

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Three seek GOP bid for mayor

Westlake joins Boggs, Smitley in Republican primary race

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The Republicans now have a three-way race for their nomination for mayor of Portland.

Jeff Westlake became the third GOP candidate for mayor when he filed his paperwork Monday.

He joins incumbent John Boggs and Joel Smitley.

Westlake attended Jay County High School and earned his general education diploma (GED) in 1994. He has worked for Portland Police Department for nearly 17 years — first as a reserve and then as a full-time officer — and has served three years as president of the citizens police academy.

“There’s some things that we need to work on in town,” said Westlake of his reasons for deciding to make a mayoral run. “My biggest thing is I don’t think that we’ve actually taken proactive listening, observing and demonstrating to the point that we’ve actually, really cared.”

See **Mayor** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Championship, MVP

Jay County High School’s girls basketball team rolled to its third consecutive Allen County Athletic Conference tournament championship with a blowout win over Woodlan on Saturday night at Bluffton. Pictured, Renna Schwieterman grins after being announced as the winner of the Hilliard Gates MVP Award. Cheering her on, from left, are teammates Gabi Bilbrey, Bella Denton, Molly Muhlenkamp and Cassie Petro. For more on the game, see page 8.

Village asking OPEA for more time

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — The village is asking for more time to meet new wastewater testing limits.

It’s also looking into changes at its water department and searching for more grants to

complete street reconstruction work.

Fort Recovery Village Council heard various updates about its wastewater lagoons and water department at its meeting Monday.

Village administrator Randy Diller explained the village has been given four years to meet new

ammonia, phosphorus and E. coli limits, as stated in its recently issued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.

Fort Recovery has been looking into the future of its wastewater treatment, with a study from Poggemeyer Design Group sug-

gesting it implement a mechanical plant into the process.

Council president Al Post asked if the new permit will force the village to make the change to a mechanical process. Diller noted it aims to steer the village in that direction.

See **Village** page 5



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Spectacular exhibition

Members of Jay County High School’s Just Treble show choir, including Lauryn VanCise (in front), perform in exhibition Saturday afternoon while hosting the Jay County Choir Spectacular 2023. The NHS Singers of Noblesville repeated as grand champions.

Banks is running

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Northeast Indiana Congressman Jim Banks jumped into the 2024 race for the U.S. Senate on Tuesday — becoming the first candidate in what is expected to be a crowded Republican field.

The conservative rabble-rouser is known for his fiery tweets and has served the Third District in the U.S. House since 2017. He just began his fourth term in office.

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun is giving up his seat to run for governor in 2024.

“One thing is clear to me and that’s that Hoosiers deserve a conservative fighter in the Senate. And Mike Braun has been a consistent conservative and we should have a conservative replace Mike Braun and I want to be that conservative leader, that conservative fighter,” Banks said.

He used the word conservative 20 times in a 10-minute interview with Indiana Capital Chronicle. He dropped a video about his run Tuesday morning and plans to file today. In the video he says “only in America could a small town kid from a working class family do what I’ve been blessed to do.”

Banks grew up in

Columbia City, the son of a factory worker and a nursing home cook. He was first in his family to go to college and met his wife while at Indiana University.

In Congress, he has focused on veterans issues — he served in Afghanistan for parts of 2014 and 2015 while in the state Senate — and holding China accountable. Just last week he launched an “anti-woke” caucus and has been on Fox News in recent days highlighting it.

Banks said the Senate would provide an opportunity to do even more on national security and defense issues he cares so much about.

“I think it was obvious to me after being in the House for a few terms is that there aren’t enough conservatives in the Senate. We saw the massive omnibus spending bill get passed in the Senate

here recently with Republican support and that’s only paved the way for our \$32 trillion national debt to grow even more. So, we need conservatives in the Senate who are going to fight back against the Democrats and the Biden agenda, not to go along with it,” he said.

Banks also ran the largest conservative caucus — the Republican Study Committee — for two years. He recently came up short in a vote to become the House Republican whip and staunchly supported U.S. Rep. Kevin McCarthy in the recent speakership fight.

“I’ve led the fight in Congress to hold China accountable for stealing our jobs and for giving us COVID,” he said in his video. He also invokes transgender girls athletics, abortion and critical race theory.

See **Banks** page 5

Deaths

Julia Heitkamp, 80, St. Anthony, Ohio

Roger Bentz, 61, Indianapolis

Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 51 degrees Monday. The low was 34.

Tonight’s low will be in the mid 30s again with winds gusting to 25 miles per hour. Wednesday’s high will be 46 with a slight chance of rain in the morning.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Redkey Town Council will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in the park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St., to discuss its utility master plan. Council’s regular meeting will follow at 6 p.m.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of tonight’s Portland City Council meeting.

Friday — Results from Thursday’s JCHS girls basketball game against Delta.



Obituaries

Julia Heitkamp

Dec. 4, 1942-Jan. 16, 2023
Julia M. Heitkamp, 80, of St. Anthony, Ohio, died Monday, Jan. 16, 2023, at Briarwood Village, Coldwater, Ohio.

She was born Dec. 4, 1942, in Celina, Ohio, to the late Leonard and Esther (Rumschlag) Rosenbeck. On May 19, 1962, she married Elmer Heitkamp.

She is also survived by children Gary (Shirley) Heitkamp of Bryant, Steve (Dawn) Heitkamp of Celina, Deb (Robert) Crouch of Pleasant Hill, Ohio, Kevin (Cindy) Heitkamp of Coldwater, Tom Heitkamp of Coldwater, Jim (Linda) Heitkamp of Bryant, Rick (Christa)



Heitkamp

Heitkamp of Fort Recovery, Brian Heitkamp of Rockford, Ohio, and Rodney Heitkamp and Amy Southworth of Celina; 24 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, its ladies sodality and choir, and was church organist. Julia enjoyed gardening, fishing and spending time with her family.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m., Friday, Jan. 20, 2023, at St. Anthony Church, Fort Recovery. Burial will follow in St. Anthony Cemetery. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday and 9 to 10 a.m. Friday at the Hogenkamp Funeral Home in Coldwater.

Memorials may be made to Everheart Hospice or the Cancer Association of Mercer County.

Condolences may be expressed at hogenkampfh.com.

Roger Bentz

Feb. 3, 1961-Jan. 11, 2023

Roger A. Bentz, age 61, of Indianapolis, and a Portland native, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023, at his residence.



Bentz

He was born in Portland on February 3, 1961, the son of Ernest and D. Joan (Willman) Bentz. He was married to Rebecca Smiley who survives.

Roger worked for M 2 Technology as a solution architect and previously with Hewlett Packard for 23 years. He was a 1979 Jay County High School graduate and earned his bache-

lor of science degree from Indiana State University in 1983.

Roger was an avid sports enthusiast, played softball, attended dirt track races and enjoyed music concerts. He was an avid Indiana University fan, Chicago Bears fan and Chicago Cubs fan.

Surviving are his wife and life partner Rebecca; his three sons, Bryson Bentz of Fredrick, Maryland, Tyler Bentz (wife: Rebekah) of Cascade, Maryland, and Clayton Bentz (fiance: Kristen Stanley) of San Antonio, Texas; his mother; D. Joan Bentz of Portland; brother Max Bentz (wife: Deborah) of Portland; and sister Carol Poling (husband: Mike) of Portland; one grandson, Colton and expecting his second grandchild in February. He had several nieces and nephews who loved and adored him.

Funeral services will be Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023, at 6 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home in Portland with Pastor Joe Studt presiding. Visitation will be Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m.

Memorials can be made to Alzheimer's Association, Jay County Heart Fund or you can plant a tree in Roger's memory.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

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

CR almanac

Wednesday 1/18	Thursday 1/19	Friday 1/20	Saturday 1/21	Sunday 1/22
46/39	53/31	35/27	37/27	38/29
There's a slight chance of rain in the afternoon under mostly cloudy skies.	Thursday has a 40% chance of showers. Wind gusts may reach as high as 30 mph.	Friday's forecast shows mostly cloudy skies, with a low around 27 at night.	Another day of mostly cloudy skies is expected Saturday. The low will be near 27 again.	Sunday has a 30% chance of rain and snow. The high will be in the upper 30s.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 4-14-33-39-61 Powerball: 3 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$439 million	21-22-27-29-30-34-39-50-58-60-62-66-67-68-72-75 Cash 5: 1-25-30-31-33 Estimated jackpot: \$302,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$20 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 3-3-8 Pick 4: 2-4-6-2 Pick 5: 3-7-3-7-7 Evening Pick 3: 5-3-0 Pick 4: 1-9-6-2 Pick 5: 8-5-6-6-2 Rolling Cash 5: 17-23-30-33-36 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 3-9-9 Daily Four: 8-7-0-4 Quick Draw: 3-5-7-14-17-18-19-23-24-34-37-42-48-52-55-66-68-74-78-80 Evening Daily Three: 9-2-8 Daily Four: 1-5-1-9 Quick Draw: 2-4-11-12-	Classic Lotto: 7-16-17-31-44-49 Kicker: 6-9-8-8-7-6 Jackpot: \$4.1 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.93 Feb. corn.....6.93 Wheat.....6.70	Wheat.....6.80 July wheat.....7.24
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.93 Feb. corn.....6.94 March corn.....6.96	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.76 March corn.....6.78 Beans.....15.13 Feb. beans.....15.15 Wheat.....7.25
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.77 Feb. corn.....6.77 Beans.....15.16 Feb. beans.....15.21	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....6.47 Feb. corn.....6.49 Beans.....14.97 Feb. beans.....15.03 Wheat.....6.94

Today in history

In 1706, innovator Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston, Massachusetts. Franklin established Philadelphia's second newspaper, "Pennsylvania Gazette," and helped initiate several other institutions and public entities.

In 1893, the Hawaiian monarchy ended after Queen Liliuokalani was removed from power by a group led by Sanford Ballard Dole.

In 1922, actress Betty White was born in Oak Park, Illinois. She had a career in television spanning nearly seven decades.

In 2014, Jay County boys basketball team fell 38-37 against host Connersville after Spartans junior Ty Miller hit a 3-pointer with 51.2 seconds left on the clock. JCHS senior Trey Teagle attempted a shot with three seconds left and just missed the mark.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 5 p.m. — Portland City Council executive session, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.	Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North, Portland.
Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland	
Thursday 5:30 p.m. — Redkey Town Council public hearing, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St. 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.	



Photo provided

Bridge gathering

A group of local residents hoping to save the "Big Blue Bridge" — the Indiana 26 bridge over the Salamonie River on the east edge of Portland — gathered at the bridge Sunday afternoon. An Indiana Department of Transportation project calls for the bridge to be removed and a new one constructed this year. Jenny Bricker and Jennifer Hartley have been leading an effort to save the bridge, either at its current location or moved to a trail system just to the north.

Mayor ...

Continued from page 1
Among his goals, if elected, are to help support local businesses and take care of citizens' needs. He also mentioned a need to clean up properties in the city.

"I would like to take a more open-door policy, where people can come to the mayor's office and be able to tell their concerns and their ideas," he said.

Westlake is making his first run for public office. Boggs is seeking a second term as mayor after defeating incumbent Democrat Randy Geesaman in the 2019 general election. Smitley is also making his first run for elected office.

The Republican nomination for mayor is currently the only contested race for the primary election.

The deadline to file to run for election is noon Feb. 3.

Other candidates who have filed thus far are as follows:

Portland — Lori Aker-Phillips (Democrat) for clerk-treasurer; Matt Goldsworthy (Republican) for city council District 1; Michele Brewster (Republican) for city council District 3; and Kent McClung (Republican) for city council District 5

Dunkirk — Jack Robbins (Democrat) for mayor; Tina Elliott (Democrat) for clerk-treasurer; Kevin Hamilton (Republican) for city council District 1; Jesse Bivens (Republican) for city council District 3; and Dan Watson (Republican) for city council at-large

Redkey — "Watermelon" Jim Phillips (Democrat) for city council at-large

Pennville — Krista Schloer (Republican) for clerk-treasurer; Joshua Miller (Republican) for town council at-large

Capsule Reports

Lost control
Two Indiana residents were injured after a Portland man lost control of the vehicle he was driving, causing a wreck along Boundary Pike about 5:20 p.m. Monday.

Kamran R. Miller, 20, told police he was driving a 2000 Chevrolet Camaro around a curve in the road when he lost control and his vehicle went off the road and rolled. Miller and his passenger, 26-year-old Alexia M. Davis of Union City, left for Randolph County Hospital without notifying police. They removed items from the vehicle, including the license plate, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office accident report.

See page 5

SERVICES

Today

Micheau, Robert: 2 p.m., Williamson, Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 190 S. Union St., Pennville.

Wednesday

Midlam, Martha: 3p.m., Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 W, Portland.

Thursday

Heitkamp, Julia: 10:30 a.m., St. Anthony Catholic Church, 471 St. Anthony Road, Fort Recovery.

Bentz, Roger: 6 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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Hunting trip came with a scare

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

The hunting trip didn't go exactly as planned last week. It was supposed to be a guys day out. The cast of characters is as follows: youngest grandson Nicholas (also known as Nicky), his brother Jacob, their dad Duston, Duston's dad, Pappy, and Duston's brother, Aaron.

It was a long drive to the piece of land that they had leased for hunting. The idea was to bring home some venison and other game after enjoying a nice day out together.

At some point, Nicky declared that he was bored. Pappy handed him a BB gun and told him to go behind some nearby bushes to see if he could scare up some birds to

As I See It



shoot. Both of the younger boys know how to handle a gun properly and are generally well supervised.

At some point someone noticed that they hadn't seen Nicky for a while. They started calling for him but there was no answer. There was no phone service in that area so their phones were useless. They split up and began hunting for the boy. Jacob went with his dad and Pappy and Aaron went in different direc-

tions in order to cover more ground. As time passed they began to turn on each other. No matter where they searched, there was no Nicky.

After about 45 minutes everyone's nerves were frayed. They were blaming each other for losing him. Their anger covered up their fear that he might be hurt or worse. Finally, someone thought to look where Pappy had told the boy to go. Nicky was behind the bushes fast asleep. Their relief was overwhelming.

After all that, they managed to bring home one relatively small deer and a couple of quail. I wasn't aware that they even had quail in Texas. When I was growing up in Ohio, there

were lots of quail. They lived in the fencerows and in our small patch of woods. I used to sit outside with my grandfather and listen to them call, "Bob white, bob white, bob, bob white." I learned to whistle by imitating their calls. I haven't heard that call in decades.

Back then people would ask if they could hunt on our land. We had signs that said to ask the farmer first before they came on the property in search of wild game but not everyone complied. The ones who didn't ask usually left a mess of trash. We usually said yes to people who asked on the condition that they would share their bounty with us. They would often drop off sever-

al quail or rabbits on their way home. I remember that rabbit was my favorite meat but only if my grandfather cooked it. Deer were scarce enough that nobody ever asked to hunt them.

As much as I hate guns, I have no problem with hunting even though I tease my son-in-law about killing Bambi and Bambi's whole family. They eat what they kill and my granddaughter actually prefers venison to beef. I don't. I prefer my meat to be wrapped in plastic or butcher paper. I have no desire to go out and shoot something.

We have created a landscape where the deer thrive. If the herds aren't thinned by hunters then

Mother Nature will take things into her own hands. Predators, diseases, ticks, starvation and various other means are much slower ways to die than a well-placed bullet.

I am so glad that Nicky was found. It could have been so much worse. He isn't afraid of anything and without someone actually watching him the possibility of the 11-year-old getting hurt is higher than any of us would like.

What is that saying? All's well that ends well.

They brought home meat for the freezer and a story that they won't soon forget. The best thing was that Nicholas was found in plain sight. They just needed to look in the right place.

Mom kept father's identity secret from son

DEAR ABBY: Thirty years ago, I had an affair with "Roger," a married man. We worked together and fell in love. At the time, Roger was married with three children. My husband and I were separated, and I had one son. The 15-year age gap between us didn't matter to me. I admired him. Roger was soft-spoken, intelligent and a gentleman. He was of Christian faith, so when he decided to divorce his wife, his partners held an intervention and bought out his equity in the company, which forced him to move out of state.

Roger was a great person and struggled with the thought of leaving his family. I understood, and we parted ways. I kept informed about him as much as possible over the years but never contacted him, and we lived in different states. When he left, I was pregnant, but I didn't tell him because so much was going on and I didn't want the baby to be a tool. I had a son, reconciled with my husband and never told a soul. Eight

Dear Abby



years after that, my husband and I divorced.

Although I tried, I never found the courage to reach out to Roger. Five years ago, I visited the state where he lived. I even went to his office, but did not reach out. I recently had several dreams about him and couldn't stop thinking of him. They seemed so real.

I looked Roger up online and found out he died a year ago. I am devastated and feel guilty for not giving my son the opportunity to know his father. Roger has other children. At this point, should I let them know or should I just leave everything alone? My biggest fear is causing pain to his wife. She is a

good person and doesn't deserve this. — HOLDING MANY SECRETS

DEAR HOLDING: What is to be gained by making an announcement at this late date? As you stated, it won't provide your son the opportunity to know his father. And receiving shocking news at this point will only cause Roger's widow pain. However, I would do another internet search to see if you can find out what killed Roger. If it's something that could be passed down to your son, warn him. Otherwise, I'm voting for leaving everything alone.

DEAR ABBY: Over the past two years, a friend I have felt very close to over the years has gone downhill. "Nancy" thinks her neighbors have placed listening devices in her apartment, have entered her place illegally and taken things, and are in general malevolent. I have my own troubles and bur-

dens in my life, and this change in her leaves me feeling frightened, powerless and overwhelmed.

I have stepped back, but a mutual friend tells me Nancy feels abandoned and betrayed by me. I'm afraid if I reach out, I'll be sorry. But on the other hand, I never have said goodbye. Nancy has a therapist now, and I lift her up in prayer a lot. What do you suggest I do, if anything? — FAILED FRIEND IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR FRIEND: Your prayers have been answered. Nancy is now in the care of a therapist and may improve. If the only reason you would be contacting her is to say goodbye, I think it would be cruel. If you would like to check in from time to time, ask how she's doing and offer some warmth and encouragement, then give her a call.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married 45 years. We are both retired and

have hobbies to keep us busy. My problem is, he has so many friends that he doesn't have time for any of the things I would like us to do together. I seem to be the last person he wants to do anything with. I don't mind some alone time, but after a while, I feel lonely and left behind. If a vacation is planned, it's always planned around his schedule. — LONELY IN MINNESOTA

DEAR LONELY: Could you possibly develop an interest in any of the hobbies your husband enjoys? That way you could be alone less of the time. If that's not possible, tell him you are unhappy and the current arrangement makes you feel lonely and isolated. Too much time alone isn't healthy. If he's willing to do some compromising, your problem is solved. However, if he is inflexible, you will have to find more activities to fill your time that involve other people.

Community Calendar

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

Tuesday

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

ALZHEIMER'S CARE-GIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 5:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at Jay County Public Library community room. For more information, call Deb Tipton at (260) 729-2806 or Elasha Lennartz at (765) 729-4567.

FRIENDS OF JAY COUNTY LIBRARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. the

third Tuesday of each month at the library.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

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

NARCOTICS ANONY-

MOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creager Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday at Harmony Cafe, 121 N. Meridian St.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

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

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.

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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.

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The Commercial Review
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Reader proud of Dunkirk, Moose

To the editor:
On Saturday evening, Jan. 14, a benefit dance was held at The Dunkirk Loyal Order Of The Moose Lodge 1352.

Prior to this past holiday season, one of our beloved members who is also an employee of the lodge was vacationing in Ireland and became very seriously ill.

Her condition was very grave and absolutely life threatening.

She spent 35 days in a hospital in Ireland and underwent several surgeries.

She was finally, recently, allowed to return home to the good old USA and her loving family and friends to recuperate.

As I pulled up to the lodge in my car this past Saturday evening, the parking lot was full to overflowing. The streets were lined with parked cars in every direction.

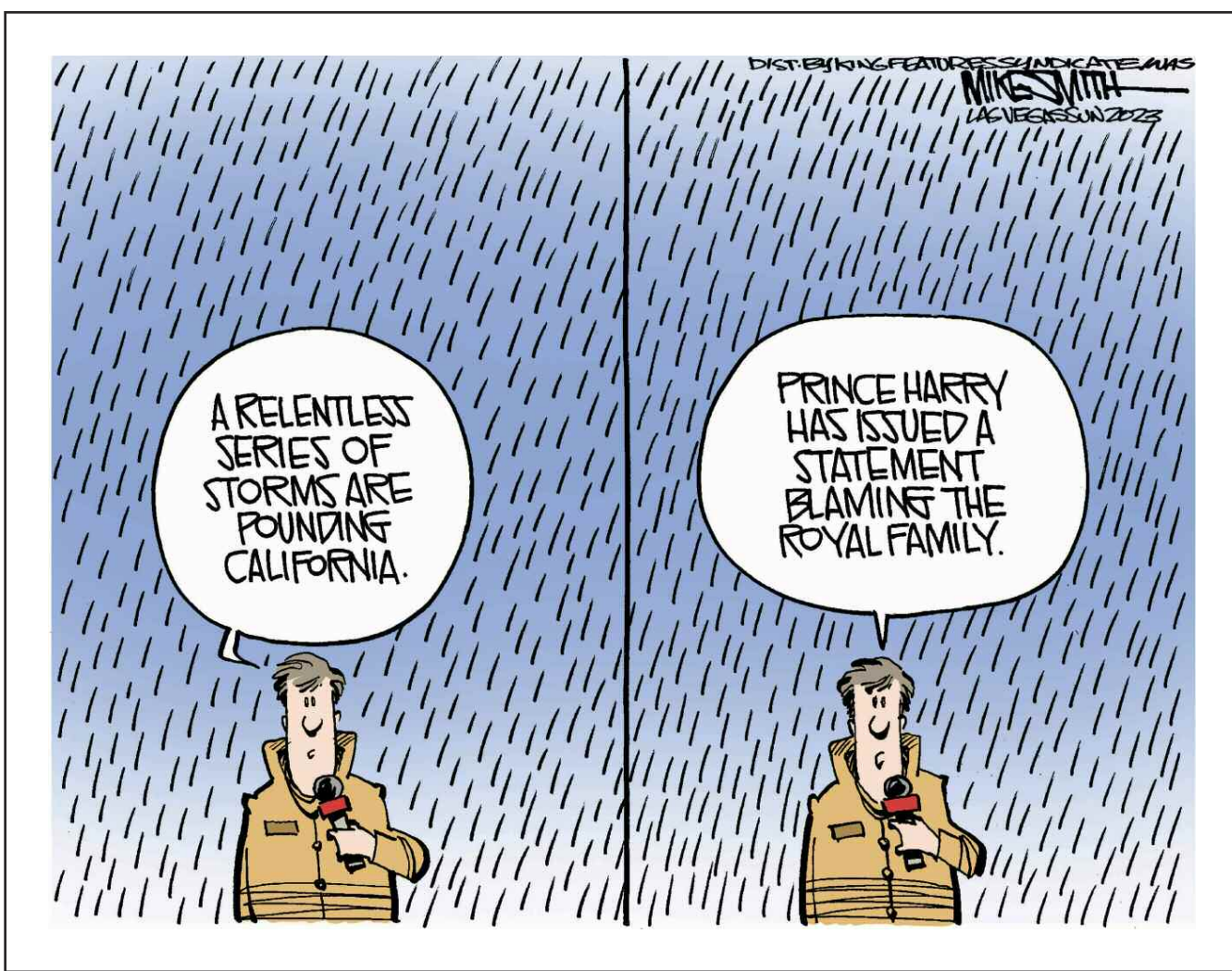
I entered the building

Letters to the Editor

and the amount of genuine warmth and outright love for her was literally a physical presence. I gave her a hug, told her she was loved more than she'll ever know and departed afterward realizing that our community of Dunkirk and our loyal Moose members are, indeed, a very special group of truly wonderful folks.

We are blessed to live in such a wonderful community, and I am certainly proud to call Dunkirk my home, and proud of our Moose Lodge.

Respectfully submitted,
James D Fulks III
Dunkirk



Remote is opportunity, risk

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

Indiana is in the beginning of labor market restructuring that offers a once in a century opportunity — and risk.

Normally, government plays a modest role in these types of changes. But, in the post pandemic world, how well places do will largely be the result of how quickly, and effectively, state and local government adjusts. There is good and bad news for Hoosier policymakers, but first some basic facts.

In January 2020, maybe 140,000 Hoosiers worked from home. These included remote workers and those engaged in home production, like crafts. Today that number is roughly 1.04 million, or just about one in three Hoosier workers. Of these 548,000 work at home full time.

To put these numbers in context, there are now more Hoosiers in remote work than there are in manufacturing and logistics combined. In fact, if it were counted as a single industry, remote work would be the largest employer the state has ever had. Yet, these startling facts understate the growing impact of remote work.

There is a significant income and educational divide in remote work. About 11% of high school graduates report performing some remote work. However, more than 48% of college graduates work remotely. The income divide is even higher with two-thirds of those earning over \$200,000 per year working remotely, while fewer than 8.5% of those earning under \$35,000 do so. Today, close to half of all Hoosier wages are paid to workers who work remotely at least part of the week.

In the next couple decades, about half of the jobs created nationally will be fully or partially remote. In contrast, the factory and logistics jobs we are trying so hard to attract are in long-term decline. Indiana, most manufacturing-intensive economy in the nation, has fewer factory jobs than we did in 2019. And, despite all the happy cheerleading about 2022's successes, there are fewer factory jobs in the state today than there were last May.

Remote work is here to stay, and over the next few decades will be larger and more important than any industrial sector of our economy. This holds great promise as well as significant risk for Indiana.

Remote work means the decoupling of the geography of work and home. For about half of remote workers, work and home are entirely severed. Workers can live wherever they wish, and simply connect to work through the internet. The other half of remote

Michael J. Hicks



There are many parts of Indiana rich in natural amenities, of the type that tens of millions of Americans prefer. It is easy to start a business in Indiana, so adding private sector amenities, like restaurants, bars, theaters and the like is simple. So, Indiana should be well-positioned to take advantage of the explosion of remote work.

A few cities and counties in Indiana have good public services. Their schools are nationally ranked, crime rates are low and blight non-existent. But, there are very few places in Indiana that fit this description. The best illustration lies in our school situation. By population share, Indiana should have about 20 high schools in the top 1,000 nationally. Instead, we have 13 with only nine that are accessible public schools. These are located in only three metropolitan areas.

The paucity of thriving places is understood by most Hoosier policymakers. This is why we've had the Regional Cities Initiative and READI grant programs. These policies are effective and needed, however Indiana's physical infrastructure is not what will lure people to our state. The prime driver of relocation—and this cannot be repeated often enough—is the quality of our education system.

In this most important of regional characteristics, we are increasingly among the weakest in the nation. The ugly fact is few families considering relocating due to the flexibility of remote work will consider Indiana. We have just slipped into the bottom 10 states for educational attainment, and today spend less per student than we did a decade ago.

Indiana takes very seriously efforts to attract manufacturing investment. Yet, factory employment has declined by 25% so far this century. Nationwide, there are fewer than 12 million factory workers we might lure to Indiana, down close to five million in the past two decades.

In contrast, today there are 67 million remote workers, 36 million of whom are fully remote. Economic success for states and cities in the 21st century will follow the choices of remote workers. That is a great opportunity. However, we are not yet ready for the new world of remote work, which also makes it our greatest risk.

Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University. Email him at mhicks@bsu.edu.

Abbott can do much better

The Dallas Morning News
Tribune News Service

As far as political theater goes, no one was expecting a buddy movie when Gov. Greg Abbott met President Joe Biden at the tarmac for the Democrat's high-stakes border visit Sunday. Yet it's sad and telling that a hostile letter that Abbott delivered to Biden after shaking hands is seemingly the bulk of their communication during the Texas visit.

Biden's visit was long overdue, as his own fellow Democrats have said. We have supported Abbott's calls for better border enforcement because he's right about the chaos that border communities have experienced from the non-stop arrival of thousands of migrants every day.

Abbott's letter included fair criticisms of the Biden administration, but the tone and delivery make its contents unhelpful. The letter, which Abbott handed to Biden in front of news cameras, felt more like the president was being served a warrant than being greeted in good faith by the governor of our state.

"All of this is happening because you have violated your constitutional obligation to defend the States against invasion through faithful execution of federal laws," Abbott wrote.

That is a strong accusation. But worse, it repeats ugly rhetoric characterizing the border crisis in military terms that risk portraying all migrants as enemy combatants.

Americans can handle nuance. We understand that what's happening at the border is a political and humanitarian emergency that should not continue unabated, even as we recognize that most arrivals are desperate adults and children, and they deserve to be treated humanely even if their asylum claims ultimately are not aligned with U.S. law.

We know that our governor, too, is capable of nuance. Yet he continues to eschew that in favor of political posturing that

Guest Editorial

rallies his Republican base but that does little to advance solutions.

For instance, Abbott called on Biden to "stop sandbagging" the implementation of Title 42, a pandemic-era policy used to expel migrants without allowing them to apply for asylum because of public health concerns. Plans to end that policy have become tied up in federal courts.

We marvel at persistent calls from conservatives to continue Title 42 even as COVID-19 has waned and our nation has moved on from pandemic protocols. Title 42 is a crutch, not a meaningful answer to our problems at the border.

Abbott has spent the last two years antagonizing the Biden administration, which makes it unlikely that Texas will improve its cooperation with the White House. Unsurprisingly, Abbott was not invited to attend the president's El Paso tour.

The governor could have made a statement without being antagonistic. We wish he had taken a page from El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego, a Democrat. He told our newspaper: "I'm not going to be nice, and I'm not going to be rude, either."

It's a shame that our governor won't model bipartisan cooperation and leadership for us. Even some immigrant advocates who oppose Abbott agree with him that the border crisis shouldn't be solely the problem of border states like Texas.

What Texas needs is a serious meeting about border security at the highest levels without making it a political and press event. Maybe then will our leaders stop playing for the cameras and start working for us.

The Commercial Review



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VOLUME 149-NUMBER 186
TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 17, 2023

www.thecr.com

Capsule Reports

Continued from page 2
Miller complained of injuries all over his body, and Davis complained of head pain.

Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000. The mailbox and landscape at 5955 S. Boundary Pike, Portland, were damaged.

The vehicle — it was towed — is registered to Gary O. Robinson of Richmond.

Vehicle fire

An Albany resident's truck caught on fire while traveling along Indiana 67 about 6:30 a.m. Monday.

Jesse Poole told police he was driving north on the highway near county road 300 South when his 2014 Chevrolet Silverado began smelling hot. He pulled over along the side of the road and smoke drifted into the cabin.

Poole exited the vehicle without sustaining injury.

Portland Fire Department extinguished the fire. Poole's truck was towed.

Drove into field

A Marion woman drove her car through the intersection of Indiana 67 and Indiana 26 about 6:24 a.m. Monday, causing her to drive into a nearby field.

Cindy L. Gibson, 64, told police she was driving a 2016 Chevrolet Impala west on Indiana 36 when she lost focus of the road. (According to a Portland police report, she appeared fatigued.) Gibson crossed the intersection with Indiana 67 and stopped in the field just south.

The vehicle she was driving — it's registered to Witham Hospital of Indi-

anapolis — was towed. Gibson complained of back pain, according to the report. Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Backing accident

A Portland man backed his truck into another car along Ship Street about 9:07 a.m. Saturday.

As Carl A. Stanford, 83, was backing his 2016

Chevrolet Silverado out of a parking spot on the street near its intersection with Walnut Street, his vehicle struck a parked 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan.

Damage is estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000 according to a Portland police report. The owner of the Dodge Grand Caravan is not named in the report.

Banks ...

Continued from page 1
A Senate term is six years, rather than two, giving more breathing room between campaigns. But a Senate campaign will likely take millions to win.

In 2018, Braun spent \$4.5 million in the GOP primary. According to Vox, altogether, the three candidates spent more than \$9 million in one of the most expensive and negative primaries that year.

Open Secrets, which researches and tracks money in politics and its effect on elections and policy, found Banks' top contributor from 2015 to 2022 was Club for Growth — \$104,066.

Club for Growth's independent expenditure super PAC went on the offensive Sunday — running an attack ad against two-term-governor and former Purdue University president Mitch Daniels, who is also considering a run for Senate.

Mark Lubbers, a personal adviser to Daniels and longtime friend, didn't mince words about the ad and Banks.

"A majority of Americans are ready to embrace conservative policy ... but loser grifters like Club for Growth keep making conservatism ugly and unlikable. At some point genuine conservatives will have to go to war with these bully goons to save us from baby-Trumps like Jim Banks," Lubbers said.

He said he heard Club for Growth plans to continue its investment in Banks, possibly reaching into the millions.

"For the sake of my friend Mitch Daniels, I hope he opts



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

U.S. Rep. Jim Banks (R-Indiana) speaks April 25 at a gathering of local officials at Portland Municipal Airport. Banks has announced that he will run for U.S. Senate, hoping to fill the seat being vacated by Mike Braun.

out of what these grifters have made of politics," Lubbers said. "For the sake of my country, I hope Mitch runs and beats Banks to a pulp."

Banks sidestepped a question on Daniels but said he had called Donald Trump to tell him of his decision and he "would be very glad to have his support." Banks has visited with Trump numerous times and his video includes two pictures with the former president.

Others who are endorsing Banks are Indiana Congress-

man Larry Bucshon, R-8th, and Arkansas U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton.

"Hoosiers deserve to have another tried and true conservative in the Senate, and Jim Banks is by far the best person for the job. Jim and I are both veterans of the U.S. Navy Reserve, and we need Jim in the Senate to build a strong military that will defend the homeland and stand up to our adversaries like Communist China. Jim isn't afraid of the radical left and will fight to remove 'woke' training from the military that harms

our readiness. Jim's an unapologetic champion for conservative values, with a strong record of defending the unborn and protecting parents' rights in education. I'm confident Jim will continue the fight for Hoosiers' conservative values in the Senate, and he has my full support."

Cotton said "we need more leaders like Jim Banks in the U.S. Senate — leaders with military experience who will defend our rights and our national security. For six years he's been an indispensable partner in the

House and I know he will be an even stronger partner in the Senate. Jim is a proven conservative fighter who puts Hoosiers first and I'm proud to endorse him."

Banks previously served six years in the state Senate and hails from Columbia City. He and wife Amanda have three daughters.

.....
Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

Village ...

Continued from page 1

"At this point, if we have to go with any mechanical, whether it be a full mechanical plant or whether it be a mechanical process before or after the lagoons, it's going to take some time to get that in place," Diller said.

The village has responded with a letter to Ohio Environmental Protection Agency about the matter, asking for more time or at least two additional years to figure out a plan moving forward.

Diller also noted a representative from PMG Consulting of Maryland has proposed completing an in-depth study on the village's water plant. He pointed out the village will likely begin looking at options in order to move away from treating its water with lime and caustic soda, referring to price increases making the treatment unaffordable. The plant's current treatment plan is nearly 40 years old, he added.

In order to move forward with the study, the village will need to contribute \$27,000. It will be completed within 120 days.

"I believe it's something that we need to know so we don't spend money after that," Diller said.

Council voiced no opposition to Diller moving forward with the process.

Also, a recent water study conducted by OEPA advised the village needs to implement an asset management program to help manage and document its work. Now that the village has its utilities tracked in the Geographic Information System, it has several options that will link into the system.

Council also heard the village has finalized the return of its more than \$1 million Transporta-

tion Alternatives Program grant offered by Ohio Department of Transportation and began looking into other alternatives for the reconstruction of Butler Street (Ohio 119).

In November, council learned ODOT had told the village it needs to have a right-of-way plan following specific guidelines, tacking several hundred thousand dollars onto the project's cost. Inflation would have also impacted the construction price, jumping from an estimated \$3.1 million to about \$4.6 million.

The village decided to relinquish its grant dollars back to the state in December and instead look for other funding revenues.

Diller explained Monday the village will be applying for another round of Systemic Safety Funding grant through the department's Highway Safety Program. (ODOT awarded the same grant to Fort Recovery in 2022 for its plans to create a multi-use trail along Ohio 49 and Sharpsburg Road, which will be constructed in 2025.)

If awarded a Systemic Safety Funding grant for its Butler Street project, the village would contribute 10% of the cost, or about \$290,000. ODOT would pay for the bulk of the cost estimated at \$1.8 million. (It does not include engineering costs, although the vil-

lage has already finished that process with Choice One.)

Reconstruction plans originally included putting in a new water line, sidewalks, curbs and street, as well as replacing the traffic light at Wayne Street. The scope of the project has been adjusted, now extending west from George Street toward Ambassador Drive.

In other business, council:

- OK'd Diller to apply for a \$10,000 grant through Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for equipment at the water department and learned the village is eligible to apply for up to \$40,000 through the Safety Intervention Grant offered through Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation.


- Agreed to move forward with hiring a new utility department employee.

- Authorized the sale of village property through internet auctions. (Diller noted plans to sell a dump truck sometime this year.)

- Learned the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio will meet Jan. 25 to discuss exempting the railroad crossing along Ohio 49 on the north side of the village, near Railroad Street.

- Approved Mayor Dave Kaup's appointments to village committees and re-appointed Post as council president.

Fort Recovery will move forward with study on water plant



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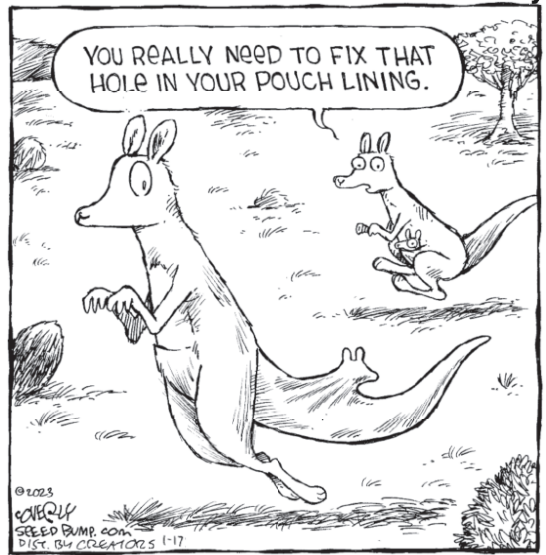
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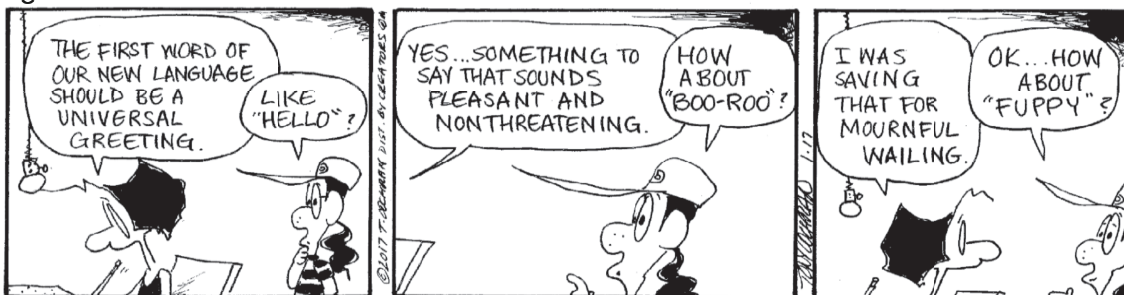
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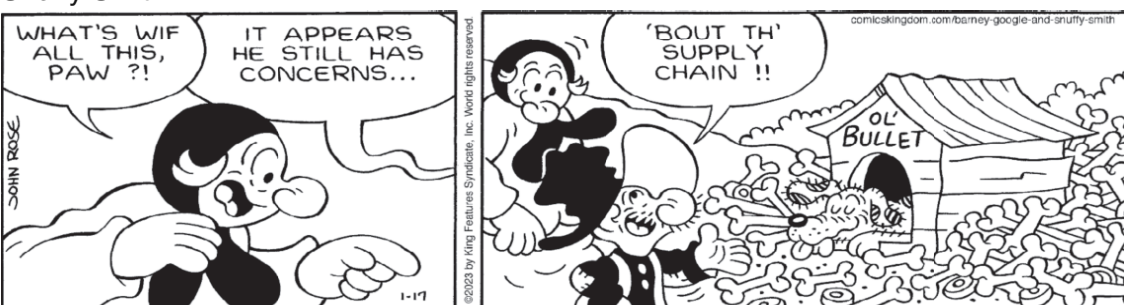
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Adjusting the odds

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: ♠8, ♥A83, ♦AJ, ♣AQJ7643. WEST: ♠J1097, ♥1064, ♦10753, ♣K2. EAST: ♠K6532, ♥K97, ♦98642, ♣-. SOUTH: ♠AQ4, ♥QJ52, ♦KQ, ♣10985. The bidding: East South West North Pass 1♣ Pass 3♠ Pass 3NT Pass 6♣. Opening lead — jack of spades.

Since there is such a minute advantage in playing for a 1-1 split, declarer should look for other factors that may enter into his calculations. Consider this deal where West leads a spade against six clubs. Despite the favorable lead into his A-Q-4, South must deal with the possibility that he might lose both a heart trick and a trump trick. If, say, he elected to lead a trump to the ace and either opponent had K-x, he could lose the slam if the heart finesse later failed. To avoid this possibility, South should take the A-Q of spades right away and discard a heart from dummy, then ruff a spade. He next cashes the A-K of diamonds and is then ready to tackle the trump suit. He leads a trump from his hand, and, after West follows low, he finesesses the queen.

Declarer is occasionally faced with the problem of how to play a suit in which he has 11 cards and is missing the K-x. Should he play the ace and hope the king falls, or should he finesse? The mathematical probabilities are not very persuasive. There is a 52% chance of the two missing cards being divided 1-1, but there is also a disturbing 48% chance of a 2-0 division. The difference is thus very slight.

He does this because if the finesse wins, he makes the slam, while if the finesse loses, he also makes the slam, since East would then be forced to return a heart or yield a ruff-and-discard. Note that South is on solid ground even if West shows out on the trump lead at trick six. In that case, he goes up with the ace and plays another trump, trapping East in the same hopeless position.

Tomorrow: Transcendentalism. ©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

1-17

CRYPTOQUIP

JSRX CN IND XSBHV PXDCOHPX BH XLBKHNHQOXLI ETRPPOP QDPX CN ENHXBHRTTI? JNLV XSO RHKTOP.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF TWO STREET URCHINS THINK VERY MUCH ALIKE, I HAVE TO GUESS THEY'RE ON THE SAME WAIF-LENGTH.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals Y

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Green gem, 5 Police officer, 8 Pretzel seasoning, 12 Israeli airline, 13 Mine yield, 14 Jai — hazard, 15 Golfer's hazard, 17 Iditarod terminus, 18 Chiding sound, 19 Long time, 20 Concepts, 21 Matching pair, 22 Moreover, 23 May honorees, 26 Enthusiastic approval, 30 Bridge, 31 Opening, 32 — bene, 33 Hot alcoholic drinks, 35 Man of morals?, 36 Shriver of tennis, 37 Brit. sports cars. DOWN: 1 Bit of banter, 2 Regretably, e.g., 3 Like a dungeon, 4 Days of yore, 5 French landscape painter, 6 Algerian port, 7 Zing formations, 9 Skin soother, 10 Tibetan monk, 11 Alliances, 16 Golf props, 20 Chef Garten, 21 Abrasive sheet, 22 Jungfrau, e.g., 23 Rockies hrs., 24 GI's address, 25 Irate, 26 — de deux, 27 Two, in Toledo, 28 Olympic skater, 29 Spigot, 31 Prized possession, 34 Author Fleming, 35 Mellowed, 37 Calendar page, 38 Nest egg choices, 39 Tide variety, 40 Irene of "Fame", 41 Get bent out of shape, 42 Rani's dress, 43 End-of-week letters, 44 "Hey, you!", 46 "You Send Me" singer, 47 Glitch.

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-17

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Sports

ACAC overpowered

Jay County dominates throughout conference tournament; Schwieterman first to win three straight MVP awards since '91

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

BLUFFTON — The Patriots' performance in the conference tournament can be summed up in a single word.

Dominant. The Woodlan Warriors showed a brief glimmer of hope of breaking Jay County's stranglehold on the Allen County Athletic Conference girls basketball tournament Saturday night at Bluffton before the Patriots ran them off the floor for a 58-27 victory.

The three ACAC tournament victories for the Patriots — they climbed to No. 2 in this week's Class 3A poll — came by a combined 204-78, an average margin of victory of 42 points.

"Our team chemistry is just unmatched," said JCHS senior Gabi Bilbrey after the team won its third straight conference title and seventh in the last nine years. "There's nothing that separates us. It's just great."

Jay County senior Renna Schwieterman again was honored with the Hilliard Gates Most Valuable Player Award, becoming the first player since Woodlan's Lori Hissong from 1989 to 1991 to earn the accolade three years in a row.

With her 17-point effort in the championship game, she climbed to second on the ACAC's all-time scoring list. At 1,631 points, she now trails only Bluffton's Abby Salscheider, who finished her career with 1,917 points.

"It's all God's doing. My teammates, my family, my coaches, they've all helped me out tremendously," said Schwieterman, who also had six rebounds and an assist. "I cannot talk enough



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School's Sophie Saxman pushes the ball up the floor Saturday night after coming up with a steal during the second quarter of the Patriots' 58-27 victory over Woodlan in the Allen County Athletic Conference tournament championship game at Bluffton. JCHS forced 15 first-quarter turnovers as it closed the period on a 24-0 run. The Patriots won their three tournament games by an average of 42 points.

about my teammates tonight. They played tremendously, each one of them.

"I'm so proud of our team. They continue to progress more and more, and it shows every sin-

gle game. Their confidence grows more and more."

While the JCHS girls continued their reign over the conference, Adams Central's boys snapped a long drought. With a

59-48 overtime victory in the first half of Saturday's doubleheader, the Jets won their first ACAC tournament title since 1976.

After the Patriots had obliterated Heritage and South Adams

in their first two tournament games, Woodlan opened the title game with 3-pointers from Addie Goheen and Gabi Klopfenstein for a 6-0 lead.

See ACAC page 7

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The No Roll beef items will not be available until Tuesday January 17th.

<p>Macaroni salad \$2.89 lb.</p>	<p>Square Swiss cheese \$6.49 lb.</p>	<p>Mozzarella cheese \$4.49 lb.</p>
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Indians strong in OT

ANSONIA, Ohio — Scoring has often been a struggle this season.

On Saturday afternoon, the Indians put up more points in the four minutes of overtime than they had in any of the regulation quarters.

With Cali Wendel leading the way, Fort Recovery High School's girls basketball team came up big in the extra period to knock off the Ansonia Tigers 56-50.

After an 0-8 start, Fort Recovery (2-10) has won twice in its last four games. It also defeated National Trail 38-37 on Dec. 27.

Wendel exploded late after scoring just three points in the first three quarters. She hit a pair of 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and made seven overtime free throws, scoring 20 of her game-high 23 points in the final 12 minutes.

Kennedy Muhlenkamp added another four overtime free throws as she followed with 11 points. Karlie Niekamp added eight points and Maddie Guggenbiller had seven.

Brenna Schmit led

Local roundup

Ansonia (7-9) with 19 points.

Beaten at buzzer

FORT RECOVERY — Maumee Valley Country Day's CJ Majors hit a 16-foot jumper at the buzzer Saturday night to hand the Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team a 63-61 defeat.

The game was tight throughout, with the Indians (8-5) trailing by one at the quarter break and leading by one at halftime. They trailed by two heading into the final period and took the loss on the Majors game-winning shot.

Majors finished with 24 points as he and Fort Recovery's Cale Rammel (26 points) went back-and-forth all night long. Amani-Jordan Chandran-Dickerson followed with 13 points for the Hawks (7-3) and David Parcher had 11.

Rex Leverette had nine points for the Indians. Alex

Dues hit a couple of 3-pointers as he finished with eight points.

FRHS dominated the junior varsity game 64-23. Briggs Overman paced the Indians with 14 points and Caden Grisez added 11.

Jay B team perfect

STRAUGHN — The Jay County wrestling "B team" — a mix of its varsity and junior varsity lineup — posted a perfect record Saturday as it went 5-0 at the varsity Tri High Invitational.

None of the matches were close, with the Patriots defeating Centerville 78-6, Wapahani 82-0, the host Titans 72-12, Shenandoah 63-15 and Northeastern 60-15.

Recording perfect records on the day for JCHS were Griffin Byrum, Daniel Moore, Tave Curtis, Jacob Robinson, Daidrick Retz, Trey Nichols, Garrett Bennett, Carter Barton, Juaquin Flores, Joaquin Johnson and Brice Coy.

Curtis recorded pins in all four of his contested matches, including a victory in 10 seconds of Shenandoah's Harrison Jessup. Robinson, Retz and Bennett each had three pins.

Colts casting wide net

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

INDIANAPOLIS — The net for Indianapolis Colts head coach candidates has grown even wider.

The team requested interviews with three more coaches Monday — New York Giants offensive coordinator Mike Kafka and defensive coordinator Don "Wink" Martindale as well as San Francisco 49ers defensive coordinator DeMeco Ryans — bringing the list of known candidates to 11.

Kafka and Ryans fit the mold of the majority of the list as young coordinators looking for their first head coaching gig.

Kafka is just 35 years old and in his first season as an offensive coordinator. The Giants will face the Philadelphia Eagles in the divisional playoff round Saturday, and New York head coach Brian Daboll told media neither

Kafka or Martindale will interview before that game is completed.

Ryans and the Niners will host the winner of Monday night's game between the Dallas Cowboys and Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sunday, and he is expected to have a busy week of interviews. He is also expected to interview with the Denver Broncos, Houston Texans and Arizona Cardinals.

A Chicago native, Kafka was a quarterback at Northwestern from 2005-09 and spent time with seven NFL teams between 2010-15 after being drafted in the fourth round by the Eagles.

His coaching career began as a graduate assistant at Northwestern in 2016, and he joined the NFL as an offensive quality control coach with the Kansas City Chiefs a year later.

Kafka was promoted to quarterbacks coach in Kansas City in 2018 and added the passing game coordinator title in 2020.

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