

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Claim denied



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County Commissioners on Tuesday denied a claim for payment of compensatory time for the Jay County Jail matron. Their final meeting of 2022 included the discussion of various issues regarding Jay County Sheriff's Office, including signing a contract with incoming sheriff Ray Newton.

Commissioners reject request for comp time pay; discuss various issues regarding the sheriff's office

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Jay County Sheriff's Office issues dominated the final Jay County Commissioners meeting of 2022.

Commissioners on Tuesday went against Jay County Personnel Committee's recommendation to pay a claim for compensatory time, signed the contract with the incoming sheriff and discussed various other concerns regarding the department.

The personnel committee met Thursday to review a comp time claim from Jay County Jail matron Kristin Coleman. She had requested cashing out 178 hours of accumulated comp time.

Though the jail matron position is on a list of employees not eligible to receive comp time, personnel committee members Chad Aker, Jeanne Houchins and Ted Champ voted to recommend approval of the claim.

At the personnel committee meeting, Jay County auditor

Emily Franks said she's aware of two situations in which she has denied giving pay for compensatory time because the employees were not eligible and that as far as she knows, the sheriff's office is the only department that has paid for the compensatory time without authorization to do so.

Discussion Tuesday centered on the fact that the position is not eligible for comp time. (Commissioners also questioned the lack of documentation for the hours worked while acknowledging that Sheriff Dwane Ford confirmed the extra hours.) They indicated that comp time and overtime policies are part of the handbook that all new employees must sign off on when they are hired.

Aker, who is also a commissioner, and Houchins, who was in attendance Tuesday, indicated that the personnel committee's recommendation to pay the claim was a reluctant one. They added that after having

the weekend to think about the issue, they had changed course.

"Two wrongs don't make a right," said Aker. "It was wrong for it to be paid in the past because it is in the handbook. And to go ahead and pay it again is another wrong, as far as I'm concerned."

Houchins agreed. Commissioners Rex Journey and Brian McGalliard took a firm stand against approving the claim, saying regardless of documentation the position is not eligible for comp time.

Ultimately, commissioners voted unanimously to deny the claim.

Also Tuesday, commissioners Aker, Journey and McGalliard and incoming sheriff Ray Newton — he previously served two terms as sheriff from 2007 through 2014 before being forced out by term limits and was elected to a third term in November — signed the sheriff's contract. It comes in at \$114,690 annually.

The only question from commissioners regarding the con-

tract came from Journey in regard to the budget for meals at Jay County Jail. Newton explained that the state requires the county to allocate \$2 per meal per inmate. Jail staff, led by the matron, seek the best value for food purchases, Newton said, with meal plans approved by a dietician. If meals can be purchased at less than the amount allocated, those funds are returned to the county. (In the past, unused meal money became part of the sheriff's pay. That was changed during Newton's first term in office.)

Newton told commissioners he plans to keep current chief deputy Ben Schwartz in that position and hire his wife, Cindy Newton, as the jail matron. (Both positions are appointed.) He noted that Indiana Code allows a sheriff's spouse to be employed as the matron.

"He takes his job very serious, and that's what we need right now," said Newton of Schwartz. "He's a person I can trust."

See Denied page 5

City to get 3 new officers

Portland board OKs police hirings

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Within the next couple of months, Portland will have three new police officers.

Portland Board of Works on Tuesday approved the hiring of Craige Jarvis, James Elliot and Chris Jack as new officers for the city's police department.

Interim police chief Steve Schlechty told the board that the city currently has two positions open. One was vacated by an officer's resignation and another became available last week when Portland City Council OK'd the reinstatement of the 14th officer position. (The position was eliminated a couple of years ago to allow for raises to the remaining staff, but Schlechty requested it be reinstated citing nearly \$80,000 in overtime both in 2021 and this year.)

A third position will become open in February when Mitch Sutton's retirement goes into effect. Sutton, who had served as chief, has been dealing with medical issues for several months and is using up vacation time until his retirement Feb. 8.

Slechty recommended Jarvis, a current Hartford City officer, and Elliot, who is an officer in Covington, Kentucky, for the two positions that are currently available. Jack, who is a reserve with the Portland department, was recommended for the role that will open when Sutton retires.

Jarvis will be a lateral transfer, since he is already an officer and has gone through Indiana Law Enforcement Academy training.

See Officers page 2

Council OKs vacation pay

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — City council addressed several employee-related issues during its final meeting of the year Tuesday, including agreeing to pay out some vacation days to those who have been unable to use them because of staffing issues.

Water department superintendent Dace Mumbower brought a request to council that he and Brock Farmer, superintendent of the street department, each be paid out a week of vacation. He explained that he would typically take vacation this week, but that he is unable to do so because of lack of employees to cover shifts.

Mumbower also asked council about the possibility of water department employee Aaron Huey being paid for unused personal days.

Council members explained that city policy does not allow

Dunkirk employees have been unable to take time because of being short-staffed

for paying out unused personal days, instead asking that Huey take those days this week. But they agreed to pay Mumbower and Farmer for the vacation days, given the circumstances in their departments.

Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins also reported several changes with city employees. The police department recently hired Conner Esmond as a new officer to bring the city up to its full staffing of six officers. However, Jamie Baughman will be leaving the department to move to a position with the city's water

department, dropping the police staff back to five officers. Also, Brandon McIntire has been hired to work for the wastewater department.

Council members also voted 4-1 on first reading to eliminate the city's COVID-19 policy. Jesse Bivens, Tom Johnson, Kevin Hamilton and Christy Curtis were in favor, with Bryan Jessup voting against. He expressed concern about employees with COVID-19 coming to work and potentially spreading the disease to co-workers.

See Vacation page 2



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/John Normile

Cleared up

A snow plow makes its way along a clean Ridge Road in front of Our Lady Of Victory Basilica on Tuesday in Lackawanna, New York. The historic winter storm Elliott dumped up to 4 feet of snow on the area leaving thousands without power and at least 28 confirmed dead in the city of Buffalo and the surrounding suburbs.

Deaths

Shirley Bollenbacher, 83, rural Portland
Virginia Reynolds, 94, Winchester
Earl Resler, 73, Winchester
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 31 degrees Tuesday. The low was 24.

Tonight's low will be 38 with winds gusting to 30 miles per hour. There is a chance of rain Thursday with cloudy skies and a high in the low 50s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

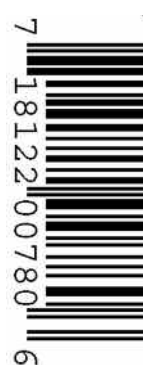
In review

Portland City Council's first regular meeting in January will be held at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday. It would typically be held on Monday but was moved because of the observance of the New Year's Day holiday.

Coming up

Thursday — Results from today's East Central Indiana Classic.

Friday — Coverage of Thursday's Redkey Town Council meeting.



Obituaries

Shirley Bollenbacher

Oct. 23, 1939-Dec. 20, 2022
Shirley A. Bollenbacher, age 83, a resident of rural Portland in Jackson Township, went to meet her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022.

She loved life and lived for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Shirley was born on Oct. 23, 1939, in Portland, Indiana, the daughter of Byron and Ethel (Hanlin) Tyndall. She graduated from Portland High School

in 1957 and retired from Jay Garment after 40 years of service. Shirley was a member of the Red Hatters Society.

She married Larry Bollenbacher and he passed away in 2001.

Survivors include:

Two sons — Allen Bollenbacher (wife: Theresa), Pennville, Indiana, and Terry Bollenbacher (wife: Tammy), Flora, Indiana



Bollenbacher

Son-in-law — Dave Davis, Pennville, Indiana

1 brother — Glenn Tyndall (wife: Lynn), Fort Wayne, Indiana

Seven grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Rinada Davis; and her brothers, Charles and Donald Tyndall.

Visitation for family and friends will be held on Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022, from noon to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. on Thursday at the

funeral home. Pastor Brittan Bollenbacher and Robert Roulhac will officiate the service. Burial will follow at Westlawn Cemetery, west of Geneva, Indiana.

Memorials to Jay County Cancer Society, Jay County Humane Society or St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.com.

Virginia R. Reynolds, Winchester, the mother of a Portland resident, June 10, 1928-Dec. 27, 2022. Private graveside services will be held

Friday at Green Park Cemetery in Portland.

Earl Resler, Winchester, a relative of Jay County residents, Nov. 3, 1949-Dec. 26, 2022. A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

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 and birth/death date.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Thursday 12/29	Friday 12/30	Saturday 12/31	Sunday 1/1	Monday 1/2
51/46	51/42	51/41	49/38	55/47
A slight chance of drizzle. Cloudy, with a high near 51. Winds gusting as high as 30 mph.	Rain is likely with up to a quarter-inch of precipitation possible. Winds will gust as high as 25 miles per hour.	Expect mostly cloudy skies with a high of 51. There is a 50% chance of rain.	Skies will be mostly cloudy with a high of 49.	The forecast calls for cloudy skies with a 20% chance of rain. The high will be in the mid 50s.

Lotteries

Powerball
Estimated jackpot: \$215 million
Quick Draw: 4-5-8-19-20-21-23-24-30-31-33-37-45-49-54-56-59-60-62-80
Cash 5: 6-9-18-24-41
Estimated jackpot: \$100,000

Mega Millions
3-4-33-36-52
Mega Ball: 11
Megaplier: 2
Estimated jackpot: \$640 million

Hoosier
Midday
Daily Three: 3-6-5
Daily Four: 4-5-1-8
Quick Draw: 5-9-12-16-18-20-21-26-28-32-35-36-37-44-46-49-64-70-72-76
Evening
Daily Three: 4-4-2
Daily Four: 5-1-4-4

Ohio
Midday
Pick 3: 1-4-0
Pick 4: 2-6-2-0
Pick 5: 6-5-6-7-5
Evening
Pick 3: 2-2-4
Pick 4: 5-6-4-4
Pick 5: 6-5-0-9-7
Rolling Cash: 11-12-29-30-37
Estimated jackpot: \$130,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery
Corn.....7.00
Jan. corn.....7.00
Wheat.....6.95

POET Biorefining Portland
Corn.....6.96
Jan. corn.....6.96
Feb. corn.....6.95

The Andersons Richland Township
Corn.....6.78
Jan. corn.....6.78
Beans.....14.88
Jan. beans.....14.88

Wheat.....7.23
July wheat.....7.69

Central States Montpelier
Corn.....6.78
Jan. corn.....6.78
Beans.....14.91
Jan. beans.....14.91
Wheat.....7.95

Heartland St. Anthony
Corn.....6.83
Jan. corn.....6.83
Beans.....14.61
Jan. beans.....14.63
Wheat.....7.24

Today in history

In 1065, the original Westminster Abbey was consecrated by Edward the Confessor and opened in London. It would become the site of royal coronations and other major events in England.

In 1694, Queen Mary II died of smallpox at the age of 32. She served just five years as queen as joint sovereign over England, Scotland and Ireland along with her husband, William of Orange.

In 1832, John C. Calhoun became the first vice president of the United States to resign the office after he was elected to the U.S. Senate. The vice presidency was vacant until Martin Van Buren took over the role in 1833.

In 1922, Stan Lee was born in New York

City. Lee went on to a career as a comic book writer, most notably for Marvel Comics, creating characters including Spider-Man, the X-Men, the Avengers and the Fantastic Four.

In 1972, Portland Mayor Robert Ford announced his appointments for 1973, retaining Chuck Privett as police chief, Ray "Bud" Williams as fire chief and Ernie Gillett as superintendent of the water and sewage departments.

In 2021, Teigen Fortkamp earned the only win for the Fort Recovery High School swim team as it competed in the Holiday Invitational at Lima YMCA. Fortkamp was first in the 50-yard freestyle.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
3 p.m. — Portland Police Pension Board, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.
6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.
6 p.m. — Jay County

Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA Service Center, 1331 W. Indiana 67, Portland.

Thursday
6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St., Redkey.

Battery plant gains approvals

By TYLER JURANOVICH

Kokomo Tribune
Tribune News Service

The 2.4 million square foot EV battery plant set to be built on the city's northeast side has received the necessary development plan and variance approvals it needs to begin construction.

The Kokomo Plan Commission earlier this month unanimously approved the development plan for the EV battery plant. The approval gives StarPlus Energy LLC, the joint-venture company created by Stellantis and Samsung SDI, the OK to begin construction of the plant and gives the public the first look at what the development will look like.

According to a landscape plan presented to the plan commission, the battery plant will have two main buildings surrounded by numerous other ancillary buildings. The property totals 305 acres, while the two main buildings total 2.4 million square feet, with the two main buildings being over 120 feet tall.

Project is joint venture between Stellantis and Samsung

Two parking lots — totaling more than 1,600 spaces — as well as two stormwater detention ponds, will flank the plant on both the east and west sides.

Entrances into the plant, according to the plan, will be off Touby Pike, North 50 East and North 250 East, which will

be extended south of the plant and connect to North 50 East.

Hundreds of canopy and evergreen trees and shrubs will be planted primarily on the south, east and west sides of the plants to serve as a buffer between the plant and public.

Additionally, prairie grasses will be planted around both the detention ponds and the north side.

The types of trees to be planted include 86 red sunset maple trees, 71 red oak trees, 31 Norway spruce and many more.

The EV battery plant is expected to be completed in 2025. With it comes 1,400 new jobs at an average hourly wage of no less than \$32.07 per hour.

Vacation ...

Continued from page 1
Because the vote was not unanimous, council will need to approve the change on second reading at its Jan. 9 meeting.

In other business, council:
•Approved additional appropriations of \$20,130 each from the rainy day fund and the cigarette tax fund to cover the cost of cleaning up several properties in the city at which homes had been destroyed by fires.

•Approved a \$22,000 settlement with Blaine Pike property owner Michael Wallischeck for the purchase of land for a sidewalk project scheduled for 2023. The Indiana Department of Transportation project calls for paving the street from the railroad tracks just south of Water Street to the southern city limits and installing a sidewalk from near Water Street to Bittersweet Lane.

•Approved a \$5,500 contract with Choice One Engineering for administration and bidding of paving projects through an INDOT Community Crossings grant. Portland was awarded a \$549,558 grant — a 25% local match is required — for the paving of the entirety of Arch and Pierce streets, Walnut Street east of Meridian Street, Noble Street between Main and High streets, and Union Street between Meridian and Bridge streets.

son to The Dunkirk Foundation board of directors. He will take over the seat from Brenda Brumfield, whose term expires at the end of the year.

•OK'd payment of claims totaling \$221,914.89.

Officers ...

Continued from page 1
As such, he is eligible for a \$5,000 bonus to be paid out at \$1,000 after the first year, \$1,500 after the second and \$2,500 after the third.

Because he was trained in Kentucky, Elliot will be required to go through partial training at the academy.

Board of works members Jerry Leonhard and Portland Mayor John Boggs, absent Steve McIntosh, approved the hiring of all three new officers.

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SERVICES

Wednesday
Powell, Rex: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Thursday
Bollenbacher, Shirley: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Jan. 14
Theurer, Donald: 1:30 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by
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Photo provided

Positive trait

East Elementary School students were recently honored for showing the character trait of responsibility. Pictured, front row from left, are kindergarten students Eleanor Horine and Jack Huelskamp. Back row are Victoria Glentzer, Bastian "Bash" Bailey, Amelia Dawson and Olivia Bihn. Not pictured is Selen Southerland.

Story is one of resilience

By KWAME DAWES

This poem will be my statement for a rather abrupt and unexpected ending to my role as the editor of American Life in Poetry.

The poem is one of resilience — the resilience of my ancestors and those that carry the fact of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade as a defining moment in our making. It is also a poem about resilience, about looking hopefully, even if with some caution, to the future, and I believe that

American Life in Poetry

Marguerite Harrold and Ber Anena who have been laboring with me to make American Life in Poetry a weekly occasion, share this spirit.

My great hope is that the legacy left by Ted Kooser will be continued into the future.

Land Ho

I cannot speak the languages
spoken in that vessel,
cannot read the beads
promising salvation.

I know this only,
that when the green of land
appeared like light
after the horror of this crossing,

we straightened our backs
and faced the simplicity
of new days with flame.
I know I have the blood of survivors

coursing through my veins;
I know the lament of our loss
must warm us again and again
down in the belly of the whale,

here in the belly of the whale
where we are still searching for homes.
We sing laments so old, so true,
then straighten our backs again.

American Life in Poetry Press Ltd., 1996) Poem is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetry-foundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©1996 by Kwame Dawes, "Land Ho" from Requiem (Peepal Tree

Woman prefers thrill of hunt

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman in my late 30s. I have had a few failed relationships and a marriage that ended in divorce. At one point, I juggled three lovers at a time. I like being in a committed relationship, but I have yet to be faithful to any partner I have ever dated.

In my teens, I was raped by an 18-year-old guy and molested by a man who was in his 40s. I received counseling and therapy starting in my late 20s. I love the thrill of meeting someone new and learning what they want for a little while. I mimic and mirror their emotions and make them fall in love. Then I get bored and move on to the challenge of conquering the next man's heart.

I don't want to continue being a cheater, but I lose interest in my lovers quickly. I crave the thrill of the chase. How can I learn to be faithful and not be so fickle in love?
— UNFAITHFUL IN THE SOUTH

Dear Abby



DEAR UNFAITHFUL: Are you still working with a therapist? If the answer is no, find another one and work out the answer to that question. Self-help groups can also help people recover from sex and love addictions. In your case, it might make sense for you to do both.

DEAR ABBY: I need to address a family problem that has arisen due to the engagement of my 45-year-old son. We have been estranged since his mother passed away 15 years ago, and we have had no con-

tact since then. He is being married for the first time.

There's some conjecture about whether I will be invited to the wedding. "Save the date" notices have gone out via Facebook, and I have been asked by some guests if I received one. Of course I haven't. I feel the current state of our relationship states the obvious, and I, as the senior adult, have accepted his silence. I intend to send a card wishing him well, but I feel that's all I should do. Your advice is wanted. — GROOM'S FATHER IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR GROOM'S FATHER: I wish you had mentioned what caused the estrangement from your son after his mother's death. However, I see nothing wrong with sending him a congratulatory card under the circumstances. If you do, I hope it is a first step in healing the breach between you.

Community Calendar

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

Today

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

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 - BRI-

ANNA'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.

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.

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.

Sunday

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

Monday

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

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

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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



Hope it's simply splendid!



Seated: Bonnie Muhlenkamp, Lindsey Upp Back row: Skeeter Williams, Stephanie Liechty, Dr. Bader Dogs: Sissy, Duncan Cats: David, Kevin, Carlos Not Pictured: Kay Witt, Don Somers, Dave Castle

Portland Veterinary Clinic

1407 Votaw St. • Portland • 260-726-7370

Christian Bader DVM

It wasn't too late to share the story

(Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Dec. 28, 2005. During a year in which we have lost some giants of our community — John Young, Greg Franklin and the author of this column among them — it seems appropriate to look back at another Jay County native whose story area residents may not remember.)

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

No one likes to learn that a story has slipped through the cracks, even if it slipped away decades ago.

That's what happened with Walter Scholer.

As far as I can tell, during his lifetime Scholer's story was never adequately reported by The Commercial Review or any other news medium.

Oh, there were stories here and there. The alumni publications at Purdue University made a gallant effort late in Scholer's life. But in his home community, Walter Scholer remains a largely unknown figure.

Back in the Saddle



Ralph May would like to change that.

Ralph is a perennial sparkplug at the Jay County Historical Society, and because Scholer grew up in Ralph's Madison Township he's become something of a cause for May. He wants to make sure that Walter Scholer doesn't fade into the mists of local history but continues to be remembered.

Who was Walter Scholer? Even folks well-grounded enough in Jay County history to fill you in on TV entertainer Jack Imel, pro football player Pete Brewster, or dancer/choreographer Twyla Tharp may draw a blank when you mention the name.

That's probably because Scholer wasn't working in the limelight.

He was an architect. But he wasn't just any architect.

He was one of the most prolific architects in Indiana history, and he designed countless public buildings.

After growing up in Jay County and attending Columbia University, Scholer first worked for architectural firms in Indianapolis before joining partnership in Lafayette. Soon, he left the partnership and established his own Lafayette-based company.

It was there that he did some of his most remarkable work.

Ever heard of Ross-Ade Stadium at Purdue University? Scholer designed it.

How about Mackey Arena? You guessed it, a Scholer design.

In fact, he was responsible for designing and building more than 75 structures at Purdue, including Cary Quad, Elliott Hall of Music, McCutcheon Hall and many more.

Back in 1920, when those buildings didn't exist, Scholer was tapped to develop a 50-year master plan for Purdue, laying out the campus and designing a number of buildings.

It was a visionary move, and when huge amounts of federal funding became available via the Public Works Administration during the Depression, Purdue was able to put in place much of its campus in one frenzy of construction. At one point, six Scholer-designed buildings were under construction simultaneously.

But Scholer's architectural design work wasn't limited to Purdue. His firm designed a number of structures on the Ball State University campus as well. Emens Auditorium was designed by Scholer's firm, though he was in his 70s by then.

And Bracken House, now the home of the president of Ball State, was designed by Scholer for the Bracken family in the 1930s.

Locally, Scholer designed three

buildings, two of which are gone now.

The first was the old Madison School, which met the wrecking ball in the late 1960s or early 1970s. The second was the 1925 Portland High School, which was misguidedly razed a few years ago to make room for a more modern section of East Jay Middle School.

The third? It's the Weiler Building in downtown Portland, and the good news is that it's about to get a new lease on life. Work on cleaning and securing the building will begin early next year, and a capital fund drive will soon be under way to transform the former department store structure into a new home for John Jay Center for Learning.

It's one of Scholer's most beautiful buildings from that period, much less utilitarian than the Purdue structures designed at the same time.

And it's only fitting that the county have a jewel in its crown designed by one of its own.

It's time to deal with immigration

Herald Bulletin (Anderson)

For a minute there, it almost looked like Congress might finally do something about immigration reform.

Early this month, independent Sen. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona and Republican Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina started circulating a "draft framework" for a proposed new law.

The measure included \$25 billion in funding to secure the border. It also included money to accelerate the asylum process, including new facilities and more immigration judges.

It even provided a pathway to citizenship for the 2 million undocumented immigrants known as "Dreamers," people who were brought to the United States as children and have never really known any other country as home.

Reform advocates thought they might finally have a solution within their grasp. The deal fell apart. Supporters of the agreement said they just couldn't find enough Republican support.

In the meantime, officials prepare for an already chaotic situation at the border to get worse.

The U.S. Supreme Court is pondering the future of Title 42, a Trump-era rule forcing asylum seekers to be sent back to Mexico to wait for their cases to be heard.

In response to the petition, U.S. Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar pointed out that the 19 Republican-led states fighting to preserve the program weren't even pretending to have an interest in public health.

"Instead, they candidly acknowledge that they wish to use the Title 42 orders as a make-shift immigration-control measure," she said.

Such an approach is all too familiar. Congress has spent decades talking about immigration reform, but it hasn't passed a comprehensive measure since 1986. Our elected leaders are great at talking about the border crisis. They just aren't very good at doing anything about it.

Hoosier Editorial

Our elected leaders are great at talking about the border crisis. They just aren't very good at doing anything about it.

During George W. Bush's presidency, a breakthrough compromise on immigration fell apart when congressional Republicans balked. Then, when Barack Obama was president, a similar measure passed the Senate but failed in the Republican-controlled House.

When Donald Trump was in office, Democrats gave in to White House demands to fund a border wall, and even then, Republicans wound up rejecting the deal.

Now, with Joe Biden in office, another bipartisan blueprint appears to have fallen short because of Republican opposition.

Is anyone seeing a pattern here? You might almost get the idea that Republicans don't really want to resolve this crisis.

Nevertheless, supporters of a long-lasting solution have to keep trying. Immigration is an issue that demands a bipartisan approach, and while this bill is hardly perfect, it does offer a viable way forward.

Lawmakers in both parties must come together to resolve this crisis. Their continued failure to act is a national embarrassment.



Pair put patriotism over politics

By ROBERT A. GEORGE

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

"Thank you for your service." Most Americans use the phrase when they see a member of the military at the airport or in the supermarket. We should also now use it whenever we see Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger.

Not only did their presence on the Jan. 6 committee, which delivered historic criminal referrals of a former president this week and releases its final report today, create a truly bipartisan panel. They also demonstrated a sense of integrity and self-sacrifice — both Republican House members surrendered their seats and likely any hope they might have had of ever seeking higher office — rarely seen in politics.

They remain limited-government, pro-life, pro-military conservatives. They also happen to oppose insurrection against the U.S. government. Their commitment to that principle has left them without a party.

The Republican Party officially censured both Cheney and Kinzinger for serving on this committee. But the record shows that, unlike so many other GOP leaders — notably, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy — they actually upheld their vows to the Constitution.

A brief history of the committee's formation serves to illustrate the point. The initial idea — and the wisest one — was to create a nonpartisan panel modeled after the 9/11 Commission. McCarthy authorized Representative John Katko of New York (a Republican who voted to impeach Trump) to negotiate how the commission would be organized and operate. In May 2021, Katko

announced an agreement that got everything that McCarthy wanted.

McCarthy then rejected this blueprint. The measure creating the panel still passed the House, even though McCarthy told his caucus to vote against it. In the Senate, McConnell didn't call for Republicans to support the commission, even though months before he had called former President Donald Trump "practically and morally responsible" for the Jan. 6 riot. And so, on May 28, the measure died in the Senate.

That led to the House creating its own select committee to investigate the road to Jan. 6. Two of the five members McCarthy chose — Jim Jordan and Jim Banks — stated that they would attempt to focus the committee's work on issues such as the Black Lives Matter protests. Speaker Nancy Pelosi declared that unacceptable and ruled the two out. Rather than propose alternates, McCarthy pulled all his Republican members. That left Pelosi to appoint Cheney and Kinzinger.

They had been two of 10 brave Republicans who voted to impeach Trump after Jan. 6 — in stark contrast to the leaders of their party. McCarthy, who publicly damned Trump in the hours after the uprising, voted against impeachment just one week later. McConnell, despite the stridency of his own criticism of Trump's conduct, voted to acquit a month later. Had he voted to convict,

he most likely would have brought along enough other Republicans to find Trump guilty and prevent him from ever running for office again.

In the subsequent weeks, as McCarthy rushed to Mar-a-Lago to make nice with the 45th president, Cheney, then the third-ranking House Republican, didn't waver. She continued to condemn Trump — even as it cost her continued support from both rank-and-file members and party leaders.

The result, of course, is that Cheney lost not only her leadership post but also her House seat. Kinzinger, for his part, lost his seat more to partisan redistricting than to opposition from within the party. But Republicans who claim that either of them have acted out of an inflated sense of pride have to admit that that sacrificing your career is a pretty high price to pay.

At least they got to be perhaps the most powerful members of a minority ever to serve on a congressional committee. Cheney was especially impressive, taking the lead in most hearings. Ironically, both members are leaving office just as more rank-and-file Republicans are coming to realize that Trump needs to be pushed aside.

Almost two full years after one of the most awful days in the history of the republic, the Jan. 6 committee has completed its work. Its criminal recommendations will likely be dismissed by many as partisan. Standing against that characterization are the prominent roles — and sacrifices — of Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger.

George is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist and member of the editorial board covering government and public policy.



Robert A. George

The Commercial Review



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Washington Post/Marvin Joseph

Hundreds of passengers wait in line to handle their baggage claim issues with Southwest Airlines at Baltimore-Washington International Marshall Airport on Tuesday.

Southwest draws scrutiny

By JUSTIN GEORGE, RACHEL LERMAN and HANNAH SAMPSON

The Washington Post

Southwest Airlines accounted for about 85 percent of canceled domestic flights Tuesday, drawing the attention of U.S. regulators and lawmakers amid a days-long meltdown of holiday air travel that began with a winter storm late last week.

More than 3,000 U.S. flights were canceled Tuesday among all carriers, with Southwest accounting for more than 2,600 of the total — a problem the airline blamed partly on tools for tracking and creating employee schedules. The airline grounded 64 percent of its scheduled flights Tuesday, even as other carriers appeared to recover. Among other major domestic carriers,

about 2 percent of flights were not operating as planned, according to flight-tracking website FlightAware.

The carrier's disruptions attracted fresh scrutiny from Capitol Hill and the Transportation Department, which said it was looking into Southwest's "unacceptable" handling of cancellations. The chaos upended plans for tens of thousands of frustrated air travelers at a time when industry executives and analysts had expressed optimism over their ability to handle an onslaught of holiday passengers.

While all carriers have reported some delays and cancellations in recent days, Southwest's inability to get travelers to their destinations has continued to stand out at airports across the country. The carrier already had

canceled about 2,500 flights scheduled for today, nearly 99 percent of domestic flights scrapped that day.

President Joe Biden tweeted that his administration was "working to ensure airlines are held accountable," urging passengers to check the Transportation Department's website about compensation. After pledging to look into "whether cancellations were controllable," Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg met Tuesday with Southwest CEO Bob Jordan to say his department expects the carrier to meet commitments to provide meals and hotels for stranded passengers.

The department said it would take action to hold Southwest accountable if it doesn't fulfill its obligations and fix internal problems.

Southwest apologized for the disruptions, saying it would fly about a third of its normal schedule for several days while it tries to recover. The winter storm hit Southwest particularly hard in Denver and Chicago, where it has large operations, according to company spokesman Chris Perry.

Perry said Southwest's tools that match flight attendants with planes were "struggling" in the wake of the storm, calling it one of the "primary factors" of ongoing issues. He denied that the airline is understaffed, reiterating that its scheduling tools were having problems keeping up.

Lyn Montgomery, president of TWU Local 556, which represents about 18,000 Southwest flight attendants, blamed the problems on outdated scheduling technology.

Francis visits ailing former pope

By MANUEL SCHWARZ

dpa

Tribune News Service

ROME — Pope Francis has visited his predecessor Benedict XVI after the 95-year-old former pope's health worsened in recent hours, a Vatican spokesperson said today.

Francis had described Benedict as being "very sick" during a general audience at the Vatican earlier in the day. He urged the faithful to ask God "to comfort and support" the retired pontiff.

Benedict began deteriorating before Christmas Day, according to a report by the Italian news agency ANSA, which cited well-informed sources.

Vatican spokesperson Matteo Bruni attributed Benedict's condition to his advanced age, without providing further details. "The situation is under control for the moment," Bruni said.

Benedict's long-time companion and personal assistant Georg Gänswein did not immediately respond to inquiries.

Archbishop Gänswein has helped to look after Benedict for years at the Mater Ecclesiae (Mother of the Church) Monastery at the Vatican.

The Bavarian-born pope, whose original name is Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger, was elected John Paul II's successor on April 19, 2005.

Denied ...

Continued from page 1
He used the same word in regard to his wife in her new position.

"I need someone that I can trust right now," he said. "That's what I'm trying to build, a circle of trust, so they can watch out for me and I can watch out for them."

Newton said he may ruffle some feathers as he plans to make immediate changes Sunday. He noted comp time and overtime as two major issues.

"We have a problem we need to try to fix," said Newton. "I know some people thinking hiring an employee is going to be the solution. Well, no, we have to fix the problem first. First we have to try to keep employees there before we even think about hiring employees."

Also, commissioners for the second meeting in a row tabled a \$37,545.60 invoice from Motorola for a server at the sheriff's office. There was a question as to whether the claim could be paid for out of 911 funds. Aker said he had hoped to discuss the issues with Ford, but the sheriff was not in attendance at the meeting. Commissioners asked Newton to look into the issue when he takes over.

They also acknowledged they had received a report regarding Jay County Jail while indicating it was the first time they had seen such a document. Newton indicated that the report is supposed to be turned in each March.

In other business, commissioners:
•Said goodbye and thanked county attorney Bill Hinkle for his 20-plus years of service. He was in his last meeting in that role. His law partner Wes Schemenaur is taking over as county attorney in 2023.

•Signed a disaster declaration in relation to the winter storm Thursday and Friday in Jay County. (A declaration is required any time a travel warning is declared. Jay County was under a warning for about

60 hours beginning early Friday and ending Sunday afternoon.)

•Thanked highway department superintendent Eric Butcher and Jay County Emergency Management director Samantha Rhodhamel for their work during the first major winter storm for both in their current positions. Commissioners also briefly discussed prioritizing the addition of more heated space at the county highway barn to allow proper storage of trucks and other equipment during times of extreme cold.

•OK'd a task order for engineering firm Beam, Longest and Neff of Indianapolis to begin the engineering process for replacement of the Seventh Street bridge over the Salamonie River in Portland. Aker explained that plans are to seek a Community Crossings grant to replace the bridge (and potentially add sidewalks) in 2024 but that the firm indicated it will take about a year of work to prepare the project. They approved a total of \$112,300 for the engineering design work. Aker added that paving multiple bridges is part of the plan for the county's Community Crossings grant application for 2023 projects.

•Rather than selecting a fuel quote for all of 2023, they agreed with Butcher's recommendation to handle such issues on a monthly basis. Butcher said Adams County uses a similar system. "I like that," said Journa. "There's more competition." Aker noted that the change does not impact the county's participation in the fuel budgeting program through Indiana Bond Bank.

•Learned from Butcher that a traffic safety engineer from the Local Technical Assistance Program visited the county and looked at the intersection of county road 300 South and Boundary Pike in order to make a recommendation as to whether it should be a four-way stop.

(It is currently a two-way stop.)

•Approved the following: Payment of invoices for Jay County Emergency Management Agency, including \$545 for repairs to Rescue 19 equipment; \$775 to Hinkle for services to the treasurer's office and \$8,750 for services to county council; its regular payment of \$14,271.25 for Jay County Regional Sewer District; \$45,417.49 to Laux Plumbing and Heating of Portland for sewer lining work at Jay County Sheriff's Office; claims for incoming recorder Melanie Upp of \$526.58, \$225 and \$237.06 related to training for new incoming elected officials; \$1,953.28 to All-Star Communications of Fort Wayne for its annual phone service contract; the purchase of a 2020 GMC Sierra 1500 from Tom Kelly Chevrolet of Fort Wayne for emergency management agency at a cost of just over \$30,000 after trade in; stone quotes from Stone Co., U.S. Aggregates and IMI, with the highway department to use them on an as-needed basis; a right-of-way permit for Frontier Communications for a fiber optic line; a payment of \$4,726.25 to Harrell-Fish Inc. of Bloomington.

•Reviewed the Jay Emergency Medical Service monthly report with supervisors Gary Barnett and John McFarland. They projected a financial improvement of about \$50,000 from 2021, noting that income was up about \$150,000 but expenses, including gas and overtime, were up as well. They also asked about increasing service fees, which commissioners noted they approved at their Oct. 24 meeting. (New rates start at \$800 for basic care for Jay County residents and \$1,000 for non-residents.)

•Heard council member Faron Parr express concern that Upp was not being allowed in the recorder's office in order to prepare for her term that begins next week. He asked commissioners to look into the issue.



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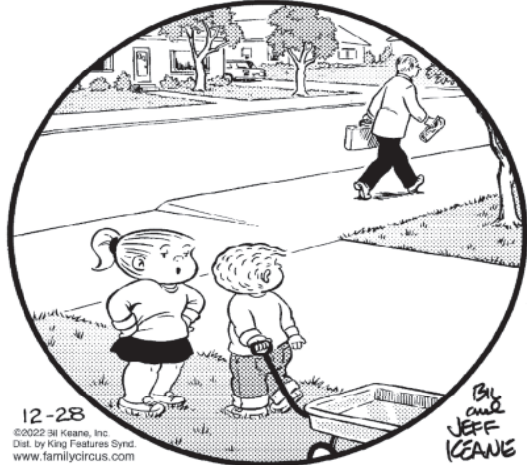
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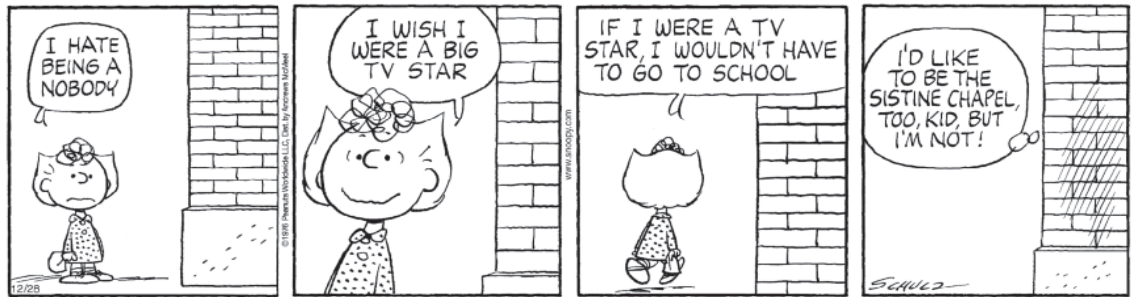


THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



12-28 "Mr. Tracy asked me how I was, but he didn't wait for me to tell him."

Peanuts



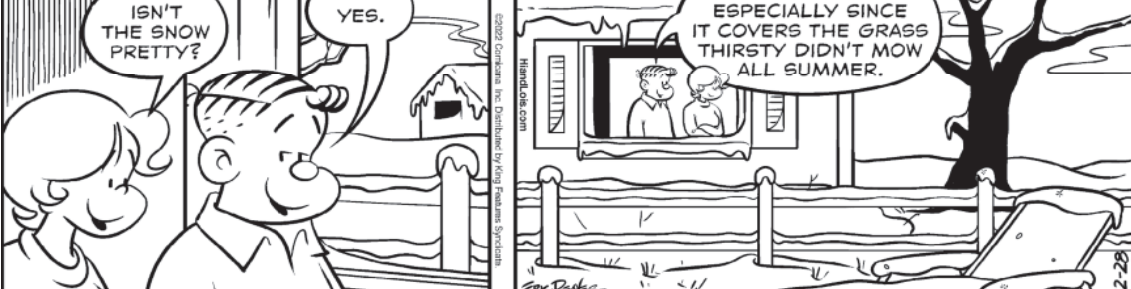
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



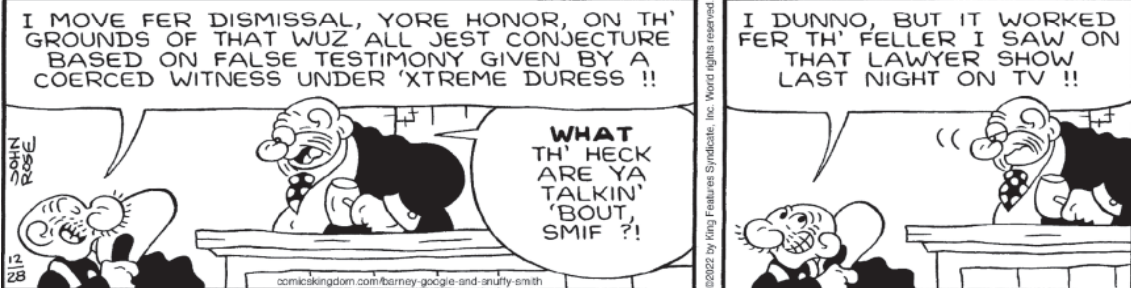
Funky Winkerbean



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Similar is not the same

South dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH: Q 7 3, K Q 6 4, K J 7 5, A 2. WEST: J 9 6 2, 7 3, 8 2, J 10 9 7 3. EAST: 10 8 5, A J 10 8, Q 10 4, K 8 5. SOUTH: A K 4, 9 5 2, A 9 6 3, Q 6 4.

The bidding: South 1♦, West 1♥, North 1NT, East 3NT. Opening lead - jack of clubs. Bridge players tend to become creatures of habit. The bid or play that has worked best in the past in a given situation is then routinely applied to all situations that appear to be the same.

This is a dangerous approach. The mark of a fine player is that he does not react mechanically to common situations but treats each deal as a brand-new experience. Take this case where West leads the club jack against three notrump. Declarer plays low from dummy, and East wins with the king and returns a club to dummy's ace.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 23 mins and yesterday's answer.

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Sports

Eleven in a row

Strong start carries No. 5 JC over Tigers

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

YORKTOWN — The Patriots dominated the beginning of the game.

They're still working to figure out how to keep that level of consistency throughout.

The Class 3A No. 5 Jay County High School girls basketball team continued its dominant run with its 11th straight victory by a 57-37 score Tuesday over the Yorktown Tigers, but didn't keep up the intensity coach Kirk Comer would have liked to have seen throughout.

"I thought we got off to a really good start," Comer, whose team has won six in a row by 18 points or more, told WPGW Radio after the game. "We got off to a good start and then kind of relaxed. I'm very disappointed with that, but we picked it back up when we needed to."

The Patriots (12-1), whose only loss of the season came against Class 3A No. 8 Hamilton Heights, took control in a hurry. Molly Muhlenkamp, who had her hand wrapped after suffering a dislocated finger in practice Monday,

scored the first points of the evening to spark an 8-0 opening run.

Jay County pushed its advantage to 13 points by the quarter break — it hit its first eight free-throw attempts of the game — and was up by 20 at half-time. It scored the first four points of the second half as the Tigers (5-8) never made a serious run but the Patriots also did not continue to pull away.

"We've just got to find that consistency for 32 minutes," said Comer. "We're going to keep working to find it. We've got to play at a level to beat the best team in 3A. And we're not there yet."

Renna Schwieterman powered the Patriots with 18 points. Fellow senior Gabi Billbrey added a dozen points and 13 rebounds for a double-double.

Mabrey McIntire had her second consecutive nine-point game for JCHS.

"I thought Mabrey had a really good game tonight," said Comer. "She continues to build more confidence, which is just going to build more depth."

See **Eleven** page 7

Jay County High School senior Mabrey McIntire launches a 3-pointer during the Class 3A No. 5 Patriots' win Dec. 15 at New Castle. McIntire tallied nine points for the second straight game Tuesday as JCHS won its 11th straight game 57-37 over the host Yorktown Tigers.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Tribe earns first victory

NEW PARIS, Ohio — The situation didn't look good for the Indians in the first eight minutes.

They had only two points. They had missed their only free-throw try.

But they fought back to make sure they would not leave 2022 winless.

In its final game before the new year, the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team rallied from a slow start to knock off the host National Trail Blazers 38-37 Tuesday for their first win of the season.

The Indians (1-8) were trailing 11-2 after the first quarter, with their only bucket coming from Saige Leuthold. They clawed back to within two points at halftime and were down just one heading into the final period. They were able to eke out their first victory as Karlie Niekamp scored four points, Ava Kahlig added three and Leuthold scored two in the fourth quarter.

Niekamp powered FRHS with 13 points, 11 of which came in the second half. Maddie Guggenbiller followed with seven points, and Cali Wendel hit a couple of second-quarter 3-points as she added six points.

Maddie Harrison scored 15 points, including three 3-pointers, to lead National Trail (4-5). Ashlynn Osborne followed with nine points and Josie Stiner had seven.

Fort Recovery dropped the one-half junior varsity contest 14-7 to the Blazers. Karlie Niekamp's three points were the game-high for the Tribe.

Bubp places 2nd

LIMA, Ohio — Audra Bubp led the Fort Recovery swim teams as they competed Tuesday in the Bluffton Holiday Invitational.

The Indian girls scored 103 points to finish ninth out of 27 scoring teams. The boys team had only two participants and did not score.

Bubp, a senior, led Fort Recovery with a runner-up finish in 1 minute, 14.6 seconds, in the 100-yard breaststroke. She trailed only Alayna Rindler of Versailles, who won in 1:13.77.

She was also seventh in the 200 freestyle.

Junior Teigen Fortkamp added a third-place finish as she posted a time of 2:25.98 in the 200 individual medley.

Fortkamp also placed seventh in the 100 butterfly, and Joelle Kaup was eighth in the 50 freestyle.

Carson Fullenkamp had the best finish for the boys team at 26th in the 100 breaststroke.

Inducting two

Fort Recovery High School announced Tuesday that it will induct Jennia (Jenkins) Knestrick and Joanna (Snyder) Hiatt to its athletic hall of fame next month.

See **Roundup** page 7

Portland's Largest Selection of FRESH CUT QUALITY MEAT

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Pork is another lucky ingredient. Pork is rather fatty, rich fatty foods traditionally were eaten by the prosperous. Not to forget, Pigs will always move forward while rooting for their food. As we wish to move forward into the New Year, NOT taking steps backward. Tradition carefully avoids lobster and chicken as they both move backward while searching or scratching for food.

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