

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Water park issues discussed



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The status of Portland Water Park for 2022 is in limbo.

Portland Park Board discussed the possibility that the water park may not be able to open this summer because of safety issues regarding tile and the availability of the materials to fix those problems.

Park board president Brian Ison provided an update about the status of the water park, as he had at the previous evening's Portland City Council meeting. He explained that the facility, which opened in 2016, has had issues with the tiles that surround the pool's edge frequently breaking and falling off. When the tiles break and fall, they leave behind sharp edges that cause a safety concern.

Blakley's of Indianapolis has suggested a different type of tile and installed a test section at the "zero entry" area of the pool to test its durability over the winter. If the tile works

Problems with cracking tile raise possibility that facility may not be able to be open this summer

well, the estimated cost to replace it around the entire pool is just over \$70,000. However, the tile is not expected to be shipped until September. The installation process is expected to take about 70 days — seven weeks to install the new tiles and an additional three weeks to allow them to cure.

Because of the safety concerns and the likely inability to replace the tile this spring, Ison said the board may need to consider not opening the water park this year.

Discussion among park board members Glen Bryant, Shauna Runkle and Ison, other local

officials and members of the public Tuesday focused on two topics — keeping the facility open and where the responsibility lies for the various issues it has faced since its opening.

Several members of the public, including former water park manager Missy Bader, said they are hopeful a temporary solution can be found until the new tile is available.

"I would think that there is something that can be done to that pool to have it open in the summer," she said. "We didn't invest \$3 million in that pool to have it closed six years later."

See **Park** page 2

COVID-related bills are moving forward

GOP continuing with measures regarding emergency, exemptions

By TOM DAVIES

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's ongoing spike in COVID-19 illnesses isn't deterring state leaders, who remain determined to bring an end to the official statewide public health emergency.

The Republican-dominated state Legislature started its 2022 session Tuesday and planned to quickly take up actions that GOP Gov. Eric Holcomb says will allow him to drop the emergency declaration that he first issued in March 2020. Those steps come as health officials are concerned about the fast-spreading omicron variant further stressing Indiana's hospitals that have been facing their highest-ever overall patient loads.

A House committee is set to vote Thursday on a bill that includes administrative actions sought by Holcomb, along with provisions that would force businesses to grant broad exemptions to any workplace COVID-19 vaccination requirements. The state's major medical and business groups oppose the employer limitations, as do Holcomb and Senate Republican leaders.

Republican House Speaker Todd Huston said the ongoing COVID-19 spread wasn't giving him second thoughts about proceeding.

"COVID is something that we're going to have to live with and people are going to have to take the precautions that they feel are best," Huston said.

See **Moving** page 5

Race is official



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

The first day of filing to run in this year's primary election opened at 8:30 a.m. today. Pictured, from left are Republicans Mike Lennartz, Jenae Blasdel, Robin Alberson and Patrick Wells. Lennartz and Wells both filed this morning to run for Jay County Sheriff. Alberson filed to seek re-election as Jay County's assessor.

Two candidates who had already announced their plans to run for sheriff filed this morning

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

In the first hours of election filing today, local voters have two options for sheriff.

Patrick Wells and Tony Lennartz, both of whom had announced their candidacy for Jay County Sheriff months ago, filed their official paperwork this morning with Jay County Clerk's Office.

Jay County assessor Robin Alberson also filed to seek re-election.

Lennartz and Wells, both Republicans and longtime employees of the sheriff's

office, are vying to take over for Jay County Sheriff Dwane Ford, who is ineligible to run for re-election because he has served two consecutive terms.

Ford initially won election in 2014, defeating Rob Bicknell and Mitch Sutton in the Republican primary. He topped former two-term sheriff Ray Newton in the Republican primary in 2018. He was uncontested in both general elections.

Alberson is seeking her second term as assessor. She defeated Cherrie Geesaman in the 2018 Republican primary

and was uncontested in the general election.

Other offices up for election this year include U.S. representative, state representative and Jay County Commissioner (middle district), currently held by Chad Aker, as well as county recorder, prosecutor, auditor and Jay Circuit Court Judge. County council seats currently held by Ted Champ, Faron Parr, Mike Rockwell and Harold Towell are also up for election this year, as are township trustee and township board positions.

The state representative outlook for the county has changed

following redistricting in the fall. The southern two-thirds of the county will be in District 33, represented by J.D. Prescott (R-Union City), while Penn, Jefferson, Bearcreek and Wabash townships in the northern third of the county will be in District 79, represented by Matt Lehman (R-Berne).

Election filing opened at 8:30 a.m. this morning at the clerk's office. The deadline to file to run for election this year is noon Feb. 4.

Filing for school board seats, which are non-partisan, begins July 27.

Deaths

Mary Ashcraft, 90, Portland

Vickie May, 74, rural Salamonia

Richard Rickner, 58, Portland

Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature Tuesday was 39 degrees. The low was 25.

The county is under a wind advisory until 10 p.m. tonight with winds expected to gust to 45 miles per hour. Tonight's low will be 12, and Thursday's high will be 19.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Need to fill out a birth announcement, engagement or wedding form to have your special event announced in the newspaper? They're now available electronically. Just go to thecr.com, hover over "Forms" and select the form you'd like to fill out.

Coming up

Thursday — CR staff members offer their recommendations on books, TV, food, movies, etc.

Saturday — Results from the JCHS girls basketball team's game Friday against Bluffton.



Obituaries

Mary Ashcraft

Aug. 11, 1931-Dec. 20, 2021
Mary Ashcraft, age 90, a resident of Portland, passed away on Monday, Dec. 20, 2021, at her home in Portland.

Mary was born on Aug. 11, 1931, in Calvin, North Dakota, the daughter of Ernest and Anna (Hiebert) Gamsby. She worked at Jay Garment in Portland and retired from CTS in Berne. Mary was a member of Southside Church of Christ in Portland. She married Jesse Ashcraft on Aug. 28, 1949, and he passed away in 2004.



Ashcraft

Survivors include:
One daughter — Carol Limbert (husband: Tony), Portland, Indiana

One brother — George Gamsby (wife: Virginia), Ossian, Indiana

Two sisters — Esther Krumwiede, Raleigh, North Dakota, and Gladys Mueler, Prescott, Wisconsin

Two grandchildren — Colt Ashcraft and Codi LeMaster
Four great-grandchildren
She was preceded in death by her husband Jesse; and two children, Michael Ashcraft and Barbara Ashcraft.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Southside Church of Christ, 1209 S. Shank St., Portland, Indiana. Services to celebrate Mary's life will follow at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 8, at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Southside Church of Christ or the family of Mary Ashcraft in care of Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home.

Arrangements entrusted to Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

Condolences may be sent to williamsonspencer.com.

Vickie May

Oct. 21, 1947-Jan. 3, 2022
Vickie May, age 74, a resident of rural Salamonina, passed away on Monday, Jan. 3, 2022, at her home.

Vickie was born on Oct. 21, 1947, in New Castle, Indiana, the daughter of Hubert and Hester (Zachary) Butler. Vickie farmed with her husband in Madison Township for many years. She was a member of Salamonina Church of Christ where she served as Sunday School teacher, Youth Leader and the Women's Guild. She also served with the Jay County Hospital Auxiliary for many years.

Vickie married Ed May on Sept. 21, 1969.

Vickie loved her family and especially enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

Survivors include:

Her husband of 52 years — Ed May, rural Salamonina, Indiana

One daughter — Nicole Harris (husband: David), rural Portland, Indiana

One son — John May (wife: Missy), rural Salamonina, Indiana

One sister — Sylvia Reum, Albany, Indiana

Six grandchildren — Dylan,



May

Taylor, Dustin, Danielle, Courtney and Natalie

Visitation will be held on Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Services to celebrate Vickie's life will be held on Saturday at 11 a.m. at Salamonina Church of Christ, 3900 S. 600 East, Portland, Indiana.

Memorials may be directed to Salamonina Church of Christ.

Richard Rickner

Aug. 11, 1963-Jan. 3, 2022
Richard Rickner, age 58, of Portland, passed away Monday evening Jan. 3, 2022, in McGivney Healthcare Center in Carmel, Indiana.

He was born in Portland on Aug. 11, 1963, the son of James and Carolyn (Byrum) Rickner. He had worked as a welder for Wyanzik Construction Company. He had also worked for Meshberger Brothers and Vore's



Rickner

Welding. He was a 1981 Jay County High School graduate and was an avid motorcyclist.

Surviving are two brothers, Robert Rickner of Muncie and Steve Rickner (wife: Gina) of Fisherville, Kentucky; one sister, Donna Loden (husband: Anthony) of Redkey; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be Friday, Jan. 7, 2022, at 2 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Joe Hines presiding. Burial will follow in the Green Park Cemetery. Visitation will be Friday from noon to 2 p.m.

Memorials can be made to the Jay County Humane Society.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

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

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

CR almanac

Thursday 1/6	Friday 1/7	Saturday 1/8	Sunday 1/9	Monday 1/10
19/9	22/13	41/33	43/14	21/9
Mostly cloudy skies are expected Thursday with wind gusts as high as 20 mph.	Friday will be mostly sunny with a high near 22 degrees. At night, the low will be around 13 degrees.	Mostly sunny skies are on the horizon for Saturday. Rain is expected at night.	There's a 30% chance of rain Sunday under mostly cloudy skies.	Another day of mostly sunny skies. The high will be around 21 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball
Estimated jackpot: \$610 million
Quick Draw: 1-7-9-15-21-26-27-31-34-36-37-40-42-44-46-49-53-74-78-80
Cash 5: 16-19-25-29-35
Estimated jackpot: \$604,000

Mega Millions
4-6-16-21-22
Mega Ball: 1
Megaplier: 3
Estimated jackpot: \$278 million

Hoosier
Midday
Daily Three: 5-4-5
Daily Four: 9-8-4-8
Quick Draw: 2-8-10-12-14-15-16-21-22-24-28-37-41-54-55-61-64-68-69-80
Evening
Daily Three: 8-8-3
Daily Four: 1-7-5-2

Ohio
Midday
Pick 3: 4-4-9
Pick 4: 8-1-0-8
Pick 5: 1-8-9-2-4
Evening
Pick 3: 4-0-3
Pick 4: 6-9-9-7
Pick 5: 5-7-9-9-9
Rolling Cash: 1-9-17-28-29
Estimated jackpot: \$294,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery	Wheat 7.52
Corn.....6.09	July wheat 7.44
Jan. corn.....6.12	Central States Montpelier
Wheat7.46	Corn.....6.01
POET Biorefining Portland	Jan. corn.....6.03
Corn.....6.10	Beans13.71
Feb. corn6.14	Jan. beans13.73
March corn6.16	June wheat..... 7.60
The Andersons Richland Township	Sunrise St. Anthony
Corn.....6.02	Corn.....6.05
Jan. corn.....6.07	Jan. corn6.09
Beans13.79	Beans13.49
Jan. beans13.76	Jan. beans13.60
	Wheat7.27

Today in history

On Jan. 5, 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed assistance to countries to help them resist Communist aggression in what became known as the Eisenhower Doctrine.

In 1914, auto industrialist Henry Ford announced he was going to pay workers \$5 for an 8-hour day, as opposed to \$2.34 for a 9-hour day. (Employees still worked six days a week; the 5-day work week was instituted in 1926.)

In 1933, construction began on the Golden Gate Bridge.

In 1972, Portland Junior High School's seventh grade boys basketball teams swept South Adams, with the A team winning 41-23 and the B team posting a 56-19 victory.

—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Thursday
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.

Monday
9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, commissioner's room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Park ...

Continued from page 1
She added that a closure would impact Jay County Summer Swim Team, with Ison responding that it would also effect Jay Community Center's summer day camp.

Portland resident Rachel Haque said if the facility does need to be closed this year, the board should look at addressing all problem areas in order to make sure another closure is not needed down the road.

Officials and residents also questioned if the firms involved in the planning and construction of the facility — HWC Engineering was the engineering firm and RLTurner was the contractor — can be held responsible.

Matt Shauver of the parks department noted that issues with screens, ventilation, plumbing, floors, cabinets, etc. have been regular since the facility opened.

"Somebody made a mistake, in the engineering or architecturally," said Bryant. "It's six years old, and here we are holding the bag, looking at spending big bucks again. It just seems like there should be some liability somewhere."

Ison said the park board has looked into liability issues. He said the facility had a one-year performance bond.

"There's nothing we can do," said Ison, who was not on the board at the

time the water park was built. "We can't go back."

Several of those in attendance at the meeting also asked if tile is the best solution and if other possibilities have been considered. Ison noted that stainless steel is another option but that it would come at a cost of at least \$400,000 and possibly as high as \$700,000.

Funding for work at the water park was also discussed. Portland Mayor John Boggs mentioned at Monday's city council meeting that \$100,000 in Bitter Ridge Wind Farm economic development funds the city has received from the county could be allocated to the park board to cover the tile replacement and other park initiatives. City council has not voted to make that allocation official.

It was also noted Thursday that there is about \$95,000 remaining in a "legacy account" from the money raised to construct the facility. Those funds can also be used to make upgrades.

This marks the third consecutive season during which the water park faces the possibility of not being open for a full summer. It was shut down for the first five weeks of the 2020 season because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and its hours were limited in 2021 because of a lifeguard shortage. (Ison acknowledged that lifeguard staffing may be a challenge

this year as well, with Missy Bader adding that the problem would likely get worse if the facility does not open because current guards would move on to other summer jobs.)

Park board will continue to monitor the situation over the next few months, Ison said.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the purchase of two Snapper lawnmowers for the parks department from K&L Tractor Sales of Fort Recovery at a cost of \$6,698 after trade ins. K&L had the lowest quote by more than \$1,000.

- Was updated by Ison that the city's five-year park plan is ready to be submitted to Indiana Department of Natural Resources for its approval. He thanked rural Portland resident John Moore for his help with the plan. He noted that the plan calls for reviewing priorities for each park four times a year. The early focus, he said, will be on Milton Miller Park on the north side of the city after tennis courts were removed in 2021.

- Heard from Ison that park board member Giles Laux turned in his resignation last week, effective Jan. 1. Fellow member Chris Compton had previously announced her resignation. Ison and Portland Mayor John Boggs are working on filling both positions. Anyone interested in serving should contact the mayor's office at (260) 729-2277.

Felony court news

Drug possession

Brandi L. Curtis, 41, 399 Lincoln Ave., Dunkirk, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to 180 days in Jay County Jail and given two days credit for time served. Curtis was fined \$1, assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.

Courtney A.C. Bryan, 34, 19311 U.S. Highway 12, Edwardsburg, Michigan, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of a narcotic drug, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to 365 days in Jay County Jail with all but two days suspended and given two days credit for time served. Bryan was ordered to submit an evaluation within 30 days of her sentencing for substance abuse counseling. she was placed on probation for 363 days, fined \$25, assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of her plea agreement, a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe was dismissed.

Hailey A. Curts, 20, 408 Moore Ave., Dunkirk, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony.

Austin M. George, 19, 1212 N. Franklin St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 730 days in Jay County Jail with all but 272 days suspended and given 46 days credit for time served. George was placed on house arrest for 226 days, placed on probation for 458 days, assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of his plea agreement, a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for knowingly or intentionally operating a vehicle without ever receiving a license.

Abbie S. Affolder, 36, 1024 N. 600 West, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony.

See page 5

SERVICES

Today
Davenport, Judith: 1 p.m., Dunkirk Church of the Nazarene, 226 E. Center St., Dunkirk.

Friday
Hudson, Karen: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
Rickner, Richard: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Saturday
May, Vickie: 11 a.m., Salamonina Church of Christ, 3900 S. 600 East, Portland.
Ashcraft, Mary: 1 p.m., Southside Church of Christ, 1209 S. Shank St., Portland.

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Blood drive had 45 donors

Forty-five donors gave blood Dec. 7 during at American Red Cross blood drive at Jay Community Center.

Donors included Jeremy Roessner, Jane Switzer, Timothy Danielson, Elizabeth Skiver, Daniel Schmitz, Cheryl VanSkyock, John Knipp, Theresa Burgess, John Hart,

Stephen Fennig, John Roessner, Michael Schmidt, Thomas Clutter, John Janak and Jamie Hornbaker.

Also Patricia Homan, Billy Sipe, Larry Barrette, Freeda Osebaugh, David Osenbaugh, Jill Hemmelgarn, Gary McMillan, Franklin Hogle, Pamela Rogers, Eric

Rogers, Jeffrey Garman, Janice Wendel, Sara Hemmelgarn, Jane Reinhart and Joe Reinhard.

Also Cathy Bettinger, Donna Bruggeman, Gregory Neville, Matthew Calhoun, Jayne Pearson, Margaret Reier, Demara Dennis, Mary Laux, Mathew Garringer,

Susan Myers, Rebekah Garringer, Raymond Brandt, Darwin Johnson, Cheryl Gibson and Robert Meyer.

Volunteering at the drive were Dee Humbles, Linda Moore, John Moore, Rose Snow, Shirley Bennett, Shirley Hayden, Roxie Zurcher, Pat Brockman and Julia Schwomeyer.

Determination is always part of us

By KWAME DAWES

Albert Goldbarth's imagination has the unique penchant for a certain absurdist insistence on the delight we can derive from strangeness.

The poet hears his wife singing and thinks of a horse's skull.

This seems like a prelude to intimations of mortality (the poem's title is, after all, "Tough Day: Closure"), but then, what happens is not quite humor, but dogged joy, "as if the brain/ is determined to sing and fly."

And the image that

American Life in Poetry

stays with me is this one, a bird rising out of a horse's skull.

Goldbarth's poetry has been nominated for the National Book Award and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. In 2008, he was awarded the Mark Twain Poetry Award from the Poetry Foundation.

Tough Day: Closure

Upstairs, in the bath, my wife is humming some made-up tune in which the mood of a zoned-out happiness willfully prevails.

Why do I suddenly think of the horse skull that I saw last year in the countryside?

Because a bird rose out of it,

as if the brain is determined to sing and fly, the brain is determined to sing and fly no matter what.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2021 by Albert Goldbrath, "Tough Day: Closure" from Other Worlds, (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2021). Poem reprinted by permission of the author and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2021 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Kwame Dawes, is George W. Holmes Professor of English and Glenna Luschei Editor of Prairie Schooner at the University of Nebraska.

Parents wonder if friendship is more

DEAR ABBY: My preteen son is friends with a boy I don't quite approve of, but I understand that sometimes bad decisions lead to future wisdom. When I can, I allow the friend to come to our house to hang out with my son because this friend allegedly has a difficult home life.

During this last visit, I noticed them hanging out a little physically closer than usual. They shared the same recliner to play video games, talked to each other using gamer tags and the like, and had what I assume were numerous inside jokes.

My husband and I would never belittle, degrade or denounce our children for being gay. We know we're from a bygone era, and we do not assume our particular values are held by our children. We have discussed it and know how to approach it from our perspective if our son announces his orientation. I'm not even certain my perception of his closeness with his friend is accurate.

My husband is more worldly than I am, and he says this kind of behavior is not unusual in the EU. Neither of us wants to address this ahead of anything occurring. We will love our son regardless and support him throughout our lives. I don't want to make him feel singled out by what

may be usual pubescent behavior. My husband and I are in our 30s/40s. We live in an extremely rural area, and this is my son's only real friend. Any insight would be appreciated. — WONDERING ON THE FARM

DEAR WONDERING: You may be jumping to conclusions unnecessarily. Sitting close to play video games and sharing inside jokes with a best friend are not necessarily signs of being gay. It is what best friends that age do. Whatever your boy's sexual orientation may be, you say you will love and support him regardless, so this shouldn't be a problem. His sexual orientation will reveal itself in its own time.

DEAR ABBY: Please help me figure out whether I've made a major mistake. I've been dating this man, "Frank," for six months. He has another woman in his life that he



Dear Abby

told me he's only a caregiver for, but then I learned he has been taking her to the lake and out to dinner.

After that, I found out she used to be a prostitute and lived with him for a few weeks and that he has been offered sex by her. He went into a panic when she was in the hospital and he didn't know where she was. He swears up and down that it's me he loves, not her. Help, please. — COMPETING IN GEORGIA

DEAR COMPETING: Do some digging. Who is the source of the information you are being given? Is that person a reliable source, or could there be an ulterior motive? For a caregiver to "go into a panic" if his patient disappears would not be unusual.

And, while it's possible that he is driving to the lake and going out to dinner in his role as a caregiver, if the person paying the tab is him, then it's a date, and he hasn't been truthful with you. I would be interested in what you find out. Please write back and let me know.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community calendar

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

Today

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

STRESS AND ANXIETY CLASS — Meets each Wednesday at 2nd Chance at Life Min-

istries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-9625 or (260) 703-0534.

PENNVILLE FAIR BOARD — Will meet at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Pennington Community Center.

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

Thursday

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

CELEBRATE RECOV-

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

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Friday

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place

at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will meet at noon Friday, Jan. 7, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. upstairs at True

Value Hardware, Meridian Street, Portland. For more information, call (260) 729-2532.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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

Brides Section

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It's time for resolutions yet again

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

It's a tradition among newspaper columnists — it may even be a rule in the Newspaper Columnists' Handbook, if there is such a thing — that the first column of the year must make reference to resolutions.

Those may be resolutions for other people. (It's way too easy to make resolutions for politicians or other performers and attention-seekers. It's also fun.)

But it's more meaningful if the resolutions are personal.

So, with a bit of foreboding, here goes.

In the year ahead, I resolve to:

- Walk more. You'd think that in my quasi-retirement I'd be walking more than before, but that's not the case. It's easy to be sedentary in a comfortable

Back in the Saddle



chair while reading a good book.

- Keep on reading. I worked my way through something like 25 books this year, which sounds like a lot but really was a pretty leisurely pace.

- Help more in the kitchen. Not by cooking. Goodness, no. That's best left to my wife. When you're married to a great cook, the smart advice is to get out of the way. My role should involve more help with the clean-up.

- Reduce my internet consumption. That means no more "doom scrolling" as I read the endless political sites. And it certainly means trying not to read the comments on those sites.

- Plant at least one tree. We had a lovely Japanese maple in the backyard, but it was unfortunately flooded out last year. We'll shop for a new one and plant it on higher ground.

- Try to get through the year without buying anything new to hang on the walls. The place is beginning to look like a museum. Every year, we say we're done. We said that last year and bought two paintings. One hangs in the living room, the other in my study.

- Return to journaling. I used to do this faithfully, but it's one of those habits that's hard to

resume after an interruption. I need that discipline to be reborn.

- Take more bird pictures. The bird virus interrupted my backyard bird photography in 2021, and I'd like to get it going again. That, of course, depends on the birds and the weather. What do I do with them? Share them with friends via email and the occasional print.

- Continue my boycott of Facebook. At this point, it's a matter of principle. Facebook has damaged our democracy, undercut the business model of American media and exploited the personal data of millions, if not billions, of individuals. It's a con.

- Always have a mask with me. After a bout with a daycare-level cold contracted from our 3-year-old granddaughter, I was reminded that the best way to avoid pass-

ing that on was to wear a mask. It had nothing to do with COVID. It was simply a matter of common sense and common courtesy. My guess is that "I've got a cold" masks will be with us long into the future. Why? They work.

- Talk to my siblings more often. The flurry of holiday phone calls and visits was wonderful. When my brother and I were finishing up a Christmas conversation, I said, "I need to call you more frequently," to which he replied, "I need to call you more frequently." We were both right.

- Try to get beyond half a dozen chords on my baritone ukelele. I might even learn to play a song or two.

- Listen better.
- Laugh more.

- Try to keep this column going another 12 months.

Desmond Tutu is irreplaceable

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

With the passing of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the world celebrates a moral giant who helped lead South Africa toward freedom and battled injustice everywhere he found it. Archbishop Tutu died Sunday in Cape Town. He was 90.

His disarming laugh belied his steely, unflinching commitment to freedom for all South Africans. Archbishop Tutu helped lead his nation out of apartheid, the evil of state-mandated racial subordination that enforced white minority rule in South Africa for most of the 20th century.

In 1975, he became the first Black Anglican dean of Johannesburg. In 1976, he was also named the bishop of Lesotho. Two years later, he was appointed the general secretary of the South African Council of Churches.

During the 1980s, as international opposition to apartheid stiffened, Archbishop Tutu used his platform within the Anglican church to speak out against a brutal and unrepentant government that refused to acknowledge the humanity of Black South Africans, some of whom were brutalized and murdered by security forces.

He earned a Nobel Peace Prize in 1984, during a spike of domestic opposition to the apartheid regime.

Until the release in the early 1990s of Nelson Mandela, imprisoned for nearly three decades for opposing apartheid, Desmond Tutu was the country's most visible — and, arguably, most influential nonviolent freedom fighter.

Archbishop Tutu considered apartheid the cause for violence in his country, but his principled commitment to nonviolence and his willingness to criticize violence, whether perpetrated by members of the African National Congress or the South African police, irritated many who believed his moderation aided the status quo. But in the eyes of much of the world, his principles strengthened his moral authority.

A man of peace who took the radical admonitions of the Gospel to love one's enemies seriously, Desmond Tutu made no

Guest Editorial

moral distinction between those who resorted to violence for political reform and those who enforced white supremacy backed by the power of the state.

In 1995, South African President Nelson Mandela named Desmond Tutu chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and charged him with documenting the previous regime's human rights violations. In exchange for amnesty, those who upheld and brutally enforced apartheid were compelled to acknowledge their crimes during televised hearings that riveted the world.

Many victims and their survivors also testified, putting a human face on the relentless violence that characterized life under apartheid.

The commission hearings were considered a public relations success for Archbishop Tutu and Mandela, though little changed structurally in the immediate aftermath. Whites still owned most of the best land; the economic benefits for the Black majority were fleeting. Freedom would mean an ongoing struggle to make South Africa a land of opportunity for all.

Desmond Tutu was not afraid to use his moral authority wherever it was needed. He spoke out, with equal force, against Black elected leaders in his country. He supported the country's emerging LGBTQ movement and, without equivocation, championed the Palestinian cause. He denounced dictators on the African continent, supported Tibet's struggle against China, and criticized the American occupation of Iraq.

With the exception of the Dalai Lama and Pope Francis, few clergy of any faith had his power to command public attention. Desmond Tutu's moral authority came from suffering with the people he dared to speak for. That he could do so with a round of laughter shows how rare, beautiful and irreplaceable Desmond Tutu was.



Can '22 be about second chances?

By NANCY GIBBS
Special To The Washington Post

My favorite pick-me-up of 2021 arrived last January with the release of Harry Styles's retro music video called "Treat People With Kindness." Naturally, some critics refused: "infuriating" and "virtue-signaling," they called it. The idea of offering people second chances was not the melody of 2021. It needs to be in 2022.

Last year just made us meaner — to shop clerks and flight attendants, teachers and nurses, election officials and our fellow citizens — really anyone forced to leave their foxholes. We fought over everything, including why we fight so much. We thought we were liberated from the pandemic, only to be tackled and dragged back into its cages; we were chased from Afghanistan; we watched lawmakers fall down and flounder as if their shoelaces were tied together. Every day was a feast day for the outrage industry, for candidates and cable networks and platform companies that we learned for years gave five times the algorithmic weight to posts that set us off. We've apparently developed a taste for bile.

Unfortunately, a healthy democracy depends on a measure of grace — "forbearance," the political scientists call it, meaning respect for norms and a willingness to listen, learn and, if you lose, accept that loss and go on to fight another day. Until recently, even the dirtiest campaigns ended with the grace notes of concession and congratulation.

Those principles have been well trashed by Republicans who fell in line behind Donald Trump's delusional claims of widespread voter fraud. So, defenders of democracy, whether from left, right or center, now confront choices they've not faced before: how far will they go, what alliances will they forge and what means will they embrace to counter the authoritarian measures that pulse from statehouse to statehouse.

For the aspiring autocrats, mean-

Nancy Gibbs



ness is not a symptom; it's a strategy, a weapon for driving the faceless, faithful custodians of America's electoral machinery out and replacing them with partisan foot soldiers. The groundwork for election subversion is being laid right out in the open; come 2024, if duly elected slates of electors are rejected through entirely legal means, we can't say we didn't see it coming.

Democratic leaders talk about the threat as "an existential crisis" but don't act as though they believe it. The notion that a few big legislative wins would create the momentum for democracy reform looks more and more like wishful thinking. And no matter how committed you are to providing universal pre-K or addressing climate change, none of that will happen in post-democracy America. This was the tragic trap of Joe Biden's election: He rode to office on a longing for normal, but nothing about this climate allows government to just go on like before.

But it's too easy to blame the president for his failure to convince millions of Americans that they've been systematically lied to. The responsibility also lies with other public impresarios, starting with the purveyors of misinformation. It extends to journalists who must quit their addiction to combat and snark; academics whose arrogance invites alienation; every "influencer," whether pundits or pastors, athletes, actors, local leaders with a platform and a possibility of reaching people. Even when truth is on your side, your message will go down more easily if delivered with a measure of humility. It's also too easy to dismiss the

other team as brainwashed cult followers or unrepentant bigots. Some portion of the public might indeed be unreachable, but it's lazy to write off whole regions of the country as hopeless, or unworthy of engaging, because you don't agree with their views on every issue. This is a fight for the center, and for survival. Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyoming, performs a daily suicide ritual that puts duty before party, accountability before ideology. The least we can do is reject the purity tests that make alliances impossible and do whatever it takes to put democracy first.

Kindness fosters at least curiosity, if not connection. If you don't have anyone in your orbit who disagrees with your politics, vacate your bubble and go exploring. Watch and read news sources you've never tried before. Sample alternate information universes. The goal is not to change your mind — only to broaden it and make the people whose politics are unfathomable to you a little easier to understand.

More than 70% of Americans think political violence is at least somewhat likely, and a third think it might be necessary. Yet on most national values and priorities, there is broad agreement across party, race, age, gender and income. Each side dramatically overestimates the extremism of the other side.

We've been moving apart from each other for years, and the pandemic all but broke us. One encounter with an opponent that ends not with anger but instead with surprise, curiosity or even confusion represents a step forward. If we are to have any hope, we must relinquish the righteous thrill of unchallenged views and get reacquainted in all our complexity. We don't need to agree on much; just on the conviction that this 245-year experiment is worth saving.

Gibbs is the director of the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard University.

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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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Washington Post/Matt McClain

Snowy new year

Hal McDonald clears a sidewalk Monday in Springfield, Va. More than a half-million customers in Virginia and Maryland lost power due to the weight of 5 to 10 inches of snow that fell Monday combined with strong winds, while traffic on Interstate 95 came to a standstill.

Felony arrests

Possession

Noe Ramiro Castillo, 44, 228 S. Western Ave., Portland, is being held in Jay County Jail on \$4,000 bond following his arrest Tuesday on a Level 6 felony charge of possession of methamphetamine.

Methamphetamine

Jadeh Camearon Hildebrandt, 24, 8182 S. 600 West, Portland, was arrested Tuesday on a Level 6 felony charge of possession of methamphetamine.

He is being held in Jay County Jail on \$4,000 bond.

Capsule Reports

Driver injured

A Fort Wayne woman was injured when her SUV was struck by another vehicle about 6:30 p.m. Tuesday on Indiana 1 near county road 350 North.

Diana L. Stanley, 61, told Jay County Sheriff's Office personnel she was southbound on Indiana 1 and had stopped to allow a vehicle in front of her to make a left turn.

While she was stopped, her 2018 Subaru Outback was struck in the rear by a 2008 Chevrolet van driven by Francisco Sanchez, 18, Portland.

The van was registered to Service Poultry, Portland.

Stanley was transported to a Bluffton hospital after complaining of head and neck pain.

Damage was estimated between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

Moving ...

Continued from page 1

"I'm so grateful and thankful for our healthcare and medical providers who are doing everything they can, but no one thinks or believes this is going away. We had to live through it and around it."

Indiana hospitals were treating nearly 3,200 COVID-19 patients as of Sunday, according to tracking by the state health department. That is up about 160% since early November and the most such patients since mid-December 2020 before the vaccines were widely available.

About a quarter of those patients are in hospital intensive care units as Indiana averaged more than 40 COVID-19 deaths a day through nearly all of December. Those COVID-19 cases and other severe illnesses pushed the state's total hospitalizations for any reason to highest-ever mark of nearly 12,000 patients in mid-

December and remained at nearly 11,500 this week after a holiday period when fewer scheduled surgeries are typically performed, according to the Indiana Hospital Association.

That high patient level is forcing many hospitals to keep patients in emergency departments for several hours awaiting open rooms and leaving them with little ICU space for new critically ill patients, said Brian Tabor, the hospital association's president.

"The strain right now is coming from the fact that the system is essentially like an engine that's been running at full tilt for an extended period of time without any downtime for maintenance," Tabor said. "We're going to continue to be in an emergency situation for some time within the four walls of the hospital."

The ongoing statewide health emergency has become a persist-

ent target of conservative criticism, and Senate Republicans are backing a bill that focuses solely on three law changes sought by Holcomb. The governor said those steps would allow the state to keep receiving enhanced federal funding for Medicaid expenses and those eligible for food assistance programs, along with letting the state health commissioner continue issuing a standing doctor's order for the administration of COVID-19 vaccinations to children ages 5 to 11.

"Ending the public health emergency doesn't mean that COVID is gone," Holcomb said Monday. "... We'll continue on a day, in day out basis, on a weekly basis, to deal with COVID as long as it is with us."

Legislative leaders, meanwhile, have dropped the COVID-19 precautions adopted for last year's session, when the House

moved from its Statehouse chamber to a large conference room inside a state office building for all greater distancing between its 100 members. The 50-member Senate closed off its balcony to the public and placed 20 senators there in order to space out more.

The plexiglass surrounding the podiums from which legislators speak is gone and all committee meetings rooms are being opened again to the public. Nearly all Democratic House members were wearing face masks during Tuesday's opening session, while it appeared fewer than five Republicans wore masks.

Huston told House members it was their personal responsibility to protect themselves and others.

"We're back here and we're back here to stay," Huston said. "So, to do that, I'm just saying we all must stay healthy and take care of ourselves."

Felony court news

Continued from page 2

She was sentenced to 365 days in Jay County Jail and given 28 days credit for time served. Affolder was assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.

Joseph E. Byrley, 42, 2035 S. 425 East, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 365 days in Jay County Jail with all but 30 days suspended and given 30 days credit for time served. Byrley was ordered to submit an evaluation within 30 days of his sentencing for substance abuse counseling. He was placed on probation for 335 days, fined \$25, assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of his plea agreement, a Class C misdemeanor charge for possession of paraphernalia was dismissed.

Kenneth D. Kelsay III, 28, 512 Gamester Court, Ridgeville, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of a narcotic drug, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 180 days in Jay County Jail and given 96 days credit for time served. Kelsay was fined \$25, assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.

Three Indiana residents were sentenced to prison after pleading guilty in Jay Circuit Court to dealing drugs.

Jordan M. Lemaster, 26, 128 W. Third St., Portland, pleaded guilty to dealing in a narcotic drug, a Level 3 felony. He was sentenced to nine years in Indiana Department of Corrections and given credit for time served from April 9 to May 7 and since June 22. The court recommended Lemaster for purposeful

incarceration, meaning upon completion of a substance abuse treatment program, the court will consider modifying his sentence. He was fined \$1, assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of his plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: a Level 4 felony for dealing in a narcotic drug, three Level 6 felonies for unlawful possession of a syringe, maintaining a common nuisance and possession of methamphetamine and a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana.

Justin D. Eal, 34, pleaded guilty to dealing in a narcotic drug, a Level 4 felony. He was sentenced to eight years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served since Aug. 9. Eal was assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. The court recommended Eal for purposeful incarceration, meaning that upon completion of a substance abuse treatment program, the court will consider modifying his sentence. As part of his plea agreement, two Class B misdemeanors for possession of marijuana and public intoxication were dismissed.

Kyle B. Deck, 23, 11080 N. Indiana 1, Route 1366, Ossian, pleaded guilty to dealing in methamphetamine, a Level 4 felony. He was sentenced to six years in Indiana Department of Correction with three years suspended and given credit for time served. Deck was assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. The court recommended Deck for purposeful incarceration, meaning upon completion of a substance abuse treatment program, the court will consider modifying his sentence. As part of Deck's plea agree-

ment, the following charges were dismissed: a Level 5 felony for neglect of a dependent, a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance, a Class A misdemeanor for dealing in marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.

Common nuisance

Four Jay County residents were sentenced to jail after pleading guilty in Jay Superior Court for maintaining a common nuisance, a Level 6 felony.

Chaz M. Tiller, 31, 209 E. Highland Ave., Dunkirk, was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail and given one year credit for time served. Tiller was fined \$1 and assessed \$185 in court costs.

Brandi L. Curtis, 41, 399 Lincoln Ave., Dunkirk, was sentenced to 180 days in Jay County Jail and given 144 days credit for time served. Curtis was fined \$1 and assessed \$185 in court costs. As part of her plea agreement, a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia was dismissed.

Brady R. Shively, 31, 5910 E. 400 South, Salamonina, was sentenced to 545 days in Jay County Jail with all but 180 days suspended and given 180 days credit for time served. Shively was placed on probation for 365 days, fined \$25 and assessed \$185 in court costs. As part of his plea agreement, a Class B misdemeanor charge for possession of paraphernalia and a Class C misdemeanor charge for possession of paraphernalia were dismissed.

Brittany D. Pullins, 22, 117 S. Broad St., Dunkirk, was sentenced to 180 days in Jay County Jail and given 86 days credit for time served. Pullins was fined \$25 and assessed \$185 in court costs. As part of her plea agreement, two Class A misdemeanors for domestic battery and possession of marijuana were dismissed.

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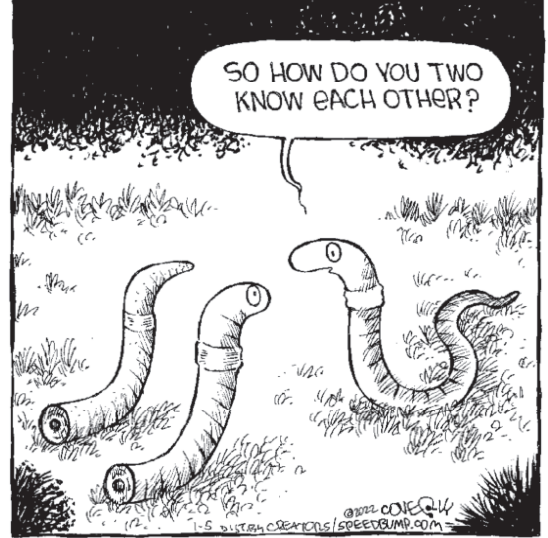
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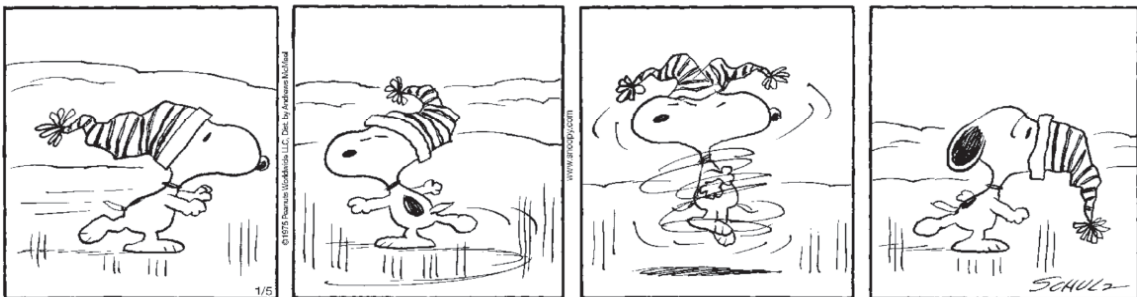
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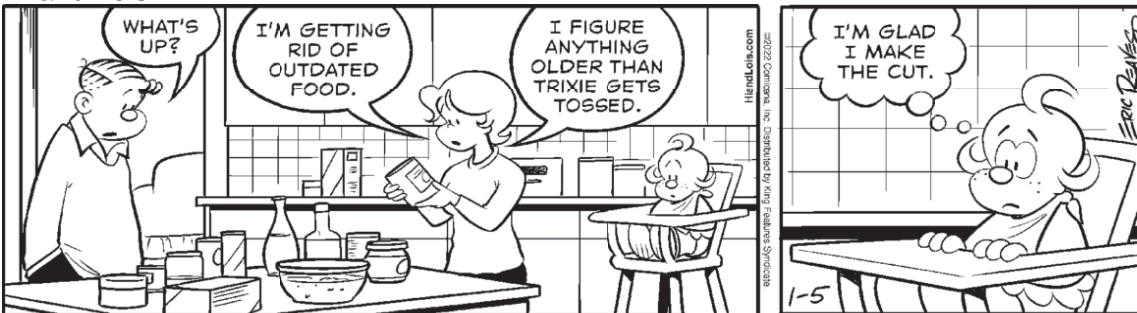
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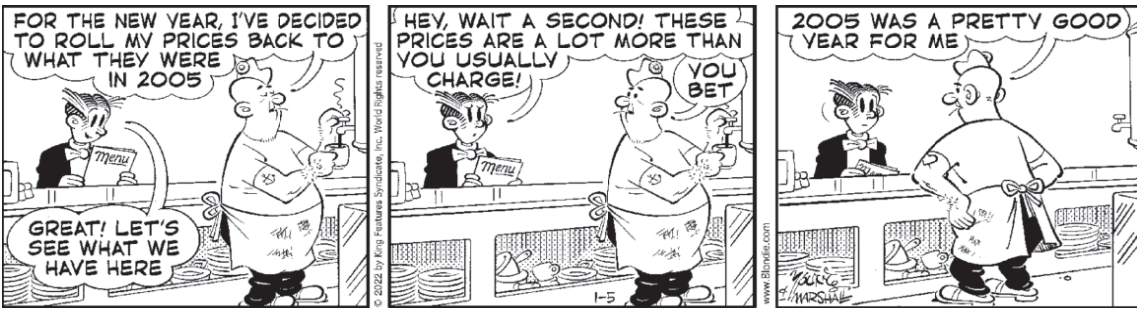
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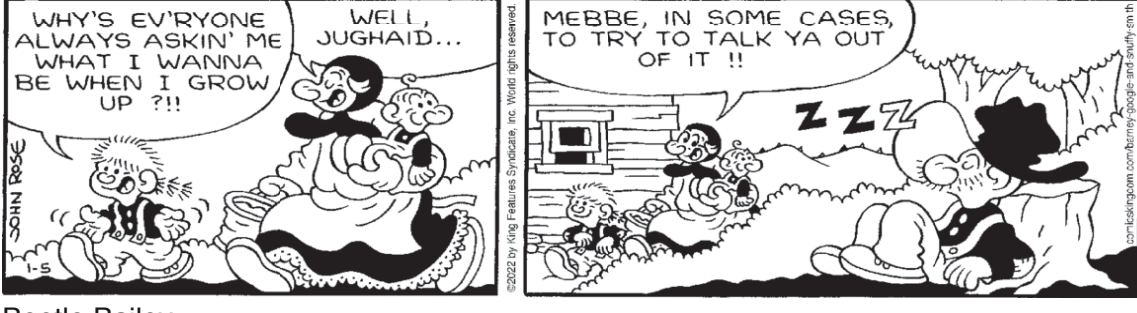
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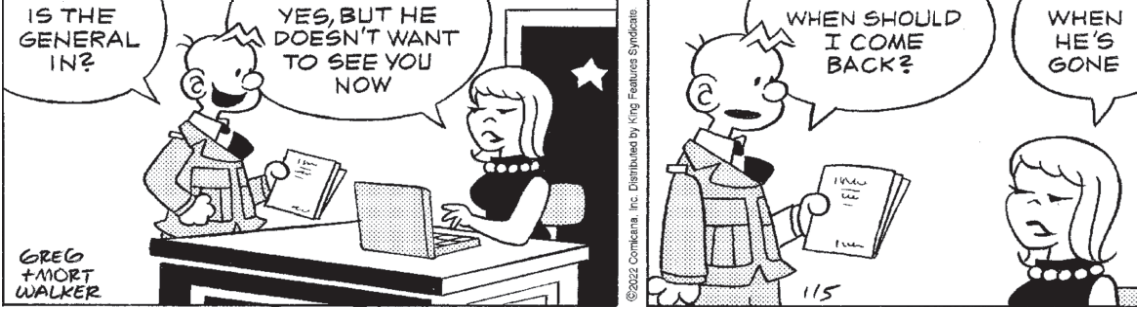
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Leads ...

Continued from page 8

Tribe holds on
FORT RECOVERY — The Fort Recovery boys basketball team held off the Arcanum Trojans for a 46-40 victory on Tuesday.

The Indians (7-2) led by just one point, 30-29, at the end of the third quarter.

The Tribe outscored the Trojans (5-4) by a 16-11 margin in the fourth to get the win.

Fort Recovery opened the night with a 10-3 lead at the end of the first quarter thanks to a 3-pointer each from Cale Rammel and Owen Jutte. The Trojans had a 26-20 edge over the middle two quarters but were unable to overtake the home team.

Rammel led all players with 17 points, and Jutte was second for the Tribe with 13 points. Each made a trio of 3-pointers.

Logan Homan chipped in eight points and Daniel Patch scored six points.

Jay tops Cavs
COLDWATER, Ohio — Jay County's wrestling team earned a 53-24 victory against the Coldwater Cavaliers on Tuesday.

The win improves the Class 2A No. 3 Patriots to 14-1 on the season ahead of the team state finals Saturday at Martinsville.

Ethan Reiley, Tony Wood and Ramon Bravo each had first-period pins. Benson Ward had a second-period pin and Landon Mills-Blowers pinned his opponent in the third period.

Cameron Gage earned a 16-1 tech fall, while Taye Curtis and A.J. Myers both won by decision. Daniel Moore and Cody Rowles received forfeits.

FR girls win, boys third
BERNE — The Fort Recovery girls swim team finished first in a three-team meet Tuesday at South Adams.

The Indians, who got nine event wins, scored 98 points for first. South Adams totaled 37 points for second and Minster had 34 points for third.

Minster's boys totaled 117 points for the victory, with South Adams (18) second and Fort Recovery (14) third.

Audra Bulp and Teigen Fortkamp had two wins each. Bulp beat the field in the 200-yard individual medley and 100 backstroke, while Fortkamp won the 500 freestyle and 100 breaststroke.

Paige Guggenbiller (50 freestyle) and Joelle Kaup (100 freestyle) had individual wins as well.

Fort Recovery also won all three relays.

Trample ...

Continued from page 8

"I was glad to see Izzy get back in double figures," said Comer. "She had another good shooting night."

"Renna obviously had another good night."

"The biggest thing with us right now is we're sharing the ball so well. We're just playing great team basketball."

The victory was the ninth in a row for the Patriots, surpassing last season's longest streak. (JCHS last won nine in a row from Jan. 4 through Feb. 1, 2019.) Since beating Woodlan 46-43 on Nov. 26, the last eight victories have all come by at least 21 points. The 19 points allowed tied a season low, matching the team's 44-19 win over Bellmont on Nov. 19.

During such a run, Comer said it's important to have a focus in order to make sure a team is continuing to make progress.

"We set goals," he said. "Tonight we had defensive and offensive goals. We only turned the ball over seven

times before we put the JV in. So, a good floor game. ... So I thought we did a really good job there."

Jay County will play its fifth straight home game when it hosts Bluffton (6-8) on Friday and then will open Allen County Athletic Conference tournament play at Adams Central (6-8) at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Junior varsity
The Patriots dominated the second and third quarters en route to a 32-15 victory.

Jay County trailed by a point at the end of the first quarter, but outscored the Cadets 11-2 in the second. They used a 12-3 advantage in the third to put the game out of reach.

Cash Hollowell totaled nine points to lead the Patriots, who improved to 10-4. Bella Denton had eight points and Molly Muhlenkamp scored seven.

Concordia got five points apiece from Mallory Bean and Abby Wagner.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Thursday
Jay County — Swimming hosts Celina & Coldwater — 6 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball at Anderson — 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at Fort Recovery — 5 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Girls basketball vs. Bluffton — 6 p.m.; Swimming hosts Jay

New Knoxville — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball at New Knoxville — 5 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball vs. Jay County — 5 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Wrestling in IHSWCA Team State Finals at Martinsville — 9

County Diving Invitational — 6 p.m.; Junior varsity wrestling at Northeastern — 5 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. New Knoxville — 6 p.m.

a.m.; Swimming hosts Jay County Invitational — 9 a.m.; Boys basketball triple-header at Adams Central — 6 p.m.; Junior varsity wrestling at Northeastern — 9 a.m.; Junior high wrestling at Norwell Invitational — 9 a.m.

Fort Recovery — Swimming at Jay County Invitational — 9 a.m.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Sylvia

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q J 8 4
♥ 7 6 3
♦ 8 7 4
♣ 9 5 3

WEST
♠ 10 9 7
♥ K J 9 2
♦ —
♣ A K Q 10 7 2

EAST
♠ 6 5 3 2
♥ 8 5 4
♦ 9 6 3
♣ J 8 4

SOUTH
♠ A K
♥ A Q 10
♦ A K Q J 10 5 2
♣ 6

The bidding:
South West North East
2♦ 3♣ Pass Pass
3♦ Pass 3♣ Pass
5♦

Opening lead — king of clubs.

Sylvia always wanted to play in the toughest game in town. She'd walk into the club, look over the four or five tables in progress and promptly hit herself to the one where the experts were playing.

The day this hand came up, she had cut into a table comprised of players who each had several regional and national championship titles to their credit.

Sylvia was South and wound up in five diamonds after the sequence shown. West led the king of clubs

and continued with the ace, which Sylvia, in a grandiloquent display of trump strength, ruffed with the ace. She then cashed the king of diamonds and A-K of spades.

At this point, the deuce of diamonds fell out of her hand face-up on the table. A brief discussion ensued, East contending that the deuce was a played card that Sylvia could not withdraw.

Sylvia's nature was such that she was always willing to abide strictly by the rules of the game. Besides, she hated arguments, so though she wasn't sure the Laws actually required her to play the deuce, she didn't want to create a disturbance.

East won dummy's seven of diamonds with the nine and returned a heart. By this time, the wondrous thing that had occurred began to dawn on Sylvia, so she went up with the ace of hearts and led the five of diamonds to dummy's eight. The Q-J of spades then provided a parking place for her Q-10 of hearts, and she made five diamonds.

Subsequent analysis revealed that if Sylvia had trumped West's ace of clubs low, or if she had not led a low diamond to dummy's 8-7, she would have gone down. Everyone marveled at the outcome, but they also agreed that East should be credited with a major assist.

Tomorrow: The case of the telltale deuce.
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1-5 CRYPTOQUIP

OCWX JE XCY RKYQYKKYL

OWKG NYIYKWPY HQ XYVYIJEJHM

CHEX XHG WML NYWX RHYX

PWKA? WRRVY EMALYK.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'VE PURCHASED ARTISTIC LITTLE SCULPTURES OF PIECES OF CANDY, YOU HAVE SUGAR CARVINGS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals R

<p>40 NOTICES</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one days incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mistakes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.</p> <p>60 SERVICES</p> <p>J. L. CONSTRUCTION Amish crew. Custom built homes, new garages, pole barns, interior/exterior remodeling, drywall, windows, doors, siding, roofing, foundations. 260-726-5062, leave message.</p> <p>"SEAMSTRESS NAN" HOMEMADE Sewing and Alterations, Quilts, Baby Blankets, Appliqué, Zippers, Hemming, Memory T-Shirt, Special Orders, Wedding & Prom Gowns. 260.766.9334</p> <p>WICKEY CONSTRUCTION Roofing, Siding, Pole Barns. Call for free estimate. 260-273-9776</p> <p>GOODHEW'S ALL SEASON Construction- Specializing in standing seam metal roofs. When Quality Counts, Count On US. A company you can trust. Member of the BBB. New Installation and repairs. Call Rodney Thornbury, owner 765-509-0191</p>	<p>90 SALE CALENDAR</p> <p>PUBLIC AUCTION Located in the Bulp Exhibition Hall at Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland Indiana, Saturday Morning January 8, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>HOUSEHOLD GOODS-OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS</p> <p>4 Pc. Queen size bedroom suit, Bookcases, Dresser, Rainbow Sweeper, Cookware, Kitchen Aid Professional mixer.</p> <p>MOWER-TOOLS Craftsman 6 speed-46" riding lawn mower, Power Boss generator, 7350 starting watts and 5250 running watts, Craftsman stack tool cabinet, 4000lb. aluminum racing jack, Snap On 1650 psi pressure washer, Craftsman 19.2V saw, and many other items not listed. Auctioneers Note: This is only a partial listing of the items to be sold. Please note that we will be running 2 rings a portion of the day.</p> <p>KHERA SYLVIA, DECEASED Loy Auction</p> <p>AC#31600027 Auctioneers</p> <p>Gary Loy AU01031608 Ben Lyons AU10700085 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Troy Foust AU1980006</p>	<p>100 JOBS WANTED</p> <p>AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.</p> <p>110 HELP WANTED</p> <p>MAINTENANCE/CUSTOMER SERVICE Part-Time, Pleasant working environment; flexible hours Applicant should be able to: Perform general cleaning and maintenance tasks Lift 50 - 75 lbs. Climb ladders Submit letter of application with experience and references or visit Arts Place for an application: Arts Place, Inc. 131 East Walnut Street P. O. Box 804 Portland, IN 47371 EOE</p> <p>\$10,000 SIGN ON BONUS FOR AN EXPERIENCED SEMI DRIVER needed in Portland, IN. Monday-Friday dedicated run only. \$0.60/mile, 2500-3000 miles/week. Lots of benefits included. Call/text 260.251.7839 or email customerservice@tjx-pservice.com</p> <p>130 MISC. FOR SALE</p> <p>ALUMINUM SHEETS 23"x30", .007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side. .35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141</p>	<p>130 MISC. FOR SALE</p> <p>PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.</p> <p>190 FARMERS COLUMN</p> <p>AG RENTAL Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309</p> <p>200 FOR RENT</p> <p>INMAN U-LOC Storage. Mini storage, five sizes. Security fence or 24 hour access units. Gate hours: 8:00-8:00 daily. Pearl Street, Portland. 260-726-2833</p> <p>LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamorespace.com</p> <p>NEED MORE STORAGE? PJ's U-Lock and Storage, most sizes available. Call 260-726-4631.</p>	<p>220 REAL ESTATE</p> <p>FOR SALE 2 Bedroom House, Gas heat, Located at 127 E Baker St. Portland IN. Call 765-305-2248.</p> <p>230 AUTOS, TRUCKS</p> <p>CASH PAID FOR JUNK CARS Any year, any condition. Running or not. We tow away. 765-578-0111 or 260-729-2878. Massey's Towing</p> <p>WE PAY CASH for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocum's Salvage</p>
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Public Notice

NOTICE OF REAL PROPERTY COMMISSIONERS' CERTIFICATE SALE

Jay County Indiana
Beginning 10:00 AM Local Time,
February 23, 2022
Commissioners' Room
STATE OF INDIANA
Jay County

Pursuant to the laws of the Indiana General Assembly and by resolution of the Jay County Commissioners, notice is hereby given that the following described tracts or items of real property are listed for sale for delinquent taxes and/or special assessments.

The minimum sale prices listed below are less than the minimum sale prices when offered in the immediately preceding county tax sale held under Section 5 of IC 6-1.1-24 and include all fees and expenses of the county directly attributable to the Commissioners' Certificate Sale. The Jay County Commissioners will accept bids for the certificates of sale, for the price referred to in IC 6-1.1-24-6.1(a)(3), by public auction on February 23, 2022 at 10:00 AM Courthouse Time at Commissioners' Room. At the discretion of local officials, the sale may switch to an online format. If those measures are taking place, the public auction will be conducted as an electronic sale under IC 6-1.1-24-6.3(c) at www.zeusauction.com commencing on the same date / time listed above. All location update will be posted at www.sriservices.com prior to the sale.

Pursuant to IC 6-1.1-24-5.1, a business entity that seeks to register to bid in an Indiana Commissioners' Certificate Sale must provide to the county treasurer, a Certificate of Existence or Foreign Registration Statement in accordance with IC 5-23 from the Secretary of State.

Pursuant to IC 6-1.1-24-3(e), property descriptions may be omitted for properties appearing on the certified list in consecutive years. A complete property list may be

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

obtained at www.sriservices.com or in an alternative form upon request.

A person redeeming each tract or item of real property after the sale of the certificate must pay: (A) the amount of the minimum bid under Section 5 of IC 6-1.1-24 for which the tract or item of real property was last offered for sale; (B) ten percent (10%) of the amount for which the certificate is sold; (C) the attorney's fees and costs of giving notice under IC 6-1.1-25-4.5; (D) the costs of a title search or of examining and updating the abstract of title for the tract or item of real property; (E) all taxes and special assessments on the tract or item of real property paid by the purchaser plus interest at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum on the amount of taxes and special assessments paid by the purchaser on the redeemed property; and (F), all costs of sale, advertising costs, and other expenses of the county directly attributable to the sale of the certificate.

If the certificate is sold for an amount more than the minimum bid under Section 5 of IC 6-1.1-24 for which the tract or item of real property was last offered for sale and the property is not redeemed, the owner of record of the tract or item of real property who is divested of ownership at the time the tax deed is issued may have a right to the tax sale surplus.

Indiana law prohibits a person who owes delinquent taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, or costs directly attributable to a prior tax sale, from purchasing tracts or items of real property at a tax sale. Prior to bidding at a tax sale, each bidder must affirm under the penalties for perjury that he or she does not owe delinquent taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, costs directly attributable to a prior tax sale, amounts from a final adjudication in favor of a political subdivision in this county, any civil penalties imposed for the violation of a building code or ordinance of this county, or any civil penalties im-

posed by a health department in this county. Further, each bidder must acknowledge that any successful bid made in violation of the above statement is subject to forfeiture. In the event of forfeiture, the bid amount shall be applied to the delinquent taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, costs, judgments, or civil penalties of the ineligible bidder, and a certificate will be issued to the county executive.

The Commissioners specifically reserve the right to withhold from the sale any parcel which has been listed in error, or which otherwise becomes ineligible for sale either prior to the start or during the duration of the auction. The Auditor's Office does not warrant the accuracy of the key numbers or street addresses published herein and any misstatement in the key number or street address does not invalidate an otherwise valid sale.

Dated: 12/29/2021

382100007 38-01-27-404-054.001-011 \$90.61 MYERS JENNIFER 5 'A' 66' X 103' VACANT LAND E MAPLE ST PENNVILLE 47369

382100010 38-01-34-101-049.000-011 \$47.50 ROWLES CHARLES L 1/2 OF LOT 11 WALLING ADD 110 S BROADWAY ST PENNVILLE 47369

382100017 38-09-08-101-121.000-014 \$138.84 RITENOUR MARCUS & SUMMER PT (21 X 12) BLK 29 O P 320 N INDIANA ST DUNKIRK 47336

382100018 38-09-08-103-005.000-014 \$445.71 FISHER HOWARD LOT 19 BLK 37 O P VACANT LOT W WASHINGTON ST DUNKIRK 47336

382100019 38-09-08-103-007.000-014 \$249.80 JONES AUDREY & CLIFFORD RICHARD W/FULL RIGHTS OF SURV 40 X 130 O L 5 O P VACANT LOT W COMMERCE ST DUNKIRK 47336

382100023 38-09-08-103-111.000-014 \$673.69 NIBARGER JENIFER 60' LOTS 1 & 2 BLK 14 OP 410 S FRANKLIN ST DUNKIRK 47336

382100024 38-09-08-104-083.000-014 \$149.19 DUTY DONNA LOT 5 RAILROAD ADD VACANT LOT E RAILROAD ST DUNKIRK 47336

382100025 38-09-08-104-084.000-014 \$195.36 DUTY DONNA J & ELLEN KATHLEEN JT W/RGHTS OF SURV LOT 6 & W 1/2 LOT 7 RAILROAD ADD 225 RAILROAD ST DUNKIRK 47336

382100027 38-09-08-104-160.000-014 \$243.87 LITTLER NICCI JO PT "E" 65' X 130' PT O L 4 225 E WASHINGTON ST DUNKIRK 47336

382100031 38-09-08-402-086.000-014 \$334.75 RQ TAX LIEN INVESTMENT INC RICHARD QUIZON LOT 8 EVANS & WILSON ADD VACANT LOT ORANGE AVE DUNKIRK 47336

382100035 38-09-09-203-003.000-014 \$531.91 MOREHEAD STEVEN MICHAEL LOT 1 - 2 J M SMITH SUB DIV VACANT LOTS E HIGH ST DUNKIRK 47336

382100037 38-09-09-203-093.000-014 \$304.54 NORRIS LOGAN JAMES & CASEY RAE BROCK LOT 8-10 SNIFF & JOHNSON SD 509 E NORTH ST DUNKIRK 47336

382100038 38-09-09-203-101.000-014 \$622.59 DUTCH LLC LOT 7 SNIFF & JOHNSON SUB DIV VACANT LOT E NORTH ST DUNKIRK 47336

382100041 38-09-09-302-010.000-014 \$159.32 JONES LYDIA, FREEMAN ELIZABETH & MILLER NAOMI ESTHER LOT 4 CARLES ADD VACANT LOT WASHINGTON ST DUNKIRK 47336

382100042 38-09-09-302-025.000-014 \$159.32 JONES ELIZABETH LOT 6 CARLES ADD VACANT LOT A ST DUNKIRK 47336

382100043 38-09-09-302-052.000-014 \$511.46 JOHARGY TEREK LOTS 6 & 7 & PT LOT 5 (3' ON W END & 1 1/2' ON E END) D P COLES ADD 116 S FOURTH ST DUNKIRK 47336

382100044 38-09-09-302-060.000-014 \$167.81 NICKLEY LAWRENCE W

& FRED A LOT 16 C P COLES ADD 147 E THIRD ST DUNKIRK 47336

382100049 38-03-17-204-054.001-021 \$4,948.81 HANLIN PERRY L & JACQUELINE L WHITCOMB JT W/RTS SURV LOT 7 BLK 7 OP 104 W MAIN ST BRYANT 47326

382100052 38-03-17-301-018.000-021 \$2,088.82 ROBINSON AMANDA CRYSTAL 65' S END OF LOT 4 BLK 14 103 S HENDRICKS BRYANT 47326

382100059 38-02-16-300-013.003-023 \$75.44 TAYLOR RICK D PT NE 1/4 SW 1/4 S16 T24 R13. 79 A VACANT LAND W 650 N BRYANT 47326

382100062 38-10-15-403-007.000-024 \$38.52 HAYDEN PHILLIP E LOT 8 BLK 4 NEW MT PLEASANT S15 T22 R13 5768 S COMO Rd PORTLAND 47371

382100089 38-11-15-100-008.000-029 \$54.23 FARRIS BETTY E PT NE 1/4 NE 1/4 S15 T22 R14. 50A PER SURVEY LAND BOUNDARY PK PORTLAND 47371

382100097 38-09-14-404-028.001-031 \$56.01 ASHLEY KRYSYAL & STEVEN A MCDOWELL S 1/2 LOT 4 SPAHR & ANDREWS ADD PART OF VACANT LOT REDKEY 47373

382100102 38-09-23-101-054.000-031 \$3,490.39 FUGIETT RODNEY F PT NE PT OF W 1/2 LOT 34 & SECOND STORY OF BLDG ON ALL LOT 34 O P SECOND STORY OF BLDG ON LOT REDKEY 47373

382100104 38-09-23-101-114.000-031 \$148.08 APPENZELLER HARRY H JR N PT LOT 46 O P VACANT LAND UNION ST REDKEY 47373

382100105 38-09-24-201-022.000-031 \$103.14 RUSSELL RICHARD W II LOT 33 CADWALLADER & EDGER 2ND ADD 301 E BELL Ave REDKEY 47373

382100108 38-09-24-201-039.000-031 \$967.60 LANNING LISA LOTS 25-28 MARIETTA GLASS CO 237 E DELAWARE ST REDKEY 47373

382100132 38-07-20-104-126.000-034 \$2,098.85 BAILEYS OF PORTLAND INC E 1/2 OF LOT 1 BLK 18 O P Yes1 201 W MAIN ST PORTLAND 47371 38-07-20-104-126.000-034, 38-07-20-104-126.001-034, and 38-07-20-104-126.002-034 are to be sold and redeemed together.

382100133 38-07-20-104-126.001-034 \$1,094.29 BAILEYS OF PORTLAND E 1/2 OF LOT 2 BLK 18 yes2 205 W MAIN ST PORTLAND 47371 38-07-20-104-126.000-034, 38-07-20-104-126.001-034, and 38-07-20-104-126.002-034 are to be sold and redeemed together.

382100134 38-07-20-104-126.002-034 \$887.51 BAILEYS FURNITURE STORE W 1/2 OF LOT 1 BLK 18 O P yes3 203 W MAIN ST PORTLAND 47371 38-07-20-104-126.000-034, 38-07-20-104-126.001-034, and 38-07-20-104-126.002-034 are to be sold and redeemed together.

382100135 38-07-20-201-025.000-034 \$49.43 AT PORTLAND COMMONS IN OWNER LLC LOT 8 PT WPA (2 DITCHES) 1002 W NORTH ST PORTLAND 47371

382100137 38-07-20-203-026.001-034 \$7,436.11 COMMUNITY CARE CARE CENTERS INC PT OL3 (85' X 281') WPA ADD S20 T23 T14 200 N PARK ST PORTLAND 47371

382100139 38-07-20-401-034.000-034 \$34.35 HEARN CHRIS C "G" PT NE 1/4 SE 1/4 S20 T23 R14. 12A VACANT LAND BRIDGE ST PORTLAND 47371

Total Number of Properties: 33
I hereby certify that the above real properties have been offered in one tax sale, have not received a bid for at least the amount required under I.C. 6-1.1-24-5 and have been identified in a resolution of the Board of Commissioners for Jay County, Indiana, to be offered for sale.

Anna Culy, Auditor, Jay County Indiana.
CR/NS 12-29-2021, 1-5-12-2022-HSPXPLP

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Sports

Lyons leads Jay Co. in win

DECATUR — The Patriot boys swam past the Braves.

Nick Lyons was a big reason why.

Lyons had two individual victories and helped a pair of first-place relays as the Jay County High School boys swim team topped the host Belmont Braves on Tuesday, 85-17.

The JCHS girls lost 99-84.

Lyons was first in the 200-yard individual medley and followed

Local roundup

that performance up with a win in the 100 butterfly. He joined Josh Monroe, Kyle Sanders and Wyatt Kunkler to win the 200 medley relay. The 400 freestyle relay of Wyatt Kunkler, Konner Sommers, Kyle Sanders and Lyons also won.

Sanders (50 freestyle), Kunkler (500 freestyle), Monroe (100 breaststroke) and Sommers (100 backstroke) also had single wins.

Kolby Baldwin, Joseph Dow, Sommers and Monroe teamed to win the 200 freestyle.

For the girls, Maddy Snow (diving), Melissa Laux (200 IM), Morgan DeHoff (100 freestyle), Aubrey Millspaugh (500 freestyle) and Kenzie Huey (100 backstroke) each had single victories.

See Leads page 7

Patriots trample Cadets

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Over the years, the game against Concordia has been one to mark on the schedule.

The Cadets have won at least 14 games in 16 consecutive seasons. They were sectional champions four seasons in a row from 2015 to '18. They finished 2021 ranked 10th in Class 3A.

This season is different.

Jay County High School's girls basketball team simply had visiting Concordia overmatched Tuesday, rolling to a 57-19 win despite not scoring in the fourth quarter.

It was a significant change, given that four of the Patriots' last six meetings with the Cadets had been decided by five points or fewer.

"We out-matched them tonight," said JCHS coach Kirk Comer. "We were able to work on some things. We've been working on a press, which we haven't been able to do all year. So we tried that tonight and thought we did a pretty good job on that. ...

"The biggest thing I'm most proud of tonight is the top seven girls played a pretty solid 24 minutes and then the JV got to play the last eight."

The Patriots (11-2), who were 11th in the most recent Indiana Coaches of Girls Sports Association Class 3A poll voting, scored the opening basket of the game and then went directly into their half-court trap. It led to a turnover and score to make it 5-0 before the home team unleashed its full-court press.

The result was a 25-point first



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School sophomore Breanna Dirksen dribbles past Mahelat Lee of the Concordia Cadets on Tuesday during the third quarter of the Patriots' 57-19 victory. It marked the ninth straight victory for JCHS and eighth in a row by 21 points or more.

quarter for Jay County in which Renna Schwieterman had eight points, Izzy Rodgers and Sophie Saxman each scored six and Madison Dirksen totaled five.

"The press was really effective," Comer said. "We were able to trap them and they were turning it over."

The Patriots were up 40-12 at halftime and scored the final 15

points of the third quarter to push their lead to 42 points before turning the game over to the bench.

After becoming the fourth player in program history to reach 1,000 points Thursday, Renna Schwieterman led JCHS with 22 points against the Cadets (3-12). It was her second 20-point game in a row and sixth of the

season, leaving her 40 points behind Shelby Caldwell for third on the all-time scoring list. She also grabbed 10 rebounds.

Rodgers followed with 14 points as she hit four 3-pointers, and Dirksen finished with nine points. Saxman had eight points, all the first half, and added seven rebounds and five assists.

See Trample page 7



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