

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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Moving forward



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay School Board on Monday approved a resolution moving forward with the process toward a project at Jay County Junior-Senior High School that would include the construction of a “cleathouse” at the northeast end of Harold E. Schutz Memorial Stadium in the area pictured above. The other major components of the project are installing synthetic turf on the football field, which will become a multi-use site, and replacing the wiring in the junior-senior high kitchen.

Jay School Board approves resolution toward plans for ‘cleathouse,’ synthetic turf

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Jay County Junior-Senior High School’s outdoor athletic facilities are headed toward some upgrades.

Jay School Board voted unanimously Monday to move forward with a recommendation from superintendent Jeremy Gulley on a \$6.1 million capital improvement project that would involve the construction of a “cleathouse,” installation of synthetic turf at Harold E. Schutz Memorial Stadium and a variety of other improvements. The project also involves the replacement of wiring in the school’s kitchen area.

The next step in the process is the approval of the issuance of bonds, which is scheduled for the board’s Feb. 13 meeting.

After hearing comments on three potential options presented at the Jan. 9 board meeting, Gulley recommended essentially what had been referred to as Option A but with some modifications to address board member concerns.

The largest expenditures in the project are:

- \$3.15 million for a new approximately 7,000-square-foot

“cleathouse” that would include locker rooms, restrooms and concession areas at the northeast end of the football stadium.

•\$1.25 million for the installation of synthetic turf on what is now that football field and would become a multi-use field including football, soccer, band, JROTC and physical education classes as well as practice space for other sports. (A change eliminated a portion of turf from beyond the end zone on the northeast end of the football field, saving \$250,000 from the original estimate of \$1.5 million.)

•\$243,750 to replace wiring in the junior-senior high kitchen. (Gulley noted that there could be cost savings in running the wiring overhead rather than underground.)

The project also calls for new fencing around Harold E. Schutz Memorial Stadium, drop-down batting cages for baseball and softball in the auxiliary gym, installation of fiber-optic internet to all outdoor athletic venues, replacement of light poles along the access road, addition of cameras to athletic facilities and the north entrance, maintenance of the existing soccer

field, repairs to the tennis courts, reconstruction and/or upgrades to the long jump, shot put and discus areas and construction of a pole vault area.

Those items, along with “soft costs” (\$737,813) and fees (\$282,500) would all be covered via the bond funding, bringing the total to \$5.94 million with about \$166,000 remaining for contingencies. (Option A originally called for the fees to be paid from the operations fund, but those were shifted to the bond funding to allay concerns board members Ron Laux and Donna Geesaman had expressed concerns about the impact on the operations fund at the board’s last meeting.)

The proposal also called for the replacement of metal siding on the south side of the upper gym area (\$325,000), refurbishing and expanding softball dugouts (\$35,000) and replacing softball field fencing (\$30,000) in 2023, with those projects to be paid from the operations fund. Additional projects slated for the operations fund include lighting the baseball field (\$338,200) in 2024, lighting the softball field (\$164,806) in 2025 and terrazzo floor improvements in the

school’s main hallways and commons (\$141,000) over three years from 2025 through ’27.

“Although maintained over the previous 47 years, our athletic facilities and grounds must adapt to the necessary changes of a junior-senior high,” said Gulley in advocating for the project. “There’s just more programs. ... Things change. It’s needed to deal with that. ...

“We need a modern facility that’s flexible and can serve those needs.”

The board heard from four area residents during a public hearing regarding the proposed project, with Brian Homan raising concerns about the synthetic turf regarding increased injuries, heat, chemicals and maintenance. Barry and Greg Miller asked the board to consider the tax impact, specifically on farmers. And Mark Leavell echoed some issues from all three, expressing concern about the turf and his desire to avoid the potential of closing another elementary school down the road. (The corporation has reduced from seven elementary school buildings to five over the last since the 2016-17 school year.)

See **Moving** page 2

County looking at bridge projects

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Construction estimates for two bridge paving projects came in at less than expected.

What the county will be allowed to do with the remaining funds is still to be determined.

Jay County Commissioners heard about ongoing developments at Jay County Highway Department and discussed various other items during a three-hour meeting Monday.

Highway superintendent Eric Butcher explained the county is applying for another round of the Community Crossings grant offered through Indiana Department of Transportation. Hopes are to receive dollars to pave bridges on county road 200 South between Boundary Pike and U.S. 27 and Blaine Pike between county roads 150 and 250 South.

Officials allotted up to \$400,000 for the work in 2023. It came in at a significantly lower cost of \$61,733. If selected for a Community Crossings grant, the county would pay about 25% of the cost, or a little more than \$15,400. Even if the county is not awarded the grant, it would still have \$338,367 in county funds left after the bridge work is complete.

Commissioner Rex Journey asked if the remaining funds can be used for any highway department needs, such as installing above-ground fuel tanks. Jay County auditor Emily Franks said she would need to look into the matter.

Commissioners OK’d a commitment letter toward the grant application, which is due by 5 p.m. Friday.

They also agreed to move forward with making the intersection of county road 300 South and Boundary Pike a four-way stop. Butcher explained Laura Slusher of Local Technical Assistant Program conducted a traffic study on the intersection and recommended converting it to a four-way stop as well as painting a center line south of the intersection along the curve.

Butcher noted Monday afternoon if the intersection does become a four-way stop, the highway will be installing new signs as well as flashing lights to warn drivers about the change.

Commissioners also OK’d a right-of-way permit for excavation under a portion of Boundary Pike.

They agreed to move forward with stipulating guidelines for individuals, businesses or organizations seeking local government dollars. Commissioners plan to adopt a formal resolution pending minor changes to the proposed funding request application, which they explained is similar to applications for grants through The Portland Foundation.

They also signed a performance bond release agreement for Bitter Ridge Wind Farm.

See **County** page 5

Brown to retire at end of 2023

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — After four years as head of Fort Recovery Local Schools, superintendent Larry Brown will retire at the end of the calendar year.

Fort Recovery School Board accepted his resignation during a special meeting Monday.

“I appreciate everyone

that I worked alongside during this time and I believe that collectively we have made improvements to the learning environment at Fort Recovery Local Schools,” Brown said in a press release. “The administrative team, management team, teachers, and educational support staff truly care about the students and they strive to

continuously improve the school climate here at FRLS.”

Brown’s resignation, effective Dec. 31, comes with a stipulation. He plans to resign his position as superintendent effective July 31 and serve as director of the school district through the end of 2023 to provide transitional support to the next superintendent,

who has yet not been selected.

School board members approved the job description for the transitional role of director. They also amended the administrative salary index from Aug. 1 through July 31, 2024.

“I cannot think of a better school organization to conclude my 37 1/2 year school career

than Fort Recovery Local Schools,” said Brown in his release. “I wish the district good luck in your search for the next superintendent and your efforts to continue to improve the student experiences at all three buildings.”

Also Monday, school board appointed Daniel Carr to Fort Recovery Park Board.

Deaths

Edith McAbee, 96, Portland
William Bales, 88, Redkey
Claudia Griesinger, 80, rural Portland
Marvin Snyder, 69, Portland
Robert Miller, 59, Goshen
Leslie Masonbrink, 77, Ponce de Leon, Florida
Details on page 2.

Weather

The temperature in Jay County hovered between 29 and 33 degrees Monday.
Tonight’s low will be 29. Jay County is under a winter storm warning for Wednesday with snow expected to begin about 3 a.m. Four to 7 inches of accumulation is possible with winds gusting to 30 miles per hour. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Two new candidates filed recently to run in this year’s municipal elections.
Former Portland City Council member Judy Aker filed to run for the Democratic nomination for the city council District 4 seat. Donna Revolt filed to seek the Democratic nomination for the Dunkirk City Council District 2 seat.

Coming up

Wednesday — Season preview for the Jay County High School gymnastics team.

Friday — Damn Tall Buildings will perform Saturday at Arts Place.



CR almanac

Wednesday 1/25	Thursday 1/26	Friday 1/27	Saturday 1/28	Sunday 1/29
34/27 Wednesday's forecast shows between 4 and 7 inches of snow mixed with drizzle.	31/20 There's a 50% chance snow will continue throughout Thursday under cloudy skies.	34/29 Friday has a chance of snow as well in the afternoon and early evening.	34/26 Cloudy skies are expected Saturday, with a chance of snow late.	32/18 More snow is possible Sunday under cloudy skies. The low will hit 18.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 12-31-47-58-60 Powerball: 23 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$526 million	17-18-27-28-30-31-35-39-41-44-45-47-05-52-56-66-78 Cash 5: 12-18-20-26-37 Estimated jackpot: \$430,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$31 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 5-7-4 Pick 4: 3-4-4-9 Pick 5: 0-5-6-9-5 Evening Pick 3: 5-4-1 Pick 4: 9-1-7-0 Pick 5: 9-5-0-1-6 Rolling Cash 5: 2-8-14-21-25 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000 Classic Lotto: 20-27-40-42-44-48 Kicker: 3-1-4-9-5-5 Jackpot: \$4.4 million
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 4-1-4 Daily Four: 5-3-9-3 Quick Draw: 4-12-14-28-29-31-33-35-39-40-41-46-47-55-58-60-61-68-73-78 Evening Daily Three: 9-5-5 Daily Four: 9-0-4-0 Quick Draw: 9-10-16-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.91 Feb. corn.....6.91 Wheat.....7.13	Wheat.....6.72 July wheat.....7.16
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.90 Feb. corn.....6.90 March corn.....6.92	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.71 March corn.....6.73 Beans.....14.79 Feb. beans.....14.81 Wheat.....7.16
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.72 Feb. corn.....6.72 Beans.....14.77 Feb. beans.....14.84	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....6.42 Feb. corn.....6.42 Beans.....14.61 Feb. beans.....14.66 Wheat.....6.86

Today in history

In 41, Roman emperor Caligula was murdered by Cassius Chaerea, Cornelius Sabinus and others at the Palatine Games.

In 1556, an earthquake killed 830,000 in central China.

In 1848, prospector James W. Marshall discovered gold near Coloma California on property owned by Johann A. Sutter. Marshall made his find while constructing a sawmill on the American River. The discovery launched the Gold Rush, with almost 100,000 moving to California the following year in hopes of striking it rich.

In 1874, British prime minister Winston Churchill was born in Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire, England. Churchill led Britain through the bulk of World War II, taking over as prime minister after the resignation of Neville Chamberlain on May 10, 1940.

In 1908, Lt. Gen. Robert Baden-Powell organized the first Boy Scout troop in England. It was originally for boys from ages 11 to 15 to develop citizenship, good behavior and outdoor skills.

In 1940, the movie "The Grapes of Wrath" premiered. It was an adaptation of the classic John Steinbeck novel.

In 1941, singer-songwriter Neil Diamond was born in Brooklyn, New York. He signed his first recording contract in 1965 and four years later recorded one of his hit songs, "Sweet Caroline."

In 2003, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security was formed under the leadership of Tom Ridge as its first secretary.

In 2011, Jay County Solid Waste District hired Bettie Jacobs as its educator. Jacobs, who also served as the educator for Jay County Soil and Water Conservation District, was contracted to work an average of 20 hours a month promoting recycling and other waste reduction initiatives.

In 2022, Jay School Board approved a one-year contract with ESS, an education management and staffing firm, in an effort to help recruit substitute teachers during a nationwide shortage.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Wednesday
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works public hearing, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.

Thursday
3 p.m. — Jay County Personnel Committee, commissioner's room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation executive session, airport, 661 W. 100 North.

Friday
8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
9 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission executive session, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, 321 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Obituaries

Edith McAbee

March 28, 1926-Dec. 19, 2022
Edith McAbee, age 96, a resident of Portland, passed away on Monday, Dec. 19, 2022, at The Waters in Dunkirk.
Edith was born on March 28, 1926, in Ridgeville, Indiana, the daughter of Mary Witsche. She babysat for many years and retired from Kerr Glass in 1975 after 25 years of service.



McAbee

She was a member of Portland First Church of the Nazarene. She was an avid fan of Indiana Hoosiers basketball and the Cincinnati Reds.

Edith married Samuel McAbee on Sept. 14, 1944, and he passed away on Dec. 5, 1988.

Survivors include:
One son — William "Bill" McAbee, Sr. (wife: Patty), Bryant, Indiana

Ten grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and 12 great-great-grandchildren

Several nieces and nephews
She was preceded in death by her husband Samuel; a son, Max McAbee; and a great-grandson.

Visitation will be held on Friday, Jan. 27, 2023, from 1 to 6 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023, at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Pastor Dave McLellan will officiate and burial will follow at Lawndale Cemetery, east of Ridgeville.
Memorials may be directed toward Jay County Special Olympics.

William Bales

Feb. 14, 1934-Jan. 18, 2023
William E. (Bill) Bales, 88, of Redkey, Indiana, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023, at his residence.

Bill was born in Farmland, Indiana, on Feb. 14, 1934, a son of the late Thelma S. (Dotson) and Leroy Bales. Bill was a 1952 graduate of Redkey High School, formerly worked in assembly for Warner Gear and was a devoted local farmer who specialized in agriculture and livestock.



Bales

He was the loving husband of Lois E. (Miller) Bales who he happily married on March 6, 1953, and sadly lost on April 14, 2022. Bill was a 60 year member of the F&AM halfway lodge Redkey and Scottish Rite Valley of Fort Wayne, enjoyed fishing trips to Canada, vacations with his family, basketball, feeding birds, his cats and supporting his kids and grandkids sporting events and activities.

He was a very handy and hard working man who loved volunteering for 4-H and community activities and helping his family in any way he could.

Bill is survived by two sons, Greg Bales (Shirley) and Steve Bales (Jodie); two daughters, Janet Bales (Brad) and Susan Peterson (John); 12 grandchildren, Brandon, Lindsay, Myschon, Tyler, Logan, Emily, Jenna, Meghan, Nick, Brent, Kristen and Lauren; 13 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; loving wife Lois; three brothers, Roy Bales Jr., Richard Bales and Darrell Bales; and three

sisters, Betty Botts, Edith Wood and Ruth Myers.

Friends are invited to call Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023, from 11 to 1 p.m. at MJS Mortuaries – Redkey Chapel. Funeral services will follow at 1 p.m. with Pastor Craig Cotherman officiating. Burial will be held in Hillcrest Cemetery in Redkey, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Arrangements have been entrusted to MJS Mortuaries – Redkey Chapel.

Claudia Griesinger

Aug. 25, 1942-Jan. 22, 2023
Claudia Griesinger, age 80, a resident of rural Portland, passed away Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023, at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Center.

She was a member of the Zion Lutheran Church in Portland. She retired as the Registrar of the Jay County Health Department after 15 years.

Claudia was born Aug. 25, 1942, in Plaucheville, Louisiana, the daughter of Joseph Floyd and Mary Tessie (Dufour) Guillory. She was married to Paul Griesinger on Feb. 16, 1962.

Survivors Include:
Her beloved husband of 60 years — Paul Griesinger, Portland, Indiana

One son — Robert Griesinger (wife: Darla), St. Louis, Missouri
Two daughters — Connie Griesinger, Muncie, Indiana and Kathy Hardman (husband: Michael), Eaton, Indiana.

Three sisters — Joyce Joffrion and Doris Chauffepied, of Alexandria, Louisiana, and Judy Campo, Plaucheville, Louisiana

Four grandchildren — Michael, Payton, Elaine and Crosby

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Cindy Griesinger; and a brother, Clayton.

Private graveside services for Claudia Griesinger will be held at a later date at Salamonia Cemetery, Salamonia, Indiana.

Arrangements entrusted to Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

Marvin Snyder

April 1, 1953-Jan. 21, 2023
Marvin Snyder, age 69, a resident of Portland, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023, at his home in Portland.

Marvin was born on April 1, 1953, in Portland, Indiana, the son of Willard and Selma (Masters) Snyder. He graduated from Portland High School in 1972 and was a truck driver for 42 years.

He married Peggy McDavid on June 25, 1983.

Survivors include:
His wife of 39 years — Peggy Snyder, Portland, Indiana

His children — Wesley Snyder, Portland, Indiana, Lona Jackson (husband: Clint), Muncie, Indiana, and Rhonda Walker (husband: Robert), Muncie, Indiana

One brother — Michael J. Snyder, Mountain Home, Arkansas

Fourteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren

There are no services scheduled. Arrangements entrusted to

Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

Robert Miller

Oct. 21, 1995-Jan. 21, 2023
Robert J. Miller, 59, died Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023, at Goshen Hospital.

He was born June 8, 1963, in Indianapolis to Francis D. and Margaret (Yoder) Miller. On Oct. 21, 1995, he married Joni Roth in Goshen.

Joni survives along with five children, Juanette (Scott Frank) Snyder, Conway, Arkansas, Christopher Harter, Cass, Michigan, John



Miller

McCallister, Millersburg, Aimee Miller and Nikolette Miller, both of Goshen; and five grandchildren, Saphyre, Shawn, Savannah, Seamus and Nova. Also surviving him is his mother, Margaret, Goshen; a sister, Carolyn Miller, Elkhart; and nieces, Makayla, Mishawaka and Mackenzie, Elkhart.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Robert worked for Keystone RV and was a truck driver. He was known as a joker to friends and family always looking for a way to put a smile on your face. He enjoyed camping and working local elections.

Visitation will be Thursday, Jan. 26, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Rock Run Church of the Brethren, 64985 county road 33, Goshen. There will also be an hour of visitation beginning at 10 a.m. prior to the 11 a.m. funeral service on Friday, Jan. 27, at the church. Burial will follow at Rock Run Cemetery, Goshen.

Memorial gifts may be directed to Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Yoder-Culp Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

Leslie Masonbrink

Dec. 23, 1945-Jan. 12, 2023
Leslie (Les) Masonbrink, 77, of Ponce de Leon, Florida, passed away at his home on Jan. 12, 2023, surrounded by his family.

He was born on Dec. 23, 1945, to Leo and Thelma Masonbrink in Portland, Indiana. After graduating high school he served in the U.S. Army as a military police officer in Hawaii.

Les was preceded in death by his parents; three sisters, Theda, Diane and Karen; his oldest daughter Patricia; and two grandsons.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years Doris Masonbrink; his only brother, Gary of Butler, Indiana; and eight children, Troy (Dawn) of Indiana, Mark (April) of Indiana, Dean (Jess) of Indiana, Cherish Walters (Dennis) of Mississippi, Lesley Findley of Ponce de Leon, Jason Masonbrink of Ponce de Leon, Suzy Jette (Aaron) of Defuniak Springs, and Joel Masonbrink (Jessica) of Ponce de Leon; and honorary daughter Kaycee Weldon (Chris) of Defuniak Springs, Florida. He is also survived by 39 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at nepetunesociety.com/location/tallahassee-cremation for the Masonbrink family.

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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.

Moving ...

Continued from page 1
During his presentation, Gulley asked school officials and others to address those concerns.

Regarding synthetic turf, Dana Wannemacher of architecture firm Barton Coe Vilamaa said the one quality study on injuries at the high school level indicates a slight increase in minor injuries and a slight decrease in major injuries. He acknowledged that synthetic turf retains more heat while adding that those effects can be mitigated somewhat by the composition of the surface. (Junior-senior high athletics director Steve Boozier later noted that IHSAA regulations already exist regarding extreme heat and that it is not an issue during the bulk of the school year.) He said maintenance is minimal in season and more in-depth grooming can be done annually — he estimated the cost at between \$5,000 and \$25,000, depending on how extensive the work is

— to extend the life of the field.

Financial advisor Lindsay Simonetto of Baker Tilly reiterated informa-

tion she had previously presented to the board noting that the project would not increase taxes.

See Moving page 5

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SERVICES

Wednesday

Hein, Dorothy: 10:30 a.m., Our Lady Church of Guadalupe Church, 6701 Ohio 219, Montezuma.

Thursday

Bales, William: 1 p.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

Fields, Robert: 3 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Friday

Miller, Robert: 11 a.m., Rock Run Church of the Brethren, 64985 county road 33, Goshen.

Saturday

McAbee, Edith: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

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Photo provided

Opera house donation

St. Henry Bank recently donated \$10,000 toward restoring the Fort Recovery Morvilius Opera House. Pictured above is David Romer, president of the bank, presenting a check to Cy LeFevre, a representative of the restoration project.

Life may surprise you

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

Stop for a minute and look around. Is this where you expected to be at this stage of your life? Is this where you wanted to live? Are these the people you thought would be your friends forever?

What did you want to be when you grew up? Like most little girls, I wanted to be a ballerina or a nurse. The problem was that I have less than zero talent for dancing and couldn't afford tuition for nursing school.

I also wanted to be a paperback writer. Specifically, I wanted to write romance novels. They follow a pattern, boy meets girl, boy and girl fall in love, they break up then get back together and live happily ever after. It sounds easy except for one little thing. I loathe romance novels.

I also wanted to own the farm next to the one where I grew up. The plan was to raise beef cattle and maybe some chickens along with a few crops. The small apartment over the garage could provide a little extra income.

The closest I've come to farming is planting a garden. I've never owned a cow or a chicken. These days, the farm I wanted is too far from town and too big for us to take care of.

Even though things didn't turn out as planned, it hasn't been a bad life. I ended up here through a series of small choices. I moved away from home as soon as I graduated from high school. The neighbor lady got me a job at the National Cash Register Company, NCR, for short. They began downsizing a few weeks after I started.

A series of low-paying jobs followed. I

As I
See It



married someone I had known my entire life. We had a beautiful baby girl. The marriage didn't last and we split up.

I met my current husband at The Upper Krust sandwich shop. He was earning money for school, and I was making sandwiches. He made me laugh and made me feel secure. We married, and he still makes me laugh and still makes me feel secure.

After a few more job changes for each of us he was offered a job in Portland. We made the decision to take the position and move here. We have been here ever since.

Even though it is far from the dream I had when I was young, this place is exactly where we belong. We have each had good careers and are happily retired. We have each had some health problems that are under control for now.

I never guessed that life would turn out the way it has. I am glad it did. If either of us had chosen to work somewhere other than the Upper Krust we might never have met. If I had been able to buy the farm next door we might never have met. There are so many ifs, so many choices that could have led to so many different outcomes.

I trust that you are also exactly where you belong.

Sibling appalled by widow's actions after funeral

DEAR ABBY: My brother passed away. He and my sister-in-law had a good marriage. A month after his funeral, my sister-in-law gave her kids their father's clothes, instructed them to go through them, keep what they wanted or sell or donate the rest. It has been barely a year. Now she's redecorating their house — painting, taking down pictures and buying new furniture.

This bothers me. I'm so hurt that everything is being changed. It's like she's trying to erase him — all within one year! Should I ask her why everything is being changed and disposed of so soon? And should I feel so hurt about this? — UNSURE HOW TO FEEL

DEAR UNSURE: Your for-

Dear
Abby



mer sister-in-law appears to be more pragmatic than sentimental, and there is nothing wrong with that. She knew her late husband could no longer use his wardrobe, and saw no reason to keep the items hanging in the closet. That she offered his clothes to her children was appropriate. That she is now making

changes to the house is not unusual. People are cautioned not to make "important decisions" for about a year after a spouse passes, and your former SIL has wisely refrained.

If you want to ask her why she's changing things, do so in a non-accusatory way that won't offend her. I suspect you are feeling hurt because you're still not ready to accept that your brother is gone forever. You might find it helpful to talk about it with someone with expertise in the grieving process.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for nine years. While we were dating, he

was kind, considerate and loving. After we married, he turned into a chronic complainer; something he later confessed he had been hiding while we dated.

He talks to me like I'm trash and then gets nice when he wants something. He complains about my grown children, my best friend and even if I leave for work a couple of minutes early. He is a miserable person. I cannot do anything to make him happy. I can't take this anymore.

He has taken the things away from me that I love — flowers, gardening, pets, books, friends, etc. I'm ready to leave, but he has cancer and I'd feel guilty. He is clear right now, but it will come back. I don't want to stay. Life is too short

to live this way. He has a great support system with his family. They would take care of him. My health has been affected by him and his terrible attitude. What do I do? — WORN-OUT WIFE

DEAR WIFE: What you do now is consult a lawyer; pack your bags and leave before he worsens. Do not expect your husband to be grateful for ANY of the efforts you have made on his behalf during the course of your marriage. During the time you were dating, he hid from you the fact that he was a verbal abuser. Now you know he was a fraud. Don't feel guilty for protecting yourself and reclaiming your life.

Community Calendar

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

Today

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday.

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'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 ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor 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.

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

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'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) 251-8792.

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant/landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

9	5	2	7	8	3	4	6	1
4	3	8	6	1	5	2	9	7
7	6	1	2	4	9	5	3	8
5	9	6	3	2	8	7	1	4
2	7	3	1	9	4	6	8	5
1	8	4	5	6	7	3	2	9
6	2	7	9	5	1	8	4	3
8	1	5	4	3	6	9	7	2
3	4	9	8	7	2	1	5	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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U.S. can afford to cut spending

By DANIEL DEPETRIS
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy had to beg, plead and deal to get his current job. One of the agreements struck on the House floor with the most conservative faction of the Republican caucus was a promise to keep the next spending bill at levels that were agreed to in fiscal 2022. If McCarthy keeps his word, \$130 billion in federal discretionary spending would be cut from the recently passed budget package. And if defense spending were to be included, \$76 billion in military expenditures would be on the chopping block.

The prospect of the Pentagon losing out on tens of billions of dollars has caused panic on both sides of the aisle. Republican defense hawks are firmly opposed to a defense spending reduction and in fact are seeking annual, consistent hikes of 3% to 5% above inflation. The White House blasted the proposed cuts, stating that a push to “defund our military ... is senseless and out of line with our national security needs.” Twelve moderate House Democrats sent a joint letter to McCarthy last week discouraging any budget cuts to defense.

It's not every day when The Wall Street Journal Editorial Board and the White House are in alignment. But apparently, the need to spend a gargantuan \$858 billion on the military is one of them. The problem: The Pentagon isn't immune to critical spending decisions, or at least it shouldn't be.

In the current political climate, a smaller U.S. defense budget is remote. Even if defense isn't spared as a target for cuts, there are enough security hawks in Congress to stymie whatever attempt there is to cap, let alone reduce, the Pentagon gravy train. And, assuming the House magically were to find a way to do so, the Senate, still controlled by Democrats, wouldn't play ball. The practicalities are hard to envision.

Leave the politics aside, however, and it's easier to envision why lower spending on the defense apparatus is necessary and rational.

First, we should be clear as to what a proposed \$76 billion cut in defense actually means. Reading this in isolation, you might assume the Pentagon would be starved for cash and unable to maintain its operational readiness, as well as struggle to finance the research and development for the next generation of military technology. But this is hardly the case. Cutting \$76 billion would merely bring the Pentagon back to the fiscal 2022 level of \$782 billion, a figure that was even more than what President Joe Biden requested at the time. The U.S. would still be spending as much on its military as the next nine countries combined, and the quality of its soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines would still be exponentially more professional than what America's adversaries could offer.

All of this, however, seems to fall on deaf ears in Congress. It's not surprising why. Lawmakers want to keep defense-related jobs in their districts.

Daniel DePetris



Very often, this involves preventing the Pentagon from decommissioning weapons platforms the services view as redundant, outdated or wasteful. It took years before Congress allowed the Air Force to begin retiring the A-10 Warthog, a close-attack aircraft useful in counterinsurgency but inefficient against a state adversary with modern air defense systems. The Air Force was prevented, yet again, from retiring some of the older versions of the F-22 fighter jet, which the Pentagon argues is too expensive to upgrade relative to other high-priority investments that could be made.

The Pentagon is also a sprawling organization, operating facilities across the country that U.S. defense officials admit they don't need. According to a 2017 Defense Department report, the Army's excess capacity is 33%, which means the American taxpayer is throwing money into infrastructure the Army could mothball if it wanted to. Yet it's prevented from doing so; lawmakers continue to claim that closing bases is more expensive than preserving unnecessary buildings and airfields. So the U.S. instead finds itself operating bases for the sake of doing so, similar to a homeowner paying for an unused vacation house.

Ultimately, however, the most important argument in favor of getting defense spending under control is strategic: The U.S. military is doing too much around the world anyway. Hundreds of thousands of U.S. military personnel remain stationed overseas at any given time, most of them tied to security commitments that were previously etched into existence during the Cold War contest with the Soviet Union. The U.S. maintains more than 100,000 troops in Europe, despite the fact that the Russian military is proving itself to be a colossal, incompetent, twisted mess and Washington's European allies have the monetary resources to build their own military capacity. More than 30,000 U.S. troops are based in the Middle East, a region Biden supposedly wants to move on from.

All of this is compounded by a long-term problem: Rather than insisting on equitable defense relationships with its allies and partners, the U.S. insists on taking the lead. The result is a situation in which partners are not only incapable of contributing to shared missions but also comfortable outsourcing their security needs to Washington.

The bottom line is simple: If one did take place, a cut to U.S. defense dollars won't translate into global anarchy or Armageddon. Keep this perspective in mind the next time an official or lawmaker engages in histrionics.

DePetris is a fellow at Defense Priorities and a foreign affairs columnist for the Chicago Tribune.



Show compassion toward officials

By TRENT OLSON
Special to IHSAA.org

Do you remember the commercials in the 1980s titled “You make the call?”

I think they were IBM advertisements.

They were usually short snippets of a play in football that was somewhat confusing. It may be a partially blocked punt and whether the ball can be advanced by the kicking team. Or some other scenario that may come up once or twice in a season. They would show the play and describe the situation then say, “You make the call.”

After a short commercial, the announcer would come back on and give you the proper decision made by the referee. In other words, there are a lot of rules that the officials must know and interpret during a game.

Well, apparently all the fans, players, and coaches can make the call right 100% of the time. Just go to any game and you will soon find out what I am talking about.

It doesn't matter what school or level of play.

Many fans seem to know every rule and interpret them exactly right every single play of every single game.

As a coach over the years of multiple sports, I thought it was best to pick and choose your spots to argue with a call or voice your displeasure. Now, it seems the crowd along with many coaches have decided to complain on every single call.

As an athletic director, I am often in the front row with a great view of many calls made by officials. And you will find this hard to believe, but the officials are correct the majority of the time.

By the way — believe it or not — the officials are certainly not there to cheat your team from winning. There is not a single ref I know working a game thinking, ‘how can I cheat this team?’ I want this team to win, and I want this team to lose.

Now, are they human and make calls in a game that are wrong or don't make a call at all?

Of course, they make mistakes like everyone else does.

The berating of officials in basketball has to be the worst, in my opinion. In football, the refs are far enough away from the crowd that they can't hear as much. But in basketball where the coaches and fans are right on top of them, it can get carried away in a hurry. I often think about how loud and boisterous fans can be towards refs.

Do you yell at your players/sons/daughters when they miss a Free Throw?

“How can you miss that? The goal is right in front of you, and nobody is guarding you?” “That's terrible!”

Trent Olson



As I watched a lot of missed free throws in the Sullivan and North Central Girls' game the other night, I didn't hear anyone screaming about the several missed freebies I witnessed.

However, if a referee misses a call, we are sure to let them know about it! Officials miss calls just like a player misses a wide open layup sometimes.

Imagine this scenario: A basketball player is on the line for two Free Throws. They miss the first one and the coach from the bench is screaming at them, “That's awful. How can you miss that?” Now a few voices from the crowd join in, “C'mon. You gotta make that. Nobody is even guarding you.” And another, “What are you even looking at?”

Shot number two goes up and misses again ... “You gotta be kidding me! That's two you've missed!” “You need my glasses so you can see?”

An angry fan stomps down the bleachers and walks out of the gym and shouts, “You're terrible! I can't watch this anymore!”

Point is the coaches and crowd typically do not do this to a player and they shouldn't do it to an official. When a player misses a shot or makes a mistake, their teammates and coaches are often giving them a fist bump and saying, “Let's go. You'll get the next one. Don't worry about it.”

They are encouraging the player to move on from the mistake. But as soon as we perceive the slightest error from a ref, we are certainly not encouraging them to forget about it and move on.

The key is our biased perception of the call being made. One side of the floor thinks the call is correct and the other side doesn't the majority of the time. Even if it is the correct call, we often argue to call it both ways. Instead of just letting the official make the correct call — as he/she sees it — we have the tendency to let them know that they missed that same call earlier.

“Call it both ways,” we shout from the sidelines.

Has a referee ever come over to a coach during a game and said, “I can't believe you are sticking with man to man defense. These guys are killing you. You are an awful coach!”

Or better yet, when is the last time a referee shouted up in the crowd at an angry dad, “You are a terrible father! Your son on the team wishes you weren't even here

to watch him play because you are embarrassing him in front of everybody.”

Or “You are an awful lawyer. You are a terrible doctor. You are the worst coal miner in the state.”

Insert any occupation you want here as angry fans come from all walks of life.

If we constantly yell and scream and harass the refs, we will get to the point where none of them will want to come back. The officiating shortage is real and not improving with poor sideline decorum from coaches and abusive language from the fans. Some schools in the state have started officiating classes as part of their PE curriculum to combat the shortage. The IHSAA has started this program to encourage young people in high school to start working some youth games so that maybe when they get out of high school they will work their way up the ranks from youth to JV to varsity eventually.

It is sad to say but these young folks need a part of the class to be like a drill sergeant at boot camp calling you every name in the book for an hour or two to prepare them for the onslaught of fans at their first game!

We have to improve on our behavior and enjoy the experience of high school and youth sports. Parents and coaches need to lead the way for our players to see good sportsmanship and how to handle adversity and stressful situations by keeping our composure in tough moments. Too often, our student-athletes respond to tough times by blaming the refs. They pick this up from us and our fan base as well.

If I had a nickel for every time I have heard someone tell me the reason we lost is because of the refs, then I would be retired by now.

There is a public service announcement that I have seen where the parent is yelling and screaming at the umpire at a youth baseball game. He goes on and on about how bad the guy behind the plate is. He asks the older lady sitting next to him who she is there to watch and she replies her son.

“What number is he?” he asks. She replies, “He is the umpire behind the plate!”

The angry Dad decides to find a new seat.

The next time you attend a game, please think for a moment before you yell at the official. You may be sitting next to his mom. Or better yet, grab your whistle, put on your striped shirt, and get your officiating license to help education-based athletic programs in your community.

Olson is a former basketball and football coach who is currently the athletics director at North Central High School in Farmersburg.

The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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Moving ...

Continued from page 2
(That comes as a result of previous bonds being paid off.) Additional bonds are slated to be paid off in 2027, 2028 and 2033. She also noted that the school corporation's pension debt will retire in 2025, with the \$840,000 the corporation currently pays annually on that debt to then shift to the operations fund.

Board member Phil Ford noted consistent financial improvements the school corporation has seen over the last six years.

"We're in a better position now than we've ever been," he said.

Business manager Shannon Current noted as much later during her financial report, which showed the education fund with a positive cash flow of \$978,771 in 2022 and the operations fund with a positive cash flow of \$33,448 in 2022. The year-end fund balances were \$6.63 million and \$3.05 million, respectively.

(Those balances had been as low as \$1.5 million and near zero, respectively, within the last decade.)

Ford and school corporation maintenance director Mark Myers both indicated they had been opposed to synthetic turf in the past, but that their attitudes have changed after gathering more information. Ford also asked Boozier about the maintenance of a grass field. Boozier said the cost is significant and that when he looked into the cost of a new grass field more than five years ago the price was at least \$150,000.

After a lengthy discussion about the project, board member Jason Phillips made a motion to approve moving forward with Vickie Reitz seconding. Ford then referenced comments from previous meetings that indicated students are embarrassed by the current facilities, which are an

object of ridicule by visiting teams.

"If we can afford to do the best we can do," he said, "we should do the best we can do."

Board members Marcie Vormohr, Chip Phillips, Laux, Geesaman, Ford, Phillips and Reitz then voted unanimously in favor of a resolution that recognized a need for the project, set the amount to be financed at not to exceed \$6.105 million, anticipated the issuance of bonds for the project and estimated the tax rate to be stable.

In addition to the resolution, the board also approved updates to its 2023 capital project plan to include the projects indicated above. (Capital projects via the operations fund are approved yearly, meaning the board will be able to re-evaluate future items in the above proposal when they come up.)

After the board votes on the

issuance of bonds next month, bidding on some portions of the project could begin as early as March. The timelines for the work will vary, with kitchen electrical work expected this summer and installation of synthetic turf in spring/summer 2024.

In other business, the board:
•Honored the Jay County High School girls wrestling team, which won the regional championship on its home floor and went on to place ninth in the state. Four Patriots earned state medals, with sophomore Mallory Winner repeating as the state champion.

•Was introduced to new food service director Jennifer Gelhaus, who has taken over that role following the resignation of Camila Green. She and Siobhan Carey of Chartwells also presented the board with gifts for school board appreciation month.

•Approved the following: Year-

end transfers that were required to ensure no fund ended the year with a negative balance; Extracurricular assignments for Dave Haines as boys golf coach and Marvin Buckner as girls golf coach; Bus requests from Youth for Christ Campus Life for Feb. 26 and 26 and Fellowship Baptist Youth Ministry for Sept. 4.

•Accepted a \$60,083.94 Title IV federal grant, a \$32,668 high-ability grant, a donation of \$5,000 from Tyson Foods as a robotics sponsorship and a \$1,900 grant from Dunkirk Kiwanis for supplies, subscriptions and materials for Redkey Elementary School.

•Reviewed a variety of proposed policy changes on first reading, including regarding adjunct teachers, travel payment, volunteers, background checks and other items. The policy changes will be up for a vote at the board's Feb. 13 meeting.

County ...

Continued from page 1

The facility owned by Scout Clean Energy has been in operation for about two years, and all repairs to roads and drainage improvements have been met per a previous agreement between the company and the county.

Also, during the Jay County Drainage Board meeting, commissioners approved drainage plans for the Pioneer Toddler Town, a daycare facility planned on Wayne Street just north of Lincoln Street.

In other business, commissioners Chad Aker, Brian McGalliard and Journey:

•Signed a \$6,375 contract with RQAW for a water and wastewater analysis on land just inside the western limits of the City of Portland. The 68 acres for sale through Christopher and Tracy Muhlenkamp is being investigated to see if it is feasible for a large-scale residential project. Jay County officials have been looking into creating infrastructure for new local housing.

•Discussed looking into planning grants through Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. McGalliard suggested the option as a means to develop a master plan for incoming economic development dollars.

•Heard proposals for liability insurance from Kyle Champ of Portland Insurance and Steve Stockton and Conner Cox of Bliss McKnight, the current provider. The existing policy expires Feb. 5.

•OK'd a recommendation from Jay County Personnel Committee to hire Chance Retter, former Redkey Town Marshal, as a deputy at the sheriff's office. He was selected by Jay County Sheriff's Merit Board for the position, which he is estimated to begin on Jan. 30. (Retter resigned, effective before or on Jan. 30, on Thursday during a Redkey Town Council meeting.)

•Finalized paperwork for the adoption of former Jay County Sheriff's Office canine Mack to his handler. Sheriff Ray Newton said there are no plans at this time to hire another police

dog.

•Reviewed a proposal from Rick Clifton Contracting of Portland for new desks for county officials hosting meetings in the courthouse auditorium. McGalliard requested a few changes to the proposal — he asked to add desks for Jay County auditor Emily Franks, county attorney Wes Schemenaur and the press — and discussed reviewing updates to the proposal at their next meeting in February.

•Heard from courthouse superintendent Bruce Sutton, who noted some visitors to the courthouse, including the fire marshal, have complained about the facility's locked magnetic doors not opening for people leaving the building. (McGalliard noted they do open for safe exit but the method to do so is not well known.) Sutton asked Aker to see if it would be up to fire code if a button unlocking all doors were installed.

•Read aloud a letter from state representative J.D. Prescott about the "Big Blue Bridge," a steel bridge on Indiana 26 over the Sala-

monie River on the east side of Portland that is scheduled to be removed by INDOT in April. (A group of local residents have been making an effort to save the bridge.) The document voiced similar sentiments to a previous letter from INDOT, citing safety issues and funding already used as reasons for moving forward with the project.

•Re-appointed Aker as president of Jay County Board of Finance and appointed Journay as vice president and Jay County treasurer Paula Miller as secretary. They made severals other board appointments, noting they are still in need of representatives to fill commissioner-appointed seats on Jay County Redevelopment Commission, Jay County Visitor and Tourism Bureau and Community and Family Services boards.

•Signed bus leasing agreements with LifeStream Services. Transportation manager Kevin DeCamp explained the agreements were a new formal requirement for

vehicles owned by Jay County used for the busing service, with the county leasing them to LifeStream Services at no cost.

•Reviewed Jay Emergency Medical Services' monthly financial breakdown for 2022, which showed the department's total income at just over \$1 million and its expenses at just under \$500,000. The previous year's figures, by comparison, came in at more than \$900,000 in income and less than \$5,000 in expenses.

•Agreed to pay a \$6,534 invoice from Lifeway Mobility for purchase and installation of a new chair lift at Jay County Country Living. The invoice will need to be approved by Jay County Council at its Feb. 8 meeting before the equipment — it comes with a lifetime warranty — is installed.

•Approved applications — pending background checks — for four new residents at Jay County Country Living.

•Heard from Jay County Country Living director Melissa Blankley about

looking into replacing her facility's outdated fire alarm system. Commissioners recommended she seek quotes on the matter soon to avoid safety issues.

•Signed a \$13,750 quarterly claim for Jay County Humane Society for animal control services.

•Paid \$610 to Dynamic Business Solutions of Portland for quarterly maintenance and incorporating a feature to make meeting agendas and minutes available online.

•Approved the county's bank investment policy

•Signed the title for a 2020 GMC vehicle purchased by Jay Emergency Management Agency

•Removed Melanie Upp and added Jonelle Foreman to the treasurer's office checking accounts

•OK'd paying \$2,500 to consulting firm Waggoner, Irwin and Scheele Associates for training. There will be two sessions available for county employees handling payroll Feb. 9.

•Accepted a \$1,506.50 donation from RedGold Corporation for Jay County Country Living.

Capsule Reports

Jay wins three

Jay County High School's academic team won three categories Jan. 18 while competing in a five-team Eastern Indiana Academic League meet hosted by Tri.

JCHS took first place in fine arts, science and interdisciplinary. It was also second in social studies.

The winning interdisciplinary team was made up of Alex Ardizzone, Hannah Boggs, James Larrowe and Ella Stockton. The first-place science

team was made up of Duston Muhlenkamp, Khutso Muthuketela, Ardizzone and Larrowe, with Raine Keen, Sarah McClain, Tsvetelina Boynova and Boggs on the top fine arts team.

Earning individual first-place honors were Ella Stockton in English and Keen in fine arts. Boggs was second in fine arts.

Passing strike

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000 after

a Portland woman attempted to pass an Ohio man's vehicle, causing a car crash along county road 600 East about 4:10 p.m. Monday.

Steven E. Smith, 51, Liberty Township, told police he was having issues with his 1990 Oldsmobile 98 and started to turn into a driveway at 927 S. 600 East when a 2015 GMC Sierra began passing him, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. The driver of the GMC Sierra, 67-year-old Marcia E. Schoenlein, told police

she didn't notice Smith use caution lights or a turn signal. As she passed him, Smith's vehicle turned left, striking Schoenlein's car.

Schoenlein's vehicle was towed.

Failed to stop

A Portland man crashed into the back of a Redkey teen's vehicle after the teen failed to stop at the intersection of Race and Commerce Streets in Portland about 11:47 a.m. Sunday.

Trenton Franks, 16, Redkey,

told police he was northbound in his 1993 Dodge W-Series on Commerce Street and continued through its intersection with Race Street without stopping. He drove in front of an eastbound 2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer, driven by 57-year-old David McGill, who was unable to stop before striking the back of Franks' vehicle. (There is no stop for west and eastbound traffic at the intersection.)

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.



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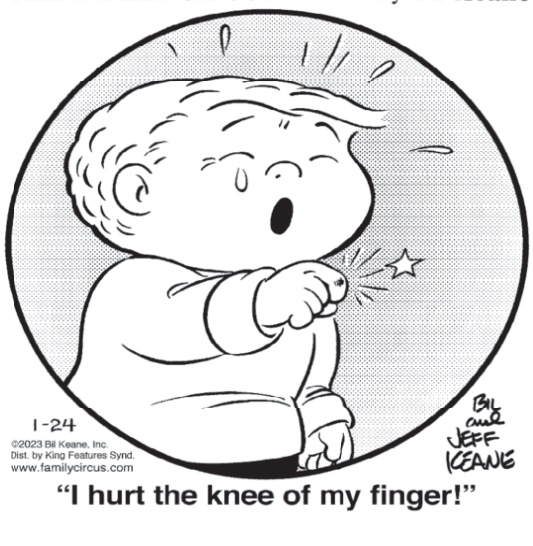
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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The odds are 3-to-1

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: ♠ J 9 8, ♥ A Q 10, ♦ 8 5 2, ♣ 9 7 4 3. WEST: ♠ 6 3, ♥ J 7 6 2, ♦ Q J 10 4, ♣ A J 5. EAST: ♠ A 4, ♥ K 9 5 4, ♦ 9 7 3, ♣ 10 8 6 2. SOUTH: ♠ K Q 10 7 5 2, ♥ 8 3, ♦ A K 6, ♣ K Q. The bidding: South 1♠, West Pass, North 2♣, East Pass. Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

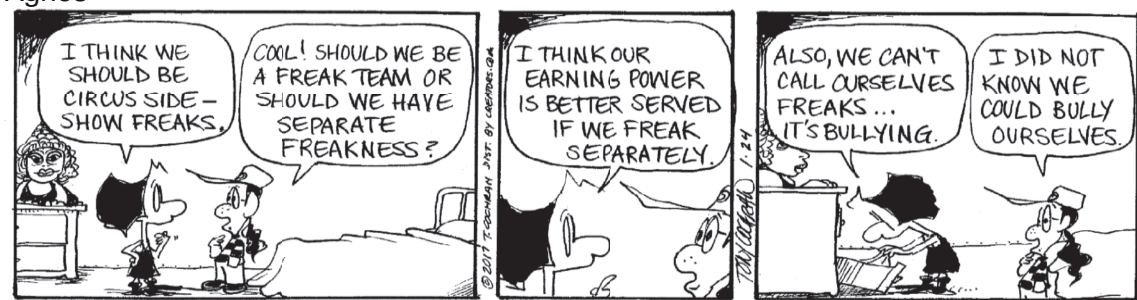
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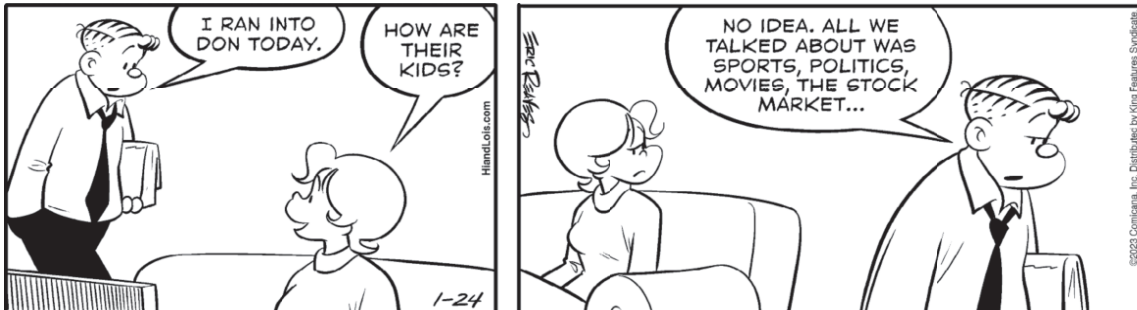
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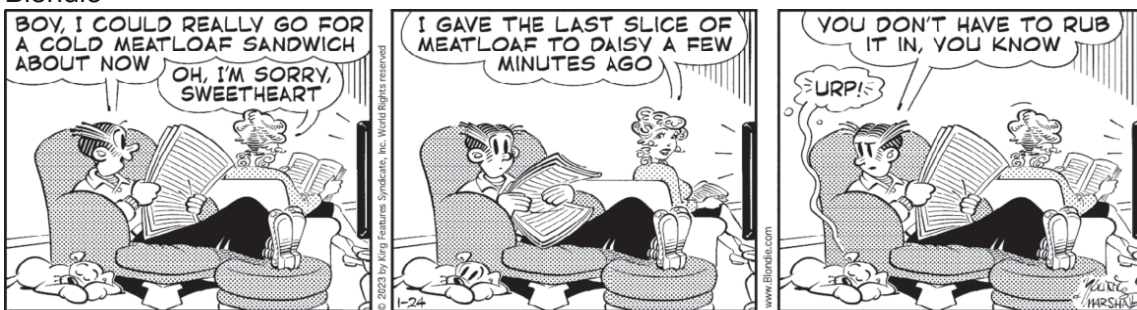
Hi and Lois



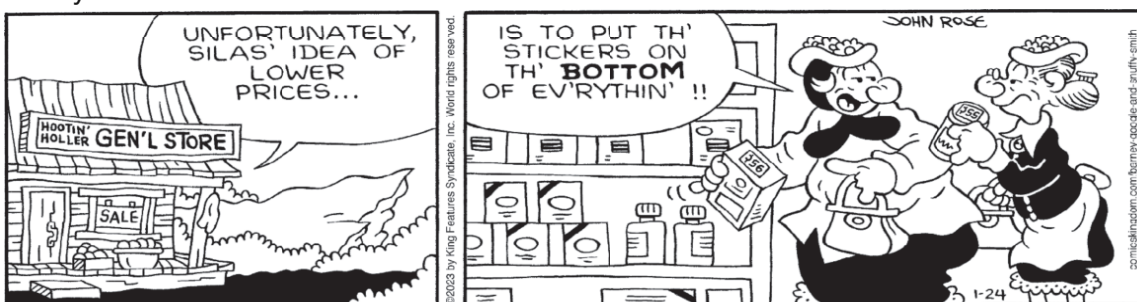
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



PL EKOLHDF RDH YDHSSI AHDWKGFRQKGS MKOPAE SMH QROO KA SMH EDHHA, SMHI

MRWH SMH YGSSHD-LOPHF. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THAT GUY WAS SPORTING A VERY EXPENSIVE ROLEX WATCH, HE DECLARED "MY TIME IS VALUABLE." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals P

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid and clues. ACROSS: 1 Methods group, 5 TV spots, 8 Transcript stats, 12 Part of Q.E.D., 13 Roman 52, 14 Take five actor, 15 Taj Mahal city, 16 Casanova role, 18 Want dearly, 20 Like draft beer, 21 Chow down, 22 Future flower, 23 "The Creation" composer, 26 Actor Lamas, 30 Mimic, 31 Church seat, 32 Apt rhyme for "spa", 33 Auto shop offerings, 36 Musical pace, 38 Nay undoer, 39 "It's c-c-cold!". DOWN: 2 Jason's ship, 3 Knitter's need, 4 Put on, as a play, 5 Dole out, 6 French perfume brand, 7 Command to Rover, 8 Starbucks size, 9 Impudent, 10 Nepal's continent, 11 "Go no further!", 17 Time of day, 19 Enthusiast, 22 Fiddle stick, 23 Actor Linden, 24 Mil. address, 25 Verily, 26 French article, 27 '60s war zone, 28 Use a ray gun, 29 "So that's it!", 31 Season opener?, 34 Executed perfectly, 35 Literary Jane, 36 Capote nickname, 37 Papa Hemingway, 39 Fabric bundles, 40 Golf bag item, 41 Spanish greeting, 42 "Closer" actor Clive, 43 Sultry Horne, 44 Ad-hesive, 45 Recedes, 46 Get lippy, 48 Cistern.

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Feel-good ...

Continued from page 8
Jay County got offensive contributions across the board as everyone in its typical seven-man rotation scored at least six points.

It started with Dusty Pearson, who after finishing with just two points Friday scored the first seven of the game against Hagerstown (4-11). Blake Bogenschutz then hit a 3-pointer off of a Pearson assist, Bennett Weitzel sank a pair of free throws and Abraham Dirksen scored to complete the 14-0 opening run.

"That was a little bit of our pregame talk," said Bomholt. "You've got to look to score, Dusty, you've got to look to score. If we're going to be a good team, before it's all over, we've got to have you and you've got to be looking to score." That was a big deal.

Hagerstown got its first,

and only, point of the opening quarter on an Isaac Schmitz free throw with 23.9 seconds on the clock. Its first field goal came from Cole Tracy at the 6:03 mark of the second quarter.

The Patriots got their youngsters going in the second half, as freshman Gradin Swoveland scored all of his game-high 13 points after the break. He

hit three of his four 3-point tries and shot 5-of-8 overall. Blake Crouch, a sophomore, added six points, also all in the second half.

Pearson (12 points), who put an exclamation point on the win with an emphatic dunk with about three minutes to go, and fellow senior Josh Dowlen (11) joined Swoveland in double figures. Dirksen and

Bogenschutz added eight points apiece, and Weitzel matched Crouch with six.

Though it wasn't perfect, the result was never in doubt as Jay County dominated all aspects of the game. It forced 22 turnovers while committing only 11. It had a 29-22 rebounding advantage. It made 11 3-pointers while shooting 48% from long distance compared to just

two on 12.5% for Hagerstown. And it shot 48% from the field while holding the Tigers to 32%.

The 70 points was a season-high for the Patriots, who had been averaging 40.1 and had been held below 30 three times.

The two wins in less than 24 hours — Saturday's road game was over by 2:30 p.m. after JCHS had hosted the Starfires on Friday night — came after nine days off. That period after a loss to Heritage in the opening round of the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament included some soul-searching for players and coaches alike. The result was a strong week of practice.

"For whatever reason, we got busy," said Bomholt. "We got busy and we got sharp. ... I can always tell with our teams, for the most part, how we're going to play based on how we

practice. ... If we practice well, we play well. ... This last week, we started seeing some things that we were doing that finally started to click a little bit."

No Tigers reached double figures as Tracy led them with nine points.

Junior varsity

Jay County dominated early, middle and late as it clobbered the Tigers 68-10.

The Patriots wasted no time taking control, outscoring Hagerstown 22-2 in the opening quarter. They allowed just two points again in the second and fourth quarters, leading by 38 at halftime and 48 after the third quarter.

Liam Garringer's 17 points led JCHS with Eli Dirksen behind him with 15. Rylee Sollars and Wes Bihn each added nine points.

Bryce Tinkle's six points paced the Tigers.

Roundup ...

Continued from page 8
Kylie Shannon, Amelia Heath and Elizabeth Brunswick each had a dozen points for the Patriots seventh graders in their blowout victory. Raylin Hummer added eight points.

Hallie Schwieterman carried the scoring load for the eighth grade team with 28 points. Kady Allred, Stella Skirvin and

Bailey Towell each had four points.

Jets edge JH

Jay County's junior high wrestling team lost 51-45 Thursday to the visiting Adams Central Jets.

Scoring victories by pin for the Patriots (2-2) were Corbin Lothridge (85), Logan Wendel (90),

Jackson Bonifas (95), Brenna Ruble (102), Freddie Lingo (175) and Keegan Wittkamp (195). Leighton Brown (160) added a victory by a 3-1 decision.

Picking up junior varsity wins for Jay County were Grant Linville, Josh Brown, Kevin Dues, Miles Jones, Cooper Reynolds, Cooper Glassford, Brayden Fox, Caleb Sibray and Wyatt Bihn.

Draw ...

Continued from page 8

The Patriots and Hamilton Heights have met in each of the last two sectional tournaments, with JCHS losing 36-33 in overtime in last season's opening round at Yorktown and 46-42 in the 2021 championship game.

Jay County's last sectional title came in 2006 as it beat Elwood 54-43 in the champi-

onship game in the Class 3A tournament at Mississinewa. It went on to fall 54-42 to Bishop Luers in the regional semifinal.

The junior varsity teams played two quarters Saturday with Jay County winning 33-6. Cassie Petro paced the Patriots with eight points while Alexis Sibray and Sophie Sprunger each added six.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Girls basketball vs. Richmond — 6 p.m.; Swimming vs. Blackford and Burris — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. TriVillage — 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball vs. Celina — 5 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball at St. Henry — 5 p.m.

Wednesday
Jay County — Junior high boys basket-

ball hosts Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament — 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball in Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament at TBA — 5:30 p.m.

Thursday
Jay County — Girls basketball vs. Heritage — 6 p.m.; Swimming at Marion — 6 p.m.; Gymnastics vs. Huntington North — 6:30 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. St. Henry — 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball vs. St. Henry — 5 p.m.; Eighth grade girls basketball Midwest Athletic

Conference Tournament at New Knoxville — 5 p.m.; Seventh grade girls basketball Midwest Athletic Conference Tournament at Versailles — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Penn State at Rutgers (BTN); DePaul at Georgetown (FS1)

7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Chicago Bulls at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Boston

Celtics at Miami Heat (TNT)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Northwestern at Nebraska (BTN)

9 p.m. — Tennis: Australian Open (ESPN2)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Kansas State at Iowa State (FS1)

10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Los Angeles Clippers at Los Angeles Lakers (TNT)

Wednesday
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Xavier at Connecticut (FS1)
7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Indiana Pac-

ers at Orlando Magic (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Wisconsin at Maryland (BTN)

7 p.m. — NHL hockey: New York Rangers at Toronto Maple Leafs (TNT)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Brooklyn Nets at Philadelphia 76ers (ESPN)

8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Butler at Providence (FS1)

9:30 p.m. — NHL hockey: Columbus Blue Jackets at Edmonton Oilers (TNT)
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Memphis Grizzlies at Golden State Warriors (ESPN)

Thursday

3:30 a.m. — Tennis: Australian Open semifinals (ESPN)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: SMU at Memphis (ESPN2); Iowa at Michigan State (FS1)

7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: New York Knicks at Boston Celtics (TNT)
9 p.m. — NHL hockey: St. Louis Blues at Arizona Coyotes (Bally Indiana)

10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Dallas Mavericks at Phoenix Suns (TNT)
10:30 p.m. — Tennis: Australian Open semifinals (ESPN)

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CR 1-24-2023 - HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Superior Court of Jay County, Indiana, in Cause No. 38D01-2210-MF-000017 wherein First Financial Bank was Plaintiff and Lucas D. Bost and Rachel D. Reff a/k/a Rachel D. Ainsworth were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 23rd day of February, 2023, at the hour of 10:00 AM local time or as soon thereafter as is possible, at the Jay County Sheriff's Department, 120 N. Court Street, 3rd Floor Courthouse, Portland, Indiana 47371, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jay County, Indiana. A part of the East half of the West half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 34, Township 22 North, Range 13 East, Jay County, Indiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the Northwest corner of the East half of the West half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 34, Township 22 North, Range 13 East, Jay County, Indiana; thence N 88° 05' 01" E (assumed bearing), along the North line of said Northeast Quarter, a distance of 663.47 feet to the Northeast corner of the West half of said Northeast Quarter; thence S 01° 18' 52" E, along the East line of the West half of said Northeast Quarter; a distance of 322.80 feet; thence S 89° 02' 02" W, along a fence line, a distance of 663.31 feet to the West line of the East half of the West half of said Northeast Quarter; thence N 01° 20' 24" W, a distance of 311.80 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 4.83 acres, more or less. More commonly known as 4269 W 800 S, Portland, Indiana 47371
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Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.

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Larry R Newton Jr.
Sheriff of Jay County, Indiana
Taylor M. Hamilton
No. 30338-10
Morgan Pottinger McGarvey
401 South Fourth Street,
Suite 1200

Louisville, Kentucky 40202
Attorneys for Plaintiff
The Sheriff's Department does not warrant title to this property, nor the accuracy of the address or legal description.
CR 1-24-31-2-7-2023-HSPAXLP

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JC sets record, draws 'Dogs

Patriot girls would meet Huskies in semifinal

PONETO and INDIANAPOLIS — The Patriots rolled to a record 19th-consecutive victory Saturday.

In order to extend their spectacular season to a sectional championship, they'll have to avenge their only loss in the semifinal round.

After clobbering the Southern Wells Raiders 81-19 Saturday, the Class 3A No. 2 Jay County High School girls basketball team drew an opening-round game against Centerville in Sectional 24 at Hamilton Heights. If they win that opener, they'll meet the host Huskies in the semifinal round.

Saturday night's result was never in doubt as the Patriots (20-1) jumped out to a 23-6 lead at the end of the first quarter. They went on to score at least 18 points in each period while giving up no more than six.

Renna Schwieterman' 20 points led a trio of seniors in double figures. She also had 10 rebounds.

Mabrey McIntire finished with 14 points and six steals, and Gabi Bilibrey had 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Schwieterman is just 18 points away from 1,700 for her career. She is 41 behind 1973 Redkey High School graduate Greg Bales for the most points in county history.

The win was the 19th in a row for JCHS, surpassing the school record of 18 set during the 2008-09 undefeated regular season. The last six of those wins have all come by at least 25 points.

The 81 points are the most the team has scored since beating Woodlan 82-39 on No. 24, 2017. Their previous high this season was 74 in the season opener against South Side (Fort Wayne) and again against Heritage in the opening round of the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament.

The Patriots lead Class 3A and are fourth in Indiana overall in average margin of victory at 29.4 points. They are second in Class 3A and ninth overall in scoring at 62.1 points per game.

Jay County will open the sectional tournament against Centerville (5-11) at 7 p.m. Jan. 31. Two additional first-round games in the seven-team group will follow Feb. 1 as Frankton (15-6) plays Delta (6-13) at 6 p.m. with Yorktown (8-10) and New Castle (0-20) to follow.

A win in the opening round would put the Patriots in a semifinal game against Hamilton Heights (16-5), which drew a first-round bye, at 6 p.m. Feb. 3. The winners of the other two semifinals would follow. The championship game is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Feb. 4, with the winner to advance to play the winner of the Norwell sectional in a one-game regional at 4 p.m. Feb. 11 at Bellmont.

Hamilton Heights is responsible for Jay County's only loss this season, by a 45-44 score in overtime Nov. 12. All five of the Huskies' losses this season have come to state-ranked foes.

See **Draws** page 7

Jay County High School freshman Gradin Swoveland launches a 3-pointer during the third quarter of the Patriots' 69-33 victory Saturday afternoon over the host Hagerstown Tigers. Swoveland scored all of his game-high 13 points in the second half as JCHS earned back-to-back wins for the first time this season.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Feel-good victory

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

HAGERSTOWN — The first quarter was virtually a carbon copy.

Again, the Patriots held their opponent without a field goal and had a 15-point lead.

Then they were able to accomplish a task that had eluded them less than 24 hours earlier.

They put the game away.

After scoring the game's first 14 points, the Jay County High School boys basketball team kept pushing. Its lead increased to 19 at the half and 24 after three quarters as it rolled to a 69-

33 victory Saturday over the Hagerstown Tigers.

It gave the Patriots (4-7) back-to-back wins for the first time this season.

"Our goal tonight was to make sure we won every quarter," said

JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt. "And they did that. ... I think the mentality of that helped them.

...

"We still missed some easy bunnies and probably (had) some careless turnovers. But all

in all, this is how we thought this team could play from the very beginning."

The Patriots were equally dominant early Friday against a one-win South Adams squad — they led 15-0 at the quarter break and hit a 3-pointer to open the second period — but saw the lead slip back to single digits before inching back to a 15-point win.

"This was, I think, a different kind of win than (Friday) night," Bomholt said. "This was a feel-good moment. Last night ... we weren't really where we wanted to be."

See **Feel-good** page 7

Patriots start strong, put Hagerstown away

Indians halt losing streak

ST. PARIS, Ohio — The skid is over.

Fort Recovery High School's boys basketball team put an end to a five-game losing streak Saturday as it topped the St. Paris Graham Falcons 53-44.

The Indians (9-6) have been a streaky team. They won six straight games from Dec. 9 through early January and then lost five in a row to St. John's, Botkins, Coldwater, Maumee Valley Country Day and Marion Local.

The third quarter was key for the Tribe on Saturday after it trailed by one at halftime. It limited the Falcons (6-10) to just three points in the quarter to pull away — Landon Post sparked the offense with three 3-pointers — and then kept the nine-point advantage in the fourth.

Cale Rammel led the way for Fort Recovery with 20 points, including eight in the final period to help seal the game. Post followed with 17 points as he hit another triple in the fourth quarter.

The Indians won the junior varsity game 57-39. Eli Lennartz hit three 3-pointers and scored 20 points to lead FRHS while Gavin Evers followed with 10.

FR girls win mini

Fort Recovery's girls swim team won five events, including a pair of relays, to fight off Kenton to win the St. Henry St. Marys Mini Meet.

The Indian girls scored 118 points Saturday to finish six ahead of Kenton in the 11-team field. The FHRS boys placed seventh.

The Tribe girls set themselves up well early with Teigen Fortkamp, Audra Bubb, Joelle Kaup and Paige Guggenbiller dominating the 200-yard medley relay by 7.5 seconds with a winning time of 1 minute, 58.56 seconds. The same group later cruised to victo-

Local roundup

ry by an even wider margin in the 200 freestyle relay in 1:48.18.

Forktamp obliterated the field in her individual events, taking the 100 backstroke by nearly 11 seconds and the 200 individual medley by six seconds in times of 1:01.07 and 2:21.65, respectively.

Bubb gave the Indians their other win with a time of 59.3 in the 100 freestyle.

Sage Wendel had the only win for the FRHS boys, taking the top spot in the 100 backstroke in 1:00.75.

Four finish first

Jay County Wrestling Club had four wrestlers earn first-place finishes in competition Sunday.

Winning their weight classes at the Yorktown Folkstyle Open were Julian Hudson (16 and younger, 138 pounds), Eli Shannon (10 and younger, 84 pounds) and Grant Linville (14 and younger, 92 pounds). Eli Michael won the 8-and-younger 49-pound class at the Columbus North Beginners meet.

Adding second-place finishes this weekend for Jay County were Blake Wood, Cage Reynolds, Khoden Bentz, Brenna Ruble, Alex Huntsman, Owen Michael and Bryce VanSkyock.

Jay rolls in tourney

MONROEVILLE — The Jay County junior high girls basketball teams clobbered host Heritage Monday in the opening round of the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament, with the seventh grade team winning 58-4 and the eighth graders scoring a 40-24 victory.

See **Roundup** page 7

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