

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Former mayor files to run again

Geesaman will seek Democratic nomination in primary

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The incumbent already has multiple challengers in the GOP primary.

Whoever comes out of that race will have a contested general election as well.

Randy Geesaman, who served two terms as Portland's mayor, filed Thursday to run for the Democratic nomination for the office.

Also filing in the last 24 hours were Republicans Larry Nuckols and Ashley Hilfiker, both seeking at-large seats on Portland City Council. Ron May, a Republican, filed to run for the Portland City Council District 4 seat.

Geesaman is currently the only Democrat who has filed to run for mayor of Portland. Three Republicans — incumbent John Boggs, Joel Smitley and Jeff Westlake — are seeking their party's nomination.

Following his filing Thursday, Geesaman said he had been approached by many from both parties, as well as independents, who encouraged him to run.

"I feel like I'm re-energized," said Geesaman, "and I'm ready to go back in and tackle the issues that the City of Portland is facing right now. I have unfinished business that I haven't seen followed through from my previous tour of duty."

See Run page 2

Changing roles



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Redkey Town Marshal Chance Retter reads from a prepared statement during Redkey Council's meeting in the park cabin Thursday. Retter announced his resignation, effective on or before Jan. 30, and his plans to assume elected office as a council member thereafter.

Retter to resign as Redkey Town Marshal in order to take seat he won on town council

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

REDKEY — Town marshal Chance Retter is leaving his position in order to be able to serve in elected office.

Town officials are now looking for another police officer after Retter announced his resignation during Redkey Town Council's meeting Thursday along with his plans to join the council.

Council also approved a resolution to apply for a planning grant in order to pay for a master utility study and approved a resolution per state requirements to reduce the town's budget by \$100,483.

Retter has been town marshal since mid-June, acting as the only Redkey police officer for seven months. (Town council OK'd cutting the funding for a third police officer in September and has been on the hunt for a second officer for nine months.)

He was also elected to a council seat in November. He has not been sworn into office yet because of the conflict with his position as marshal.

Retter read from a prepared statement Thursday, thanking Redkey for the opportunity to serve as its town marshal. He plans to leave the role on or before Jan. 30, the last day he's

legally able to take the oath of office for his elected role per statute. (If he doesn't take the oath before 30 days from the start of his term, the position becomes vacant, noted town attorney Wes Schemenaur.)

"I stepped in when the town had nobody to turn to, and I performed this job to my best ability," Retter said. "I've worked long hours; I did my very best to protect the town I love."

He noted he had a dilemma in deciding between joining council as a voting member or staying on as Redkey's sole officer. But Jay County Sheriff's Office recently hired Ret-

ter, resolving his conflicted decision.

"I feel that in this position, I'll be able to help my town more and will give the good people that voted for me what they want," he said. "Despite what people think, I have no complaints, and it was a pleasure working for the Town of Redkey."

Council interim president Erik Hammers, council member Gary Gardner and clerk-treasurer Mary Eley thanked Retter for his work.

Council then agreed to begin looking for Retter's replacement. See Changing page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Lawmakers and advocates united behind bill

By LESLIE BONITA MUNIZ

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Republican lawmakers — along with Democrats and clean energy advocates — want Indiana to figure out solar and wind energy equipment decommissioning and disposal before the hazardous waste involved becomes a large-scale problem.

Senate Bill 33, authored by Sen. Greg Walker, R-Columbus, would task the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the Indiana Regulatory Commission with conducting a joint study of how to phase out old solar panels and wind turbines. Decommissioning agreements are in place for all of the aforementioned Jay County facilities.

"We often react after the fact — [after] we have concerns about the environment, we have concerns about industrial waste — and we don't attempt to deal with those concerns until we already have a significant problem handling the volume of material,"

Walker told the Senate Utilities Committee Thursday.

Thousands of aging steel underground storage tanks around the United States are leaking petroleum and other hazardous substances, Walker said. Tank contents can leak into soil and contaminate groundwater — which nearly half the country's population relies on for drinking water, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Many of those tanks were abandoned over the decades, Walker said, adding, "We're still dealing with the mess today, of sites that haven't pumped fuel in 25, 30, 35 years."

Walker's bill would have IDEM and the IURC's study consider a new state program to manage solar and wind decommissioning and disposal, which agency could run that program and how to fund the task. See Bill page 2

In review

A \$3.5 million Lilly Endowment grant will allow Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology's free AskRose Homework Help program to help more middle and high school students in Indiana, including historically underserved students, to excel in their math and science homework.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature reached 56 degrees Thursday before dropping to a low of 36 just before midnight.

The forecast calls for a low of 26 tonight. Skies will be partly sunny Saturday with a high of 35.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday across from Pennville Fire Station and 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot at 220 Lincoln St., Portland.

Coming up

Saturday — Results from tonight's swimming and wrestling ACAC tournaments.

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Jay School Board meeting.



Changing ...

Continued from page 1
Also Thursday, council held a public hearing and approved a resolution to apply for an Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) planning grant, which would cover the majority of the cost of a master utility study. The study would include checking the town's water, stormwater and wastewater utilities in order to document what areas need to be improved or replaced, especially in relation to Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) regulations. (It will likely identify issues such as combined sewer overflows, flooding problems or old water lines or valves in need of replacing.) Schemenaur pointed out several OCRA or IDEM grants often require towns to have a master utility plan in place. Likewise, he added, the town may want to consider utility rate increases in order to

account for future projects and rising costs. Jodi Hayes of Jay County Development Corporation, who is handling the grant application, estimated the last plan for Redkey dates back to 2003. The process involves hiring an engineering firm to do the study. (Council approved contributing a \$9,000 match toward the effort last year.) The grant application is due by Feb. 15. Council signed a resolution to move forward with the grant application. It also approved two ordinances — a drug-free workplace policy and an ordinance defining fair housing — in order to follow guidelines for applying to the Community Development Block Grants Planning Grant program. Council also approved a resolution to decrease its budget for the current year. The Indiana Department of Local Gov-

ernment Finance issued a notice to Redkey advising the town to adjust its funds as follows: decrease the general fund by \$92,683, the park fund by \$1,600 and the cumulative capital development fund by \$11,000; and increase the motor vehicle highway fund by \$4,800. The overall result is a budget decrease of \$100,483. Eley noted she has made some cuts in order to make do with the new budget amount. She voiced frustration with the large adjustment in funding available to the town. "What are we supposed to do? Sell cookies out on the sidewalks?" she asked. Hammers responded, laughing, "You've got to have a permit for that." In other business, council members Floyd Life, John Pierce, Gardner and Hammers: •Authorized Hammers as interim president and as the council member assigned to oversee the police department

until the February meeting. Council also tabled a vote on council roles — they include president and vice president as well as department assignments for each council member — until the next meeting, when Retter is expected to join council. •Agreed to take legal action against a local resident for violating the town burning ordinance. Town employee Randy Young noted Redkey residents must follow town burn rules, which he said dictate that they can only burn clean wood — examples include lumber or tree limbs — in daylight, need to have access to water suppression near the flames and must supervise the fire. •Were informed by Young that the water department has been pumping a lot of water recently but has not been able to find a leak in the lines. "If anybody notices any large pile of water or anything coming out of the street, sure give us a

call, because I'm pumping a lot — 140,000, 150,000 gallons a day — when we usually don't have that much," he said. •Learned from Young the wastewater department sustained damage during extreme cold temperatures over the holidays. The heater stopped working, leading to several 1-inch pipes bursting. Damaged pipes were replaced and the heating issue was resolved. •Heard from Jay County Council member Randy May, who asked residents to share input with him about changes they'd like to see in the area. •Were reminded by Eley the board needs to elect a new member to the American Rescue Plan Act fund committee as well as the Jay County East Central Indiana Regional Planning District board. Former council member Dottie Quakembush previously held both roles. •Paid claims totaling \$231,388.14.

CR almanac

Saturday 1/14	Sunday 1/15	Monday 1/16	Tuesday 1/17	Wednesday 1/18
35/27	37/29	36/27	41/29	38/23
Skies will be partly sunny with a high of 35.	Snow is expected in the morning with about an inch of accumulation possible. The high will be 37.	Expect cloudy skies with a high in the mid 30s.	Skies will be partly sunny with a high of 41. There is a chance of rain and snow in the evening.	Rain and snow are likely with a high in the upper 30s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$473 million	22-24-27-30-34-37-44-45-50-52-56-58-61-63-68-75-76 Cash 5: 8-14-15-28-33 Estimated jackpot: \$355,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$20 million	Oho Midday Pick 3: 4-7-1 Pick 4: 7-1-9-8 Pick 5: 5-4-8-4-8 Evening Pick 3: 3-4-7 Pick 4: 3-2-0-1 Pick 5: 0-1-9-0-6 Rolling Cash: 3-12-34-35-37 Estimated jackpot: \$151,000
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 1-2-9 Daily Four: 4-4-1-5 Quick Draw: 2-3-6-8-12-14-16-19-24-27-29-39-41-50-53-54-56-60-68-78 Evening Daily Three: 9-8-1 Daily Four: 0-5-6-6 Quick Draw: 3-12-15-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.95 Feb. corn.....6.95 Wheat.....7.22	Wheat.....6.79 July wheat.....7.24
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.93 Feb. corn.....6.93 March corn.....6.95	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.76 March corn.....6.76 Beans.....15.13 Feb. beans.....15.13 Wheat.....7.49
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.76 Feb. corn.....6.76 Beans.....14.98 Feb. beans.....15.05	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....6.88 Feb. corn.....6.81 Beans.....14.81 Feb. beans.....14.86 Wheat.....6.84

Today in history

In 1778, British explorer James Cook became the first European to visit Hawaii when he landed at Waimea on Kauai island.
In 1892, the first official basketball game was played in Springfield, Massachusetts.
In 2009, Democrat Barack Obama was sworn in as president, becoming the first African American to hold the office. He defeated Republican John McCain in the 2008 election.
In 2016, Portland Board of Aviation chose Garmann Miller & Associates of Minster, Ohio, to design renovations at Portland Municipal Airport for a new Lutheran Air base. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city	building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St. Wednesday 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St. Thursday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation executive session, airport, 661 W. 100 North.
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Run ...

Continued from page 1
He added that the position requires experience with budgets, managing a large pool of employees, overseeing committees and boards, working with other groups and having good public relations skills. Geesaman, who had a 33-year career in sales and then was Portland's clerk-treasurer, served two terms as mayor, holding the office from 2012 through 2019. He ousted then two-term incumbent Bruce Hosier in the 2011 general election and went on to defeat Republican challenger Milo Miller Jr.

in the 2015 general election. Boggs defeated Geesaman in the 2019 general election by a 677-493 margin. Smitley and Westlake are both making their first run for public office. If granted a third term, Geesaman said he would address concerns about flooding — he said the city will need to continue to look at short-term projects even following this year's planned Meridian Street storm sewer project until a long-term fix can be achieved — challenges to assessed valuation and infrastructure

issues. He said he would seek to incorporate replacement of sewer and water lines in conjunction with street paving projects. He also advocated bringing back city cleanup weeks to help address problem properties as opposed to the current system that allows residents to drop off large trash items to the street department building once a quarter. "That has not worked out very well, the changes they've done, in my opinion," said Geesaman. "And we need to go back to where we provide that

service instead of hoping people will come down to the street department and drop it off." Nuckols and Hilfiker are the only candidates who have filed to run for the two at-large seats on Portland City Council thus far. The seats are currently held by Republican Janet Powers and Democrat Dave Golden. May is currently the only candidate for the District 4 seat on Portland City Council. The seat is currently held by Don Gillespie. The deadline to file to run for election is noon Feb. 3.

Portland City Court

Judge Donald Gillespie Paid by waiver

Bryce A. Fisher, Richmond, speeding 66 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$146.50; Hose Hernandez, Portland, headlight violation, \$160.50, and driving without a valid license, \$25; Kyler Paxon, Bryant, speeding 70 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$150.50; Daniel Perez, Portland, headlight violation, \$160.50; Megan M. Smith, Portland, speeding 70 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$150.50; Eddy R. Ramos, Union City, driving without a valid license, \$160.50; Jennifer D. Claypool, Delphos, Ohio, speeding 68 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$148.50; Dillon R. Martinez, Redkey, speeding 90 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$171; Jenry A.M. Schwartz, Monroe, false information at check station, \$160; Jane A. Flesher, Ridgeville, speeding 54 mph in a 30 mph zone, \$171; John S. Darby, Mansfield, Ohio, speeding 77 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$171; Alexjandro R. Lopez, Portland, driving without a valid license, \$160.50; Cody D. Polsdorfer, Monclova, Ohio, disregarding traf-

fic control device, \$160.50; Brianne M. Pottkotter, Fort Recovery, Ohio, speeding 70 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$150.50; Gregory A. Myatt, Memphis, speeding 69 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$149.50; Walmer Otoniel, Portland, speeding 69 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$149.50, and driving without a valid license, \$25; Kaleb Barker, Muncie, speeding 75 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$171; Jonetta Stevens, Portland, speeding 69 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$149.50, and speeding 68 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$148.50; Karla D. Munday, Dunkirk, speeding 69 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$149.50; Scott M. Grayson, Dunkirk, seat belt violation, \$25; Oscar Avilez Bonilla, Muncie, speeding 77 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$171, and driving without a valid license, \$25; Daniel K. Kolden, Muncie, speeding 68 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$148.50; Allysia Everidge, Berne, speeding 69 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$149.50; Debra L. Crump, Portland, speeding 68 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$148.50; Rene J. Snow, Redkey, speeding 74 mph in a

55 mph zone, \$154.50; Menno Schwartz, Berne, deer possession limit violation, \$160; Alfredo Greda, Portland, left of center, \$160.50, and driving without a valid license, \$25; Carlos Asig, Portland, driving without a valid license, \$160.50; Alvarez Gonzalez, Portland, driving without a valid license, \$160.50; Nathan A. Carpenter, San Angelo, Texas, driving with expired plates, \$160.50; Kyle D. Hitchens, Dunkirk, speeding 65 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$145.50; Tiffany R. Mendez, Decatur, passing violation, \$160.50, and disregarding a light signal, \$25; Kandi L. Sapp, Pennville, speeding 45 mph in a 30 mph zone, \$150.50; Tiffany R. Mendez, Decatur, passing violation, \$160.50, and disregarding auto signal, \$25; Kevin B. Dill, Richmond, speeding 69 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$149.50; Norma M. Garcia, St. Henry, Ohio, driving without a valid license, \$160.50; Rachelle D. Boolman, Portland, speeding 70 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$150.50.

Air base converts to Falcons

Indiana Capital Chronicle

The 122nd Fighter Wing in Fort Wayne has been officially approved for conversion to the F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft under passage of the National Defense Authorization Act. The move sets events in motion to replace the 122nd FW's 21 A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft with the F-16, a news release said. "We look forward to transitioning to the F-16 aircraft at the 122nd Fighter Wing. This newer more versatile aircraft will provide for an increase in combat capability against growing threats. The

men and women of the 122nd Fighter Wing are experts at supporting, maintaining and operating fighter aircraft," said Brig. Gen. Michael Stohler, commander of the Indiana Air National Guard. "This transition will provide them with longevity and the high probability to later upgrade to the future generation of fighter aircraft." "Conversion to the F-16 will allow the 122nd to build upon past successes and continue to pass the trials of the national defense strategy in new ways, long into the future," said Col. Joshua C. Waggoner.

SERVICES

Sunday
Buckner, Lisa: 2:30 p.m., Willow Tree Ministries, 722 W. Main St., Portland.

Service listings provided by
PROGRESSIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS
120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
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Swiss Village

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Now seeking a Laundry Technician to work in the Housekeeping/Laundry department at Swiss Village. This position is responsible for washing, drying, folding, and storing laundry according to prescribed procedures in a sanitary and safe environment. Position will 3 days per week from 5:30am-2:00pm and every third Saturday required. Seeking candidates who are reliable, have good work habits, and are in good physical condition. Must be at least 18+ years of age to apply. Position eligible for insurance benefits, Paid Time Off, and 403(b) Retirement Plan participation.

Apply online at www.swissvillage.org or send Resume to:
Kayla Reilly, HR Specialist
Swiss Village
1350 W. Main St.
Berne, IN 46711
Or e-mail: careers@swissvillage.org

Swiss Village

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Swiss Village is now offering a \$5,000 sign-on bonus for Full-Time LPNs or RNs on night shift! Positions will be 36 hours/week, 6pm-6am, with every third weekend required. Positions eligible for benefits including health, dental, vision, and life insurance, Paid Time Off (PTO), and 403(b) retirement plan participation. Come join our team!!

Apply online at swissvillage.org, in-person, or send Resume to:
Taylor Lehman, VP of Human Resources
Swiss Village
1350 W. Main St.
Berne, IN 46711
Or email: careers@swissvillage.org

50th anniversary

Pam and John Hart

John and Pam Hart are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary today.

Pam Kaderly and John Hart were wed Jan. 20, 1973, at Asbury United Methodist Church in Portland.

Pam retired from Jay School Corporation and John retired from Coca-Cola and Progressive Office Products.

The Portland couple have two children, Jennifer Schug of Portland and Jason Hart of Muncie, as well as six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

They plan to celebrate with an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday at John Jay Center for Learning.



Pam and John Hart - 2023



Pam and John Hart - 1973

Fiancee left to pick up the pieces

DEAR ABBY: I am a 59-year-old man. My 50-year-old fiancee lives in a nice home, but after a 15-year loving relationship, she decided last week to be with someone else. She had recently lost a great deal of weight, bought a new car and started to do things I felt were not age-appropriate — although I never said anything adverse about them.

She's now staying in a weekly rental motel room with him. It leads me to believe they both left relationships and had nowhere else to go. She didn't give me a chance to fight for us (counseling, etc.) or even a heads-up that she was unhappy. One afternoon when I got home from work, I found a note from her saying she was sorry for not being able to tell me in person, but she was doing this for herself.

I have always been an honorable person in any relationship I have had. This is hard for me to understand and move on from. I have never been this hurt and emotionally drained. She will not communicate with me ver-

Dear Abby



bally, only through emails and texts. I feel desperate and lost. Please give me any encouragement that there is light somewhere at the end of the tunnel. — EMOTIONALLY DRAINED IN MAINE

DEAR EMOTIONALLY DRAINED: Although your lady friend didn't give you the chance to fight for her by getting counseling, my first bit of advice is to make an appointment with a therapist and start fighting for YOURSELF. You may not have known your fiancee as well as you thought you did. Once you regain some perspective, you may realize that something changed when she made the effort to start losing weight. (I'm guessing this was around

the time she met the man she's now living with.)

Please understand that the woman you invested so much time in was dishonest, cowardly and selfish to have treated you the way she did. I wish you had mentioned why the two of you hadn't married in the 15 years you were together. But, my friend, you dodged a bullet. A licensed psychotherapist will help you to realize how LUCKY you are.

.....

DEAR ABBY: My brother-in-law recently moved near us. He never misses a chance to one-up others or brag about everything he has. Others have noticed this as well. We are all retired and living fairly well. However, comparisons are made, innuendos are tossed around and he has even referenced our children "needing" their inheritance, while his kids don't "since they have great jobs."

I'm close to my sister and happy to have her near me, but I'm not sure how to handle the

situation with her spouse. I try to minimize my time with him and ignore him when he speaks, however difficult it may be. My husband no longer wants anything to do with him, and I can't say I blame him. But I don't want to cause a rift between my sister and me. Advice? — DEALING WITH A NARCISSIST

DEAR DEALING: There are two ways to handle this. The first would be to recognize that people who feel the need to do what your brother-in-law has been doing usually do it out of insecurity. The second would be to tell your sister how her husband's remarks affect you and your husband — and that if he doesn't knock it off, they'll be seeing a lot less of you. Then let HER handle it.

.....

DEAR ABBY: I bought my roommate the most beautiful pair of earrings for her birthday. It has been more than a month, and she still hasn't worn them, not even when I once suggested it, although she has frequently

worn a second pair of earrings I previously bought her.

I don't have pierced ears, but the earrings in question could be made into an adorable necklace. I think if she doesn't want them, it would be nice for me to get them back since they were expensive and I like them so much myself. How can I politely ask if she plans on ever wearing them, and if not, if I can have them back? Or would it work better if I suggest that we can each get one earring made into a necklace so that we can match? — BEJEWELED IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR BEJEWELED: Ask your roommate to tell you honestly if she likes the earrings you gave her. Tell her that if she doesn't, you DO like them — very much — and would be glad to gift her something else of her choosing. THEN suggest that she might return the earrings to you so you can use them to make matching necklaces. I don't think it would be rude, and neither should she.

Community Calendar

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

Friday

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

CINCINNATUS

LEAGUE — Will meet at noon Friday, Jan. 20, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical

Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

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

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

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRIMANNA'S HOPE — A faith-

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

Monday

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

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

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

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

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

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

JAY COUNTY REPUBLICANS — Will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23, in the Community Room at Jay County Public Library.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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.



\$23 for 2023

Contact
Lindsey Cochran
260-726-8141
L.cochran@thecr.com

January Advertising Opportunities for YOU!

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\$123 (regular price - \$234)

Specials apply to regular paper only

Take action to save city's bridge

To the editor:
As the Indiana State Historical Society appointed Jay County Historian, I am appealing to our Jay County residents and Jay County officials to stand up to help to save a big, blue piece of our Jay County history.

A few years ago, the Indiana Department of Transportation started down the road to either replace or repair our Blue Parker Truss Bridge that serves as the eastern entrance/exit to Portland on Indiana 26.

However, by January 2020, the world, our country, our state and our county were hit by an unexpected pandemic that would turn our world upside down. The three years that followed saw humanity huddled and isolated in our homes trying to protect our very lives.

As 2023 dawns, Jay County finds us facing the removal of our

Letters to the Editor

beautiful historic bridge. INDOT is telling our community it is too late to change directions and repair the bridge instead of removing it. As a historian, I would say it is never too late as long as the bridge is still standing, repairable and the cranes haven't arrived.

I offer the following facts in favor of our reclassifying the status of our blue bridge.

This bridge project came about during a health crisis that no one alive had ever experienced before. Public gatherings were an impossibility during this time. Public

communications were completely broken down.

A simple look at the cost of replacing the bridge completely does not make sense. The initial cost to replace the bridge was around \$1.2 million. The bridge could be repaired for a lesser cost. Now it is my understanding that the cost for the replacement is near \$3.3 million. All of these figures do not seem to square with responsible budgeting.

We learn from our history. If we destroy our historical landmarks, we are destroying our community. Most of the time we are looking at a large cost to save something historical. That is not the case here. It is more cost effective to repair our bridge.

INDOT published that our bridge's load capacity to carry different types of large vehicles such as fire trucks and school buses, which have different axle

loads, axle spacings and other axle dimensions and weight distributions was limited. Upon further investigation, we have been unable to find any such restrictions. From my vantage point here at the Jay County Historical Museum, which is located two blocks from the bridge, I can see all types of semi-trucks, school buses, farm equipment and grain haulers crossing the bridge every few minutes depending on the time of day and of the year.

I am asking our community to standup and pull together to save of big blue bridge. Working together is what Jay County does. Let's make our voices heard. We want our 1941 Bethlehem Steel Parker Truss Bridge repaired instead of torn down. It was built of Bethlehem Steel from Portage County, Indiana, by Adams County contractor Yost

Brothers during the very beginning days of World War II in 1941. That Indiana steel has weathered well. It is still a safe and beautiful bridge. We need to save it.

How can you help?

Get on Facebook — Save the Big Blue Bridge — read and post.

Contact Jenny Bricker at skybrickerfamily@gmail.com or (260) 251-5596 or Jennifer Hartley at jenhart612@gmail.com.

Write a letter of support for the bridge and send it to the Jay County Historical Society, 903 E. Main St., Portland, IN 47371.

Send an email to the Jay County Historical Society at research@jaycountyhistory.org.

All letters and emails will be forwarded to INDOT and state and county officials who may be able to help with this historical project.

Jane Ann Spencer
Jay County Historian

Rates don't tell the whole story

News and Tribune
(Jeffersonville and New Albany)
HSPA Infonet

Graduating high school is obviously important, but earning a diploma isn't always an indicator of true educational attainment.

Hoosier high school graduation rates haven't changed much, with 86.61% of students in the 2022 class earning a diploma.

That number was just a tick down from the 86.69% recorded in 2021 and a little lower than the 87.69% of Hoosier high school seniors who graduated in 2020.

Indiana remains in step with national graduation averages, though the fact that Black and Hispanic students continue to graduate at a lower rate than white and Asian students is concerning.

Black students graduated at a 77.5% mark and Hispanic students at 83.9% for 2022. Those numbers compare to an 88.8% rate for whites and 92.1% for Asians.

The Indiana Capital Chronicle reported that the graduation rate for Indiana students who receive free or reduced-price lunch was 83.7% in 2022, behind the state's overall average and about 8.5 percentage points below the mark for students with no subsidy.

While the graduation might never reach 100%, the rate can be improved, especially for students of color and those in low-income households.

Our school districts have to prioritize tutoring and specialized instruction for those who are struggling to keep pace with their peers. Funding must be available to support such efforts. Still, learning is about more than graduation rates.

Last year's National Assessment of Educational Progress showed how much students are falling behind. Nationwide, just 36% of fourth-graders scored at the level of proficient or above in math. In reading, only 33% of fourth-graders were proficient or above.

The results were even worse for eighth-graders, with just 26% in math and 31% in reading scoring proficient or above. The results were among the

Hoosier Editorial

Our school districts have to prioritize tutoring and specialized instruction for those who are struggling to keep pace with their peers. Funding must be available to support such efforts.

worst in the history of the assessment.

The results mean the bulk of our students are at a basic or worse level when it comes to math and reading. That should trouble all of us, as those students are our future workers and leaders.

Experts blame the pandemic. The subpar scores came on the heels of the federal government spending a record \$123 billion on schools, including funds earmarked to help students recover from educational gaps created by COVID-19 shutdowns and remote learning.

The coming years will show how much of an effect the pandemic had on education, but we can't wait that long to address the problem. Students are graduating from high school at a respectable rate, but what are they learning?

Giving every student a chance to earn a high school diploma is crucial. Even more important, though, is making sure they leave high school with the knowledge they'll need to achieve their goals in the workforce and in life.



Weapons ban is just on step

By LAURA WASHINGTON
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

On Jan. 10, Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed into law the Protect Illinois Communities Act, which prohibits the sale and distribution of assault-style weapons, high-capacity magazines and gun switches in Illinois, effective immediately.

The heroic journey to this historic moment was led by an army of legislators, lobbyists and activists.

"For the past four years, my administration and my colleagues in the State Capitol have been battling the powerful forces of the (National Rifle Association) to enshrine the strongest and most effective gun violence legislation that we possibly can," Pritzker declared. "I couldn't be prouder to say that we got it done.

"And we will keep fighting — bill by bill, vote by vote, and protest by protest — to ensure that future generations only hear about massacres like Highland Park, Sandy Hook and Uvalde in their textbooks."

Highland Park was the tipping point. On July 4 in that northern Chicago suburb, a young man allegedly used an AR-15-style rifle to shoot and kill seven people and wound more than two dozen others at a parade.

I am thrilled these weapons of war are now illegal in Illinois. Yet future textbooks will not chronicle the gun-propelled slaughter in Chicago, and this law, while crucial and long overdue, will not quell the underlying deficits that plague many communities of color.

The mass shooting in Highland Park commanded attention because it is a largely wealthy, white city where gun violence is rare. I am not blaming Highland Park for that, but the sorry truth is that for decades, the body counts have mounted in other communities with few resources to fight it.

There were 695 homicides in Chicago in 2022, according to Chicago

Laura Washington



Police Department data analyzed by WTTW News. And 2,832 shootings were reported last year. The vast majority of the homicide victims — more than 3 out of every 4 — were Black, the analysis shows; 87% of those were male. Most perished by the gun.

"My question is, and I love my brothers and sisters in Highland (Park), but if it didn't happen to Highland, would we be pushing the way we (are) pushing now?" said the Rev. Cornelius Parks, pastor of Good Hope Free Will Baptist Church on Chicago's West Side.

His church is a few blocks from the scene of another recent mass shooting, on another holiday, in East Garfield Park.

Around 9 p.m. on Oct. 31, 14 people were attacked in a drive-by shooting near California Avenue and Polk Street on Chicago's West Side. Three were children: a 3-year-old and two others, 11 and 13. The adults ranged in age from 30s to 50s. One later died. It started "when two people inside a dark SUV began shooting, police said. The vehicle, possibly an Audi sedan, fled south," the Tribune reported.

Parks was a leading advocate of the assault weapons ban, but he said more needs to be done to heal the physical and psychic wounds of violence in communities like his.

"The violence that's been taking place, that plague in the city of Chicago that is definitely relentless now," he told me recently. "And truth be told, even with the gun laws, that won't stop it completely."

He participates in a network of religious leaders who are providing

counseling and support to the victims of the Halloween shooting.

"I've been working with the community to try to bring awareness of things that's been plaguing our communities for a long time.

"Unfortunately," he said, "many think it is normal. Gun violence has become normal; it's not always been normal."

Since July 4, there has been a stream of media reports about Highland Park, but not so much about the gun violence in communities that suffer massive deficits in resources.

In the aftermath of the Halloween shooting, "there's a lot of repercussions that have taken place, a lot of individuals that got shot," Parks said. "All of them had severe injuries that they had to work through, live through, operate through whether it's going through rehab."

"I don't believe everyone fully understands," he added, "because when everyone else clears away, when the smoke clears, when everyone leaves, these people will have to bear this burden, these wounds, by themselves."

His neighbors have scant access to assets and activities, he said, such as mental health services, neighborhood parks and other recreational outlets, and adequate schools.

He pointed to his high school, Manley Career Academy High School, where 77 students are enrolled. "So, you don't have extracurricular activities. How can you, with that little number of students in there? So now you have a huge school that don't even have 100 students. So, the resources (are) very important."

For East Garfield Park and dozens of communities across Chicago, banning the guns is just the beginning.

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Washington is a political commentator and longtime Chicago journalist. Email her at LauraLauraWashington@gmail.com.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Court hears arguments

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana Supreme Court Justices will decide the future of Indiana's near-total abortion ban after hearing oral arguments over the constitutionality of the new law on Thursday.

Attorneys for abortion care providers maintained that the ban will "severely" injure women and girls, while lawyers for the state doubled down on their position that abortion access is not enshrined in the Indiana Constitution. The Indiana Attorney General's Office said in court filings that abortion was banned by law in Indiana as early as 1835.

Solicitor General Thomas Fisher with the attorney general's office said the injunction will lead to the deaths of "so many" unborn fetuses.

Ken Falk with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Indiana pushed back, saying the abortion ban amounts to govern-

ment infringement into private lives.

The five justices grilled both sides, largely questioning the attorneys about their interpretations of the rights guaranteed to Hoosiers in the state constitution.

The state's highest court granted a request by Republican Attorney General Todd Rokita to bypass the Indiana Court of Appeals. The court also denied the state's request to stay the preliminary injunction that is currently blocking the abortion law.

The court challenge up for debate was originally filed in Monroe County Circuit Court in August by the ACLU of Indiana on behalf of

health care providers and a pregnancy resource center.

A special judge in Owen County later ruled that the ban likely violates the Indiana Constitution. An injunction issued by Judge Kelsey Blake Hanlon, a Republican, halted the state's new abortion law one week after it took effect. Under the injunction, the state's previous abortion law stands — allowing abortions up to 20 weeks.

The state quickly appealed that decision and asked the Indiana Supreme Court to bypass the Court of Appeals and take the case directly.

It's not clear when the justices will make their ruling. Chief Justice Loretta

Rush said an opinion will be issued "in due course."

The court has numerous options. For instance, it could rule only on whether the preliminary injunction was proper and send it back to the trial court for further proceedings. Or it can move forward with ruling on the legality of the law.

Addressing the justices, Fisher said Indiana's founders were "well aware" of abortion when they crafted the constitution, adding that the state "has always recognized the right of the embryo to life."

But Rush, who led most of the questioning, said she had looked at "every law" that was in place at the time of the constitution's writing, and they all protected the right of the mother to make decisions to protect her own life, implying that abortion could be one of those options.

Rush asked Fisher if a total abortion ban — with no exceptions — would be acceptable under the constitution.

Fisher conceded no, saying he doubts it would be.



Tribune News Service/AFP via Getty Images/Leah Millis

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets Wednesday with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu at the State Department in Washington, D.C.

U.S. and Turkey are navigating complex issues

By TRACY WILKINSON
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — The United States is locked in a delicate dance with Turkey, one of its most problematic allies, that involves fighter jets, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Congress and, ultimately, the war in Ukraine.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, in Washington this week, wasted no time in putting forward his nation's demand for U.S.-made F-16 warplanes.

"We will address significant topics about bilateral defense cooperation, particularly our F-16 request," Cavusoglu said ahead of the meetings, as Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken looked on, stone-faced. "This is not only for [Turkey] but also important for NATO and for United States as well, so we expect the approval in the line with our joint strategic interest."

Administration officials last week issued an "informal notification" to Congress that a \$20-billion sale of F-16s to Turkey was in the works. But the idea that approval for such a sale might be forthcoming is not widely shared at the State Department and the White House.

Powerful U.S. lawmakers are blocking new arms sales to Turkey, citing the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and its increasingly authoritarian turn away from democracy, its repression of dissidents and minorities, and its menacing of neighbors.

But Turkey can block something that the U.S. and most of the West dearly want: the expansion of NATO to include Sweden and Finland.

As a member of NATO, Turkey has veto power over allowing new countries to join. The 30-nation alliance has to approve any such expansion unanimously.

Long neutral, Sweden and Finland began to see NATO protection as urgent following Russia's invasion of Ukraine nearly a year ago. The two countries are within a missile strike of the Kremlin, should President Vladimir Putin make good on his threats to retaliate against pro-NATO sentiment in his perceived backyard.

Turkey's NATO allies are in a difficult position: The government in Ankara has insisted that the two Nordic nations stop offering refuge to Kurdish rebels opposed to the Erdogan government. And Erdogan has branded the opponents as terror-

ists who must be arrested and punished.

The Biden administration remains "deeply concerned" over the abuse of free expression and other human rights, officials say, but is inclined to eventually go ahead with the sale.

"When it comes to the F-16s, President Biden said that as a general matter, he believes that we should sell Turkey the F-16 jets and modernize their existing fleet as well," State Department spokesman Ned Price said.

But, he added, "this is a process that involves Congress, of course, and ... I don't think I'm betraying any secrets, because our partners on the Hill have been quite vocal about this as well ... there are strong opinions on the Hill."

Those voices are led by Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and in theory has the power to stop arms deals with foreign nations.

"President Erdogan continues to undermine international law, disregard human rights and democratic norms, and engage in alarming and destabilizing behavior in Turkey and against neighboring NATO allies," Menendez said.

Bill ...

Continued from page 1
It would also direct the study to consider financial assistance for decommissioning and disposal, who's financially liable and several other legal nuances, best practices for disposal or recycling, and criteria for the equipment's expected life span and classification as "inoperable" or "irreparable."

Utility consumer, environmental and waste management advocates all threw their support

behind the bill, though some asked that the bill leave room for stakeholder involvement in the agencies' study.

Others pushed for Indiana to see old equipment as an opportunity to lead the recycling industry, and properly fund those efforts.

"[When] we get a [cardboard] box, we think to ourselves, what do we do with it? Well, in Indiana, we can recycle it and reuse it, repurpose it, remake it right in our

own state and start all over again, said Jessie Biggerman of the Association of Indiana Solid Waste Management Districts.

"It's the same thing with solar panels," Biggerman said, adding that almost all the materials in the panels can be recycled.

Lawmakers also considered a proposal to audit energy use on Indiana's government building campus in Indianapolis. Senate Bill 221 also

got widespread and bipartisan support after author Sen. Andy Zay, R-Huntington, deleted a section weighing creation of a state coal reserve.

Instead, Zay said he'd get that summer study committee created by asking leadership directly.

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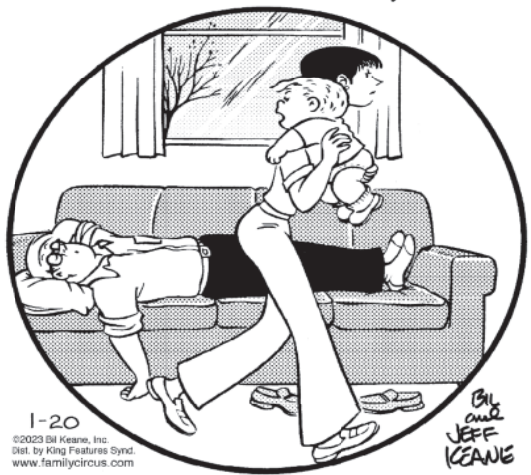
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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"Why does Daddy take naps when he doesn't even HAVE to?"

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Test your play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Diamonds, and North leads the ten of hearts. You win with the queen and play the ace of diamonds, on which South discards a club. How would you continue?

- WEST: ♠AKJ, ♥AKQ, ♦AKJ1096, ♣J. EAST: ♠985, ♥643, ♦7532, ♠AQ10.

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the five of clubs, and you win South's king with the ace. When you lead a low diamond to the jack, both opponents follow low. How would you continue?

- WEST: ♠A73, ♥AK5, ♦964, ♠AQ98. EAST: ♠K96, ♥942, ♦KQJ83, ♠63.

1. Despite the unlucky trump division, the slam is a virtual certainty if you take the proper preparatory measures.

Cash the king of diamonds and lead the jack of clubs to the ace. Then cash the A-K of hearts before exiting with a high trump (retaining your six as an entry to dummy's seven, if needed). After winning the trick, North must make a helpful

return, whether he leads a spade into your A-K-J, a heart (handing you a ruff-and-discard) or a club (establishing a club trick in dummy on which you can discard the jack of spades).

It would be wrong to attempt a finesse in either black suit after South shows out on the first trump lead. Either play might succeed, but there is no reason to rely on sheer luck when there is a sure way to make the slam.

2. To make certain of the contract, continue with a low diamond from dummy! This guards against a holding of A-10-x-x in the South hand, which is the only real threat to the contract. It assures you of three diamond winners and at least nine tricks. If South wins with the ten and returns a low club, you cover with the eight and remain in firm control of the situation. With this approach, you are certain to finish with three diamond tricks and two tricks in each of the other suits.

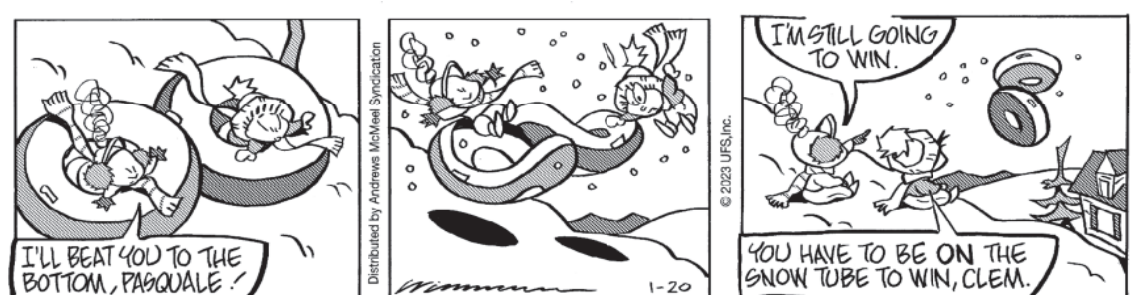
If you lead the king of diamonds at trick three instead of a low diamond, South can stop you from making three notrump by ducking again with A-10-x-x. The low diamond play from dummy at trick three covers all possibilities.

Tomorrow: Stroke and counterstroke. ©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



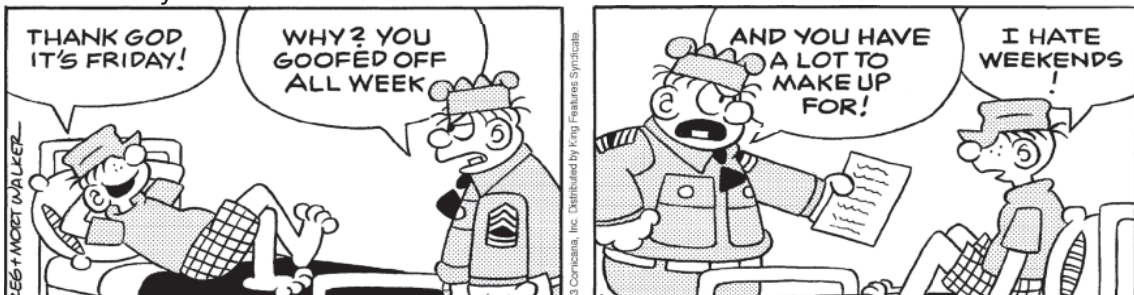
Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



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JQAA-DB-JQAA SQIVRDUGY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WE WERE HAVING A CHAT ABOUT BUILDING NARROW SHELVES, BUT I COULDN'T GET A WORD IN LEDGE-WISE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals L

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 25 mins and a grid for yesterday's answer.

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Blowout ...

Continued from page 8
It scored the game's first eight points and the final 12 of the first quarter for a 21-4 lead as senior Renna Schwieterman racked up 14 points in the first eight minutes. It added another nine in a row to start the second period for a 21-0 run overall en route to a 38-11 halftime lead.

The Patriots had a 40-point advantage when they pulled their starters in the final period.

Schwieterman had a big night overall, scoring frequently on fast breaks and with post-up moves. She finished with 31 points while shooting 13-of-22 from the field and making all four of her free-throw attempts. She also totaled a game-high eight rebounds.

"She had a lot of shots in the block," said McIntire of the school's all-time leading scorer, who is now at 1,662 points for her career. She is 61 behind 1972 graduate Greg Bales, who is the all-time leading scorer in the history of the county. "We did a really nice job feeding the post and she was able to finish a lot of those ..."

Jay County has continued to work on getting Schwieterman, who more often plays the point, and her classmate Gabi Bilbrey — she finished with 10 points and six rebounds Thursday — together in the post.

"Her and Gabi both on the block, that to me is pretty unstoppable," added McIntire. "Because if they double Renna, then Gabi is open. We're glad to have both of those strong options in the block."

Sophie Saxman had eight points, six rebounds and three assists, and Molly Muhlenkamp added seven rebounds and three assists.

All but one of Jay County's wins this year have come by double figures. In the recent run of dominance, it has defeated



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Renna Schwieterman, a Jay County senior, puts up a shot for two of her game-high 31 points during the Class 3A No. 2 Patriots' victory Thursday over the visiting Delta Eagles.

Bluffton 60-35, Heritage 74-20, South Adams 72-31, Woodlan 58-27 and Delta 60-22.

"We told them, 'It's about us,'" said McIntire. "We've got to keep pushing you and you've got to keep pushing yourselves to get better at things that down the road we're really going to make sure we're doing." The Patriots will be back

in action Saturday with a visit to Southern Wells (7-10) ahead of the sectional draw Sunday. They will then close the regular season against Richmond (5-13) and Heritage (4-14).

Junior varsity

Jay County had a 20-point lead at halftime and cruised to a 43-22 victory over the Eagles.

The Patriots rolled out to an 11-2 lead in the opening period. They then posted a 16-point second quarter to take firm control.

Meredith Dirksen and Bella Denton each scored 10 points in the victory. Natalie Carreno followed with eight points.

Olivia Marshall finished with six points to lead Delta.

Patriots roll over Starfires

Three Patriots each scored as many points as the opposition. It marked the fifth straight game in which they have held an opponent to fewer than 15 points.

Jay County High School's seventh grade girls basketball team clobbered the host South Adams Starfires 42-8 Thursday.

Amelia Heath scored 10 points to lead the Patriots, who improved to 13-3. Elizabeth Brunswick and Raylin Hummer each

matched South Adams as they scored eight points apiece.

Natalie May added six points, Gabi Petro and Kylie Shannon each had four and Chloe Brown scored two.

Jay County has been dominant recently, winning five games in a row following their 28-26 loss Dec. 15 to Southern Wells. In 2023, they have defeated Delta 41-9, Fort Recovery 30-13, Heritage 52-5, Blackford 27-10 and South Adams 42-8.

Buccaneers fire Leftwich as OC

By RICK STROUD

Tampa Bay Times
Tribune News Service

TAMPA, Fla. — Following a losing season and one-and-done playoff appearance despite having Tom Brady at quarterback, the Bucs made massive changes to Todd Bowles' coaching staff Thursday.

Offensive coordinator Byron Leftwich and five assistant coaches were fired while three others retired.

Gone in the housecleaning are receivers coach Kevin Garver, specialists coach Chris Boniol, running backs coach Todd McNair, assistant defensive line coach Lori Locust and offensive quality control coach Jeff Kastl.

Three other assistants have decided to retire, including quarterbacks coach Clyde Christensen, senior offensive assistant Rick Christophel and outside linebackers coach Bob Sanders.

The decision was made after Bowles met with members of the Glazer family, which owns the Bucs, and general manager Jason Licht.

"We appreciate the hard work and contributions that all of these coaches made to our success over the past four seasons," Bowles said in a statement. "As a collective group, we did not meet the high standards that had been set for this past year and my focus now is on doing what is needed to ensure a successful 2023 season. These were very difficult decisions but something that I felt was necessary to our football team going forward."

Bowles wasn't promoted to head coach until March 30 and basically inherited Leftwich and the coaching staff from Bruce Arians, who retired to take a job as senior advisor to Licht.

Despite the Bucs ranking last in the NFL in rushing yards, average and attempts, the Bucs retained, for now, offensive line coach Joe Gilbert and running game coordinator Harold Goodwin.

Leftwich's firing was not unexpected after the Bucs suffered one of the sharpest declines on offense in league history, going from 61 touchdowns in 2021 to only 31 in 2022.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys basketball (including freshman) vs. South Adams — 5 p.m.; Swimming hosts Allen County Athletic Conference Championships — 5:30 p.m.; Wrestling in Allen County Athletic Conference Championships at Woodlan — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. Marion Local — 6 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Boys basketball at Hagerstown — noon; Girls basketball at Southern Wells — 7:30 p.m.; Junior high wrestling at Noblesville West — 9 a.m.; Junior high boys basketball at Adams Central — 9 a.m.

Fort Recovery — Swimming at Auglaize YMCA — 8 a.m.; Girls basketball at Franklin Monroe — 10 a.m.; Boys basketball at Graham — 6 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball at Arcanum — 9 a.m.

TV sports

Today
2:30 p.m. — Soccer: Bundesliga — Bayern Munchen at RB Leipzig (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Villanova at St. John's (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Miami Heat at Dallas Mavericks (ESPN)
9 p.m. — Tennis: Australian Open (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Memphis Grizzlies at Los Angeles Lakers (ESPN)

11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Boise State at New Mexico (FS1)

Saturday
10 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Everton at West Ham United (USA)
Noon — Men's college basketball: Georgetown at Xavier (FS1); Mississippi at Arkansas (ESPN2); Miami at Duke (ESPN); Wisconsin at Northwestern (BTN); Syracuse at Georgia Tech (Bally Indiana)
12:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Dayton at George Washington (USA)
12:30 p.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Newcastle United at Crystal Palace (NBC)
1 p.m. — Men's college basketball: TCU at Kansas (CBS)
2 p.m. — Men's college basketball:

UCLA at Arizona (ABC); Texas Tech at Kansas State (ESPN); Iowa State at Oklahoma State (FOX); DePaul at Providence (FS1); Boston College at Notre Dame (Bally Indiana)
2:15 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Nebraska at Penn State (BTN)
2:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: La Salle at Saint Louis (USA)
3 p.m. — Golf: PGA Tour — Tournament of Champions (NBC)
4 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Colorado State at Wyoming (FS1)
4:30 p.m. — NFL playoffs: AFC Divisional — Jacksonville Jaguars at Kansas City Chiefs (NBC)
8 p.m. — Tennis: Australian Open (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — Men's college hockey: Michigan at Minnesota (BTN)

8:15 p.m. — NFL playoffs: NFC Divisional — New York Giants at Philadelphia Phillies (FOX)
9 p.m. — NBA basketball: Indiana Pacers at Phoenix Suns (Bally Indiana)
10 p.m. — Boxing: Glover Teixeira vs. Jamahal Hill (ABC/ESPN)
11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Oregon at Stanford (FS1)

Sunday
9 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Wolverhampton Wanderers at Manchester City (USA)
11:30 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Manchester United at Arsenal (USA)
Noon — Men's college basketball: Butler at Connecticut (FOX); Michigan State at Indiana (CBSO)

1 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Memphis at Cincinnati (ESPN2)
1 p.m. — Women's college basketball: North Carolina State at Louisville (ABC)
2 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Maryland at Purdue (FS1)
3 p.m. — NFL playoffs: AFC Divisional — Cincinnati Bengals at Buffalo Bills (CBS)
3 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Temple at Houston (ESPN)
3 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Arkansas at South Carolina (ESPN2)
6:30 p.m. — NFL football: NFC Divisional — Dallas Cowboys at San Francisco 49ers (FOX)
7 p.m. — Tennis: Australian Open (ESPN2)

90 SALE CLENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall, Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland, IN
Saturday Morning
JANUARY 21, 2023
9:30 A.M.

OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS - COINS
2 pc. Dutch cupboard with ball feet; Grandfather clock; Vintage heavy 4 piece wrought iron patio set; gun cabinet with 10 holes and 2 drawers; Hickory child's rocker;

Pennsylvania Dutch cradle; Sampler with Black Americana; arrowhead weathervane; Civil War camp table; SILVER DOLLARS: Silver Quarters; Silver Dimes; 1952 Silver Half Dollar; Allis Chalmers shop manuals; and many other items not listed.
TRUCK - GUNS - TOOLS
1995 Ford F150 XLT Extended Cab Truck, Franklin Mint

"Wyatt Earp" 44 caliber revolver; Ruger "Wrangler" .22 caliber revolver (NIB); Winchester Model "Wildcat" .22 caliber rifle (NIB), Sthl weed eater; miter saw; chain saw; hunting and fishing items; fishing poles; black steel railing; and other items not listed.
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: This auction offers a nice variety of items. Please make note of the earlier start time. Building will open at 7:45 a.m. day of auction for preview.

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Mr & Mrs. J. E. Roach
Loy Auction
AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Ben Lyons AU10700085
Travis Theurer
AU11200131

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 3554 W 300 N
Thursday evening
FEBRUARY 16, 2023
6:00 P.M.

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For more information contact
LOY AUCTION 260-726-2700.

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Portland, Jay County, Indiana will meet at Council Chambers, 1616 North Franklin Street, Portland, Indiana 47371 on January 25, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. regarding the Declaration of an Unsafe Building located at 211 West Main Street, Portland, Indiana. The owner has requested a hearing on the order to make repairs.

Lori Phillips
Clerk Treasurer
City of Portland
CR 1-20-2023- HSPAXLP

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
2023 TERM
In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of:
No. 38CO1-2301-EU-00002
Joe Louck, Deceased
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Richard P. Louck was, on the 17th day of January, 2023, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Joe Louck deceased, who died on January 1st, 2023.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 17th day of January, 2023.
Jon Eads
Clerk of the Circuit Court, For Jay County, Indiana

HINKLE, RACSTER & SCHEMENAUR
121 W. High Street
Portland, IN 47371
Attorney
CR 1-20-27-2023 HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
2023 TERM
In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of:
No. 38CO1-2301-EU-00003
Carl Hardyman, Deceased
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Randy Hardyman was, on the 17th day of January, 2023, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Carl Hardyman deceased, who died on January 3, 2023.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 17th day of January, 2023.
Jon Eads
Clerk of the Circuit Court, For Jay County, Indiana

HINKLE, RACSTER & SCHEMENAUR
121 W. High Street
Portland, IN 47371
Attorney
CR 1-20-27-2023 HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
JAY COUNTY
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
38CO1-2301-EU-000001
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LENA MCINTIRE, Deceased
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that ERIC MCINTIRE was, on the day of 9th day of January, 2023, appointed personal representative of the estate of LENA MCINTIRE, deceased, who died on November 21, 2022, and was authorized to administer said estate Without court supervision.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of this court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 9th day of January, 2023.
Jon Eads
Clerk, Jay Circuit Court

Michael J. Huffman
Attorney No. 31350-90
DALE, HUFFMAN & BABCOCK
30 Premier Avenue
Bluffton, Indiana 46714
(260) 824-5566
Attorney for Estate
CR 1-13, 20-2023- HSPAXLP

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Another blowout

No. 2 Jay records fifth straight win of 25 points or more

By **RAY COONEY**

The Commercial Review

This has become the norm. The game is well in hand by the end of the first quarter.

It's a blowout by halftime. The key for the Patriots is to try to continue playing at a high level despite the score.

The Class 3A No. 2 Jay County High School girls basketball team rolled over the visiting Delta Eagles 61-22 Thursday, marking their fifth consecutive win by at least 25 points.

It was the Patriots' 18th win in a row overall, matching the school record. (The 2008-09 squad swept through their regular season at 18-0.)

Meanwhile, the loss dropped Delta to 6-11.

"I think my biggest concern was us playing at our potential, at our level," said JCHS assistant coach Sherri McIntire. She was filling in for coach Kirk Comer who was unavailable for the game. "And I felt like we did at times, not the whole game obviously. I felt like we got off to a little slow start but then got ourselves going. ...

"I felt like we showed maturity ... and for the most part did what we needed to do."

Although the team wasn't quite as sharp as it would have liked to have been at times, Jay County (19-1) was still dominant from start to finish.

See **Blowout** page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Breanna Dirksen of Class 3A No. 2 Jay County High School goes up for two points in front of Delta's Elizabeth Bamidele early in the first quarter of the Patriots' 61-22 victory Thursday. The victory over the Eagles was the 18th in a row for JCHS and fifth straight by at least 25 points.

Purdue shuts down Gophers

By **ANDY GREDER**

Pioneer Press
Tribune News Service

Zach Edey made his first imprint on the Gophers men's basketball team only 23 seconds into Thursday's game at Williams Arena.

On the opening possession, the Purdue center casually blocked Minnesota forward Josh Ola-Joseph's shot in the paint. Five minutes later, Jamison Battle's audacious dunk attempt on the 7-foot-4 Edey proved an awful idea as Edey sent the shot, and the Gophers forward, to the floor.

On the offensive end, Edey scored as many points as the entire Gophers team — 12 — in the first half. The second half wasn't much better as No. 3 Purdue breezed past Minnesota, 61-39. It was the Gophers' lowest point total since a 32-26 loss to Indiana at 1951, and their 12 first-half points were the fewest ever scored in a half against the Boilermakers.

"We were just flat and we let the offense kind of suck the life out of us," Gophers head coach Ben Johnson said.

Minnesota (7-10, 1-6 Big Ten) had felt better after earning its first Big Ten win a week ago at Ohio State, but even that victory hasn't aged well. The Buckeyes lost their fifth straight game on Wednesday, 63-60 to Nebraska.

Minnesota had a one-possession loss at Wisconsin and took Nebraska to overtime before the Ohio State win. But after being run over in a 78-60 loss to Illinois on Monday, that three-game stretch of positive play feels like a long time ago.

When Edey wasn't swatting shots Thursday, Minnesota was just missing, shooting only 21 percent in the first half and 32 percent for the game. On pick and rolls, Edey was often in drop coverage, so the Gophers wanted to get into the post.

"My thought was if we can get downhill and get to a mid-range pull-up, or get somebody on a roll behind him — at least try to get two feet in the paint," Johnson said. "I thought we were able to do that; we've just got to do it with more confidence."

Battle, the Gophers' second-leading scorer at 12.9 points per game, injured his back in the last few minutes of the Illinois loss on Monday. He played Thursday but wasn't himself and was held scoreless in 22 minutes, missing all nine of his shots.

Ola-Joseph came back after that game-opening swat to have a team-high 13 points on 6-of-11 shooting. He was the only Gopher in double figures.

In the second half, Edey also blocked the shots of Pharrell Payne and Jaden Henley. He wasn't needed on the offensive end, finishing with the six makes on nine attempts he had in the first half.

Jackson-Davis has 35 in Indiana win

Senior has shot 28-of-37 over last two games

CHAMPAIGN, Illinois — Trayce Jackson-Davis had a strong shooting night in leading Indiana to an 18-point win Saturday over Wisconsin.

He nearly doubled that scoring output with an even more efficient effort from the field Thursday.

Jackson-Davis racked up 35 points for the Indiana University men's basketball team as it defeated host Illinois 80-65 for its second straight Big Ten win after having lost three in a row.

It was a spectacular offensive night for Jackson-Davis, who missed just four of his 19 field-goal attempts. (He shot 13-of-18 Saturday as the Hoosiers knocked off 18th-ranked Wisconsin.) He also grabbed a game-high nine

rebounds as Indiana had a 39-27 advantage on the glass.

The Hoosiers (12-6) trailed 4-0 early but scored the next dozen points to take control. They pushed their lead to as many as 19 points before the Illini closed to within single digits early in the second half. Indiana responded, going back ahead by 19 again.

The victory is one the Hoosiers hope have them pointed back in the right direction. They had opened 2023 with losses to Iowa, Northwestern and Penn State, all of which were unranked, to fall out of the top 25.

Indiana had four players in double figures, with Jordan Geronimo and Trey Galloway joining Jackson-Davis with efficient shooting efforts. Geronimo was 6-of-8 for 13 points and Galloway missed just one field-goal try as he scored 11 points. Jalen Hood-Schifino chipped in 10 points.

Terrence Shannon Jr. scored 26 points to lead Illinois, which was coming off of consecutive wins over Michigan State and Minnesota.

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