

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Effort to save bridge ongoing

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Jenny Bricker isn't giving up on the big blue bridge just yet.

Jay County Council heard from the rural Jay County resident Wednesday about the ongoing effort to preserve the Indiana 26 (Water Street) bridge over the Salamonie River.

Milestone Contractors has been hired to remove the "Blue Bridge," as it is commonly known, and construct a new one in April per a contract with Indiana Department of Transportation.

INDOT recently sent a letter to Jay County Commissioners detailing its decision-making process regarding the bridge, stating it is being replaced to save on future costs and for safety issues.

(Bricker said the steel structure does need repairs but that they would cost significantly less than a new concrete bridge.)

Bricker highlighted various developments, including plans to host a community picture day at 3 p.m. Sunday and send the picture to the state department.

"We only have a month or so left to compel INDOT to at least slow down or change course so we have time to look at the options," she said. "And when we show them how much we want to keep our bridge, the more likely we are to save it. We must show them how much the bridge means to a small community like ours."

Although Bricker hopes to come to an agreement to keep the bridge in place, she has been in contact with Jim Sinclair, executive director of Jay-Randolph Developmental Services. (The organization's facility sits just west of the bridge.)

See **Bridge** page 2

Gloomy, gray

A dense fog advisory was in effect this morning, leading Jay County and Fort Recovery schools to be on a two-hour delay. The gloomy conditions were expected to continue throughout the day, with cloudy skies and rain in the forecast. Rain could turn to snow late tonight.

The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney



Chief justice touts the courts

By DAN CARDEN

The Times (Munster)
Tribune News Service

A continuing commitment to innovation and serving Hoosiers is making Indiana's judiciary stronger than ever.

That's the message Chief Justice Loretta Rush delivered Wednesday in her ninth annual "State of the Judiciary" address to a joint meeting of the Indiana House and Senate, and executive and judicial branch officials, assembled at the Statehouse in Indianapolis.

In her 30-minute speech, Rush positioned Indiana's courts, operating in all 92 counties, as engines of economic development

because she said their 2.5 million annual cases touch on all aspects of life, ranging from adoptions that officially bring forever families together to small claims cases that enable businesses, neighbors and others to peaceably settle their disputes.

"Being in court is a particularly vulnerable time — personally, emotionally and economically. The sooner a person can get before a judge and resolve differences with a creditor, settle disputes with a landlord, obtain child support, expunge a conviction or be made whole in a lawsuit, the sooner they can get back to their family and back to work," Rush said. "The same is true for

businesses in a legal dispute," she added. "Court efficiency and fairness are paramount in fostering a safe community and a strong economy."

Rush said she's particularly proud of the ongoing development of Indiana's 10 commercial courts, including the Lake County outlet led by Superior Judge John Sedia, which specialize in promptly resolving complicated business disputes in a predictable, consistent and fair manner.

She hopes Indiana's commercial courts might someday displace the Delaware Courts of Chancery as the preferred venue for companies across the country to

resolve complex business disputes.

"Business owners see these positive outcomes, enabling them to make informed decisions on the costs and risks of potential legal issues. As a result, our commercial courts help make Indiana an attractive state for economic development and expansion," Rush said.

Likewise, Rush praised Indiana's 143 problem-solving courts for helping Hoosiers who get involved in the criminal justice system primarily due to drug addiction or mental health issues to get back on their feet and once again become economically productive citizens.

"These courts exemplify all that is good in our judicial system — justice tempered with mercy and based on principles of reform as set forth in the Indiana Constitution," Rush said.

"But with over 30 counties without a problem-solving court and many existing courts at capacity, we still have work to do to ensure all Hoosiers have equal access to these powerful engines of justice," she observed.

Rush also nudged the General Assembly in its current budget-writing session scheduled to run through April 29 to support additional funding for technology upgrades in the state court system.



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Spencer Platt

Damaged by attacks

Valentina, who has spent her life in Izyum, walks through the heavily damaged town on Wednesday in Izyum, Ukraine. The Ukrainian military said on Wednesday it had repelled Russian attacks at 13 different locations and reported that heavy fighting was continuing in the hard-fought small town of Soledar in the eastern Donbass region.

Aides discover more documents

Second set found at separate location

By JORDAN FABIAN and JUSTIN SINK

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — Joe Biden's efforts to quell a controversy over classified documents in his private possession became more difficult after aides discovered a second set, a development that will intensify scrutiny of the president.

The revelation, reported Wednesday by NBC News and

The New York Times, that records were found at a separate location from the first set are likely to prompt tough questions for the White House and fuel criticism from Republicans — even though they dismiss more serious accusations against former President Donald Trump.

While the different approaches taken by Trump and Biden toward the documents have made it hard for Republicans to draw an equivalence, the string of discoveries will raise pressure on the White House to answer questions it has dismissed.

Aides have repeatedly declined to say why classified material dating from Biden's time as vice president wasn't in the government's possession and why the discovery of the first batch wasn't disclosed sooner.

See **Documents** page 2

Deaths

George Noble, 94, Portland
Robert Micheau, 67, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 50 degrees Wednesday. The low was 37.

Rain is expected to continue tonight with winds gusting to 30 miles per hour and a low of 29. Rain could turn to snow around midnight, with additional snow showers possible Friday. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

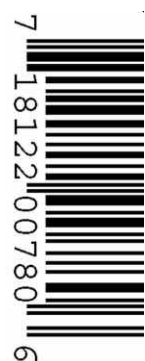
New candidates recently filed to run for election.

"Watermelon" Jim Phillips filed to run for the Democratic nomination for a Redkey Town Council at-large seat. Republican Krista Scholer filed to run for clerk-treasurer of Pennville.

Coming up

Friday — Jay County High School's choirs will host competition Saturday.

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Portland City Council meeting.



Obituaries

George Noble

July 26, 1928-Jan. 11, 2023
George Noble, age 94, of Portland passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023, in Persimmon Ridge Healthcare in Portland. He was born in Portland on July 26, 1928, the son of Earl and Fern (Scott) Noble. He was married on May 25, 1948 to Betty Peckham and she passed away on Oct. 1, 2020. George was the owner and operator of Noble's Body Shop in Portland for many years. He was a 1946 Portland High School

graduate and a member of Asbury United Methodist Church, Jay Lodge #87 F&AM, Scottish Rite, Fort Wayne Shrine, Portland Optimists, Eastern Star and band boosters, driving the trailer for the band. He also drove children to the hospital for the Shriners. Surviving are three daughters, Linda Shull of Portland, Martha Corwin (husband: Robert) of Dayton and Barbara Watson (husband: Jeff) of Covington, Georgia; daughter-in-law Dru Noble of Portland; two brothers, Harry Noble and Dale Noble, both of Florida; two sisters, Mary Baucker of Celina, Ohio and Esther Summers of Warren, Indiana; 11 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son, George Noble; and two sisters, Martha Butcher and Ruth Noble. Funeral services will be Mon-



Noble

day, Jan. 16, 2023, at 22 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Joe Boggs presiding. A masonic service by Jay Lodge #87 F&AM will start the services. Visitation will be Monday from noon to 2 p.m. Burial will be in the Spring Hill Cemetery in Fort Recovery, Ohio. Memorials can be made to Asbury United Methodist Church or Keystone Hospice. Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

land, Aug. 22, 1955-Jan. 7, 2022. Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Pennville Chapel of Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

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.

CR almanac

Table with weather forecasts for Friday 1/13, Saturday 1/14, Sunday 1/15, Monday 1/16, and Tuesday 1/17. Includes temperature ranges and brief weather descriptions.

Lotteries

Table listing lottery results for Powerball, Mega Millions, Hoosier, and Ohio. Includes estimated jackpots and winning numbers.

Markets

Table showing market prices for various commodities like wheat, corn, and beans in different regions such as Cooper Farms, POET Biorefining, and Heartland.

Today in history

In 1777, Mission Santa Clara de Asis, was founded by Padre Thomas Pena. In 1932, Hattie Ophelia Caraway was the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate. In 1964, Jeff Bezos, founder and CEO of Amazon.com, was born. In 1966, the TV series 'Batman,' starring Adam West in the title role and Burt Ward as Robin, made its debut on ABC. In 1969, the New York Jets upset the Baltimore Colts 16-7 in Super Bowl III. In 2005, Deep Impact, a space probe, was launched by NASA. In 2022, Jay County Council rescinded its December 2021 decision to contribute \$700,000 in federal coronavirus relief funds from the American Rescue Plan Act toward renovations of the former Judge Haynes Elementary School to become a child care facility.

Citizen's calendar

Calendar listing community events for Monday, including Economic Development Income Tax Advisory Committee, fire station, and Recovery Village Council.

FAA outage sparks concern

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers on Capitol Hill will investigate a Federal Aviation Administration outage that caused thousands of flight delays early Wednesday morning as part of their discussions of upcoming FAA reauthorization legislation. The FAA on Wednesday announced on Twitter an outage of its information and operations notification system, leading the agency to call a "ground stop" that brought over 4,000 delays and 800 cancellations in the U.S. Although the agency

lifted the ground stop by 9 a.m., thousands of flights remain delayed. Alyssa Black, a United Airlines passenger scheduled to fly out of Dulles International Airport on Wednesday morning, said her gate agents announced the FAA "has zero communication" with them and that agents were checking

Twitter for updates on the outage. Although it's not clear yet what caused the outage, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre also tweeted that there is "no evidence of a cyberattack at this point," but President Joe Biden called for a "full investigation into the causes."

Bridge ...

Continued from page 1
Bricker said he supports the idea of connecting their exercise trail to the Hudson Family Park trail system across the river using the bridge. Bricker hopes to speak with the organization's board of directors about the matter Monday. In other business, council members Matt Minnich, Cindy Bracy, Faron Parr, Harold Towell, Randy

May and Jeanne Houchins, absent Dave Haines: •Appointed Parr as vice president and re-appointed Houchins as president •Approved several encumbrances totaling \$331,721.74, with the largest amount (\$252,584) coming from the purchase of two Western Stars chassis for Jay County Highway Department. The majority of the other

encumbrances stem from state grants provided to Jay Emergency Medical Service and Jay County Health Department. •Re-appointed Randy Geesaman and appointed Kelly Herman to Jay County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals per recommendation from assessor Robin Alberson •Appointed council members to various departments and boards

Portland City Court

Judge Donald Gillespie Fined and sentenced Pierre M. Souffrant, Deer Park, New York, FMCS violation, \$160.50; Sukhlinder Singh, Sacramento, California, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Miguel Morales, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Xiangchang Wang, Monterey Park, California, failure to obey signs and markings, \$160.50; Austin W. Karungo, Cary, North Carolina, off the truck route in Dunkirk, \$160.50; Burnell R. Theophile, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Jaswant Singh, Santa Clara, California, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Navjot S. Bajwa, Bakersfield, California, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Abdikarim M. Nur, Sugar Lane, Texas, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Esteban Sanchez, Wasco, California, violating Redkey's pro-

hibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Paramjit Singh, Thornton, Colorado, violating Redkey's prohibiting truck traffic ordinance, \$385.50; Terry M. Snyder, Dunkirk, driving with expired plates, \$160.50; Colton Holmes, Pneto, speeding 56 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$136.50; Jonathan O. Edde, Portland, driving with expired plates, \$160.50. Default Shaina Gunter, Hartford City, driving with a suspended license. Trials Karandeep Singh, Indianapolis, speeding 50 mph in a 30 mph zone, continued March 1; Aleksandr's Falba, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, dis-regarding traffic control device, March 1; Oryan Cochran, Portland, driving without a valid license, continued June 7; Kylie S. Seely, Hartford City, March 1; Clarence Cooper, accumulation of rubbish, storage of junk, overgrown weeds and grass/weeds taller than 8 inches,

continued March 1; Joshua Garrison, Pennville, expired plates, continued March 1; Robert D. Davidson, Portland, overgrown weeds, grass/weeds taller than 8 inches and refusal to remove, March 1. Deferral Ryan A. Markle, Portland, driving without a valid license; Mary K. Theurer, Portland, speeding 69 mph in a 55 mph zone; Haley R. Bower, Portland, driving with a suspended license; Robert J. Bangiola, Hudson, New York, speeding 70 mph in a 55 mph zone; Riley R. Leavell, Redkey, speeding 69 mph in a 55 mph zone. Dismissed Gavin Grady, Redkey, animal at-large ordinance violation; Susan Nichols, Portland, accumulation of rubbish and storage of junk; Randy J. Wolford, Portland, passing a school bus; Terry M. Snyder, Dunkirk, driving without insurance; Jonathan O. Edde, Portland, driving without insurance.

Documents ...

Continued from page 1 The developments have politically complicated the case against Trump, though Democrats have defended Biden by pointing out that his representatives immediately returned the materials upon their discovery unlike Trump's efforts to fight their return. Yet Biden's criticism of Trump as "totally irresponsible" over his storage of classified material at his Mar-a-Lago estate has opened the current president up to fresh accusations of hypocrisy. It has also created more fodder for Republicans investigating the president using the powers of their new House majority. House Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer announced Tuesday that the panel was investigating the matter, writing in a letter to the White House counsel that it was only appropriate given Biden's comments about the importance of protecting classified material. "The committee is concerned that President Biden has compromised sources and methods with his own mishandling of classified documents," Comer wrote. The second batch of documents was discovered in a separate location connected to Biden after initial set of classified materials was found by Biden lawyers in a locked closet at the University of Pennsylvania's Biden Center office. The White House

said those documents were returned within hours to the National Archives, but the contents and fate of the second set weren't clear. It was also unclear when the second batch was discovered, or if it represents the totality of classified materials that appear to have been improperly removed as Biden concluded his tenure as vice president. The White House didn't respond to a request for comment. The Justice Department declined to comment. At a news conference in Mexico City on Tuesday, Biden said he was sur-

prised to learn that classified documents had been found at that office. "But I don't know what's in the documents," the president added. Earlier Wednesday, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre repeatedly declined to answer questions about what efforts the administration was taking to ensure that all classified materials had been found, or whether Biden's residences in Wilmington and Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, had been searched. She also refused to answer why lawyers were involved in packing up the Biden Center office.

NEW SUNDAY HOURS: First Service 9:00am, Sunday School 10:00am, Second Service 11:00am. All are welcome. FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH 289 S. 200 W. Portland, IN

SERVICES Thursday Garr, Leslie: 1 p.m., Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 2905 Carson Ave., Indianapolis. Smith, Michael: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland. Lawson, Sylvia: 2 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva. Friday Husmann, Anne: 10 a.m., Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 506 E. Walnut St., Portland. Hardyman, Carl: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland. Saturday Theurer, Donald: 1:30 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland. Sunday Gerson, Janice: 2 p.m., Myers Mortuary, 1502 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon. Wayne, Ronald: 4 p.m., Reichard Funeral Home, 400 W. Deerfield Road, Union City. Monday Noble, George: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland. Tuesday Micheau, Robert: 2 p.m., Williamson, Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 190 S. Union St., Pennville. Service listings provided by PROGRESSIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS 120 N. Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201 progressiveofficeproducts.com

Program needs to better publicity

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Despite the embarrassment of living with the Indiana General Assembly, Hoosiers can take heart.

Now, please, don't get over-excited about the following good news.

At the bottom of page 12 in the Dec. 30, 2022, edition of the Greater Fort Wayne Business Journal is a story about the Indiana Grown Commission. Apparently, from its website, indianagrown.org has been around for seven years. (I hadn't heard about this commission; had you?)

Its mission is "to promote products that are grown or made by Hoosiers, for Hoosiers!" Makes me proud to know that.

However, because I'm as greedy

Eye on the Pie



as the next economist, I'd like to see them promoting Hoosier products to folks beyond our borders. Yet, who am I to complain about limited aspirations?

For years, I have wondered why apples I buy are labeled from Michigan or Ohio? We all know Idaho potatoes. Even Indiana blueberries come in cartons labeled as originating in Michigan. It's Kentucky bluegrass,

Georgia peaches and Vermont maple syrup.

Indiana is a void in the marketing map of America. Seven years, with support from Purdue University, that great generator of self-serving advertising, and this is still an unknown effort?

Nonetheless, the next time I am going to or from Marion on Indiana 18, I'll stop at the Jefferson St. BBQ in Converse to sample their offerings. (Converse — population 1,161 in 2020 — is one of those distinctive Indiana towns, like Batesville and Nappanee, that spills over the border of two counties — in this case, Grant and Miami.)

Also of interest to me was Bee Free snack food, which proudly declares, "Liberated from junk

food." Who could resist such a product? Sadly, no address, phone number or website tells us how to find this firm.

Seven years and this is the product promotion offered by the state?

Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, who oversees the Dept. of Agriculture, might want to attend the Jan. 25 meeting of this commission and question its members on their performance.

Indiana now has the Destination Development Corporation the IDDC — not to be confused with the IEDC, which provides support (money) to businesses beginning or expanding operations in Indiana. IDDC is intended to be more than just a tourist promotion activity.

In the 2023 budget, IDDC seeks sufficient funding to do its job on a more reasonable scale. It's a good idea because the more Hoosiers themselves know about this state, the better ambassadors they can be for Indiana. That, and my capacious appetite, moved me to get an Indiana Culinary Trails Passport, a guide to Hoosier restaurants.

To get that increased appropriation from the General Assembly may be a struggle. Our elected representatives may be uncomfortable with "others" knowing anything about us, except for our well-publicized backwardness.

Marcus is an economist. Email him at mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com.

Rioters must be held accountable

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

The United States has long been a model for the world, inspiring people in other nations to throw off oppression and follow our path by creating stable, solid, democratic societies based on the rule of law, featuring the orderly and peaceful transfer of power.

So maybe it shouldn't come as a surprise that some Brazilians tried to take a lesson from the U.S. on Sunday. It was the wrong lesson.

Brazil's far-right election deniers rioted in the capital city of Brasilia on behalf of defeated ex-President Jair Bolsonaro, trashing that nation's seat of government and copying the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection and coup attempt in which President Donald Trump's lies about his election defeat culminated in the sacking of the Capitol by his supporters.

The violent spectacle marked an ignominious day for the South American nation, but it heaps shame as well on the U.S., which is in peril of relinquishing its role as a beacon of democracy and taking its place among nations for which election results are shaky, and the real decisions are handed over to mobs and the autocrats or shadowy cabals that try to manipulate them.

Two years out from the U.S. insurrection, following the in-depth hearings and report of the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, the evidence shows that then-President Trump compounded his blatantly false claims that he was denied reelection because of voter fraud with plans to overturn the vote and retain office.

The what-ifs are chilling. Evidence presented to the committee shows that Trump weighed plans to install Justice Department officials who would falsely declare there were voting irregularities.

He was asked to consider declaring martial law and collect voting machines. He invited his supporters to Washington and, knowing that many were armed, told them to go to the Capitol. He watched the rioting for more than three hours before telling his supporters to stop. Vice

Guest Editorial

It's as if Brazil's rioters thought, 'Well, if North Americans can believe what they want despite the facts, and act on it, why shouldn't we?'

President Mike Pence and members of Congress were in danger.

In Brazil, Bolsonaro didn't quite deny that he was defeated by Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in the Oct. 30 election, and he agreed to cede the office to his rival on time, on Jan. 1. But he did follow the Trump template by arguing that the vote was rigged or at least unreliable.

Unlike Trump, he wasn't on hand for the attack. He was in Trump's home state of Florida.

But those are cosmetic differences. It's as if Brazil's rioters thought, "Well, if North Americans can believe what they want despite the facts, and act on it, why shouldn't we?"

So far, despite the House committee findings, and the prosecution of nearly 1,000 people, neither Trump nor any of his team has been held to answer for the Jan. 6 attack.

If they are held accountable, perhaps the next set of election deniers and insurrectionists elsewhere in the world will be dissuaded by an American model that, when push comes to shove, holds perpetrators to the rule of law.

And if not, maybe the U.S. will once again be the world's most imitated nation. But not in a good way.



Unsung heroes deserve support

By FIROUZ DANESHGARI

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

Dr. Aida Rostami, a 36-year-old Iranian physician, was found in dead in December, with her body showing signs of torture. According to news reports, she had lost one eye, and half her face was crushed.

Her crime? Rostami was a doctor committed to her Hippocratic oath. She was tortured to death simply for providing medical treatment to anti-regime protesters in Iran. On Dec. 12, she was taking care of several wounded protesters in Ekbatan District of Tehran when she left a protester's house to get supplies and was arrested.

Rostami vowed to become a doctor after losing her father to cancer when she was young. She risked her life saving Iranians during the pandemic, only to end up being tortured to death for helping her countrymen through a different kind of crisis.

Iran's anti-regime protests have continued for more than 100 days with slogans such as "death to Khomeini," referring to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, echoing all over the country. Tehran has responded with a heavy and ruthless crackdown. According to the main Iranian opposition movement, the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, or PMOI/MEK, at least 750 protesters, including at least 65 juveniles, have been killed. As many as 30,000 have been arrested.

Accumulating reports describe security forces raiding hospitals and taking away protesters to be tortured and interrogated. A number of hospital managers have revealed that they have been forced to provide lists of patients to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. As such, many protesters have been avoiding hospitals, even after being severely wounded.

This phenomenon has spawned a network of "night doctors" who are dedicated to treating injured protesters outside of the hospital system and out of view of security forces. That network has produced many unsung heroes, and Rostami is not the only one to lose her life.

Firouz Daneshgari



Neither is the current situation unique. In the 1980s, when I was a medical student at the University of Tehran in Iran, I treated several activists at their homes or wherever they were hiding from the authorities, with almost no equipment and meager supplies. I was arrested and severely tortured during that time and eventually transferred to a ward crammed with prisoners at Evin Prison. As soon as they found out that I was a medical student, my secret role as a prison doctor began.

I was lucky to leave prison alive, considering that I, too, was an activist with MEK. Then, as now, the MEK enjoyed massive support among people from all walks of life, including technocrats and physicians. It has been the clerical regime's archenemy since its inception, and as such, some 120,000 MEK activists, including more than 30% of my classmates, have been executed in Iran over the years.

After fleeing Iran, I became a professor of surgery in the U.S. and a surgeon-scientist, but although more than three decades have passed, I've never forgotten the anguish I saw among young activists in Iran, for whom I could do so little.

Iranians from all walks of life have risen up against the regime to establish a democratic republic. Once again, I find it encouraging that so many Iranian medical professionals have been defying the regime's efforts to entrap and arrest injured activists. Furthermore, I am proud that the MEK's resistance units have helped coordinate the network of night doctors while also playing a central role in the uprising.

Heroes such as Rostami are making the ultimate sacrifice to bring about

democracy and freedom in Iran. Considering my own experiences, I can well imagine what Iranian doctors and nurses have been going through since the uprising began in mid-September.

By the end of November, it was reported that at least three doctors had been slapped with capital charges including "enmity against God." It became apparent that these charges might lead to the defendants' executions. At least two people have been hanged for their participation in the protests, and authorities have warned that many more could quickly follow.

The international community has duly condemned the two known executions and the accompanying death sentences, as well as the reported rapes of women in custody and the mass shootings of protesters in the streets. There is value in those statements, but with Iran's nationwide uprising entering its fourth month, it is becoming ever more important for Western democracies and human rights defenders to take concrete actions in support of the uprising, its participants and the principles of those supporting it, including Iranian medical personnel.

The international community should vociferously condemn the Iranian regime's atrocities and take actions such as imposing serious sanctions, halting negotiations with the regime and recognizing the right of Iranians to defend themselves. Medical associations should urge the U.S. government to do whatever it can to help Iranian protesters.

Rostami had the courage to risk her life for her commitment to her Hippocratic oath. Countless activists are demonstrating the same courage today — but also waiting to see what the free world will do to support them in their battle against the regime in Tehran.

Do our policymakers have the resolve to show the ayatollahs that they can no longer get away with the crimes they have been perpetrating for more than 40 years? I am hopeful at the start of 2023.

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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
—Thomas Jefferson

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We welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be 700 words or fewer, signed and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for content and clarity. Email letters to news@thecr.com.

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly

1-12

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

1-12

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The philosophy of defense

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠7 5 2
♥A 4
♦Q J 8
♣A Q 10 5 3

EAST
♠A K J 6 4
♥9 6
♦K 5
♣8 7 4 2

SOUTH
♠Q
♥K Q J 10 8 5 3
♦7 6 3
♣K 6

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1♣ 1♠ 2♥
2♠ Pass Pass 4♥
Opening lead — ten of spades.

solely on those distributions that would allow the contract to be made, and he plans his play accordingly.

A defender prepares his defense along similar lines. Although he cannot see declarer's hand, he should dismiss from consideration any holding that would render the contract indefensible. Instead, he should try to picture one or more hands declarer might have that would render him vulnerable and then take direct aim at the vulnerable spot.

Getting down to cases, consider this deal from East's viewpoint. He wins the spade lead with the king, South contributing the queen. If East continues with a spade, South makes 12 tricks.

But East should not lead another spade at trick two since there is nothing to be gained by that play. East's goal is for his side to score four tricks, and given the bidding, his own hand and the dummy's holding, this goal is not attainable if declarer has the ace of diamonds.

He therefore credits West with the ace, and once East does so, the best defense becomes self-evident. So he shifts to the king of diamonds at trick two, continues with the five and ruffs his partner's diamond return to defeat the contract.

The principle that declarer's first aim is to make the contract has a corollary — namely, that the defenders' first aim is to defeat the contract. It follows that there is a great similarity between declarer's approach to the play and a defender's approach to the defense.

When declarer is playing a contract, he dismisses from consideration any opposing distributions that would lead unconditionally to defeat. Instead, he concentrates

Peanuts

1-12

Rose is Rose

1-12

Agnes

1-12

Hi and Lois

1-12

Between Friends

1-12

Blondie

1-12

Snuffy Smith

1-12

Beetle Bailey

1-12

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

1-12 **CRYPTOQUIP**

OA ESDIQ AG OXA-XIT WIPLAE
LG OCAED GAWOC IVDWLBIG
VANGOILGE, BANFP SDASF
NED WABQT-OIFQLDE?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT MIGHT YOU CALL MALE SIBLINGS WHO CONSTANTLY CAUTION PEOPLE ABOUT THINGS? WARNER BROTHERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals P

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Desist
5 Dallas
8 Wrestler
12 Astronomer
13 Roof
14 Skater's leap
15 Killer
16 Actor
17 GPS
18 Sesame paste
20 Eccentric
22 "Little piggie"
23 Homer Simpson's barkeep
24 Church service
27 Used a Dyson, say
32 Roman
33 I love (Lat.)

DOWN

10 Must have
11 Too bigger
19 "Forget it!"
21 Outback bird
24 "Tasty!"
25 Pub order
26 Cognac cocktails
28 "— dream- ing?"
29 Ate
30 Antlered animal
31 Coifs
36 Change gradually
37 Bk. after Exodus
38 Not digital
41 Hesitant sound
42 Words said with a sigh
43 Ogler's look
44 "Zounds!"
46 Cold War initials
47 Emit coherent light
48 Pack cargo
51 Popular card game

Solution time: 24 mins.

M	A	R	S	L	A	O	A	P	E	D	
O	M	I	T	E	D	U	S	A	R	I	
P	A	P	A	B	E	A	R	I	S	I	
E	L	S	I	E	S	W	A	T	C	H	
N	A	I	L	O	N	A					
C	O	P	S	T	E	A	R	B	I	Z	
A	R	T	S	C	A	L	D	A	M	A	
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U	G	L	I	U	M	A	O	B	I	T	
M	A	S	T	D	I	N	T	A	T	S	

Yesterday's answer 1-12

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Sports

State contenders

Patriots among top teams for IHSGW title

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The Patriots wanted to win a regional championship. Check.

They also wanted to be in position to compete for a state title. They feel they are.

Jay County High School will send seven wrestlers to the Indiana High School Girls Wrestling State Championships, which begin at 11 a.m. Friday at Mooresville High School.

"Everybody is good at this point," said Troy Jacks, one of the program's army of assistant coaches that works with the girls team. "We're focusing on our strengths. And we're focusing on having everyone stay positive and scoring as many points as we can to see if we can compete for a state championship this year as a team."

The Patriots are one of a handful of top contenders for the team state championship. Only defending champion Penn (11) and Southport (eight) have more state qualifiers. Warren Central matches Jay County with seven, Kokomo and Rochester each have six and Jeffersonville and Merrillville have five apiece.

"I definitely think that we have a shot at the title or at very least top two," said JCHS coach Eric Myers.

The Patriots were third in the state finals last season, trailing Penn (83) and Southport (61). They finished fourth in 2021 behind Lebanon, Penn and North Montgomery.

"We want to improve on that at the very least," said Myers. "But we want to go after it and win a title."

Jay County finds itself in position to compete for the state championship by virtue of hav-



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School's Lina Lingo takes control of her 126-pound regional match Friday against Zoey Sparks of North Miami. Lingo is one of the Patriots' seven state qualifiers who will compete beginning at 11 a.m. Friday in the Indiana High School Girls Wrestling State Finals. With only two teams having more state qualifiers, Jay County is hoping to make a run at the team championship after placing third last season.

ing seven state qualifiers, up from five last year. All of them are underclassmen. And only one — Mallory Winner — is a repeat.

Why has there been so much success from so many new to the sport?

"I think the biggest thing is that everybody when they came

in they knew that they had a big opportunity here," said Winner. "They know that girls wrestling is growing and that we have great coaches. Our

coaches see the potential in them and they all knew that. They had somebody that believed in them."

See **Contenders** page 7

\$23 for 2023

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Vaughn racks up 23

The Foresters closed 2022 with a loss. They opened 2023 with another.

A Fort Recovery High School graduate was key in making sure there would be no losing streak.

Alli Vaughn, who graduated from FRHS in 2021, racked up a career-high scoring total Jan. 7 in leading the Huntington University women's basketball team to a 75-66 victory over Bethel.

Vaughn hit a career-high five 3-pointers en route to a 23-point effort for the Foresters (8-10). She was also 6-of-8 from the foul line. Her previous scoring high was 18 points on Nov. 11 in a loss to Indiana University - Southeast.

The sophomore also had a team-best nine rebounds for HU to go along with two steals and an assist.

Vaughn also had six points, eight rebounds, four steals, one assist and one block as the Foresters won 76-67 Wednesday over Spring Arbor.

Vivienne Kunkler Jay County - 2019

Contributed to a relay victory for the Bethel College women's swim team Saturday in its 129-59 domination of Anderson.

Kunkler teamed with Josefina Gonza-

Collegiate Check-up

lez, Elisabeth Wolfe and Jaylyn Harrison to take the 200-yard medley relay by nearly two seconds over a group of their teammates in 2 minutes, 0.95 seconds. She also placed third behind Wolfe and Harrison in the 50 freestyle with a time of 26.71.

Val Muhlenkamp Fort Recovery - 2020

Was one of two University of Findlay women's basketball players to reach double figures Saturday as the Oilers lost 58-55 to Cedarville.

Muhlenkamp scored 10 points, trailing only the team-high 20 from Kate Ellis for Findlay. She also had eight rebounds and a pair of assists.

The junior led the Oilers (4-11) with eight rebounds to go along with two points and a steal in a 64-41 loss Jan. 5 to Ursuline.

Candidate list grows

By GEORGE BREMER
The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)
Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — There are at least two in-house candidates for the Indianapolis Colts' head coaching position.

Special teams coordinator Bubba Ventrone interviewed for the job Wednesday, and general manager Chris Ballard confirmed a day earlier interim head coach Jeff Saturday also will be in the mix.

It's a process Ballard said will not be rushed, and part of that comes from his previous experience in 2018.

The team first settled on former New England Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels as its next head coach. An agreement was reached and a press conference was scheduled, but McDaniels backed out of the offer hours before he was to fly to Indianapolis for his official introduction.

The restarted search

landed on former Philadelphia Eagles offensive coordinator Frank Reich, and he led the team to two playoff appearances and three winning records in 4 1/2 seasons.

Finalists in both searches included current Tennessee Titans head coach Mike Vrabel and current Detroit Lions head coach Dan Campbell.

After the hiring was finalized, Ballard repeatedly stated Reich was an outstanding candidate he simply overlooked during the first go-around. It's a mistake he's determined not to make again.

"A lot of times what happens is you get a vision of

what you want before — you've made your mind up, and then you might ignore somebody that's really freaking good right in front of your face," Ballard said. "We've got a very detailed process put together on the traits and attributes we're looking for in the head coach — don't care which side of the ball. And to be patient and take your time and make sure we have a thorough interview with everybody."

Consistent, thorough — I don't care if it takes until mid-February to hire the head coach. It's about getting it right."

See **Candidate** page 7

Ventrone, Saturday are both being considered