

The Commercial Review

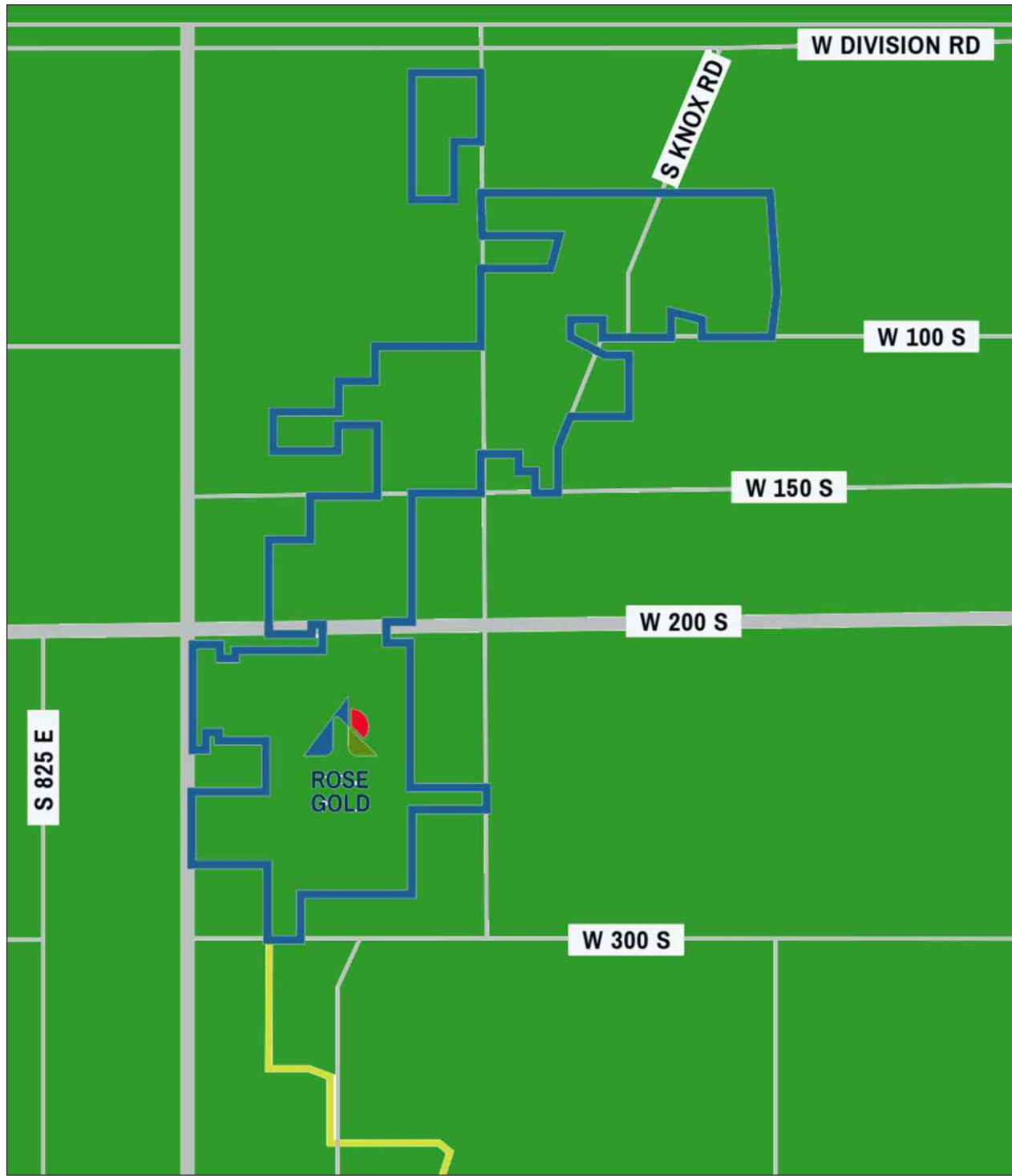
Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Hearing planned

The map at right shows the general project area for Leeward Renewable Energy's planned Rose Gold solar facility. The company has applied to expand the project area to an additional 90 acres northwest of the intersection of county roads 110 West and 150 South.



Leeward Renewable Energy

Public will have the opportunity to comment on expanded footprint for Rose Gold Solar

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Another public hearing for a solar farm planned for north of Dunkirk is in the works.

Jay County Plan Commission agreed Thursday to host a second public hearing on Leeward Renewable Energy's amended development site plan for Rose Gold Solar.

Changes to the plan include an additional 90 acres not previously included when the plan was approved in September. Leeward is also making a few layout adjustments to account for more panels.

Kelly Inns of Leeward Renewable Energy noted all local residents impacted by the changes are the same who were notified of

the project in previous months.

Inns explained the renewable energy company has added about 90 acres to the project. (She said 80 acres of that addition was, however, included its county designation as an economic revitalization area and tax abatement with the county in November. Jay County Council added another

10 acres to the documents Wednesday.)

The company's reason for expanding its acreage is because it cannot get the panels it planned to use as the result of supply chain issues, Inns explained Thursday.

"We are seeing supply chain issues across the board... what that is leading to is likely (a) technology change, (and)

not quite the panels we were hoping to use for the project," Inns said. "They're just slightly less efficient, and what that means is, you know, we're not changing the overall capacity of the project, but what it means is we need a little bit more land to achieve that capacity of the 150 megawatts that we're hoping for."

See **Hearing** page 2

Jay still red, cases drop

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The county is still red, as is most of the state, but numbers are improving.

Jay County was rated "red" (extreme risk for the spread of coronavirus) for the fourth consecutive week in the Indiana State Department of Health's update Thursday. (The update, which is typically provided Wednesday, was delayed because of technical issues.)

While 88 of the state's 92 counties remained in the red range — Adams County moved to "orange" (high risk) — local cases totals were cut more than in half this week. Only Lake, Pulaski and LaGrange counties joined Adams at the orange level.

After Jay County posted 1,321 new cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 residents a week ago, that number was down to 567 this week. The county had recorded double-digit cases for 32 straight days before coming in with four Feb. 4. There were no new cases Saturday and four again Sunday before numbers went back up the last three days.

The local seven-day positivity rate remained high at 25.63%, but that was still down by more than five percentage points from the previous weeks.

The threshold to move from red to orange in the state ratings is 200 cases per 100,000 residents and a 15% positivity rate.

Hospitalization totals in District 6, which includes Jay County, have also shown a steady decline over the last 10 days. There were 328 patients hospitalized with COVID-19 Jan. 31, with that number dropping to 209 as of Wednesday. (It had been as low as 127 in November.)

See **Drop** page 2

Splitting funds

By AAMER MADHANI and KATHY GANNON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden will sign an executive order today to split the \$7 billion in Afghan assets frozen in the U.S. to fund humanitarian relief in Afghanistan and to create a third-party trust fund to compensate victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the White House said.

The order calls for U.S. financial institutions to facilitate access to \$3.5 billion for Afghan relief and basic needs. The other \$3.5 billion would remain in the United States and be used to fund ongoing litigation by U.S. victims of terrorism, officials said.

International funding to Afghanistan was suspended and billions of dollars of the country's assets abroad, mostly in the United States, were frozen

Frozen assets will be used to assist 9/11 victims and provide humanitarian relief

after the Taliban took control of the country in August as the U.S. military withdrew.

The White House said in a statement that the order "is designed to provide a path for the funds to reach the people of Afghanistan, while keeping them out of the hands of the Taliban and malicious actors."

Afghanistan's long-troubled economy has been in a tailspin since the Taliban takeover. Nearly 80% of the previous Afghan government's budget came from the international community. That money, now cut off, financed hospitals,

schools, factories and government ministries. Desperation for such basic necessities has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as health care shortages, drought and malnutrition.

The lack of funding has led to increased poverty, and aid groups have warned of a looming humanitarian catastrophe. State employees, from doctors to teachers and administrative civil servants, haven't been paid in months. Banks, meanwhile, have restricted how much money account holders can withdraw.

See **Funds** page 5



Bloomberg/Paul Yeung

Imposing measures

Lines at a testing site in the Mong Kok neighborhood Tuesday. Hong Kong is imposing its toughest measures since COVID-19 first emerged more than two years ago. Gatherings of more than two people in public are banned, while no more than two households can mix in private.

Deaths

Emberlyn Schricker, infant
Details on page 2.

Weather

The temperature in Jay County hovered between 32 and 36 degrees Thursday. There is a chance of rain tonight with a low of 20 and winds gusting to 25 miles per hour. Saturday's high will be 24 with a 20% chance of snow showers.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available Saturday. 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

Saturday — Results from tonight's JCHS boys basketball game against Heritage.

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Dunkirk City Council meeting.



Hearing ...

Continued from page 1
The additional project area is located to the northwest of the intersection of county roads 1100 West and 150 South. Also, according to Rose Gold Solar's amended development plan, three areas originally included in the plan now will have more equipment placed on them than previously expected.

Leeward is planning Rose Gold Solar, a \$150 million, 150-megawatt facility on roughly 1,450 acres just north of Dunkirk. It is expected to generate just under \$42 million in property taxes over its 35-year

life. In accordance with its economic development agreement, Leeward will also give \$1.95 million to the county over a four-year period after the facility begins generating electricity. (Rose Gold is not expected to be in operation until at least 2023.)

Inns said the property owners have been notified of the changes.

Plan commission discussed whether to hold a public meeting before approving the plan amendments.

"I'm afraid we are going to get a lot of backlash, our department and even plan com-

mission, that it didn't go to public hearing," said John Hemmelgarn, director of Jay County Building and Planning. "I don't think anything's going to change at the public hearing, but like (county attorney) Bill Hinkle has always said, if you don't give them a chance to speak their mind, you're in trouble."

"While I agree, I don't think anything's going to change, I think you're going to have to give them an opportunity to speak your peace," added plan commission member Dru Mercer.

Plan commission then agreed unanimously to hold a public hearing on the changes made to Rose Gold Solar's site development plan before approving it.

Hemmelgarn noted there is a public hearing on Sun Chief Solar to determine if it is compliant with the current solar ordinance and approve its site development plan at 6 p.m. March 10.

Also Thursday, plan commission approved a rezoning petition from Kim Gabbard for 1.89 acres of his property at 7540 S. U.S. 27, Portland, to be rezoned

from commercial to residential. Hemmelgarn noted Gabbard has remodeled the house and plans to sell it — he will keep the other buildings on the property — but he needs the area rezoned as residential before he can complete the sale.

In other news, commission members Michelle Penrod, Steve Ford, Scott Hilfiker, Chad Aker, Matt Minnich, Adam Westgerdes and Mercer:

- Agreed to hold meetings at 6 p.m. moving forward
- Reelected Hilfiker as president, Ford as vice president and Minnich as secretary

CR almanac

Saturday 2/12	Sunday 2/13	Monday 2/14	Tuesday 2/15	Wednesday 2/16
24/12	22/10	28/17	38/30	51/44
There's a 20% chance of snow after 1 p.m. under mostly cloudy skies. Gusts may reach 20 mph.	Another 20% chance of snow after 1 p.m. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high of 22.	Skies will be partly sunny Monday, with the low dipping to 17 degrees.	Mostly sunny skies are expected Tuesday, with the high climbing to 38 degrees.	Wednesday has a 20% chance of showers, with the high jumping to 51 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$172 million	Cash 5: 1-14-16-33-41 Estimated jackpot: \$80,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$42 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 7-1-7 Pick 4: 2-8-7-0 Pick 5: 5-1-2-7-8 Evening Pick 3: 8-6-9 Pick 4: 7-3-1-2 Pick 5: 2-0-4-9-5 Rolling Cash: 3-7-9-20-23 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 5-7-0 Daily Four: 2-7-4-5 Evening Daily Three: 5-2-6 Daily Four: 6-5-7-9 Quick Draw: 6-9-12-14-19-20-24-26-30-37-40-42-43-47-60-63-69-77-79-80	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.55 March corn.....6.57 Wheat.....7.63	Wheat.....7.76 March wheat.....7.76
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.58 March corn.....6.59 April corn.....6.55	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.43 Late Feb. corn.....6.43 Beans.....15.70 Late Feb. beans.....15.73 Feb. wheat.....7.85
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.48 March corn.....6.48 Beans.....15.68 March beans.....15.68	Sunrise St. Anthony Corn.....6.54 March corn.....6.46 Beans.....15.60 March beans.....15.63 Wheat.....7.51

Today in history

On Feb. 11, 2013, with a few words in Latin, Pope Benedict XVI did what no pope had done in more than half a millennium: announced his resignation. The bombshell came during a routine morning meeting of Vatican cardinals. (The 85-year-old pontiff was succeeded by Pope Francis.)

In 660 B.C., tradition holds that Japan was founded as Jimmu ascended the throne as the country's first emperor.

In 1847, American inventor Thomas Alva Edison was born in Milan, Ohio.

In 1937, a six-week-old sit-down strike against General Motors ended, with the company agreeing to recognize

the United Automobile Workers Union.

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin signed the Yalta Agreement, in which Stalin agreed to declare war against Imperial Japan following Nazi Germany's capitulation.

In 1963, American author and poet Sylvia Plath was found dead in her London flat, a suicide; she was 30.

In 1972, the Dunkirk High School boys basketball team led wire-to-wire in an 82-73 victory over Daleville. Scott Thompson scored 25 points to lead the Speedcats.

—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board, Community Room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.	5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Regional Sewer District, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.
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Obituaries

Emberlyn Schricker

Dec. 31, 2021-Feb. 9, 2022
Emberlyn Kay Schricker passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022, at IU Health Jay after a sudden illness. She was born on Dec. 31, 2021, in Bluffton, Indiana, the daughter of Jordan Schricker and Hallie Fields. Surviving are her parents, Jordan Shricker and Hallie Fields; paternal grandparents Bradley and Elizabeth Blowers of Bryant; maternal grandmother Holly Fields (Tim Compton) of Redkey and Shad Fields of Ridgeville; paternal great-grandparents Joseph and Evelyn Mong of Portland and Aurora Norris of Texas; maternal great-grand-

father Douglas Stanley of Redkey; paternal great-great-grandparents Martha Sue Ronald of Portland and Max and Charlene Blowers of Bryant; and several aunts and uncles and great-aunts and great-uncles.

She was preceded in death by grandfather Jeffery Schricker; great-grandparents Barry Mills, Sharon Stanley and Carmen Stone; and great-great-grandparents John and Eileen Mills and Stuart Ronald.

Funeral services will be Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, at 11 a.m. in the Baird-



Schricker

Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Randy Davis presiding. Burial will follow in the Green Park Cemetery. Visitation will be Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m.

Memorials can be made to the family. 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.

Felony court news

Drug possession

Curtis W. Mock, 39, 8179 W. 550 North, Pennville, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to three years in Indiana Department of Correction with one year suspended and given credit for time served. Mock was imposed a \$1 fine, 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 Level 6 felony charge for unlawful possession of a syringe and a Class C misdemeanor charge for possession of paraphernalia was dismissed.

Brianna D. Newton, 23, 827 S. Shank St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to pos-

session of a narcotic drug, a Level 3 felony. She was sentenced to nine years in Indiana Department of Correction with two years suspended and given credit for time served since Aug. 30. She was assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.

See page 5

Drop ...

Continued from page 1
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continues to indicate vaccination is the best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Boosters are recommended for everyone 12 and older. (The CDC also recommends that masks be worn indoors in areas of "substantial or high transmission," which includes Jay County.)

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

Walk-in vaccinations are available at Jay County Health Department from 9 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. (Today's clinic was canceled because of inclement weather.)

At-home COVID-19 tests

Vaccination rate is now 39.6% in Jay

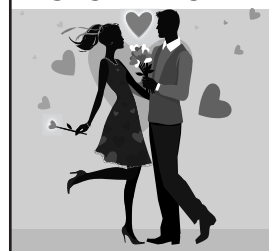
are available for free from the federal government. They can be ordered at covidtests.gov.

Jay County continues to rank sixth-lowest in vaccination rate among Indiana's 92 counties. Its rate is 39.6%. Marion County is highest in the state at 78.7%.

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

The virus causes a range of symptoms, including fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, which can appear two to 14 days after exposure.

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The Baylor Certified Nursing Assistant at Swiss Village, Inc. will be a weekend-only CNA position working from 6pm-6am on Saturdays and Sundays. This position will work 24 hours/week and be paid for 36 hours/week. Candidates must be willing to work 48/52 weekends per year. Baylor CNAs will be considered Full-Time status and are eligible for benefits including health, dental, vision, and life insurance, Paid Time Off (PTO), and 403(b) retirement plan participation.

Apply online at www.swissvillage.org, in person,

or send Resume to:

Kayla Reilly, HR Specialist

Swiss Village

1350 W. Main St.

Berne, IN 46711

Or email: careers@swissvillage.org

SERVICES

Today
Horn, Frederick: 5 p.m., Swayzee Church of the Nazarene, 2560 S. 800 West, Swayzee.

Saturday
Schricker, Emberlyn: 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Mettler, Karen: 11 a.m., Wilson-Shook Funeral Chapel, 317 N. Main St., Dunkirk.

Myers, Cheryl: 3 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Smiley, Alice: 3 p.m., 400 Deerfield Road, Union City.

Monday
Jones, Nancy: 10:30 a.m., Decatur Baptist Church, 8070 N. Piqua Road, Decatur.

Service listings provided by
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Sausage dish is inspired by Alsatian classic

By G. DANIELA GALARZA
The Washington Post

It can take a cabbage anywhere from 40 to 150 days to grow to full size. Smaller cabbages, like bok choy, mature rather quickly. But larger ones, such as quintal d'alsace, the massive green and white cabbages that thrive in Alsace in North-eastern France, spend many months in the ground. They grow so large that a human baby can nestle comfortably in their sturdy, blossomed leaves.

No matter what Xavier Roberts's Cabbage Patch Kids suggests, babies are not born from cabbages. But these massive plants can become a hearty meal: Choucroute garnie is a traditional spread from the region, a feast of sauerkraut — sürkrüt in Alsatian, which means sour herb — potatoes, mustard and a frankly unholy pile of pork: knuckles, jowls, shoulders, bellies and feet, pickled or cured or turned into sausages.

But choucroute garnie isn't really from France,



For The Washington Post/Rey Lopez

Pictured are sheet-pan sausages with sauerkraut and mustard.

according to Françoise Branget, author of "French Country Cooking: Authentic Recipes from Every Region, and a former politician. "It arrived in France before the Revolution with the Swiss Guard of the ancien regime," Branget writes. "At that time the dish merely consisted of cabbage. By the nineteenth century, potatoes were added. When various meats and charcuterie appeared with it, it became choucroute garnie."

Subgenres of the dish

exist in pockets throughout the region: Choucroute strasbourggeoise features Strasbourg sausages, which have a characteristic snap. Choucroute paysanne is a more casual, country-style version with bacon. Traditional recipes are scented with juniper berries, peppercorns, garlic, bay leaves and wine, generally riesling from the region. When made with champagne, it's called choucroute royale.

It's a wintertime dish, hearty and filling. But it can be severely labor-

intensive. This recipe, for sausages roasted atop shredded cabbage, onions and jarred sauerkraut, is inspired by the flavors of the Alsatian classic.

Serve it with tiny boiled potatoes, crusty bread, a green salad, a glass of riesling and a lot of mustard.

Sheet-Pan Sausages With Sauerkraut and Mustard

Active time: 10 minutes
Total time: 40 minutes
4 servings

This sheet-pan dinner is loosely based on the Alsatian choucroute garnie, a dish of sauerkraut and various cuts of pork, including sausages. Here, sauerkraut, shredded cabbage and onions are seasoned with mustard. Then, pork sausages are nestled into the vegetables, and the whole thing gets a generous glug of cider before it goes in the oven.

Storage Notes: Leftovers can be refrigerated in a covered container for up to 4 days.

To make this vegan, use

large, cooked or canned and drained, white beans or vegan sausages instead of the pork sausages.

To reduce the sodium content, use low-sodium sausage, rinse the sauerkraut, or omit the kraut and use 5 cups shredded cabbage instead.

If you prefer a less acidic dish, use more fresh cabbage than sauerkraut.

Dislike onion? Slice up a potato instead.

No apple cider? White wine, beer (alcoholic or not) or vegetable broth will work here, too.

Ingredients

Canola or olive oil, for greasing

3 cups (20 ounces) sauerkraut with its liquid
2 cups (6 ounces) shredded cabbage (any kind)

1 small red onion (about 5 ounces), sliced
1 tablespoon mustard, preferably whole grain, plus more for serving

1 pound pork sausage, such as Polish or sweet or hot Italian (about 5; may substitute veggie sausage)

1 cup apple cider
Sprigs of fresh thyme, for garnish (optional)
Crusty bread, sandwich rolls, or roasted or mashed potatoes, for serving (optional)

Directions

Position a rack in the middle of the oven and preheat to 400 degrees.

Grease a large, rimmed baking sheet with oil and add the sauerkraut, cabbage, onion and mustard. Using tongs or your hands, mix until the mustard is evenly distributed and then flatten into an even layer.

Nestle the sausages atop the vegetables and pour the cider over everything.

Roast for 15 minutes, then rotate the pan front to back and roast for another 15 minutes, or until the sausages are cooked through and the cabbage and onions are tender.

Add the thyme sprigs, if using, before serving family-style with additional crusty bread, sandwich rolls or potatoes and mustard, if using.

Art buyer asks for gift after helping boost sales

DEAR ABBY: A year ago I discovered that I have a talent for creating a unique type of art which is marketable. At a holiday market in which I participated, a customer commissioned me to make two pieces for her. She also advised me on how I should market my art. I listened patiently but had no intention of following her advice.

When she came to my home to pick up the pieces, she brought three of her friends along and began advising me again. This time, she mentioned that when a person brings a group of purchasing customers (as these ladies were ... they bought nearly everything I have), I should ALWAYS offer a little "gift" to the person bringing the customers (i.e. one of my pieces as a token of gratitude).

Dear Abby



Abby, I consider what I do to be my business now. I'm not selling cosmetics or kitchenware for another company. I don't think I have ever gone to any market with friends and asked the seller to give me a token for bringing friends who bought something. Is this what I should do? Please enlighten me. — BUDDING ARTIST DOWN SOUTH

DEAR ARTIST: Someone who helps you to increase your business should be

thanked for their effort — as long as it is you and not the other person who is deciding on what is appropriate. Whether this comes in the form of a verbal expression of gratitude or something tangible is up to you.

While on one hand I think it was nifty of the woman to spring this on you, on the other I can't help thinking that business is business — and this is a way of promoting it. Consider offering the woman a future discount.

DEAR ABBY: My fiance and I were having dinner at a nice restaurant when a woman came up to him. It turned out she was a former girlfriend of his. When she looked at me questioningly, he introduced me as his "friend"! I REintroduced myself

to her as his fiancee. She then looked back at him and said, "Oh. Congratulations," and walked away.

For the first time, I'm seriously considering not marrying this guy. What do you think? — MORE THAN A FRIEND IN TEXAS

DEAR MORE: What happened is a red flag. I think your fiance has a lot of explaining to do. Start the discussion with, "I am not your 'friend,' I am your fiancee!" I wouldn't blame you for making this a loooong engagement. It seems you need to get to know him better.

DEAR ABBY: After I told my cousin I was gay about 20 years ago, he stopped speaking to me, so I wrote him off. My life has

been happy because I have strong relationships and no jealousy. Well, my aunt died recently. I assume this cousin will be at the memorial service. I still resent how everything went all those years ago. Should I ask him if he has anything to say to me? Should I confront him or just leave well enough alone? — STILL PEEVED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR STILL PEEVED: I see nothing positive to be gained by confronting your cousin at the memorial. Bring a close friend or your partner with you if you need emotional support. You didn't mention whether the rest of the family is as homophobic as this cousin, but at an emotional time like this, my advice is to let sleeping dogs lie.

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.

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 3 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio.

JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at 3:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month at Portland Fire Department, 1616 N. Franklin St. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

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.



Swiss Village

NOW SEEKING: SKILLED TRADES MAINTENANCE WORKER

The Skilled Trades Maintenance Worker will be responsible for installation, operation, and upkeep of equipment and systems throughout the Swiss Village community. This position will be 40 hours/week, Monday – Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm with rotating on-call requirements. Qualified candidates must have electrical, plumbing, carpentry, or remodeling experience. Seeking candidates with good work habits, the ability to efficiently use materials and equipment, and committed to following policies and procedures. This position is eligible for benefits including health, dental, vision, and life insurance, Paid Time Off (PTO), and 403(b) retirement plan participation.

Apply online at www.swissvillage.org, in person, or send Resume to:

Taylor Lehman, VP of Human Resources
Swiss Village
1350 W. Main St.
Berne, IN 46711
Or email: careers@swissvillage.org

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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

Contact
Lindsey Cochran
260-726-8141
L.cochran@thecr.com

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(Advertising deadline - Feb. 10)

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in color for **\$350**

Run it again
in black and white
for **\$300**

4xFebruary

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State fails in nursing home reform

South Bend Tribune

Last year, in the wake of proposed reforms, we expressed cautious optimism that Indiana would begin addressing the problems that have plagued the nursing home system.

The scrapping of a bill that would have forced county hospitals to be financially transparent illustrates how much things need to change.

That legislation, Senate Bill 405, would have shed light for the first time on exactly how much federal money county hospitals divert from their nursing homes — and to what extent hospital leaders have benefited personally.

Hoosier Editorial

It also would have required the Indiana Department of Health to establish new quality metrics for nursing homes and it would have prohibited retaliation against whistleblowers who expose wrongdoing at health facilities.

The bill came in the wake of a series of reports by our col-

leagues at the Indianapolis Star revealing alarming problems with the state's nursing home system. The investigation found that at least \$1 billion in federal money generated by Indiana nursing homes has been used for other purposes, such as county hospital construction projects. Millions more have been lost to fraud.

SB 405 would have taken a step toward addressing the lack of transparency that surrounds Indiana's understaffed nursing homes. Instead, Sen. Ed Charbonneau, R-Valparaiso, yanked the bill at the last minute, effectively killing the legislation.

Sen. Fady Qaddoura (D-Indianapolis), who introduced the bill, said he doesn't understand why the General Assembly is unwilling to demand more information about how public hospitals are spending such large sums of taxpayer dollars.

That's a question you might direct toward the state's nursing home industry, which has long opposed reform efforts — and spends plenty of money to influence policy.

For his part, Charbonneau offered no explanation for the decision to scuttle the bill. He told the Indianapolis Star that

he didn't think the timing was right.

Actually, it's past time for state leaders to address the systemic issues plaguing Indiana's nursing home system — problems that were exacerbated by the COVID pandemic.

Doing so will take a commitment to being transparent, and to serving the needs of vulnerable Hoosiers, not the interests of an industry that is among the top five spenders on lobbying at the Statehouse.

Lawmakers had a chance to begin that process with SB 405, but once again, they failed to act.

A trading ban is long overdue

By JENNIFER RUBIN
The Washington Post

It is not surprising that Sen. Jon Ossoff, D-Georgia, would champion a bill to ban all individual stockholding by members of Congress.

After all, his 2020 opponent, then-Sen. David Perdue, R-Georgia, engaged in more than 2,500 stock trades during his six years in the U.S. Senate, with a remarkable record of success in industries regulated by committees on which he sat.

While Perdue was never charged with violating the Stock Act, which merely bans use of insider information in stock trades, the issue became critical in Ossoff's upset win. Many voters rightly wondered how it could be acceptable for members of Congress to profit from industries that they oversee through their committee assignments.

Once elected, Ossoff placed his stock portfolio in a blind trust, becoming one of 10 members of Congress to do so. He now has sponsored a bill along with fellow freshman Sen. Mark Kelly, D-Arizona — another one of the 10 — to ban members and their immediate families from holding individual stocks. Rep. Abigail Spanberger, D-Virginia, who introduced a similar bill last term, has championed a companion bill along with Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, in the House.

At the time he introduced his bill, Ossoff stated, "Members of Congress should not be playing the stock market while we make federal policy and have extraordinary access to confidential information." That seems like such a no-brainer that surely many voters would be surprised to find that such behavior is legal.

Like Spanberger, Ossoff received praise from both the right and left at time when bipartisanship is at a low ebb in Congress. When a lawmaker gets high marks from pro-business outlets such as Bloomberg News and progressive networks such as MSNBC, he must be doing something right.

It also is not surprising that the two Senate sponsors are both freshmen. Too many veteran lawmakers have simply become accustomed to business as usual and bristle at the suggestion that their integrity could be called into question. But that is precisely what has happened as voters hear that a lawmaker can sell or buy stock in, say, Facebook, on one day, and then vote on regulations for social

Jennifer Rubin



media companies the next. Even more egregious, lawmakers can participate in closed-door briefings where it is hard to determine what information is shared before they execute stock trades.

As several academics wrote for Fortune in December 2020: "It is difficult to establish a clear connection between information obtained in closed hearings of committees and the trades. Although some suspicious trading activities have been widely condemned, the fact that no member of Congress has been prosecuted under the Stock Act reveals the challenge in proving illegal insider trading by elected politicians." The easy solution: Just ban individual stock trades.

Ossoff tells me the reaction to his bill has been overwhelmingly positive. "Folks are coming up to me on the street grateful for the effort, even in deep red parts of the state, and I think there is appreciation that I am keeping my promise to lead on this." He thinks the moment is ripe for action. "I've told leadership this should get a vote, and soon. This isn't a 1,000-page bill. It's really not complicated. It's overwhelmingly popular, and it's good government."

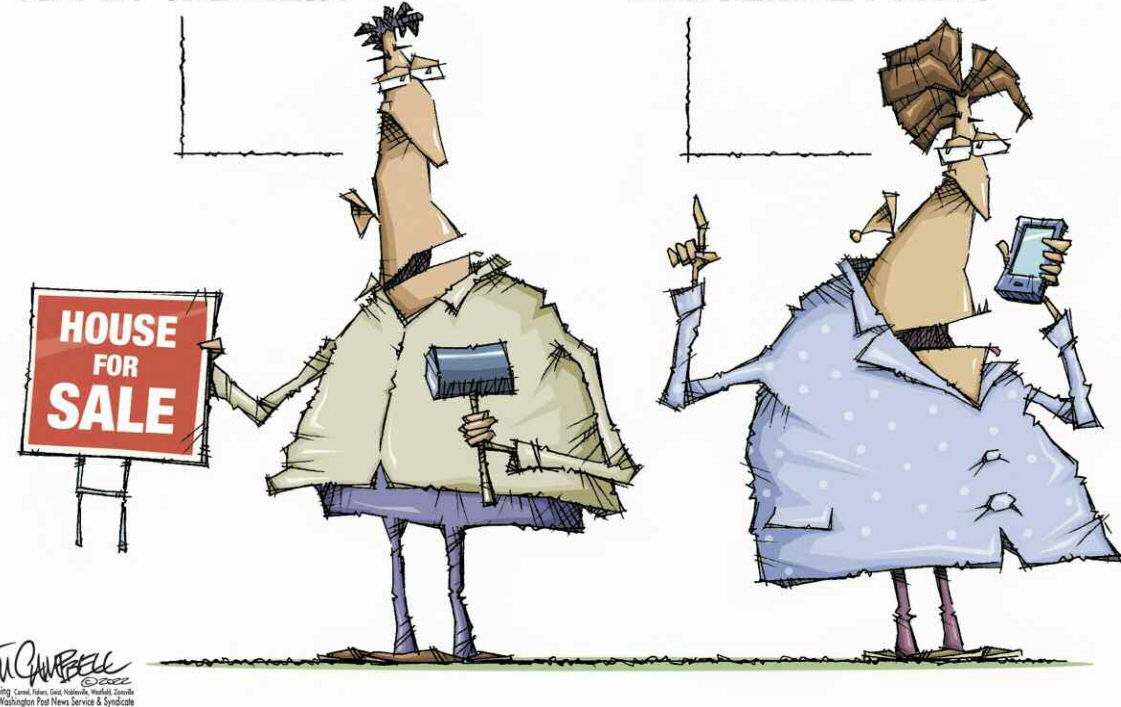
Indeed, Senate leadership sounds ready to put the bill on the floor. Insider reports: "After weeks of silence, Senate Democratic leaders have asked lawmakers to propose improvements on rules governing congressional stock trading." That is quite a turnaround after weeks of pushback from prominent Democratic leaders, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California.

Maybe the time has come for this minimal ethics reform. As Ossoff puts it, "This is neither complicated nor controversial in the real world, and we should just get it done." There is nothing like a midterm election and atrocious polling numbers for both parties to turn even the most cynical lawmakers into a starry-eyed advocates of good government. That's exactly what Ossoff is banking on.

Rubin writes reported opinion for The Washington Post.

WHAT'S THE BEST PLACE ON THE PROPERTY TO PUT THE SIGN?

BACK IN THE GARAGE. WE'VE ALREADY GOTTEN A DOZEN OFFERS ABOVE OUR ASKING PRICE.



America is paying a price

By MAX BOOT
The Washington Post

The dumbing down of America can be traced in the recent controversies involving three well-known opinionators whose influence is in inverse proportion to their perspicacity.

Ben & Jerry's, the ice cream maker with more than half a million Twitter followers, posted a statement that no one needed about the looming war in Ukraine that no one, except possibly Russian dictator Vladimir Putin, wants. "You cannot simultaneously prevent and prepare for war," the company wrote. "We call on President Biden to de-escalate tensions and work for peace rather than prepare for war. Sending thousands more US troops to Europe in response to Russia's threats against Ukraine only fans the flame of war."

This tweet, which seemed to blame President Joe Biden, not Putin, for escalating tensions, provoked well-deserved incredulity. Twitter wits suggested that "appease-mint" is their least favorite brand of ice cream and wondered about the foreign policy views of Breyers, Haagen-Dazs, and Blue Bell.

Alas, this is hardly the first foray into foreign policy from an ice cream brand whose best-selling flavor, appropriately enough, is called "Half Baked." Last year, Ben & Jerry's announced a boycott of the West Bank and East Jerusalem while continuing to peddle its products in China — a far more egregious human rights violator than Israel. Well, what do you expect from a company whose board is long on cute nicknames (one member is "Wonderful Woman," another is "Green Goddess") but short on foreign policy expertise?

Next we come to Whoopi Goldberg, the talented comedian and actor who was suspended for two weeks from ABC's talk show "The View" for her ill-informed comments about the Holocaust. She was under the misapprehension that because both Adolf Hitler and his victims were White,

therefore "the Holocaust isn't about race. ... It's about man's inhumanity to man." Anyone with even a passing familiarity with Nazi Germany would know that Hitler viewed Aryans as the "master race" and Jews as "Untermenschen," or sub-humans. Evidently, however, that is knowledge that Goldberg — a high school dropout whose stage name comes from a "whoopee cushion" — does not possess.

Finally, most egregious of all, Joe Rogan. The No. 1 podcaster in America is constantly apologizing these days — and he has much to be sorry for: His podcast, which Spotify paid a reported \$100 million to carry, is a superspreader of COVID-19 misinformation. He has discouraged young people from getting vaccinated, announced that he was treating his own case of COVID with the anti-parasitic drug ivermectin (not a medically recognized treatment), and featured guests who compared pandemic policies to the Holocaust.

After Neil Young and other musicians demanded that Spotify remove their music in protest, Rogan issued a halfhearted apology in which he used lack of preparation as his defense: "Oftentimes, I have no idea what I'm going to talk about until I sit down and talk to people. And that's why some of my ideas are not that prepared or fleshed out because I'm literally having them in real time, but I do my best." How self-incriminating. Perhaps Rogan should flesh out his ideas before sharing them with millions of people?

No sooner had Rogan apologized for spreading COVID misinformation than he had to apologize for using the

n-word and airing other racist slurs. "I know that to most people there is no context where a White person is ever allowed to say that word, never mind publicly on a podcast, and I agree with that now," Rogan said. He agrees now? How can anyone living in the United States not know from the earliest age how offensive that word is?

But then there is an awful lot that Rogan — a college dropout, former mixed martial-arts fighter and comedian — does not know. He admitted last year: "I am a f---ing moron. I am a cage-fighting commentator. ... I am not a respected source of information even for me. But I at least try to be honest about what I am saying."

If Rogan is, by his own admission, a "moron" and not a "respected source of information," then why he is granted one of the biggest megaphones in America? The same question might be asked about Goldberg and Ben & Jerry's. That anyone would pay any attention to what they say about public policy is a damning indictment of our society.

We are suffering, as Tom Nichols noted, from "The Death of Expertise." We are the land where every COVID crackpot says, "I'm doing my own research" — which usually consists of googling the views of other crackpots. Why not listen, instead, to the scientific experts? Because, in our "idiocracy," entertainment is more important than expertise. Lack of knowledge is practically a prerequisite for influence. Knowing things makes you suspect as a snooty, out-of-touch elitist.

That's why a former reality TV show host became president, and a former cage fighter became the top podcaster in America. We are paying a significant price for the lack of gatekeepers — and the resulting surfeit of ignoramuses — in both our politics and our media.

Boot is a Washington Post columnist and a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

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Blockade issue heads to court

By ROB GILLIES
Associated Press

TORONTO — Authorities in Canada headed for court today in an attempt to break the bridge blockade by truckers protesting the country's COVID-19 restrictions as parts shortages rippled through the auto industry on both sides of the U.S.-Canadian border.

The mayor of Windsor, Ontario, planned to seek an injunction at an afternoon hearing against members of the self-proclaimed Freedom Convoy who have used scores of pickup trucks to bottle up the Ambassador Bridge connecting the city to Detroit. The standoff entered its fifth day Friday.

Federal, provincial and local authorities have hesitated to forcibly remove the protesters there and elsewhere around the country, reflecting apparently a lack of manpower by local police, Canada's

Truckers at the U.S.-Canadian border are protesting COVID-19 restrictions

reverence for free speech, and fear of a violent backlash. Windsor Mayor Drew Dilkens warned earlier this week that some of the truckers are "willing to die."

But the pressure to reopen the bridge appeared to be mounting, with Ford, General Motors, Toyota and Honda closing auto plants or canceling shifts because of parts shortages, and the Biden administration urging Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government to use its federal powers to end the blockade. Michigan's governor likewise called on Cana-

dian authorities to quickly resolve the standoff.

The Ambassador Bridge is the busiest U.S.-Canadian border crossing, carrying 25% of all trade between the two countries. The standoff comes at a time when the auto industry is already struggling to maintain production in the face of pandemic-induced shortages of computer chips and other supply-chain disruptions.

"American legislators are freaking out, and rightfully so," said Nelson Wiseman, a political science professor at the

University of Toronto. "Pressure is now being exerted by the White House on Trudeau to act more decisively."

Hundreds of demonstrators in trucks have also paralyzed the streets of downtown Ottawa for almost two weeks now, and have now closed three border crossings in all: at Windsor; at Coutts, Alberta, opposite Montana; and at Emerson, Manitoba, across from North Dakota.

The Freedom Convoy has been promoted and cheered on by many Fox News personalities and attracted support from the likes of former President Donald Trump.

"This is an unprecedented demonstration. It has significant levels of fundraising, coordination and communication. They have command centers established here and across the country and beyond this country," embattled Ottawa Police Chief Peter Sloly said.

On Friday, amid signs that authorities might be prepared to get tough, police in Windsor and Ottawa awaited reinforcements from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The protests have spread outside Canada as well. Demonstrators angry over pandemic restrictions drove toward Paris in scattered convoys of camper vans, cars and trucks Friday in an effort to blockade the French capital, despite a police ban.

And in a bulletin to local and state law enforcement officers, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security warned that truck protests may be in the works in the United States. The agency said the protests could begin in Southern California as early as this weekend and spread to Washington around the State of the Union address in March.

Capsule Reports

Deer hit

Three Portland residents recently crashed their vehicles after deer ran in front of them.

Danielle M. Lewis, 40, told Jay County Sheriff's Office she was driving east on county road 800 South near county road 250 West about 3:30 p.m. Monday when a deer began crossing the road. Lewis wasn't able to avoid hitting the animal with her 2004 Chrysler PT Cruiser, causing between \$1,000 and \$2,500 in estimated damage.

Martha A. Friddle, 67, was driving west on county road 200 South just west of county road 825 West when a deer ran into the path of her 2016 Ford Focus. Friddle wasn't able to avoid a collision with the animal, causing between \$2,500 and \$5,000 in estimated damage.

Tavin L. Wasson, 16, was driving east on Tyson Road and approaching the intersection with Orchard Drive about 6 a.m. Friday when a deer ran in front of his 2004 Chevrolet Impala. Wasson wasn't able to avoid a collision with the animal, causing between \$1,000 and \$2,500 in estimated damage.

Lost control

A Pennville man lost control of his vehicle, causing him to drive off county road 650 North about 3 p.m. Thursday.

Dean Burgess, 32, told Jay County Sheriff's Office he was driving west on the road just west of county road 375 West when his blood sugar dropped, causing him to lose control of his 2006 Chevrolet Silverado and drive off the road.

Damage is estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

Funds ...

Continued from page 1

The official noted that U.S. courts where 9/11 victims have filed claims against the Taliban will also have to take action for the victims to be compensated. It will ultimately be up to the courts to decide if the victims have a claim to the \$3.5 billion the administration is allotting for them through the trust fund, according to two senior administration officials who brief reporters ahead of the signing.

The Biden administration is still working through details of setting up the trust fund, an effort the White House says will likely take months to sort out.

Because victims have ongoing legal claims on the \$7 billion in

the U.S. banking system, the courts would have to sign off before the money for humanitarian assistance could be released to Afghanistan, the officials said.

The U.S. launched the war in Afghanistan more than 20 years ago after then-Taliban leader Mullah Omar refused to hand over al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden following the 9/11 attacks on the United States. Bin Laden, who was born in Saudi Arabia but had his citizenship revoked, relocated to Afghanistan after being expelled from Sudan in 1996.

Taliban political spokesman Mohammad Naeem criticized the Biden administration for not

releasing all the funds to Afghanistan.

"Stealing the blocked funds of Afghan nation by the United States of America and its seizure (of those funds) shows the lowest level of humanity ... of a country and a nation," Naeem tweeted.

The Biden administration pushed back against criticism that all \$7 billion — largely derived from donations by the U.S. and other nations to Afghanistan — should be released to Afghanistan, noting that the 9/11 claimants under the U.S. legal system have a right to have their day in court.

The Justice Department had signaled several months ago that the Biden administration was poised

to intervene in a federal lawsuit filed by 9/11 victims and families of victims in New York City by filing what's known as a "statement of interest." The deadline for that filing had been pushed back until Friday because the department said the administration needed to resolve "many complex and important" issues that required consultation with "numerous senior officials and executive agencies and components."

The executive order is expected to be signed by Biden later on Friday. The New York Times first reported on the coming order.

The Taliban have called on the international community to release funds and help stave off a humanitarian disaster.

Felony court news

Continued from page 1

Kenneth F. Dollar, 64, 1520 South M Street, Elwood, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, and possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. He was sentenced to 545 days in Jay County Jail with all but 180 days suspended and given 10 days credit for time served. Dollar was placed on probation for 365 days, assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. he was also ordered to submit an evaluation within 30 days following his release for substance abuse counseling.

Kamron W. Petty, 26, 827 S. Shank St., pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of a narcotic drug, a Level 3 felony. He was sentenced to 12 years in Indiana Department of Corrections and given credit for time served since Aug. 30. Petty was assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. The court also recommended him for purposeful incarceration, meaning upon completion of a substance abuse treatment program, the court will consider modifying his sentence. As part of his plea agreement, a Level 4 felony charge for unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon and a Level 6 felony charge for unlawful possession of a syringe was dismissed.

Candace M. Good, 26, 740 S. 1100 West, Dunkirk, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but 30 days suspended and given eight days credit for time served. Good was placed

assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. She was also ordered to submit an evaluation within 30 days of her sentencing for substance abuse counseling.

Chanelle R. Gierhart, 30, 6769 W. 400 South, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to 545 days in Jay County Jail with all but eight days suspended and given eight days credit for time served. Gierhart was placed on probation for 537 days, assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. She was also ordered to submit an evaluation within 30 days for substance abuse counseling. As part of her plea agreement, two Level 6 felony charges for unlawful possession of a syringe and possession of a narcotic drug and a Class B misdemeanor for visiting a common nuisance were dismissed.

Erik D. Burk, 42, 612 N. Plum St., Union City, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but 30 days suspended and given 30 days credit for time served. Burk 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. He was also ordered to submit an evaluation within 30 days of his sentencing for substance abuse counseling. As part of his plea agreement, a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia was dismissed.

Jerrold D. Corn, 32, 607 E. Race St., Portland,

pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 545 days in Jay County Jail with all but 34 days suspended and given 34 days credit for time served. Corn was placed on probation for 511 days, fined \$25, assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. He was also ordered to submit an evaluation within 30 days of his sentencing for substance abuse counseling. As part of his plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: a Class A misdemeanor for driving with a suspended license and three Class C misdemeanors for operating a vehicle while intoxicated, operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite and possession of paraphernalia.

Dealing drugs

A Portland resident was sentenced to prison after pleading guilty in Jay Circuit Court to dealing methamphetamine, a Level 3 felony.

Robert L. Snow II, 52, 906 N. Franklin St., pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to dealing in methamphetamine, a Level 3 felony. He was sentenced to nine years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served since June 7. Snow was assessed \$185 in court costs and a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of his plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: two Level 6 felonies for unlawful possession of a legend drug and maintaining a common nuisance, a Class A misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.

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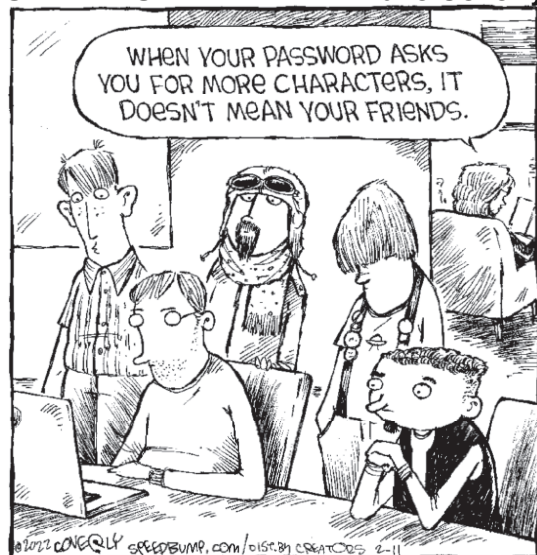
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



2-11

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"You hafta leave the Band-Aid on or the shot will leak out."

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♣ Pass ?

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠ Q8742 ♥ K95 ♦ J73 ♣ 94
- ♠ AJ63 ♥ 102 ♦ Q52 ♣ KJ63
- ♠ AKJ76 ♥ 742 ♦ K973 ♣ 8
- ♠ AK95 ♥ 63 ♦ J84 ♣ AJ43

1. **Pass.** Although partner's three-club bid urges you to bid again, it is not forcing. It merely invites a further bid if you have more than the six or seven points you might have for a suit response on the one-level. Here, with no values beyond those already shown, the best thing to do is pass.

2. **Five clubs.** You are not exceptionally strong in high cards, but what you have should prove very useful to partner. Not only do you have excellent trump support, but you also have first-round spade control, a doubleton heart and the queen of diamonds for good measure.

All these features add up to much more than a simple raise to four clubs, which you would make if you had, say, the queen of spades instead of the ace.

3. **Three diamonds.** There is surely

a game somewhere, but the best contract is uncertain at the moment. The three-diamond bid may be all that partner needs to undertake three notrump, and, furthermore, it leaves him room to show three-card spade support.

It is far better to bid three diamonds than three spades. The failure to show your diamonds might result in missing three notrump. The inequality of your two suits should be disregarded in an effort to find the best contract.

4. **Six clubs.** Here you should take the bull by the horns and bid six. Partner has jumped in clubs with a far-from-solid suit (you're looking at the A-J), and, since he has at most five points in clubs and neither the ace or king of spades, he's bound to have substantial high-card strength in both red suits.

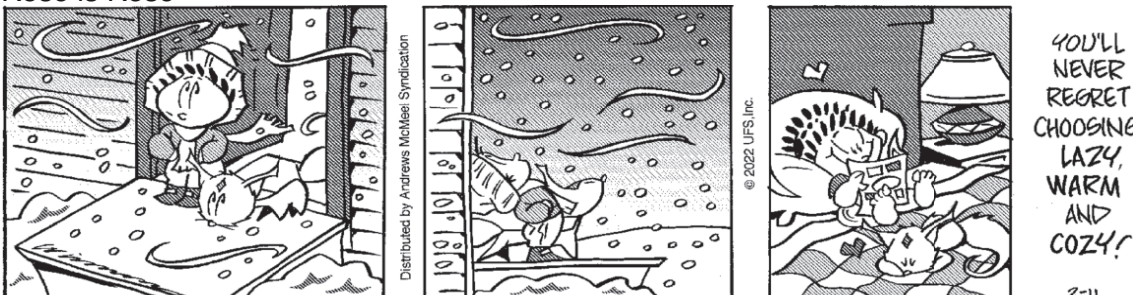
There's no way of knowing precisely where the 12 tricks will come from, but that shouldn't stop you from bidding the slam. The only real criterion in these situations is whether you think partner can make 12 tricks — and it would be unduly pessimistic to think he can't. A typical hand for partner would be ♠ 7 ♥ KQ4 ♦ AK5 ♣ KQ10852, which, opposite yours, would make slam a virtual lay-down.

Tomorrow: A recommended procedure.
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Peanuts



Rose is Rose



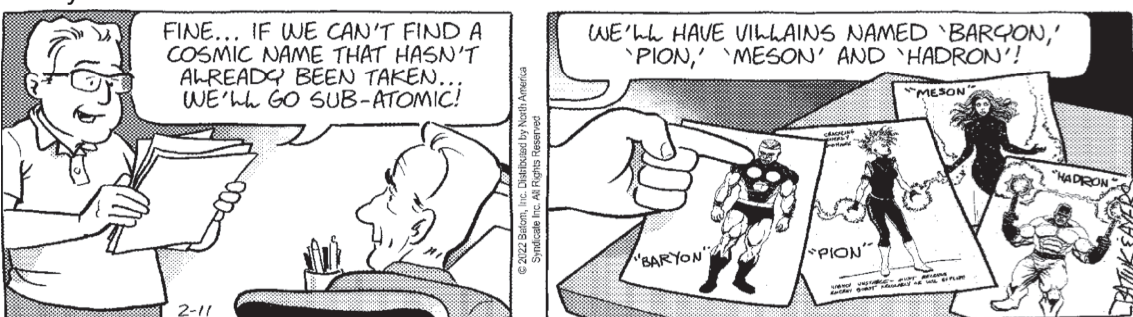
Agnes



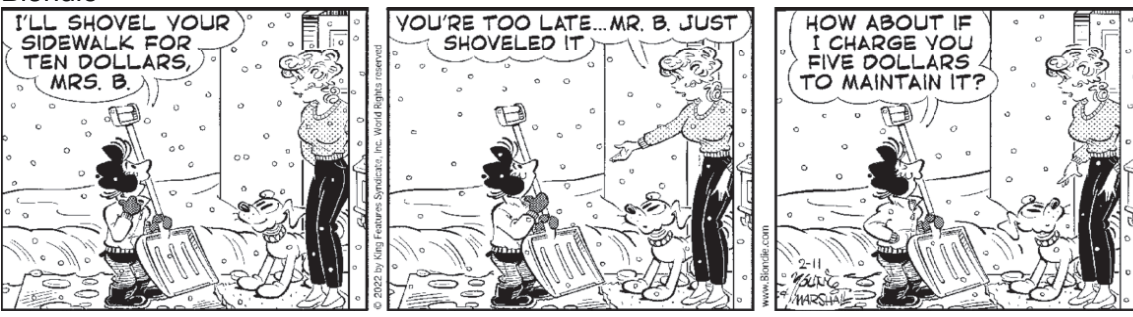
Hi and Lois



Funky Winkerbean



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



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EZIEXIXR LCNVISKR IAPS KZO.

AG'R KZGM MTRGSCAZ!
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: POPULAR CANDY BAR BEING MANUFACTURED IN THE SHAPE OF A LEGENDARY LOCH MONSTER: NESSIE CRUNCH.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals Y

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Sir's counter-part	1 Club — carbon suffix
6 Scratch letters?	3 Turn dessert
9 Block charge	44 Perimeter down
12 January, to Juan	45 Urban — Sea
13 Kimono closer	47 Comedic culmination
14 Actor Linden	49 Crocheted mat
15 Car sticker	52 Texter's "Enough!"
16 Fashion variable	53 Director Howard Lincoln
18 Andean animals	54 Bert's roomie
20 "The Haj" author	55 Sugary suffix
21 Shapiro of NPR	56 Tummy muscles
23 Like sashimi	57 Adolescents worker
24 Quilt square	
25 Harangue	
27 Yarn unit	
29 Low-quality	
31 Arizona resort	
35 French legislature	
	21 Curved line
	22 Fan's cry
	24 Diner
	26 Mortar-board dangler
	28 Perfume compound
	30 Favorite disconnected
	33 Scot's denial
	34 Verb for you
	36 Trembling trees
	38 "I — differ!"
	39 Dutch exports
	40 Texas A&M student
	42 West Pointer
	45 Elitist
	46 Donned
	48 Roth svgs. plan
	50 Architect Maya
	51 "You bet!"

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	O	O	P	M	A	P	C	M	O	N	
M	A	M	A	O	N	E	L	O	R	I	
W	H	E	T	R	A	G	E	R	A	T	
S	U	N	H	A	T	S	T	A	P	L	E
	O	B	I	A	T	H					
H	A	M	S	C	A	M	P	S	I	T	E
I	W	O	I	P	O	N	A	G			
T	E	R	I	G	A	R	R	A	E	R	O
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G	A	L	P	A	L	I	D	E	A	L	S
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B	O	T	S	G	I	G	D	L	V	I	
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76ers send Simmons to Brooklyn for Harden

By **DAN GELSTON**
and **BRIAN MAHONEY**

AP Sports Writers

PHILADELPHIA — Ben Simmons got his wish, a trade out of Philadelphia. The 76ers got their second superstar, with James Harden coming over in a blockbuster multiplayer trade with the Brooklyn Nets.

The Sixers sent Simmons, the disgruntled one-time franchise cornerstone, who demanded a trade last summer, guard Seth Curry and center Andre Drummond to the Nets in a deal for the bushy-bearded Harden.

The Sixers also will get Paul Millsap and the Nets get a 2022 first-round pick and a 2027 first-

round pick.

The move came just five days after coach Steve Nash said the Nets wouldn't trade Harden and only 13 months after they acquired the 2018 NBA MVP to play with Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving.

But Harden could have left this summer as a free agent and the Nets decided it wasn't worth the risk to wait, ending their Big Three experiment after the trio played only 16 games together.

"The decision to trade James was a difficult one, however after recent discussions with him and his representatives we felt that this move would be best for all involved, as it better positions us

to achieve our goals this season and in the years ahead," Nets general manager Sean Marks said. "We appreciate everything that James has done for our organization both on and off the court."

The Sixers can't wait to test drive the Harden-Joel Embiid partnership.

Simmons did not play this season for the Sixers in the wake of a trade demand centered largely around hurt feelings coming off last season's playoff loss. Simmons averaged 15.9 points, 8.1 rebounds and 7.7 assists over four seasons with Philadelphia, which drafted him out of LSU, where he played only one season.

His defining moment as a Sixer

came when he passed up a wide-open dunk against Atlanta in the second round of last year's playoffs that would have tied the game late in Game 7.

The end of Simmons' time in Philly came down to this: He was stung by comments made by coach Doc Rivers and Embiid in the aftermath of the Game 7 loss and how he shouldered the blame for the Sixers' playoff woes.

His refusal to shoot beyond 15 feet — he is a 5-of-34 career 3-point shooter — and his postseason failures at the free-throw line have seemingly outweighed his playmaking ability and a spot last season on the All-Defensive first team.

Simmons made a surprise return to the Sixers shortly before the season opened, but was promptly kicked out of practice and suspended for one game. The punishment didn't matter; the No. 1 pick of the 2016 draft had no intention of ever playing. He later cited mental health concerns.

Now Simmons gets a fresh start with a team that hopes to accentuate his strengths.

"He can be dynamic for us in a lot of ways," Nash said. "He fits in our group really well and I think it's exciting to take on such a talented player who's ready to enter the second stage of his career."

More ...

Continued from page 8

The 16th-ranked Cameron Clark (18-3), who is the Patriots' third returning state qualifier from last season, would not have to face a ranked opponent until at least the semifinals, where he could be in for a rematch against 10th-ranked Julius Gerencser (23-2) of Daleville. (Clark beat Gerencser in the regional semifinal round last week.) He opens his day against Angola's Blake Denman (38-13) and would meet either Huntington North's Luke Teusch (32-4) or Western's Robert Dinn (16-12) in the ticket round.

After a broken left ankle early in the season followed by an ankle sprain, Clark is just now feeling that he's back at full strength.

"I felt like my confidence, endurance was not there," said Clark, who was fourth in the semi-state last season. "And then after I wrestled (sixth-ranked Dominic Litchfield of Belmont) in sectional finals, I knew I could hang with him. And that boosted my confidence a little bit."

"And then when I was wrestling Julius, semifinals of regionals, I know everybody in that gym other than my coaches and my family thought I was going to lose that match, because on paper I should have. But in my mind I knew if I went out and wrestled like I could I was going to beat him."

Wenk (33-5), a sectional champion and regional runner-up, avoided the most formidable wrestler in the draw — third ranked De'Alcapon Veazy of Snider — and would not see a state-ranked wrestler until the finals. His first match is against Kaleb Oliver (26-3) of Churubusco, and NorthWood's Trey Tobias (27-7) and Austin Ringeisen (30-9) await as potential ticket-round foes.

Reiley (30-8) fell short of the semi-state last season but has the experience of being there, and winning matches,

after qualifying for the state finals as a freshman. He will start his day against Oak Hill's Tyson Kendall (34-6). A victory would likely send him to the ticket round to wrestle Northridge's Jasper Graber (21-4).

"I've already had the experience of doing it freshman year, winning that match," said Reiley. "The kid I'm wrestling probably in the ticket round, his goal is to make it to state. And I've already done that, so my goal is to go in there and win it all."

Moore (21-7), who like Reiley finished third in the regional at JCHS, faces Brayden Raber (26-7) of Maconaquah in the first round of the semi-state. If he wins, he'd likely meet New Haven's 11th-ranked Julianna O'Campo (32-2), a girls state champion and gold medalist at the 2021 under-15 Pan-Am Championships.

Curtis (26-11), a returning semi-state qualifier, has by far the toughest first-round draw for JCHS. He'll wrestle 18th-ranked Hayden Brady (26-3) of Garrett in the first round, with either Tye Linser (27-7) of Western or Brody Hagewood (26-11) of Prairie Heights awaiting in the ticket round if he's able to pull off the upset.

Jay County's record for state qualifiers in a single season is five in 1985, when Shawn Sanders, Randy Mann, Mike Burns, Kurt VanSkyock and David Freyburger all made it through the semi-state. Last year's total of three was the most since 1987. The Patriots have sent at least two wrestlers to the state finals each of the last five seasons.

"We want to put as many into that ticket round as we can to give them an opportunity to advance," said Myers. "We took three last year. We always want more. But for me, when we get to this level, I want all those guys to wrestle to the best of their ability. I want them to walk out of there knowing that they gave it everything they had ..."



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Air for Ardizzone

Mattie Ardizzone of the Jay County High School gymnastics team gets air while performing on the balance beam during the squad's meet on Monday at East Jay. The Patriots hosted Huntington North and Mississinewa.

Named ...

Continued from page 8

"Just comes down to weighing where I am at mentally and what the commitment is.

"I don't fear retirement and moving on. I'm very proud of what I have accomplished over being in Green Bay for 17 years. Also still highly competitive and bitter taste from the NFC game. I was frustrated about things during the offseason and I feel like there's so much growth. There were some things voiced privately, and I am thankful for the response. There were things done to make me feel special and important."

Rams wide receiver Cooper Kupp got one vote for MVP, but he easily took top offensive player honors.

Kupp and Cincinnati quarterback Joe Burrow (Comeback Player) and wideout Ja'Marr Chase (Offensive Rookie) will face off in Sunday's Super Bowl.

Kupp led the NFL with 138 receptions, 1,829 yards receiving and 15 touchdown catches while leading Los Angeles to the NFC West title. A unanimous All-Pro, he received 35 votes, far in front of Colts running back Jonathan Taylor (10).

Kupp was so productive while working with a new passer, Matthew Stafford, that he had 14 games with at least 10 catches, no games with fewer than seven. Though he isn't the fastest nor strongest wideout, he had 100 yards receiving in 11 contests.

Steelers edge rusher T.J. Watt, a unanimous All-Pro like Kupp, led the NFL in sacks with a record-tying 22 1/2. He joined brother J.J., a three-time winner of Defensive Player of the Year.

"I'm not huge on individual awards," said Pittsburgh's Watt, "but it's tough not to want that when I saw my brother at the height of his career win that award three times."

"And I always just thought to myself why can't I do that?"

You have, T.J. "Some moments are just special. Couldn't be more proud of you," older brother J.J. tweeted after he'd announced the winner on stage.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Mara Bader at IHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving State Finals at Indiana University Natatorium — 6 p.m.; Boys basketball tripleheader vs. Heritage — 6:15 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. Versailles — 6 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Wrestling semi-state at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum — 8 a.m. Boys basketball tripleheader at Yorktown — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. Newton — 6 p.m.; Swimming sectional at Ayersville — 4 p.m.

Monday
Jay County — Boys basketball (including freshmen) vs. Southern Wells — 6 p.m.; Junior high swimming at Adams Central — 6 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
6:30 p.m. — College hockey: Minnesota at Ohio State (BTN)
7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Cleveland Cavaliers at Indiana Pacers (BALLY)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: UConn at Xavier (FS1); Kent State at Akron (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics: Women's ice hockey (NBC)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Nevada at Utah State (FS1); St. Bonaventure at Saint Louis (ESPN2)
11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: UNLV at Boise State (FS1)
11 p.m. — 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics: Men's hockey — United States vs. Canada (NBC)

Saturday
1:05 a.m. — 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics: Snowboarding (NBC)
3:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Indiana at Michigan State (FOX)

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Bulp Exhibition Hall, Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland IN.

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FEBRUARY 12, 2022 AT
9:30 A.M.

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HELP WANTED CITY OF PORTLAND Position: Pool Manager The City of Portland is currently taking applications for Pool Manager. This individual will be responsible for supervising the day-to-day activities at the Portland Water Park as well as maintaining the cleanliness of the facility. A complete job description is available at City Hall and on the City of Portland website. Applications will be available at City Hall, 321 North Meridian Street, Portland, Indiana 47371, Thursday, February 10 thru Tuesday, February 22, 2022. Applications need to be submitted to City Hall by Tuesday, February 22 @ 4:30 p.m. The City of Portland is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF LAND OCCUPIERS TO BE HELD FOR THE JAY COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

To all occupiers of lands lying within the boundaries of the Jay County Soil and Water Conservation District, notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of February 2022, beginning at 6:00 P.M., an annual meeting will be held for the purpose of making a full and due report of their activities and financial affairs since the last annual meeting and to select a supervisor for the Jay County Soil and Water Conservation District of the State of Indiana.

All land occupiers and other interested parties are entitled to attend. The meeting will be held at the Bob Schmit Memorial Building, Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland, Indiana.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Kurt Theurer — Chairman
Jordan Wall — Vice Chairman
Carl Walker — Interim Supervisor
Rick Imel — Treasurer
Barry Miller — Supervisor
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Sports

More is the goal

Patriots hoping to send multiple wrestlers to state finals

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review
The goal is more. More state qualifiers than last season.

More state qualifiers than the rankings indicate they should get. As the Jay County High School wrestling team takes seven athletes to the semi-state tournament that begins at 8 a.m. Saturday at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne, all of the Patriots are working under the belief that if they are at their best they could punch their ticket to the state finals.

"We're really excited," said JCHS wrestling coach Eric Myers, who has 106-pounder Daniel Moore, 113-pounder Cody Rowles, 120-pounder Tave Curtis, 126-pounder Tony Wood, 132-pounder Ethan Reiley, 138-pounder Cameron Clark and 182-pounder Bryce Wenk on his semi-state roster. "You look at your draws and stuff like that, but whoever it comes down to you've got to wrestle. Some draws are a little bit more favorable than others, but maybe not ... We've got to show up and wrestle our best."

The top four wrestlers in each weight class — those who win in the quarterfinals, also known as the "ticket round" — at the semi-state advance to the state finals next weekend at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

The Patriots, who finished second in the sectional tournament and third at the regional, had five



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Bryce Wenk of Jay County High School works against Yorktown's Thomas Price during their regional match Saturday. Wenk defeated Price 18-2 on the way to finishing as the regional runner-up and will be one of seven Patriots competing Saturday at the semi-state tournament at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne.

wrestlers at the semi-state level last season and sent three of them to the state finals. With a roster of seven this year, including four who have advanced to state in the past, they're hoping for a big day.

Wood (34-2), who is ranked seventh and was a state finalist last season at 120 pounds, seems to have the cleanest path to a return berth. After winning sectional and regional championships, he opens the semi-state against Homestead's Jake Hisler (24-11). He would face a likely rematch in

the ticket round against Jimtown's Mikey Kallimani (31-5), who he beat 5-0 in the same round last year on the way to becoming semi-state runner-up.

Jay County's other regional champion — No. 11 Rowles (33-1), a state qualifier at 106 pounds last season after finishing third in the semi-state — will take on Matthew Senn (17-6) of Fairfield in the opening round. A victory in that match would likely mean a ticket-round bout against 13th-ranked Wyatt Davis (24-3) of Rochester.

Myers said he feels Davis was

the best of the regional runners-up in the tournament, as three of his losses are against defending semi-state champion Tanner Tishner (33-0) of Western.

"It's a tough draw, but we know Cody's aspirations, where he wants to be," said Myers, referencing a return trip to the state tournament. "Cody is just a gamer. He comes to battle. ... It's like a Texas tornado with him. He's going hard the whole match and you don't know where anything's coming from for sure."

See **More** page 7

UM downs No. 3 Purdue

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Hunter Dickinson had 22 points to lead Michigan in a lopsided 82-58 win over No. 3 Purdue on Thursday night.

Eli Brooks had 16 points, Moussa Diabate had 15 points — all but two in the first half — and Caleb Houston added 14 for the Wolverines (13-9, 7-5 Big Ten).

Jaden Ivey had 18 points, Trevion Williams had 12 and Zach Eden scored 10 for Purdue (21-4, 10-4), which saw its six-game winning streak snapped.

"When you get out-rebounded like we did (35-25) and then you get doubled up in turnovers (14-7) and you don't shoot the ball well, then you need to be very, very good on the defensive end if you want a chance to win the game and we obviously weren't," Purdue coach Matt Painter said. "When you look at all those — poor shooting percentages, twice as many turnovers, they out-rebounded us by 10, a lot of breakdowns defensively — you're going to get beat pretty badly."

Purdue, which went into the game shooting 50.8% from the floor, shot only 44%. Michigan made 53% of shots from the floor. The Boilermakers had been making 41% of their 3-pointers but made only 4 as a team in 17 attempts. Dickinson had four 3-pointers for Michigan.

"We felt we had a good shot to win the game," Dickinson said. "Just a couple of adjustments on defense we needed to make that we didn't do in the first game and that led to them taking it away from us. We felt really confident in ourselves and in the game plan and we really executed out there today."

Michigan led for most of the first half, with its biggest lead of the half, 38-29, coming on a dunk by Diabate with 10 seconds left.

The Wolverines then pulled away in the second half, leading by as many as 29 points.

"With the attack, we had with the drives by (Devante Jones) as well as the (double teams) we were receiving in the post allowed our shooters to really get open," Michigan coach Juwan Howard said, "along with (Jones) and Eli getting into the paint and finding guys on the perimeter."

The game, originally scheduled for Jan. 11, was the second in six days between the teams. Purdue won at home, 82-76, on Feb. 5.

Yowell wins twice, Jay 3rd

OSSIAN — Peyton Yowell did his part.

The Patriots narrowly escaped with third place.

Yowell had the team's only victories as the Jay County Junior High School boys swim team finished third in the Norwell Invitational on Thursday.

The host Knights scored 241 points for the win, while Indian Springs was runner-up with 222. Jay County had 201 points, edging fourth-place Bluffton by one point.

Yowell got his first victory of the evening by posting a time of 28.75 seconds

in the 50-yard freestyle. He asserted his dominance as a sprinter by backing that win up with a win in the 100 freestyle in 1 minute, 9 seconds. The next closest competitor was 2.3 seconds behind.

Other Patriots earning top-eight finishes were: Matthew Fisher (third — 200 free, third — 50 fly), Raif Beiswanger (fourth — 100 breaststroke, fifth — 100 individual medley), Cooper Glentzer (sixth — 200 freestyle), Rocky Beiswanger (seventh — 50 fly, seventh — 100 backstroke), and Aryan Montes (eighth — 100 freestyle).

Rodgers named MVP for 4th time

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

LOS ANGELES — A four-time MVP, three Super Bowl players and the beginning of a brother act.

The Associated Press 2021 NFL awards had a bit of everything, starting with Aaron Rodgers becoming the fifth player to repeat as Most Valuable Player.

"It is kind of surreal sitting here," Rodgers said. "Being a four-time MVP is crazy."

"They're all different. They've all unique in their own ways and this one feels the sweetest."

Despite the turmoil of training camp and the headlines created by the Green Bay quarterback when he misled the public on his COVID-19 vaccination, Rodgers' play on the field was superb. So much so that he earned 39 votes from a nationwide panel of 50 media members who regularly cover the NFL. Not even one of Tom Brady's best performances — in his final season — came close in the MVP race, with the Buccaneers' quarterback

getting 10 votes.

Only Peyton Manning with five MVP awards is ahead of Rodgers, who said no announcement on his future in the NFL is imminent.

"There was something to how I felt walking off the field," he said. "I had great conversations with the Packers before I left town. There have been changes to the staff."

See **Named** page 7

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Good luck to Jay County High School junior

Mara Bader

at the IHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving State Finals!!!
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