

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Facility projects laid out

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

One of the goals identified earlier this year was improvement of school facilities.

Jay School Board got a review Monday of possible upgrades to outdoor athletic facilities at Jay County Junior-Senior High School.

Athletics director Steve Boozier presented the board with a series of immediate, intermediate and long-term goals for the football, baseball, softball and soccer fields, track and tennis courts.

The board also heard from director of special education Annie Van Horn about a proposed change to the Jay Schools attendance policy and OK'd new courses for high school students.

Boozier provides overview for outdoor athletic improvements

After the school board finalized its goals in May, Jay School Corporation superintendent Jeremy Gulley tasked Boozier with evaluating facilities and creating a list broken down into items that need to be addressed immediately, those that are next on the list and those that are future wishes.

"I think it's fair to say that our

athletic facilities for the last 47 years have been maintained, but they haven't been changed or altered very much," said Boozier. "And we're nearing the end of the life for several of those facilities."

His athletic facility improvement plan broke down as follows:

Immediate — Replace softball field fence, refurbish and expand

dugouts and add drop-down batting cages in the auxiliary gym (to be shared with baseball); inspect tennis courts and make a decision on resurfacing or replacing them; add fencing around soccer complex; determine whether to continue with a grass football field or replace it with turf; reconstruct the long jump runway and pit, and level discus and shot put areas for track; and refurbish or replace the warning track, infield dirt and outfield fence at the baseball field.

Intermediate — Add lights to softball, soccer and baseball fields; add two additional drop-down batting cages in the auxiliary gym (for a total of four); resurface or replace tennis courts; replace soccer press box;

replace track; and replace outfield fence at baseball field.

Long-term — Renovate football stadium to flip home stands to the opposite side of field, construct new press box and build new locker room/concession/restroom building; replace softball press box; build new concession/restrooms for soccer fields; refurbish baseball press box and build restrooms (to be shared with football/track); consider turf for baseball and softball fields.

"A lot of possibilities here," said Boozier. "Kind of a combination of a wish list, things to think about, but we do need to start moving on our outdoor facilities."

See Projects page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Selling scarves

Sandy Hawk, Sharon James and Jennifer James speak with Norm Zahn of Coldwater Creek Alpaca Farm about his handmade scarves. Local residents and others trekked through the snow Saturday for the Delts' Holiday Crafts and Gifts Show hosted by Delta Theta Tau sorority at Jay County High School.

Dunkirk council OKs loan for new business

Hardings plan to open frozen yogurt shop on Main Street

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — Council members spend Monday evening working on ways to improve the city.

Dunkirk City Council approved one downtown revitalization loan and discussed another, approved paying for work to clean up properties where houses were damaged by fire and was presented with an estimate for renovations to the city building.

Darrin and Eleathia Harding, who own Sculpt Fitness in Dunkirk, requested a downtown revitalization loan of \$25,000 to help get a new business started. They plan to open Healthy Twist, a frozen yogurt shop, at 127 N. Main St.

The funds would go toward various upgrades, including flooring and a new heating and cooling system.

Council members Jesse Bivens, Bryan Jessup, Tom Johnson, Kevin Hamilton and Christy Curts approved a \$25,000, five-year loan at no interest as long as payments are made regularly and on time.

"This is kind of a no-brainer," said Jessup. "This is the whole purpose of having this money to begin with."

Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins noted that The Pink Barn owned by Kayci Zimmerman is seeking a loan with the same terms for freezers, shelving, a room addition and other upgrades. City attorney Wes Schemenaur will review the request and return with a contract for council to take action on at its next meeting.

Council also discussed the clean up of properties at 207 Broad Street, 506 S. Main St. and 115 W. Jay St. after they were damaged by fire.

See Council page 2

Republicans nearing House control

By MARIANNA SOTOMAYOR
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Republicans early Tuesday were on the cusp of winning back the House majority, after competitive races were settled in three states, pushing them to 215 seats, three shy of the number needed to clinch control.

The Washington Post reported projected victories on Monday or early Tuesday for Republican Rep. David Schweikert in Arizona's 1st Congressional District; Republican Juan Ciscomani in Arizona's 6th Congressional District; Republican Brandon Williams in New York's 22nd Congressional District; and Republican Lori Chavez-DeRemer in Oregon's 5th Congressional District.

The Post has not reported a projected House majority for either party. The individual projected wins edged the GOP closer to the 218 seats necessary for a majority. Even as Republicans closed in on victory, GOP leaders were eyeing a narrow advan-

GOP needs three more seats as votes continue to be counted

tage — one that is shaping up to be much slimmer than many in the party had hoped. Democrats have won a sizable number of competitive races, causing disappointment and friction in the GOP.

Democrats have secured 205 seats so far, after The Post reported Monday that Andrea Salinas (D) was projected to win in Oregon's new 6th Congressional District.

Vote counting continued one week after Election Day, in what has turned out to be a historic midterm year. Republicans are leading in six congressional districts where The Washington Post has not reported a projected winner, including four where

they lead by at least five percentage points.

History shows the president's party tends to suffer significant losses in midterm elections. But this year, Democrats have held their own in many key races. Some Republicans have seen this election season as underwhelming, given their expectations earlier this year of flipping scores of seats.

Republican leaders anticipate a final tally of 220 to 223 seats, a House majority and an increase from the 212 they held in January 2021, but significantly lower than estimates that they would win over two dozen, according to numerous House GOP campaign strategists. Over the

weekend, The Post reported that Democrats were projected to retain control of the Senate, dashing Republican hopes of a complete takeover on Capitol Hill.

While many vulnerable Democratic incumbents were able to hold on and some of the party's candidates flipped districts this cycle, the latest House race results made it clear that Democrats' path to retaining a majority had shrunk considerably.

This afternoon, Republicans are set to meet to debate and elect their leaders for the 118th Congress, which will be sworn in early next year. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (California), who has sought the speakership for years, will be challenged by former House Freedom Caucus chair Andy Biggs (Arizona), as the staunchly conservative group tries to prove that McCarthy cannot garner the 218 floor votes necessary to become speaker on Jan. 3.

See Control page 5

Deaths

James Coleman, 82, Portland
Max Miller, 79, rural Dunkirk
Christina Eicher, 9, rural Bryant
William Bailey, 62, Union City
Details on page 2.

Weather

The high temperature topped out at 40 degrees Monday in Jay County. The low was 22.
There is a chance of snow showers tonight with a low of 31. Expect a high of 34 Wednesday with more snow showers possible.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

A computer (or user) error caused an issue with the file that contained the story about Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting. We are working to recover that file for publication of the story later in the week.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of tonight's Portland City Council work session regarding its golf cart ordinance.

Friday — Results from Thursday's JCHS girls wrestling meet against Columbia City.



Obituaries

James Coleman

Sept. 29, 1940-Nov. 13, 2022
James Harold Coleman, age 82, of Portland passed away on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022, at his residence.
He was born in Columbus, Ohio, on Sept. 29, 1940, the son of James and Alice (Mullet) Coleman. He was married to Rebecca Lynn Hopkins who survives.
James served in the U.S. Navy from 1957 to 1961. He was retired

as a truck driver with First Fleet and owned and operated Memory Lane retail store. James enjoyed camping, fishing, riding motorcycles and wintering in Florida.
Surviving are his wife Becky; two sons, Kevin Coleman of High View, West Virginia, and Kurt Coleman of Huntertown, Indiana; stepson Damion Lewis



Coleman

of Portland; stepdaughter Danielle Lewis of Portland; four grandchildren, Jamie Lamm, Lance Coleman, Justice Day and Grant Lewis; and 11 great-grandchildren.
Memorial services will be held at a later date.
Memorials can be made to the Jay County Humane Society.
Baird-Freeman Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.
Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Max J. Miller, rural Dunkirk, Sept. 11, 1943-Nov. 11, 2022. Services were this morning at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.
Christina D. Eicher, rural Bryant, Aug. 9, 2013-Nov. 12, 2022. Services will be 9 a.m. Wednesday at the David MK Eicher residence, 040 E. 800 North, Bryant.
William "Bill" J. Bailey, Union City, a Portland native, May 10, 1960-Nov. 4, 2022. Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Williamson-

Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.
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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Wednesday 11/16	Thursday 11/17	Friday 11/18	Saturday 11/19	Sunday 11/20
34/26 There's a 20% chance of snow Wednesday under mostly cloudy skies.	34/18 Thursday's forecast shows mostly cloudy skies with wind gusts up to 20 mph.	25/13 Friday looks to be partly sunny, with a high in the mid 20s. The low may hit 13.	29/14 Mostly sunny skies are on the horizon for Saturday with a low in the low teens.	28/15 Sunday's weather should be mostly sunny with temperatures staying below freezing.

Lotteries

Powerball
Monday
19-35-53-54-67
Powerball: 21
Power Play: 2
Estimated jackpot: \$76 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$207 million

Hoosier
Monday
Midday
Daily Three: 5-7-5
Daily Four: 9-9-9-4
Quick Draw: 1-3-5-13-20-22-30-36-40-42-44-45-50-58-65-69-71-73-77-78
Evening
Daily Three: 1-7-1
Daily Four: 5-8-5-4
Quick Draw: 3-4-8-15-

17-23-24-25-26-28-38-40-42-59-61-63-70-75-78-79
Cash 5: 18-20-24-32-39
Estimated jackpot: \$153,500

Ohio
Monday
Midday
Pick 3: 4-8-1
Pick 4: 0-0-7-5
Pick 5: 7-6-2-2-2
Evening
Pick 3: 7-9-9
Pick 4: 2-0-2-5
Pick 5: 9-1-5-0-6
Rolling Cash 5: 4-11-16-20-34
Estimated jackpot: \$150,000
Classic Lotto: 9-10-30-37-39-40
Kicker: 6-8-3-6-4-7
Jackpot: \$1.4 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery
Corn.....6.69
Dec. corn.....6.71
Wheat6.54

POET Biorefining Portland
Corn.....6.74
Dec. corn.....6.69
Jan. corn.....6.63

The Andersons Richland Township
Corn.....6.43
Dec. corn.....6.48
Beans.....14.09
Dec. beans.....14.29

Wheat 7.65
Dec. wheat 7.65

Central States Montpelier
Corn.....6.44
Late Nov. corn6.44
Beans.....14.25
Late Nov. beans.....14.25
July wheat.....8.15

Heartland St. Anthony
Corn.....6.13
Dec. corn.....6.23
Beans.....14.05
Dec. beans.....14.10
Wheat7.63

Today in history

In 1777, the Articles of Confederation were adopted by the Second Continental Congress. It took more than three years for them to be ratified by the states on March 1, 1781. (They were replaced by the Constitution eight years later.)
In 1959, the Clutter family was found murdered at their Kansas farm. Their story and that of the capture, conviction and execution of two drifters for their deaths, inspired the Truman Capote nonfiction novel "In Cold Blood."
In 1972, Portland Park Board outlined its 20-year plan that included more neighborhood parks, picnic areas, volleyball/badminton courts, basketball courts, softball fields, a lighted ice skating rink and a public golf course.
In 2001, Microsoft released the Xbox video game console.
In 2021, Jay School Board agreed to donate the former Judge Haynes Elementary School building to The Portland Foundation if a county effort to create a child care facility moved forward. After it stalled, the foundation purchased the building for \$35,000 in August 2022.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Tuesday
6 p.m. — Portland City Council work session, Hinkle, Racster and Schemenaur conference room, 121 W. High St., Portland.
Wednesday
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, Portland Municipal Airport, 661 W. 100 North.
6 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council joint session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
6:20 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
Thursday
12 p.m. — Jay County Redevelopment Commission, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St., Redkey.

Projects ...

Continued from page 1
Boozier's presentation came a month after consulting firm Baker Tilly updated the school board about its bond debt. The corporation has annual debt service of just over \$5 million, with that number expected to drop to about \$4.25 million in 2027, \$2.2 million in 2028 and zero in 2033 as various loans and bonds are paid off.
Gulley explained Monday that as those bonds are paid off there is opportunity for new projects, both for schools and athletic facilities, without increasing the current tax rate.
He and others noted the expansion of programs at the junior-senior high school with seventh and eighth graders moved to the facility and the addition of a junior high baseball program. (Junior high softball and junior high soccer could soon follow.)
Boozier also explained a plan to bring back fifth and sixth grade basketball programs. (They got lost in the shuffle as schools were consolidated — it resulted in the shift of

sixth graders back to elementary schools from middle schools as the county reduced from seven elementary schools to five — in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.) It calls for implementing a countywide program with practices to be held at East Jay and West Jay elementary schools.
Van Horn brought a proposed policy update to the board regarding attendance, noting that rates have not bounced back following the coronavirus pandemic shutdowns.
Before COVID-19, attendance rates hovered around 94%. They dropped to less than 80% at the height of the pandemic. This year, they remain below 90%, which junior-senior high principal Chad Dodd said is well below the state average.
The proposal calls for a change in excused absences, which are now granted if a parent calls the school. (School officials said that policy is being abused in some cases, with one student already at 50 absences for the current school year.)
See Project page 5

Capsule Reports

Lost control
An Eaton teenager lost control of the vehicle he was driving near the intersection of Indiana 26 and Indiana 67 about 7:50 p.m. Saturday.

Dalton Swafford, 17, was driving around a curve on Indiana 26 and approaching the intersection with Indiana 67. He lost control of the 2017 Jeep Compass he was driving and went off the road, hitting a sign.
Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000. The vehicle was towed.

Council ...

Continued from page 1
Robbins noted that additional properties will be cleaned up on Palace and Indiana streets.
It approved paying up to \$65,000 for the clean-up effort. (Robbins had estimated it would cost \$50,000 for the five properties but said Monday with increasing costs it may exceed that amount.)
There was also discussion about whether the city would be paid back for the costs it incurred to remove debris from those sites. Schemenaur explained that property owners are billed and a tax lien placed on the properties. Answering a question from clerk-treasurer Tina Elliott, he confirmed that the city has the option to file lawsuits in order to attempt to recoup the funds. Johnson suggested that the city could also pursue agreements with property owners to turn over the deeds to the city, which could then sell the lots.
Robbins also provided council with an estimate of \$132,000 for extension renovations to the city building that would include new flooring, paint, LED lighting, windows and other upgrades. He asked for more time to review the estimate before moving forward. (Council approved an additional appropriation of \$19,500 for work already completed on the exterior of the city building.)
In other business, council:
•Approved the following: the purchase of a new system for filling air tanks at the fire department from Pro Air at a cost of \$40,800; payments of \$38,774 to Culy Contracting of Winchester for the installation of a new valve and hydrant near West Jay Elementary School and \$2,501 to Water Solutions for chemicals for the water department; accepting bids for the sale of three city vehicles — a truck, a police vehicle and a dump truck — with bid opening set for the Dec. 12 council meeting; a \$200 donation to a softball tournament in support of

Dunkirk Volunteer Fire Department's Toys for Tots program.
•Heard from Robbins that there is interest in upgrading units at one of the city's trailer courts and purchasing another. He suggested council review its ordinance regarding the facilities. Council plans to do so at its next meeting.
•Made changes to its meeting schedule because of conflicts. The meeting scheduled for Nov. 28 has been canceled because it falls on the same night as the city's Feel the Warmth of Christmas event. (It will run from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. with Santa arriving at 5:30 p.m. and a tree-lighting ceremony at 6 p.m.) The meeting scheduled for Dec. 26, which is a national holiday because Christmas falls on Sunday, has been moved to 7 p.m. Dec. 27.
•Heard from Robbins new gas lines are being installed along Broad Street and an alley that runs a half-block west of Main Street.
•Paid claims totaling \$381,582.51.

SERVICES	
Wednesday	
Eicher , Christina: 9 a.m., David MK Eicher residence, 040 E. 800 North, Bryant.	
Monroe , Phyllis: 1 p.m., Williamson, Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 190 S. Union St., Pennville.	
Friday	
Brunson , Rebecca: 11 a.m., Hillcrest Cemetery, Redkey.	
Miller , Max: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.	
Saturday	
Stady , Jon: 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 215 S. Center Ave., Gaylord, Michigan.	
Service listings provided by	
PROGRESSIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS	
120 N. Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201 progressiveofficeproducts.com	

Felony arrests

Battery
A Portland man was arrested Friday for battery committed in the presence of a child younger than 16 years old.
Kenneth E. Lundberg, 29, 128 W. Third St., was charged in Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony.
He was released on a \$3,000 bond from Jay County Jail.

Methamphetamine
A Dunkirk man was arrested Monday for possession of methamphetamine.
Rusty J. Keener, 47, 712 N. Main St., was charged in Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony for the alleged crime, along with a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia and a Class A infraction for driving with a suspended license.
He's being held on a \$3,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

SMILE...

It's that Time Again!

Our Season's Greetings issue will appear in the CR December 16!

Ads 15 inches or larger may include a photo of your staff. For those who provide their own photo, the fee will be \$15. (The fee will be waived if you get your photo to us by Nov. 30!)

If you'd like us to come take your picture, the fee will be \$30.

Deadline for all ads & photos is December 7th!

We try hard not to miss anyone who wants in this issue. If you do not get contact and would like to be in our Christmas Greeting's special section, please email Lindsey at L.Cochran@thecr.com or call (260) 726-8141

The Commercial Review

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It's the holiday season

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

The first real snow of the season is silently and gently falling down as I type. All the leaves that didn't fly away in the wind are covered in white. The cold weather is a shock after temperatures were in the low 70s just a few days ago.

Aside from the sheer beauty of the snow, it makes me grateful that I no longer have to work for a living.

Well, that isn't quite true. I do gather letters into words and words into sentences in hope that you find my words entertaining and occasionally enlightening. But I don't have to go outside to do it.

I went grocery shopping yesterday. As I was going in, a couple was coming out. The guy was pushing a woman in a wheelchair. She had her feet propped on a grocery cart and her hands on the handle. I smiled at them as I remembered pushing my mom while she guided the cart. She never put her feet up and would stop on a dime and I would impale myself on the handles of her chair. She also had a habit of pulling the brakes on her wheelchair whenever she wanted to stop and look at something.

It never occurred to her to tell me she wanted to stop. That would have been too easy. For

As I See It



many months after she died, I would see a woman with snowy white hair and a blue baseball cap racing through a store in a wheelchair while people fled from her path. For the smallest second, I would think it was her. Perhaps she was messing with me from the afterlife.

I miss the days when we would get together to go Christmas shopping. It was usually cold and snowy, much like today. I would drive. Sometimes we would go to Richmond, Dayton, Ohio, or wherever she wanted to go.

Shopping online is not the same. There is no Christmas music playing in the background. There is no cardboard cutout for Mom to point at and tell me that it is too bad I don't look like that. Mom has been gone a long time and I am always surprised at what brings her to mind.

The Christmas cactus that my brother and his wife gave me for Christmas several years ago has begun blooming. That is a signal that I need to get busy and begin preparing for Christmas. The

remnants of snow that are still hanging around in random blobs are also saying that summer is officially over and I need to quit procrastinating.

A few years ago I asked if my brothers and their families would agree to not buy gifts for me and my husband. It seems that when I think I finally have the perfect gift for them it is greeted with a quizzical look. Then I have to explain my reasoning, and I know that the gift will be tossed aside, never to be seen again.

In all fairness, their gifts to me often elicit the same response. Therefore, why bother? It is their presence, not presents, that I crave.

The only shopping I do is for my hubby, the grandchildren and their parents. The children are past the age where the latest toy is the perfect gift. They are at the age where I have no idea what to get for them. Daughter Beth is not much help. One year she said to get crazy socks for everybody. They all thought I had lost my mind.

One way or another, gifts will be purchased and mailed. The wrapping paper will hide somewhere that it won't be found for months and months. The holidays will be here before we know it and there is much to be done to prepare.

Friend's criticisms become too much

DEAR ABBY: I had a close friend, "Kayleigh," for about 10 years. She helped me through tough times and was always there for me. Now I feel like she has turned into someone else. For the last six months, she has been putting down everyone I love, even in front of my daughter. She sees no problem with it, nor does she have any remorse.

Kayleigh doesn't have a healthy relationship with her family or in her love life. I believe I'm her only friend. When she does this, I feel like she's disrespecting me. I have talked to her about it, but she never apologizes. She gets defensive and says it's "just her opinion, it shouldn't matter and I shouldn't stay mad."

I have told Kayleigh things in confidence, but she's thrown them in my face, which made me feel insecure and small. I no longer talk to her about these issues because sometimes she brings it up with a jab. I can't be friends with someone who acts this way. I have stopped talking to her, but now I'm having a hard time not feeling guilty. Advice? — FRIENDLESS IN MISSOURI

Dear Abby



DEAR FRIENDLESS: Why would you continue to confide in someone who might use the information to make you feel bad? Backing away from a relationship like that is healthy. I have said before that not all friendships last forever, and this appears to be one of them.

Kayleigh's refusal to apologize if you tell her she has made you feel disrespected indicates she doesn't care about the effect her comment had on you. Quit flogging yourself and get on with your life.

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

Donate to prevent shortage

Flu season may impact blood supply.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predicts a serious flu spread this winter, with cases already pouring in from several states,

according to a press release from American Red Cross. Illnesses could decrease the number of donors.

American Red Cross is offering \$10 e-gift cards for blood donors in the month of November. For those who

donate between Nov. 23 and Nov. 27, they will also receive a knit beanie.

To schedule a donation appointment, use the donor application, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 800-733-2767.

Community Calendar

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

Today

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

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.

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.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

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.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIGANNA'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.

Thursday

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 Port-

land. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

JAY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY — Will meet at 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Jay County Public Library. The public is welcome.

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, MISSISSINEWA CHAPTER — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17, at Jay County Historical Museum. Jim Waechter of Museum of the Solider will be the speaker. Any woman 18 or older who can prove lineage to a Revolutionary War patriot may join. For more information, call Kathy Selman at (260) 251-1694 or Sue Sommers at (260) 726-2678.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

Announcing

The Commercial Review's

24th Annual

Christmas Fiction Contest

Open to residents of Jay, Randolph, Adams, Delaware, Blackford and Wells counties in Indiana, also Mercer and Darke counties in Ohio. Former area residents who are subscribers to The Commercial Review may also enter.

Selected entries will be published in The CR's annual Christmas Greetings special section. The first-place entry will also receive \$250.

Original short stories with a Christmas theme or setting should be emailed to news@the-cr.com by Dec. 9. Each entry should bear the writer's name, complete address and telephone number.

Entry Deadline is Dec. 9, 2022.

The 2021 winner
"Gifts of Love
for Angie"
By Mary T. Hemmelgarn

Find a way to overcome self doubt

By **MATT HAWKINS**

I recently attended my 25-year high school reunion in Winchester, Indiana — a town with fewer than 5,000 residents.

Aside from sharing the expected sentiments of, “Wow, we’re old. How did this happen?”, being with my classmates resurfaced old feelings of self-doubt.

The truth was I could not focus on school because I was a gay kid in small-town Indiana in the 1980s and '90s. I survived the bullying by becoming as emotionally detached as possible. I kept my circle of friends very small, and I didn't even

Matt Hawkins



allow that group to truly see me. I wanted to be anywhere but school because the school environment was painful.

My class had 121 students. I graduated 100 out of 121. For years, counselors and teachers told me that I was “not college material.” While they didn't

expressly say it, what I heard was, “You are dumb; you are not smart enough for college.” I didn't know any better, and my grades backed up what they told me.

My mother and grandfather, however, told me something different. “You’re going to college. You are capable.”

I entered college on academic probation, and I thrived in a new environment in which counselors, professors and my peers saw me as college material. I was finally able to blend into the background, giving me space to focus on my studies. I graduated college, got a job and

made mentors and friends who continued to believe in me.

In my career in higher education settings, I've seen many students thrive despite the negative and inaccurate labels others have placed on them, and the uncertainty they have had to overcome.

Everyone has their own path in life, and some have no desire to seek education beyond high school. But, if you're opting out of college because of self-doubt, choose to believe in yourself instead. You absolutely can do it, and it will change your life, not just because of the credential or degree you will earn and

the doors that will be opened for you, but also because of the people you will meet along the way.

Your journey through education might also impact others. You may influence friends, coworkers, even your own children to attend college someday.

If that's the case, lead by example. Others pay close attention to your actions, not just your thoughts or opinions of yourself.

.....

Hawkins is executive vice president and chief of staff at Ivy Tech Community College. He can be reached at matthawkins@ivytech.edu.

Divided nation needs Congress to step up

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Tribune News Service

In Pennsylvania's closely watched U.S. Senate race, Lt. Gov. John Fetterman narrowly defeated celebrity doctor Mehmet Oz.

In surviving a bruising campaign and overcoming a serious stroke, Fetterman deserves credit for holding off a formidable challenge from Oz in the closing weeks of the campaign. The race pitted a left-leaning Democrat against a right-leaning Republican. Even though issues didn't dominate the Senate race — it was more of a slugfest of attacks and counterattacks — the ideological chasm between the two candidates framed the campaign.

Oz tried to exploit those differences by, repeatedly, calling Fetterman “extreme” and “radical,” but Fetterman's portrayal of Oz as a “liar” was the label that really stuck.

Fetterman succeeded by not conceding red counties to the Republicans. His appeal to white working-class voters — the people who have left the Democratic Party in droves — and his progressive politics may give Democrats, who have increasingly targeted suburban swing voters, a new model and path to victory. Fetterman supports a big increase in the minimum wage and “Medicare for All,” though he also supports, in a possible election-year conversion, more right-leaning policies like fracking. As a U.S. senator, Fetterman vows to put a high priority on raising the minimum wage, union rights, abortion rights and access to health care.

With control of the U.S. House and Senate still up in the air, election results nationwide reflect a nation as divided as Pennsylvania's Senate race. It will take real leadership in Washington to overcome those differences and move the country forward.

To win the Senate seat, Fetterman, 52, had to battle not only attacks on his record from Oz but also the after-effects of a serious, life-threatening stroke in May that restricted his campaigning. The negatives, however, surrounding Oz — chiefly his image as a slick, out-of-touch New Jersey resident who parachuted into Pennsylvania to grab a Senate seat — proved too much

to overcome. Lingering allegations that Oz, as a celebrity talk show host, amassed some of his fortune by peddling products of dubious medical value also tainted his reputation.

Fetterman has moved, almost seamlessly, from a 13-year run as the small-town mayor of Braddock to Lt. Governor since 2019, and now the U.S. Senate. His biker persona, tatted arms and 6-foot-8 frame, along with a Harvard degree, have given him a blue-collar image that has been unstained by his history of living off his parents' wealth for much of his adult life. Fetterman will replace retiring U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey. To succeed in that role, he will have to do much more than flex his image — and he may want to pick up a couple of suits that fit if he wants to be taken seriously on a national stage.

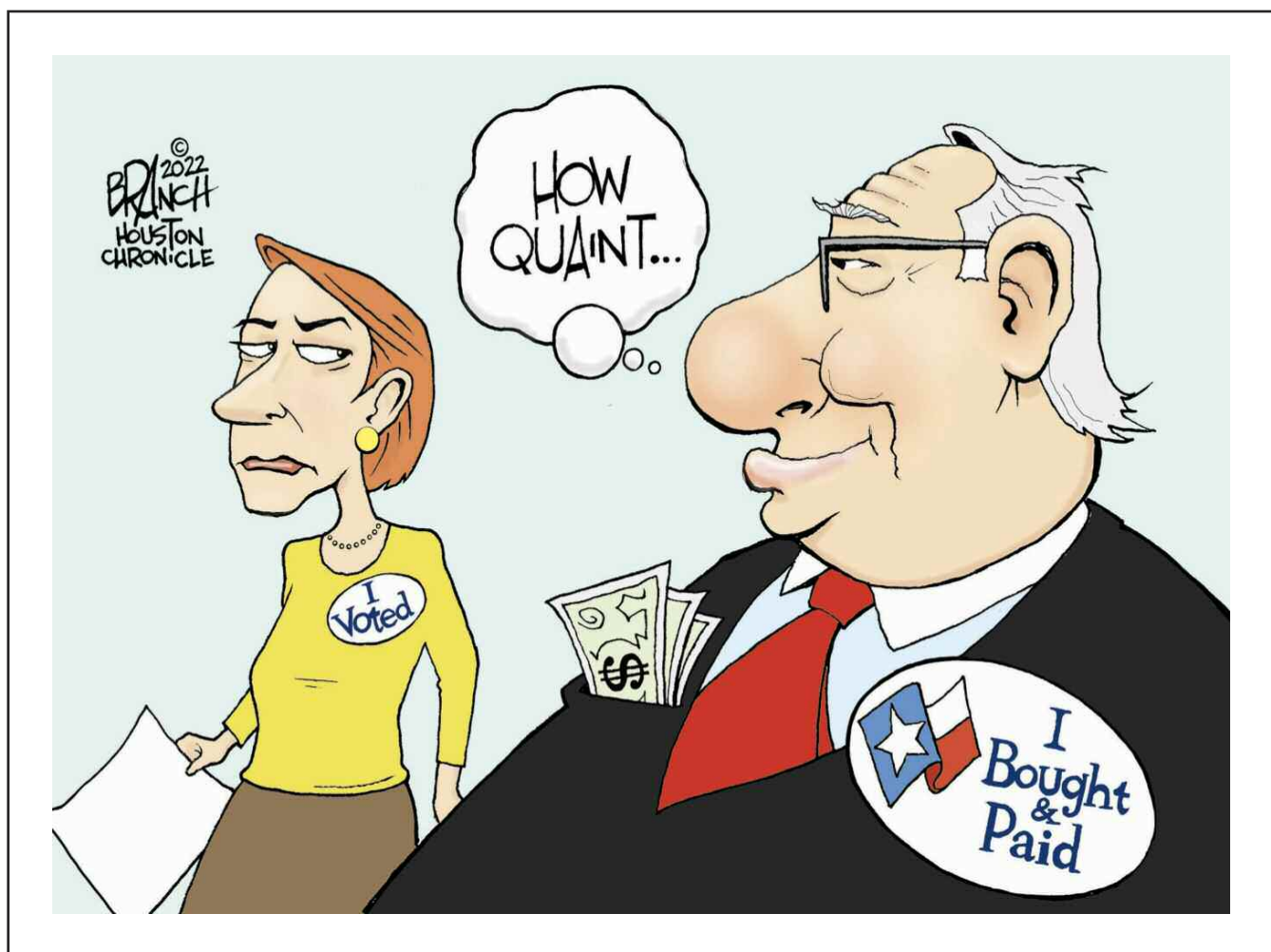
To become an effective senator who delivers for Pennsylvania, Fetterman will have to work with Republicans and even Democrats who disagree with him. Part of Fetterman's appeal is that he's not a schmoozer — and he doesn't have to become one. Nor does he need to sacrifice his ideals. But he will need to get along with people to form alliances that move the needle, and that won't be easy in a fractious congress.

As a small-town mayor and lieutenant governor, a position with few official responsibilities, Fetterman could go it alone; he can't in the U.S. Senate.

With inflation, a lack of living-wage jobs, climate change, an oppressive criminal justice system, a broken health care and mental health care system, the ongoing effects of the pandemic on the nation's health and economy, abortion rights and other searing issues embroiling the nation, the challenges facing the next Congress will equal or exceed those of any in the last 100 years.

Along with his colleagues in the U.S. Senate, John Fetterman will have to rise to the occasion and show he's up to the job.

Guest Editorial



Win by Morales sends a message

By **JOHN KRULL**
TheStatehouseFile.com

Republican Diego Morales delivered a loud wake-up call for Hoosier Democrats in the 2022 election.

Morales, the GOP candidate for Indiana secretary of state, trounced his Democratic opponent, Destiny Wells, by a double-digit margin.

Morales did this even though he is perhaps the single most flawed major-party candidate for statewide office in Indiana history. There have been other Hoosier candidates who have inflated or even lied about their military or work records. There also have been hopefuls for public office who have been credibly accused of sexual assault. There even have been politicians who have violated the voting laws.

But Morales, to my knowledge, is the only one to pull off the trifecta. He's the only one to have done all three.

That should have made him damaged goods — a candidate who was easy to beat, but it didn't. It's true that he ran behind other Republicans on the statewide ballot, but he still sailed to an easy victory.

Nor did he face a weak opponent.

Wells may be the most naturally talented political candidate Democrats have fielded in a decade. Her qualifications — a sterling record of military and public service — are impeccable. In addition, she is a bright, energetic woman with a captivating speaking style, a campaigner who knows how to work both a room and a crowd.

In most other states, Wells would be a rising star, someone with a bright future who might even aspire to having national influence.

Here in Indiana, she was the Democrats' sacrificial lamb.

John Krull



When a candidate as capable as Wells gets thumped by one as weak as Morales, there's something going on.

That something doesn't reflect well on Hoosier Democrats.

They blame Republican gerrymandering for many of their political problems. There is truth to the complaint.

Drawing legislative maps to favor one party or the other at election time does more than rig the results. It also cuts off avenues of advancement and development for emerging leaders. Persuading potential candidates, however dedicated they may be, to run hopeless and forlorn races in districts where the outcome is foreordained is a tough sell.

That chokes off the pipeline of leaders, which is one reason the Indiana Democratic bench is so thin.

(It also breeds incredible arrogance on the part of the party in power, which encourages that party to nominate someone as unqualified as Morales and still feel secure that the voters won't react with fury to the insult. One reason we need a strong two-party system is that having a healthy opposition keeps the entrenched party both honest and humble.)

But gerrymandering all by itself doesn't explain the ongoing, slow-motion trainwreck that is the Indiana Democratic Party. Much of what afflicts Hoosier Democrats doesn't spring from wrongs done them but decisions and courses of action they chose for themselves.

Some years ago, a seasoned Dem-

ocratic Party communications pro told me he lamented the fact that Democrats representing rural districts in the Indiana General Assembly had become a dying breed. His party, he said, was becoming an exclusively urban one — and that bred an insularity that would be devastating for Hoosier Democrats for decades to come. It would be tougher and tougher, he predicted, for Indiana Democrats to connect with people who didn't already agree with them.

He had a point.

While it's true that nearly two-thirds of Hoosiers — roughly 62% — now live in urban areas, most of us are only a generation or two removed from the farm or the small town. The ties to that life and that legacy still pull at us.

Indiana Democrats struggle to reach across that divide.

As of this writing, with a little more than 90% of the vote counted, Wells ran up majorities in only five counties. All five of them are home to cities or college towns.

Everywhere else, Morales claimed the day.

A large part of leadership in a self-governing society involves figuring out ways to meet the people where they are — and then persuade them to go where wisdom and good sense dictate. To do that, a successful political party must do more than preach to the choir.

Democrats across the nation had an historic night on Election Day, defying both expectations and strong political headwinds.

Here in Indiana, that wasn't the case.

That should set off alarms for Hoosier Democrats.

Loud ones.

.....

Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism and publisher of TheStatehouseFile.com.

The Commercial Review



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VOLUME 149—NUMBER 141
TUESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 15, 2022

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On strike

Unionized academic workers across the University of California's 10 campuses hit the picket line Monday, including these striking workers at UCLA.



Tribune News Service/Los Angeles Times/Christina House

Control ...

Continued from page 1
McCarthy is expected to get the plurality of the secret ballot vote Tuesday, but the challenge from Biggs could force McCarthy to make concessions to ensure he clinches the top job next year in the vote on the House floor.

The Republicans who won Monday and Tuesday, except for Schweikert, belong to a more pragmatic group, a welcome sign for McCarthy, who worked throughout the primary to build a governing coalition. Ciscomani was a star recruit by McCarthy in a district where the House GOP campaign arm invested heavily.

But the wins don't offset all of the unexpected GOP defeats across the country that, had they turned out differently, would have enabled Republicans to build a comfortable majority. A larger caucus could have given House Republicans more breathing room to navigate potentially fraught negotiations between far-right and moderate flanks of the conference.

Republicans also had their eye on other House leadership races. Minority Whip Steve Scalise (Louisiana) faces no challenge as he seeks to become GOP leader, the highest-ranking position for the party short of speaker. Rep. Elise Stefanik (New York) is expected to be reelected as GOP conference chair, but she is facing competition from Rep.

Byron Donalds (Florida), a Freedom Caucus member. One notable race will be for the third-ranking post on a majority leadership team, as Reps. Jim Banks (Indiana), Tom Emmer (Minnesota) and Drew Ferguson (Georgia) seek to become GOP whip.

Project ...

Continued from page 2
Under the proposed changes, a doctor's note would be required for an absence to be considered excused. Students would be allowed up to 10 "unexcused" absences per school year.

"Revising the policy will allow students to miss days with a parent call in, which will show as unexcused but will not impact a student's overall attendance until there are 10 unexcused absences," the proposal states.

Gulley acknowledged that there are times a child is sick but a doctor's visit is impractical, saying the proposed updated policy accounts for those situations.

"Sometimes they're going to have the sniffles or they're not going to feel good and I'm not taking them to a doctor," he said of his own children. "A parent can do that. It's their choice, up to 10 days."

Board members Ron Laux, Donna Geesaman, Phil Ford, Chris Snow, Jason Phillips and Vickie Reitz, absent Jason

Phillips, took no action on the proposal, which is expected to come up for a vote next month.

"Kids have to be in school to learn," said Geesaman, a former elementary school teacher.

The board approved the addition of a series of new courses, with Dodd explaining that graduation pathways have changed to require three courses in a specific subject area rather than two. Many of the courses being added will help students fulfill those requirements in areas including engineering, human services, electrical and information technology.

Other additions include German and Latin at the eighth-grade level, an "exploring world languages" course for seventh and eighth graders, junior ROTC being expanded to junior high students and the addition of construction trades courses for high school students.

Board members also approved the installation of LED lighting at East Jay Elementary School at

a total cost of \$211,587.58. The materials will be purchased from Kirby Risk of Lafayette, and CopperSmith Electric of Berne will handle the installation. The project will be paid out of remaining funds from a 2021 bond for elementary school improvements.

Gulley noted that LED lighting pays for itself quickly in the form of lower energy costs. The corporation also expects to receive a \$5,800 rebate.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the following: the 2023-24 school calendar, which includes school starting Aug. 10, fall break Oct. 18 through 20, winter break Dec. 20 through Jan. 2, spring break March 22 through 29 and the last day of school May 23; a list of hirings including Kaylee Swank as a high school English teacher; Luke Milner as a music/technology teacher at Redkey and West Jay elementary schools and Lindsay Moser as high school gymnastics coach; field trip requests for high school choir and advanced German stu-

dents; a bus request from Fellowship Baptist Church Youth; the appointment of Dolphus Stephens to Jay County Public Library Board; allowing Shannon Current to make any transfers necessary to avoid negative fund balances at the end of the fiscal year; and the transfer of up to 15% of dollars brought in to the education fund to be transferred to the operations fund in 2023.

- Heard from assistant superintendent Trent Paxson that Jay Schools received a rating of "low risk" in a recent risk assessment regarding state and federal grants by Indiana Department of Education. The rating indicates that the corporation is handling grants and programs as expected.

- Accepted the resignation of East Jay Elementary secretary Beth Nichols.

- Heard Laux and Shannon compliment Veterans Day programs that were held Friday in Jay Schools.

Signs ...

Continued from page 8

When she steps on the court for the Mastodons, she'll become the first Patriot to play at the Division I level in women's basketball since 2010 graduate Lindsey Wellman walked on to the Ball State University squad in 2012.

She chose her collegiate destination over IUPUI, Indiana State, Western Michigan, Central Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Toledo, Akron and Valparaiso.

"It's a great opportunity for her," said JCHS coach Kirk Comer. "One, she's going to get her education paid for, which is most important. And she has an opportunity to play Division I basketball, which doesn't happen a lot. ... The sky's the limit for her. ... I can't wait to see just how far she can take her game."

Just two games into her senior season, Schwieterman has already proven herself to be one of the best players in Jay County history. She became just the fourth Patriot girl to reach the 1,000-point mark last year and is currently 200 points away from

breaking the school record held by Shannon Freeman.

She's also led the team in assists in each of her high school seasons and has 252 for her career heading into tonight's visit to Oak Hill.

"She's worked really hard to accomplish this goal," said Comer. "She's really evolved her game. ... She helps her teammates score and gets them in good positions to score and sees the floor really well."

Schwieterman, who was also an Indiana junior all-star last season, has led the Patriots to a 54-18 record thus far in her three-plus high school seasons. (They are currently ranked eighth in Class 3A.)

Upon making her decision almost a year ago, Schwieterman said the recruiting process had been a challenge as much of it had occurred during the height of the coronavirus pandemic. That eliminated in-person visits to colleges.

But since then circumstances have changed and she made her official visit

to Purdue Fort Wayne in early October.

The Mastodons are in the midst of a rebuild, having gone 9-21 last season after a 1-22 campaign in 2020-21. In their second year under coach Maria Marchesano, they are off to a 2-1 start this season.

"They have a really good program," said Schwieterman. "Their coach now, coach Marc ... she's the one who's recruited me through the whole, entire process. She's really looking to turn the program around, which she has, their records show that. She's done a really good job of being disciplined and making the program even better, and not only making the players better but making them better people as well."

She plans to pursue a major in psychology as part of the path toward a career in physical therapy. She said that decision was influenced by her sister Aubrie, a 2021 JCHS graduate, who is now a psychology major at Ball State University with a goal of a career as an occupational therapist.

Roundup ...

Continued from page 8
The Patriots scored 114 points to finish six behind fifth-place Columbia City and five ahead of seventh-place Huntington North in the 13-team field. The host Knights won by 33 points over runner-up Angola with a score of 218.

Bader's victory came in the 100-yard butterfly as she finished in 1 minute, 5.49 seconds. She was more than a second ahead of runner-up Frances Krebs of Angola.

The senior was also the runner-up in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:13.21 behind champion Emma Bledsoe (1:11.94) of Oak Hill.

Morgan DeHoff, Lauren Fisher and Zion Beiswanger teamed with Bader for third in the 200 freestyle relay at 1:54.13.

Aubrey Millsbaugh was seventh in the 500 freestyle, Kenzie Huey and Fisher placed eighth in the 100 backstroke and 100 breaststroke, respectively.

8th drops opener

The Jay County eighth grade girls basketball team dropped its season opener 52-18 Monday to the Norwell Knights.

Hallie Schwieterman scored 11 points for the Patriots in the loss. Kylie Shannon followed with

six points and Amelia Heath scored one.

Two place second

GREENWOOD — Blake Wood and AJ Huntsman each earned second-place finishes for Jay County Wrestling Club this weekend in competition at Center Grove High School.

Wood posted a 3-1 record to finish as the runner-up in the 8-and-younger 49-pound division. AJ Huntsman was 1-1 and placed second in the 14-and-younger 165-pound division.

Parker Huntsman finished 1-1 as well and was third in the 8-and-younger division at 70 pounds.

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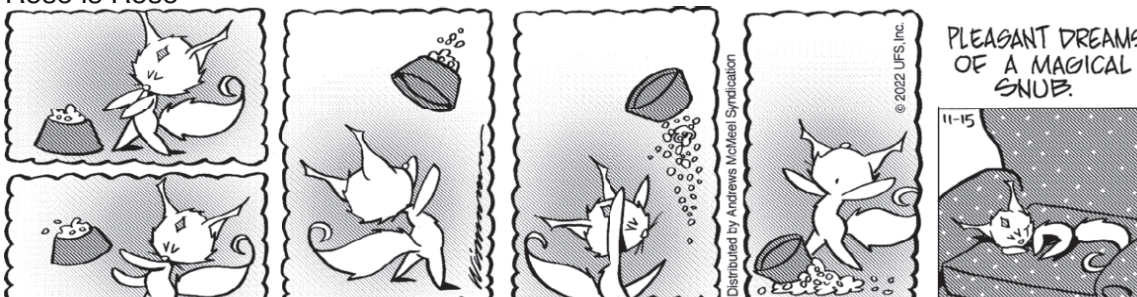
SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



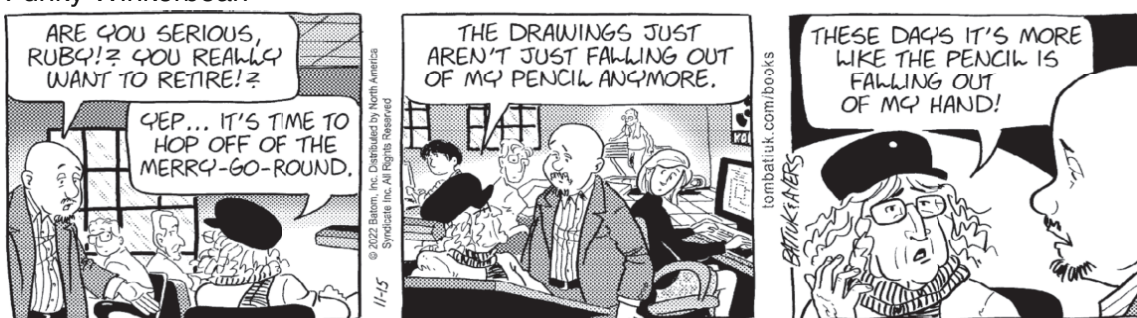
Agnes



Hi and Lois



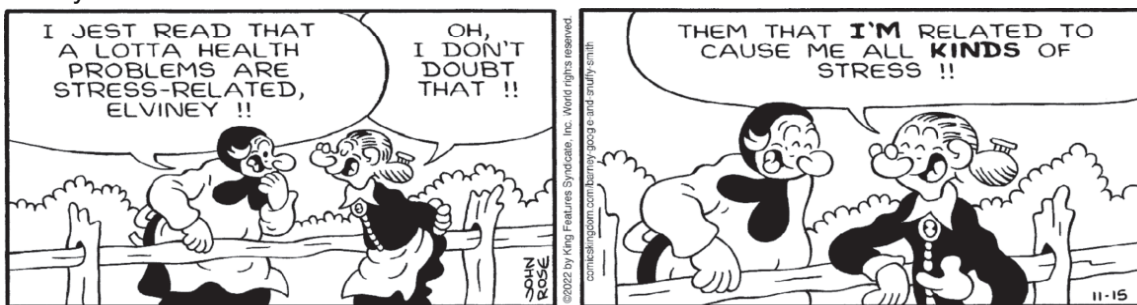
Funky Winkerbean



Blondie



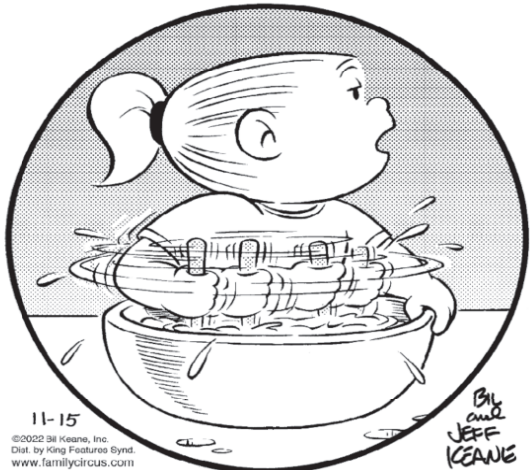
Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"I can't stir this anymore, Mommy - my hand is gettin' dizzy."

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Desperate measure

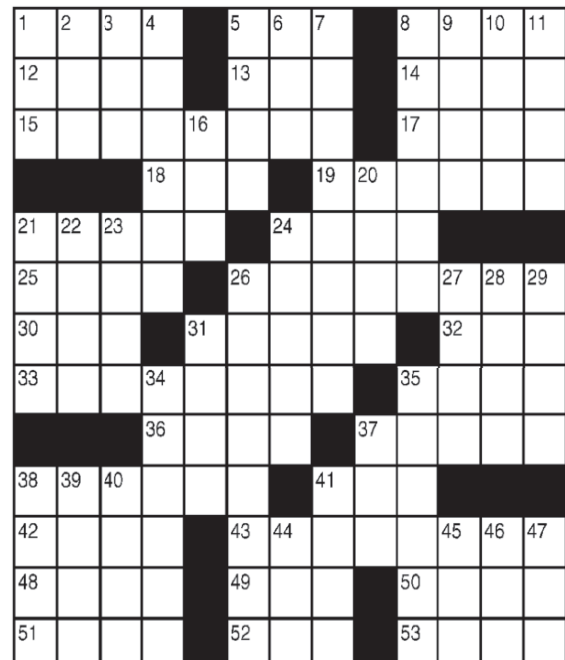
South dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: ♠9 6 4, ♥A 5 3, ♦A 10 8 7 2, ♣K J. WEST: ♠K Q 10 8 7, ♥K Q 10, ♦6 3, ♣10 7 5. EAST: ♠5 3, ♥J 9 8 4, ♦K 4, ♣9 6 4 3 2. SOUTH: ♠A J 2, ♥7 6 2, ♦Q J 9 5, ♣A Q 8. The bidding: South 1♦, West 1♠, North 3♦, East Pass. 3 NT. Opening lead - king of spades. The art of falsecarding is a study in itself. Most falsecards are well-known to the experienced player, but some of them are so rare that they are almost never seen. Today's deal features an exceptional falsecard that enabled declarer to make a contract that otherwise would have failed. West led the king of spades, and South saw immediately that if West had the king of diamonds, a simple finesse would yield five diamond tricks and the contract. So South had to consider what might happen if East had the king of diamonds. It was clear that if he won the spade king with the ace and took the diamond finesse, he would go down if the finesse lost and East had a spade to return. South also realized that if he refused to win the first trick, West would almost surely shift to a heart rather than continue a spade after he saw East's discouraging signal. In the actual deal, had South ducked the king of spades, West would have shifted to the king of hearts, and the contract would have been doomed. And so, fully cognizant of the danger of playing the ace of spades at trick one and the futility of playing the deuce, South played the jack instead! This extraordinary falsecard produced the desired result. West naturally assumed that South had started with the A-J doubleton and therefore continued with the queen of spades. Declarer won, led the queen of diamonds and finessed. East took the king but did not have a spade to return, so South wound up with nine tricks. Note that if East had had a third spade to return - which would mean West started with only four spades - South would have made the contract anyway, since West would have had only two more spades to cash. Tomorrow: Partnership rapport. ©2022 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

11-15 CRYPTOQUIP

SMVC GYDPX EYD GVPP BFYBPF S MY PYYI RULUPVQPE LDRGDPVQPE ADUPC VR YAVLV? RYPUX VR AVQVGI. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SPECIAL COFFEE PRODUCED FOR FOLKS PLANNING TO CLINK THEIR CUPS TOGETHER: TOASTER'S CHOICE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals L.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Bongo, for one; 5 Bowler, e.g.; 8 Toy block name; 12 Farmland unit; 13 Ab - (from the start); 14 Novelist Jennifer; 15 Virginia Woolf's Clarissa; 17 Big wind; 18 Lamb's dam; 19 Hexes; 21 Marathon stats; 24 Envelope abbr.; 25 Fruit drinks; 26 New York theatre district; 30 Actor Cariou; 31 Active folks; 32 Common verb; 33 Raised road over water. DOWN: 20 Bake sale orgs.; 21 Body powder; 22 Inventor's inspiration; 23 Diner handout; 24 Locales; 26 Soup servings; 27 Sit tight of folk; 29 Kennel cry; 31 Sub shop; 34 Tranquil (Fr.); 35 Fire starters; 37 Guitar's kin; 38 Whirl; 39 Protagonist; 40 Tenasy bit; 41 Eden evictee; 44 PBS funder; 45 Humorist; 46 Shock partner; 47 Shriek bark. Solution time: 22 mins. Yesterday's answer 11-15



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Sports

Familiar heartbreak

No. 6 Hamilton Heights edges Patriots again

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review
It was finally time. After two heartbreaking losses to Hamilton Heights in the sectional tournament, the Patriots were going to win.

Or so it seemed. Twice. Instead, they walked off the court with a familiar feeling.

Camryn Runner willed her team to overtime Saturday and, after she fouled out, sophomore Katie Brown hit a game-winning 3-pointer in the extra session as the sixth-ranked Huskies played the role of heartbreaker again, defeating Class 3A No. 3 Jay County 45-44 in overtime.

"Very disappointing," said JCHS coach Kirk Comer, whose team lost to Hamilton Heights in overtime in last season's sectional opener and by four in the 2021 sectional championship game. "Down the stretch they played a lot tougher than we did and made a lot better decisions, smarter decisions. I'm really disappointed in the way we finished tonight. I feel like we let a W slip away."

"They're a good basketball team, but I felt like we out-played them for most of the game. We just mentally weren't tough enough down the stretch to finish."

The Patriots (1-1) were up by two when Runner, who had more than half of her team's points, fouled out with 40.4 seconds to go in overtime. With Ella Kickok (nine points) already on the bench with five fouls, the home team seemed in command. But Sophie Saxman missed the front end of the ensuing one-and-one.

On the next Huskies possession, Kaylee Rhoton drove in from the right side. As the defense collapsed around her, she kicked to Brown in the right



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School's Mabrey McIntire dribbles for a fast break as Ella Hickok of Hamilton Heights stumbles in the background during Saturday's game between state-ranked sectional rivals. The Patriots led most of the way only to have the Huskies rally to force overtime and escape with a 45-44 victory.

corner. The sophomore, who was 0-for-4 at the time, drained a 3-pointer that gave Hamilton Heights (4-1) a 45-44 lead.

"So many times teams leave ball-side corner," said HHHS coach Keegan Cherry. "We practice and rep that a lot with drive-and-kick 3s. Katie Brown is a kid that can make shots. When she gets going, she can make them in bunches."

Jay County put the ball in the

hands of the No. 2 scorer in program history, with Renna Schwieterman driving from the left wing. She pulled up in the lane, but her jumper went off the back of the rim and Cassidy Schakel hauled in the rebound.

"I wanted her to be in one-on-one isolation," said Comer. "I didn't feel like we took it to the whole strong and settled for a fade-away shot instead of going

strong to the basket. We've got to finish stronger."

JCHS had a final chance after Schakel missed a pair of free throws, but with just 0.5 seconds on the clock they were left with a backward overhead toss by Gabi Bilbrey that never really had a chance.

The Patriots were also in control in regulation, leading by as many as seven in the second half. They had the game in their hands

after Mabrey McIntire tied up Runner for a jump ball — the possession arrow was in Jay County's favor — as she tried to drive to the basket with less than 10 seconds left.

Hamilton Heights, trailing by one, had no choice but to foul Schwieterman on the inbound. The senior went to the line and made her first shot but missed the second.

See Familiar page 7

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School senior Renna Schwieterman (center) signed a National Letter of Intent on Monday to play basketball at Purdue Fort Wayne. Pictured with Schwieterman are JCHS coach Kirk Comer, her parents Nicole and Dale and her sisters Aubrie, Hallie, Karsyn and Whitney.

Schwieterman signs

JCHS senior makes commitment to Mastodons official

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review
Renna Schwieterman announced her decision almost a year ago. On Monday, she finally made it official. Schwieterman, a Jay County High

School senior, signed her National Letter of Intent to play college basketball at Purdue Fort Wayne.

"It feels really good," she said after signing the letter in the JCHS TV studio with a large gathering of family, teammates, coaches and friends there to support her. "Definitely a breath of fresh air."

"It's just nice to know where you're going and have that path ... It's just nice to know what you're going to do."

Schwieterman, who announced her intention Dec. 9 to play for Purdue Fort Wayne, said she never had any doubts about that selection. But by NCAA rules she had to wait until this week to put pen to paper securing a full-ride athletic scholarship.

See Signs page 5

Patriots eke out title

KENDALLVILLE — In their opener, the Patriots were just a single point behind the leaders.

In their second outing, they were the champions.

The Jay County High School girls wrestling team tied the host Knights but were awarded an extra point based on tiebreaker criteria — the Patriots had a 31-28 advantage in pins — for a 164-163 victory in the East Noble Invitational.

Jayla Huelskamp (114 to 119 pounds) and Tatianna Willis (112 to 117 pounds) dominated their way to championships to lead the Patriots, who were still

Local roundup

missing several wrestlers including defending 160-pound state champion Malory Winner because of an injury. Huelskamp obliterated the competition, ending all of her matches with pins in 40 seconds or less. Willis also won all of her matches by pin, with just one lasting beyond the first period.

Adding runner-up efforts for Jay County were Emily Manor (119-124), Janae Jacobs (132-137) and Kiley Williams (190-206). Finishing in third place were Katie Rowles (91-102), Lina Lingo (125-136), Haley Ridenour (143-144) and Maleah Parsons (147-152).

Bader wins fly

OSSIAN — Mara Bader earned the only win for the Jay County girls swim team as it opened its season Saturday with a sixth-place finish at the Norwell Invitational.

See Roundup page 5