

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## All signs point to state

Cameron Clark, a Jay County High School sophomore, points to Patriot fans in the crowd after pinning 10th-ranked Julius Gerencser in the semi-final round of the semi-state tournament Saturday at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne. The 16th-ranked Clark went on to win the semi-state championship at 138 pounds. He and classmate Tony Wood will represent JCHS at this weekend's state finals. For more on the tournament, see page 8.

## Future of facilities is undecided

### Commissioners considering retirement center and child care

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

The futures of Jay County Country Living and a new childcare facility are still in limbo.

Jay County Sheriff's Office may also be getting a new building automation system.

Jay County Commissioners discussed those among various topics during their meeting Monday.

Matt Stechly of Core Facilities recently took a tour through the former Judge Haynes Elementary School. Stechly, who has supervised maintenance work and sought bids for the county for more than

year, shared pros and cons of the 70-year-old building that is currently being looked at as the potential site of a new childcare facility.

The Portland Foundation approached county officials in November and requested \$975,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to renovate the building into a countywide daycare. (It also requested \$325,000 from the City of Portland for the renovations.)

Stechly explained the amount of space and good condition of its plumbing, mechanical and electrical units — he noted it does need a new chiller — are benefits to the location. Some negative aspects of the former school, he said, are that it needs a new roof, along with the possibility that its currently leaking roof likely has developed mold between the drop ceiling and roof. Leaks can be found throughout the building, Jay County Commissioner Brian McGalliard added.

See Facilities page 5

## Rate hearing is set for Feb. 28

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — A public hearing on water and sewer rate increases will be held at the end of the month.

Dunkirk City Council received a copy of the proposed ordinance updating this city's water rates, as had been discussed in January, and decided to set the public hearing on the increase for its Feb. 28 meeting.

Mayor Jack Robbins presented the proposed rate increases to council at its Jan. 10 meeting in accordance with the five-year utility plan the city developed in 2019. The plan calls

for incremental annual increases in order to build up funds for capital improvements and to avoid the need for a single, large rate increase in the future.

The 2% increases to the city's rates would amount to 54 cents per month — \$22.92 from the current \$22.48, for water; and 31 cents per month, to \$16.07 from the current \$15.76, for sewer.

There was no discussion of the rate increases at Monday's meeting. (Council members had previously agreed to move forward with the process to increase the rates.)

See Hearing page 5

## Beaty removed from council ballot

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

A candidate who filed to run for the Republican nomination for a Jay County Council seat will not be on the primary ballot.

Jay County Election Board on Monday upheld a challenge from Jay County Republican chair Jenae Blasdel regarding the candidacy of Brenda Beaty.

Beaty had filed to run for the GOP nomination for Jay County Council (District 1).

Blasdel explained to election board members Carmen Craig, Dane Mumbower and Jay County clerk Jon Eads that she filed her challenge based on Indiana election rules. Indiana Code requires that to run in a primary a candidate must either have taken that party's ballot in each of the last two Indiana primary elections in which they voted or received a signature from the party chair. Beaty did not meet either of those requirements.

Beaty then explained that she had not lived in Ohio for about 25 years before moving back to Jay County about four years

ago. She said she was unaware of those requirements and added that she believes candidates should be told about them.

Eads said it is not the clerk's office's role to act as "election police" and that it also can't deny an election form. (Any challenge must come from a resident of the district or the party chair.) Eads also noted that the primary/signature requirement is listed on the election form.

Several others in attendance speaking in support of Beaty said they were also unaware of the rule. They also questioned it, saying it seems to potentially keep interested residents from getting involved.

Craig, Mumbower and Eads voted unanimously to uphold the challenge to Beaty's candidacy because she had not met the requirements to run.

Beaty's removal from the ballot leaves current Redkey Town Council member Randy May as the lone candidate for the party's nomination for the Jay County Council (District 1) seat. Incumbent Democrat Ted Champ is uncontested in his party's primary.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Out of the ice

Portland firefighters demonstrate an ice rescue for Wabash Valley Boy Scouts of America at the Jay County Scout Facility on Saturday morning. Seven Indiana scout troops visited the facility for its "Klondike" festivities, which included demonstrations from local emergency departments as well as an array of survival competitions.

### Deaths

**Phillip McIntire**, 82, rural Portland  
**Lucinda Welch**, 65, Penningtonville  
**Mark Edwards**, 65, Albany  
**Joseph Fiely**, 63, Chicago  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

The Valentine's Day temperature in Jay County reached a high of 23. The low was 10.  
The temperature is expected to rise overnight, with Wednesday's high expected to reach the low 50s with winds gusting to 45 miles per hour.  
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

**Wednesday** — Entertainment announced for the Jay County Fair.  
**Friday** — Results from the preliminary round of the boys swimming sectional.



# CR almanac

Wednesday 2/16	Thursday 2/17	Friday 2/18	Saturday 2/19	Sunday 2/20
<b>51/44</b>	<b>55/14</b>	<b>29/20</b>	<b>33/22</b>	<b>46/37</b>
Wind gusts may reach as high as 45 mph. At night, rain is expected, with up to half an inch possible.	Rain will continue into Thursday morning, with between 1 and 2 inches possible.	Skies will be sunny Friday, with a high reaching about 29 degrees.	Another day of sunny skies is on the horizon for Saturday, with a high around 33 degrees.	More sunny skies are expected Sunday. The high may jump to 46 degrees.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Monday 16-25-27-49-55 Powerball: 17 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$20 million	55-58-65-71-77-79-80 Cash 5: 7-12-32-36-37 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$53 million	<b>Ohio</b> Monday Midday Pick 3: 3-2-7 Pick 4: 8-8-9-2 Pick 5: 0-6-0-1-8 Evening Pick 3: 1-1-6 Pick 4: 6-3-6-6 Pick 5: 0-5-8-9-5 Rolling Cash 5: 9-35-36-38-39 Estimated jackpot: \$150,000 Classic Lotto: 1-14-32-35-46-47 Kicker: 7-5-5-1-8-4 Jackpot: \$22.1 million
<b>Hoosier</b> Monday Midday Daily Three: 2-6-1 Daily Four: 9-1-2-7 Quick Draw: 4-10-16-21-24-27-30-31-35-39-41-45-47-48-60-62-70-76-77-80 Evening Daily Three: 1-7-8 Daily Four: 4-3-6-6 Quick Draw: 3-4-10-15-16-30-35-40-41-48-50-51-53-	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....6.50 March corn.....6.51 April corn.....6.51	Wheat.....7.66 March wheat.....7.66
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....6.53 March corn.....6.54 April corn.....6.50	<b>Central States Montpelier</b> Corn.....6.37 March corn.....6.37 Beans.....15.49 March beans.....15.51 Feb. wheat.....7.75
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn.....6.43 March corn.....6.43 Beans.....15.45 March beans.....15.45	<b>Sunrise St. Anthony</b> Corn.....6.48 March corn.....6.40 Beans.....15.34 March beans.....15.37 Feb. wheat.....7.40

## Today in history

**On Feb. 15, 1879,** Parazaider, Terry Kath, Danny Seraphine, Lee Loughnane, James Pankow and Robert Lamm; the group originally called itself The Big Thing.

**In 1764,** the site of present-day St. Louis was established by Pierre Laclède and Auguste Chouteau.

**In 1898,** the U.S. battleship Maine mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor, killing more than 260 crew members and bringing the United States closer to war with Spain.

**In 1933,** President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt escaped an assassination attempt in Miami that mortally wounded Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak; gunman Giuseppe Zangara was executed more than four weeks later.

**In 1944,** Allied bombers destroyed the monastery atop Monte Cassino in Italy.

**In 1961,** 73 people, including an 18-member U.S. figure skating team en route to the World Championships in Czechoslovakia, were killed in the crash of a Sabena Airlines Boeing 707 in Belgium.

**In 1965,** singer Nat King Cole, 45, died in Santa Monica, California.

**In 1967,** the rock band Chicago was founded by Walter

**In 1989,** the Soviet Union announced that the last of its troops had left Afghanistan, after more than nine years of military intervention.

**In 1992,** a Milwaukee jury found that Jeffrey Dahmer was sane when he killed and mutilated 15 men and boys. (The decision meant that Dahmer, who had already pleaded guilty to the murders, would receive a mandatory life sentence for each count; Dahmer was beaten to death in prison in 1994.)

**In 2003,** millions of protesters around the world demonstrated against the prospect of a U.S. attack on Iraq.

**In 2005,** defrocked priest Paul Shanley was sentenced in Boston to 12 to 15 years in prison on child rape charges.

**In 2007,** Jay County was digging out following a major snowstorm, with more snow expected. Most roads had been cleared to two-way traffic, though bitter-cold temperatures had caused some problems with the county's equipment.

—AP and The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Today</b> 7 p.m. — Portland Fireman's Pension Board, fire department, 1616 N. Franklin St.	<b>Monday</b> 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, conference room, high school, 400 E. Butler St., Fort Recovery.
<b>Thursday</b> 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.	7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St., Fort Recovery.

# Obituaries

## Philip McIntire

Dec. 30, 1939-Feb. 13, 2022  
Phillip R. McIntire, age 82, of rural Portland passed away Sunday morning Feb. 13, 2022, at his residence. He was born in Muncie on Dec. 30, 1939, the son of Corvin and Bessie (Jaynes) McIntire. He was married on March 12, 1960, to Judy Williams, who survives.



McIntire

Phillip was an electrician and 60-year member of IBEW Local 855 and attended New Beginnings Church. He loved his family and grandchildren and enjoyed hunting, fishing and racing greyhound dogs.

Surviving are his wife Judy; two sons, Kevin McIntire (wife: Lisa) of Fort Wayne and Gary McIntire (wife: Lisa) of Dunkirk; one daughter, Melanie Upp (husband: Scott) of Dunkirk; two sisters, Ruth Garrett and Claris Meeks, both of Muncie; eight grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by four brothers, Paul, Gilbert, George and Ira; two sisters, Mary Garrett and Louise Thornbro; and grandson Wes Bonifas.

Funeral services will be Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022, at 11 a.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Randy Smith presiding. Burial will follow in the Bluff Point Cemetery. Visitation will be Tuesday from 4 to 8 p.m. and one hour prior to the services.

Memorials can be made to The Salvation Army, Jay County Cancer Society or New Beginnings Church. Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.



Edwards

are his paternal grandparents, Richard and Helen Edwards; and maternal grandparents, Everett and Margaret Miller.

Services will be 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022, at Meacham Funeral Service. Cremation will follow. Visiting hours are Wednesday from 3 until 5 p.m.

Memorials may be sent to Albany United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 277, Albany, IN 47320.

Condolences and other expressions of sympathy may be given at MeachamFuneralService.com.

## Lucinda Welch

Dec. 25, 1956-Feb. 11, 2022  
Lucinda "Cindy" Welch, age 65, a resident of Pennville, passed away on Friday, February 11, 2022 at Miller's Merry Manor in Dunkirk.

Cindy was born on Dec. 25, 1956, in Hartford City, Indiana, the daughter of Herbert Eugene and Cathryn Joan (Maitlen) Kegerreis. She graduated from Hartford City High School in 1975.

Cindy worked for CTS in Berne for over 28 years and FCC in Portland. She was a member of Southside Church of Christ in Portland and Rock Steady Boxing in Bluffton.

Cindy loved her family, and her grandchildren were her world.

Survivors include: Her fiancé — Tom Staton, Pennville, Indiana

Her children: Jeremy Marcum (wife: Lyn), Hartford City, Indiana, and Brandy Spencer (husband: Nathaniel), Portland, Indiana, Micha Staton, Dunkirk, Indiana, and TJ Staton, Dunkirk, Indiana

Two sisters — Gena James (husband: Jesse), Bryant, Indiana, and Lisa Tinch (husband: Randy), Portland, Indiana

Eleven grandchildren  
She was preceded in death by her parents, Herbert Eugene and Cathryn Joan Kegerreis; and three siblings, Martha Maddox, Jo Petty and Neil Kegerreis.

Visitation will be held on Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Pennville Chapel of Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home. Services to celebrate Cindy's life will follow at 4 p.m. on Thursday at the funeral home. Burial will follow at a later



date in IOOF Twin Hill Cemetery in Pennville.

Memorials may be directed towards Rock Steady Boxing in Bluffton.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

## Joseph Fiely

July 5, 1958-Jan. 18, 2022  
Joseph "Joe" A. Fiely, 63, of Chicago passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022, at his home.

He was born on July 5, 1958, in Portland, Indiana, to the late Richard and Elizabeth (Addington) Fiely. In addition to his parents, Joe was preceded in death by his brother, Richard "Dick" Fiely; and one nephew.

Joe was a 1976 graduate of Fort Recovery High School. He attended Bowling Green State University, graduating in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in business. He received his MBA from Miami University in 1983, and shortly thereafter moved to Chicago. Joe's early career was as an accountant, but he soon found his passion in the restaurant industry. He was a part of Lettuce Entertain You, the Francesca's Restaurant Group and Scott Harris Hospitality, and is best known for his work with Mia Francesca, The Purple Pig and Joe's Imports.

Joe's smile and lust for life were contagious. He loved entertaining at this home on Bradley Place and was especially proud of his beautiful garden. He could often be found surrounded by loving friends, enjoying a delicious glass of his favorite wine(s).

Joe is survived by his siblings, Shirley (Chuck) Acheson of Columbia City, Indiana, Mike (Kathy) Fiely of Cookeville, Tennessee, Linda (Chuck Schumacher) McCoy of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Donna (Greg) Mania of Roanoke, Indiana, Barb (Troy) Shaffer of West Unity, Ohio, and Harold (Kim) Fiely of Fort Recovery; his six nieces and four nephews; his seven great-nieces and five great-nephews; and his sister-in-law, Janice Fiely of Fort Recovery.

A celebration of Joe's life will be held on Feb. 27, 2022, at The Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., Chicago, from 3 to 7 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Joe Fiely Memorial Fund, in care of the Fort Recovery Community Foundation, P.O. Box 52, Fort Recovery, OH 45846. Contributions can also be made online, via Venmo, by sending them to @FR-Foundation.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockman-boeckmanfh.com.



Fiely



Welch

## Mark Edwards

Sept. 29, 1956-Feb. 12, 2022  
Mark Edwards, age 65, Albany, died Saturday Feb. 12, 2022, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital following a year of declining health.

Born in Muncie on Sept. 29, 1956, he grew up in Albany and was a 1975 graduate of Delta High School. He attended Ball State University and Phoenix Institute of Technology. Mark was a landscaper for Brumond Smith Nursery, Muncie, for 17 years. He worked last at MSSL Wiring System in Portland before retiring in 2021. He was an avid sports fan and was good at baseball and basketball as a young man. Mark never knew a stranger and enjoyed listening to classic rock music and fishing.

Survivors include his parents, Bob and Wanda Edwards, Albany; and several extended family members and friends.

His wife, Rikee (Crawmer) Edwards, died in 2021; also deceased

# Capsule Reports

### House hit

A Portland man's house was damaged after a Portland resident lost control of the vehicle he was driving and crashed into it about 4:29 a.m. Saturday.

Marcelino A. Santiz, 25, was driving east on county road 300 North when he reached a patch of ice. Santiz lost control of the 2006 Jeep Liberty he was driving and slid off the north side of the road, crashing into a fence on Dustan Howell's property at 3958 E. 300 North, Portland. The vehicle continued and hit the south side of the house on the property, causing damage to the walls and a window, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. Howell was home at the time of the crash.

Santiz was issued a citation for operating a vehicle

without a valid driver's license, and the vehicle he was driving was towed. (It is registered to Heather R. Romero of Portland.) Damage is estimated between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

### Backing accident

An Economy teen backed into a parked truck on Meridian Street in Bryant about 6:30 a.m. Saturday.

Wyatt D. Leach, 17, was backing his 2005 Honda Civic out of the driveway at 307 N. Meridian St. when he backed into a parked 2017 Chevrolet Express.

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000. The Chevrolet is registered to Pioneer Packaging and Pallets of Portland.

## TOOL SALE

February 14th - 18th  
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419.375.4137

**Union City NAPA 272**  
308 W. Chestnut St.  
Union City, Indiana 47390  
765.964.3191

## SERVICES

**Wednesday**  
**McIntire, Phillip:** 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.  
**Edwards, Mark:** 5 p.m., Meacham Funeral Service, 648 W. State St., Albany.

**Thursday**  
**Welch, Lucinda:** 4 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 190 S. Union St., Pennville.

**February 27**  
**Fiely, Joseph:** 3 p.m., The Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., Chicago.

Service listings provided by  
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# Coronavirus alters birthday celebration

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

I had high hopes for my birthday this year. It was one of those birthdays that ends in zero and makes me feel old and decrepit.

I was talking to my daughter, Beth, on the phone. The subject of birthdays came up and she said she was flying to Fort Wayne a couple days before my birthday and staying for a couple of days after. She was coming by herself.

I can't remember a time when I was more excited. It had been a really long time since she had come up here. As a matter of fact, the last time she was here was when Mom died six years ago. As much as I love the grandchildren, I was looking forward

## As I See It



to having her all to ourselves for a couple of days.

I should have known that her impending visit was too good to be true. Her middle son, Jacob, tested positive for COVID five or six days prior to her scheduled arrival. We were advised that it would be prudent to cancel the trip. According to Beth, the CDC, Centers for Disease Control, says it is all right to quarantine for five days after contact with someone who has COVID. The

family doctor's office here says a quarantine for 14 days is more prudent.

I can't begin to tell you how upset both of us were. Nevertheless, she canceled her flights. We are hoping that the travel recommendations will ease up enough for us to see her this year. I am wondering how an emergency room nurse with three to five children could possibly avoid all contact with people who have tested positive for the disease and still keep her job.

As a consequence, I have been grumbling and in a bad mood ever since. Someone knocked on the door a day or two after Beth canceled her trip. It was one of the ladies I used to work with. She had brought me a heart-shaped box of candy. We

chatted a bit and I cheered up a little.

We had arranged to meet with my brothers and their families before we knew Beth wasn't coming. It was to be on my actual birthday. My brother, David, suggested that we get together early in case we ran into a crowd celebrating Valentine's Day.

That was a great idea because we have gotten caught in the Valentine's rush before. We arrived at the restaurant a little late. We ordered and David pushed a box toward me. I thought we had agreed on no presents but maybe that was just for Christmas.

I untied the ribbon and started to take the lid off of the box. I had barely opened it when a whole swarm of paper butter-

flies flew out. I slammed the lid back down. Now I knew how Pandora felt when she opened her box.

David's wife, Apryl, had found the butterflies on the internet, ordered them, and spent an afternoon winding them up and stuffing them into a box. I have until sometime this fall to find an appropriate retaliation.

The restaurant we were at doesn't usually do the happy birthday song but David offered to pay them extra if they would. I have never had a restaurant crew sing to me before.

Even though Beth's absence was upsetting, it was still a good day. We were able to catch up with both of my brothers and their families. Maybe next year Beth and her family can join us.

# Passive-aggressive boyfriend hurts partner

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Aaron," and I have been together almost 10 years. We are both divorced from narcissistic spouses. We have discussed a future together and are working toward it. It's taking so long because Aaron's children are quite a bit younger than mine. (I'm an empty nester; his kids are just going into their teens.) I am also working on getting my career established.

We get along well and seem compatible in every way, but one thing bothers me: Aaron can be passive-aggressive. It isn't often and it generally isn't just over petty stuff, but when

## Dear Abby



it happens it is very hurtful.

I've been going to counseling to resolve some issues from my childhood and first marriage, and recently realized I have some toxic traits I need to work on and heal. Unfortunately, some of that toxicity has spilled into my relationship with Aaron and

hurt him. When it happens, he reacts passive-aggressively for a bit, then things seem to go back to normal.

What can I do to get over the hurt I feel when he acts this way? I don't want to repay hurt for hurt. I want to break the cycle. — HEALING IN THE MIDWEST

**DEAR HEALING:** If your "toxicity" is what causes Aaron to react with what you interpret as passive-aggression, he could simply be nursing his wounds. Talk with your therapist about including Aaron in some of your sessions. If the therapist

agrees, tell Aaron you think your relationship could be improved if he's willing to go with you. If the therapist does NOT agree to the "joint" sessions, it might be worth you while to discuss couples counseling with another therapist.

DEAR ABBY: I've been seeing a married man for more than 30 years. Everything was fine between us until recently. I have begun to suspect one of my female neighbors is seeing him as well. I'm contemplating getting in touch with his wife and my

neighbor's husband and telling them about my suspicions.

I need to know what to do so this relationship with the neighbor will stop. I know by telling on him, I'll lose him, but if the neighbor is after him because of his money, I don't want his wife thinking I'm the one taking it from him. What should I do? — NERVOUS IN TEXAS

**DEAR NERVOUS:** Despite the odds, you have been fortunate in having had a drama-free affair for 30 years. Because you have no proof that your lover is involved with someone

else, it would cause less damage to everyone if you shared your suspicions with HIM. I guarantee that if you reveal your three-decade affair to his wife, you can kiss this romance goodbye. If the neighbor couple finds out you accused her, you will make enemies — particularly if your suspicions are not true.

I find it ironic that after helping your lover cheat for decades, you are now angry at him for cheating. I see nothing to be gained by creating a scandal to save your injured pride.

# Look for toxic signs before eating snow

By JASON BITTEL

Special to The Washington Post

There's nothing quite like a fresh blanket of pure, white snow. Great for sledding, snowballs, fort-building — and maybe even dessert? Before you take a big bite of the white stuff, let's talk about what could be in the flakes.

Snow is mostly water. When it gets cold, moisture that would have been rain freezes into tiny, beautiful crystals that drift down from the sky. And, yes, it's true that no two snowflakes are alike.

But snow can also contain other ingredients.

For example, if snow has been removed from a sidewalk or a street, it might contain rock salt, which has chemicals that

help us melt ice to keep people from slipping. Unfortunately, those chemicals can also make you sick if you eat them, so you definitely don't want to eat any snow that's been shoveled or plowed.

Of course, depending on the wildlife nearby, snow can also act like a pathway for squirrels, birds, neighborhood dogs and other critters, so you should never nibble on any snow near bird-feeders or animal tracks. Brown snow is off limits for the same reason you wouldn't want to take a lick of a mud pie. And if that snow looks yellow, well, let's just say it's unlikely to be lemon-flavored.

But did you know that snow can also be pink? Some people call it "watermelon snow," which

sounds delicious, but again, this is not the snow you want to quench your thirst with.

That's because watermelon snow gets its pinkish color from more than 60 species of cold-loving algae.

Okay, so what about freshly fallen snow?

That should be the safest, yummiest frozen water to eat, right?

Actually, because snow can soak up pollutants on the way down, the first hour or two of a snowfall acts like a scrub brush for the air.

Scientists have found that new snow can contain weird stuff including pesticides, soot and even nasties such as mercury and formaldehyde.

All of these things are found

at extremely low levels — which means it's technically safe to eat. But it's also good to know that if you just wait a few hours and then chow down on the snow that piles up midway through a storm, you'll have the best chance of eating nothing more than pure, frozen, sky water.

By the way, did you know that you can make ice cream using snow?

All you need is 2 cups milk, 1 cup sugar, 1 tablespoon vanilla extract and about a gallon of the best snow you can find. Mix the milk, sugar and vanilla together and add snow, a little at a time, until you have a thick, creamy texture.

One bite and you'll be hoping spring never comes!

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# Community Calendar

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

**Tuesday**  
ALZHEIMER'S CARE-GIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 5:30 p.m. the

third Tuesday of each month at Jay County Public Library community room. For more information, call Deb Tipton at (260) 729-2806 or Elasha Lennartz at (765) 729-4567.

**THE LANDING** — A 12-step program for those in sixth through 12th grade

will meet at 5:55 p.m. each Tuesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 703-0777 or (260) 726-5273.

**FRIENDS OF JAY COUNTY LIBRARY** — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the library.

**A BETTER LIFE - BRIGANNA'S HOPE** — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS** — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland.

For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

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

**PING PONG** — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

**PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB** — Will meet at noon each Wednesday at Harmony Cafe, 121 N. Meridian St.

**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.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

**Saturday's Solution**

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

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

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# Clawing back will take some time

By **LEE H. HAMILTON**

A few weeks ago, New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman made a startling suggestion. He proposed a cross-party 2024 presidential ticket: Joe Biden and Liz Cheney, perhaps, or Kamala Harris and Mitt Romney, or another combination of a leading Democrat and an anti-Trump Republican.

Friedman's reasoning is that the U.S. is at a crossroads, and he contends that the main body of the Republican Party "has shown that it isn't committed any longer to playing by democratic rules, leaving the United States uniquely threatened among Western democracies." Under these circumstances, he wrote, the country needs a "broad national unity vehicle" that would draw members of both parties.

"We all have to be small-d democrats now, or we won't have a system to be big-D or big-R anything," he continued.

To buttress his argument, he turned to Israel's current national unity government, which unit-

**Lee H. Hamilton**



ed members of the right and left in an effort to turn down the heat generated by former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's bid to delegitimize the government and judicial system. As Israeli leaders "treat each other ... with a little more respect, and a little less contempt, because they are out of Facebook and into face-to-face relations again, stuff is getting done," Friedman writes.

It was certainly an attention-getting column, and it's hard to argue with the idea that we and our democratic system remain in perilous times. It may well be that to avoid a lurch toward authoritarianism, or at least toward a government that willfully violates democratic norms, some

dramatic development like Friedman's suggestion will prove appealing to many Americans.

But looking back at the sweep of American history we also need to keep in mind that our system as it stands now, for all its flaws, has served us remarkably well. For over 200 years, through some very tough times, we've wrestled with the problem of how government should work in a democracy. We've persisted through economic turmoil, world wars, a terrible depression, and social and racial tumult. Each time, though the path has at times been harrowing, we've adjusted, found common ground, passed legislation that, in general, has made this a fairer and more just nation, and moved forward.

It's worth remembering that this is a pragmatic country that mostly prefers the middle to the extremes. In a writeup noting that 2021 saw the balance in party identification shift from leaning Democratic toward leaning Republican as the year wore on, Gallup pointed out that, overall

last year, "an average of 29% of Americans identified as Democrats, 27% as Republicans and 42% as independents. Roughly equal proportions of independents leaned to the Democratic Party (17%) and to the Republican Party (16%)." Ours is still an electorate that is most comfortable in the center.

The truth is, it's impossible to see around the next political corner. There's no question that there are worrisome trends, especially the taste for restricting and possibly even overturning the vote that we've seen in recent years in Republican-dominated state legislatures and the increasingly outsized influence that sparsely populated states hold on Capitol Hill. Yet if there's one thing that our centuries of experience with representative democracy tell us, it's that Americans are fiercely creative about exercising their democratic rights and that when things get out of kilter they pull the country back on course.

Don't get me wrong. When Lin-

coln asked at Gettysburg whether this nation "so conceived and so dedicated" can endure, he was posing a question for all time. Our status as a democracy and as a land of opportunity for all has never been a given, and never will be. Lincoln spoke at a battlefield that was the result of the last time we failed utterly to navigate deep national divisions; the Civil War left such deep scars that we're still not over them.

Clawing our way back from perilous times to a government in Washington that is capable of "getting things done," as Friedman put it in his column, will take time, patience and a willingness to compromise — on both sides of the aisle — that's been in short supply in recent years. But we've done it before. My hope and belief is that we can do it again.

Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

## Solidarity needs to be strengthened

Japan News

The Japanese government intends to supply part of Japan's liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports to Europe. Advanced nations should unite to deal with the energy crisis caused by mounting tensions over Ukraine.

There are growing concerns that Russia will invade Ukraine. The United States and Europe intend to impose economic sanctions on Russia if Moscow takes military action. But, there is speculation that Russia is expected to stop supplying natural gas to Europe in retaliation.

Natural gas is a primary fuel for thermal power generation, and about 40% of Europe's imports of LNG come from Russia. If the supply is suspended, there could be a serious power shortage. Russian President Vladimir Putin is threatening to cut off supplies to Europe, hoping it will put a wedge between the United States and European countries.

The Group of Seven (G7) advanced nations, which share the values of freedom and democracy, must work together to secure resources and make it clear they will not allow Russia to change the status quo by force.

The amount of Japan's LNG imports that will be redirected to Europe is expected to be several hundreds of thousands of tons by March. Although the figure amounts to a small percentage of Europe's monthly imports from Russia, it is still significant that advanced countries are taking concerted action to procure resources.

The Japanese government has decided to offer extraordinary assistance to Europe in response to requests from the United States and other countries.

Unlike oil, there are no national reserves for LNG. It easily vaporizes, and companies only have about two weeks' worth of inventory.

In Japan, thermal

## Guest Editorial

power generation using LNG accounts for about 40% of the nation's entire production of electricity. In January last year, there was a shortage of electricity mainly due to cold weather and a shortage of LNG inventory. The supply-demand balance for electricity has been tight this winter as well.

The Japanese government has asked trading companies and other entities that hold interests overseas to allocate surplus supply to Europe after ensuring that domestic needs have been met.

Several LNG carriers that were originally bound for Japan will be directed to Europe.

Geopolitical risks are also increasing in Asia. In the future, there are concerns that Japan may face difficulties in procuring LNG.

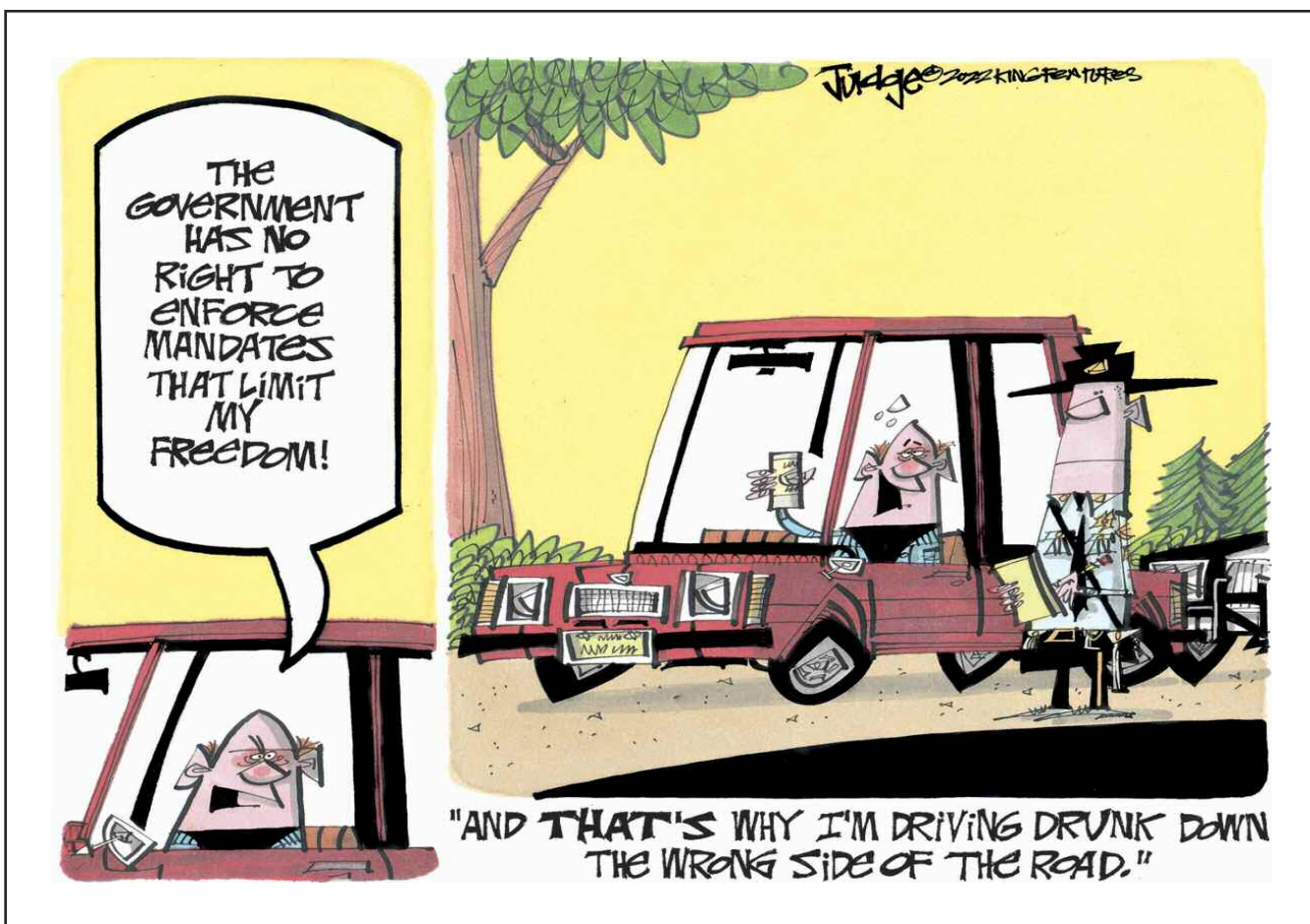
From the viewpoint of energy security, international cooperation is needed.

Europe has long been ahead of the world in decarbonization and has been focusing on the spread of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power, while speeding up efforts to reduce the use of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas.

However, wind power output dropped in Europe last summer due to unseasonable weather, causing a power crisis. In the aftermath, prices of alternative fuels such as natural gas and crude oil soared. It can also be said that radical decarbonization has highlighted problems regarding energy security.

Diversification of energy sources, including the use of nuclear power, could be a solution.

The energy crisis in Europe should be an opportunity for countries around the world to consider realistic energy policies.



## It's pointless to become a grump

By **BRIAN BROOME**

Special To The Washington Post

It's disheartening to watch the idols from my youth turn into old grumps. Reading Sean Penn's recent comment that too many men have become "feminized" reminded me that some people struggle with change. But I know that, at 51, I am also out of step, and that many of my ideas are old-fashioned. And I rediscover this on an almost daily basis. How could it be otherwise? I work with predominantly younger people who are more than happy to remind me.

Not long ago, Betty White came up in conversation with a 22-year-old colleague. I was speaking reverently about White when I noticed the blank look on my colleague's face. It was instantly clear to me that she had no idea who White was apart from an elderly actor who recently died. So, I told her about "The Golden Girls," insisted that she watch it, told her where to find it and then assured her she would find it hilarious.

When I asked her about it a few days later, her face maintained the same blank expression it had before. She said she'd watched a few episodes and was "turned off" by the "slut shaming" and the "fat jokes." She found them cruel. She didn't understand how women could claim to be friends with one another and yet criticize each other's physical appearances repeatedly.

I wanted to argue with her but stopped short because of one unbending reality: The culture changes. As it does, the roles of women and men change. Attitudes about what is funny and what is not also change.

Inspired by my colleague, I took the opportunity to review some of my favorite shows from the '90s and saw

**Brian Broome**



it instantly: Much of the comedy, for lack of a better word, was mean-spirited. What was often considered funny a decade or two ago seems callous today.

I was reminded, too, of those sketches on "Saturday Night Live," played by the actor Julia Sweeney in the early 1990s, about a person named Pat. The premise of the sketches was that no one could tell whether Pat was male or female; in every "Pat" skit, some outsider would go to great lengths trying to discern Pat's sex. I didn't think the gag was particularly funny. But I wasn't offended by it, either. I just never thought about it.

I know now that there are human beings who endure this sort of mockery every day. It's not at all comical to them. It can, in fact, be life-threatening.

These changes in our culture can be a test for people like me. Many older Americans can be quick to say how soft and sensitive younger Americans are. How they can't take a joke and how we fear for the future in their delicate hands. But there is another way to think about this. Perhaps we older folks are mistaking the younger generation's kindness for weakness. Being inclusive isn't the same as being gullible. And there are plenty of ways to be funny without being mean.

You can dismiss young people as

"too woke" if you want. But culture changes, and you can't stop it.

Turning this around, it is often hard for younger people to understand how getting older is at times deeply disorienting. It often feels as though the earth is shifting constantly under your feet; things that were once perfectly acceptable can turn harmful. Getting older, I'm learning, can often seem as though much of the world is trying to push you out. You can feel the ground you once knew slipping away.

And, just like that, you find yourself out of step: In the past few years, I have been accused of sizeism, ableism and sexism for things that I've said and written that were once part of my daily vocabulary. The criticism angered me. If felt as though I was being called a bad person.

Many of us are experiencing some version of this as we age. We're finding out that the old standards that we used to go by don't apply anymore. And that the groups of people we used to make sport of want their full humanity to be respected.

Attitudes change. Language changes. At times, it can be a lot to understand. And it leaves me with two choices. I can try to learn the ways that our culture and our country are changing. And work to accept them with grace. Or I could rail against the sunrise every morning — and turn into an old grump myself.

The latter approach doesn't sound productive to me.

Broome's debut memoir, "Punch Me Up to the Gods," is an *New York Times* Editor's Pick and the winner of the 2021 Kirkus Prize for Nonfiction.

# The Commercial Review

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## Pops players

The tuba section, including Caleb DeRome (foreground) performs Sunday afternoon during the Jay County High School band's winter pops concert.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Facilities ...

Continued from page 1

Also, Stechly continued, asbestos can be found in the floors, glue below the floors, baseboard trim and piping insulation. (The drop ceiling also appears to be asbestos, he added.)

"There is a lot of asbestos in that building," he said. "You have to deal with asbestos, and if you touch any of it, you've got to do it all. You can't pick and choose what you're going to remediate."

He added because of these factors, he thinks it will cost significantly more to renovate than the \$1.3 million estimate that has been discussed.

"I think we'd be foolish to invest tax payers' dollars into that building," said commissioner Brian McGalliard.

McGalliard made a motion to deny contributing toward the building renovations. Commissioner Chad Aker said he would like to speak with representatives from The Portland Foundation and Jay Schools before making a decision.

McGalliard agreed to wait, noting he would like for county attorney Bill Hinkle to be present for such a decision. (Hinkle is currently on vacation but will return by the next commissioners' meeting Feb. 28.)

Commissioners also discussed Jay County Country Living (formerly known as Jay County Retirement Center).

Melissa Blankley was hired recently as an interim director on a part-time basis following the resignation of former director Hope Confer. Aker said he thinks the facility will need a full-time director.

He and McGalliard pointed out it is an assisted living facility, not a nursing home.

"There is a benefit to this facility a lot of people don't realize," McGalliard said.

If it were to close, Aker added, the county would find new housing for all its residents.

Stechly brought up his inspection of Jay County Country Living.

Copies of his report were handed out at a joint meeting of commissioners and Jay County Council while discussing the facility with the public

Feb. 7. The list details several building deficiencies, such as decaying exterior, corroded plumbing, rusted handrails and guardrails, and damaged radiators. It also describes safety hazards, such as collapsing ceilings, open electrical boxes, high levels of arsenic in the water, damaged exterior walkways and foundation, and cracked windows. (Commissioners accepted a \$5,668.35 bid Monday for an arsenic removal system for the facility from AdEdge Water Technology of Georgia.)

Stechly noted Monday there are major liabilities involved with the county operating a residential facility in the building.

"I would say, regardless of what you do with that building, your operation in that building I would advise against," he said. "Either get out of the retirement business or go to a different building."

Commissioners agreed to wait until Feb. 28 to make a decision on the director's position.

Also Monday, commissioners asked Stechly to look into how much it would cost to seek quotes for a potential automation system change at Jay County Sheriff's Office.

In past meetings, Stechly has explained Havel, an EMCOR company and the proprietary owner of the current building automation system, does not allow its customers to take total control of the system without its assistance. Havel's equipment is prevalent throughout the building, and the company is called to the facility frequently for its aid, resulting in various fees.

Commissioner Rex Journay asked how the county could cease operations with the company.

In order to do so, Stechly explained, the county would need to purchase a new building automation system.

Commissioners then asked Stechly to look into the cost of such a system.

In related news, commissioners selected a \$102,225 bid from Harrell-Fish Incorporated of Bloomington to replace two boilers at the sheriff's office.

Commissioners also reviewed Stechly's inspection of Jay County Sheriff's Office. He gave multiple

suggestions for upgrades or repairs, such as a putting in a new water softener system — the current system has not been operational since November 2021 — and installing electric flush valves on sinks, toilets and showers.

In other business, commissioners Rex Journay, Chad Aker and Brian McGalliard:

- 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. (Gabbard needed the area to be rezoned as residential before he can sell the house on that property. The request had already received approval from Jay County Plan Commission.)

- Accepted a \$41,520 bid from Lindco Equipment Sales of Merrillville for four new plows.

- Learned from Sheriff Dwane Ford his department will be installing a "smoke shack" in the Jay County Sheriff's Office parking lot for employees to take smoke breaks. The structure, which will be paid for out of the sheriff's budget, will cost roughly \$15,000.

- Appointed Carl Walker, Travis Richards and McGalliard to Jay County Redevelopment Commission.

- OK'd county clerk Jon Eads to purchase 15 new iPads for \$6,900 from Noink Communications of Indianapolis. The devices are used for voting during elections, he explained, and the current 10-year-old units are outdated. (That price also includes 10 trays for scanning identification cards and 15 iPad cases.)

- Accepted a farming bid of \$2,000 per year for three years with Charles McClain for 11.93 acres of pasture and the barn near Jay County Country Living.

- Signed a claim from the City of Portland for its \$100,000 allocation of Bitter Ridge Wind Farm funds. Plans are to use the funds for park repairs and additions.

- Signed the title of a 1951 Dodge over to Museum of The Soldier. (Jim Waechter explained the vehicle has been in the museum's possession since 1982, but the title was never signed over to it.)

## Hearing ...

Continued from page 1  
Information about the ordinance change will be advertised in The Commercial Review this week, with the public hearing set for council's next meeting at 7 p.m. Feb. 28.

If approved, the rate increases are expected to go into effect June 1.

Council members Jesse Bivens, Tom Johnson, Kevin Hamilton and Christy Curts, absent Jessup, also approved several purchases for the city's water department. They were:

- A total of \$8,125.15 for a new meter to measure water being used by Ardagh glass factory — the facility previously used recycled water but is now using city water — at a cost of \$8,125.15 from Utility Supply.

- A water meter at a cost of \$6,515.38, also from Utility Supply.

- Installation of a new heating and air conditioning unit at a cost of \$9,654.82 from Lowe's Heating and Cooling.

- A phone for employees who are on call after regular business hours

Water department superintendent Dace Mumbower explained that the proposed water rate increases are used to pay for such equipment purchases in order to keep city facilities running efficiently.

Gloria Hamilton also presented an update to council members regarding the status of the former Westlawn Elementary School building. (The school closed at the end of the 2020-21 session, with students shifting to the former West Jay Middle School building this year.)

Hamilton said she's working on a plan for the city to acquire the building from Jay School Corporation to potentially house addiction recovery organization A Better Life — Brianna's Hope, a day care in conjunction with Building Blocks Academy of Dunkirk and other services. She is working on details of how such a partnership could work.

Jay School Board at a meeting earlier Monday selected Loy Real Estate and Auction as its broker to dispose of the former elementary school. Hamilton explained that the school corporation can still donate the building to a municipality or non-profit organization if it chooses to do so. She said she hopes to be able to present such a request to the school board next month.

Cat Myers of New Hope Nazarene Missionary for Domestic Violence explained to council that the organization is working on developing various services to help victims of domestic violence in Jay, Blackford and Randolph counties. The organization recently acquired a facility (in Blackford County) and a house (in Jay County). Plans call for providing a variety of services, including counseling, help with searching for a job and child care, to women and their children. The house will be used as a transitional living space.

Myers said the organization, which will be an independent non-profit, hopes to have its shelter up and running by mid-April. She added that it would like to purchase more abandoned homes in the area and renovate them to be used as additional transitional living space.

Council members, with Kevin Hamilton abstaining because he is involved with New Hope, voted to donate \$500 to the effort.

In other business, council:

- Awarded contracts of \$192,029.25 for Community Crossings street paving, which will include the entirety of Broad, Johnson and 5th streets, Ohio Street between Main and 5th streets, Shatto Street between High and North streets, and High Street between Indiana and Hoover streets, and \$27,955 for paving of trails on the south side of Dunkirk City Park, both to Brooks Construction of Fort Wayne.

- Learned from Robbins that Indiana Michigan Power will be installing new LED streetlights in the city in the next couple of months.

- Heard from city attorney Wes Schemenaur that he has been working with police chief Dane Mumbower on potential ordinance updates. Bivens suggested that the city's water and wastewater superintendents work with Schemenaur on the same process in order to bring the city's ordinance book up to date.

- Approved the purchase of seven new computers for the police department from Emerald Business Solutions for the police department at a cost of \$6,975 and two new computers for the clerk's office at a cost of \$2,995.

- Paid claims totaling \$271,794.07.

## Silenced ...

Continued from page 8

In the championship against Tuttle, Clark took control with a double-leg takedown at the 1:18 mark of the first period and never relinquished it. He was up 4-1 by the end of the opening period and built his lead to 7-1 with an escape and single-leg takedown in the second on the way to a 7-2 victory.

"It was a fun way to end it," said JCHS coach Eric Myers. "(Clark) recovered from a foot injury early in the year and just kept building steam and building steam. Man, what a time to be wrestling your best. ..."

"I'm really proud of that effort today. He wrestled awesome all day."

No. 7 Wood (37-3) was dominant through the first three rounds of the semi-state before running into third-ranked and undefeated Aidan Sprague (39-0) of East Noble in a rematch of the 2021 semi-state championship match. Sprague was able to win a scram-

ble and get behind Wood for a takedown with three seconds left in the opening period. Wood got an escape six seconds into the second period, but Sprague recorded another takedown and went on to defeat Wood 5-1.

The first three matches of the day had been a breeze for Wood as he pinned Jake Heisler of Homestead in 1:50, earned his state berth with a 7-2 win over Mikey Kallimani of Jimtown and then scored a 17-0 technical fall over Keegan Schlabach of Lakeland in the semifinals.

"I really just stuck with my game plan of scoring points," said Wood. "Whatever is there, I'm going to go score. I did the same thing in the finals, it just didn't turn out the way I wanted it to."

"The difference was the first takedown. ... We get in a lot of scrambles. We're both just good when people get into our legs. That's what happened, and he came out on top."

The Patriots looked as if they would have a third state qualifier as 182-pounder Bryce Wenk built an 8-3 lead over NorthWood's Trey Tobias in the ticket round. But Tobias earned an escape with 26 seconds left and then got a takedown and three-point near fall in the final 10 seconds of the match to rally to beat Wenk 9-8.

"My heart breaks for that kid because he did everything he needed to do to win," said Myers. "He put himself in a little bit of a bad position at the end. That's a tough one to move forward from. ... He really deserved to win that match ... But that's just the way that wrestling goes."

Rowles (34-2), a returning state qualifier who was ranked 11th in the state, topped Matthew Senn of Fairfield 12-0 in the opening round but struggled to get going against Rochester's Wyatt Davis with a state berth on the line. He was picked up and dropped for a takedown in the first 10 seconds of the match and then gave up a

reversal late in the second period for a 4-0 deficit. He fell behind 6-0 early in the third period before rallying with a couple of takedowns in the final 30 seconds of an 8-4 defeat.

"It was a tough matchup for Cody against a guy who was that solid with legs on top," said Myers of Davis (27-4), who went on to finish as the semi-state runner-up. "I felt like (Cody's) defense was a little bit off at the beginning."

After beating Oak Hill's Tyson Kendall 15-8 in his first-round bout, Reiley (31-9) wrestled a tight match against Jasper Graber (23-6) of Northridge in the ticket round. It was tied before Graber came up with a takedown with 10 seconds left in the second period. A Reiley escape with 16 seconds left in the match closed the gap to 4-3, but he was unable to find any offense as his season came to an end after picking up his 100th-career win.

"(Reiley) had a good strategy in that ticket round," said Myers. "He gave up a takedown late in the second that changed the entire match. We would have (gone) into the third period on bottom tied 2-2, and a guy rides you way different tied 2-2 than he does up 4-2."

Sophomores Moore and Curtis each had their seasons come to a close in the opening round of the semi-state.

Moore (21-8) fell behind 3-0 in his match against Brayden Raber (27-8) of Maconaquah at 106 pounds. He scored a pair of escapes, but was never able to mount any offense in a 3-2 defeat.

Curtis (26-12) had an early lead against 18th-ranked Hayden Brady (29-4) of Garrett at 120 pounds when he pulled Garrett back into the circle for the opening takedown of the match. But it took Brady just 15 seconds to even the match with a reversal and he built a 7-3 lead before ending the match with a pin in 4:53.

## Ties ...

Continued from page 8

Jay County was up 30-16 at halftime before Yorktown closed the gap back to single digits in the third quarter. But the Patriots took a timeout, reclaimed control and rolled to the victory behind 17 points from Dirksen. Muhlenkamp and Bennett Weitzel each had nine points in the win, which saw the Patriots make 22 free throws.

JCHS has not lost since falling 59-31 to Indianapolis Tech in the Jefferson County Invitational Tournament on Dec. 23. It carries the 10-game winning streak into a battle with Class 3A No. 8 Norwell (17-3) on the road Friday.

### Junior varsity

Jay County was in control throughout as it topped the Raiders, 59-20.

It fell 50-42 to Yorktown on Saturday.

Against Southern Wells, the Patriots (7-6) built a 21-point lead by halftime. They added another 19 points in the third quarter en route to the blowout win.

Liam Garringer led the way for JCHS with 16 points. Owen Ransom added eight.

Jay County led Yorktown by five after the first quarter but

fell behind 18-17 at the half. The host Tigers poured in 17 third-quarter points on the way to the win.

Parker Nichols' 11 points were the high for the Patriots. Garringer followed with 10 and Abraham Dirksen scored six.

### Freshman

The Patriots trailed by two before dominated the final quar-

ter for a 33-23 victory over Southern Wells.

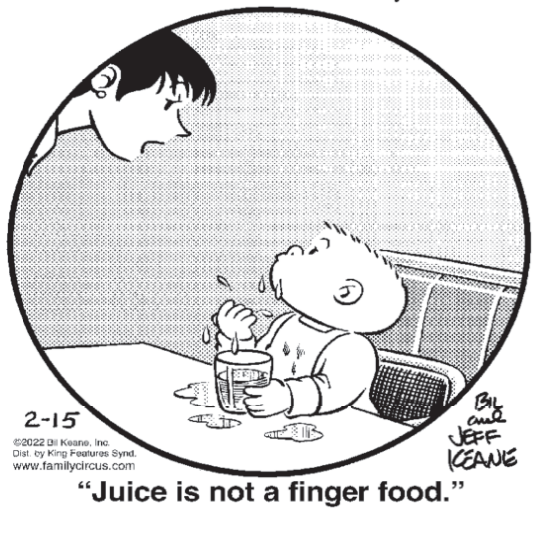
Jay County had a 10-6 lead after the opening period but proceeded to score just three points in the second and third. It bounced back for 20 in the fourth to pull away for the win.

Rylee Sollars paced the Patriots with 13 points. Brady Hess followed with eight points, and Eli Dirksen tallied five points.

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



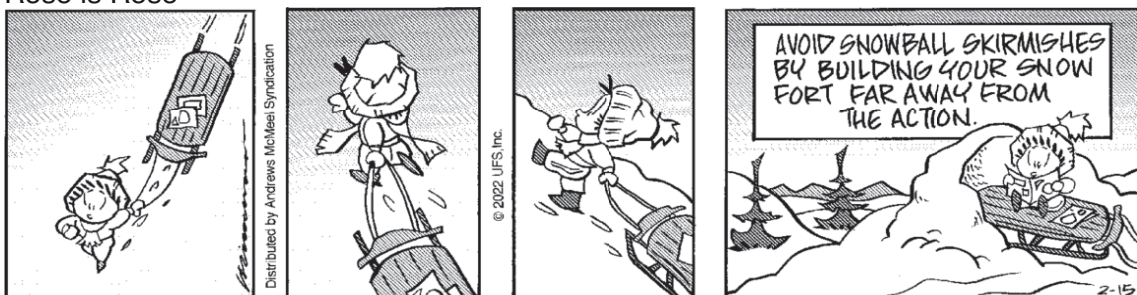
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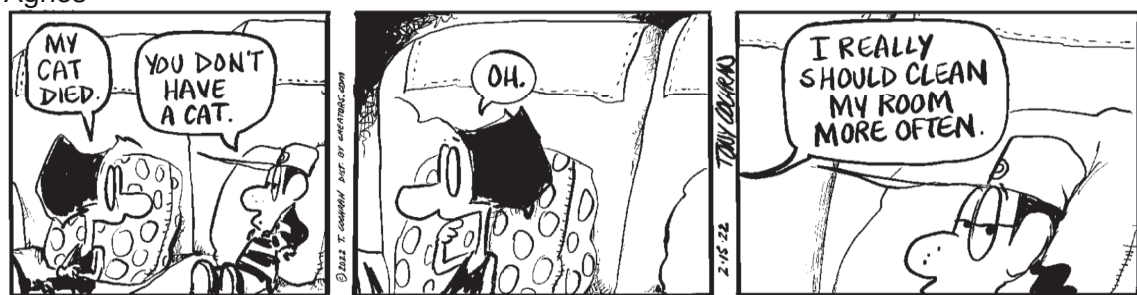
Peanuts



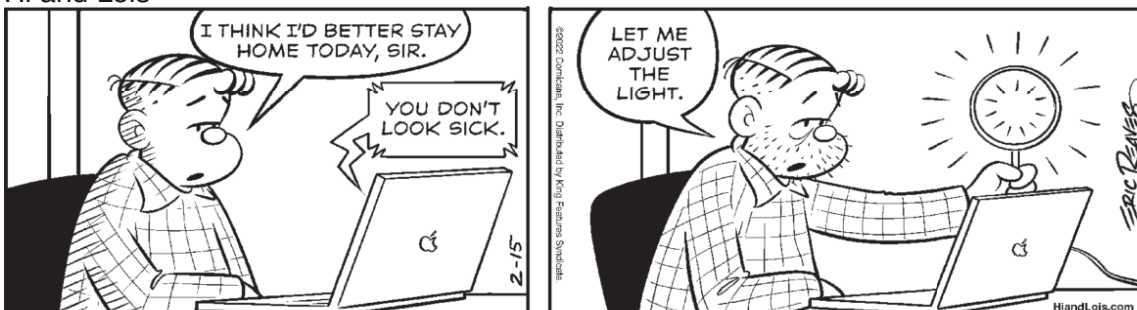
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



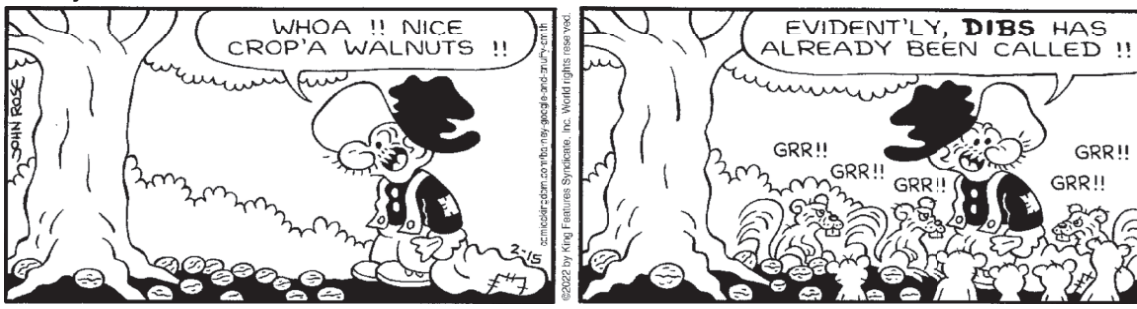
Funky Winkerbean



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Forewarned is forearmed. West dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: A 2, K 7 4, K J 7 5 2, J 10 6 3. WEST: 10 6 5, K J 10 9 6 3, A 8, A 7. EAST: J 9 8 4, 5 2, 10 9 6 3, 9 5 4. SOUTH: K Q 7 3, A Q 8, Q 4, K Q 8 2. The bidding: West 1♥, North Pass, East Pass, South Dble. West 2♥, North 3♦, East Pass, South 3NT. Opening lead — jack of hearts.

be laid squarely on his doorstep. Consider today's deal where South arrives at three notrump on the bidding shown. Given West's opening bid, declarer should have no trouble finding the winning route to nine tricks. But if he makes the slightest slip along the way, he will fail. The critical play comes at trick two, after South wins the opening heart lead with the queen. If he next leads the queen of diamonds, West wins, continues hearts and later gets in with the ace of clubs to put the contract down two. If instead declarer leads a club at trick two, West takes the ace, continues hearts and South eventually goes down one. But observe the difference if South leads a low diamond at trick two. If West puts up the ace, declarer has nine tricks — four diamonds, two hearts and three spades. And if West ducks the diamond instead, dummy's jack wins. South then abandons diamonds and drives out the ace of clubs to assure nine tricks in the form of three clubs, three spades, two hearts and a diamond. The winning line of play is not difficult to find given West's bidding, which marks him with both missing aces. Armed with this information available to him to find the winning line of play and he does not do so, then the blame can

Tomorrow: A precautionary measure. ©2022 King Features Syndicate Inc.

CRYPTOQUIP

WO LHKLRH VHQCRFVRX QHN LFWT NK ZACQQRH CL NKQHNDHV, W'T ZFX NDFN'Z LVKOHZZWKAFR AHZNRWAQ. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DRINK BRAND THAT'S BASICALLY AN INFUSION OF SMALL STICKS FROM HOMES BUILT BY BIRDS: NEST-TEA. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals P

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Erstwhile acorns, 5 Moment, 8 Chart toppers, 12 You love (Lat.), 13 Bill's partner, 14 Shrek for one, 15 TV drama starring Claire Danes, 17 Bump into, 18 Olympics chant, 19 Mornings (Abbr.), 20 Job benefits, 21 Trendy, 22 Narc's org., 23 Thespian, 26 Biblical cover-up?, 30 Campus digs, 31 Custard ingredient, 32 Oklahoma tribe, 33 Crush, 35 Plumber's tool, 36 Sticky stuff. 37 Hearty brew, 38 June birthstone, 41 Buddy, 42 QBs' goals, 45 Missile shelter, 46 Out of danger, 48 Winter blanket, 49 Year in Madrid, 50 — Raton, 51 Adolescent, 52 Aachen article, 53 "American —". DOWN: 1 Diamond Head locale, 2 Novelist Oz, 3 — Sutra, 4 Compass dir., 5 Rascal, 6 Eternities (Lat.), 7 Massachusetts cape, 8 Classic Culkin comedy, 9 Media exec Robert, 10 Arduous journey, 11 Tennis match parts, 16 Hideaway, 20 Cribbage scorer, 21 Like garden veggies, 22 Use a shovel, 23 TV spots, 24 — au vin, 25 Capote nickname, 26 E-I connection, 27 JFK info, 28 Fine, at NASA, 29 Service charge, 31 Author Umberto, 34 Texter's chuckle, 35 — gin fizz, 37 Knight wear, 38 "Hey, you!", 39 Bonn article, 40 Lotion ingredient, 41 Dog biscuit shape, 42 Walked (on), 43 Erte's style, 44 Barking critter, 46 Possessed, 47 Justice Dept. agency.

Crossword grid with solution time: 22 mins. and yesterday's answer.

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS 260-726-8141 ADVERTISING RATES 20 Word Minimum Effective 07/01/2018: Minimum charge.... \$12.40 1 insertion.....62¢/ word 2 insertions.....81¢/ word 3 insertions.....96¢/ word 6 insertions.... \$1.14/ word 12 insertions. \$1.52/ word 26 insertions. \$1.77/ word Includes Online.....FREE Classified Display \$6.95/ per column inch No borders or logos allowed on Classified Page Card of Thanks Up to 100 words.... \$13.00 In Memory Up to 100 words.... \$13.00 Advertising Deadline is 12:00 p.m. the day prior to publication. The deadline for Mondays paper is 12:00 p.m. Friday. Pre-Payment required for: Rummage sales, business opportunities, jobs wanted, boats and sporting equipment, wanted to rent, motorized vehicles, real estate and mobile homes.

30 LOST, STRAYED OR FOUND

ATTENTION! LOST A PET Or found one? The jay county humane society can serve as an information center. 260-726-6339

40 NOTICES

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.

60 SERVICES

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.

"SEAMSTRESS NAN" HOMEMADE Sewing and Alterations, Quilts, Baby Blankets, Appliqué, Zippers, Hemming, Memory T-Shirt, Special Orders, Wedding & Prom Gowns. 260.766.9334

WICKY CONSTRUCTION Roofing, Siding, Pole Barns. Call for free estimate. 260-273-9776

90 SALE CALENDAR

LAND AUCTION Monday, February 28th, 2022 TIME 5:00 P.M. LOCATED: On 500 E, just south of 400 S, in Hartford City (Millgrove) REAL ESTATE

Land consists of 60 acres located in Section 4 of Jackson Township, Blackford County, Indiana. Land is practically all tillable and buyer will have possession at closing. Drive overs are welcome dependent upon the weather. Auction will be held on site. For any questions, contact the auctioneers! TERMS ON REAL ESTATE: CASH WITH 10% NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT DAY OF AUCTION. BALANCE DUE AT CLOSING. SALE NOT SUBJECT TO BUYER OBTAINING FINANCING. ARRANGE FINANCING IF NEEDED PRIOR TO AUCTION. FINAL SALE SUBJECT TO OWNER CONFIRMATION. OWNER: Rodney K. Weesner Estate by Katelyn Weesner (Executor) SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE AC3180004 AUCTIONEERS Zane Shawver AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver AU19700040 260-726-5587 More Photos available at www.auctionzip.com & www.auctionsoft.com

Little JJ's Tree Service Tree Trimming, Removal, Stump Grinding. Firewood available 765-509-1956

BOOLMAN'S Auto Sales & Service, Inc. Highway 67 W, Portland, Indiana 260-251-9735

Wendel's Carpets & Upholstery Cleaning Von Schrader Dry Foam Cleaning For Quick Drying, Residential & Commercial Dave Wendel Ph. 260-726-4520 Cell 260-729-2797

Dave's Heating & Cooling Furnace, Air Conditioner Geothermal Sales & Service 260-726-2138 Now accepting MC/Disc/Visa

BAIL BONDS Travis Weaver 260-726-3189 across street from Jail

ROD PENROD, LICENSED AGENT Medicare Supplements Medicare Drug Plans Medicare Advantage Senior Life Insurance Local Agent 260-418-9492

Bricker's Flowers & More 414 N. Meridian St. Portland Call or text to order 260-703-0304 Open daily from 9am-6pm

BANNERS 40" x 13" BUY ONE FOR \$695 GET ONE FOR \$350 Birthdays, Anniversaries, Get Well, Just Because, Valentine's Day, and Many Others. Graphic Printing, 309 West Main St., Portland. Open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., TUESDAY - FRIDAY Custom sizes available.

### 90 SALE CALENDAR

**REAL ESTATE AUCTION**  
Saturday, February 19, 2022  
at 10AM  
221 E 900 S-38, Geneva, IN 46740  
7 +/- acres, 3-4 bedrooms, Heated shop, Barn  
Personal Property  
Online:  
Starts February 7th at 6PM-  
Closing starts February 15th at 6PM  
Richard Fifer, Owner  
Sale conducted by Green Auction – 260-589-8474.  
See SoldonGreen.com for details and flyers.

### UPCOMING AUCTIONS

Bricker Auction Company 414 N Meridian St. Portland, IN  
Feb. 19th- CONSIGNMENT TACK AUCTION  
Live Webcast Auction- Starts 2:00pm  
There will be all kinds of horse equipment, gates, tack, hay and much, much more! If you would like to add any items to this auction you can call at 260-703-0839  
Feb. 26th-SPORTSMAN AUCTION  
Live Webcast Auction- Starts @ 2pm  
We will have several thousand rounds of ammo, reloading equipment, guns, fishing gear, knives, and many more outdoor items available! Previews are held Fridays from 12pm-5pm  
Download our app (Bricker Auction Company) from your Apple or Google Play Store to view our current and upcoming auction!  
Cell: 260-703-0839  
Bricker Auction Company Chad Bricker-Auctioneer AU1160027

### 100 JOBS WANTED

**AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR** any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.

### 110 HELP WANTED

**CROWNPOINTE OF PORTLAND** is hiring hard working, dedicated part time C. N. A.s. Pay is negotiable. Please apply in house at 745 Patriot Drive, Portland, IN 47371 or online at www.cpcommunities.com/portland. For questions, please call 260-726-3577.

### 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

## Public Notice

Coblentz Construction LLC (4788 W SR 116, Geneva, IN 46740) is submitting a Notice of Intent to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management of our intent to comply with the requirements of 327 IAC 15-5 to discharge storm water from construction activities associated with the Patriot's Circle project, located on the SW corner of CR 75 S and SR 67 in Portland, IN. Runoff from the project site will discharge to the Salamonie River. Questions or comments regarding this project should be directed to Josh Padgett of MLS Engineering, 260-489-8571.  
CR 2-15-2022 - HSPAXLP

## 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 PM, 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  
Steve Rines – Associate Supervisor  
Dated this 26th day of January 2022  
CR 2-11,15-2022 - HSPAXLP

### 110 HELP WANTED

**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.

### SECURITY OFFICERS NEEDED IN Berne, Poartland and Bluffton, area. PartTime/FullTime, flexible hours in a relaxed, clean environment. You will be watching cameras and performing rounds. Call Allen Protection Services 260-747-7700 ext. 107 to schedule an interview.

### JAY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY - Applications now being accepted for the full-time position of Library Assistant. Job requires experience working with children as well as strong customer service skills and attention to detail. Job description available at the library and on the library's website at www.jaycpl.lib.in.us. Applications accepted until position is filled.

### 130 MISC. FOR SALE

**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.

### PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.

### 160 WANTED TO BUY

**WANTED TO BUY: INDIAN** Artifact Collections, Arrowheads, etc. Call 419-852-6825 ask for Robin.

### 190 FARMERS COLUMN

**AG RENTAL** Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309

### 200 FOR RENT

**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

### 200 FOR RENT

**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

### NEED MORE STORAGE? PJ's U-Lock and Storage, most sizes available. Call 260-726-4631.

### 230 AUTOS, TRUCKS

**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

### 230 AUTOS, TRUCKS

**WE PAY CASH** for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocum's Salvage

### 240 MOBILE HOMES

**FOR SALE 1997 COMMODORE** 14x64 Mobile Home. 2 BR, 2 Bath. Asking \$25,900. Lot 11 Portland. MHP LLC. Call 260-726-3273 between 9am-2pm.

### FOR SALE 2001 SCHULT 27 X 48 Mobile Home. 3Br., 2 Bath. Asking \$55,900. Lot 17 Portland. MHP LLC. Call 260-726-3273 between 9am-2pm.

READ THE CR  
THEN  
RECYCLE

### 260 PUBLIC AUCTION

## PUBLIC AUCTION

Marion Young Farmers  
Consignment Auction  
**Saturday, March 9**  
10:00 AM  
Mercer Landmark, Chickasaw, Ohio  
Between U.S. Rt. 127 & New Bremen on St. Rt. 274  
PLEASE CONSIGN YOUR EQUIPMENT WITH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:  
Eric Schmitmeyer • 419-852-1142  
Todd Bertke • 419-230-1705  
Please call by FEB. 19th to Assure Advertising  
We will be taking in equipment Thursday & Friday before the sale  
No Items Will Be Consigned Saturday Morning  
Sale Conducted By:  
**COLDWATER AUCTION SERVICE**  
CR 2-15,17-2022

## LAND AUCTION

LOCATED: On 500 E, just south of 400 S, in Hartford City (Millgrove)  
**Monday, February 28th, 2022**  
5:00 P.M.  
REAL ESTATE  
Land consists of 60 acres located in Section 4 of Jackson Township, Blackford County, Indiana. Land is practically all tillable and buyer will have possession at closing. Drive overs are welcome dependent upon the weather. Auction will be held on site. For any questions, contact the auctioneers!  
TERMS ON REAL ESTATE: CASH WITH 10% NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT DAY OF AUCTION. BALANCE DUE AT CLOSING. SALE NOT SUBJECT TO BUYER OBTAINING FINANCING. ARRANGE FINANCING IF NEEDED PRIOR TO AUCTION. FINAL SALE SUBJECT TO OWNER CONFIRMATION.  
**OWNER: Rodney K. Weesner Estate**  
by Katelyn Weesner (Executor)  
STATEMENTS MADE SALE DAY TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER WRITTEN AD SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE  
AC31800004  
AUCTIONEERS  
Pete D. Shawver      Zane Shawver  
Lic# AU19700040      Lic# AU10500168  
260-726-5587      260-729-2229  
More Photos available at www.auctionzip.com & www.auctionsoft.com  
CR 2-15-2022

### 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

## Public Notice

Wabash Township, Jay County, Indiana  
Cash and Investments Combined Statement - 2021

Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg. Cash and Inv. Bal. Jan 1, 2021	Receipts	Disbursements	End Cash and Inv. Bal. Dec 31, 2021
<b>Governmental Activities</b>					
0061	Rainy Day	\$2,399.77	\$3,316.00	\$1,741.47	\$3,974.30
1	Fire Fighting	\$112.48	\$14,854.00	\$14,854.00	\$112.48
2	Township	\$26,884.21	\$16,025.38	\$14,890.19	\$28,019.40
3	Township Assistance	\$10,660.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,660.76
GRAND TOTAL		\$40,057.22	\$34,195.38	\$31,485.66	\$42,766.94

State of Indiana  
SS: Jay County  
I, Ronald F. Rosenbeck, Trustee of Wabash Township, Jay County, Indiana, do solemnly affirm under the penalty of perjury that the preceding report is complete, true and correct; that the sum with which I am charged in this report are all of the sums received by me; and that the various items of expenditures credited have been fully paid in the sums stated; that such payments were made without express or implied agreement that any portion thereof shall be retained by or repaid to me or any other person. I further affirm that a complete and detailed annual report, together with all accompanying vouchers showing the names of persons having been paid money by the township, have been filed as required by law in the office of the County Auditor, and that copies of such annual report are in custody of the Township Board and the State Board of Accounts. Said report is subject to inspection by any taxpayer of the township.  
Ronald F. Rosenbeck, Wabash Township Trustee  
Telephone: 260-251-7996  
Date this report was to be published February 15, 2022  
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, the Chairman of the Township Board of Wabash Township at its annual meeting this 9th day of February, 2022  
Sarah M. Davidson, Wabash Township Board Chairman  
This report was received, accepted, and approved by the Township Board at its annual meeting, this 9th day of February, 2022.  
Wabash Township Board:  
Sarah Davidson, Jane Martin, Beverly Westgerdes  
CR-2-15-2022-HSPAXLP

### 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

## Public Notice

Bearcreek Township, Jay County, Indiana  
Cash and Investments Combined Statement - 2021

Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg. Cash and Inv. Bal. Jan 1, 2021	Receipts	Disbursements	End Cash and Inv. Bal. Dec 31, 2021
<b>Governmental Activities</b>					
01	Township General Fund	\$16,454.13	\$34,534.33	\$39,226.47	\$11,761.99
11	Firefighting Fund	\$86,811.64	\$20,697.91	\$14,000.00	\$93,509.55
81	Township Assistance Fund	\$10,348.12	\$11,028.69	\$4,572.26	\$16,804.55
91	Levy Excess Fund	\$307.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$307.00
95	Payroll Withholdings Fund	-\$2,349.30	\$0.00	\$493.61	-\$2,842.91
GRAND TOTAL		\$111,571.59	\$66,260.93	\$58,292.34	\$119,540.18

Bearcreek Township, Jay County, Indiana  
Detailed Receipts - 2021

<b>Governmental Activities</b>		
Township General Fund General Property Taxes		\$18,657.50
Local Income Tax (LIT) for Levy Freeze		\$2,640.64
Vehicle/Aircraft Excise Tax Distribution		\$514.46
Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax Distribution (CVET)		\$74.32
Local Income Tax (LIT) Certified Shares		\$12,233.00
Total Taxes and Intergovernmental		\$34,119.92
Other Licenses and Permits/01 - Township General Fund		\$414.41
Total Licenses and Permits		\$414.41
Total Township General Fund		\$34,534.33
<b>Firefighting Fund</b>		
General Property Taxes		\$18,303.42
Local Income Tax (LIT) for Levy Freeze		\$1,537.16
Vehicle/Aircraft Excise Tax Distribution		\$437.47
Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax Distribution (CVET)		\$69.00
Total Taxes and Intergovernmental		\$20,347.05
Other Licenses and Permits/11 - Firefighting Fund		\$350.86
Total Licenses and Permits		\$350.86
Total Firefighting Fund		\$20,697.91
<b>Township Assistance Fund</b>		
General Property Taxes		\$10,533.57
Vehicle/Aircraft Excise Tax Distribution		\$253.91
Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax Distribution (CVET)		\$36.68
Total Taxes and Intergovernmental		\$10,824.18
Other Licenses and Permits/81 - Township Assistance Fund		\$204.53
Total Licenses and Permits		\$204.53
Total Township Assistance Fund		\$11,028.69
Total Governmental Activities		\$66,260.93

Bearcreek Township, Jay County, Indiana  
Disbursements by Fund - 2021

<b>Governmental Activities</b>		
Township General Fund		\$8,081.97
Salaries and Wages		\$1,671.35
Employee Benefits		\$9,753.32
Total Personal Services		\$182.99
Office Supplies		\$1,483.30
Operating Supplies		\$33.00
Other Supplies		\$1,699.29
Total Supplies		\$910.00
Professional Services		\$2,359.05
Communication and Transportation		\$234.69
Printing and Advertising		\$3,361.00
Insurance		\$2,205.16
Utility Services		\$13,887.46
Repairs and Maintenance		\$4,816.50
Other Services and Charges		\$27,773.86
Total Services and Charges		\$39,226.47
Firefighting Fund		\$14,000.00
Total Services and Charges		\$14,000.00
Total Firefighting Fund		\$14,000.00
<b>Township Assistance Fund</b>		
Housing		\$2,068.96
Utilities		\$2,473.30
Total Township Assistance		\$4,572.26
Total Township Assistance Fund		\$4,572.26
Total Other Disbursements		\$493.61
Total Payroll Withholdings Fund		\$493.61
Total Governmental Activities		\$58,292.34

Bearcreek Township, Jay County, Indiana  
Township Disbursements - 2021

Fund Name	Category	Paid To	Amount
<b>Township General Fund</b>			
Personal Services		Internal Revenue Service	\$341.75
Personal Services		Wendel, Steven James	\$693.36
Personal Services		Haffner, James L	\$585.02
Personal Services		Tressler, Kari D	\$585.02
Personal Services		Gierhart, Jo A	\$585.02
Personal Services		Laux, Crystal E	\$5,633.55
Personal Services		United States Treasury	\$1,329.60
Personal Services		Total Personal Services	\$9,753.32
Supplies		United States Postal Service	\$33.00
Supplies		Display Craft	\$1,467.80
Supplies		Harland Clarke	\$15.50
Supplies		Progressive Office Supplies	\$182.99
Supplies		Total Supplies	\$1,699.29
Services and Charges		Robert Skiver	\$1,787.50
Services and Charges		Michael D Landers	\$1,182.50
Services and Charges		Michael J Landers	\$1,006.50
Services and Charges		Austin May	\$660.00
Services and Charges		Micro Spectrum	\$700.00
Services and Charges		Mercer Asphalt	\$8,500.00
Services and Charges		CNA Surety	\$120.00
Services and Charges		I&M	\$4,756.75
Services and Charges		Coldren & Franz & Sprunger	\$150.00
Services and Charges		Comcast	\$2,359.05
Services and Charges		Bollenbacher & Associates	\$60.00
<b>Township General Fund</b>			
Services and Charges		Harvest Land CoOp	\$661.98
Services and Charges		Westfield Insurance	\$3,241.00
Services and Charges		Graphic Printing	\$234.69
Services and Charges		Co-Alliance Coop, Inc	\$2,113.89
Services and Charges		Jay County Treasurer	\$240.00
Services and Charges		Total Services and Charges	\$27,773.86
Services and Charges		Total Township General Fund	\$39,226.47
<b>Firefighting Fund</b>			
Services and Charges		Bryant VFD	\$14,000.00
Services and Charges		Total Services and Charges	\$14,000.00
Services and Charges		Total Firefighting Fund	\$14,000.00
<b>Township Assistance Fund</b>			
Township Assistance		Ron May	\$900.00
Township Assistance		Russell Galloway	\$696.96
Township Assistance		Town of Bryant	\$126.00
Township Assistance		Co-Alliance Coop, Inc	\$340.00
Township Assistance		I&M	\$2,007.30
Township Assistance		Tru Value HardWare	\$500.00
Township Assistance		Total Township Assistance	\$4,572.26
Township Assistance		Total Township Assistance Fund	\$4,572.26
<b>Payroll Withholdings Fund</b>			
Other Disbursements		IN Department of Revenue	\$493.61
Other Disbursements		Total Other Disbursements	\$493.61
Other Disbursements		GRAND TOTAL	\$58,292.34

State of Indiana  
SS: Jay County  
I, Crystal Laux, Trustee of Bearcreek Township, Jay County, Indiana, do solemnly affirm under the penalty of perjury that the preceding report is complete, true and correct; that the sum with which I am charged in this report are all of the sums received by me; and that the various items of expenditures credited have been fully paid in the sums stated; that such payments were made without express or implied agreement that any portion thereof shall be retained by or repaid to me or any other person. I further affirm that a complete and detailed annual report, together with all accompanying vouchers showing the names of persons having been paid money by the township, have been filed as required by law in the office of the County Auditor, and that copies of such annual report are in custody of the Township Board and the State Board of Accounts. Said report is subject to inspection by any taxpayer of the township.  
Crystal Laux, Bearcreek Township Trustee  
Telephone: 260-997-4023  
Date this report was to be published 2/15/2022  
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, the Chairman of the Township Board of Bearcreek Township at its annual meeting this 8th day of February, 2022  
Jim Haffner, Township Board Chairman  
This report was received, accepted, and approved by the Township Board at its annual meeting, this 8th day of February, 2022.  
Bearcreek Township Board:  
Jim Haffner  
Jo Ann Gierhart  
Kari Tressler  
CR 2-15-2022- HSPAXLP

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# Doubters silenced

*Clark removes any question about injury with semi-state title*



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review  
FORT WAYNE — When the final buzzer sounded, Cameron Clark turned around and pointed at his family in the stands.

Moments later, he high-fived coaches Eric Myers and Bruce Wood.

When he took the mat a week ago against a state-ranked opponent and returning state medalist in the regional semifinal, Clark said the only ones who thought he was going to win were his family and his coaches.

There are no doubters anymore.

Clark beat that same opponent again in the semifinals Saturday, this time with a pin, and then was in control throughout his match in the finals as he erased any lingering questions about his health with a semi-state championship.

He and fellow Jay County High School sophomore Tony Wood, who finished as the semi-state runner-up at 126 pounds in the tournament at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, each earned state berths for the second year in a row.

"I feel amazing," said Clark, who defeated Delta's No. 11 Dillon Tuttle in the 138-pound title match. "I felt like I wrestled really good."

He explained he was not wrestling his best in January as he returned from a broken ankle and then a sprained ankle, and he heard some comments made that he would not win the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament. But he did, and he's been

Jay County High School sophomore Cameron Clark controls Delta's No. 11 Dillon Tuttle during their semi-state championship match Saturday afternoon at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne. Clark, who is ranked 16th in the state, beat Tuttle 7-2 to win the semi-state title at 138 pounds and earn a state berth for the second straight season.

building on that momentum ever since.

"I love proving people wrong," Clark added. "That's the first time this year that I wrestled like myself. And after that, my confidence just shot up."

With Clark and Wood leading the way, Jay County wrestled to a sixth-place finish in the 59-team semi-state field with 52.5 points. Rochester (82.5) rallied past Adams Central (80) late in the day for the semi-state title, with Delta (67.5), Western (59) and Belmont (54) rounding out the top five.

Of the Patriots' other semi-state qualifiers, 182-pounder Bryce Wenk, 113-pounder Cody Rowles and 132-pounder Ethan Reiley lost in the quarterfinal round — also known as the ticket round — and 106-pounder Daniel Moore and 120-pounder Taye Curtis were knocked out in the opening round. The top four wrestlers in each weight class earned a trip to the state finals, which begin Friday at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

Clark (22-3), who is ranked 16th in the state, breezed through his

first two matches, pinning Blake Denman of Angola in just 55 seconds and then shutting out Huntington North's Luke Teusch 7-0 in the ticket round to earn his state berth. He then met 10th-ranked Julis Gerencser in the semifinals in a rematch of the previous week's regional semifinal, which Clark had won 3-1. With a trip to the semi-state title match on the line, Clark built a 4-0 lead and then caught Gerencser in a cradle in the second period for a pin in 3 minutes, 24 seconds.

See **Silenced** page 5

# Dirksen ties 3 record in rout

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review  
Ethan Dirksen couldn't miss.

He hit every field-goal attempt he tried in the first half, six of them 3-pointers.

And, though he eventually did put up a shot that didn't go in, he stayed hot in the second half on the way to a record-tying performance.

Dirksen buried nine 3-pointers, tying the single-game record Trent Bailey set in 2004, and scored a career-high 33 points as the Jay County High School boys basketball team rolled to its 10th straight victory 76-29 over Southern Wells to clinch the regular-season Allen County Athletic Conference title.

"My teammates did a good job of getting me the ball open," said Dirksen, immediately passing on the credit to his fellow Patriots. "And I got lucky on a couple shots."

"It feels good," he added of tying the 18-year-old record. "It was definitely a team effort though. It's not just one person. It takes a team."

Dirksen did his most serious damage in the opening quarter, hitting four 3-pointers as the Patriots (17-2, 6-0 ACAC) built a 17-point lead over Southern Wells (3-13, 1-5 ACAC). He added two each in the second and third quarters. He tied the mark in the final period before coach Jerry Bomholt went heavily to his bench.

But Bomholt sent Dirksen back into the game in the final two minutes for a chance to break Bailey's record. He got one opportunity, firing a shot from near the top of the key. He was fouled on the play and his triple try bounced off the rim and no good. He went to the line and hit two of his three free-throw attempts for his 32nd and 33rd points.

Dirksen's triples matched the nine Bailey hit on Feb. 20, 2004, in an 83-49 blowout of host Union City.

"He's really special in that he has, for two years at least for me, and I'm sure long before that ... he's absolutely the perfect captain, he and Gavin Muhlenkamp, because they lead by example," said Bomholt of Dirksen, whose previous career high was 24 points. "He's the epitome of, in my mind, what a high school basketball player should be."

The 3-point shooting effort puts a pair of Dirksens as single-game JCHS record holders. Lyla Muhlenkamp, who owns the Patriot girls' single-game record of 12 3-pointers, is now married. Ethan's brother Justin.

Blake Bogenschutz followed Dirksen with nine points for the Patriots on Monday. Dusty Pearson and Muhlenkamp added eight points apiece, and Brady Davis and Josh Dowlen each scored seven.

The win over Southern Wells followed Saturday's 51-36 triumph over Yorktown.

See **Ties** page 5

# Fortkamp bests her own mark

DEFIANCE, Ohio — Teigen Fortkamp had another record-setting swim.

It aided her in winning one of two sectional titles.

Fortkamp bested her own school record, was a champion in two events and aided a pair of relays that qualified for the district meet as the Fort Recovery High School swim team competed in the Division II sectional meet on Saturday at Ayersville.

The Northwest District Championships are set for 9:45 a.m. Wednesday at Bowling Green State University.

Fortkamp, a sophomore, lowered her own record in the 100-yard backstroke with her winning time of 1 minute, 0.22 seconds. Her previous mark was 1:01.43. She was also a sectional champion in the 50 freestyle in 24.84.

Audra Bubp qualified for district in two events, placing fourth in the 100 breaststroke and fifth in the 200 individual medley. Joelle Kaup's eighth-place finish in the 100 backstroke was also a district qualifier.

Fortkamp, Bubp and Kaup joined Melissa Laux to place fifth in the 200 medley relay, while the trio along with Paige Guggenbiller had the same place in the 200 freestyle relay. Both advance to the district meet.

## FR wins battle

FORT RECOVERY — A hot start offensively and stout defense in the second quarter carried the Fort Recovery's boys basketball team to a 67-48 victory Saturday night in a battle of Indians at Fort Site Fieldhouse.

Fort Recovery (13-7) jumped out to a 20-14 lead at the end of the first quarter. The home Indians kept the visitors to just four points in the second quarter and were ahead 38-18 at half-time.

FRHS was on top 55-31 with one quarter to play.

## Local roundup

Cale Rammel scored 25 points to lead the home squad, which had three players in double figures. Owen Jutte contributed 13 points, and Logan Homan chipped in 10 points.

## Chowning 1st

VALPARAISO — Dakota Chowning had the upperhand against teammate Jayla Huelskamp as they wrestled for the 116-pound title as three Jay County wrestlers competed in the Girls Freshman/Sophomore North Regional on Sunday at Wheeler.

Chowning, who won her first match by 9-1 major decision and reached the final with a pin in 1 minute, 51 seconds, topped Huelskamp for the title by a 4-3 decision.

Huelskamp recorded back-to-back pins before her bout with her teammate.

Lina Lingo was third at 130 pounds.

## Jay tops Jets

MONROE — Jay County's Junior High School swim teams both defeated the host Adams Central Jets on Monday.

The boys got a 104-54 victory, while the girls topped the Jets 81-72.

Raif Beiswanger and Rocky Beiswanger were each dual winners for the boys. Raif was first in the 200-yard freestyle and 50 butterfly. Rocky had victories in the 400 freestyle and 100 breaststroke.

Cooper Glentzer, Peyton Yowell and Matthew Fisher also had single wins.

Lauren Fisher (200 freestyle, 50 butterfly), Avery Wentz (100 IM, 400 freestyle) and Maisey Keller (100 freestyle, 100 breaststroke) were all double winners.

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