

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Witness: Cameras were removed

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Prosecution testimony indicated a Portland man charged with murder removed and hid cameras that had been installed at the property where the shooting took place.

Defense attorneys sought to sow doubt by saying witnesses agreed to testify in exchange for leniency in other cases and questioning police procedure.

The murder trial for Roger L. Boyd, 36, Portland, continued Wednesday with the prosecution presenting witnesses who were at

### Prosecutors continue to present case; defense calls investigation into question again

the scene of the crime and state police officials who were involved in the investigation.

Boyd is on trial for the Sept. 5, 2020, shooting at 1215 S. Bridge St., Portland, that resulted in the

death of 49-year-old James P. Miller of Montpelier. He also faces a Level 3 felony charge of criminal confinement while armed with a deadly weapon, a Level 3 felony, for allegedly forc-

ing Miller's girlfriend to stay in the basement following the shooting.

The prosecution resumed its case at 8:30 a.m. today. Brittney Shewmake, Boyd's

girlfriend at the time of the incident, testified Wednesday that he had used cameras he had installed at the home she owned, where the shooting occurred, to view Miller when he arrived on the night of the incident. She said those cameras had later been removed and hidden.

Shewmake explained that she, Boyd, Michael Malyska, Kelsey DeVoe and Stephen Ping were ingesting methamphetamine in the basement early Sept. 5, 2020, when Miller and his girlfriend, Nicole Burke, arrived.

See Cameras page 2

## Purchase OK'd

MicroVote  
All in One Voting Station  
0349-0001-0000-00\_REV01  
02/08/21



MicroVote

Jay County Council on Wednesday gave county clerk Jon Eads the OK to factor and additional \$90,000 into his department's 2023 budget for the purchase of new voting equipment. The county's current equipment is nearly 20 years old and the state has mandated that all such devices have voter verifiable paper audit trail machines by 2024.

### Council gives blessing to budgeting extra funds in 2023 for new electronic equipment for the county

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

New voting machines are on the horizon.

Jay County Council OK'd clerk Jon Eads on Wednesday to factor in an additional \$90,000 into his budget next year to purchase more voting equipment.

Indiana requires all polls have voter verifiable paper audit trail machines by 2024. The state has already purchased 20 of those devices for the county. At a Jay County Commissioners meeting May 31, Eads explained its current machines date back to 2004, meaning it's time for an upgrade.

The new models are easier to assemble and disassemble. Along with a few additional features, such as a single plug-in

cord and flags that pop out for privacy, the machines also print barcodes onto each ballot for an easier audit process.

Indiana will contribute \$76,750 toward more equipment for Jay County, meaning it will need to pay \$140,000 toward purchasing another 30 voter verifiable paper audit trail machines and 50 voting machines from Microvote Corporation. (The county has not yet officially entered into a written agreement with Microvote, something which Hinkle suggested commissioners do before moving forward.)

Eads explained Wednesday he already has \$50,000 in his budget he can move around to help account for the cost, meaning he still needed to incorporate an

additional \$90,000 into next year's plan.

Council OK'd Eads to factor in the additional amount.

In other business, council:

- Discussed a resolution passed by Jay County Public Defender Board in January allowing a \$5,000 retention bonus for its employee. (Questions arose if the decision should be ultimately up to council, which handles county pay.) Council noted if it were to OK the bonus — it was made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic — then it would also need to offer the same to other departments. County attorney Bill Hinkle said he would look into the matter.
- Were reminded by Travis Richards of Jay County Develop-

ment Corporation about the upcoming community forum concerning American Rescue Plan Act funds, scheduled for 3 p.m. Monday at John Jay Center for Learning

- Recognized Hinkle will be retiring at the end of the year, meaning the county will need to hire a new attorney. Hinkle has worked in the job for roughly 20 years, along with serving as the city attorney for Portland for about the same amount of time. (He retired from that job last year.) He previously operated as the city attorney at Dunkirk for 40 years.

- Made a \$250,000 additional appropriation for stone and gravel at Jay County Highway Department.

## Prison stabbing draws murder charge

The Tribune-Star  
(Terre Haute)  
Tribune News Service

A federal grand jury on Tuesday indicted an inmate on a charge of first-degree murder in connection with a 2019 stabbing at the federal prison in Terre Haute.

Lawrence Taylor, 41, was an inmate at Federal Correctional Complex Terre Haute when he killed another individual on Jan. 12, 2019, by stabbing him in the neck, face, chest and elsewhere with a metal weapon, prosecutors said in a news release.

If convicted, Taylor faces a

maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Taylor will make his initial court appearance in the Southern District of Indiana before a U.S. magistrate judge at a later date.

U.S. Attorney Zachary Myers announced the indictment. The FBI is investigating the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James M. Warden is prosecuting.

An automatic not guilty plea was entered on Taylor's behalf, and a trial date of Aug. 8 before Judge James R. Sweeney II was set, according to online court documents. A federal community defender is to be appointed.

The lawmakers denied those concerns, saying the measure would increase innovation through competition, improve national security and wouldn't eliminate services such as Amazon Prime and Google Maps.

See Congress page 2

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 76 degrees Wednesday. The low was 55, and there was about 0.2 inches of rain.

The forecast calls for a low of

55 tonight. Friday's high will be in the mid 70s with showers expected after 2 p.m.

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

**Friday** — Results from the JCHS boys golf team at the regional tournament.

**Tuesday** — Coverage of Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.



# Cameras ...

Continued from page 1  
She said Boyd pulled up an app connected to the cameras and the video showed Miller at the door.  
She said at one point while Miller was knocking, she was going to answer the door herself to tell him to leave. She said Roger told her not to go.  
About 10 minutes after Miller first arrived, they heard the door open and Kurt Banter arrived. (Defense attorney Spenser Bengé previously alleged Banter told Boyd to deal with Miller and get his gun.) Boyd did a “big line” of methamphetamine, she said, before going upstairs. She heard gun shots, she added, and then Boyd brought Burke inside and asked Shewmake to calm her down.  
Shewmake said when she went to look for the cameras, she noticed all but one had been removed. She said she later found them in her son’s dresser. She then saved the video of the incident onto an SD card and gave it to Boyd’s mother, who later gave the video to his attorneys.  
Defense attorneys, who say the shooting was self defense,

alleged Shewmake was testifying in hopes of receiving favor from prosecutors in her own pending court cases. She denied it.  
“I’ve made mistakes in my life, and if that’s the case, I have to pay for it,” she said. (She will return to the courtroom at 1 p.m. today, per the defense’s request.)  
Chief deputy prosecutor Zec Landers said Shewmake was not offered a bargain in her testimony.  
Malyska also testified Boyd pulled up video footage of Miller standing at the door that night. Soon after, he watched Boyd leave with a gun he pulled from a hidden safe in the basement. Malyska added that Boyd took down a camera following the shooting and handed it to Malyska, who took it home with him. Malyska later returned the camera to Shewmake.  
Malyska confirmed he wouldn’t have testified Wednesday without an offer to set aside a conviction on a separate case. He’s also now dating and living with Shewmake, with whom he shares a child.  
Two Portland police officers

who responded to the scene, along with state police and forensic specialists, also testified Wednesday.  
The prosecution showed video footage taken from the body cameras of Portland police officers Dustin Mock and Dustin Garringer. Mock’s video showed Boyd, while being handcuffed, explaining the situation as a break-in. Split into three videos, the footage also showed him checking Miller’s body for a pulse, taping off the garage and briefly interviewing Shewmake. Garringer’s video depicted him transporting Boyd to the police department and sitting in an office.  
Bengé again questioned each individual’s thoroughness in the case, relating back to concerns he voiced with Portland Police investigator Jeff Hopkins’ handling of the investigation. (He noted Tuesday that Hopkins did not wear a body camera or recording device while on scene and mentioned a conflict of interest. Years prior to the murder, Hopkins had a sexual relationship with a woman who was

seeing Boyd at the same time.) He pointed out Mock’s footage was split into three videos, meaning he turned his camera on and off at different points — Mock clarified when questioned by Landers that he did so to conserve battery life — and noted Garringer didn’t have his body camera on until Boyd got into the police car. Bengé suggested Boyd mentioned concerns about Hopkins covering the case during that unrecorded time.  
James Stevens, a crime scene investigator for Indiana State Police, testified he collected evidence, including the 9mm pistol on the doorstep. He also checked the garage door frame and other places for signs of forced entry, but could not find any.  
Stevens found bullet casings in the northeast corner of the garage, along with bullet casings in a four-wheeler and a cartridge in the wall. He also found a bullet near the front right tire of a Pontiac G6.  
He noted a “defect” in the hood of the Pontiac.  
Bengé asked if it could have resulted from something other

than a bullet, such as a metal pipe.  
“If there had been a metal pipe, I would have documented it,” Stevens said.  
John Petro, a crime scene supervisor for Indiana State Police who helped with the investigation, confirmed the defect in the car appears to have characteristics of a bullet strike.  
Stevens and Petro both testified they did not notice any soot or gun residue on Miller’s clothing, indicating the altercation did not occur within close proximity.  
Stacey Hartman, a lab manager in Fort Wayne and former forensic scientist in the firearms unit for Indiana State Police, showed bullets retrieved from Miller’s body and the garage. She said they matched with the 9mm pistol found at the scene. One bullet, she noted, had secondary scratching, likely result from hitting a surface harder than the bullet itself.  
In Indiana, murder carries a sentence of 45 to 65 years with an advisory sentence of 55 years. A Level 3 felony carries a sentence of 3 to 16 years.

## CR almanac

Friday 6/10	Saturday 6/11	Sunday 6/12	Monday 6/13	Tuesday 6/14
<b>74/56</b>	<b>77/61</b>	<b>82/62</b>	<b>86/68</b>	<b>91/74</b>
Skies will be partly sunny early with showers likely in the afternoon. Thunderstorms are possible later.	The high will be 77 with a chance of showers and storms.	There is a 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms. The high will be 82.	The high temperature will climb to 82 degrees with showers and thunderstorms possible.	Skies will be mostly sunny with a high of 91.

## Lotteries

**Powerball**  
22-39-43-62-64  
Power Ball: 7  
Power Play: 4  
Estimated jackpot: \$229 million

**Mega Millions**  
Estimated jackpot: \$226 million

**Hoosier**  
Midday  
Daily Three: 6-5-0  
Daily Four: 1-9-9-4  
Quick Draw: 1-5-6-10-15-16-18-21-22-26-30-43-46-50-51-52-57-63-74-77  
Evening  
Daily Three: 2-2-1  
Daily Four: 9-3-2-4  
Quick Draw: 1-5-6-10-

15-16-18-21-22-26-30-43-46-50-51-52-57-63-74-77  
Cash 5: 11-17-35-37-40  
Hoosier Lotto: 26-33-34-39-40-44  
Estimated jackpot: \$13.4 million

**Ohio**  
Midday  
Pick 3: 7-0-2  
Pick 4: 3-7-3-1  
Pick 5: 4-3-4-2-2  
Evening  
Pick 3: 2-7-3  
Pick 4: 3-7-3-1  
Pick 5: 7-9-6-2-4  
Rolling Cash: 1-21-27-28-29  
Classic Lotto: 3-6-23-26-30-32  
Kicker: 4-6-7-7-2-2

## Markets

**Cooper Farms Fort Recovery**  
Corn.....8.02  
July corn.....8.02  
Wheat .....8.63

**POET Biorefining Portland**  
Corn.....8.10  
July corn.....8.08  
Aug. corn .....8.10

**The Andersons Richland Township**  
Corn.....7.81  
July corn.....7.81  
Beans.....18.02  
July beans.....18.02

Wheat .....10.17  
July wheat .....10.17

**Central States Montpelier**  
Corn.....7.79  
July corn.....7.79  
Beans.....17.73  
July beans.....17.73  
Wheat.....10.62

**Heartland St. Anthony**  
Corn.....7.80  
July corn.....7.80  
Beans.....17.57  
July beans.....17.57  
Wheat.....10.31

## Today in history

In 2008, Ken Griffey Jr. of the Cincinnati Reds hit his 600th career home run. At that time, he was the sixth player in Major League Baseball history to do so. He finished his career with 630 home runs, seventh-most all-time.  
In 2012, Jay County High School boys basketball coach Craig Teagle led the Indiana Senior All-Stars to an 83-73 victory over Kentucky at Banker’s Life Field house. Hamilton Southeastern’s Gary Harris, who now plays for the Orlando Magic, won the MVP with 17 points and five steals.  
In 2021, Jay County Council approved a tax abatement for Invenergy’s Skycrest Solar facility. The planned \$150 million, 155-megawatt project is planned for 2,500 acres in Penn and Jackson townships.  
—The CR

## Citizen’s calendar

**Monday**  
9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, commissioners’ room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.  
6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St.  
7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

**Wednesday**  
2:30 p.m. — Jay County Personnel Committee, commissioners’ room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

# Congress ...

Continued from page 1  
Time is running out for Congress to pass major legislation. With only seven weeks left before the August recess, lawmakers are facing a barrage of competing priorities, including potential measures on climate change, gun safety, and a package to bolster U.S. competitiveness.  
The narrowing window has sparked a flurry of lobbying as industry and consumer groups press their concerns before lawmakers pivot to campaigning for the November midterm elections.

Apple, Amazon, Google and Meta spent \$16.7 million lobbying in the first three months of 2022, according to lobbying disclosures filed with Congress, with all four identifying the antitrust bills as their top priority.  
Tech-backed trade groups have also opposed the bills. The Computer and Communications Industry Association spent \$22 million last week on broadcast and cable TV ads, according to Ad Impact, and another \$2.8 million on Facebook and Instagram ads since the beginning of the year.

The bill is “more focused on advancing a political agenda than promoting competition,” said Neil Bradley, chief policy officer of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.  
Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has promised to bring the bill to a floor vote in upcoming weeks.  
“As long as Schumer is willing to bring it up, I think we’ve got it tweaked so that we can get it moving now,” said Senator Grassley in an interview with Bloomberg News. “It’s pretty much up to Schumer at this point.”

# Solar farm moves forward

By ED SEMMLER  
South Bend Tribune  
SOUTH BEND — St. Joseph County commissioners have approved a revamped development agreement for a solar farm that’s proposed for about 1,100 acres of farmland on the west side of the county.  
Lightsource BP is proposing to spend \$164.7 million for the project that would create three to five permanent jobs and start generating 150 megawatts of clean power — enough for about 24,500 homes — by early 2024.  
The project also would generate \$27 million in additional tax dollars for taxing units included in the Olive Township site over the life of the 25-year agreement while still providing \$37 million to the developer from total taxes owed.

If the property remains as farm land, conversely, it would generate only about \$1.9 million over the 25-year life of the proposal.  
Original language in the development agreement, which was previously approved by the Redevelopment Commission, encouraged the company to employ as many local workers as possible during the construction phase of the project, which still could get underway late this year.  
But the revised agreement says the company will aim to hire 75% of the estimated 150 to 200 construction workers from St. Joseph County or its immediate neighbors, said Chris Brown, an economic development specialist for the county.

**Friendship, Indiana  
June. 11-19  
Open daily 9:00 a.m.**  
S.E. Indiana, 1 mi. east of town on St. Rd. #62  
www.friendshipfleamarket.com  
**(812) 667-5645**

# Localities will be part of settlement

By DAN GARDEN  
The Times (Munster)  
Tribune News Service  
All Indiana local governments that filed lawsuits in recent years against three opioid drug distributors and one opioid drug manufacturer have agreed to participate in a single, statewide settlement — instead of continuing to pursue their legal claims on their own.  
Attorney General Todd Rokita, a Republican originally from Munster, confirmed Wednesday that every Indiana county, city and town seeking reimbursement of their expenses linked to the opioid abuse crisis has joined the settlement agreement reached by the state against Cardinal Health, McKesson, Amerisource-Bergen and Johnson & Johnson.  
Many localities last year opted out of the \$507 million agreement after the Republican-controlled General Assembly devised a distribution scheme for the money in House Enrolled Act 1001 that left most spending decisions in the hands of state officials.  
A new state law enacted in March, House Enrolled

Act 1193, restructured the settlement distribution plan by enabling local leaders to control how more of the money is spent.  
Either way, the agreement requires a substantial majority of the funds go toward opioid treatment and prevention programs.  
“Today marks a milestone victory in our battle against drug addiction,” Rokita said. “This scourge has inflicted such unspeakable pain on so many Hoosiers. We are fighting daily for our families, friends and neighbors. By all of us working together, we can ensure a brighter day is coming.”

## Wendelin 2.0

Food & Spirits

2981 Fort Recovery Minster Rd  
St Henry, OH · 419-375-2751

- \* Dine In and Carry Out
- \* Open 7 days a week at 10:30 am
- \* Daily Lunch Specials
- \* Happy Hour Every Day 1pm-4pm
- \* Accepts Reservations
- \* Band/DJ-Karaoke Every Friday and Saturday 10 pm-2am

Birthplace of the Charlie Burger  
Home of the Pineapple Bowl

Mention this ad on your next visit, Get **\$2 OFF**  
Alcohol not included

## SERVICES

**Saturday**  
Stults, Jama: 11 a.m. Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Service listings provided by  
**PROGRESSIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS**  
120 N. Meridian St.  
Portland, Indiana 47371  
(260) 726-9201  
progressiveofficeproducts.com

# HELP Wanted special!

**3x5 ad**  
every day for a week  
(five days total)  
**for \$300.**  
(That would normally cost \$937.50.)  
Ads must run five consecutive publication days.

**2x3 ad**  
every day for a week  
(five days total)  
**for \$150.**  
(That would normally cost \$390.)  
Ads must run five consecutive publication days.

Call **The Commercial Review** to take advantage of this special!  
**260-726-8141**

# Improve hospital stay using key tips

By ASHLEY HUNTER

A hospital stay can cause fear and anxiety for many people, but there are some things you can do to help prepare for a more successful hospital stay.

## Your Health Matters



the contact information of your health care providers.

### Identify a decision-maker

In the event you are unable to make your own

health care decisions, it is important to identify someone you trust to make decisions for you. This could be a family member, a friend or a trusted acquaintance. Make sure you have discussed your wishes with the person you have identified as your decision maker.

Legal documents such as a living will or power of attorney should name your decision-maker. Have several copies made to give to your health care

providers and caregivers so you can leave the original documents at home.

### Bring someone with you

During a hospital stay, a lot of information is provided from admission to discharge. It is helpful to have another person receive this information. If this person cannot be at the hospital with you, ask the care team to call and discuss your care with your friend or family member.

### Ask questions

It is so important to form relationships with your health care providers and caregivers and to fully understand your care. Ask questions about your diagnosis, your medications and dosages and side effects, any procedures and tests that will be done and why, along with follow-up care. Fully understanding your care can help prevent complications and returns to the hospital.

### Stay active

With the permission of your doctors and nurses, stay as active as possible while hospitalized. Multiple days in bed can lead to unexpected weakness. If you are able, ask to go on walks around the unit or perform seated exercises to make a transition out of the hospital smoother.

.....  
Hunter is an associate director for the hospitalist program in the East Center Region and chief of staff at IU Health Jay Hospital.

## Comments are tiring

DEAR ABBY: I am a 29-year-old woman in a healthy, loving relationship with my boyfriend of 2 1/2 years. We talk about marriage and kids and are committed to each other. We know we are each other's special one. He recently bought a home, and we live together. My issue is with my mother. I feel she won't be happy with me until I'm married and have children.

She and Dad met and were married within six months, so to her, any relationship that lasts longer than that without marriage or an engagement must not be the real deal. It has been extremely frustrating over the past couple of years. She slips in judgmental comments all the time and clearly doesn't respect my relationship with the man I have chosen. If I try to defend my life and our relationship, she says I'm too defensive and must be unhappy. If I say nothing, which has been my approach for the past six months or so, her snide comments continue. I want a good relationship with her, but I am not sure where to go from here. Marriage and kids are in our future but not for some time. We are enjoying our own timeline. Help! — IT'S MY LIFE IN COLORADO

DEAR I.M.L.: At 29, you are well into adulthood, so perhaps it's time to draw the line. Tell your mother you know she loves you and is concerned for your welfare, but you do not plan to marry anyone on her timeline. Then say, calmly, that her

## Dear Abby



comments are hurtful, and you need her to quit the needling, or she will be seeing a lot less of you. Be prepared to follow through.

DEAR ABBY: Thirty years ago, my wife and I moved from New York City to Albuquerque. I have four brothers. One has visited once, another has visited three times, but two brothers have never come out to see us. We have gone back east for weddings, funerals and reunions. When I ask these two brothers why they don't visit, they say going to New Mexico is not on their bucket list or that their wives don't like to fly. I feel hurt and abandoned. Should I not care, or just not deal with them? — WAITING FOR 30 YEARS

DEAR WAITING: Not all siblings are equally close. You are blessed with two brothers who want to remain close and make the effort to do so. Your life will be happier if you concentrate on the relationships you have with them and their families, and spend less time brooding about the others.

## FR middle school names students to the honor roll

Fort Recovery Middle School recently announced its fourth nine weeks honor roll.

Making the list for receiving all A's are sixth graders Brooke Bihn, Jocelyn Bihn, Emily Boeckman, Alivia Brunswick, Jackson Dues, Haley Easton, Mackenzie Evers, Claire Gaerke, Paisley Hart, Cora Pearson, Kendall Ranly, Ally Roessner and Eliza Smith.

Also seventh graders Kenna Dues, Tyler Dues, Cadence Eber, Brady Evers, Carter Fortkamp, Alexis Grisez, Sophia Guggenbiller, Russell Hart, Makenna Huel-skamp, Meredith Jones, Breaker Jutte, Grace Lochtefeld, Ian McCain, Jake Meyer, Cameron Muhlenkamp, Isaac Roessner, Kiera Stump, Amber Timmerman, Jennifer Wendel, James Westgerdes, Brynn Willmann and Jase Wuebker.

Also eighth graders Evvian Briner, Elisa Evers, Alivia Grube, Jameson Heitkamp, Madison R. Heitkamp, Brylee Kremer, Reece Wendel and Georgia Wenning.

Named to the honor roll for making A's and B's are sixth graders Layla Armstrong, Addison Brunswick, Kyra Brunswick, Riley DeRoo, Evan Diller, Braylon Dillworth, William Faller, Malia Grisez, Pete Guggenbiller, Madeline Hardwick, Elizabeth Heitkamp, Riley Heitkamp, Trip Huntsman, Henry Jutte, Elizabeth Kählig, Courtney Klenke, Liza Knapke, McKinlee Kremer and Mason Laux.

Also sixth graders Madeline Muhlenkamp, Andrew Niekamp, Hudson Overman, Stella Patch, Charity Pohlman, Madilyn Reinhard, Liana Schlarman, Hoyt Schmitz, Ali Siegrist, Charlie Stammen, Lilah Thien, Kolton Thompson, Livy Timmerman, Huntly Ward, Madelyn Weigel and Jady Weyerick.

Also seventh graders Brody Barga, Tyler Bertke, Owen Boeckman, Deanna Brown, Kendall Buckland, Reese Diller, Destiny Ervin, Grant Fortkamp, Ava Fulenkamp, Aubree M.

Heitkamp, Madelyn N. Heitkamp, Sydney Jutte, Hudson McAbee, Trinity Rammel, Coby Schmitz, Emma Schmitz, Madelyn Schoenlein, Angel Serio, Cara Shoemaker, Aubrey Shuttleworth, Natalie Siegrist, Riley Stammen, Ava Timmerman, Ivy Tobe, Kaylor Wendel, Reed Westgerdes, Will Westgerdes and Trevor Wycuff.

Also eighth graders Gabriel Acheson, Ella Bechtol, Aiden Brunswick, Ryker Brunswick, Rylee Bupp, Garrett Diller, Kyla Dues, Zoe Dues, Zackary Ervin, Mallory Evers, Lucas Fortkamp, Carson Fulenkamp, Alex Gaerke, Brodie Hart, Aubrie N. Heitkamp, Caden Homan, Jenna Homan and Maleiah Kaffenberger.

Also eighth graders Cayson Kaikala, Wesley Keller, Dylan Klenke, Olivia Knapke, Cora Kremer, Reece LeFevre, Autumn Leuthold, Anthony Roessner, Danielle Schmitt, Hayden Siefing, Caleb Smith, Cletus Timmerman, Megan Weitzel, Tyler Wendel and Leah Wuebker.

## Community Calendar

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

### Reunions

Graduates of Portland High School will host an alumni banquet on June 18 at Jay County High School. Honor classes are from the years 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967 and 1972. All Portland High School graduates are welcome.

Jay County High School Class of 1997 will hold its 25th reunion at 7 p.m. Saturday at Jay County Event Center.

### Today

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian

recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Thursday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

PIKE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS — Meet at 5 p.m. Thursday at El Camino Real restaurant, 220 NW Lincoln Ave., Portland.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY POST 211 — Will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday at the post at 211 W. Walnut St., Portland.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB — Will meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

### Saturday

PORTLAND FARMERS MARKET — Will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Saturday in the parking lot at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

### Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

BRYANT AREA COMMUNITY CENTER — Walking from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

### Wednesday's Solution

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

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.

## Pay by the day



Call, email or stop by during the week of June 6 through 10 and pay per-inch cost based on the date for any black and white ad 10 column inches or larger.

June 6 pay \$6 per column inch  
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# Where did inflation come from?

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Mather Marcus, the preacher in our family, is telling me, "It's the Feds who've caused all this inflation. Why a \$20 bill today buys only about what \$17 bought five years ago. We've been robbed of three dollars. And who benefits from that?"

"You know," he continues, "it's the same old story: too much money chasing too few goods."

"Indubitably," I respond. "Inflation is once again the result of the government, with the Federal Reserve System, trying to do the right thing."

"The right thing?" he bellows in his Almighty voice.

"Yes," I say with dignified calm. "COVID caused many people to lose their jobs because other people became sick and

## Eye on the Pie



stopped buying so much stuff. So the government put out an additional \$509 billion in 2020 to help the unemployed directly. This was on top of the more usual \$27 billion paid out for unemployment compensation in 2019."

"Was this misdirected government action?" I ask.

"Certainly not," Mather proclaims with certainty.

"Yet," I continue, "that sum was just 46% of the relief the

government provided in the face of the COVID pandemic.

"Because so many people fell ill, hospitals and health care providers received an extra \$77 billion in Medicare and Medicaid payments for 2020 over what they were paid in 2019. Was that too a mistake?"

"Most clearly not," Mather says with gravity of voice.

"And buying \$250 billion of corporate bonds and notes," I say, "the Fed protected the banks, which could then lend money to home buyers. With the repayment of mortgages from the proceeds of selling, money went back into the banks. Many home sellers were not desperate victims of COVID. They then borrowed more from the banks for more

expensive houses or remodeling existing homes."

"Nothing wrong there," Mather asserts.

"Except," I note, "the builders could not get enough workers to satisfy the increased demand for houses and remodeling."

"But inflation?" he questions.

"Yes, inflation starts with the home buying, followed by the supply chain problems and the reluctance of people to return to their old jobs at the old pay rates. Then there's Ukraine and a spike in energy prices which boosts still other prices," I explain.

"Can't we stop inflation?" Mather asks, panic in his voice.

"Yes," I'm very calm. "In 2020, federal stimulus spending showed an increase of 35%, but only 8% in 2021. That's slamming

on the brakes, slowing the addition of stimulating funds from \$1.1 trillion to \$360 billion."

Mather's concern persisted. I tried again.

"Bringing U.S. consumer spending to a slower rate of growth is like slowing a big truck," I said. "Too much pressure on the brakes and it can jack-knife."

"You're putting the blame for inflation on consumers?" he asked, incredulous at my audacity.

"Yes," I respond, "but don't tell anyone. It's not polite to be disrespectful of consumer sovereignty."

Marcus is an economist. Email him at [mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com](mailto:mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com).

# Don't go to Saudi Arabia

The Dallas Morning News  
Tribune News Service

Last week's news that the European Union has reached an agreement to sharply curtail the purchase of Russian oil is a welcome development that signals the continent is not only united against the genocidal attack on Ukraine but that its political leaders are prepared to make hard choices in response.

It's a choice worth remembering as Americans labor under high gas prices this summer. And it's a reminder of why we need a robust domestic energy industry that includes the continued development of oil and gas production as well as investment in renewable energy research and infrastructure.

According to The Associated Press, European Union nations rely on Russia for 25% of their oil and 40% of their gas. Last week's decision involved only oil. Weaning off gas will be far harder.

Still, we hope and expect this will lead to a rising Russian price for Vladimir Putin's war. The sooner he is brought to heel the better off the whole world will be.

But we also recognize that higher prices will be borne by us all. Reports early last week suggested President Joe Biden would travel to Saudi Arabia in hopes of persuading its leader to put more oil into the market. The president dialed that down later in the week when he said he had "no direct plans at the moment."

The president shouldn't go at all. The Saudi regime is a pariah state. U.S. intelligence under Biden determined Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was personally responsible for the murder of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi. In March, Human Rights Watch reported that the Saudi regime killed 81 men in a mass execution. More than half of those were of the Shia Muslim minority.

Opening the OPEC oil machine might be a fast path to relief at the pump, but it would come at the price of cozying up to petrol tyrants. How about, instead, this country do all it can to support domestic production?

No, that wouldn't have the same immediate effect on prices at the pump. But it would be a better long-term strategy than spending time with the Saudi prince.

## Guest Editorial

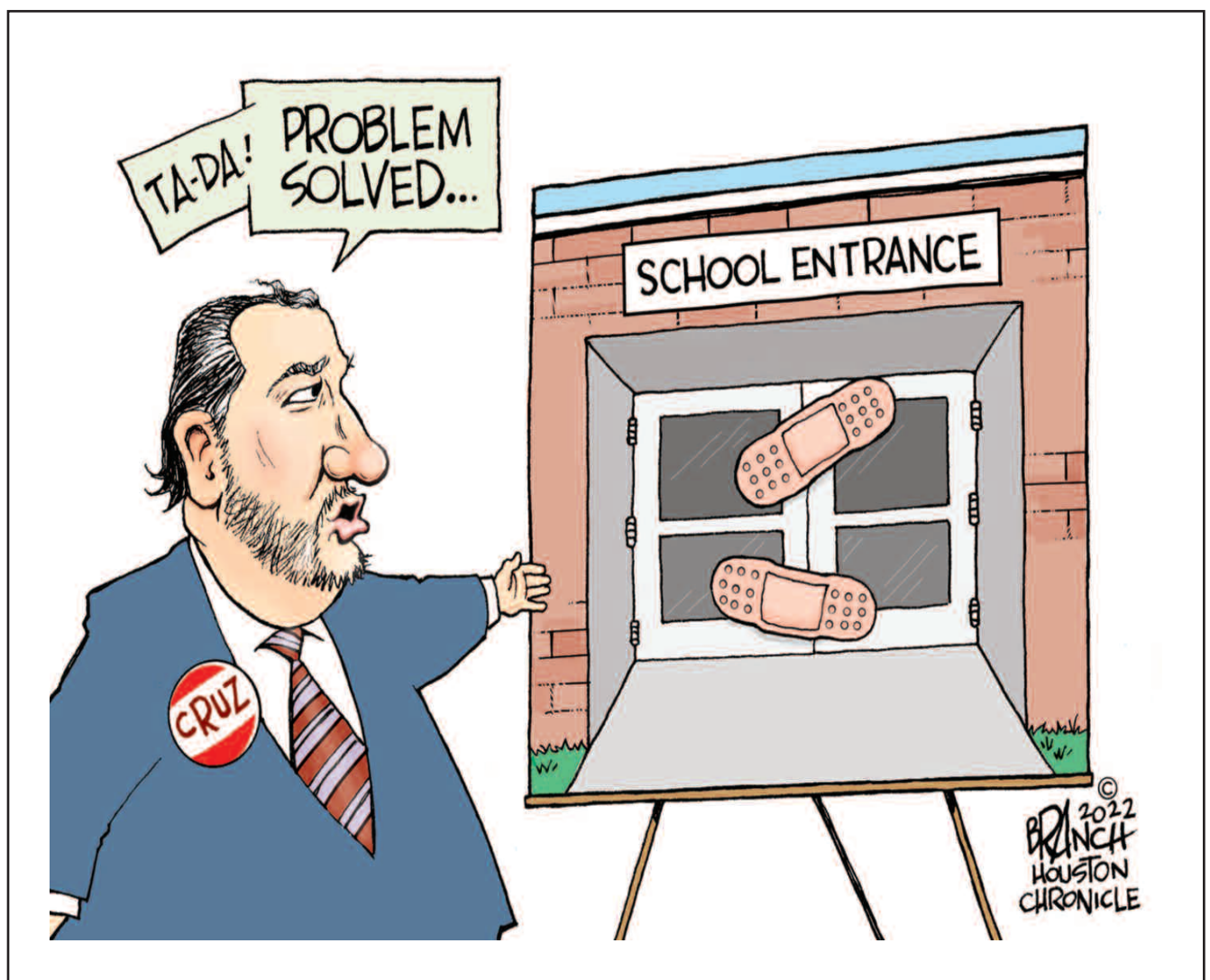
*... high prices for gas and oil represent an opportunity for the development of renewables: bringing greater renewable resources online, increasing battery production and research and moving more quickly from fossil fuel dependency.*

U.S. production is already high. The country produced 11.6 million barrels of crude per day in March, the most recent figure listed by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. That's lower than the record high of 12.9 million barrels per day in November 2019. But the average daily production so far this year is higher than any production level before 2018.

We are taking advantage of this resource. But more could be done to ensure it continues to flow.

Meanwhile, high prices for gas and oil represent an opportunity for the development of renewables: bringing greater renewable resources online, increasing battery production and research and moving more quickly from fossil fuel dependency.

Instead of getting on a plane to Saudi Arabia, the president would do better by the country if he stayed home and worked on delivering a domestic energy policy that maximized all of our resources and generated a more powerful American future.



# Gun owners have an opportunity

By MARTIN SCHRAM  
Tribune News Service

Thursday night at the White House, speaking to America with grim emotion, President Joe Biden used a single statistic to sum up two decades of national pain and revulsion we have all endured.

His one statistic also seemed to sum up the horror of our last two weeks of mass-killings — in the Buffalo grocery store, the Tulsa hospital and especially the heart-wrenching record slaughter of 19 children and two teachers in the Uvalde, Texas, elementary school.

One statistic: "Over the last two decades, more school-aged children have died from guns than on-duty police officers and active-duty military combined," Biden told America. "For God's sake, how much more carnage are we willing to accept? How many more innocent American lives must be taken before we say 'enough'?"

"Enough" — Biden used the word 12 times in a 17 minute speech that was probably the most purposeful and powerful of his presidency. Yet, the very next day we began to see signs that even his best-ever speech may not have been "enough."

On Friday, in suburban Buffalo, first term Republican U.S. Rep. Chris Jacobs became the first such sign — a blinking neon sign so glaring that even a pundit down in Washington can't miss it. Jacobs was a Trump and NRA-endorsed winner in 2020, a champion of the Second Amendment who had issued thousands of gun permits when he was the Erie County clerk. But after the grocery store mass-shootings 10 miles from his district (by an 18-year-old with an assault-styled rifle), Jacobs called for an assault weapons ban and other reforms that Biden just urged. And he got politically pummeled by fellow

Republicans. ("Caved to the gun-grabbers," tweeted Donald Trump Jr.). Jacobs ended his reelection bid Friday.

And that brought me back to what I was really thinking as Biden began speaking Thursday. I hoped he would attempt something most untraditional — because this was the one topic where he just can't be his own best messenger.

I wanted Biden to seek to enlist as his ally in safeguarding America the one group that is most persuasively armed for the job: America's patriotic and law-abiding gun owners. They are most capable of convincing the Senate's reform-killing Republicans to finally end their fatal gridlock-by-filibuster.

Biden recognizes this. And he started to say so Thursday, albeit sounding defensively: "For so many of you at home, I want to be very clear: This is not about taking away anyone's guns. It's ... not about vilifying ... gun owners. In fact, we believe we should be treating responsible gun owners as an example of how every gun owner should behave. I respect the culture and the tradition and the concerns of lawful gun owners."

Too bad Biden's team didn't convince him to be more Bidenesque. Working with adversaries has always been Biden's best insider skill. This is the moment when we need our best people to rise up and lead our failing leaders in Congress. Imagine if, Thursday night, Biden had tried to

mobilize our gun owners by saying something like this:

"Tonight I want to especially speak to those of you at home who own guns and are proudly patriotic. America needs you to do what you are best capable of doing to safeguard us all. We need you to convince our leaders to help you keep America safe."

"When America's parents send their children to school each day, they are all in the same bus. And as parents and families, we are essentially in the same boat. We all fear for the safety of our children in their schools — and loved ones everywhere. Now more than ever, we all want to prevent dangerous people from obtaining deadly weapons that were designed for our military to massively kill in wartime — but are being used to kill our loved ones. As law abiding gun owners, you know best that we need improved background checks and red-flag alerts. I favor a national ban on military assault-style weapons. But if you don't want that, you still know our loved ones would be best protected by a national 21-year-old age limit for buying military-style semi-automatic rifles."

"You, as gun owners, can be America's most powerful persuaders. I hope you will act urgently to lead our leaders in Congress. Convince them to end their gridlock that has put us all in danger. Convince them to take the common-sense steps you know are needed to safeguard your loved ones and your communities."

"You may also be America's last hope for ending our mass-shooting nightmare. Godspeed."

Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at [martin.schram@gmail.com](mailto:martin.schram@gmail.com).

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**SPEED BUMP** Dave Coverly

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane

**Contract Bridge** By Steve Becker

**Picture bidding**

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ K 8 3  
♥ Q 7 6  
♦ J 8 5  
♣ A K 9 2

**EAST**  
♠ 7 5 2  
♥ 8  
♦ K 9 3 2  
♣ J 10 8 6 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ A Q J 4  
♥ A K 10 9 4 2  
♦ A 7  
♣ 4

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass  
3 ♥ Pass 4 NT Pass  
5 ♠ Pass 5 NT Pass  
6 ♥

South's three-spade cuebid indicated first-round control of that suit (usually the ace) and asked North to reply in kind. North's four-club bid and South's four-diamond bid also showed first-round controls. Then came the bid South hoped to hear — four spades, indicating second-round control (usually the king) of that suit.

From then on, it was easy. South learned via Blackwood that North had an ace and two kings — just as his counterpart had — but South knew one of the kings was the king of spades, so it was easy to bid the grand slam.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.  
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**6-9 CRYPTOQUIP**

LX IJF VCBVEQWJ IVQD-SQDQIZ  
CMVBY YJSQIQPJDX FMI'P  
DVEP WJBX DMIZ. Q NVWJ V  
ENMBP-PJBL JLJBX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ANTLERED FOREST ANIMAL WERE SPOOKED, I HAVE TO PRESUME IT WOULD MAKE THAT MOOSE VAMOOSE.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals F

**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>38</b> Yule greenery	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>16</b> Bud
<b>1</b> Ritzy	<b>40</b> Bell or Barker	<b>1</b> Sit for a photo	<b>20</b> Ms. Thurman
<b>5</b> Envelope part	<b>41</b> "Lady Bird"	<b>2</b> Fed. work-place	<b>22</b> Running total
<b>9</b> Wrigley product	<b>43</b> Early release	<b>3</b> Venetian blind part	<b>23</b> Mound
<b>12</b> Norwegian seaport	<b>47</b> Chaney of horror films	<b>4</b> Carousel figures	<b>24</b> Sailor's chart
<b>13</b> Roof overhang	<b>48</b> Honey, for one	<b>5</b> Shoe fillers	<b>25</b> Flamenco cheer
<b>14</b> Year in Mexico	<b>51</b> Soul, to e.g.	<b>6</b> PC linking system	<b>26</b> Author of "Iberia"
<b>15</b> Whetstone, e.g.	<b>52</b> Tropical tuber	<b>7</b> "Hail!"	<b>27</b> Postal delivery
<b>17</b> Hwys.	<b>53</b> Shakespearean king	<b>8</b> Briskly self-assured	<b>29</b> Roof ornament
<b>18</b> Bothers	<b>54</b> Damage quickly	<b>9</b> One with a green thumb	<b>30</b> Witty one
<b>19</b> Praise	<b>55</b> Read	<b>10</b> Nullify	<b>35</b> Drunkard
<b>21</b> Chicago transport	<b>56</b> Shrill barks	<b>11</b> Green shade	<b>37</b> Just
<b>22</b> Minty herb			<b>39</b> Endures
<b>24</b> Spring honorees			<b>40</b> Wrestling surface
<b>27</b> Avril follower			<b>41</b> Glitz partner
<b>28</b> From the top			<b>42</b> Capital of Italia
<b>31</b> Boxing legend			<b>43</b> Drudge
<b>32</b> The whole enchilada			<b>44</b> R.E.M.'s "The Love"
<b>33</b> Clean air org.			<b>45</b> Act of faith?
<b>34</b> Chest muscles, briefly			<b>46</b> Messes up
<b>36</b> Unwell			<b>49</b> WWII service member
<b>37</b> Ship's jail			<b>50</b> Time line period

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

L	S	A	T	F	A	R	A	M	F	R	
A	L	G	A	O	D	E	M	O	R	E	
Y	O	U	R	M	O	V	E	E	V	A	S
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S	E	I	S	O	D	A					
S	A	M	T	E	L	N	E	W	E	R	
I	D	O	S	S	U	B	D	A	N	E	
C	A	V	E	D	G	A	S	Y	E	T	
E	R	I	N	Y	E	S					
U	T	O	P	I	A	O	C	E	L	O	T
R	A	V	I	D	O	N	T	M	O	V	E
S	P	E	C	I	R	E	I	K	E	A	
A	E	R	O		A	G	T	S	I	N	K

**Peanuts**

**Rose is Rose**

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41	42							43	44	45	46
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51								52		53	
54								55		56	

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# Sports

## Three Patriots named All-ACAC

*Faulkner, Pearson receive first-team honors*

Three Patriots have been recognized as among the best in the conference.

Jay County High School's Quinn Faulkner and Dusty Pearson were named to the All-Allen County Athletic Conference baseball team. Sam Myers earned honorable mention.

Faulkner, a senior

shortstop who was named to the first team as an infielder, led the Patriots (15-9, 3-3 ACAC) with a .405 batting average this year with a team-best 30 hits. He hit a team-high four home runs, scored 20 times and drove in 19 runs.

Pearson, a first-teamer as an outfielder, had the most RBIs of any JCHS player this year with 23. The junior batted .382 with 26 hits, a team-best seven doubles, and 13 runs.

Myers, a sophomore who predominantly played third base when he wasn't on the mound, batted .370 with 27 hits, 16 runs and nine RBIs. He was 3-2 with a 2.76 ERA and 30 strikeouts in 38 innings.

## Among the stars

*Jay County's Schwieterman scores six for junior all-stars*

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

FORTVILLE — Indiana's best high school basketball players were gathered together Wednesday night.

A Patriot was among them.

Renna Schwieterman, who finished her junior year at Jay County High School last month, played for the Indiana Junior All-Stars in an 89-86 loss to the Indiana Senior All-Stars in their game at Mount Vernon.

"It's amazing," said Schwieterman. "It's definitely an awesome opportunity. ... It's amazing that I was able to come here and do this."

"And, fingers crossed, hopefully I'll get another opportunity next year. That's the goal."

Schwieterman started the game on the bench and got on the court for the first time at the 5:03 mark of the first quarter when coach Bob Lapadot of Garrett made wholesale substitutions.

See Stars page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School's Renna Schwieterman tries to drive past Hope Fox of East Central during the Indiana Junior-Senior All-Star game Wednesday at Mount Vernon. Schwieterman scored six points for the juniors in an 89-86 loss to the seniors.



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