.

WORDS. APPLIANCE, CHILIS, COMBINE, COOKWARE, COUNTERTOP, CROCK, DIGITAL, EVENING, FLAVOR, HEARTY, HEAT, INGREDIENTS, LOW, MEALS, MOIST, POT, QUARTS, SET, SETTING, SLOW, SOUPS, STEWS, TENDERIZING, UNATTENDED.

SLOW COOKING WORD SEARCH

Word search grid with letters A-Z. Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

APPLIANCE, CHILIS, COMBINE, COOKWARE, COUNTERTOP, CROCK, DIGITAL, EVENING, FLAVOR, HEARTY, HEAT, INGREDIENTS, LOW, MEALS, MOIST, POT, QUARTS, SET, SETTING, SLOW, SOUPS, STEWS, TENDERIZING, UNATTENDED.

1-31 CRYPTOQUIP

MCKAYS RCQT YCBGAGEABH CZ VUTABH GDQS HQUGGX XUQFG UQS TSME RSKK

VUBAYDQSF: KURB SBZCQYSVBE. Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF SPORTSCASTER BRYANT WANTS SOMETHING TO CHEW ON, MAYBE HE SHOULD GO FIND A GUMBEL MACHINE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals N

What's the Difference? There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all? Includes two photos of a girl covering her eyes.

Did You Know? AN OPHTHALMOLOGIST IS A MEDICAL DOCTOR UNIQUELY TRAINED TO DIAGNOSE AND TREAT ALL DISORDERS OF THE EYE AND EVEN PERFORM SURGERY.

GET THE PICTURE? Can you guess what the bigger picture is? Includes a close-up of an eye.

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY. 1848: THE INITIAL DISCOVERY OF GOLD IN CALIFORNIA IS MADE AT SUTTER'S MILL NEAR SACRAMENTO. 1908: ROBERT BADEN-POWELL ORGANIZES THE FIRST BOY SCOUT TROOP IN ENGLAND. 1972: JAPANESE SGT. SHOICHI YOKOI IS FOUND HIDING IN A JUNGLE IN GUAM, WHERE HE HAD BEEN SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR II.

New Word. DILATE. make or become wider or more open.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 Abe of 'Barney Miller' 55 Taxpayer IDs 20 Capri sea cave 1 Shark thriller 37 Capote nickname 22 Activist Chavez 5 Allen Ginsberg poem 38 — Lingus 24 Jazzman Blake 9 Cacophony 39 Modern 'carpe diem' 25 Ultimate founder 26 Swiss canton 12 Skip Theater award lentil dish 42 Indian 27 Badge metal 14 Poetic tribute 44 Fine 29 Chairman of China 15 'Troy' actor 49 Firetruck Eric necessity 6 Slender woodwind 16 Snitched 50 Actress Hatcher de 31 'Suits' network 17 PBS supporter 51 'Shool' Kooning 35 Henry VIII and family 18 Mailbox feature 52 Formerly, once 8 Guided 9 Finito 36 Parking pros 19 Tierra — Fuego hazard 10 'The — of March' 39 Meditative practice 20 Optimum 54 Packed away up 40 Last write-up 21 Author Umberto 41 Low-calorie 43 Org. 23 Long, skinny fish 45 Russell of 'Waitress' 46 Asia's — Sea 25 Nog sprinkling 28 Hawaiian garment 32 Singing groups 47 Shri! barks 33 Pintos, e.g. 49 '— a Rebel'

Solution time: 26 mins. Crossword grid with filled-in letters.

Yesterday's answer 1-29

Crossword grid with numbers 1-56 indicating starting positions for clues.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: ♠K 2, ♥A 6, ♦K J 9 7 5 4 3, ♣K. WEST: ♠10 9 8 7, ♥A 6, ♦9 8 7 6 5 2, ♣2. EAST: ♠—, ♥Q 10 8 2, ♦J 4 3, ♣A K Q 9 8 7. SOUTH: ♠A Q J 6 5 4 3, ♥—, ♦A Q 10, ♣6 5 4. The bidding: East 1♣, South 2♠, West Pass, North 3♥. Opening lead — two of clubs. This deal appeared in a British par contest many years ago. The par for North-South was to reach four spades; the par for East-West was to defeat the contract. The bidding shown, which includes a strong jump-overcall by South, was the popular route to four spades at the time. Since most players now use the jump overcall as preemptive, the spade game would be reached today by a different sequence of bids. One possibility Tomorrow: First things first. ©2022 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Thrust and counterthrust

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: ♠A K Q 7 6 5, ♥9, ♦5, ♣A 6 5 4 3. WEST: ♠J 10 9 8 3, ♥A Q 3, ♦J 6, ♣10 7 2. EAST: ♠4 2, ♥5, ♦Q 9 8 7 4, ♣K Q J 9 8. SOUTH: ♠—, ♥K J 10 8 7 6 4 2, ♦A K 10 3 2, ♣—.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 40 Opposite of 'post-' 41 Formerly, once 42 Types in anew 47 Gushing review 48 Chinese drink 49 iPhone down-loads 50 'A mouse!' 51 Very small batteries 22 Algerian port 23 Coffin stands 25 Show up again 26 Empty truck's weight 27 Pivot line 29 Sci-fi villain 31 Ballpark fig. 33 Govt. securities 34 Medit. volcano 36 'Alfred' composer 37 Antitoxins hazard 38 Links hazard 39 Answer an invite 40 Quick look 43 Before Greek vowel 44 Stephen of 'Still Crazy' 46 Airline to Sweden

Solution time: 21 mins. Crossword grid with filled-in letters.

Saturday's answer 1-31

Crossword grid with numbers 1-46 indicating starting positions for clues.

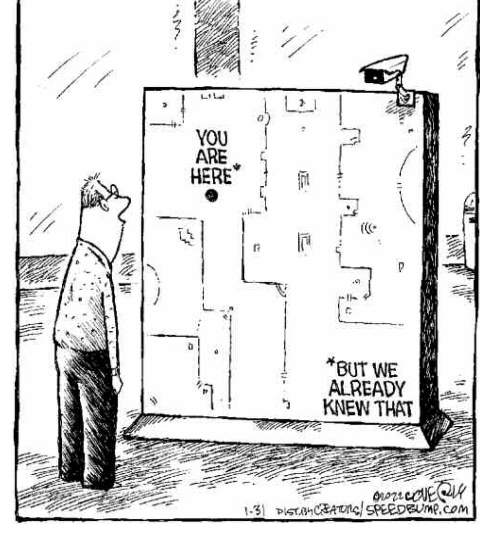
**SPEED BUMP** Dave Coverly



**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane



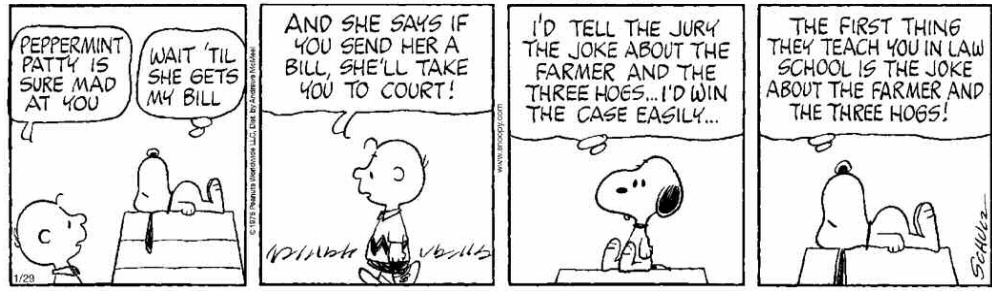
**SPEED BUMP** Dave Coverly



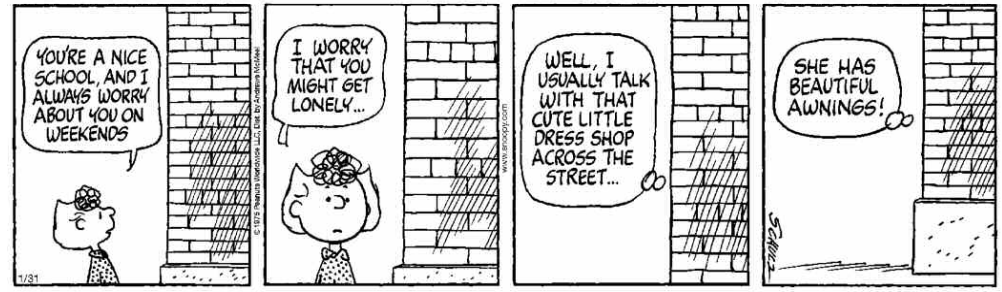
**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane



**Peanuts**



**Peanuts**



**Rose is Rose**



**Rose is Rose**



**Agnes**



**Agnes**



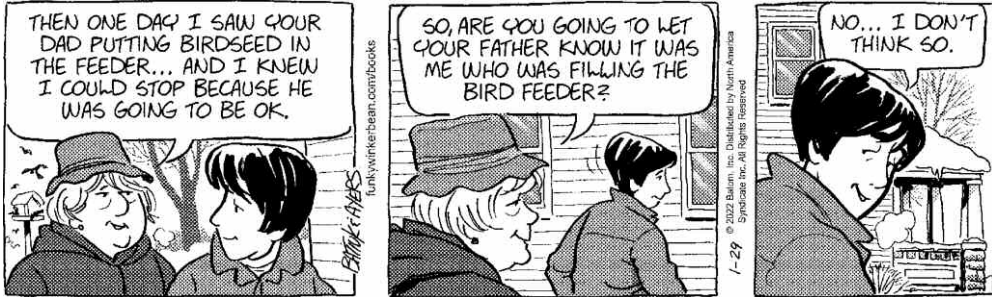
**Hi and Lois**



**Hi and Lois**



**Funky Winkerbean**



**Funky Winkerbean**



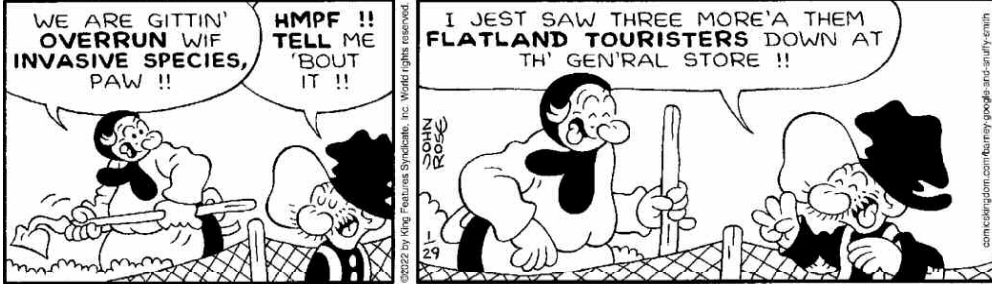
**Blondie**



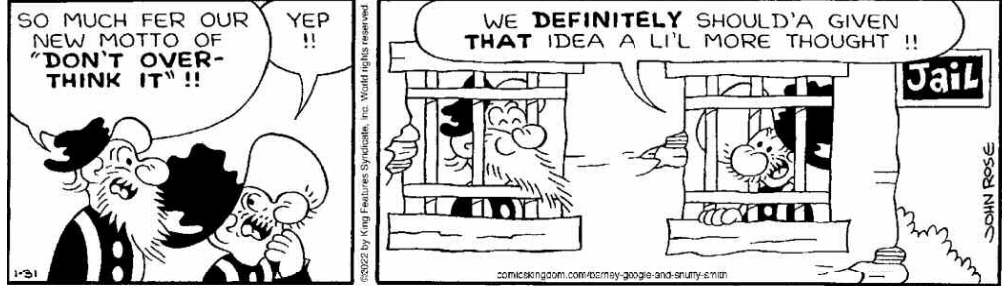
**Blondie**



**Snuffy Smith**



**Snuffy Smith**



**Beetle Bailey**



**Beetle Bailey**



**We Deliver**  
*Laughter*



Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

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**30 LOST, STRAYED OR FOUND**

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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 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:  
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Live/Simulcast  
Coca-Cola diner table & chairs, Antique Royal Crown soda chest - works, large selection of ammo, 2 Winchester 30-30 lever action rifles, Marlin 44 mag. lever action rifle, Savage 350 Legend Rifle, Savage 243 Rifle, Puma 45 long colt lever action rifle, M1911 45 cal. pistol, large amount of ammo, 32" x 17" vintage coffee grinder, 5 gal crock, water crock, cast iron skillet & Dutch ovens, Kohler Engine sign, antique Victorian dresser, roll top Lane liquor cabinet, antique dresser with mirror, Ashley dresser, vintage oil cans, and much more!  
Preview will be held Friday, Jan. 28th from 12-5.  
Cell: 260-703-0839  
Bricker Auction Company  
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**UPCOMING AUCTIONS**  
Bricker Auction Company 414 N Meridian St. Portland, IN  
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**

**Public Notice**

Notice to Taxpayers of Additional Appropriations  
Notice is given to the Taxpayers of Wabash Township, Jay County Indiana that the proper legal officers will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year at the regular meeting place 6336 N 700 E Bryant, IN 47326  
At 6:30 p.m. on the 9th day of February, 2022.  
Fund Name Rainy Day  
Major Budget Classification Amount  
Service and Charges 1,000  
Total for Rainy Day fund 1,000  
Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard. The additional appropriations as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) The DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action taken.  
Dated 1-19-22  
Ronald F. Rosenbeck  
Fiscal Officer  
CR 1-29-2022-HSPAXLP

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D ...

Continued from page 10  
The Patriots' press produced 14 Bluffton turnovers.

Ethan Dirksen led Jay County with 16 points.

Josh Dowlen added eight and Dusty Pearson chipped in with seven.

Dirksen said the Patriot offense struggled all night to get in sync and never seemed to be able to do so.

"Thankfully, our defense stepped up and made the difference," Dirksen said.

One example of that for Bomholt came at the start of the second half when the Patriots opened with six quick points to expand a seven-point halftime lead to 13.

"We wanted to go to a full-court press, but the guys just went into their transition half-court defense," Bomholt said. "We were impatient on both defense and offense. We let them stay in the game a lot longer than we should have."

The victory was the sixth in the row for the Patriots, their longest winning streak in four years. (They last won six in a row from Jan. 19 through Feb. 10, 2018.) They have not lost in the 2022 portion of their schedule, with their last defeat coming Dec. 23 by a 59-31 score to Indianapolis Tech in the Jefferson County Invitational Tournament.

Harrison Schrieber led the Tigers (3-12, 2-3 ACAC) with nine points on a trio of 3-pointers.

The Patriots host Blackford in a non-conference contest

tonight, with the junior varsity game starting at 6:30 p.m.

The Bruins handed Jay County a 78-49 loss at Blackford last season. It was the Patriots' worst defeat of 2020-21. Blackford was led last season by Luke Brown — he is now at Ball State University — who scored 3,011 career points. He had 32 against JCHS last season.

Will the Patriots have revenge on their minds when they take their home floor tonight?

"Maybe a little bit," Dirksen said with a smile.

A win over Blackford would guarantee the JCHS a winning season after going 7-11 in 2020-21 and 7-16 in 2019-20.

**Junior varsity**

Jay County exploded for 22 first-quarter points and never looked back in a 51-41 win over Bluffton.

Parker Nichols led the Patriots with 14 points. Abraham Dirksen added 12.

Hutch Craighead had 20 points to lead all scorers for Bluffton.

The Jay County reserves improved to 4-5.

**Freshmen**

The Patriots suited up just six players in a 32-27 loss to Bluffton.

Kadon Craig and Caden Gambill each had six points to lead Jay County. Levi Muhlenkamp and Eli Dirksen chipped in with four points apiece.



Japan News

**Villages open**

Olympic officials wearing protective gear walk through the athletes' village in Beijing on Thursday. The Beijing 2022 Olympic Villages opened Thursday, officially rolling out the welcome mat for about 2,900 athletes from about 90 nations and territories who will compete at the Winter Games that start on Feb. 4.

**Sunday ...**

Continued from page 10  
"The Chiefs do a good job of employing a variety of schemes to try to keep you off balance," Taylor said. "I thought Joe and Ja'Marr did a good job of being on the same page in that game."

**Star power**

The two teams combined to

send nine players to the Pro Bowl this season, six from Kansas City and three from Cincinnati, and there's another half-dozen players from each team that probably had a good argument to make it.

As it stands, the Chiefs have Mahomes joining wide receiver Tyreek Hill, tight end Travis

Kelce, defensive tackle Chris Jones and safety Tyrann Mathieu along with new left tackle Orlando Brown Jr. The Bengals are sending Chase along with running back Joe Mixon and defensive end Trey Hendrickson.

Of course, players for the winner Sunday will be heading to the Super Bowl instead.

**Sports on tap**

**Local schedule**

**Today**  
Jay County — Wrestling host sectional — 8:30 a.m.; Gymnastics at Western Invitational — noon; Boys basketball tripleheader 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.

**Monday**  
Jay County — Freshman boys basketball at New Castle — 6 p.m.; Junior high wrestling at Monroe Central — 5:30 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Freshman boys bas-

ketball vs. St. Henry — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball vs. Minster — 5 p.m.

**Tuesday**  
Jay County — Girls basketball sectional opening round vs. Hamilton Heights at Yorktown — 6 p.m.

**TV schedule**

**Today**  
Noon — Men's college basketball: Duke at Louisville (ESPN); LSU at TCU (ESPN2); Georgetown at Butler (FS1)  
12:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Michigan at Michigan State (CBS)  
1:30 p.m. — Auto racing: Rolex 24 at Daytona (NBC)  
2 p.m. — Men's college basketball:

Oklahoma at Auburn (ESPN); Xavier at Creighton (FS1); West Virginia at Arkansas (ESPN2)

2:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Arizona State at Arizona (CBS); Indiana at Maryland (FOX)  
3 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Virginia Tech at Florida State (ABC)

4 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Baylor at Alabama (ESPN)  
4:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: St. John's at Villanova (FOX); Illinois at Northwestern (BTN)  
6 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Kentucky at Kansas (ESPN); Mississippi State (ESPN2)

6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Connecticut at DePaul (FS1); Rutgers at Nebraska (BTN)

8 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Houston at Central Florida (ESPN2); Texas at Tennessee (ESPN)  
8:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Brooklyn Nets at Golden State Warriors (ABC)  
10 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Oregon State at Oregon (ESPN2)  
10 p.m. — Boxing (ESPN)

**Sunday**  
3:30 a.m. — Tennis: Australian Open - Final (ESPN)

Noon — Men's college basketball: Ohio State at Purdue (CBS)  
2 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Loyola at Drake (ESPN2)  
3 p.m. — NFL football: AFC Championship — Cincinnati Bengals at Kansas City Chiefs (CBS)

3 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Duke at Louisville (ESPN)  
4 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Arizona at Stanford (ESPN2)  
4:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: DePaul at Seton Hall (FS1)  
6:30 p.m. — NFL football: NFC Championship — San Francisco 49ers at Los Angeles Rams (FOX)  
10 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Colorado at Washington State (FS1)

**Monday**  
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Duke at Notre Dame (ESPN)  
7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Indiana at Michigan (ESPN2)  
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: West Virginia at Baylor (ESPN); TCU at

Oklahoma (ESPN2)  
10 p.m. Men's college basketball: New Mexico at San Diego State (FS1)

**Tuesday**  
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Creighton at Connecticut (FS1)  
7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Washington Wizards at Milwaukee Bucks (TNT)  
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Kansas at Iowa State (ESPN); Rutgers at Northwestern (BTN)  
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Seton Hall at Georgetown (FS1)

9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Alabama at Auburn (ESPN); Nebraska at Michigan (BTN)  
10:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Nevada at UNLV (FS1)

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# Sports

## D carries Jay

*Patriots limit Bluffton to five second-half points to stay perfect in Allen County Athletic Conference*

By DAVID VANTRESS

The Commercial Review  
BLUFFTON — On nights when its offense is struggling, a basketball team needs its defense to pick up the slack.

The Jay County High School boys basketball team got just that kind of help from its defense Friday night, holding the Bluffton Tigers to five second-half points in a 38-17 Allen County Athletic Conference victory.

It was one of those nights when things just felt off from the start, according to Jay County coach Jerry Bomholt.

"We weren't fluid on either end," Bomholt said. "We'd get a turnover, and then not be able to convert."

Missing easy shots didn't help, Bomholt said.

"I didn't have a good feel for this one, and this is the first time this season I've felt that way," Bomholt added.

The Patriots (13-2 overall, 4-0 ACAC) scratched out to a 13-7 first-quarter lead. Knotted with Bluffton at six as the stanza wound down, six straight Jay County points to close the quarter set the tone for the rest of the contest.

The Patriots finally began to put the game away in the third quar-



The Commercial Review/David Vantress

Jay County High School senior Ethan Dirksen drives past Andrew Ball of Bluffton during the Patriots 38-17 victory Friday night. Dirksen had 16 points for JCHS, which plays again tonight at home against Bluffton. (The junior varsity game will start at 6:30 p.m.)

ter when they outscored the Tigers 9-3.

"We just couldn't seem to put them away early," Bomholt said.

Bluffton coach Karl

Grau said he wanted to try to set the tempo counter the Patriots' size.

"It worked for a little while," Grau said. "But

their length makes it hard to get good shots on the perimeter."

But on a night when the Tigers were without senior starting point

guard Max Stoppenhagen, the already thin margin for error against the Patriots shrank even further, Grau said.

See D page 9

## Chiefs, Bengals square off on Sunday

By DAVE SKRETTA  
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Chiefs have been in this position before. Walking across the cold Arrowhead Stadium parking lot, dressing in their revamped locker room, strolling through the narrow tunnel and spilling onto the field for the AFC title game.

In fact, the Chiefs have done it each of the last three years.

It will be a wholly new experience for the Cincinnati Bengals, though, when they follow the same path Sunday with a trip to the Super Bowl on the line. Only a couple special teams players were alive, and coach Zac Taylor just starting out in elementary school, when they beat the Bills in January 1989 in their last trip to a conference championship game.

"I think it helps this time of year having a pretty good idea of what this is all about," acknowledged Chiefs coach Andy Reid, who can tie Tom Landry for second in NFL history with his 20th playoff win. "They know how we go about our business, the intensity, whether it's practice or what we expect out of the game."

That experience came in handy last Sunday, when the Chiefs went 44 yards in 13 seconds to kick a field goal and force overtime against Buffalo. Patrick Mahomes and Co. proceeded to win the coin toss, and ultimately the game, by marching right downfield for a touchdown without giving the Bills another chance with the ball.

It was the kind of unforgettable, heart-stopping victory that can give an NFL team plenty of momentum for the rest of the postseason — provided they get over it quickly enough to prepare for the next one.

"It was an awesome game and win that we'll remember forever," Mahomes said, "but we're not done. We're trying to get out there and win an AFC championship and try to get to the Super Bowl."

The Bengals had a thriller in their own right to get past top-seeded Tennessee last weekend. They blew a 16-6 second-half lead, then put rookie Evan McPherson in position to kick a winning 52-yard field goal as time expired.

It was the first road playoff win in franchise history. Now, they're after another in Kansas City.

"We're excited about the opportunity," Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow said. "If you want to do the things that we want to do, that's a team that you're going to have to beat every single year. The AFC has run through them for four straight years."

"So, you know, we're excited about the opportunity. We're gonna have a great week of practice and be ready to go."

### Familiar faces

The Bengals beat the Chiefs on Jan. 2 in Cincinnati in a back-and-forth thriller that ended when McPherson drilled a 20-yard field goal as time expired. Burrow threw for 446 yards and four touchdowns, most of it going to wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase, while Mahomes threw for 259 yards and two scores against the lightly regarded Cincinnati secondary.

See Sunday page 9

## Nadal, Medvedev set for historic final

By JOHN PYE  
AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — Rafael Nadal is within one victory of a men's record 21st Grand Slam singles title.

He'll have to beat second-seeded Daniil Medvedev in the Australian Open final on Sunday to make history. And Medvedev is chasing a piece of history of his own after beating Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 in a heated semifinal on Friday. The U.S. Open champion is aiming to be the first man in the Open era to win his second Grand Slam title at the next major tournament.

Nadal advanced to the final in Australia for the sixth time with a 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 win in a mostly lopsided contest against seventh-seeded Matteo Berrettini in the first of the men's semifinals.

Medvedev had a more tempestuous and challenging run to back-to-back Australian Open finals. He had to deal with a hostile crowd in his second-round win over Nick Kyrgios, had to save a match point and rally from two sets down to beat Felix Auger-Aliassime in a nearly five-hour quarterfinal win. Then he had to regain his composure after an angry outburst in the second set of the semifinals.

The Russian yelled at chair umpire Jaume Campistol in the changeover after serving a double-fault to concede a late break, getting a code violation for a visible obscenity when he made a gesture with his arm to the pro-Tsitsipas crowd, and then demanded that his opponent be cautioned for receiving coaching from his father — in Greek — from the stands.



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