

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## County looks at facility's future

*Concerns expressed about finances and liability*

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Change aspects of the county home or cease its operations?

That was the question county officials discussed with members of the public Monday.

Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council spoke with community members about the state of Jay County Country Living (formerly known as Jay County Retirement Center) and its future. No decisions were made at the meeting, which served mainly to inform and hear opinions from the public on the facility's operations.

In the last 10 years, Jay County Country Living's budget has jumped from roughly \$421,000 to about \$523,000. Its revenue has fluctuated, with its highest at \$406,729 at the beginning of 2018. Other years in the last decade show revenue totals between \$268,000 and just under \$345,000.

In 2021, commissioner Chad Aker explained, the facility's budget came to \$499,000, and its generated revenue came out to about \$290,000. Jay County Council president Jeanne Houchins added that the county has spent roughly \$2.2 million in unreimbursed funds for the facility in the last 10 years.

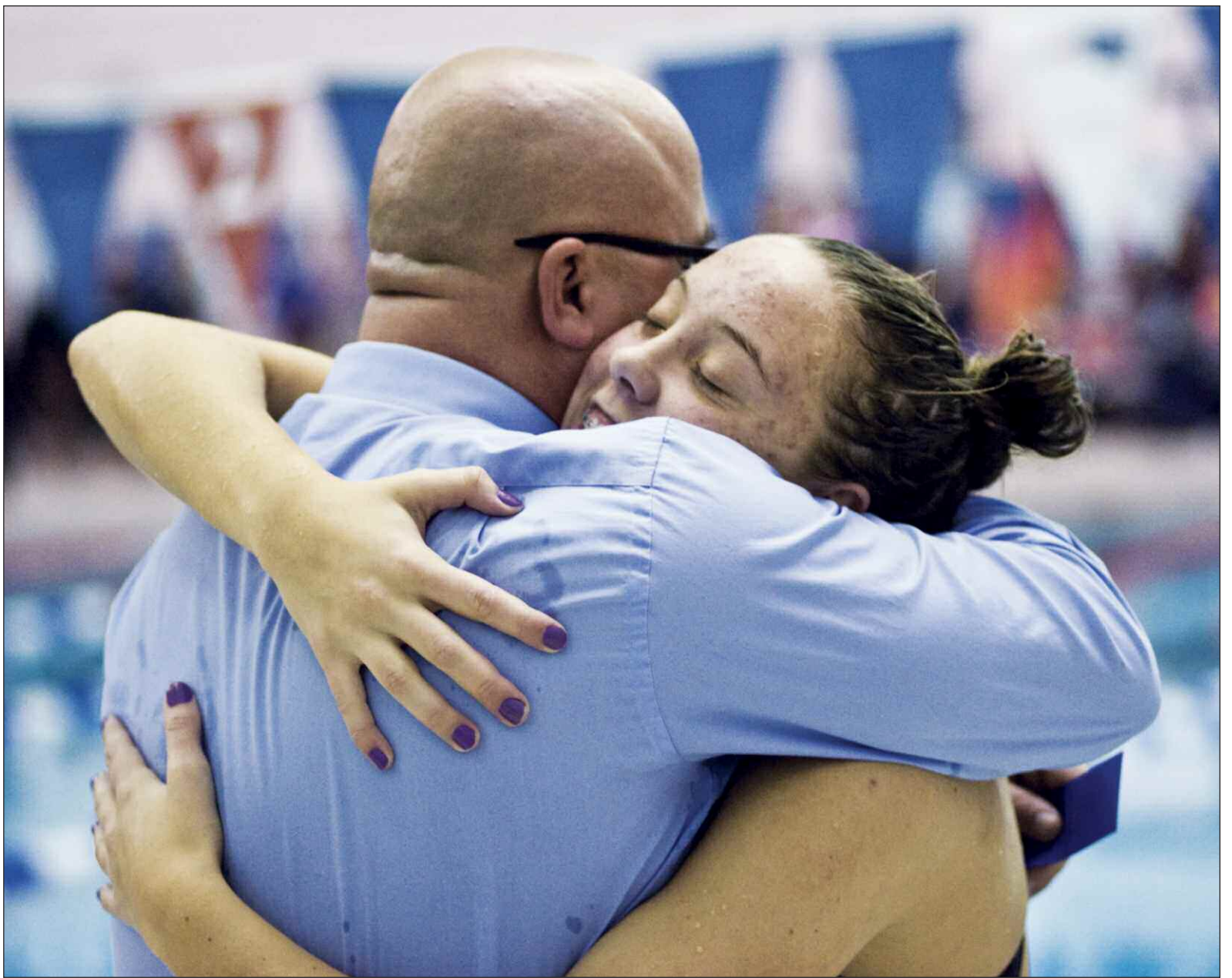
"That's a lot of taxpayers' dollars lost that could go somewhere else," Houchins said.

Residents pay \$1,240 per month for room and board. According to a document distributed at the meeting, Jay County Country Living has about \$203,600 in uncollected debt from previous or current residents. (Commissioners wrote off an additional \$51,377 in January.)

"We need to go off what has to be done financially, what's best for the county," Aker said. "That's how we take this into consideration."

One cause cited for the large uncollected debt is the months-long process of applying for federal or state programs to pay for some residents' stay, such as Indiana's Residential Care Assistance Program.

See **Future** page 5

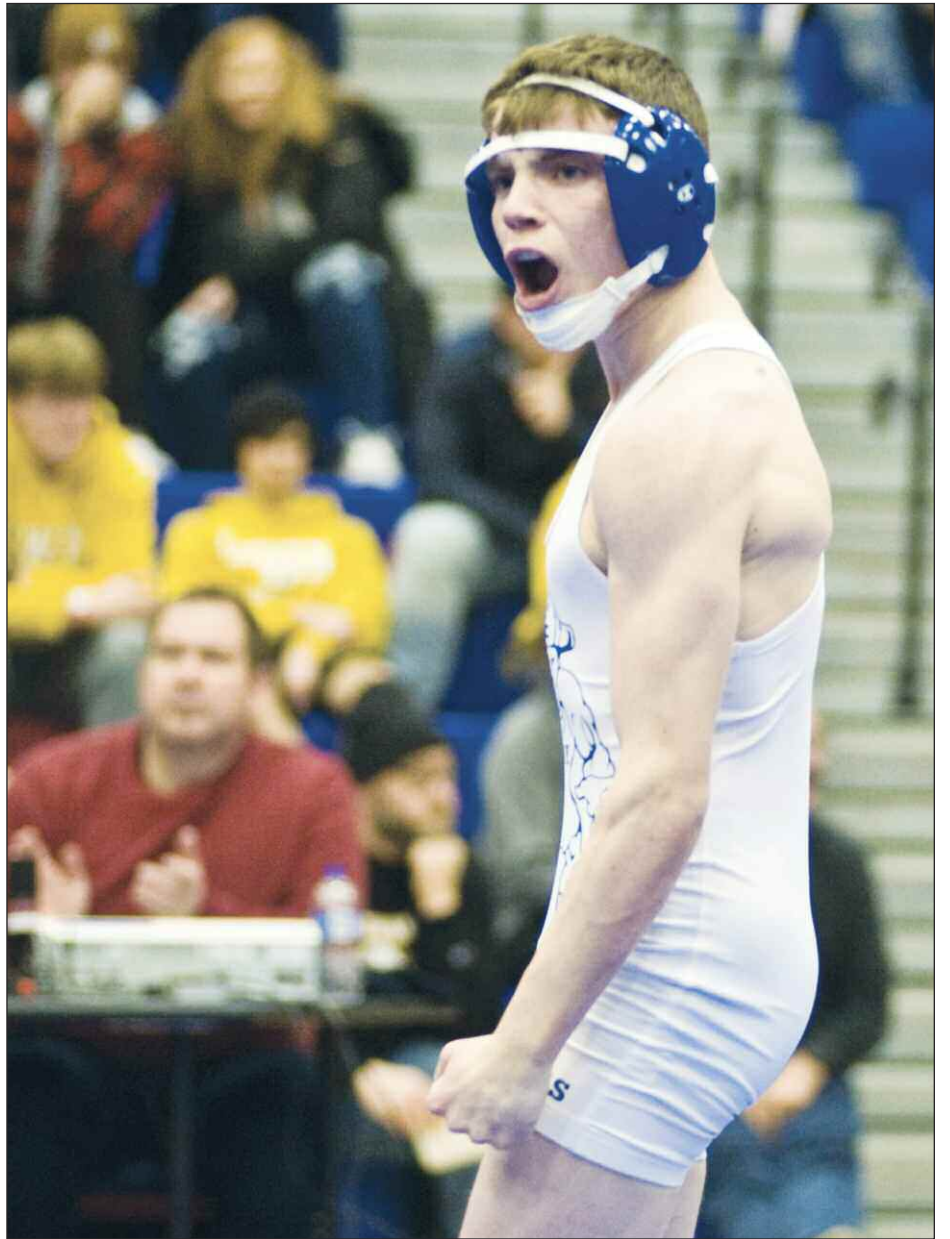


## Tournament triumphs

Jay County High School's swimmers and wrestlers had a strong extended weekend. On Saturday, the Patriot wrestling team earned seven semi-state berths while hosting the regional tournament. Pictured at right, Cody Rowles celebrates after pinning Cayden Smithley of Norwell in their 113-pound regional championship match. Tony Wood (126 pounds) also won a regional title for JCHS.

Competing in sectional preliminaries Saturday and finals Monday evening, the Patriot girls swimmers earned a third-place team finish with two athletes advancing. Pictured above, Jay County junior Mara Bader hugs coach Matt Slavik after her victory in the 100-yard breaststroke. She also earned a state berth with a win in the 200 individual medley, and freshman Maddy Snow advanced to the regional diving tournament with a third-place finish Saturday.

For more details about all of the tournament action, see page 8.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Portland allocates funds to park board

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

The city's parks will be getting an influx of funds.

Portland City Council on Monday approved allocating \$100,000 in economic development funds from Bitter Ridge Wind Farm to Portland Park Board for various projects, with a focus on repairs at Portland Water Park.

Jay County Commissioners late last year allocated \$100,000 each to Portland and Dunkirk and \$50,000 each to Redkey, Pennington, Bryant and Salamonie from economic development funds from the wind farm project.

### Focus of wind farm \$\$\$ will be for water park repairs

Each municipality must decide how they would like to spend those funds, then return to commissioners for final approval.

Portland Park Board in January discussed replacing tile

around the edge of the pool at the water park following significant issues with tiles cracking and breaking. When they break and fall, they leave behind sharp edges that cause a safety concern.

A test section has been installed to allow local officials to evaluate how the new tile holds up through the winter months. The cost for putting in the new tile for the entire pool is expected to come in around \$70,000.

Council member Janet Powers inquired about the timeline for the tile, which originally was not expected to be delivered until September.

"Right now we're still hoping for a March delivery on the tile," said Boggs.

Once delivered, the tile is expected to take seven weeks to install and then would need three

weeks to cure. There is then several weeks of work needed to prepare the pool to open.

The park board has discussed various other projects in recent months, including soccer fields at Milton Miller Park, the addition of pickleball courts and upgrades to facilities at Portland Memorial Park's Runkle-Miller Field.

Council members Kent McClung, Don Gillespie, Michele Brewster, Matt Goldsworthy, Mike Aker, Dave Golden and Powers approved allocating the funds to the park board.

See **Funds** page 2

### Deaths

Paul Miller, 95, rural Portland  
Cheryl Myers, 80, Portland  
Barbara Stuteville, 69, rural Portland  
Donna Voght, 68, Portland  
Cathy Zorn, 65, Winchester  
Linda Greer, 65, Berne  
Alice Smiley, 86, Indianapolis  
Julie Morton, 74, Fort Recovery  
Marc Thornburg, 58, Parker City  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 30 degrees Monday. The low was 19.  
The forecast calls for a low of 31 tonight. The high will climb above the freezing mark to 36 Wednesday, and there will be a chance of flurries in the afternoon.  
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins reported Monday that the city will hold its board of works and city council meetings at 6 and 7 p.m., respectively, Feb. 14, as scheduled. The city had canceled meetings during the second half of December because of an increase in cases of COVID-19 in Jay County.

### Coming up

**Wednesday** — Results from tonight's FRHS girls basketball game against Celina.

**Friday** — Coverage of Thursday's Jay County Plan Commission meeting.





# Snow removal is appreciated

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

I looked out the window this morning to see the snow sparkling and the sun shining brightly. There was a small drift in the backyard with bunny tracks leading down the drift and heading towards the house. It was a balmy 12 degrees Fahrenheit. I decided that no matter how pretty it was that I was staying in today. The bunnies are more than welcome to play in the snow. I didn't see any cat tracks and the squirrels seem to be hiding. I wonder where they go when it is too chilly for them to chase each other up and down the trees.

Yesterday I went outside intending to shovel the driveway. I was pleasantly surprised to find that it had already been cleared of snow.

This isn't the only time that has happened. When we first moved to this house I was shoveling several inches of snow that covered the driveway. I was incredibly grouchy. My husband was working late. It was cold. It was my birthday.

I was about halfway finished

As I See It



when a guy driving a tractor that was equipped with a snow blade pulled into the drive. He motioned me out of the way. He cleared the driveway in a few minutes, waved at me then went on his way without saying a word. I was telling the neighbor about this when she told me that the person who salvaged my birthday was the sheriff. I never expected that.

The sheriff never cleaned our driveway again. Every few years someone will either wave me away and relocate the snow to the yard or clean it off before we have a chance to get to it. We rarely know the people who do the work and I am always grateful for the help. I never expect people to do it for us. Sometimes we clear the snow from the neighbor's front steps but she usually gets to it before we do.

The willingness to help someone without any pay or recognition is one of the good things about this town. This is the only place we have lived where people routinely help each other. I am not counting the neighbors who lived next to us in the last house we owned in Ohio. If we missed cutting the grass, the neighbor guy would scalp the yard. By the time he was finished only a few scraggly blades poked through the dirt. Asking him nicely to not do that fell on deaf ears. He usually mowed while both of us were at work. Then after we got home he would tell us with pride in his voice, "I really scalped it this time." I would cringe and tell him thank you and remind him that scalping the yard isn't good for the grass. He obviously didn't care and went on torturing the lawn.

Yesterday afternoon I found out that the new neighbors had cleaned the driveway for us. They also cleared off part of the sidewalk on their side of the street. We will have to find a way to thank them. Their efforts were much appreciated.

# Alcohol service returns to airline

By NATHAN DILLER

Special to The Washington Post

Southwest Airlines will bring alcohol service back to most flights starting Feb. 16, the airline said Thursday, ending nearly two years of dry operations and restoring an important source of revenue for the company. But a union representing the flight attendants who will be serving the drinks said it is "outraged" by a move that could exacerbate unruly behavior from passengers.

After suspending its full drink menu at the beginning of the pandemic, Southwest said, it will add beer, wine and liquor drinks, all priced between \$6 and \$7, on flights of 176 miles or longer. The airline will accept drink coupons that had been set to expire in 2020 or 2021 through Dec. 31. It will also start serving nonalcoholic options such as apple juice and hot cocoa.

"Customers have expressed a desire for more beverage options, so we're delighted to restore additional on-board offerings as a part of the Southwest hospitality that our customers know and love," Tony Roach, the company's vice president of customer experience

and customer relations, said in a statement.

Lyn Montgomery, president of Transport Workers Union Local 556, the union representing Southwest flight attendants, called the airline's decision to resume alcohol sales "both unsafe and irresponsible" in an emailed statement.

According to unruly passenger data from the Federal Aviation Administration, the number of investigations the agency initiated spiked from 146 in 2019 and 183 in 2020 to 1,099 in 2021. Of the 5,981 unruly passenger reports the FAA recorded last year, 73 percent (4,290) involved mask-related incidents. The FAA said in August that alcohol played a role as well.

"We have adamantly and unequivocally informed management that resuming sales of alcohol while the mask mandate is in place has the great potential to increase customer non-compliance and misconduct issues," Montgomery said.

The federal mask mandate for air travel and other public transit will remain in effect through March, per the Transportation Security Administration.

# Tumor surgery changes sister

DEAR ABBY: My sister, who was a bright and cheerful star for everyone and anyone, was diagnosed with a brain tumor. It was removed with almost 100% margins several years ago. Our family feels unbelievably blessed that she's OK, but she knows she's not the same. This is ignored by some close relatives, but not by me.

I will forever be grateful for the fact that she's alive and OK, but she is not the sister I once knew no matter how hard she may try. I sympathize with her, I listen, I know she struggles because she's missing her old self. I try with heartfelt messages, but ultimately, I feel useless. And, selfish as it sounds, I miss my sister, my TRUE sister, terribly. I know this isn't what she wants, and I will be there for her no matter what the future brings. But what else can I do for her? I want to be anything she needs me to be, as she is more than deserving. — SUPPORTIVE SIS IN VIRGINIA

DEAR SIS: While some of her capacity may be diminished, what your sister needs is you to be her stalwart sister and love her for the person she is NOW. Support her, love her, appreciate that she's still with you and quit focusing on those aspects of her personality

Dear Abby



that are lost. I say this because it isn't healthy for either of you to dwell on the negative at this point, when there is so much for which to be thankful.

DEAR ABBY: I divorced my husband of 12 years after catching him cheating with multiple women. I took time for myself and wasn't in a hurry to meet anyone. However, about a year after the divorce, I met a great guy. I was quickly introduced to his family and they embraced me, inviting me to holidays and birthday parties, etc. Four years went by and we started talking about marriage. We made plans to have our wedding at our favorite beach with family and a couple of friends. There were several people we would have loved to take part, but who couldn't due to the pandemic. Before the ceremony, my hus-

band and I came up with the idea of wearing white face masks to take a group picture. As the masks were being distributed, his family got angry and said they weren't going to do anything they didn't want to do. They then stomped off and wouldn't participate in the vows or any of the pictures.

They're angry with me, and I am hurt. And the hateful things they said also hurt my husband. I don't know how to handle this. — BAD IDEA IN FLORIDA

DEAR BAD IDEA: What happened was terrible, and I can't blame you for feeling hurt at the treatment you and your husband received on your wedding day. However, this is the tribe you married into. Your husband's family may have reacted strongly because they objected to having their faces covered in a photo or to face masks in general. If it was the latter, it's a shame they felt they had to take a political stance while you were celebrating your nuptials. Try to be forgiving. However, if you are abused again, recognize it may be time to distance yourselves and concentrate on your side of the family.

# Community Calendar

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

Today

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.

JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE — Holds its regular meeting at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the Community Room at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the

meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creager 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.

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

BRYANT/NEW CORYDON SENIOR CITIZENS — Will meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Bryant Community Center for a carry-in dinner.

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

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

STRESS AND ANXIETY CLASS — Meets each Wednesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-9625 or (260) 703-0534.

# Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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.

# CARS

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# Be open-minded, no one is perfect

To the editor:  
I can't imagine being permanently judged by what I had done in my worst moment.

Close your eyes. Think about the worst thing you've ever done or the worst thing that has happened to you. A time when you felt shame and embarrassment. Think of a time when you felt so small or mortified at the thought that someone may find out a secret you've kept or a choice you made.

Chances are there is more than one moment that you are thinking of.

That's OK. It's normal to have mistakes in your past. As a matter of fact, they have probably helped shape the person you are today. They are probably some of the most important times of your life in terms of defining yourself as a person and build-

## Letters to the Editor

ing your character. Iron sharpening iron, as they say.

What if we wrote down in detail the time you were thinking of. What if we wrote it in thick permanent marker onto both sides of a giant white poster board? Then we punch two holes in the poster board tie each end of a string through them and hang that sign around your neck.

The rules are you must not remove the sign ever. You must live your normal life as you always have, but with this sign

around your neck at all times documenting the worst moment in your history of you. Imagine the random passersby and the face they will make when they read your sign. What will you feel when you meet your significant other's parents for dinner that night? How do you think your interview will go for that big job you are excited about? What will you feel? How will you react?

Now, like most people, you will probably figure out how to live your truth. You will most likely learn to champion your lowest moment. You will have a great story about how you moved through that time of adversity and made it through to the other side. This is how you will begin to heal your mental health and start to overcome the embarrassment or shame that you once felt.

Honestly, good for you. Your truth is exactly that. It is the story that made you. And you should be proud of who you are.

If that were the only side to this story, it would be a triumphant story of self-discovery. This would be a celebratory tale of standing tall and owning your truth. But before we queue the ticker-tape parade, reality washes over you. Because of your truth being plastered out in the open for everyone to see. People will pass by you at the park and make pleasant conversation with the next person. Your wait staff isn't as pleasant. Your flight attendant is more cheerful than everyone else. You realize all the "normal" people — those who don't have to explain themselves just to make friends, those who don't need to have an awkward conversation before a

pleasant one, those who don't collect sour looks from strangers like emotional scout badges sewn directly onto the tender sides of their heart. The "normal" people get to keep their skeletons packed neatly into their closets.

Getting a job is easier for them. The dinner with the soon-to-be in-laws is a little less uncomfortable.

This is what stigma feels like. This letter is a plea for readers to practice perspective.

Don't form your opinion of a person based on their worst moment. Allow yourself to be open-minded and remember that you weren't always perfect.

Jake Martz  
Prevention project coordinator  
Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition

## States should save surpluses

By **KARL W. SMITH**  
Bloomberg Opinion

It's one of the few silver linings of the pandemic: State governments are awash in money.

Many are spending it — on education, construction projects and tax cuts. They would be better off saving it for a rainy day.

There are two obvious rejoinders to this recommendation, both of which can be best expressed as questions. First: Isn't it more fiscally responsible to use the money for long-term needs and short-term tax relief? And second: You mean it's not raining now?

Both questions have the same answer: These are not normal times. That means the fiscally prudent course — Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's plans for the state's historic windfall, for example, include a mix of long-term spending on infrastructure and short-term tax relief — is not necessarily the wisest course. And what feels like rain to many consumers — inflation at its highest in almost four decades, and a stubbornly persistent pandemic — looks a lot different from a budgetary perspective.

The current state budget surpluses are driven by several factors. First, the pandemic caused a shift in spending patterns, from services to goods. Most state sales taxes focus on goods, so this shift caused a tremendous expansion in the relative sales tax base.

It's highly unlikely that this shift will be permanent. A simple rebalancing of consumption spending will produce major losses in state revenue. There is a chance, however, of overshooting. For example, spending on dental services was down more than 20% in 2020, the last year for which there is data. When the pandemic lifts completely, there will be a backlog of teeth waiting to be pulled.

Other services, from personal trainers to accountants, could see a surge in spending as consumers make up for all the things they put off during Covid. If and when this happens, states will face even sharper shortfalls in revenue.

A second concern is inflation. Europe experienced much of the same shift in consumption patterns as the U.S. But the trajectory of consumption spending in Europe is in line with what it was before

**Karl W. Smith**



the pandemic. In the U.S., it has accelerated at a record pace. So while Europe's inflation seems to reflect mostly transitory issues, the U.S.'s appears deeper.

That acceleration in spending and the associated rise in inflation are direct consequences of the U.S. government's much larger expenditure of pandemic relief. In one way or another, those trends have to correct themselves.

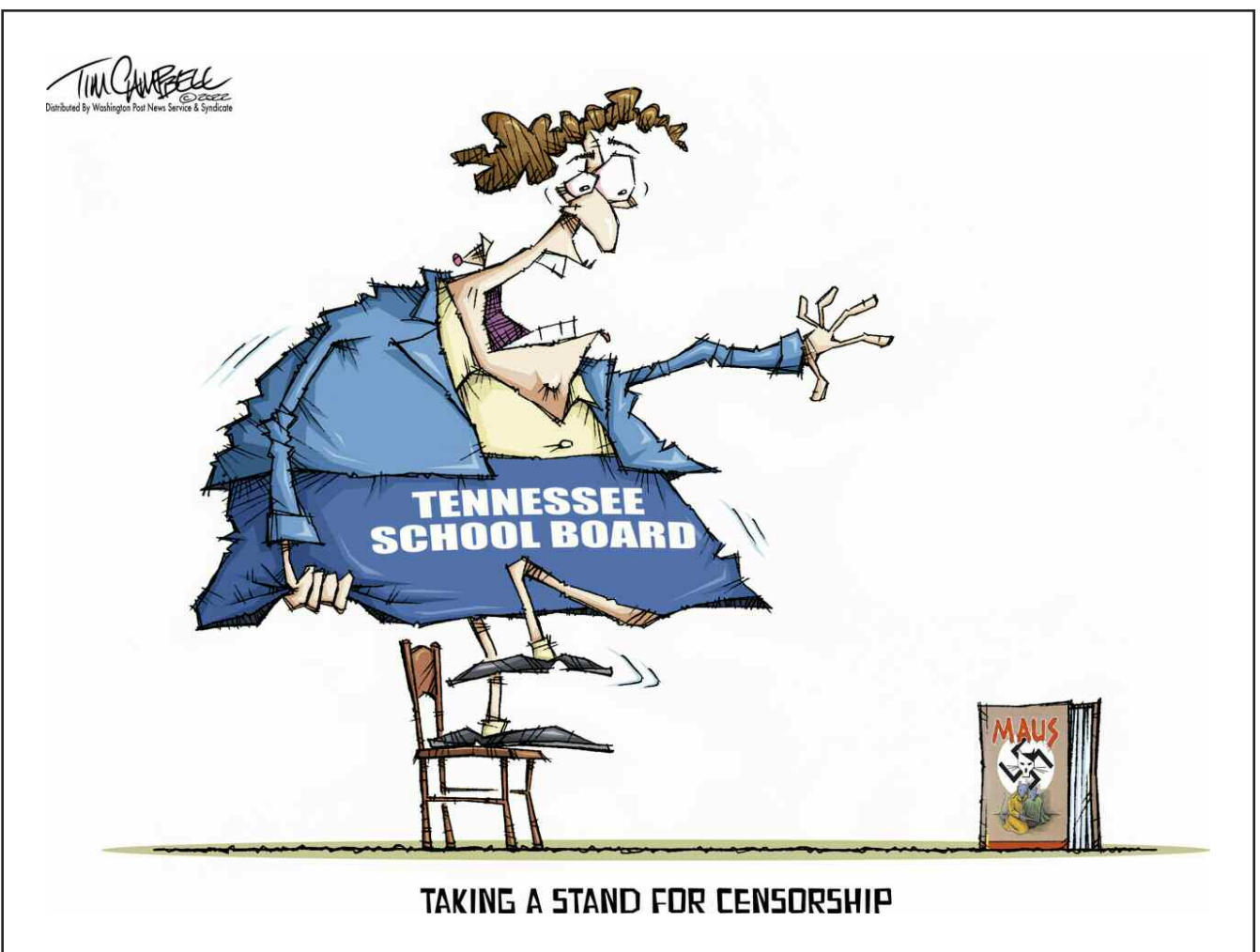
If nothing else, continued inflation will lead the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates. Some analysts are expecting as many as seven rate hikes this year. In that case, consumer spending could be cut sharply as the economy experiences a mini-recession similar to the one it went through in 2015-2016 — and states could see a precipitous drop in revenue.

Under a more fortunate scenario, there would be fewer rate increases and a more gradual decline in overall consumer spending. There are reasons to believe that might yet come to pass: Even with record levels of consumption, Americans were not able to spend all of the relief money the government doled out over the past two years.

Savings rates hit record levels, although they began to drop sharply at the end of 2021 and they should get back to normal sometime this year. When that happens, consumers may feel more hesitant about big purchases.

Under this scenario, the hit to states' finances would be less severe. Yet it's still hard to argue that now isn't a good time for states to make deposits into their rainy day funds. Their residents' cash position is almost certainly going to decline in the near future. So it makes sense for states to take this opportunity to improve theirs.

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*Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He was formerly vice president for federal policy at the Tax Foundation and assistant professor of economics at the University of North Carolina.*



TAKING A STAND FOR CENSORSHIP

## Pence's rebuke was significant

By **AARON BLAKE**  
The Washington Post

Mike Pence finally got closer to saying directly what he's been gradually pointing to for more than a year: Donald Trump was treading all over the Constitution with his gambit to overturn the 2020 election.

Speaking at a Federalist Society event in Florida, Trump's loyal second-in-command addressed the issue more head-on than before. He did so after Trump said over the weekend that Pence could've and should've tried to unilaterally overturn the election.

"I heard this week that President Trump said I had a right to overturn the election," Pence said. "President Trump is wrong. I had no right to overturn the election."

Pence added quickly that "frankly, there is no idea more un-American" than the one Trump pushed.

The substance of Pence's comments weren't much different from what he's said before. But on Friday, he tied it all together and directly invoked Trump in a way he hadn't before — and in a way that's very likely to stick in Trump's craw and force a more direct clash between the two of them.

Pence said on the morning of Jan. 6, 2021, that he didn't have the right to accept or reject electoral college votes unilaterally. He also described that idea as "un-American" last summer. But in neither case did he describe these as being necessarily Trump's ideas.

Trump had invoked the idea of Pence unilaterally overturning the election in the run-up to Jan. 6. But he generally focused merely on the idea that Pence would send the issues back to the states to consider what to do about the (bogus) claims of voter fraud. Others around Trump have also, in the year since Jan. 6, dis-

**Aaron Blake**



tanced themselves from the more drastic idea of having Pence try to declare Trump the winner. Even shortly after his comments Sunday, Trump seemed to seek a mulligan, focusing a later statement only on the idea of Pence "sending it back to the states."

Similarly, Pence said last year that he and Trump would never see "eye to eye" about what happened Jan. 6. One could infer then that he was saying Trump was indeed wrong, but Pence talked about it more as if it was an honest disagreement.

This is how Republicans dance around their differences with Trump. They talk about Trump's ideas as if they are proposals floating in the ether that some random blogger had raised, rather than the former president of the United States effectively trying to set democracy ablaze.

But Pence went further still Friday, saying not only that what Trump did was wrong and that his idea was "un-American" but that it was corrosive to democracy and that it's something Republicans should abhor.

"If we lose faith in the Constitution, we won't just lose elections — we'll lose our country," Pence said.

Pence added: "Under Article 2, Section 1 of the Constitution, elections are to be conducted by the states — not by Congress." He said Congress' role is merely to count the votes. He also warned about what would happen if Trump's standard were to be

applied in the 2024 election, suggesting Vice President Kamala Harris could try to unilaterally overturn an election for the Democratic ticket.

The big takeaway, though, is Pence directly saying Trump was wrong. There's a reason he avoided that for the past 13 months. And it would've been easy to merely restate what he's said before without invoking Trump.

The events of the past several months — culminating with Trump's statements Sunday and Monday — show that Trump isn't going to let this go any time ahead of 2024. He even suggested Monday that Pence should be investigated (for what, it's not really clear).

Pence would've been kidding himself to think this would all blow over one day, but the continued focus on Jan. 6 — by Trump and by the House's select committee, which has significantly ramped up — has apparently made Pence realize he can't keep hoping against hope for that.

It seems highly unlikely that Republicans will ever take his side in this or any other clash with Trump, but Pence's political future rests on them at least understanding where he was coming from — and no longer pretending this is something that can be put to bed with a few offhand comments. Trump certainly hasn't let it lie, even as Pence had avoided directly going after him.

Pence declining to go along with Trump's gambit on Jan. 6 was surely him clearing a very low bar when it comes to political courage; such was the extreme nature of what Trump wanted him to do. And now, at least, Pence is acknowledging with a little more clarity just how ridiculous and "un-American" what Trump asked him to do was.

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*Blake is senior political reporter, writing for The Fix.*

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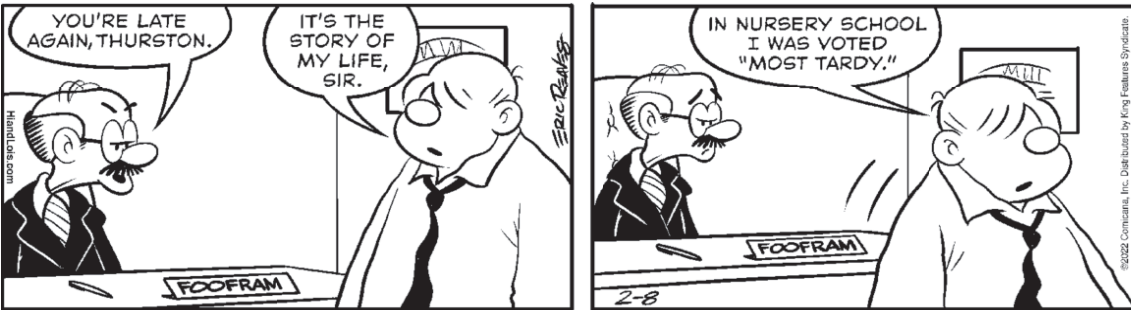
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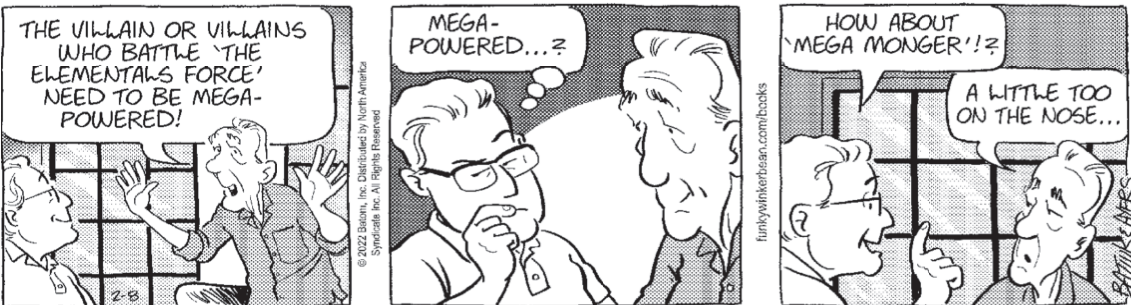
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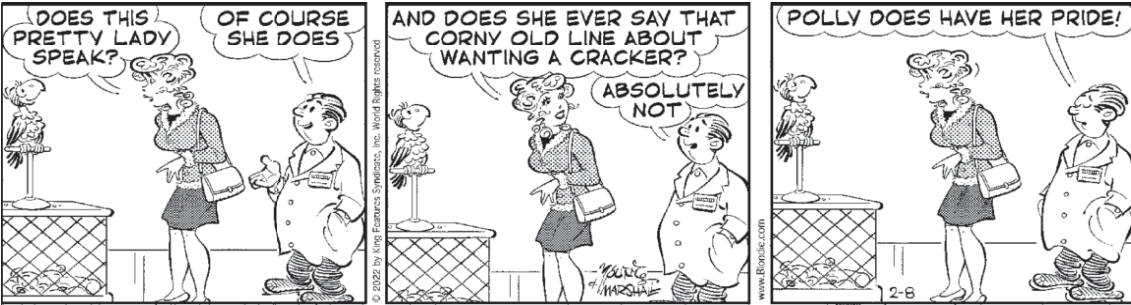
**Hi and Lois**



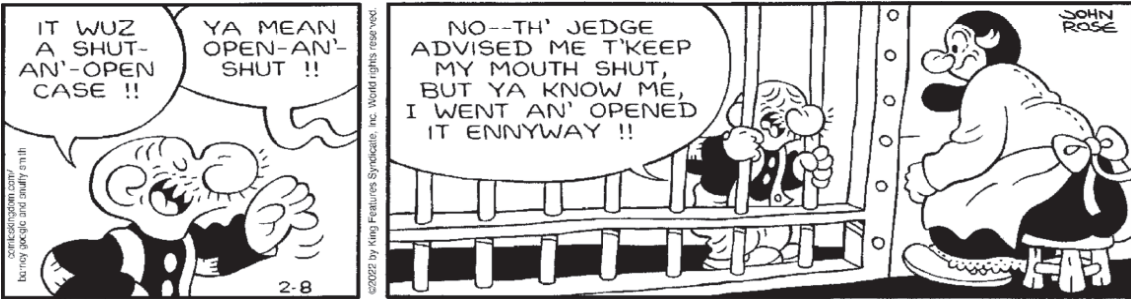
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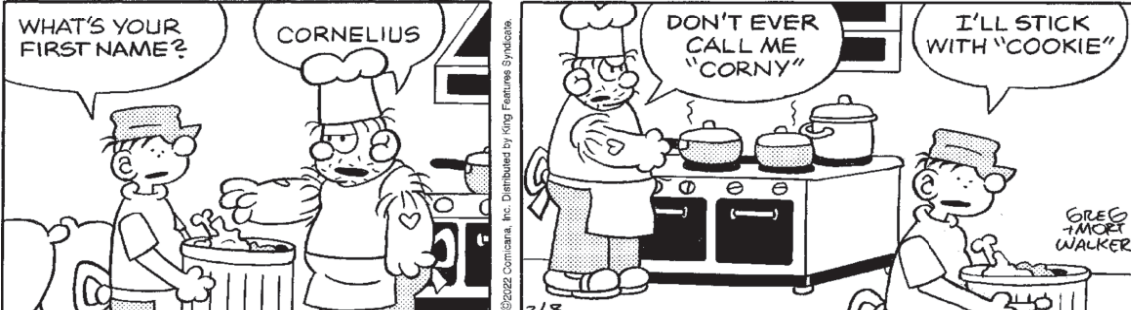
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**Snuffy Smith**



**Beetle Bailey**



**Contract Bridge** By Steve Becker

**Self-interrogation**

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 5 2  
♥ A 8 6 2  
♦ A 10 7 3  
♣ 6 4 2

**EAST**  
♠ K 9 3  
♥ 10 7  
♦ K J 9 4  
♣ Q J 10 7

**SOUTH**  
♠ A Q 8  
♥ Q 4  
♦ Q 6  
♣ A K 9 8 5 3

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♣ Pass 1♦ Pass  
3♥ Pass 3♥ Pass  
3NT  
Opening lead — six of spades.

reacted mechanically to what looked like a routine situation instead of reacting the way he should whenever the contract appears to be a virtual laydown. In such situations, a diligent declarer always asks himself: "What can defeat me?"

The answer to this question is not hard to find. Only a 4-0 club division can place the contract in jeopardy, so declarer should focus his attention on how he might overcome this distribution if it exists. And, after having done so, South might then see the wisdom of leading the nine of clubs at trick two!

This thoughtful precautionary play pays maximum dividends in the actual case. East takes the nine with the ten and returns a spade, but he is already fighting a losing battle. Declarer wins the spade with the queen, leads a heart to dummy's ace and returns a club.

After East plays the jack from the Q-J-7, South wins with the king, leads a diamond to dummy's ace and plays another club. East's Q-7 succumb to South's A-8-5-3, and declarer finishes with nine tricks.

The player who habitually plunges ahead without thought is certain to run into trouble from time to time. As a case in point, consider this deal where West leads a spade against three notrump. Many declarers would take East's king with the ace and impulsively cash the ace of clubs. When West showed out, the contract would become unmanageable, and South would end up well short of his mark.

Adopting such an approach would supply strong evidence that declarer

Tomorrow: A delicate deduction.  
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**CRYPTOQUIP**

PX BZUUPVU MPSVCHW ZUV  
TVYPLVUPHS MPVBW CX  
QZPY, TC EGV VHLVYCMVW SVE

EGV WEZQM "MZU ZLPZH?"  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FILM ABOUT A BIOLOGIST'S DISCOVERY OF BRANCHED TERMINI OF NEURONS: "THE NERVE-ENDING STORY."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals T

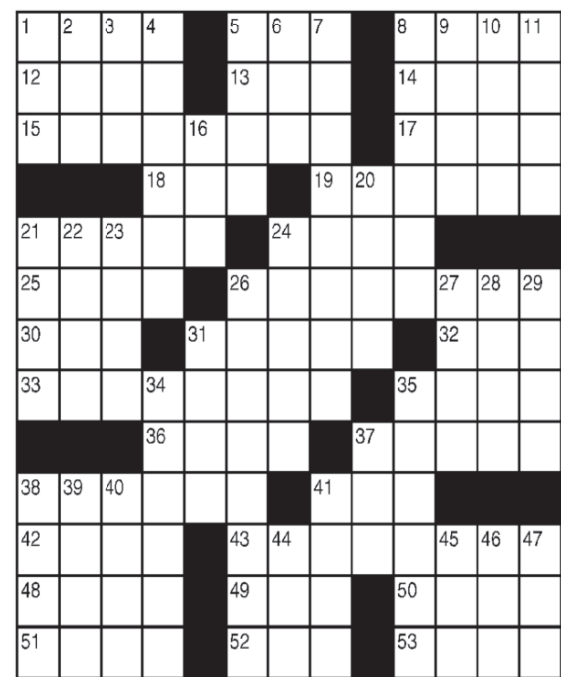
**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

- |                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                  | <b>DOWN</b>                     |
| 1 Angelic light                | 1 "Tell—" (Streisand/Dion song) |
| 5 Bread spread                 | 2 Attorneys' org.               |
| 8 "Li'l Abner" creator         | 3 Guitar master Paul            |
| 12 "Yeah, right"               | 4 Everyone else                 |
| 13 Eggs                        | 5 "Fear of Flying" author       |
| 14 Taxi alternative            | 6 Bird (Pref.)                  |
| 15 Hawkeye Pierce's work-place | 7 Works by painter Henri        |
| 17 U2 lead singer              | 8 Picasso's movement            |
| 18 Heart chart (Abbr.)         | 9 "Peek—"!                      |
| 19 Buffoons                    | 10 Cooped (up)                  |
| 21 Intent look                 | 11 Experts                      |
| 24 Unpaid TV ads               | 16 Guitar's kin                 |
| 25 Joule fractions             | 20 Wonka's creator              |
| 26 Fine wool                   | 21 Crystal gazer                |
| 30 Needle hole                 | 22 "— Little Tender-ness"       |
| 31 Vintage synthetic fiber     | 23 Mellows of Spring bloom      |
| 32 Solidify                    | 24 Spring bloom                 |
| 33 Undue haste                 | 26 IOU holder                   |
| 35 Kid's plea                  | 27 Novelist Jennifer            |
| 36 Vortex                      | 28 Tear                         |
| 37 "Klute" star                | 29 Lamb alias                   |
|                                | 31 Common conjunctions          |
|                                | 34 Fictional Prynne             |
|                                | 35 Kitchen appliance            |
|                                | 37 String after E               |
|                                | 38 Roundish do                  |
|                                | 39 Morose                       |
|                                | 40 Verdi heroine                |
|                                | 41 Re-quests                    |
|                                | 44 Motorist's org.              |
|                                | 45 Ecol. watch-dog              |
|                                | 46 Mosquito barrier             |
|                                | 47 Casual shirt                 |

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-8



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# Sports

## Seven to semi-state

**Rowles and Wood repeat as regional champions while Patriots finish as team runners-up**



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

The start was pushed back three and a half hours to allow for safer travel following last week's storm.

And when he took the mat for the first match, Daniel Moore wrestled a scoreless first two minutes.

Once he recorded a reversal in the early moments of the second period, the Patriots were rolling.

The first four Jay County High School wrestlers on the mat Saturday didn't give up a single point in their opening-round matches. The host Patriots went on to rack up seven semi-state berths, including repeat individual titles from Cody Rowles and Tony Wood, while finishing as the regional tournament runners-up.

"It feels good because you know you're where you need to be," said Wood, a sophomore. "It really just keeps you rolling into the state series."

"It just feels good to win and set yourself up for semi-state," added Rowles, his classmate.

The Patriots scored 104.5 points to trail only 15th-ranked Belmont (123.5), which had three individual champions, in the field of 17 scoring teams. Adams Central was third with 100.

Joining Wood and Rowles with semi-state berths were regional runners-up Bryce Wenk and Cameron Clark, third-place fin-

ishers Ethan Reiley and Moore, and fourth-place finisher Tave Curtis.

The top four wrestlers in each weight class advance to the semi-state, which will be contested Saturday at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne.

"We feel pretty good," said JCHS coach Eric Myers. "You'd like to take them all. You'd like to move them all on. But taking seven on, we're excited about it."

In their regional championship bouts, Rowles and Wood each faced rematches. Both had fallen behind their opponents in the previous weekend's sectional title bouts before coming back for victories. No rallies were necessary Saturday.

The 11th-ranked Rowles (33-1), who won his regional title at 106 pounds last season and went on

to earn a state berth, caught Norwell's Cayden Smithley in a headlock early. Smithley got a reversal to even the score, but when Rowles cinched in another headlock, it was over. The pin came in just 1 minute, 8 seconds.

"The opportunity presented itself to end it quick, so I took it," said Rowles, who pinned his way through the regional with quarterfinal and semifinal wins over Isaiah Spurlin of Winchester and Bowen Keith of Cowan. "He just pressured into my headlock, and I throw a pretty good headlock. He just didn't see it coming, I don't think."

While he didn't record a pin, Wood was similarly in control against Gavin Cook of Adams Central. A takedown midway through the first period gave him the only points he would need. He added an escape early

in the second and got behind Cook for an insurance takedown with just seven seconds left. He then rode out the third period after Cook chose the bottom position.

"He cleaned some stuff up and just wrestled a solid technical match, stayed in good positions," said Myers of Wood, a 2021 regional champion and state qualifier at 120 pounds, following his 5-0 victory. "He's a heck of a wrestler."

Wenk (33-5) trailed fifth-ranked Hunter Page (39-1) by just a single point in their 182-pound championship match after coming up with an escape with 56.1 seconds left in the final period. But Page responded with a single-leg takedown 21 seconds later and held on for the 6-3 win.

Wenk made it to the finals by scoring an 18-2 technical fall

Daniel Moore of Jay County High School tries to gain control against Yorktown's Joey Cline during the opening-round match in Saturday's regional competition. Moore blanked Cline 9-0 to earn a semi-state berth and went on to win the third-place match 11-0 over Winchester's Quentin Keen.

over Thomas Price of Yorktown followed by a 9-4 decision of Cowan's Dalton May.

After knocking off Daleville's No. 10 Julius Gerencser in the semifinals at 138 pounds, the 11th-ranked Clark (18-3) met Belmont's sixth-ranked Dominic Litchfield in the finals for the second straight week. Litchfield was able to work for a three-point near fall after Clark chose the bottom position to start the second period on the way to a 4-0 final score. (Clark's first-round win came by an 8-2 decision over Zach Bates of Winchester.)

"Bryce did a great job," said Myers. "I know he came in last year and lost the first round of the regional. He wanted to get to semi-state and give himself a shot to go to the state finals."

See Seven page 7

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Junior Mara Bader of host Jay County High School swims to a sectional championship Monday night in the 100-yard breaststroke. She also dominated the breaststroke leg on the way to winning the 200 individual medley.

## Bader to state, girls 3rd

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

After a sixth-place finish at the Norwell Invitational and a couple of early dual-meet losses, the Patriots felt some were counting them out.

But Saturday they set themselves up to be near the top of the list, and Monday they cashed in that potential.

Mara Bader earned a couple of individual state berths, Maddy Snow advanced to the diving regional and the host Jay County High School girls swim team posted a third-place finish in the sectional tournament.

"I'm really happy with third place," said JCHS coach Matt Slavik. "We were closer to second than I would have thought. ... The girls put forth a great effort and I'm super proud of them."

The Patriots, who had won four straight sectional titles but also graduated two individual state qualifiers last season, scored 255.5 points to keep themselves near the top of the standings. Norwell, which finished first in a pair of relays but recorded no victories in individual races, scored 375 to run away with the meet and win its first championship since 2010. Delta was second with 271, and Huntington North trailed JCHS by 22 points to place fourth in the 12-team field.

State berths were well-distributed — the winner of each swimming event advances to the state finals that begin with preliminaries Friday at Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis — with Jay County, Union City, Norwell and Huntington North each taking two while South Adams, Burris and Delta picked up one apiece.

Bader, who earned the No. 1 seed in both

**Junior claims two titles as Jay County reaches goal as team**

of her events during Saturday's preliminaries, found herself trailing midway through the 200-yard individual medley after Huntington North's Annika Carpenter out-paced her by more than two seconds on the backstroke leg. But Bader's strength was up next.

The JCHS junior needed less than 25 yards to surge back ahead on the breaststroke leg, and by the time it was done she had a three-second lead. She continued to pull away in the freestyle, posting a time of 2 minutes, 18.85 seconds, to beat Carpenter by nearly five seconds and successfully defend her sectional title.

Bader's victory in the 100 breaststroke was never in doubt. She dominated from start to finish for a career-best time of 1:08.36.

"I always tell myself, 'Race the clock,'" said Bader of the big win in the breaststroke. "So I just always try to do that. ... I just tell myself to keep pushing and I'm almost there and just to race the clock."

The entirety of the diving competition was contested Saturday afternoon, with Snow standing 20 points out of second place and holding a 13-point advantage for third through the semifinals.

See 3rd page 7