

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Glessner adds name to ballot

Dunkirk has contested race for GOP bid for mayor

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Dunkirk will have a contested primary for the GOP nomination for mayor.

Alden Glessner filed Monday to run for the Republican nomination for mayor, joining Jay Miller on the ballot. Miller filed last week.

Incumbent Democrat Jack Robbins previously filed to run for a second term.

Glessner grew up in Plymouth, moved to Jay County in 1981 and graduated from Jay County High School in 1981. He has worked mostly in commercial heating and air conditioning, now owns about a dozen rental properties and hopes to open a restaurant in Pennville.

"I think the city could do a whole lot better all the way around than it's doing," Glessner said of his motivation to run for mayor of Dunkirk. "Past leadership and the current leadership just isn't doing things to benefit the citizens of Dunkirk like they should."

Glessner pointed to streets, alleys and abandoned properties as areas he would address if elected mayor. He expressed various concerns about Dunkirk Police Department.

"The first thing I would probably do is reform the police department," said Glessner. "We've got some serious problems there. A lot of officers really don't want to work, I don't think. They just want to drive around and

sit in the office all day." Glessner is making his first run for elected office.

The only other contested races for the May primary thus far are incumbent John Boggs, Joel Smitley and Jeff Westlake for the Republican nomination for mayor of Portland; Donna Revolt and Jacqueline Miller for the Republican nomination for Dunkirk's District 2 seat on city council; and incumbent Krista Scholer and Lindsey Wright for the Republican nomination for Pennville clerk-treasurer.

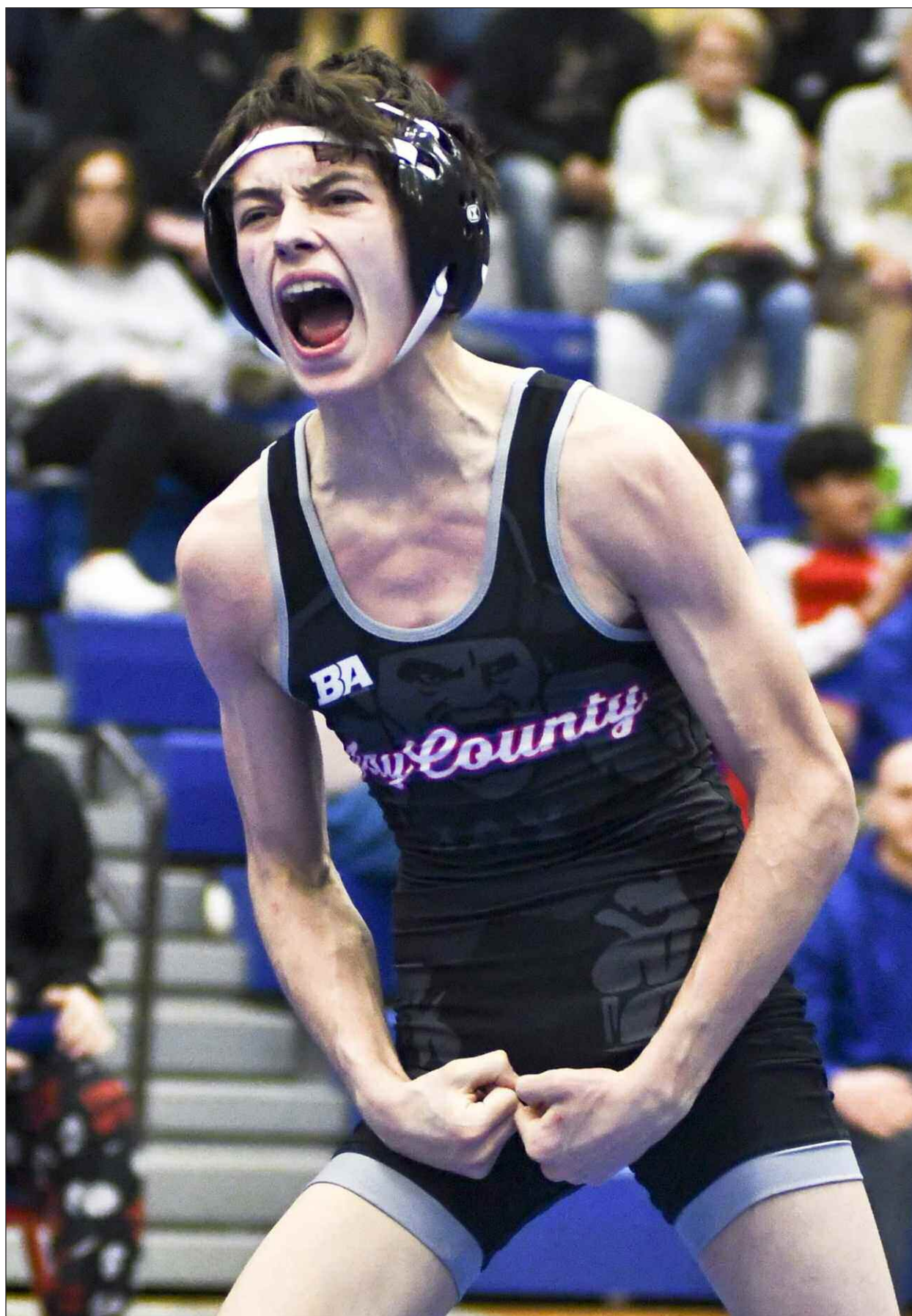
Other candidates who have filed thus far are:

Republicans — Donald Gillespie for Portland City Court Judge, Matt Goldsworthy for Portland City Council District 1, Michele Brewster for Portland City Council District 3, Ron May for Portland City Council District 4, Kent McClung for Portland City Council District 5, Larry Nuckols and Ashley Hilfiker for Portland City Council at large (two seats), Kevin Hamilton for Dunkirk City Council District 1, Jesse Bivens for Dunkirk City Council District 3, Dan Watson for Dunkirk City Council at large, Joshua Miller for Pennville Town Council at large, and Gregg Ellenberger for Bryant Town Council at large.

Democrats — Randy Geesaman for mayor of Portland, Lori Aker-Phillips for Portland clerk-treasurer, Judy Aker for Portland City Council District 4, Tina Elliott for Dunkirk clerk-treasurer, and "Watermellon" Jim Phillips for Redkey Town Council at large.

Mike Aker, an independent, has filed to run for re-election for Portland City Council's District 2 seat. (Independents do not appear on the primary ballot.)

The deadline to file is noon Friday.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Comeback champ

Senior Daniel Moore of host Jay County High School flexes after winning the 113-pound sectional championship thanks to a two-point near fall in the final seconds of his match. His was the first of six consecutive individual titles for the Patriots, who won the team sectional championship for the first time since 2018. For more on the tournament, see page 8.

Nichols video sparks calls for policing bills

By RYAN TARINELLI
CQ-Roll Call
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — Video of the beating of Tyre Nichols at the hands of police officers renewed calls for Congress to

address law enforcement violence, but proposals from Democrats face familiar partisan hurdles.

The graphic footage released Friday showed officers in Memphis, Tennessee, following a traffic

stop, beating the 29-year-old man, who later died. A group of five officers have been charged with second-degree murder in his death.

Nevada Democratic Rep. Steven Horsford in a state-

ment Sunday urged lawmakers to "jumpstart negotiations" and work to address police violence.

The CBC invited the Nichols family to attend the State of the Union address, Horsford said, and

requested a meeting with President Joe Biden to advocate for negotiations on national changes to the justice system, including on the behavior of police.

"We are going to take action. And first, it's about

making sure that the president knows that this is an important enough issue for him to talk about at the State of the Union," Horsford said in an interview Monday with MSNBC.

See Bills page 5

Discussing ARPA \$

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Jay County officials are still debating specifics on projects they hope to tackle using American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

They discussed a few of those options at a meeting Monday.

Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council talked about buying about 68 acres within Portland city limits along Indiana 67 and constructing a heated building for equipment at Jay County Highway Department. They also set a public hearing on the former matter for 6 p.m. Feb. 8.

Officials have been looking into building infrastructure for housing on about 68 acres of Christopher and Tracy Muhlenkamp's property for sale along Indiana 67

County officials continue to look at options for coronavirus relief funds

just inside the western limits of the City of Portland. (A portion of the land could also house a new multi-faceted building for Jay Emergency Medical Service, Jay County Health Department and Jay County Coroner's Office.) RQAW is currently conducting a water and wastewater analysis on the grounds. Commissioner

Brian McGalliard noted a second appraisal has come in for the property.

Commissioner Rex Journay asked if the county should allow a separate entity, such as an economic development corporation, to purchase the land, or if it should buy the property itself.

See Discussing page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Jay County Council member Dave Haines speaks Monday during a joint meeting of Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council.

Deaths

Jerry Ludwig, 81, Dunkirk
Dorothy Miller, 83, Lafayette
Helen Phillips, 90, Hartford City
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 30 degrees Monday. The temperature dropped to a low of 20 just before midnight and continued to fall to 13 as of 8 a.m. today.

Tonight's low will be 6. Expect sunny skies Wednesday with a high of 28.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

United Way of Jay County and Second Harvest Food Bank will host a free food tailgate from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday at Jay County Fairgrounds. Income verification is not required.

Coming up

Wednesday — Results from tonight's JCHS girls basketball sectional opener.

Friday — Coverage of Thursday's Portland Board of Works meeting.



Obituaries

Jerry Ludwig

Oct. 15, 1941-Jan. 19, 2023
Jerry D. Ludwig, 81, of Dunkirk, Indiana, passed away peacefully Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023, at Owensboro Health Muhlenberg Community Hospital in Greenville, Kentucky.



Ludwig

Jerry was born in Bluffton, Indiana, on Oct. 15, 1941, a son of the late Lois P. (Farling) and Paul E. Ludwig. He was a 1959 graduate of Howe Military School, a 1960 graduate of Dunkirk High School and went on to further his education at Texas Christian University.

Jerry was the loving husband of Barbara S. (Flynn) Ludwig who he happily married on Sept. 15, 1977, and sadly lost on March 8, 2018. He was the

Owner and Operator of Ludwigs Grocery in Dunkirk, Indiana, until its closing in 2005.

Jerry was a member of the Dunkirk Elks Lodge #1776 and enjoyed golf, the Chicago Bears, country music, Fox channel, playing keno and traveling with his beautiful wife Barbara.

He is survived by three sons, Jeff McDaniel-Ludwig, Allen Ludwig and Derek Ludwig; one brother, Anthony Ludwig; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Barb; one brother, Bill Ludwig; and one sister, Leslie Garr.

Friends are invited to call Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, from 1 to 3 p.m. at MJS Mortuaries - Redkey Chapel. Funeral services will follow at 3 p.m. with Pastor Randy Davis officiating. Entombment will be held privately at the convenience of the

family in Fairview Cemetery in Bluffton, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Muncie Animal Shelter/ARF.

Arrangements have been entrusted to MJS Mortuaries - Redkey Chapel.

Dorothy Miller

Feb. 14, 1939-Jan. 27, 2023

Dorothy Jane Miller, 83, of Lafayette passed away Friday, Jan. 27, 2023, at Creasy Springs.

Dorothy was born Feb. 14, 1939, in Portland, Indiana, to the late Albert and Helen (Snyder) Wright.



Miller

On July 25, 1981, she married Oscar Ewing Miller Jr. in Elmwood Church of Christ, and he survives.

Dorothy was a long-time mem-

ber of the Elmwood Church of Christ. She worked for Purdue University in the computer technology department before retiring in 2004. She then worked as a secretary in the civil engineering department before retiring again in 2016.

She was a member of the Purdue women's basketball networking club. She was a big fan for many years and followed the team to games. She was also a member of the Tippecanoe County Homemakers and was involved with Indiana Rural Youth.

Along with her husband, Oscar, she is survived by the son she never had, Kevin (Marilyn) Walters; and her brother, Lloyd (Sharon) Wright of Salamonia, Indiana.

A visitation will be from 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023, with funeral service beginning at 2 p.m. at Hippensteel Funeral Home with Joe Ruhl officiating.

Entombment to follow at Rest Haven Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Elmwood Church of Christ Food Pantry.

Please share your memories and condolences with the family at hippensteelfuneral-service.com.

Helen Elizabeth Phillips, Hartford City, a member of a Dunkirk church, April 13, 1932-Jan. 27, 2023. Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Keplinger Funeral Home, 509 N. High St., Hartford City.

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

CR almanac

Wednesday 2/1	Thursday 2/2	Friday 2/3	Saturday 2/4	Sunday 2/5
28/17 Sunny skies are in the forecast for Wednesday with a high in the upper 20s.	35/12 Partly sunny skies are expected Thursday with a low around 12 at night.	20/9 Mostly sunny skies with a temperature low in the single digits late.	32/27 Another day of partly sunny skies, with temperatures jumping to the mid 20s to low 30s.	40/28 More partly sunny skies with breezy weather. The high will reach about 40.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 1-4-12-36-49 Powerball: 5 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$653 million	15-17-21-22-25-26-38-45-53-59-62-63-72-74-75-78 Cash 5: 12-13-15-16-33 Estimated jackpot: \$583,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$31 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 0-2-1 Pick 4: 5-4-5-0 Pick 5: 4-2-3-6-1 Evening Pick 3: 3-2-9 Pick 4: 6-0-4-8 Pick 5: 4-4-0-2-6 Rolling Cash 5: 5-11-12-26-35 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000 Classic Lotto: 11-13-17-40-43-45 Kicker: 3-7-2-3-9-6 Jackpot: \$4.7 million
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 5-4-0 Daily Four: 1-7-2-0 Quick Draw: 3-7-12-16-17-30-33-39-41-45-48-52-54-58-59-63-65-68-69-79 Evening Daily Three: 2-2-0 Daily Four: 5-3-1-8 Quick Draw: 2-8-9-13-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn7.01 Feb. corn7.01 Wheat7.40	Wheat 6.98 July wheat 7.42
POET Biorefining Portland Corn7.03 Feb. corn7.03 March corn7.05	Central States Montpelier Corn6.84 Feb. corn6.84 Beans15.17 Feb. beans15.17 Wheat7.43
The Andersons Richland Township Corn6.97 Feb. corn6.97 Beans15.21 Feb. beans15.28	Heartland St. Anthony Corn6.56 Feb. corn6.56 Beans14.95 Feb. beans14.95 Wheat7.12

Today in history

In 1606, Guy Fawkes, who was one of the Gunpowder Plot conspirators who tried to blow up Parliament and assassinate King James I, was executed in London.

In 1919, Jackie Robinson was born in Cairo, Georgia. Robinson became the first Black player to play in Major League Baseball when he took the field for the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 15, 1947.

In 2006, the Fort Recovery seventh grade girls basketball team went to four overtimes in its 45-43 victory over St. John's. Kendra Brunswick scored 14 points to lead the Tribe in the marathon win over the Blue Jays.

In 2022, Jay School Board announced it was receiving a total of \$100,000 in grant funding to implement new science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) curriculum at East Jay, East, Westlawn, Redkey and Bloomfield elementary schools. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, 321 N. Meridian St., Portland.	City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Monday 5:30 p.m. — Portland	

Discussing ...

Continued from page 1
County attorney Wes Schemenaur noted benefits and drawbacks to either option. He confirmed the property can be transferred later if needed. (McGalliard suggested using Jay County Redevelopment Commission.)

Officials questioned whether the housing project would qualify for the county's \$3.9 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds. Several changes have been made to federal funding guidelines in the last year.

McGalliard also referenced the Hoosier Enduring Legacy Project (HELP), a year-long public planning process through Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for usage of at least a third of American Rescue Plan Act funds. The county's strategic development plan was submitted at the end of last year.

He voiced concern about the housing project not aligning within the plan for HELP, which could grant an additional \$1 million to counties involved. The county's HELP plan

currently lists a Jay! Region housing development project submitted for the Stellar Communities program in 2019.

Richards explained pathway committees for HELP proposed broad ideas. In order to fulfill OCRA requirements, he said, the plan needed to have specific information on a housing project. He noted the plan is a living document and said any county housing project should still fit within the guidelines of HELP.

Commissioners and council agreed to hold a public meeting on the potential land purchase at 6 p.m. Feb. 8 prior to the regular monthly council meeting.

Also Monday, commissioner Chad Aker explained freezing temperatures led to fuel lines gelling up for highway department snow plows during the holiday season. (The department has an outdoor lean-to where it stores equipment. Although it has a heated shop for maintenance, highway department superintendent Eric Butcher said it doesn't have space to thaw out plows.) Aker proposed using American Rescue Plan Act funds to construct an enclosed heated building for the equipment to avoid future plowing issues. It would cost roughly \$560,000.

Council president Jeanne Houchins also noted updates are needed at Jay County Jail. She suggested allocating a portion of the dollars for repairs to county buildings.

Council member Cindy Bracy asked if officials have a five- or 10-year plan for the funds. The last comprehensive plan for the county was created in the early 1990s, according to Richards. McGalliard advocated for investing in such a plan, noting OCRA has planning grants available to help with the process.

Aker and Journay pointed out the county also has incoming economic development dollars from Bitter Ridge Wind Farm and future solar farms.

"We need to have a plan, as we've all discussed, on how to do this correctly," Journay said.

Felony arrests

Confinement
A Decatur man was arrested Friday for criminal confinement and related charges.
Chance L. Mata, 26, 1107 E. Ridge Drive, was charged in Jay Circuit Court with a Level 3 felony for the alleged crime, as well as two Level 5 felonies for battery and intimidation and a Level 6 felony for strangulation. He's being held without a bond at Jay County Jail.

Drug possession
A rural Montpelier man was arrested Jan. 24 on drug charges.

Kurt E. Banter, 40, 11261 W. 900 North, was charged in Jay Superior Court with possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, and possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor.
He's being held on a \$6,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Capsule Reports

Slid into crash
Three people were injured after a Washington man lost control of his vehicle at the intersection of county road 200 West and Indiana 26 about 6:36 a.m. Friday.

Marco R. Rivera, 59, Washington, told police he was driving his 2011 Chevrolet Traverse north on county road 200 West when he attempted to stop at the intersection with Indiana 26. He wasn't able to stop, according to the report, slid through the crossing and crashed into a westbound 2005 Mercury Sable driven by 34-year-old Christine L. Geise of Hartford City.

Geise complained of arm pain. Rivera's passengers, 46-year-old Teresa Reyes and 29-year-old Carolina Diaz, both of Washington, complained of arm pain and head pain, respectively.

Both vehicles were towed, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Lost control
Several drivers lost control while traveling in snowy conditions last week.

Dallas R. Williams, 20, Logansport, was driving north on county road 800 East about 4:45 p.m. Friday when the 2006 Ford F-250 he was driving slid off the road after driving across ice. The truck — it's registered to Sean Ashley of Redkey — hit a utility pole, causing between \$2,500 and \$5,000 in estimated damage. It was towed.

Amari L. Crouse, 18, Pennville, was driving west on county road 800 South just west of U.S. 27 about 11:20 a.m. Friday when her 2013 Chevrolet Cruze drove over a patch of ice. She began to spin out of control, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report, slid off the south side of the road and hit a utility pole. Her vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000. The pole wasn't damaged.

Faith M. Horsley, 21, Montpelier, was driving west on county road 300 North near the intersection with county road 250 West about 6:23 p.m. Thursday when she drove her 2003 Chevrolet Trailblazer across a patch of ice. Her vehicle went off the road and struck a pole. Damage is estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

Drake Dishman, 30, Elwood, was driving west on Indiana 26 about 11:18 a.m. Wednesday when the 2017 Chevrolet Cruze he was driving hit slush, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. See page 5

Services
Today
Johnson, James: 5 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Wednesday
Miller, Dorothy: 2 p.m., Hippensteel Funeral Home, 822 N. 9th St., Lafayette.

Friday
Phillips, Helen: 11 a.m., Kiplinger Funeral Home, 509 N. High St., Hartford City.

Saturday
Ludwig, Jerry: 3 p.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

May 13
Warrick, Clarice: 11 a.m., West Richmond Friends Meeting, 609 W. Main St., Richmond.

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February brings bittersweet moments

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

As I See It



The last day of January is finally here. My son-in-law, Duston, is scheduled for back surgery today. His back has been bothering him for as long as I have known him. We are hoping that this surgery helps to alleviate his pain.

after-school activities most of the time while Duston is in the hospital. I'm sure that arrangements have been made to have an adult check in with them or perhaps spend the night if needed.

I am not exactly sure what they are planning to do but as long as the surgeon and the whole host of people who will take care of him know what is going on, that is all that counts.

I think they are planning to release him either the same day or maybe the following day. It boggles my mind at how quickly they discharge people after what used to be major surgery.

My grandchildren are at an awkward age. They are too old for a babysitter and too young to leave by themselves for more than a few hours or so. Fortunately, they will be in school or at their chosen

Just a few days after Duston's surgery is the

seventh anniversary of my mom's death. Seven years! I find it hard to believe it has been that long. She died on Groundhog Day. The weather was cold but not too cold. The roads were good and it was the one and only time that Duston and the two boys, Jacob and Nicholas, had been up here. Daughter Beth and her daughter Emma had been here to visit several times when Emma was a toddler.

I had begged Mom to hold on until spring but her body wasn't that strong. I had breast cancer for the first time and was finishing up radiation treatments when she went into the hospital. They said she had been admitted with renal failure. I actually argued

with them and said they were wrong. It was her heart — it was always her heart.

My brothers and I expected them to fix her up in a couple of days and send her home. That didn't happen. I finished my last radiation treatment and we went from Fort Wayne to Richmond. I was exhausted and beyond grateful that my husband was willing to do all the driving.

Mom died, and after all this time, I still miss her. Sometimes I see her in the mirror or hear her words coming out of my mouth. My brother, Michael, said he also has seen her in the mirror: One such time he looked down and discovered that he has those same chubby legs she

had. I didn't tell him that he also has the same chubby belly and poor eating habits she had.

It used to be that this time of year I would do an article about the foolishness of trying to predict the weather by dragging a groundhog out of his warm home in a library. The keepers would then devise a television ready background. Once all the cameras were ready the animal was once again dragged out of his makeshift hole where he would supposedly see his shadow and predict another six weeks of winter. Honestly, he is right about as often as a real weather forecaster is.

This time of year is usually dark and dreary. The only cheerful things

in the house are the paperwhite bulbs that I got for Christmas. They are in full bloom. Each flowering stem boasts a tiny bouquet of sweet-smelling, pure white flowers. I have also begun removing the hyacinths from the refrigerator in the hope that they will also be in bloom by the end of February when the paperwhites are finished blooming.

I trust that the doctors will fix up my son-in-law and he will be in less pain than before. I trust that the grandchildren will be safe. I also trust that the sun will eventually peek out from the clouds. Thankfully, January is over. Let's hope that February is better.

Dysfunctional family labels brother 'selfish'

DEAR ABBY: My two siblings and I were raised by an abusive, alcoholic father. Predictably, it has adversely affected our mental health adversely. One sibling struggles with alcoholism and substance abuse. The other has a personality disorder and cannot maintain stable relationships. I cope with comparatively fewer severe issues, but I still must work hard to sustain a marriage and my career and raise healthy children. It isn't easy.

Dear Abby



others are hard to be around, even if they are family. Is it selfish to prioritize my well-being by maintaining distance from my siblings? — THEIR BROTHER

DEAR BROTHER: Your first priority must be your emotional health. Next should be the well-being of your spouse and children and the career that enables you to provide for them. If maintaining some distance from these siblings is selfish, then call it "enlightened" selfishness. Help them to the extent you can, but do not allow yourself to be emotionally arm-twisted by

other relatives who remain on the sidelines.

.....
DEAR ABBY: I've been a dental assistant for more than 20 years, and I'd like to share an observation with your readers. Over the years, we've seen many patients who diligently take care of their oral hygiene. Then, suddenly, we notice decay both clinically and on X-rays — after years of no decay. We ask them, "Are you taking a new medication that's causing dry mouth? Have you started drinking some different beverage? Have you been eating more sweets?" More often than not, they tell us nothing's changed.

The problem often is sugar where they don't expect it — in fiber supplements, meal replacement shakes, gummy vitamins, chewable antacids, vitamin water, etc. Many of these items contain a surprising amount of sugar. Please encourage your readers to read the nutrition labels of their SUPPLEMENTS. It could save their teeth. — ANTI-DECAY IN DALLAS

DEAR ANTI-DECAY: Thank you very much for educating my readers and me. This is something I had never considered, and I'll bet many of them haven't either. Your letter is an important one, and I hope they will heed it as I plan to.

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. The public is welcome.

JAY COUNTY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in conference room C at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital. Open discussion for cancer patients, survivors, family members or anyone interested in helping with the group. For more information, contact Linda Metzger at (260) 726-1844.

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

Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

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

NARCOTICS 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.

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

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

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

Thursday

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

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.

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland.

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Supplement runs Feb. 10
(Advertising deadline - Feb. 3)

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Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

Find common good, common ground

By **LEE H. HAMILTON**

I don't remember when it first occurred to me after arriving in Washington many years ago that at its heart, being a member of Congress meant never being entirely satisfied. And that this state of affairs is baked into our form of government. But despite moments of immense fulfillment, it remained a central tension throughout my time in office — as it has been for most legislators since the founding of the Republic.

Our founders were very clear about what they expected from the leaders chosen to represent the American people. "Government is instituted for the common good ... and not for profit, honor or private interest of any one man, family or class of men," John Adams wrote. James Madison was just as direct, writing in *The Federalist* that the goal of a constitution like ours should be to put in office people "who possess most wisdom to discern, and most virtue to pur-

Lee H. Hamilton



sue the common good of the society."

Politicians run for office for many reasons — ambition, ego, anger at the status quo, a broad but undefined desire to serve ... And for some, that ideal — pursuing the common good — is front and center. This holds true for many voters, too. I'll never forget once running into an elderly woman at the polls in Indiana and asking her if she'd voted. She responded by saying to me, "I vote for the candidate of my choice, but then I pray for the winner. I want him or her to work not just for the few, but for everyone." That has always stuck with me as one of the healthiest attitudes

toward politics I've ever heard expressed — and I'm confident plenty of voters feel the same way.

The problem, of course, is that there is no single definition of "the common good." We live in a country that, instead, makes it possible for us to debate the question, to change our minds, to evolve, and to move forward when we can. But here's the thing: The system is designed to make it hard to move forward unless enough people agree on an approach to command a majority. In other words, they have to be able to find enough common ground with others — even if they don't like everything involved in a given piece of legislation — that they can prevail democratically.

This is not easy to do, as any legislator will tell you — and as the entire country got a ringside seat for during the House speakership battle at the beginning of the year. For starters, of course, every member of Congress and

legislator comes to the job with her or his own beliefs, attitudes, approaches, and red lines that can't be crossed. Finding common ground among one's own colleagues is hard enough.

And then there are the realities of the office: Constituents, party leaders, lobbyists, commentators — they all have their opinions, too. When I served in Congress, it was not unusual for me to have 15 appointments a day with people who wanted me to vote their way, often on some item involving the federal budget. Farmers came in to speak about farm programs, businesspeople to focus on business interests — their own and the economy in general — and religious or nonprofit leaders to lobby for support for their hard-pressed constituents. There was nothing sinister or malicious about any of this. It's how the process of government works. But it makes the task of finding enough common ground to move forward extremely challenging.

So in the end, legislators are

confronted with twin tasks: discerning and then pursuing the common good, and finding enough common ground with colleagues and the public at large to make progress possible. Their job is to find a way to do both: to think in terms of what's best for the country or their state or city, and then to weigh each of the considerations and pleadings they confront in that light. It's tough work and no solution ever feels perfect, but if you're committed to the job, there's always another chance to edge closer to the ideal.

.....
Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a distinguished scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a professor of practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years. Email him at corg@iu.edu.

The tanks give Ukraine a chance

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

After weeks of diplomatic hand-wringing, the U.S. and Germany have decided to send battle tanks to Ukraine, a critical step toward helping the country take back territory seized by Russian forces during last year's invasion. While President Joe Biden and Europe's leaders deserve credit for maintaining solidarity with Ukraine, they should remain mindful of the risks of deeper Western involvement in the war. Under the arrangement announced Wednesday, the U.S. will send Ukraine 31 M1 Abrams tanks, at a cost of \$400 million. Meanwhile, Germany will supply 14 Leopard 2 tanks from its stockpile and will allow other allies, including Poland, Spain and Finland, to ship their own German-made Leopards to the front lines. In all, the package approved by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz aims to deliver more than 100 tanks to Ukraine's forces, along with ammunition, training and maintenance support.

Most immediately, the initiative will help resolve tensions between Berlin and other NATO members, which had pushed Scholz to move faster to approve the delivery of heavy tanks. The Germans said they would send the Leopards only if the U.S. provided its own tanks. The Pentagon rejected such linkage, maintaining that the 70-ton Abrams tanks are more difficult to operate, maintain and transport than the Leopards, which are already in plentiful supply in Europe. While the reluctance of U.S. defense officials to placate Germany's position was understandable, Biden was right to overrule them and avoid a more damaging rift within the alliance, which would only hurt Ukraine's cause and serve Russian President Vladimir Putin's interests.

The delivery of heavy armor to Ukraine comes at a pivotal time. After suffering heavy losses last fall, Russia has made modest gains in the south and east. Intelligence officials think that Putin is planning a spring offensive, waged by a reconstituted force of recent conscripts, former prisoners and private mercenaries. With Ukraine's casualties mounting and its supplies of weapons and munitions running low, the

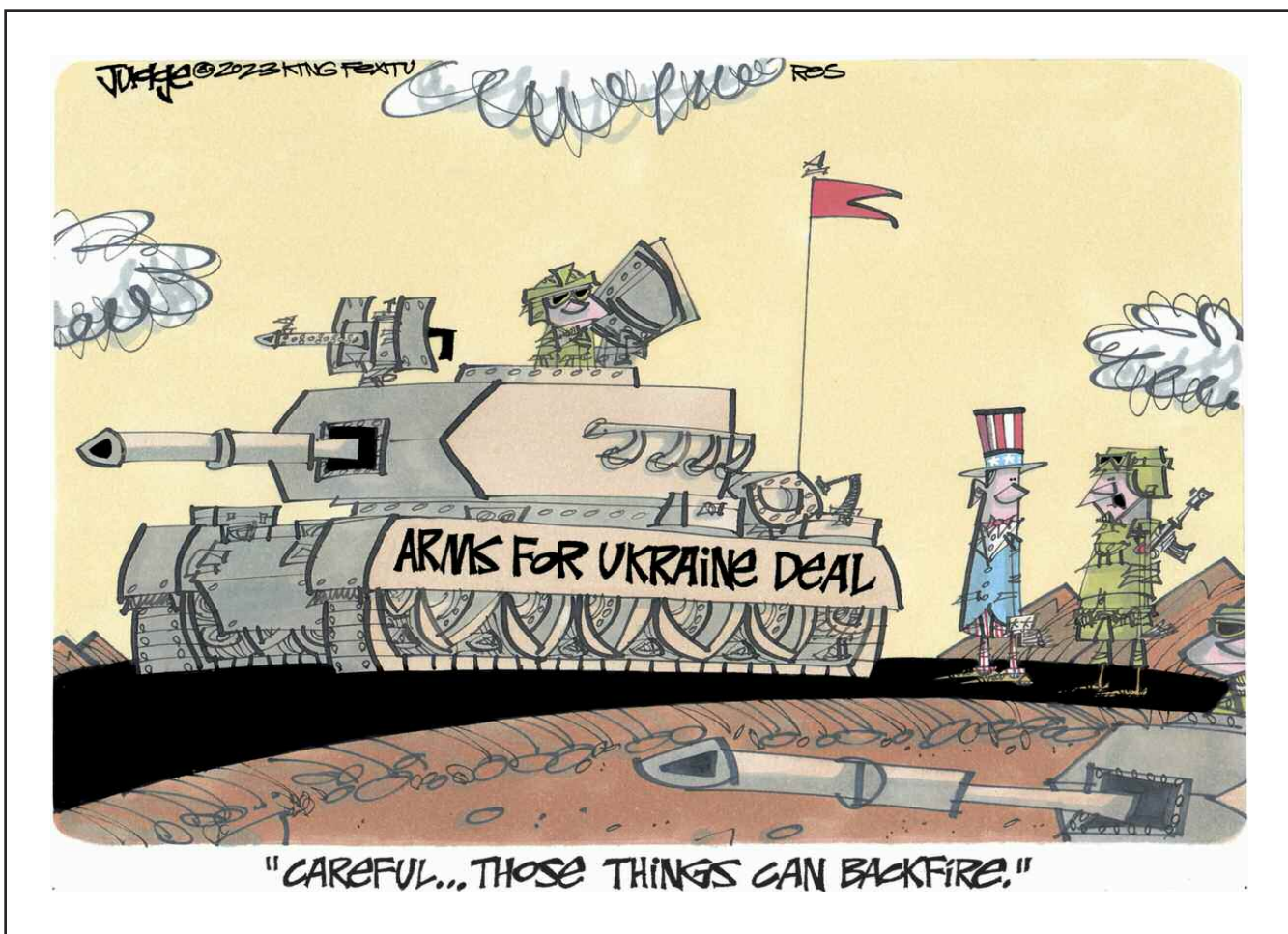
Guest Editorial

Intelligence officials think that Putin is planning a spring offensive, waged by a reconstituted force of recent conscripts, former prisoners and private mercenaries.

influx of powerful Western tanks will be essential to holding ground and defending against the expected onslaught.

To take back its lost territory, Ukraine may require even more armor and sophisticated weaponry — including not just additional tanks but combat jets and long-range missiles that could strike Russian supply lines, bases and command posts. Before moving forward with any such assistance, however, NATO should insist on firmer assurances that Ukraine will avoid attacks inside Russia itself, which would risk potential retaliation against the West. The Biden administration should work with Congress to monitor the flow of military and economic assistance to Ukraine, limit waste and corruption, and prevent weapons from falling into the wrong hands. It should also reinvigorate efforts to engage with Russian officials to limit the risks of escalation and lay the foundation for negotiations to end the war.

For the moment, peace remains a distant prospect. The months ahead will be long and bloody. Supplying Western battle tanks at least gives Ukraine a fighting chance.



Did Pence let Biden off the hook?

By **HARRY LITMAN**
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

The discovery of classified documents in former Vice President Mike Pence's Indiana residence is a clarifying and pivotal event that throws into sharp relief conduct that in recent weeks has been lumped together.

Pence ordered the investigation of his home, which turned up some 12 documents marked classified, in the wake of the brouhaha over similar discoveries of classified documents at President Joe Biden's Delaware home and former office.

The Pence documents shed more light on a critical question: How easy is it for classified documents to find their way out of the White House and become mixed into the private papers of former government officials?

Anecdotal evidence already suggested that it's easy enough to do inadvertently, especially on the part of higher government officials, who rarely have a personal role in packing up their offices. Pence's experience strengthens that idea.

There is no reason to doubt the assertion by Pence's lawyer, Greg Jacob, in a letter to the National Archives that "Pence was unaware of the existence of sensitive or classified documents at his personal residence."

That explanation, of course, is the same as Biden's response to a rolling discovery of classified documents at his office and residence — to which conservative pundits and opponents have cried "scandal!"

Of course, there is a very bright line to be drawn between the unknowing conduct of officials like Biden and Pence on the one hand, and the intentional and likely criminal behavior of former President Donald

Harry Litman



Trump, who, from the available evidence, not only was aware that he had classified documents but purposefully spirited them away, and, more importantly, engaged in a 20-month campaign to stonewall legitimate efforts by the U.S. government to have them returned.

This is not to say that Biden's and Pence's conduct is OK. As they both acknowledge, it is a potentially grave risk to national security to have classified documents walk out of the White House and be stored willy-nilly in some random place rather than in the National Archives. But this doesn't mean any such discovery is a matter for the criminal law.

There is not a shred of evidence that Biden even knew about the misplaced documents, much less that he criminally withheld them. Yet special counsel Robert Hur is now conducting a criminal investigation into Biden's case. Department of Justice guidelines require someone who has come under public suspicion, including the president, to be cleared or charged promptly. That goes for the president, and Hur is duty-bound, either to develop concrete evidence or shut his fledgling operation down.

The same, of course, goes for any investigation into Pence's documents. But it would be folly (and I think unlikely) for Attorney General Merrick Garland to appoint a special

counsel for Pence with zero evidence that criminal conduct has occurred.

The appointment of Hur immediately lumped Biden together with Trump in the public's mind. Now Pence's discovery might shift the politics, since it'll be hard for House Republicans to distinguish between the two cases. But we can probably be sure that Speaker Kevin McCarthy and company will somehow launch an argument that targets Biden while tacking around Pence.

Given what we've seen, there's no reason to believe the problem stops with Biden and Pence. As in Biden's case, where some of the documents go back to his years in the Senate, current and former members of Congress could also have classified documents where they shouldn't be. And for that matter, so might current and former executive branch officials.

Many of these individuals are now probably busy checking their garages and sock drawers. And that's a good thing. We need to get our hands around the problem and come up with reforms; and officials should do exactly as Pence and Biden did — if they find documents, turn them over immediately to the archives. And of course, if they knowingly withhold them, as Trump did, that willful conduct could subject them to potential prosecution.

We do have a serious problem with the retention of classified documents, but it is not a problem the criminal law can or should solve. We need to patch up porous controls, and we need to prosecute individuals who purposefully steal government documents and obstruct all efforts to get them back. From all that we know now, there is only one person in that category.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Stumble ...

Continued from page 8
The largest lead of the game came after a Dirksen 3-pointer and back-to-back steals and scores by Josh Dowlen made it 15-9 Patriots in the second quarter. Blackford pulled back to within three at halftime and Jay County's lead was 34-33 at the end of the third quarter, leading to the back-and-forth final period.

The Bruins generally struggled to get the ball inside against the JCHS zone but were boosted by a 7-of-18 effort (39%) from long distance including five triples from Dawson Hundley (23 points). Morris followed with nine points, including the four key free throws down the stretch. Pearson's 12 points, 10 rebounds, four assists and two blocks were all team highs for the Patriots.

Junior varsity

Eli Dirksen led a blowout second quarter that carried Jay County to a 62-29 victory over the Bruins.

The Patriots were up by three after the first period before outscoring Blackford 22-2 in the second. Dirksen had nine of his game-high 13 points, including two 3-pointers, in the period.

Trevin Dunnington joined Dirksen in double figures with 10 points. Wes Bihn and Cole Forthofer each added seven.

Reggie Duren's nine points led the Bruins.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Dusty Pearson, a Jay County High School senior, goes to the basket against Blackford freshman Mason Kitterman during the first quarter Saturday. Pearson scored 12 points for the Patriots, whose three-game winning streak came to an end with a 47-44 loss to the host Bruins.

Roundup ...

Continued from page 8
The winner of the Fort Recovery/Coldwater game will advance to the sectional championship to play second-seeded Jefferson at 6 p.m. Feb. 18. The Parkway/Wayne Trace winner will play fifth-seeded Allen East in the other sectional title game at Lincolnview at 7:30 p.m.

Fort Recovery lost to Coldwater 41-7 when they played Jan. 12.

JH wrestlers roll

Jay County's junior high wrestling team clobbered Monroe Central 64-22 Monday.

Winning by pin for the Patriots were Corbin Lothridge (85), Logan Wendel (90), Jackson Bonifas (95), Varen Ridgeway (150), Leighton Brown (160) and Freddie Lingo (175). Cooper Glassford (110) added a victory by a 15-6 major decision as JCHS evened its record at 5-5.

Junior varsity wins came from Mitchell Byrum (75), Corbin Lothridge (95), Caleb Sibray (132) and Gavin Hambrook (140).

On to the finals

The Jay County junior high girls basketball teams each advanced to the finals of the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament with victories Monday. In a pair of blowouts, the eighth graders defeated Adams Central 41-4 and the sev-

enth graders beat South Adams 42-4.

Hallie Schwieterman racked up 30 points to lead the Patriot eighth grade team. Kady Allred had seven points and Lyla Kunkler scored the other four.

Amelia Heath had a dozen points to lead the Jay County seventh graders. Elizabeth Brunswick followed with eight points and Chloe Brown, Emalyn Homan, Natalie May, Gabi Petro and Kyle Shannon each had four.

JCWC places fourth

Five individuals won championships as the Jay County Wrestling Club finished fourth out of 35 teams at the Defiance Mad Dog Youth Tournament.

Jay County scored 182 points to trail host Defiance (266), Anthony Wayne (219) and Napoleon (206).

Placing first for Jay County were Eli Michael, Khoden Bentz, Michael Owen, Bryce Vanskyock and Porter Hatzell. Second-place efforts came from Blake Wood, Cage Reynolds, Jax McClain, Jackson Bonifas and Alex Huntsman, and Brett Huntsman, Easton Imel, Parker Huntsman, Eli Shannon and Max McClain each finished third.

Competing elsewhere, Brenna Ruble finished second at Beech Grove and Max Meyers and Grant Linville each placed third at New Haven.

Bills ...

Continued from page 1
Horsford also said the CBC will be reaching out to Republican Sen. Tim Scott, R-South Carolina, to initiate negotiations. Scott was the lead negotiator for Senate Republicans last Con-

gress in a search for a possible pathway to a bipartisan bill on the issue, in the wake of nationwide protests in 2020 after a series of high-profile deadly encounters between officers and the public.

Capsule Reports

Continued from page 2
The vehicle spun and crashed into a guard rail along the side of the road. Damage to the guard rail and vehicle — it's registered to Sara Olson of Muncie — is damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000. The car was towed.

Enrique Miranda Bermudez, 33, Portland, was driving a 2011 Dodge Ram north on U.S. 27 at the intersection with county road 300 North about 8:27 a.m. Wednesday when he began to slide on the snow-covered road. Bermudez lost control of the vehicle, striking a pole and stop sign off the east side of the road. Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Chad Aker, 50, Portland, was driving his 2019 Chevrolet Silverado east on county road 100 North about 7:28 a.m. Wednesday when his truck slid off the road, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. His vehicle hit a pole near Portland Municipal Airport, causing

between \$2,500 and \$5,000 in estimated damage.

Jonas E. Neuenschwander, 18, Pennville, was driving a 2002 Jeep Liberty west on county road 350 North about 6:41 a.m. Wednesday when he lost control of the vehicle because of snow in the road. The Jeep left the north side of the road and rolled onto its side. Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Isabel Guzman Lagunes, Portland, told police she

was driving east on Indiana 26 near county road 100 South about 4 a.m. Jan. 23 when she lost control of her 2013 Kia Forte. The vehicle slid off the west side of the road and hit a rock and culvert, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Her car was towed.

Pole snapped

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after the grain truck an Ohio man was driving broke a pole along Indiana 26 about 1:10 p.m. Thursday.

Kevin F. Miller, 29, Russia, was driving east on the highway when the auger arm on the 2013 Kenworth T800 he was driving struck a utility pole along the north side of the road. The pole, power lines and auger arm fell onto the road.

The grain truck is registered to Maria Stein Grain Company of Ohio.

Hit pole

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Portland woman's vehicle struck a pole along Division Road about 11:20 p.m. Saturday.

Rachelle D. Boolman, 27, told Jay County Sheriff's Office she was driving her 2018 GMC Yukon XL east on the road just east of county road 500 East. At the same time, she said, a westbound vehicle ran her off the road, causing her to crash into a utility pole along the south side of the road.

Her vehicle was towed.



Tips to tame daily anxiety

Anxiety affects millions of people worldwide. The Anxiety & Depression Association of America indicates anxiety disorders are the most common mental illness in the United States, affecting 40 million adults age 18 and older every year, which equates to around 19.1 percent of the population.

What is an anxiety disorder?

The National Institute of Mental Health says anxiety disorders include panic disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, agoraphobia, specific phobia, social anxiety disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and separation anxiety disorder. Though the causes of these anxiety disorders may differ, each is characterized by excessive anxiety and related behavioral disturbances.

Anxiety disorders can range from mild to severe, and could affect daily life in various ways. Those with anxiety disorders are three to five times more likely to visit the doctor and six times more likely to be hospitalized for psychiatric disorders than those who do not have anxiety disorders, states the ADA.



Who gets anxiety?

Factors such as genetics, personality and lifestyle can determine if a person is likely to develop an anxiety disorder. According to Healthline, those in professions such as healthcare and social work, people of color and members of the LGBTQIA+ community are more likely to experience anxiety and elevated stress levels.

Addressing anxiety

There are several steps people can take to alleviate anxiety every day.

Exercise: Moving more may help to relieve stress that can lead to anxiety. Study par-

ticipants who engaged in exercise two days per week reduced overall perceived stress. Physical activity also can improve mood.

Sleep: Quality and quantity of sleep can affect mental health. Doctors recommend around eight hours of sleep each night. If anxiety is affecting sleep, try to establish a healthy sleep routine. Turn off screens a few hours before attempting to retire. Be sure the bed is comfortable. Keep the room's temperature on the cool side. Also, stick to a schedule.

Supplementation: Healthline notes that some studies have found that certain dietary supplements may help

with stress and anxiety. An eight-week study of 264 people with low magnesium levels found that taking 300 mg of this mineral daily helped reduce stress levels. Combining magnesium with vitamin B6 was even more effective.

Psychotherapy: The Mayo Clinic indicates counseling or psychotherapy, such as cognitive behavioral therapy, can effectively address anxiety. CBT often includes exposure therapy, in which a person is gradually exposed to the object or situation that triggers the anxiety to eventually build confidence that he or she can manage the situation and anxiety symptoms.

Medication: Used in conjunction with other techniques, medications may help address severe anxiety conditions. Certain antidepressants and a medication called buspirone are used to treat anxiety disorders. In limited circumstances, sedatives may be utilized, but long-term use is not recommended.

Anxiety disorders can affect anyone. Various techniques could be used to alleviate anxiety.

John Cascio, DDS

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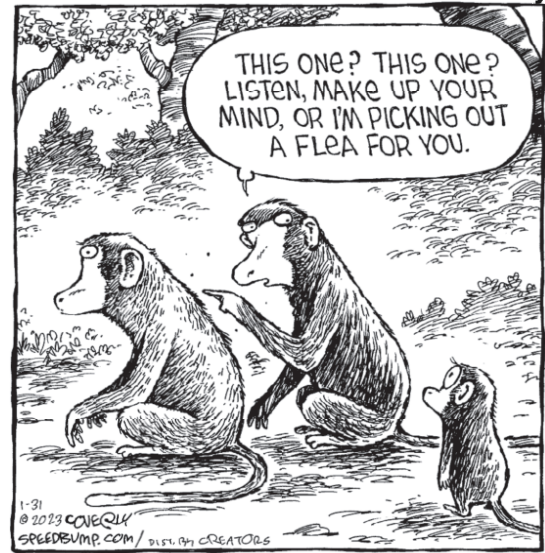
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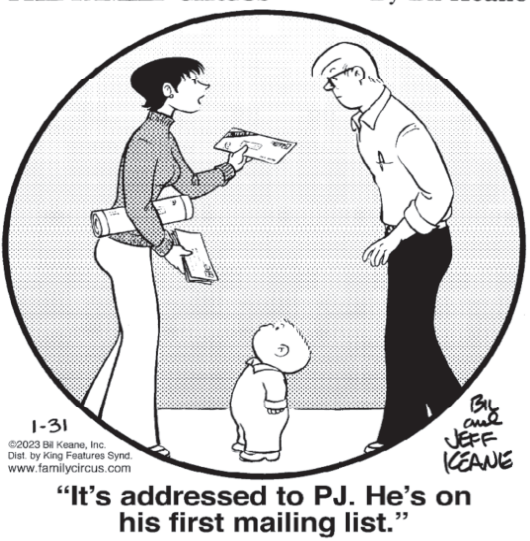
SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A battle for trump control

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: ♠ J 9 6, ♥ K 5, ♦ K 5 3 2, ♣ K Q 10 5. WEST: ♠ Q 10 8 4 2, ♥ 9 7 4 3, ♦ A 6, ♣ 8 3. EAST: ♠ A K 7 5, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 9 8 4, ♣ 9 7 4 2. SOUTH: ♠ 3, ♥ A Q J 10 2, ♦ Q J 10 7, ♣ A J 6.

er's position may become more tenuous, but when his combined trump total is only seven, the situation may become downright precarious. This is why a side seldom chooses to play in a suit with only seven trumps, especially when they are divided 4-3 or 5-2.

Observe declarer's problem on this deal. A spade is led and continued, South ruffing the second one. If he now draws all the adverse trumps, he finishes with only nine tricks—five trumps and four clubs. With all the trumps gone, the defenders score the ace of diamonds and three spades. This outcome is not surprising, since the chance of the opposing trumps dividing 3-3 is only 36%.

South can protect against the more likely 4-2 trump distribution (48%) by leading the jack of diamonds after ruffing the spade at trick two. If the jack wins, he draws the opposing trumps and scampers home with 10 tricks.

If the jack loses to the ace and a spade comes back, South simply discards a diamond or a club in order to retain four trumps in his hand. The defenders are then kaput since a fourth round of spades can be ruffed in dummy.

By adopting this approach, declarer can make the contract whenever the opposing trumps are divided 3-3 or 4-2, about an 84% probability.

The bidding: South West North East 1♥ Pass 2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass 3♦ Pass 4♣ Pass 4♥ Pass

Opening lead—four of spades.

One very common form of defense against a suit contract is to force declarer to ruff in his hand in the hope of exhausting his trump holding. Then, if the defenders later gain the lead, they can cash whatever cards they have remaining in their long suit (or suits).

The declarer, of course, does all he can to resist this trump-shortening effort. When he is blessed with nine or more trumps in the combined hands, he can usually withstand the onslaught.

When he has eight trumps, declarer

Tomorrow: Missed opportunity. ©2023 King Features Syndicate Inc.

CRYPTOQUIP

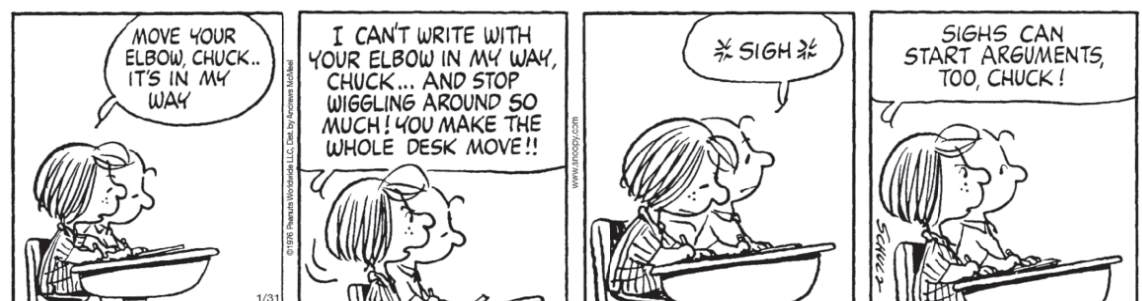
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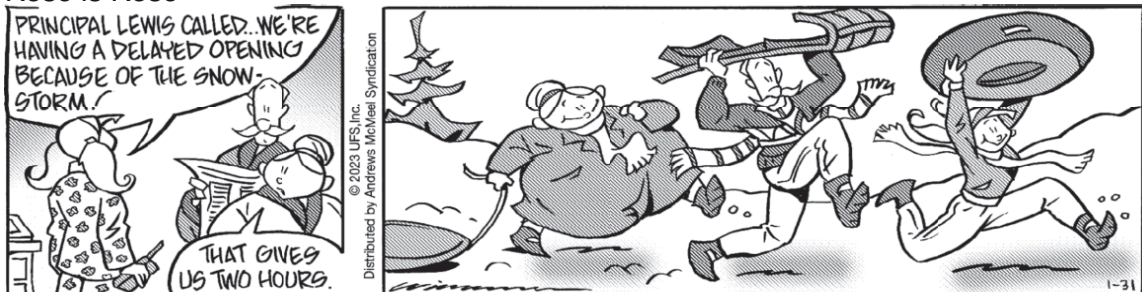
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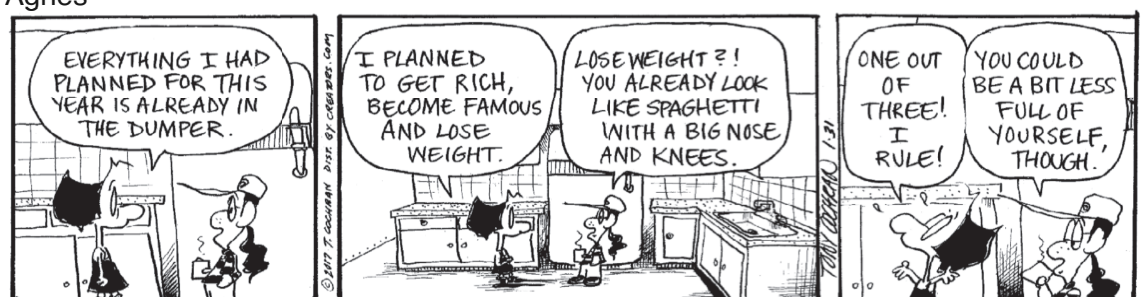
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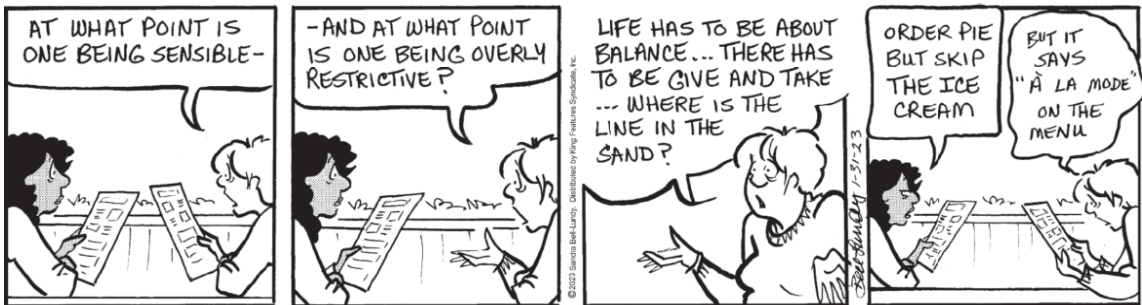
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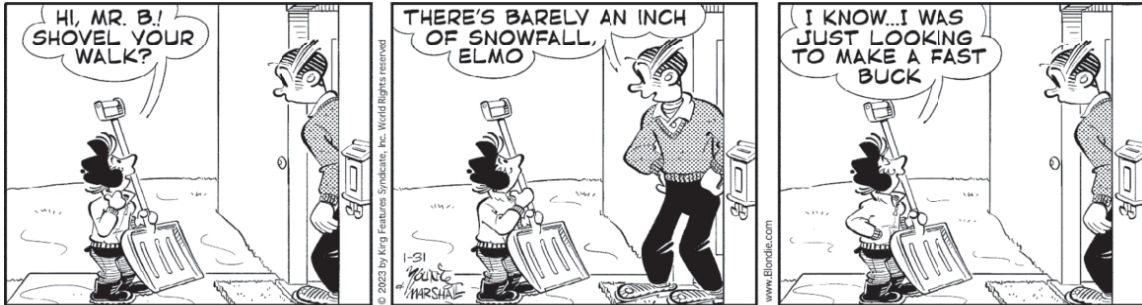
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Between Friends



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Sports

Tourney champs

Jay wins six titles en route to team victory

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The first half of the championship round lined up like a dual meet — host Jay County vs. the sectional all-stars.

The Patriots handled the best of the rest.

Jay County High School had wrestlers in the championship match in each of the first eight weight classes and 10 overall, winning six individual titles and qualifying all but two of its athletes for the regional as it dominated its way to its first sectional title in five years.

“Our guys came and they wrestled hard and they wrestled really well,” said JCHS coach Eric Myers. “I’m super proud of them.”

“We won a lot of big matches. We turned some results around in certain places. It’s just really exciting. I’m proud of our guys.”

“I was just really happy with the results.”

The Patriots left no doubt, locking up the team title when senior Daniel Moore scored a comeback win over 10th-ranked Levi Johns of Bluffton in the 113-pound championship match. It was the first of six straight individual titles for the home team, with Tye Curtis (120), No. 8 Cody Rowles (126), No. 17 Ethan Reiley (132), No. 4 Tony Wood (138) and No. 11 Cameron Clark (145) all having their hands raised as well.

The six wins led JCHS to 262.5 points as it easily topped three-time defending champion Belmont (216), which had three individual champions. Adams Central was third in the nine-team field with 200.5.

“I knew that our team was definitely capable of doing it,” said Reiley, the only senior other than Moore in the starting lineup. “We’ve been dominant this whole year. ...

“We didn’t have the turnout we wanted to at team state,” he noted — Jay County lost in the Class 2A team state finals to Western, “but coach ... said he still believes in us ...

“One of our team goals at the beginning of the year was to win sectional and regional ... because Belmont has beat us every single year. So we just had to keep going, and we did it.”

See Champs page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School junior Cody Rowles controls Bradin Daniels of Union City with a headlock during their 126-pound sectional championship match Saturday. Rowles pinned Daniels in 1 minute, 59 seconds, to win his third consecutive sectional title as the Patriots scored 262.5 points for their first team sectional championship in five years.

Patriots stumble late vs. Bruins

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

HARTFORD CITY — In their three straight victories, the Patriots had won by an average of 27 points.

Back in a close game for the first time since the opening round of the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament, they were unable to execute down the stretch.

Two turnovers and three misses in the final 1:30 turned a three-point lead into a three-point loss Saturday for the Jay County High School boys basketball team as it fell 47-44 to the host Blackford Bruins.

The defeat made the Patriots 1-4 in games decided by five points or fewer. They lost 29-28 to Heritage in the ACAC Tournament after leading by five with a minute to go and had December defeats to Muncie Central (33-31) and Fort Recovery (34-29). Their lone close win came by a 56-51 score over Woodlan on Dec. 2.

“You’ve got four games now where each and every time there’s been a little bit different circumstance but the result ended up being the same,” said JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt, whose team dropped to 5-8. He noted practice drills the squad runs for situations in which they are ahead, behind and tied in the final minute. “We go over and over and over what we’re trying to do, what we want to do. So it’s not like we haven’t done it in practice ... It’s a whole different ball game when the lights are on.”

In a game in which there were a dozen lead changes — seven of them came in the final quarter — and neither team was ever up by more than six points, the Patriots (5-8) pushed ahead 44-41 when Abraham Dirksen scored on an assist from Dusty Pearson as the clock ticked under two minutes. Blackford (7-11) pulled back within one on a Mason Kitterman hoop before a flurry of turnovers — two by Jay County and one for the Bruins. Ethan Morris then hit a pair of free throws to push the home team ahead.

During a Blackford timeout, the Patriots set up a post play to go inside to Bennett Weitzel. He took the ball on the right block and spun to the center, but his shot bounced off the rim and Vince Oxley of the Bruins snagged the rebound. Two more Morris free throws followed for a three-point lead.

Jay County still had two chances to force overtime, first setting up an Abraham Dirksen 3-pointer from the left corner. When it missed, Pearson snagged the rebound, hurried out to the right wing and launched another triple. It also bounced off the rim and Oxley secured the rebound as time expired.

“It was big for our group,” said Blackford coach Matthew Justin. “We’ve had guys out throughout the season for various reasons and we’ve let some games slip that we probably could have won or we feel like we should have. ...

“For us, we’ve had a lot of games like that where you just can’t find a way to get over the hump. And tonight, somehow, we made enough plays to come out with the win.”

See Stumble page 5

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Tribe second in Coldwater invite

Three Indian girls each won an event. Sage Wendel earned a pair of victories.

Wins from Teigen Fortkamp, Audra Bubb and Abby Knapke led the Fort Recovery High School girls swim team to a second-place finish in Saturday's Coldwater Invitational.

The boys team placed fifth.

The FRHS girls scored 94.5 points to take the runner-up spot while Versailles (150) ran away with the title. New Bremen was third in the seven-team field with 81.

The Indian boys scored 49 points for fifth place, 4.5 behind fourth-place Mari-Local. Versailles won with 169.

Fortkamp's win in the 100-yard backstroke came by 2.25 seconds over Ava Shardo of Versailles as she finished in 1 minute, 0.68 seconds. Audra Bubb took the 100 breaststroke by 1.29 seconds over Alayna Rindler of Versailles 15 1:12.94. Knapke took first place in diving.

Wendel was dominant in both of his events, taking

Local roundup

the 100 backstroke by 3.36 seconds over Avery Rohr of New Bremen and the 200 freestyle by nearly seven seconds over Dylan Dunn of Versailles.

FR to play Cavs

The Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team got an opening-round game against Coldwater in the sectional/district tournament seeding held Sunday.

The Indians (5-13), who beat Troy Christian 50-25 Saturday, received the district No. 11 seed and will play No. 7 seed Coldwater in the opening round of the Division III tournament at Lincolnview at 6 p.m. Feb. 15. An opening-round game between No. 3 seed Parkway and No. 9 seed Wayne Trace will follow.

See Roundup page 5

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