

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Accused seeks a change of venue

Lawyer for Delphi man facing murder files motion

By KIM DUNLAP
Kokomo Tribune
Tribune News Service

DELPHI — The defense attorneys in the case of a man accused of murdering Delphi teenagers Abby Williams and Libby German in February 2017 have now filed a motion for a change of venue in the case.

The legal team for Richard Allen, 50, of Delphi, cited the “extensive media attention” and “highly publicized” nature of the case as part of its arguments for having the case moved out of Carroll County, per court documents filed Tuesday.

Defense Attorney Bradley Rozzi also used data procured from “Google Trends” and “Google Ads” to highlight his argument that it would be difficult to obtain a jury pool from Carroll County that would not be tainted, according to court documents.

“During the month of October, the search for ‘Richard Allen’ in Carroll County ranged between 1,000 and 10,000 searches for a county just over 20,000 residents,” Rozzi wrote in the motion. “On average, around one in every two (50%) of Carroll County residents have conducted on-line searches of Richard Allen during the month of October following his arrest.”

Rozzi then compared that to Fort Wayne, located approximately 100 miles away from Delphi and roughly 13 times bigger than Carroll County.

“In the month of October, following his arrest, the average monthly searches for ‘Richard Allen’ in Fort Wayne ranged between 1,000 and 10,000 searches,” Rozzi argued.

See **Venue** page 2

Christmas pair



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

“The Horrible Herdmans” — from left, Ralph (played by Jackson Sonner), Gladys (Niyah McIver), Claude (Kaylynn Clark), Imogene (Lucy Fennig), Ollie (Ava May) and LeRoy (Ella Littler) — strike a pose at the end of a song during Jay County Civic Theatre’s rehearsal Thursday for its Christmas doubleheader. The organization will be performing “Frosty the Snow Man” and “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” as a doubleheader with an intermission in between. Shows are 7 p.m. Dec. 2, 3, 8, 9 and 10, and 2 p.m. Dec. 4, at Arts Place in Portland.

Jay County Civic Theatre is offering doubleheader performance of holiday shows

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

It’s a Christmas doubleheader.

Jay County Civic Theatre is performing back-to-back shows — “Frosty the Snow Man” and “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical” — starting Friday.

Rachel Werling, who is directing “Frosty the Snow Man,” explained the organization had hoped to perform “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” this year. But after a catch with the

licensing process, it changed gears.

Both shows are relatively short, with “Frosty the Snow Man” only lasting about half an hour. That’s what prompted a doubleheader production, Werling explained.

“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical” begins in a church with children describing the local misfits, the Herdmans.

“They’re one family in town and they are heathens,” explained assis-

tant director Joseph Bailey. “Nobody likes them.”

Chaos quickly ensues after the fill-in Christmas pageant director, Grace Bradley, decides to invite the Herdmans.

“It’s nothing like they planned,” said Bailey.

Bailey noted the directing staff chose to go with a mostly younger cast. And although they’re playing more challenging roles, Bailey said he’s thrilled with the outcome.

“Really, the younger

kids have kind of stepped up to the plate, and I think it’s going to be just as good a caliber show as we have had in the past,” he said.

He referred to Joscie LeFevre, a sophomore at Fort Recovery High School. She’s playing the role of Grace Bradley, a mother of two children who gets the Christmas pageant thrust upon her.

“Grace Bradley believes that everybody deserves a chance to be happy,” explained LeFevre. “She wants to

see the good in other people when others tend to only see what’s on the outside.”

Music director Reid Knuth — he also serves as assistant director for “Frosty the Snow Man” — noted there are a wide variety of songs in the musical.

“There’s gospel, rock, almost jazz at times, pop, folk music, it’s just kind of all over the place,” he said, adding there are several Christmas carols sprinkled in as well.

See **Pair** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Visiting Olaf

Gabie Huntsman and her 1-year-old daughter, Marleigh, visit with Olaf from Disney’s “Frozen” Monday during the Feel the Warmth Christmas event in Dunkirk.

Resolution likely

By VALERIE YURK
CQ-Roll Call
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — Aiming to avert a Dec. 9 railroad work stoppage estimated to cost the economy \$2 billion a day, House and Senate leaders of both parties promised to pass legislation soon that would enact the White House’s rail union agreement that is opposed by most rail union workers.

According to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, the chamber will take up the legislation as soon as 9 a.m. Wednesday. The measure would put in place the most recent tentative agreement by the Presidential Emergency Board in September.

Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer and Minority Leader Mitch

Congress poised to take action to avoid a rail worker strike

McConnell said they intend to pass the legislation “as quickly as possible.”

“You need to act a few days before that, because a lot of the suppliers stopped sending their stuff on the trains if they think there’s a possible shutdown,” Schumer said. “For instance, chlorine, to preserve water supplies in many towns and cities, would not go on those trains.”

The legislation comes

after Biden called on Capitol Hill to ratify the agreement — a move that’s caused workers to question his self-proclaimed pro-union presidency. The rail unions’ bargaining process and contract has remained in status quo since four unions voted down the agreement over what they called “insufficient” paid sick leave. The other eight unions have ratified the agreement.

See **Resolution** page 5

Deaths

Terry Degler, 84, Portland
Gene Amstutz, 90, Berne
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 60 degrees Tuesday. The low was 45.

Tonight’s low will drop to 21 with winds gusting to 30 miles per hour. Expect sunny skies Thursday with a high of 36.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council have scheduled a joint executive session for 5 p.m. Dec. 14 in the auditorium at Jay County Courthouse. Council’s regular meeting will follow at 6 p.m.

Coming up

Thursday — A look at local athletes who are competing at the collegiate level.

Saturday — Soil judging teams have built tradition of success.



Obituaries

Terry Degler

June 7, 1938-Nov. 28, 2022
Terry Max Degler, age 84, a resident of Portland, passed away on Nov. 28, 2022, at Persimmon Ridge in Portland.

Terry was born June 7, 1938, in Portland, the son of Clarence and Hazel (Starr) Degler. He graduated from Portland High School and retired from LPI Trucking in Portland. Terry also worked for Price Implement.

In his early years, he enjoyed horseback riding and camping. Terry was a veteran of the U.S.

Army. He attended Asbury United Methodist Church in Portland.

Terry married Ruth Ann Bickel on Dec. 10, 1961, and she passed away on March 4, 2020.

Survivors include:

Two sons — Jeff Degler (wife: Cheryl), Churubusco, Indiana, and Kevin Degler (wife: Denise), Portland, Indiana
Seven grandchildren
Seven great-grandchildren



Degler

Three sisters-in-law — Marjorie Johnson, Portland, Indiana, and Elaine Bickel, Portland, Indiana, and Marilyn Boyce (husband: Don), Geneva, Indiana

Four brothers-in-law — Donald Bickel (wife: Donna), Ridgeville, Indiana, Larry Bickel, Pennville, Indiana, Lester Bickel (wife: Julia), Huntington, Indiana, and Bill Benefiel (wife: Melanie), Michigan

He was preceded in death by his wife Ruth; his brother Donald Degler; and his sister Pat Benefiel.

Visitation will be held on Fri-

day from 4 to 7 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will be held on Saturday at 11 a.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home. Pastor Joe Boggs will officiate and burial will follow at Gravel Hill Cemetery, west of Bryant.

Memorials may be directed to The Journey Home for Ending Veteran Homelessness.

Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.com.

Gene D. Amstutz, Monroe, a

graduate of Geneva High School, Dec. 3, 1931-Nov. 29, 2022. A memorial service will be held at noon Saturday at Swiss Village Chapel in Berne.

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

Thursday 12/1	Friday 12/2	Saturday 12/3	Sunday 12/4	Monday 12/5
36/29	49/47	49/24	41/34	46/39
Sunny skies are expected Thursday with highs in the mid to upper 30s.	Winds may gust up to 30 mph Friday under partly sunny skies. There's a chance of rain late.	Mostly cloudy skies are in the forecast for Saturday, with the low dipping to 24 at night.	Sunday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a high of 41 degrees.	There's a 60% chance of rain and snow on Monday. The high will be 46.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$65 million	Quick Draw: 3-9-12-19-24-25-31-37-38-39-41-55-56-58-60-62-68-69-72-74 Cash 5: 1-11-15-22-35 Estimated jackpot: \$367,000
Mega Millions 20-23-37-46-52 Mega Ball: 6 Megaplier: 4 Estimated jackpot: \$333 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 7-6-0 Pick 4: 4-5-1-9 Pick 5: 3-9-0-2-9 Evening Pick 3: 7-8-9 Pick 4: 3-1-1-7 Pick 5: 0-8-7-1-0 Rolling Cash: 12-15-17-24-31 Estimated jackpot: \$140,000
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 2-8-3 Daily Four: 2-2-2-4 Quick Draw: 7-8-10-17-23-24-30-32-38-40-56-59-64-67-70-71-72-73-76-80 Evening Daily Three: 5-7-6 Daily Four: 8-9-9-7	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.78 Dec. corn.....6.78 Wheat.....6.13	Wheat.....7.28 Dec. wheat.....7.28
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.85 Dec. corn.....6.85 Jan. corn.....6.72	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.54 Jan. corn.....6.58 Beans.....14.48 Jan. beans.....14.50 Wheat.....7.75
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.66 Dec. corn.....6.66 Beans.....13.52 Dec. beans.....14.52	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....6.32 Dec. corn.....6.35 Beans.....14.38 Dec. beans.....14.38 Wheat.....7.39

Today in history

In 1718, Sweden's King Charles XII was killed during the siege of the fortress of Fredriksten.

In 1979, Pink Floyd released "The Wall." It was nominated for album of the year and best rock performance by a duo or group with vocal.

In 1982, Michael Jackson's album "Thriller" was released. Jackson won eight Grammy Awards for it, including album of the year, best pop vocal and record of the year.

In 2003, Jay County Commissioners discussed the possible purchase of Hanni Plumbing, Heating and Cooling at 215 W. Main St. They wanted to own the site in case of the need to expand Jay County Jail. (The project came to fruition eight years later.)

In 2021, the Jay County High School wrestling team opened its season with a 52-20 victory over Centerville. Winning Patriots were A.J. Myers, Landon Garringer, Cody Rowles, Bryce Wenk, Ramon Bravo, Taye Curtis, Ethan Reiley, Tony Wood and Daidrick Retz. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Thursday 8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.	cil, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Monday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chamber, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Coun-	Tuesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonia Town Council, school-house community center.

Pair ...

Continued from page 1
"Frosty the Snow Man" follows four children — Mary Ann, Geraldine, Joey and Charlie — who build a snow man, Frosty, and watch him come to life. They spend the show playing with Frosty while also attempting to hide him from Officer Bump.

Aiden Stallsmith, 11, Portland, plays the role of Charlie. He's the boy who originally built Frosty. "Charlie, he gets a bit whiney if he doesn't get his way," Stallsmith noted.

Although it shares a similar premise and name, Jay County Civic Theatre's upcoming production of the popular snow man isn't based on the classic 1969 animated film. Its script was written in the 1950s.

The show's age made it difficult at times, explained Werling, such as outdated phrases the younger cast members had to learn. But as of last week, she said she was pleased with how the show is playing out.

"(The cast) always come around and surprise me," said Werling. "Like I said, this isn't a super easy show to do by itself. They speak differently than we



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

do. And these kids instantly caught onto it. They had it memorized, and they've really brought this show to life. I love being able to watch it."

"Frosty the Snow Man" will lead each performance, followed by an intermission and then "The

Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical."

Shows are scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday, Dec. 8, Dec. 9 and Dec. 10 and at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Hall-Moser Theatre at the Jay County Campus of Arts Place. For tickets, visit myart-

space.org, call (260) 726-4809 or stop by Arts Place.

"I'm very grateful to be in this production with the people I am," LeFevre said. "I can see all the hard work and how connected everybody is. It makes performing so much more worth it."

Venue ...

Continued from page 1
"... On average, therefore, one in every 26 (3.8462%) residents in Fort Wayne have performed an on-line search of 'Richard Allen.'

Rozzi added that this data possibly indicates jury pools gathered farther away from Carroll County might have a better likelihood of being untainted, per court documents.

Allen's attorneys also argued that as many as 300 people throughout Delphi helped in the active search for Abby and Libby shortly after the girls went missing.

With the population of Delphi being around 3,000 residents, Rozzi argued that number equates to roughly 10% of the city's residents.

"Those involved in the search for the victims, in addition to showing a strong investment in the case, arguably could be called as witnesses," Rozzi wrote in the

motion, adding that involvement in the search also could have led to a person having opinions about the case or knowledge of the layout of the search area.

Rozzi also cited Allen's public role as an employee of the CVS in Delphi, as well as federal, state and local law enforcement's strong and consistent presence in the area over the last five years, as other reasons to move the case to an area at least 150 miles away from Carroll County, according to court records.

"It is common to presume that residents from counties farther away from Carroll County will not have the same level of investment in the case and therefore will be able to more fairly decide the matter without concern about how their verdict may affect their relationships with other Carroll County residents," Rozzi argued.

The special judge in the case, Allen County Superior Court Judge Fran Gull, will now take the motion under advisement.

SERVICES

Thursday
Craig, Dixie: 11 a.m., Mount Hope Church of the Nazarene, 5005 East 500 South, Berne.
Loyd, Larry: noon, Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Saturday
Degler, Terry: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
Amstutz, Gene: noon, Swiss Village Chapel, 1350 W. Main St., Berne.

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JayRegion is proud to announce its partnership with Yodel Community Connections to bring an all-encompassing community calendar to Jay County.

We are one of the first communities in the nation to bring this completely innovative approach to life. The schools, nonprofits, youth sports leagues, restaurants, museums, businesses, churches, and more will be represented on the calendar making it the one-stop shop for community members to find events happening throughout the county.

The calendar will be launching in just a few weeks, and we want your events to be represented before we launch. This tool is completely free and includes multiple benefits such as statistics, multiple sharing features, your very own QR code, and the opportunity to increase engagement and attendance at your upcoming events.

Yodel is offering 6 in-person info sessions on December 5th and 6th where you can learn how this tool will benefit your organization. Coming to these sessions will be your ticket to the calendar — you don't want to miss this!

Dates and times being offered:
Monday, December 5th – 10am, 12pm, or 6pm
Tuesday, December 6th – 12pm, 3pm, or 5pm

All sessions will be held at the Community Resource Center – 118 South Meridian Street, Portland, IN 47371.

Please register for one of the info sessions by calling 260.726.9311 and feel free to pass this along to any other organizations you think should be included.

This is a valuable tool for organizations and community members in Jay County and we're excited to have you be a part of it!



Photo provided

Rockets donation

The City of Portland donated \$250 on Nov. 9 to The Portland Rockets. Pictured are Rockets manager and Mayor John Boggs.

Celebrate body, force of nature

By KWAME DAWES

Joy Harjo's ode to family, to ancestry, and to the woman's body, truly makes sense if we understand that for Harjo, there is no line separating the natural world and her human body—that for her the evolutionary impulse is one of the imagination: "I was a thought, a dream, a fish a wing". In "Granddaughters," she celebrates the

American Life in Poetry

body and the dynamic force of nature.

Harjo was awarded the 2017 Ruth Lilly Prize in Poetry and named U.S. poet laureate in June 2019.

Granddaughters

I was a thought, a dream, a fish, a wing
And then a human being
When I emerged from my mother's river
On my father's boat of potent fever
I carried a sack of dreams from a starlit dwelling
To be opened when I begin bleeding
There's a red dress, deerskin moccasins
The taste of berries made of promises
While the memories shift in their skins
At every moon, to do their ripening

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetry-foundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2019 by Joy Harjo, "Granddaughters" from *An American Sunrise* (W.W. Norton & Company, 2019.) Poem reprinted by permission of the author and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2022 by The Poetry Foundation.

Wife seeks new path after years of abuse

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 30 years has always made me feel like I wasn't good enough for him. He would flirt with other women and say things to me about an ex-girlfriend he broke up with before marrying his first wife. (I caught him private messaging her.) He has told me four different times that we should separate. The first three times, I cried about it. The last time he said it, I told him never to say that to me again.

I have always tried my best to be a good wife to him. He's verbally abusive most of the time. When I see him coming home from work, my stomach ties in knots because I don't know what kind of mood he's in. He can be good at times, but it's not that often. I'm going to be 50 and I'm not sure if I want to live like this the rest of my life. Help, please. — UNHAPPY IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR UNHAPPY: It's important you recognize that you are married to an emotional abuser. He main-

Dear Abby



tains his power in your relationship by eroding your sense of self-esteem. Discuss with a licensed mental health professional the treatment you have tolerated for the last 30 years and your desire to rebuild your shattered self-esteem. It may take time to accomplish, but it will be money well spent.

At some point you may ask your husband to join you, but don't expect him to automatically agree. Once you feel better about yourself, you can then make a well-thought-out decision about whether to continue being married to him.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 56-year-

old man who has been with a great guy, age 50, for 20 years. We were married two years ago. He's a professor; I'm a clinician. We have spent the last 20 years building a beautiful life advancing our careers, traveling to 80 countries, winning and dining in the best places in the world and cultivating long-lasting friendships with people all over the planet.

Five years ago, I felt a sense of emptiness in spite of our happiness and talked to him about children. He was adamantly opposed. I let it go, but now that emptiness is tearing me up inside. I am at the point of giving up my life with him to have a child on my own via adoption or IVF with a surrogate. His biggest issue is how his comfortable life will be changed forever. My issue is getting those last few drops of unfulfilled happiness before it's too late. Please advise. — HAPPY BUT INCOMPLETE

DEAR H.B.I.: If your husband is steadfast that he doesn't want his lifestyle to

change, he may not be taking into account that with you out of the picture, it will change regardless. And it isn't unheard of that someone who is fearful of the responsibility of raising a child can have a change of heart and fall in love with the little person after meeting him or her. If ever a couple could use marital counseling, it's the two of you to help you determine whether a compromise can be reached.

DEAR ABBY: Fifteen years ago, I "ran away from home" to get away from my adult children, and I finally made a life for myself. They were able to stay in the house because I continued to pay the mortgage. Their dad — my ex — and his family all lived nearby.

Now, none of my children wants anything to do with me or my family, and they don't want any communication from me. I suspect they feel abandoned, since I was the parent

they could always count on. Is there anything I can do to repair our relationship? — RUNAWAY MOM IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR MOM: Yes, tell your children you are selling the house, which, I assume, you now own outright. I'm quite sure they'll begin "communicating" with you as soon as word reaches them. You were more than generous by keeping up those house payments so they would have a roof over their heads. If you had to "run away" from their bottomless pit of need, you did the right thing. Please don't allow yourself to be used any further. You saved yourself, and you shouldn't feel sad or guilty for having done it.

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 www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

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

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

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

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

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through

miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

Friday

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

Saturday

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.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland.

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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.

Friend enriched life tremendously

(Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Dec. 3, 2003. Jack had loads of stories about his adventures with friends from both Associated Press Managing Editors and Hoosier State Press Association. I'm glad to say I found the same camaraderie with those on the Indiana APME board during my six years of service with the likes of George Garties of the Associated Press, Ryan Reynolds of the Evansville Courier & Press and Alvie Lindsay of the Indianapolis Star.)

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

Chances are you never met Jack Powers. Your life would have been enriched if you had. I first met Jack more than 25 years ago at a meeting of the Indiana Associated Press Managing Editors.

Back in the Saddle



It was my first meeting with the group, and I was a little nervous about rubbing elbows with folks from big city newsrooms.

Jack swept that aside instantly, grabbing me by the shoulder and pulling me into a conversation about the news business that would go on for years.

To Jack Powers, it made absolutely no difference that I was editor of The Commercial Review in an out-of-the-way place

called Portland and he was managing editor of The South Bend Tribune.

News was news. Newspapers were newspapers. As far as Jack was concerned, we were peers. And there was plenty to talk about.

He and his wife Barbara made Connie and me feel instantly at home. Though they were a generation older, putting the last of their ten kids through college while our twins were still infants, it didn't matter.

For the next couple of years, Indiana's APME group became a bigger part of our lives, bringing us into contact with friends from Evansville to Merrillville and dozens of places in between. I even found myself president of the organization for a couple of years.

But Jack Powers — with his personality, his integrity, and his vitality — was always at the core. More than once, the chance to visit with Jack was the real motivation for attending a state meeting.

Born in Brooklyn, he was a paratrooper in the Korean War and went to Notre Dame on the G.I. Bill. He emerged from the university and soon became a driving force on the Tribune staff.

Hard as it is to believe in this era of diversity, the Tribune newsroom in the early 1950s looked nothing like the ethnic, religious, and racial mix that is South Bend. It was white, Anglo-Saxon and Protestant. Then Jack Powers rolled in with his Irish Catholicism and brought the paper into a new era.

He ended up being managing editor of the Tribune for 27 years, a remarkable ride in this business, having had the good fortune to work for the Schurz family all that time.

We last spoke at length in 1990, when he'd given up the reins of the paper and had begun teaching journalism at Notre Dame. I was teaching journalism as an adjunct prof at Earlham, so again we had plenty to talk about.

Sorry to say, we lost touch after that. He moved into retirement; I found myself being pulled in other directions.

But the loss was real when I learned he died last week.

I was fortunate enough to know Jack Powers and call him my friend.

And my life was enriched immeasurably.

Will legislature join Holcomb?

Herald Bulletin
(Anderson)

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb might have asked himself privately numerous times the same question he posed aloud recently to attendees of the United Nations 27th Climate Conference of the Parties (COP27) held in Egypt: "Am I in the right place?"

Egypt, an authoritarian country hoping to become a major natural gas exporter, hosted the conference amid allegations that it has imprisoned or driven into exile its critics including environmental activists. But human rights issues weren't broached in Holcomb's two speeches touting Indiana's role in renewable green energy.

In his first speech, he referenced Indiana's state ranking as fourth in clean energy capacity under development. That statistic is from a fourth-quarter 2021 report by the American Clean Power Association policy group which praised Indiana for projects in the pipeline. Holcomb, however, leaned into the fact that the state provides more than one-fourth of all steel produced in the U.S. and that Indiana still uses coal to produce energy "enabling our economy to grow and keep the home lights and refrigerators on." Clean energy can do the same.

He referenced coming advances by Cleveland-Cliffs in replacing coal with natural gas as well as Cummins Inc. and Duke Energy for setting carbon goals.

Most of his citations involved private enterprise recognizing the future of clean energy.

He added, "And in regard to our infrastructure, broadly defined, it's our state government mindset, because it's the key to scaling up innovation and therefore solutions."

The governor may have missed legislative discussion on Senate Bill 411 during the last regular session. When introduced, the bill set standards for wind projects, such as addressing height and shadows flickering on neighboring properties.

Originally, the bill would have provided \$1 per megawatt in taxes as an incentive for govern-

Hoosier Editorial

ments to adopt wind power projects. On Feb. 21, State Rep. Ed Soliday (R-Valparaiso), who sponsored the bill in the House, said the legislation was an attempt to compromise with Hoosiers who fought renewables — notably residents opposed to wind projects being installed at a neighbor's farm.

No action was taken by the House Ways and Means Committee which could have advanced the bill. Instead, the next day, the \$1 provision was axed because legislators couldn't determine who would end up paying for infrastructure needs, whether it would be local communities or state government.

"We weren't quite prepared for state government to do that," Rep. Timothy Brown (R-Crawfordsville), chair of the Ways and Means Committee, said.

The Indiana General Assembly has shown it's not as forward-thinking as Holcomb might tout in Egypt. While some previous state legislation has meant well for clean energy, utilities still rule.

In 2011, the Legislature passed a voluntary clean energy portfolio plan by which electric utilities could pledge that 10% of their electricity would come from clean energy by 2025. No one had signed up as of 2021, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

In the last session, the Hoosier Environmental Council had difficulty in urging passage of bills that would have created a climate task force in the General Assembly. Similarly, the Citizens Action Coalition lost its fight by mid-session for pro-solar bills including an extension on net metering availability.

Holcomb's cheerleading in Egypt was a proper sales pitch to an international market. So yes, he was in the right place to talk clean energy.

But when, Hoosiers might ask, will the Indiana General Assembly end up in the right place?



We need political heroes

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Our news screens were erupting with breaking news of yet another mass shooting. But this time the news that began with a barrage of bullets also became something special — a tale of battlefield heroics on the homefront of a nightspot in Colorado Springs.

A brave military veteran, Richard Fierro, had rushed toward the first flashes of light as he had been trained to do. He smashed the gunman to the ground and pummeled. Mercifully and miraculously, a horrific fatality count of five innocent souls never became 50.

A day later we saw yet another godawful newsbreak. This one should have sent scores of famous-name Republican veterans of America's political wars rushing instinctively and instantly toward the news flash. Yet it didn't. But it may not be too late for scores of Republicans to once again show they can be a Grand Old Party. After all, we know that sometimes it takes a while before words of political incitement trigger warped individuals to commit horrific acts. We still shudder at the tragic attack following the repeated political incitement slogan of "Fire Pelosi!"

Now we have heard what sounded sickeningly like another political battle call — and we are all smart enough to sense the danger that could follow.

Mike Pompeo, Donald Trump's former secretary of state and CIA director, made precisely the news he wanted to make Monday. In an interview with Semafor correspondents David Weigel and Shelby Talcott, Pompeo, a conservative Republican who used to be a Kansas congressman, issued a carefully politically calculated pronouncement about an individual most Americans probably think they never heard of: "The most dangerous person in the world is Randi Weingarten. It's not a close call."

Pompeo was talking about the president of the American Federa-

tion of Teachers. Indeed, he was so intent upon making his attack on Weingarten the headline of his story that he asked himself a question he hadn't been asked — just to attack the teachers union leader. He said:

"I get asked 'Who's the most dangerous person in the world. Is it Chairman Kim, is it Xi Jinping?' The most dangerous person in the world is Randi Weingarten. It's not a close call. If you ask, 'Who's the most likely to take this republic down?' It would be the teachers' unions, and the filth that they're teaching our kids, and the fact that they don't know math and reading or writing."

Pompeo did not just stumble into this populist name-calling demagoguery out of ignorance. He graduated first in his class at West Point, then went to Harvard to get his law degree. He's been traveling the country to see if he can generate his own groundswell of Trump-like loyal voter support if he chooses to run for president in 2024 against his former boss and others.

Indeed, Pompeo is trying to play the Trump demagoguery card well before 2024, just as Trump found a way to make headlines long before his 2016 campaign. Remember Trump got himself on TV by initially repeating his blatantly false claim that President Barack Obama wasn't born in the United States, but Kenya, which would mean he was never eligible to be president.

Now Pompeo is trying to lure Trump's base by demonizing the teachers and their union. But the



Martin Schram

Republican Party that once stood for patriotism, law and order, still has many prominent political leaders who understand that Pompeo's self-serving political PR ploy can spin horribly out of control. Pompeo's words can inflame any of the many warped minds who have access to weapons. He could endanger not only the teachers union president, but all teachers, in all schools, who go to work each day, are woefully underpaid — but represent the infrastructure that is building America's next generations.

On Wednesday, Weingarten appeared on MSNBC's "Morning Joe," whose host, Joe Scarborough, was a former conservative Republican congressman from Florida who broke with his party over its support of Trump. Scarborough told her "It's not just an attack on you, it's an attack on all teachers."

"You and I both know the history of incitement," Weingarten told her host, "And what happens when you start with words that get increasingly demagogic — and what that then does. ... Do we need to have a mass shooting every night? Every day? ... This is intended incitement. ... What I'm concerned about is what it does for teachers in classrooms. And for parents. And for kids. ... What does that do in terms of bringing people together?"

Perhaps the ultimate point is that Pompeo's attack on Weingarten and teachers must do just that. Pompeo's demagogic words must bring together all the sane patriots who still call themselves Republicans. They must unite to condemn his message — and tell Americans we must work with our teachers to help them build the infrastructure that will be America's ultimate bridge to tomorrow.

.....
Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Email him at martin.schram@gmail.com.

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Former Chinese leader dies at 96

By DAVID PIERSON
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

Jiang Zemin, the unlikely former leader who stewarded China through groundbreaking economic reforms and served as a bridge between the country's strongman era and a more consensus-driven government, has died. He was 96.

Chinese state television reported Jiang's death Wednesday, saying the former leader had died in Shanghai, a city he once led as mayor.

The announcement ends peri-

odic speculation about whether the ailing party elder, who served as the country's Communist Party chief from 1989 to 2002 and president from 1993 to 2003, had died.

The death of a member of the ruling party's elite has traditionally been a highly sensitive event, one that has even sparked deadly demonstrations, as in 1989 with the passing of reformer Hu Yaobang. But Jiang's death is not nearly as politically delicate as his two predecessors' — Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping — a reality

that reflects both the relative stability of China today and the mixed legacy Jiang leaves behind.

Still, Jiang continued to exert some power behind the scenes until his final years. President Xi Jinping was a protege of Jiang's, and the strong presence of Jiang allies on the Politburo Standing Committee helped Xi to pursue a tough anti-corruption drive and quickly consolidate power after rising to the party's top post in 2013.

The first Chinese Communist Party chief without a military

background, Jiang never attained the revolutionary cult of personality assigned to Mao but nevertheless formed the nucleus of communist China's third generation of leaders.

Born Aug. 17, 1926, in Yangzhou, Jiangsu province, Jiang was a graduate of an American missionary school. He could recite the Gettysburg Address by heart and often did so during interviews. He told poor jokes, wrote poetry and played the piano on national television.

With his high-waisted pants, owl glasses and penchant for breaking into song (he once sang "O Sole Mio" with the late tenor Luciano Pavarotti), Jiang did not command an aura of seriousness that most Chinese had come to expect of their leaders.

He was dubbed "flowerpot," a criticism for looking nice but not doing much. He earned the nickname "Weathervane" for expertly knowing which way the political winds blew. He was also accused of being too smitten with foreign culture and quick to show off his English.



Tribune News Service/Abaca Press/Yuri Gripas

From left, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-California, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-New York, U.S. President Joe Biden, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-California, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, meet Tuesday in the Roosevelt Room at the White House in Washington, D.C.

Resolution ...

Continued from page 1
Lawmakers were poised to pass a joint resolution in September that would similarly require the unions and railroads to accept the recommendations of the presidential board. However, the Biden administration issued a tentative agreement that includes one of the largest wage packages in nearly five decades, according to advocates of the agreement, as well as health benefits and an additional day of paid time off for most union workers.

According to the Association of American Rail-

roads, the agreement offers one of the highest wage increases in over five decades, with extra wage and compensation of up to \$16,000 for the average rail employee.

But four rail unions — the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and SMART Transportation Division — said the agreement's four days of sick leave doesn't provide

protections against illnesses like COVID-19.

"Despite making record profits year after year, pumping up their stock prices to unheard-of levels, downsizing the workforce by furloughing 30% of the employees and becoming some of the most profitable corporations on Wall Street, the Class One carriers somehow cannot afford to provide sick time for their hard-working and dedicated employees," Jason Doering, general secretary of Railroad Workers United, a group representing workers from a variety of rail unions

and carriers, said in a statement.

The National Carriers' Conference Committee, which represents the freight rail carriers in national collective bargaining, maintains that the agreement allows union employees to call in sick "at any time, as long as they maintain a reasonable level of overall availability under carrier attendance policies," as well as other long-term sickness benefits.

Biden and some Democrats have been reluctant to urge congressional action to enact the agreement.

Employee suing Walmart

Suit alleges company ignored shooter's troubling behavior

By GAVIN STONE
The Virginian-Pilot
Tribune News Service

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — A Walmart employee who says she narrowly missed being shot as another employee opened fire inside a Chesapeake store last week filed a \$50 million lawsuit against the company Tuesday, alleging it ignored her complaints about his troubling behavior in the months prior to the deadly shooting.

Donya Prioleau, who worked at the Sam's Circle Walmart as an overnight stocker and trainer for over a year, was in the break room when the gunfire erupted, the lawsuit said. Bullets "whizzed" by her face and left side, narrowly missing her, the claim said. Prioleau fell as she scrambled to get out of the room, injuring her knee and elbow.

Andre Bing, 31, an overnight manager for Walmart, killed six store employees before killing himself, according to police.

Prioleau's lawsuit, filed in Chesapeake Circuit Court, outlines a series of complaints she made about the gunman in the months prior to the shooting.

According to the lawsuit, the shooter harassed Prioleau for being poor and short, and made comments about her age, asking, "Isn't your lady clock ticking? Shouldn't you be having kids?" She said she submitted a complaint Sept. 10 to Walmart management.

Prioleau's mother was so concerned for her daughter's safety, she spoke with the store's manager but was told "there was nothing that could be done about Mr. Bing because he was liked by management," the lawsuit said.

The shooter had asked Prioleau if she liked guns, according to the claim, and told store employees and managers that if he was fired, he would retaliate and "people will remember my name."

The lawsuit said he also "repeatedly" asked his co-workers if they had received their active shooter training. When employees said they had, the lawsuit said he smiled and walked away.

"Mr. Bing had a reputation among Walmart employees for being the team lead to 'watch out for,'" the complaint said. "It was well known that Mr. Bing had a bad attitude and would retaliate against five fellow employees for the smallest perceived slight or inadequacy. Mr. Bing was known for being a mean and cruel supervisor."

The gunman, who had worked at the store since 2010, was disciplined multiple times and demoted due to complaints about his interactions with co-workers, but was later reinstated as a team lead, the lawsuit states.



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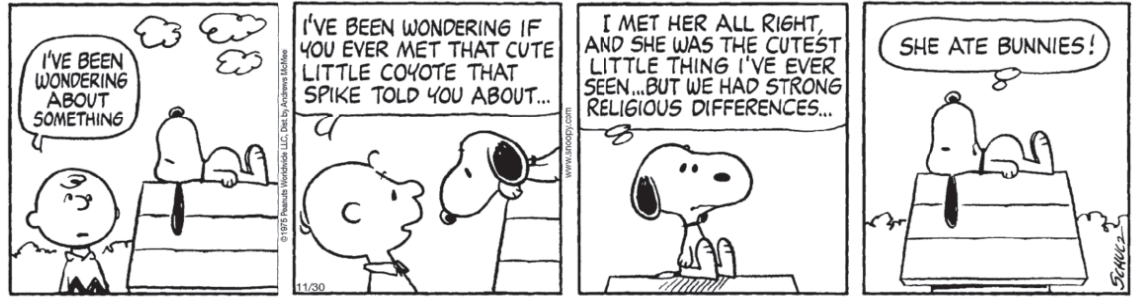
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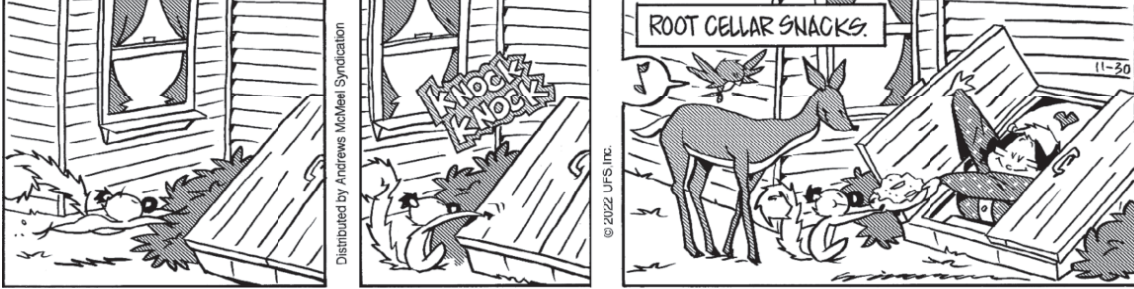
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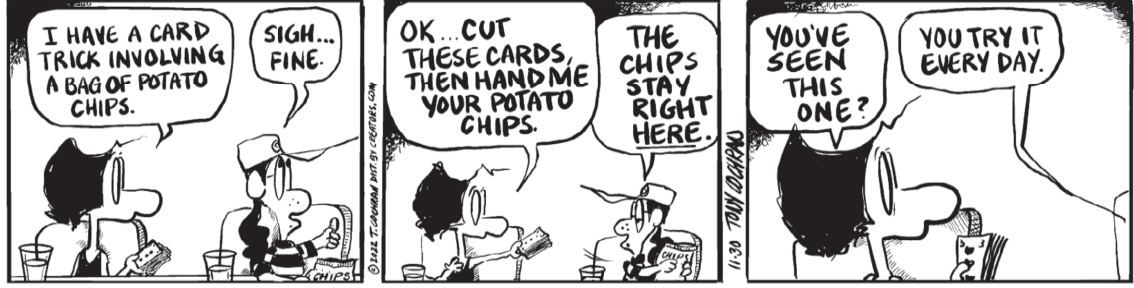
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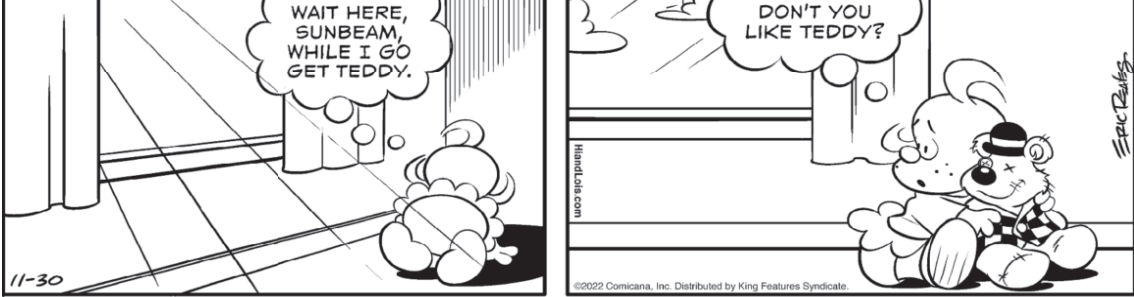
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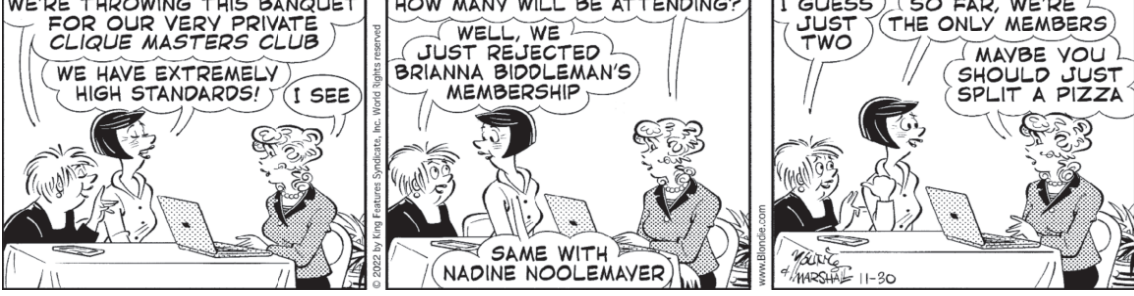
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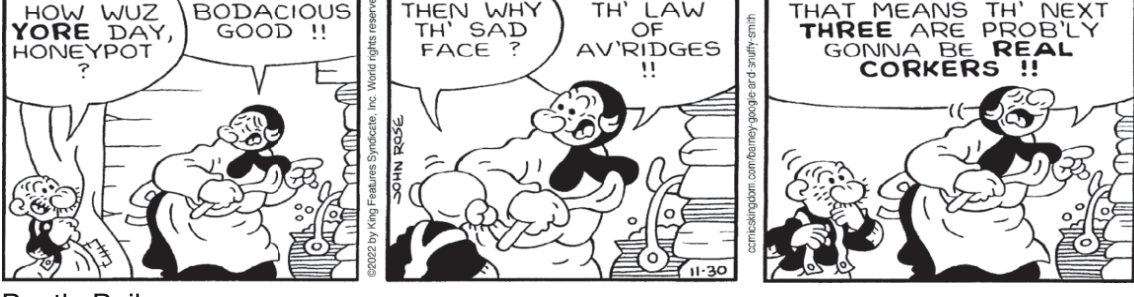
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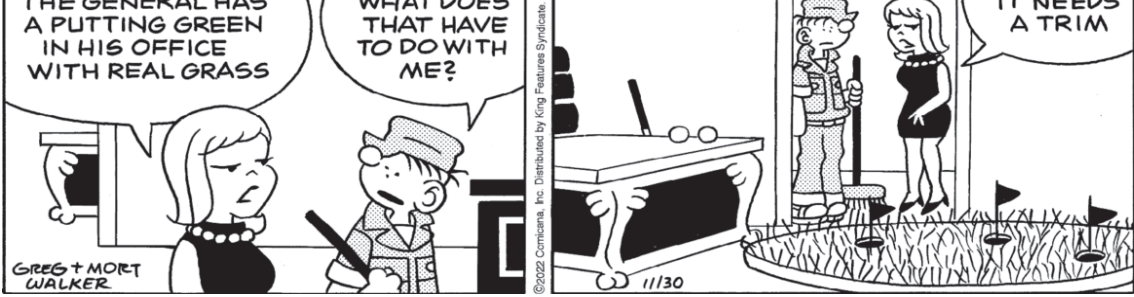
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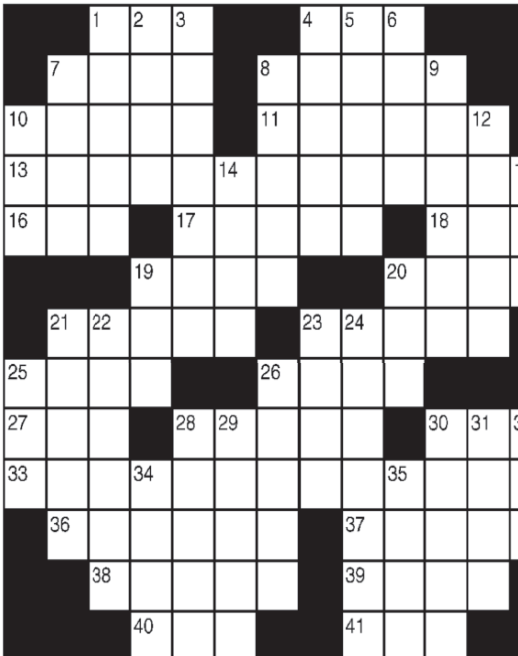


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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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JCHS girls swimmers win in first dual meet, see Local roundup

Fort Recovery girls to visit Cardinals Thursday, see Sports on tap

Sports

Jay tops Knights

Sixth-ranked Patriots earn fifth victory in a row



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

The Patriots trailed 6-4. They wouldn't give up another point in the opening quarter. The Class 3A No. 6 Jay County High School girls basketball team finished the opening period on an 11-point run and never looked back in a 60-49 victory Tuesday over the visiting Northeastern Knights.

The Patriots (6-1), who climbed one spot in this week's Class 3A poll, pushed their advantage to 28-15 at halftime. They were up by 16 heading into the final period.

Senior Gabi Bilbrey finished with 14 points to lead the Patriots, who have now won five in a row.

Renna Schwieterman, also a senior, followed with 11 points and 11 rebounds. The effort puts her 100 points away from breaking the school's all-time scoring record of 1,458 points held by 1986 graduate Shannon Freeman.

Mabrey McIntire and Sophie Saxman were next on the scoring list with eight and six points, respectively.

See **Tops** page 7

Jay County High School's Mabrey McIntire puts up a 3-point attempt during Friday's victory over Woodlan. McIntire had eight points and 10 rebounds in Tuesday's 60-49 Patriot victory over Northeastern.

No. 16 Patriots crush Bulldogs

CENTERVILLE — When preseason polls were released early this month, the Patriots were ranked among the top 20 in the state overall and atop their class.

On Tuesday, they finally got a chance to show off their skills.

Jay County High School's 16th-ranked boys wrestling team opened its season with a near sweep, winning all but one match in a 71-6 victory over the Centerville Bulldogs.

The Patriot girls also picked up eight wins in matches against the Bulldogs.

Nine of the victories for JCHS, which is the top-ranked team in Class 2A, came by way of pins. The fastest of those was by heavyweight Conner Specht, who needed just 20 seconds to finish off Axel Cook.

Also winning with first-period pins were No. 20 AJ Myers (182 pounds), Ethan Reiley (132), Landon Mills-Blowers (160), No. 15 Bryce Wenk (195) and Jaquin Flores (170). Other pins came from No. 9 Cody Rowles (126), No. 16 Daniel Moore (113) and Tave Curtis (120).

No. 4 Cameron Clark (145) won by decision while No. 6 Tony Wood (138) and No. 19 Christian Wit-

Local roundup

tkamp (152) each won by major decision.

Winning matches for the girls team were Mattie Affolder, Dakota Chowning, Lina Lingo, Emily Manor, Maleah Parsons, Haley Ridenour, Kiley Williams and Mallory Winner.

JV wins for the Jay County boys came from Hayden Richman, AJ Heskette, Cole Carpenter, Daidrick Retz and Jacob Robinson.

Swimmers split

BLUFFTON — The Jay County girls swim team cruised to victory in its first dual meet of the season Tuesday, topping the Bluffton Tigers 125-54. The boys team fell 114-68.

A sweep of the 100-meter butterfly highlighted the win for the Patriot girls. Freshman Lauren Fisher won in 1 minute, 25.92 seconds, with teammates Kenzie Clayton second and Kenzie Huey third. Fisher was also first ahead of fellow Patriot Zion Beiswanger in the 50 freestyle in 31.86.

See **Roundup** page 7

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